

LONDON DRINKER



THE RAIL VIEW
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Vol 20 • No. 11

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

DEC 98/JAN 99

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Editorial

Regular readers may recall that this is the time when I look back over the year's London Drinkers and pick out the highlights (or more usually lowlights) of the news. I have just done a quick flip through the ten editions so far in 1998 and on the whole they don't make very wonderful reading.

The year started on a high point, at least so far as the Drinker itself was concerned, with a fairly major overhaul of the appearance of the magazine which included not only a new front cover but also a change in the internal layout with more use of varying typefaces, highlighting by the use of colour backgrounds and the rest - a move which seems to have been popular with the readers, judging by your letters. Incidentally, this is only our fourth design of front cover since we started in March 1979 and it is our first change since February 1985 (and even then it was only the cover that was changed).

On the news front in February, we announced that Bass had ceased production of the bottle conditioned Worthington White Shield, although in May it was announced that the beer was being reintroduced - but brewed on Bass' behalf by King & Barnes of Horsham, not exactly a stone's throw from Burton on Trent.

March saw the announcement that Gibbs Mew of Salisbury had been the victim of a predatory takeover by Enterprise Inns. In my Editorial I speculated that they had rendered themselves vulnerable to such an attack by the closure of their brewery the previous summer in that they had become just another pub chain, albeit with some beer brands brewed for them by Ushers of Trowbridge. Sightly counterbalancing this was the news that a couple of regional brewers were increasing their presence in the Capital by taking over pubs in the North London CAMRA Branch area. Brakspear's bought and reopened the Windsor Castle in NW1 to give them a London tied house, while Shepherd Neame increased their presence by taking over the Rugby Tavern in WC1 (incidentally, the venue for CAMRA's Christmas Social this month) from Fuller's.

Not too many disasters in April (unless you care about one of the Teletubbies nicking the name of our erstwhile agony uncle) but Fuller's announced the opening of their first "Ale & Pie" house outside London - the Old Joint Stock in Birmingham.

May was the month when the year took a nosedive with Whitbread announcing the closure of both Cheltenham and Castle Eden breweries and Morlands announcing the same fate for Ruddles which they had taken over in September 1997. Castle Eden has been saved we hear this month by a buy-out by a group of businessmen led by long term Head Brewer Jim Kerr. At present Ruddles is still brewing while "matching trials" continue - not until they get a perfect match, I suspect, but rather until they have buggered up Ruddles so much that nobody really knows what it should taste like. The other bad news in May was the first knock back of Dennis Turner's "full pints" bill by (Remember the name, especially at the next General Election) Eric Forth, MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, abetted on that occasion by Nicholas Soames. The only high point was the new beer brewed exclusively for Wetherspoon's and Tesco by Marston's - Sundance.

June brought the first mention of the Ambishus Pub Co founded by three men behind the former Magic Pub Co - though not actively including former Magic MD, Michael Cannon as became clear over the next few months.

Then, as if things couldn't get any worse, in Continued on page 5

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Brewery News

CASTLE EDEN BREWERY SAVED

"Tictory!", is how Mike Benner, CAMRA's Head of Campaigns reacted to the announcement at the end of October that Castle Eden Brewery in Tony Blair's Sedgefield constituency is to be sold to a consortium of local businessmen. He added, "This is exactly the result we have campaigned for. I am confident that in the hands of the new management team led by long-time Head Brewer Jim Kerr, the brewery and beers will thrive. It just goes to show that asset-stripping viable businesses is not the best solution to the pressures faced by today's brewers."

The deal includes the popular Castle Eden Ale brand, a previous Champion Beer of Britain category winner. CAMRA has been campaigning, together with the local trade union and others, to keep the brewery open since the announcement in April that it was to be sold by Whitbread. Tony Blair has supported CAMRA's campaign.

"We've worked hard to get the message across that such a business can be viable in the right hands and that its loss could be avoided. Beer

drinkers throughout the country have put their weight behind the campaign through letter writing, signing petitions, attending special events and even wearing the T-shirt! I wish the new management the best of luck."

Unfortunately a buyer has not been found for the Flowers Brewery in Cheltenham which has now been closed by Whitbread despite a major CAMRA campaign and strong public support for its survival.



Continued from page 3

July we had the first Garry Gobshite's Diary!

As if there was something wrong with the mass psyche of the people of Oxfordshire (See Morland's above) the inappropriately named "Trustees" of Morrell's threw out the family members of the Board and announced that they were closing the brewery and selling all its assets -Bastards! (Sorry about that. Not sorry I called them bastards but sorry that they are bastards). Oh yes, that man Eric Forth put the final nail in the coffin of Dennis Turner's full pints bill.

September brought the announcement that Champion Beer of Britain for 1998 is Coniston Bluebird; that was enough to guarantee that we couldn't get any for the first Twickenham Beer Festival (successor to Feltham).

Not a lot happened in October except that we were keeping quiet about rumours that Wetherspoon's were discontinuing the use of oversize glasses while negotiations were going on through the bods at headquarters. And of course in November we had the news from the horse's mouth (nothing personal Tim), if not hot off the press.

Been a great year, hasn't it? (Answers on a postcard....)

Changing the subject completely, this will be the last edition of the Drinker which I shall be working

on as one of the editors. After a bit over fifteen years in the post I feel that it is time I took a bit more of my "spare" time to do such things as sweep the floors in my flat (before I have to hire a JCB to do the job) and other exciting things like that. But do not fear (or cheer loudly enough to upset me) - I am not leaving precipitately; I actually gave my fellow editors and the London Branches twelve months notice of my retirement and a worthy successor has been found who has been working with us for some months and who, I am sure, will carry on the role with great skill as well as help from the other editors ... and you lot. He is Dave Oram, who is also the Chairman of Kingston and Leatherhead Branch of CAMRA. This will bring about a few changes in terms of where to send things; such matters are dealt with in a separate article elsewhere in this edition (see page 27 - Ed).

Do not despair though. I shall continue to produce Idle Moments - provided, of course that the editors wish me to do so. I don't know, though - maybe that is a good enough reason for you to despair.

Now, I should just like to close by wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year and by thanking you for all the help and support that I and my fellow editors have received from so many of you over the years.

Andy Pirson

Brewery News.

FULLER'S BREWING DIRECTOR HANDS OVER HIS MASH TUNS

Reg Drury, who has completed 40 years service with Fuller's Brewery has announced his decision to retire at the end of June 1999 and reports that his successor is to be John Keeling who will be promoted to the position of Technical Director as Brewing Director of Fuller's Beer Company from 1st April. Reg and John have worked closely together for the past eighteen years and between them have put Fuller's in the unique position of having won more awards from CAMRA for their beers than any other brewery, including the much coveted "Champion Beer of Britain" with three different cask ales.



Reg Drury's most recent accolade was winning the bottled beer class of the Champion Beer of Britain at this year's Great British Beer Festival

with "1845", the beer that was first brewed to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the company.

John Keeling joined Fuller's in 1981 with a BSc in brewing from Heriot-Watt University. He has played an important role in expanding beer volumes and has been closely involved in the development of a number of new products such

as Red Fox and Honeydew. He is currently vicechairman of the London Section of the Brewers' Guild.



"I am confident that John will successfully lead Fuller's Beer Company forward into the new millennium," Reg Drury said of his

chosen successor.

We at London Drinker would like to wish Reg a long and happy retirement and also wish John a long, happy and successful stay at Fuller's.

From a Fullers press release



YOUNG'S OPEN FOURTH HOTEL

Young's, the south London brewers, have opened their fourth purpose-built hotel, the 24-bedroom Duke's Head at Wallington in the Surrey suburbs.

Like its predecessors, the Duke's Head offers three-star facilities for business people and weekend visitors while retaining the original, traditional pub with its unspoilt saloon and public bars serving Young's real ales and lagers. The hotel block, overlooking the picturesque Wallington Green, has been designed to provide an exact match with the exterior of the Victorian pub. There is also a new restaurant for residents and non-residents alike.

The Duke's Head began life as the Bowling Green House in 1726 or earlier. It was rebuilt the following century and bought by Young's in 1857, though it had been serving Young's beers since 1832. The historic aspect of the Duke's Head was emphasised at the official opening, which was performed by 80-year-old Betty Gallehawk, who was a barmaid there from 1938 to 1947.

Young's now have a total of 229 bedrooms in four hotels - the Duke's Head, the Bridge at Greenford, the Crown, Chertsey and the Windmill, Clapham Common - and in six other pubs.

The picture shows Tony and Sian O'Brien, the new managers of the Duke's Head, with a pair of Young's Shire horses outside the hotel.

From a Young's news release

Brewery News

NEWS FROM YOUNG'S

It's that time of year again – the rich, full bodied Winter Warmer is back. Its annual return came on the day after the clocks went back, and will be available throughout the winter until the clocks go forward in March.

Young's Winter Warmer was introduced in the 1960s, and was awarded a gold medal in this year's Brewing Industry International Awards. The beer won the overall championship as the best real ale in the same competition six years ago. Winter Warmer is also available in a 500ml bottled version in off-licenses and supermarkets, and is one of the beers included in the 'Ram collection', a new six-pack collection of Young's beers which is on sale in Tesco's stores around the country in the run-up to Christmas. The collection was launched by Michael Jackson, whose Pocket Beer Book is also included in the pack.

The collection includes beers with a wide range of styles and strengths, ranging from Special at 4.3% to Special London Ale at 6.4%, and includes the popular Luxury Double Chocolate Stout. At the launch, Michael Jackson said "Many people are unaware if Britain's vast diversity of beers. The Ram Collection could start them off on the road to becoming connoisseurs".

The Association of London Brewers and Licensed Retailers have chosen Mike and Rebecca Card of the Buckingham Arms, Petty France, Westminster as 1998 London Licensees of the Year. During their four years at the pub, Mike and Rebecca have built on the long-standing reputation of the pub as one of the best ale houses in London. The pub is one of only 20 throughout Britain to have appeared in every edition of the Good Beer Guide, and Mike believes that the beer is the single most important ingredient in the Buckingham's success.

The customer who nominated them for the award wrote "The Buckingham may not be a palace but the staff always treat you like royalty". The beer and home-cooked food attract customers working at the various surrounding Civil Service offices, and is so popular with customers of the nearby Passport Office that it has applied to have a special screen fitted so that people can keep a watch on their place in the queue. The licensees win a prize of £1000, as does Kevin Mulligan, the customer who sent in the nomination.

October and November saw a poster campaign throughout London and the Home Counties

promoting Young's Special. The posters, with 'temptation' as the theme, aimed to leave the public wondering whether the beautiful woman will prefer the pleasures of Young's Special or the handsome man in the background (!). Special is available in Young's 181 pubs and is becoming increasingly available in the free trade and national brewers' pubs.

Collated from a number of press releases from Young's

MARSTON'S TAKEOVER PLANNED BY W&D

It was announced briefly during the business news on BBC Radio2 on that Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries are planning on making a takeover bid for Marston's of Burton. No actual bid has apparently vet been made. W&D trade as Banks's and Hanson's, although the Hanson's brewery in Dudley was closed in 1991. They also own Cameron's of Hartlepool which they bought from Brent Walker in 1992. They are notable, not only for the large amount of Banks's Mild produced, but also for the fact that all of their pubs use oversize glasses (most also have half pint metered delivery systems). The 1999 Good Beer Guide gives the estate of the group as 1,022 pubs of which 370 are tenanted (1997 figures).

Marston, Thompson and Evershed has somewhat fewer pubs at 868 but produces the largest selling bitter in the country - Pedigree, which overtook Draught Bass this year. This is, of course, largely due to the vast "guest" beer market in the ScotCo estate, largely the ex Courage and Watney pubs. Overall, therefore the two companies are in the same league so far as size is concerned and what is described as a takeover is likely to be effectively a merger.

Andy Pirson

-Brewery News

FULLER'S ANNOUNCE NEW RETAIL OPERATIONS CONTROLLER

Stuart Moore (pictured below) has joined Fuller's Retail Division as operations controller for Fuller's Managed Inns, encompassing over a hundred pubs. He will report to retail and main board director Simon Emeny and is responsible for day-to-day operations of the retail estate with the exception of Fuller's hotels and 'The Fine Line'.



Mr. Moore began his career with Courage Breweries Ltd. as business development manager and his most recent position before joining Fuller's was as general manager with the J.D.Wetherspoon Organisation where he was

responsible for four area managers. At Fuller's, seven area managers will report to him and he will be responsible for their 'Ale & Pie', 'English Inns', 'Traditional' and 'High Street' pub brands.

"We are really pleased to have Stuart on board," says Simon Emeny. "Stuart has a wealth of experience in the sector and his eye for operational detail and new marketing initiatives makes him a very valuable addition to the team." From a Fuller's press release

* * * * * *

MARSTON'S - BY THE WAY

I'm a little surprised that nobody else seems to have pointed this out to us, but a couple of months ago while I was delivering Twickenham Beer Festival posters around some of the pubs of my local area I went into a couple of them

which have Marston's Pedigree as a "guest" beer. I have no idea how long they had been in use but I noticed that the pump clips in both pubs had a black rim round the lower rim bearing the words, "BREWED IN BURTON USING YEAST FROM THE BURTON UNION SETS." (my capitals).

Now, Marston's make great play of the fact that they are the last brewery in the World to use the union system (at least on any commercial scale) since Bass dumped their's. What this means is that if you drink Pedigree as a "guest" beer, the beer you drink will not be the same as you get in a tied house. I have drunk some Pedigree in non-Marston pubs which has been very good indeed (including the half - it was quite a long delivery run - in the pub where I first spotted the clip) but in some others it has not been recognisable at all. I had always put this down to the usual problems with guest beers (lack of knowledge how to look after it; slow turnover; long chain of delivery etc.) But I now wonder whether the beer as it leaves the brewery is not quite the same as that fermented in the union sets.

Andy Pirson

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Editors: Ian Amy, 10 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TG. Chris Cobbold, 25 Valens House, Upper Tulse Hill, London SW2 2RX. Tel: 0181-674 0556; Dave Oram.

Please send all articles for publication to London Drinker, 10 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TG, or to Andy Pirson by email(andy@pirson.demon.co.uk)

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—Pub News-

NO JOKES ABOUT HOOKERS AS WOODIE REOPENS TWO FULLER'S PUBS

Treland and Harlequins hooker, and captain of the Irish national rugby team, Keith Wood, joined Fuller's Managing Director, Michael Turner and members of the local community to celebrate over £300,000 of refurbishments for both the PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCE BLUCHER in Twickenham on 14th October.

Both of these busy pubs are popular with crowds assembling for major matches at the nearby headquarters of English rugby. They also provide an attractive family venue, each having as beer garden as well as a play area for children; they are close together, both being very close to Twickenham Green. For both the Albert and the Blucher it was imperative to keep the feel of the pubs whilst providing improved kitchen, dining, ventilation and toilet facilities.

Improvements to the Albert include a new extension across the side access to the garden providing more room for dining and more toilets (including facilities for the disabled) as well as a larger kitchen and storage area to handle the increase in food trade. It was essential to retain the 'bar' feel at the front of the pub and this was achieved by reusing parts of the existing bar counter and back fitting as well as the original signage.

The warm and friendly atmosphere was enhanced by using natural materials such as flagstone flooring, reclaimed floorboards and an eclectic mix of pictures and other curios. A large patio was built in the garden with special attention given to the aviary, which remains complete with budgies and parrots.

Enhancements to the Prince Blucher include interior and exterior redecoration, reusing all existing pictures and bric-a-brac and supplementing these with new local scene pictures. A small extension at the rear of the pub maximises the access and views to the garden area. A new food service area is also provided, separate from the main bar; redundant bar counter sections were also removed to create additional seating areas for customers.

Both the Prince Albert and Prince Blucher offer traditional pub fayre (with traditional misspelling - Ed.) from 12.00-2.30pm and 6.00-9.00pm on Monday to Saturday and from 12.00 to 2.30pm on Sundays. The menus include a

tempting selection of baguettes and sandwiches (hot and cold), burgers, steaks and 'specials'.



Ireland Captain and Harlequins hooker, Keith Wood sampling ESB in the Blucher wearing a rugby shirt with rather fewer colours than his normal working clothes

From a Fuller's press release

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Fox & Anchor, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1
Viaduct Tavern, 126 Newgate Street, EC1
Butlers Head, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2
Magpie, 12 New Street, EC2
Throgmortons, 27a Throgmorton Street, EC2
Red Lion, 8 Lombard Court, EC3
Ship, 11 Talbot Court, EC3
Walkers of Fenchurch, 18 London Street, EC3
Black Friar, 174 Queen Victoria Street, EC4
Old Bell Tavern, 95 Fleet Street, EC4
Walkers of Holborn, Norwich Street, EC4
Williamsons Tavern, Groveland Court, off Bow Lane, EC4

Bloomsbury Tavern, 236 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 Coal Hole, 91 The Strand, WC2 Globe, 37 Bow Street, WC2 Marquis of Granby, 51-52 Chandos Street, WC2

Argyll Arms, 18 Argyll Street, W1
Barley Mow, 8 Dorset Street, W1
Clachan, 34 Kingly Street, W1
Dog & Duck, 18 Bateman Street, Soho, W1
Northumberland Arms, 43 Goodge Street, W1
Shelley's, 10 Stafford Street, W1
Three Greyhounds, 25 Greek Street, W1

Leinster Arms, 17 Leinster Terrace, W2 Catherine Wheel, 23 Kensington Church Street, W8 Devonshire Arms, 37 Marloes Road, Kensington, W8

Clifton, 96 Clifton Hill, St Johns Wood, NW8

Antelope, 22 Eaton Terrace, SW1
Golden Lion, 25 King Street, St James's, SW1
Paxtons Head, 153 Knightsbridge, SW1
Red Lion, 2 Duke of York Street, SW1
Walkers of St James, 32a Duke Street, St James's, SW1
Walkers of Whitehall, Craig Court, 15 Whitehall, SW1
Australian, 29 Milner Street, SW3

Doggetts Coat & Badge, 1 Blackfriars Bridge, SE1 Horniman at Hays, Hays Galleria, Tooley Street, SE1 Old Thameside Inn, Pickfords Wharf, Clink Street, SE1 Southwark Tayern, 22 Southwark Street, SE1



-Pub News-

PUB NEWS FROM EAST LONDON AND CITY BRANCH

The autumn and early winter period seems to be the busiest time of the year for new pub openings and refurbishments as everybody gears themselves up for the pre-Christmas rush. Rather worryingly the current fads amongst pub chains and breweries is for café-bar and food-oriented establishments; nice places invariably, but where real ale does not feature heavily, if at all. J.D.Wetherspoon have stayed loyal to their real ale roots and the occasional new Hogshead opens, but a look through the pages of Capital Pubcheck will tell you that not every new pub is worth going in to if you like a beer.

Wizard Inns are one company which seems to be doing the right thing. They have transformed Stratford's oldest pub, the <u>Swan</u>, 31 The Broadway, E15 from a run-down dive that eventually gave up on real ale altogether into one of the busiest and most popular pubs in town. And what's more there are four hand-pumped beers to chose from, albeit at West End prices.

One prominent chain of real ale 'theme pubs' used to go under the name of Festival Ale Houses. Now they are Festival Inns & Taverns. It's a subtle difference, but one which appears to put the emphasis on the pub rather than the beer. The latest one to open locally is the Kings Head, Kings Head Hill, Chingford, E4, after a £250,000 refurbishment and extension. Not all Festival Ale Houses have succeeded - witness the London Hospital Tavern, 176 Whitechapel Road, E1 - but the Kings Head has built up a reputation for the variety and quality of its beer in recent years and seems to be a good choice for the Festival treatment. Nice of them to invite CAMRA members for a free pint at their opening night party when there was a wide range of beers on offer.

Regent Inns continue to give a nod in the direction of real ale in their new pub developments, although their beer range can be restrictive. A recent opening of theirs was the **Farringdon Bars**, 25 Farringdon Road, EC1 which stands across the road in direct competition with J.D.Wetherspoon's **Sir John Oldcastle**. It will be interesting to see if the Farringdon Bars maintains its beer quality and selection - which included Draught Bass, Greene King Abbot and Young & Co. Ordinary when I was there.

All over London, small independent pubs continue to open in former high street shop units. All too often there isn't a handpump to be seen. This does not always have to be the way though. The **Wishing Well**, 11 Hall Lane,

Chingford Mount, E4, in a former electricity showroom, is one such example which bucks the trend by selling Ushers Best Bitter.

I should mention the <u>Blue Anchor</u>, 67 Bromley High Street, E3. Neither a new pub, nor a major refurbishment, but one which has rekindled its interest in real ale and which is selling guest beers. When I called the beers on offer were Courage Directors and the honey-flavoured Vaux Waggledance. Good news indeed in an area where a decent pint is a desperately scarce commodity. Also noteworthy is the decision by the <u>Lord Rodney's Head</u>, Whitechapel Road, E1 to stock a guest beer alongside their B&T regulars. The guest will change each week.

Finally, cue fanfare, East London & City CAMRA have decided to start work towards publishing a new East London and City Pub Guide, the fourth such guide, which will replace our current, somewhat out-of-date publication. I mention this because it is a chance for you, dear reader to get out there and drink beer for CAMRA - well visit some pubs at least. Pretty soon I will be appealing for help in surveying. Watch the ELAC section in the diary pages of this magazine and, if you live in the ELAC area, stand by to receive a letter from yours truly. There are something in excess of 1,000 pubs to be covered and it will take a big effort on the part of our members to bring this project to completion.

Stephen Harris

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-Club News

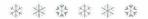
HALLOWEEN AT THE HOWERD CLUB

For the last few years, the Howerd Club in Eltham have been challenging the South East London branch of CAMRA to a series of quiz nights. These events have all been marked by spectacular defeat of the CAMRA team, which tended to deteriorate rapidly after consumption of some of the excellent ale on offer.

Seven teams from around the parish and two CAMRA teams braved the torrential rain for this year's challenge. The Catford Kittens were out in force again, transformed for the day into the Catford Coven complete with broomsticks and bats! Granny Wetherspoons and Nanny Hogshead made sure to keep the cauldron boiling and put spells on the opposition; they obviously did the job as the CAMRA teams came first and third, triumphantly carrying off the trophy for the first time.



Congratulations are due to the Club for arranging a highly successful evening. The beer was up to its usual excellent standard, with Teignworthy Beachcomber narrowly beating Harviestoun Schiehallion as the favourite.



IT'S A DOUBLE AT THE LABOUR CLUB

For the first time in the Bromley Labour Club's history it has made its way into the Good Beer Guide, and if that is not enough, it has also received the South East London Club of the Year award.

The club opened in March 1980 and it was

then that Chief Steward Bob Gray joined the staff. He has been there ever since. For 18½ years he has pulled pints of Shepherd Neame's finest and has never looked back. He runs the bar with 4 other members of staff who are always happy to be of assistance during the long opening hours (11am to 11 pm Mon-Fri and 12 to 10.30 Sun).

The club also boasts a newly refurbished function room available for hire, for parties, meetings etc. For information you can contact the club on 0181 460 7409 or Bromley Labour Club, HG Wells Centre, St Marks Road, Bromley, Kent. BR2 9HG.

The award was presented during October in a superbly refurbished part of the club. Jim Dowd, MP for nearby Lewisham West (and a notable ale fan) was on hand to congratulate the club and join the celebrations.

Well done to all the staff and can you make the triple. Good Luck in the Regional and the National competitions.

Roz Cox (SE London Membership Secretary)

TWO DOVES

37 Oakley Road, Bromley Tel 0181 462 1627



A warm welcome awaits you in the relaxed surroundings of this friendly pub

Changing selection of Real Ales CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed Local Award Winner Mature Clientele Light Snacks

Bus 320 from Bromley North and Bromley South railway stations, stops outside

Hours: 12-3, 5.30-11 Mon to Sat & 12-3, 7-10.30 Sun

Campaigns

CHEERS!

CAMRA's years of campaigning for sensible licensing laws have not been in vain. In May, George Howarth, the Government Minister responsible for liquor licensing announced that there is to be a ground-up review of our archaic licensing laws. Things have moved on since then and CAMRA is hoping for a new licensing Act by 2001. But we need your help ...

The Government review is great news for pubgoers throughout Britain and for the many thousands of foreign visitors who are baffled by restrictions on our pub opening hours. CAMRA campaigned very successfully in the late 1980s for pubs to be allowed to open all day during the week and again in the early nineties for pubs to open on Sunday afternoons. Despite widespread predictions of drunken chaos on our streets there has been no significant effect on alcohol consumption or abuse or indeed the social problems attached to them.

Rather, this more relaxed approach to permitted hours has led to a more responsible attitude to day time drinking. People are no longer forced to 'get a last one in' before the 3pm bell tolls and in many pubs can sit back and take their time.

But the biggest problems remain. Every evening at about 11.20 pm our town centres turn into no-go areas. It's an exaggeration, but it's true to say that increased circuit drinking round theme pubs targeted at younger drinkers has worked against the raison d'être of licensing controls. Hoards of tipsy teenagers do pour onto the streets all at the same time. Feelings are high, public services, other amenities and taxi firms are stretched to their limits and the result is tension and often public disorder.

It is for these reasons that CAMRA believes that pubs should be able to open when they please. That's not as controversial as it sounds. There has to be suitable nationally set systems in place to prevent public nuisance. It does not mean that all pubs will be open 24 hours a day. What it does mean is that pubs can gear their opening hours to suit their customers and their opening hours to suit their customers and their businesses. Some pubs will close at 11 pm, some at 11.30, some at midnight and some beyond. This will reduce disorder and other problems as people are able to take their time with their final drinks of the evening and travel home at different times.

Opening hours is, of course, only one aspect of licensing law. But it is the important aspect for you, the drinker. It is therefore of great importance that you make your views known to the powers that be over the coming months. Write to your MP and to the Home Office and support our calls for a ground-up review of licensing law.

Remember the positive lessons of extended pub hours during the day. There is nothing to fear by change relaxed opening hours with proper conditions to prevent public nuisance will benefit everyone.

> Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications, CAMRA

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.								
Name(s)								
Address								
			Postcode					
Signature			Date		***************************************			
I/We enclose the remit	tance for individua	al/joint membership).					
	Individual	Joint	Individual	Joint				
	Annual	Annual	Life	Life				
UK and EEC	£14	£17	£168	£204				
Rest of the World	£18 🔲	£21 🔲	£216	£252				
Student/Unwaged	£8							
Disabled	£8 🗍							
Retired	£8 🔲	£11 🗌	£96 🔲	£132	(a)			
Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to: Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW								

Social

South West London News CRICKET CAPTAIN REACHES 1000 RUNS



Stokes (left) was presented with a framed record of his innings over the last four seasons by Alan Millington on

behalf of the local branch. Even though Aussie Simon has missed games during the summer holidays when he goes away on his travels, he has still had time to amass 1000 runs for the CAMRA South West London cricket team. The branch plays on average15 games per season and Simon has retired 'not out' on eight occasions. The foreword on the plaque says it all.

"Simon Stokes - 1000 runs in 4 seasons 1995-1998. Presented by your friends in the Branch cricket team in appreciation of your sportsmanship, leadership and, above all, friendship"

The cricket team is open to members of all abilities and nets will begin in February 1999.



The team photograph shows Simon Stokes standing fourth from right

Chris Cobbold

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* Annual Beer Festival 5-6-7 March 1999

LESBIAN & GAY NEWS

AGRAD is a group of lesbian and gay members of the Campaign for Real Ale organising to extend the Campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. The group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month from 7.00 p.m. onwards in the upstairs bar of the King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, London W1. All are welcome. DECEMBER EVENTS:

Wednesday 2 (7.00 p.m.) The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (0171-) 734 5907, (Monthly meeting).

Friday 4 (7.00 p.m.) Pig's Ear Beer Festival, Old Town Hall, Stratford, E15. Meet somewhere towards the entrance end, at least during the earlier part of the evening.

Monday 21 (7.30 p.m.) Richmond Arms, Richmond for a Christmas social. Old established venue, recently refurbished, lets see if the changes are an improvement? A Scottish Courage pub, Directors generally on....

JANUARY EVENTS:

Wednesday 6 (7.00 p.m.) The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (0171-) 734 5907, (Monthly meeting).

Friday (7.30 p.m.) West 5, Popes Lane, Ealing, W5, (0181-) 579 3266. Another new pub to check out. Vague recollections of three beers on handpump including Marston's Pedigree and Brakspear's bitter...

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.

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- *Bed & Breakfast
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*Open all permitted hours Ever changing guest beers from micro and small regional breweries

- from £1.70 a pint



* singing voice required Friday evenings

Feature .

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

For the first time, 15 YEARS AGO, we used coloured ink for the cover of the 32 page December 1983/January 1984 issue of London Drinker. The pastel green outer sheet bore a cartoon, in red, by Roger Tomlinson in seasonal mood, with a reindeer in a sleigh on wheels drawing a pint by handpump from a cask perched on the bunker of an Emmett-style locomotive with a Christmas tree instead of smoke, and a bibulous Santa minion at the controls, while the boss and Rudolph pass overhead in the opposite direction, with a sleighful of puddings. Such cartoons are extremely difficult to describe, and another appearing on the rear cover is far more complicated.

It was reported that Shepherd Neame had bought The Betsey in Farringdon Road, its 18th pub in London - all sold real ale.

The Brixton Brewery Co, sister to that in Battersea and also belonging to Mick Conway, was soon to open in the Warrior, Brixton, brewing its own traditional ales. A mile away, in Camberwell, the "Topping out" ceremony had been carried out at David Bruce's Phoenix & Firkin. This involved the laying of a stone at the highest point - on top of a chimney - to mark the completion of the structure, by the youngest apprentice involved in the work. The roof and whole upper storey of this former station building had been destroyed by fire in 1980, and is a replica of the original design. As the building was still only a shell, invited guests including myself enjoyed a celebratory feast on trestle tables, brought in from the Goose & Firkin. along with copious quantities of beer.

Taylor-Walker Mainline and Young John's Ale had both ceased production after only 13 and 5 months respectively. That, regrettably, was the fate of a fair number of new brews or so years ago.

In "London Drinking" Red Rover toured Dalston and Hackney, recording his impressions candidly (including compliments) but this time he had nothing outrageous to report. Did he enjoy the crawl, one might surmise?

Under the heading "Ten Years Ago" came a quotation from the November 1973 edition of "What's Brewing" as follows: "An Essex University economist has warned that by the turn of the century, a pint will cost 65p". The preceding item stated that a free house in North London was selling beers at 60p a pint during Happy Hours.

The anonymous N. London author of "Round the Houses" continued his tour of Youngs and

Fullers passports, visiting Westminster, Victoria, Chelsea, Battersea and Putney, and taking in some Firkin, Clifton and Conway pub/breweries. He was in company with some friends (he called them "piss-heads") from Hampshire on a hot Saturday, so obviously the sampling was taken seriously.

Watney's were extending the availability of Hammerton Traditional Porter (OG 1038) to 60 pubs in the London area. It was brewed in Norwich, though the name originated in - Stockwell, and was a very palatable pint. However, it was difficult to keep in good condition for long, leading to dropping sales and the fatal spiral.

TEN YEARS AGO the bumper December 1988/January 1989 issue contained 48 pages. Apart from black ink throughout, twelve pages including covers also had red and green; 14 more had one of these colours. This was possible by making one printing plate per colour for each sheet used - pages were printed on sheets containing usually 16 pages - 8 each side, or half those figures.

The cover cartoon, by Eileen Graves, showed a very inebriated Santa propped against a lamppost blowing into a traffic-cop's breathalyzer. No sign of Rudolph, but artistic licence is permitted. You can't be breathalyzed when in charge of an animal-powered vehicle. Done for drunk in charge, maybe.

The Editorial dwelt on a licensee's obligations on whom not to serve, and his rights regarding refusing others service -basically anyone at all with no reason given, and reasons, if offered, not to express discrimination on grounds of race, colour or sex. Age, dress and various other restrictions are permissible and can be stated with impunity.

Continued on page 18

THE INAUGURAL



THE DEFINITIVE, CLASSIC 80/- ALE

CALEDONIAN BREWERY EDINBURGH

The pacesetter in the Scottish ale revival has been the Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh Roger Protz - World A-Z of Brewing

Web site: http://www.Caledonian-Brewery.co.uk



Continued from page 16

Eastender presented a crawl with the unlikely title and theme "Sunday Night in EC4." While describing the area he went into detail of history and architecture, and concluded with the words: "In a time when most inner London pubs are packed with tourists, idiotic lager louts and/or operate ridiculous dress codes, the five pubs featured above offer pleasant, uncrowded Sunday night drinking in reasonable surroundings. Why not give them a try?"

The Bun Shop, Surbiton, had been bought by a consortium of five customers when the owner retired. The 1989 Good Beer Guide had been issued at a cover price of £5.95. Of the 5,000 pubs listed, 365 were in Greater London. There were 97 new or re-entries, and 88 from the previous year had been omitted.

In the Champion Beer of Britain awards for 1988-9, John Gilbert's Hop Back Special had been adjudged a Highly Commended New Brewery Beer of Britain at the Great British Beer Festival in Leeds. The customary gremlin led to the beer being quoted as "Hop Black Special" - perhaps a premonition of Entire Stout?

Fullers had opened their 150th pub, The Boat at Berkhamstead. They had recently acquired 5 pubs outside London.

Brakspear's, In a greetings advert, stated that their new strong bitter, ABV 5%, OBJ (O Be Joyful) was available in their tied houses and would be in the free trade early in January.

A full page display conveyed seasonal greetings from the Editors. It was in the form of an ancient song (published 1420) printed in a frame in the shape of a scroll with the CAMRA logo as a seal, entitled "Bring us in Good Ale". It began with the words:

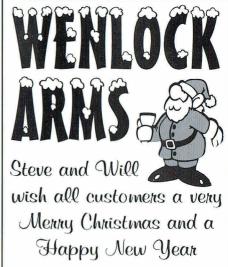
"Bring us in good ale, and bring us in good ale. For our blissid Lady sak, bring us in good ale."

It continued with nine verses of Chaucerian English, all disparaging certain foodstuffs, and ending with the words "Bring us in good ale." As an example:

"Bring us in no befe for ther is many bonis But bring us in good ale, for that goth downe at onis".

(the last words of the lines would now be BONES and ONCE). However, two were of modern composition and the greeting included a challenge to spot them. They read:

Continued on page 19



A genuine Free House featuring a selection of the very best in Cask Ales, Traditional Cider and Perry

- Mild always available
- Lined glasses guarantee full pints
- Salt Beef sandwiches
- Function room free to CAMRA members
- Thursday night is Quiz Night
- Jazz piano Sunday lunchtimes
- Jazz every Friday and 3rd Saturday evening in the month
- Open daily from midday

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PUB OF THE YEAR
1995 & 1996

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Feature.

Continued from page 18

"Bring us in no proceschese, that stinke of swetifete,

But bring us in good ale, to make a mele complete", and

"Bring us in no kegibier, which fasten likke piz, Nor bring us in no lager, for it farten mak with fiz."

It took quite a lot of Bass on an Editorial pub crawl to dream that up, and the typesetter did a fine job considering that 42 of the 218 words used in the verses were of archaic spelling and mostly obsolete (that's over 191/4%) and no gremlin disrupted it!

If you have finished Idle Moments, here is my rival version - give the modern spelling for these from the same source. It is easy if you remember that meanings some words have changed, and they are totally misleading in many cases when taken out of context; answers appear at the end of this article.

1) bred 11) shelles 12) elles 2) mad 3) brane 13) therin 4) whit 14) hores 5) ynough 15) pigges 6) lene 16) boris 7) thei 17) der 8) sildom 18) dukkes 9) ther 19) slober 10) ar 20) mer

FIVE YEARS AGO both covers and 3 inside pages of the Dec.1993/Jan 1994 issue's 44 pages featured red as the second colour. The front bore a cartoon by Eileen of a comatose Santa, head on table, seen through two empty glasses among the debris of an obviously enjoyable party.

The perennial problem of short measure and the brewers' opposition to lined glasses formed the theme of Chris's Editorial. The Government guidance was that 95% of the pint had to be liquid. (I'm no mathematician, but how much beer is in 0.95 pint? I make that a bit under what you pay for, and 100% profit on one pint in twenty). On the Letters page the "Friends of the Full Pint" gave the name & address of the Deputy Secretary for Consumer Affairs, responsible for such matters. Two other articles in the content discussed the situation. Another correspondent, from Manchester was convinced

that Mark Dorber was the pen-name for Barbara Cartland in the October article on Adnams Extra. NONSENSE - he knows his stuff. I don't know about her.

Enfield & Barnet and West Middlesex branches were trying to establish a CAMRA presence in Edgware, and had arranged socials and a meeting in the area.

Wetherspoon's had reported doubled profits in the year ended July '93. It had joined the Stock Market in October '92, when it had 44 outlets but had meanwhile added 239 and 20 more were planned before the end of '93. This report seems to have been taken from a press release previously published, and, as usual, the figures in the rest swim before my eyes but present a major success story.

The 8th Guide to Real Ale outlets in Kent had been issued, price £4.95.

All best wishes for the festive season,

Martin Smith

PS Answer to my Archive Quiz: 1) bread; 2) made; 3) bran: 4) white; 5) enough: 6) 1ean; 7) they; 8) seldom; 9) there: 10) are; 11) shells; 12) else; 13) therein; 14) hairs; 15) pigs; 16) bears; 17) dear; 18) ducks; 19) slobber; 20) mere/mire.

If you want to see how they fit anything, copies of the edition - Vol.10, No.11 - are available from Stan Tompkins.



PUBS OF WIMBLEDON VILLAGE

Published in October, 'Pubs of Wimbledon Village (Past & Present)'by Clive Whichelow provides a wealth of carefully researched detail about the 17 pubs and two breweries that exist or have existed over the centuries between the old Portsmouth Road and the Ridgway.

This entertaining and attractively illustrated 48 page booklet begins with a brief history of pubs and ends with the black comedy of the Wimbledon Brewery fire of 1889. It is published by Enigma Publishing, 4 Charnwood Avenue, London SW19 3EJ, ISBN 0 9524297 1 3, at £3.25 - a bargain two pints' worth!

Geoff Strawbridge

EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER



THREE WORDS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.

Feature -

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO MY PUB, MA?

Way back in 1961, when I was a lad of just fifteen tender years, I set forth on a journey of adventure and instruction.

In the august company of two older cousins, one seventeen and the other a geriatric of eighteen summers, I decided that now was the time when I discovered what the mystery behind the stout wooden doors and acid etched glass was all about

I was going to my first pub.

Then, as now, the minimum age that you could drink was 18 years old. So this constituted a major act of daring, particularly when you consider the much stricter obedience of the law by the general populace at that time.

So it was that we set out across Clapham Common in search of nirvana. Fetching up outside the Windmill, Phil, the geriatric and man of the world considered that this would be fairly safe for a first attempt considering my tender years. The Windmill was and still is an enormous pub where you can easily get lost for a time. In those days there were three bars, the restaurant, the one with the beautiful glass ceiling, the saloon and the private bar that had its entry around the corner in what now is the garden entrance. To this bar we made our way on legs of jelly and Phil, being the senior member, that is he looked the oldest, brazenly ordered three pints of bitter which, with a curious glance in my direction, the barman duly delivered.

Clutching this, my first pint in a grownup's pub, I tasted the brew with all the worldliness of a connoisseur, despite having only tasted bitter once a few weeks earlier at a wedding in Lambeth Town Hall.

I raised the foaming liquid to my lips, stuck my tongue in first, the end did not fall off, as I had been warned would happen by a teetotal relative, and the beautiful hoppy taste of Young's Bitter washed over my taste buds for the first time and I was lost forever on a quest for the perfect pint.

It was at this point that I made the statement that has haunted me all these years. Partly because, Mild was the preferred drink at the time, hardly anyone has any recollection of bitter before the advent of keg and in particular Watney's Red Barrel, which appeared a few weeks later, to our combined and eternal sorrow.

What I said was "This isn't bad, tastes rather like a good pint of Watney's I had the other week." And this was true Watney's Bitter did taste like Young's and occasionally I get a pint of Young's that really reminds me of that wonderful dry tasting first pint of Watney's.

Feeling that we had done rather well to get this far, my other cousin, Eugene, exercised the wise Judgement that became his hall mark in life when he eventually became the first Roman Catholic divorce lawyer in Edinburgh, and suggested we move on to pastures new.

As we left the Windmill the governor entered laden with bags of money and was last heard berating the luckless barman for serving "those bloody school boys".

Making good our escape we cut down Crescent Lane along Abbeville Road to Acre Lane and rejecting the Clock House, our Uncle George was cellarman there, and the pub opposite whose name I can never remember. We chose the Hope and Anchor to continue this our first pub crawl. The Hope was and still is another Young's pub and we felt on safe ground drinking, what since has always been known in my family to my huge embarrassment as the Watney's clone.

Here we come to the point of this story.

Walking through the doors for the first time I was struck by the sheer beauty of the pub. There were three bars, this one was the right hand saloon with a scrap of carpet on the floor and one penny on the price of a pint. The mirror behind the bar glistened reflecting the light of its many facets, the mahogany back fitting gleamed and smelt of real wax polish as did the bar and the barmaid had the most splendid curves some of which were well displayed to Eugene's embarrassment. It was to be a further two years before I would enjoy the first of many wonderful pints in this superb pub. The barmaid despite her appeal, lacked the leniency of her colleague at the Windmill and shooed us out without ceremony, our pub crawl ended there and then when, as we considered that things could not get worse, they did as in walked the above mentioned Uncle George and quashed any notion of continuing our expedition across the road.

Over the last thirty seven years I have been an irregular in the Hope, I have not lived in the area for many years and now live in Kent, but I always visit when in the area. I have never forgotten that first

Continued on page 23

Good Beer Guide 1999

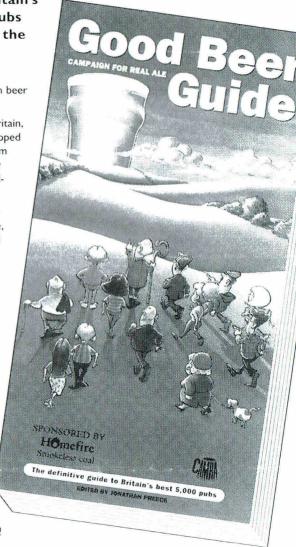
The latest edition of Britain's number one beer and pubs book is now on sale. It's the 26th edition and is the biggest and best ever!

576 fact-packed pages on the British beer scene:

- 5,000 of the best beer pubs in Britain, arranged county by county, fully mapped and with all facilities highlighted, from accommodation and meals to family rooms, no-smoking areas and wheelchair access.
- Information on all Britain's breweries and the real ales they produce, from giants like Bass and Whitbread to the newest micros like Scatter Rock Brewery in Devon and Iris Rose Brewery in the Highlands. There are no less than 42 new breweries in the 1999 edition.
- Hard-hitting features on CAMRA's campaigning year, the pub design awards, the craft of brewing and who owns our pubs.

The Good Beer Guide is the book no beer lover can afford to be without and is ideal for holidays, business trips, days in the country or nights on the town.

Available from all good bookstores or direct from your local CAMRA branch, it is still priced at only £10.99. It's the perfect gift – or why not treat yourself to the 'beer drinkers bible'!



Copies are also available direct and post-free from CAMRA at: 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans Herts ALI 4LW (cheques made payable to CAMRA; credit card sales on (01727) 867201).

Feature

Continued from page 21

entrance into this building, even though it ended in humiliation and prolonged thirst, and if Watney's clone hooked me for life on bitter and particularly Young's, then the Hope and Anchor was the pub that hooked me on pubs as a way of life.

I have always anticipated my visits to this lovely pub with its unique atmosphere and decor with high expectation.

The best food was probably when a Polish man had the pub in the **late** seventies. His gargantuan Sunday lunch time buffet had people lining up outside the pub before opening time, some with their own plates so that they could have a free lunch of every kind of sea food, chicken, ham and anything else that could be fitted onto the groaning bar. There was no room for beer. Just a couple of coppers were added to the cost of a pint for that session which was used to give a free Christmas lunch to the local Pensioners.

Given this background you can readily understand my horror when I visited the Hope and Anchor on 7 August, in the midst of the real summer to find the pub wrecked beyond belief.

At first I thought I had made a mistake and entered the wrong pub.

Gone was the glass and mahogany.

Gone were the comfortable seats, replaced with wooden "Bistro" chairs that did not look capable of supporting a mature fully developed and well padded derriere like mine.

Gone was the tasteful decoration replaced with something resembling an explosion in an orange juice bottling factory.

The "barmaid", having totally ignored me while she finished her conversation with her colleague, parked her chewing gum on the plywood bar, sauntered over like a whore at the end of a very long shift and with vast indifference asked me if I wanted serving. After I told her I often stood like a spare part in pubs without a drink, I ordered, with well founded trepidation a pint of Ordinary.

Well I know it was in the upper eighties, but there was no excuse for the simmering, cloudy excuse for beer that was presented to me, after another lengthy conversation with her friend, during which time a good portion of the "beer" was spilt over the floor and down her.

If this is Young's idea of tasteful pub refurbishment then I say bring back the Watney's bitter. At least they understood pubs.

Several years ago John Young was quoted in Chris Hutt's "Death of the English Pub" that a pub he knew had a fountain and river running through the bar and he was tempted to add some washing up~liquid to see the result.

The point being that he abhorred this kind of tacky refurbishment.

The Hope and Anchor is not the first Young's pub to be vandalised.

Some years ago the Prince of Wales in Shere had the treatment. Here they ripped out the Jacobean oak panelling and replaced it with poor quality Formica look-a-like panelling and removed the comfortable armchairs and replaced them with plastic seating.

What they did to the Home Cottage in Redhill still makes me shudder several years later.

Perhaps it is time for Mr Young's words to come back and haunt him.

Barry Horwell



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors.

After their meaningless "5 percent more beer campaign", which seems to have fizzled out, J.D.Wetherspoon appear to have gone back to using glasses without a line and hence cannot ensure a full pint.

Can we ask for a 5 percent discount now? Or were they dishonest about the extra beer? Regards.

Gordon Joly London E14

Dear Editors,

Following the recent news of Wetherspoon's decision to remove lined glasses from all of their pubs, I wrote Tim Martin expressing my opposition to this move. I received a response from Wetherspoon's, which basically repeated the points reported by Sarah Porter in last month's edition.

They assured me that as soon as legislation is introduced, they would be the first to return to using lined glasses. The message here to all drinkers, whether CAMRA members or not, is to write to your MP and complain about continuing to be ripped off. Legislation is the only way that we can ensure that we get a fair deal. So everyone who is reading this, get your pens and word processors out and make your voice heard! Rob Close

South East London Branch

SKYE BREW

July on the Isle of Skye, like most months of the year, is characterised by unpredictable weather, but as Paul Watkins found out, a warming pint of excellent real ale from one of Britain's remotest breweries is never far away!

Skye's northern ferry port of Uig (pron. Oo-ik) lies in a hollow in the hills of the Trotternish peninsular (the north western one of Skye's "wings"). When approached from the sea aboard the Caledonian MacBrayne's ferry from either North Uist or Harris, you could be forgiven for thinking that there is nothing more here than a jetty, let alone a brewery. But there it is, just opposite Cal-Mac's office, the smart modern premises of "Leann an Eilein," The Isle of Skye Brewery.

Brewing returned to Skye in 1995 after an absence of many years. Previously, beer making on the island was the preserve of a handful of Skye's hotels, for use in their own premises, but as transport became quicker & beer more transportable, what little brewing there was on Skye ceased. Alcohol production on the island was left to the Talisker distillery in Carbost.

All that changed in the early 1990's when three local businessmen were seeking a new venture to set up on Skye. Two different plans were considered: a chocolate factory, or a brewery; luckily the latter won the vote and the business plan was duly presented to the local enterprise authorities for the setting up of a brewery in the island's capital, Portree. The Highlands & Islands Development Board were constructing some new purpose-built industrial units at the ferry terminal in Uig, and suggested that the brewery could be set up there. The HIDB were happy to help construct the interior of the premises to the brewery's specification and so, Uig it was.

Today, two of the original three partners remain, Angus MacRuary, who handles the books & bottling plant, and Eric Jones, who takes care of the brewing side, and who showed us round the operation on a traditionally wet afternoon in Uig. Eric, originally from Bolton, was a local trader before getting involved in the brewery. Neither he nor Angus has any previous brewing experience, though once it was decided that the business was to be a brewery, Angus attended a course at BrewLab, and brought what he learned back with him. Eric gradually took over the brewing single-handed as demand increased &

Angus was unable to devote as much time as was needed to the brewery, as he has to divide his time between the brewery & his other job as a schoolteacher.

There are currently four beers brewed at Isle of Skye. Most will have heard of the two original beers, Red Cuillin (OG 1042) and Black Cuillin (OG 1045), which were the newest beers ever to be invited to the Great British Beer Festival, having only been in existence for some sixteen months when they appeared there in 1996; the normal qualification time being two years! Eric's other beers are a refreshing golden brew by the name of Young Pretender (OG 1040), and a winter ale, the potent Avalanche (OG 1050), which appeared at this year's THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL. Isle of Skye's malt is brought all the way over from Aberdeenshire, and once ground into grist, is mixed with the brewing liquor before it hits the bottom of the mash tun. This is



Feature

done by "injecting" the liquor through a valve in the chute which delivers the "goods" from the grist case to the mash tun, so it arrives in the mash tun already mixed into "a good porridge." Other special beers are often brewed, such as the "protest beer," Extortion Ale, produced to highlight the opposition to the tolls on the Skye road-bridge. Visitors to Portree's Royal Hotel can sample an Isle of Skye beer called MacNab's. This is not actually a brewed beer, but is still caskconditioned; it is a blend of Red & Black Cuillins, mixed at the brewery exclusively for the Royal. "Special mixes" such as this are arrived at usually by the landlord visiting the brewery to decide on their favourite "cocktail" of the four beers on offer, which is then mixed in the cask for them to stock as a house beer.

Plans are currently being laid and space is available to expand the existing ten-barrel plant & space is available for at least one more mash tun in the brew-house. This will also facilitate more bottling of the beers, currently only the "Cuillins" are bottled though not bottleconditioned. Each bottling run, and there are four or five a week, turns out three-thousand bottles, and currently, the beers are so popular that, as Angus says, "we can hardly produce enough of it!" Despite the popularity of the bottled beers,

the brewery remains committed to real-ale. Angus can't see himself giving up teaching quite yet though! Isle of Skye is currently the only brewery in the Hebrides, though they have been approached for advice about setting up a similar operation on the Isle of Barra

Isle of Skye's beers are found dotted across the Highlands, and are quite widespread on Skye itself. There is no brewery-tap, only a very well stocked & friendly shop which sells the bottled beers. The full range of three beers in summer, and four in winter can usually be found at the Sligachan bar, about halfway between Kyleakin and Portree. Down South, the beers are regularly found at beer festivals (though they tend to disappear rather quickly!) and are distributed through East-West Ales. Whilst a pint of Isle of Skye beer may not necessarily come cheap in London, it is available, so over to you, mine host...

The author would like to express his sincere thanks to Eric Jones & all the staff of the Isle of Skye Brewery.

Tours of the Isle of Skye Brewery are by arrangement, please 'phone first to check availability: 01470 542477. Uig can be reached by Ferry from Lochmaddy, North Uist and from Tarbet, Harris and by bus from Portree, journey times by bus vary, as there are two routes.

* * * * * * * * * *

A DATE FOR YOUR SUMMER DIARY

nce again CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival is returning to Olympia next August to celebrate its ninth year in London. Both the National and Grand Halls will be used enabling visitors to drink in the sunshine during the day as well as the beer!

With over a quarter of a million pints of real ale, cider, perry and imported beer, the Great

CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival 3rd - 7th August 1999 **Olympia**

British Beer Festival can proudly boast to be the event of its kind in Britain. The Festival truly is British. As well as having beers from all around the country, it is staffed by almost 1000 volunteer CAMRA members from all parts of the Island who, like the staff at all of CAMRA's local beer festivals take their holidays, to bring the event to the general public. It is definitely a labour of love.

Due to its popularity this year, the organisers will be repeating the New Brewery Bar to show



what the new, small breweries are up to. And, as usual the bars will be in geographical order, which means that

drinking tour of Britain without leaving the building.

The Festival opens to the general public on Tuesday 3rd August at 5pm and continues until 7pm on Saturday 7th August 1999. For further information and corporate hospitality details contact 01727 867201. And don't forget to look out for more details on the Festival in future editions of the London Drinker Magazine.



proudly announce the opening of

The Bridge House

218 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 (on the southside approach to Tower Bridge)
Telephone 0171 407 5818

Southwold Bitter and Broadside plus rotating guest beer

Modern British Cooking

Function Room (with own bar) available

Open all permitted hours

Cellar and beer line cooling to ensure ales are served at optimum temperature

"A taste of Suffolk in London"

Odds & Ends-

REAL ALE CHOICE IN SOUTH LAMBÉTH

Branch district representatives and others on the look out for pubs that might be considered for GBG shortlisting will appreciate the number of changes since publication of the 1997 South West London Pub Guide. Recent surveys of pubs in London SW8 (roughly between Vauxhall, Battersea Park and Stockwell) show clear trends and raise questions for the Campaign.

As at 6 November 1998, 39 pubs were open (compared with 44 in the 1997 SWL Guide) but only 19 of them sold real ale (down from 33), with a choice available in only 14 (down from 21). Brakspear's Bitter, Fuller London Pride and Ind Coope Burton Ale are new in the district, but Greene King Abbot, John Smith's Bitter, Mansfield Old Baily, Ruddle Best Bitter and County, Tetley Bitter, Webster's Yorkshire Bitter and Worthington Best Bitter have lost their previous regular outlets.

Apart from the guest beers available in five pubs and the seasonal beers in three, real ales available in SW8 pubs now total 14, compared with 19 in the Guide. Nine pubs serve Courage Best and/or Directors and four serve Young's beers, while only one or two serve Draught Bass, Shepherd Neame beers, Wadworth 6X etc.

Three tentative observations:

- marketing of national brands is wasted on real ale drinkers;
- the average quality of real ale available has improved, and those keeping it tend to be more enthusiastic about it;
- but if people cannot be persuaded to drink enough of it, we shall all lose it.
 Readers' comments welcome, please.

Geoff Strawbridge

The Editorial Team wish the
Compliments of the Season to
all those who have supported
London Drinker in 1998 either
as a Contributor, Advertiser,
Distributor or Reader.

LONDON DRINKER CHANGES

s Andy Pirson announced in his Editorial, he is retiring as a member of the Editorial Team after the completion of this edition of London Drinker. That will inevitably bring some changes to the way the magazine is put together and where contributions need to be sent.

Andy's pre-production role is being taken over by Dave Oram but as he is currently trying to move house it might cause confusion to post material to him. Consequently, would you please ensure that all material sent by post is addressed to Ian Amy, whether it is on paper or on computer disc. This also includes entries for the Branch Update (diary) pages.

The only difference to the above is that if you are sending material by Email, you should continue for the time being to send these to Andy Pirson while one or two things get sorted out Internet-wise.

So it's quite simple really - everything by post to:

10 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0TG

and everything by Email to: andy@pirson.demon.co.uk

Beer Festivals

- White Horse, Parsons Green, SW6 28 November 0171 736 2115
- Portmanor, South Norwood, SE25
 4-12 December 0181 655 1308
- Head of Steam, Euston, NW1
 24-30 January
 0171 388 2221
- Carpenters Arms, Epping5-7 March01992 574208

Obtain a free listing in London Drinker to promote your forthcoming Beer Festival

call Barry Tillbrook 0181 989 7523

Festivals.

CROYDON & SUTTON BEER FESTIVAL IN PICTURES

The Croydon & Sutton Branch of CAMRA held their beer festival at Wallington Town Hall between the 8th and 10th October. Here is a small selection of photos from the event:



Corrola Brown of Ballards Brewery and chairperson of SIBA, the Small Independent Breweries Association, opening the festival.



Bob Jones of the Dark Star Brewing Co sampling

his special beer "Freddy Fuggles Favourite IPA" brewed specially for our festival. The pint has just been drawn by Peter Skinner of the Evening Star in Surrey Street, Brighton, to which the brewery is attached.



A CAMRA mirror is presented to Dave Stott, the manager of the Windsor Castle in Carshalton, to commemorate the pub's fourth place in the National Finals of CAMRA's Pub of the Year competition.

All photographs by Paul Everitt



A selection of Guest Ales are available in rotation at J D Wetherspoon freehouses. Two Guest Ales are always on tap, subject to availability. Please ask at the freehouse for details on ales listed.

Arundel Old Scrooge	5.3% ABV	Highwood Christmas Cheers	4.5% ABV
Ash Vine Insanity Claus	4.1% ABV	Hoskins & Oldfield Christmas	
Banks & Taylor Santa's Slayer	4.0% ABV	Pudding Porter	5.0% ABV
Batemans Rosey Nosey	4.9% ABV	Kitchen Fiendish Fig	4.6% ABV
		Spinnaker Big Fat Santa (BFS)	4.2% ABV
Burton Bridge Santifreeze	4.5% ABV	Stonehenge Rudolph	5.0% ABV
Exmoor Exmas	5.0% ABV	Tomos Watkins CWRW Santa	4.6% ABV



J D Wetherspoon plc, Wetherspoon House, Central Park, Reeds Crecsent, Watford, Herts WD1 1QH Tel: 01923 477777

Branch Update

Welcome again to our regular 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 where branches can tell drinkers across London what is happening in their areas 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: Wed 9 (8.00) Barnet Crawl. Meet at the OLDE MITRE INN, 58 High Street then (9.00) KING WILLIAM IV, 18 Hadley Highstone; (10.00) SEBRIGHT ARMS, 9 Alston Road; (10.30) ALBION, 74 Union Street.

Jan: Wed 13 (8.00) Business Meeting. ROYAL OAK, Tabard Street, SE1. Pub records/preservation officers of all London area branches and other interested persons welcome.

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

Dec: Wed 2 (8.00) Social at the new WETHERSPOONS, Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath (opposite railway station) - Fri 11 (8.00) Christmas Social. PRINCESS ROYAL, Longley Road, West Croydon - Tue 15 (8.00) Two Pub Social. GREYHOUND, Carshalton Ponds (Swan Bar) then WINDSOR CASTLE, Carshalton Road, Carshalton - Wed 30 (8.00) Social. ROYAL STANDARD, Sheldon Street, Croydon

Jan: Thu 7 (8.00) Social. PORTMANOR, Portland Road, SE25 - Tue 12 (8.00) Two Pub Social. Meet in the MOON ON THE HILL, Hill Road, Sutton then NEW TOWN, Lind Road - Sun 17 (12.00 noon) Beer & Curry Social. Meet in the SKYLARK, depart at 1.30pm for Zara's Kitchen, 60 South End, Croydon - Wed 20 (8.00) Two Pub Social. Meet in the BUILDERS ARMS, 65 Leslie Park Road, Croydon then CLARET FREE HOUSE, 5A Bingham Corner - Thu 28 (8.00) Branch Meeting. HOGSHEAD, 60 High Street, Croydon.

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

Dec: Tue 1 = Sat 5 Pigs Ear Real Ale Festival, OLD TOWN HALL, The Broadway, Stratford, E15. See separate advert for details.

Sat 12 All-London CAMRA Christmas Social. 8.00pm RUGBY TAVERN - £5 entry charge - see above for details.

Mon 14 Branch Meeting. 8.00pm BOW BELLS, Bow Road, E3. Drastically improved pub where we will use the upstairs room. This will be an informal meeting, mainly as a wash-up discussion of the 1998 Pig's Ear Festival

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

Apologies to anybody who turned up to the social in Golders Green last month. The pub was closed because their refurbishment started later than scheduled.

Dec: Tue 1 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion. MOON UNDER WATER, 148 High Street, Barnet, EN5 - Sat 5 (8.00) Branch Christmas Dinner. ELEPHANT INN (formerly Moss Hall Tavern), 283 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12. Thai cuisine; £5 deposit required. Bookings to Tony Roberts on 0181-482 9673. Meet in the bar from 7.00pm - Wed 9 (8.00) Joint Social with London Pubs Group. Meet at OLDE MITRE INN, 58 High Street, Barnet EN5 followed by a quick tour of the area's notable pubs culminating at the KING WILLIAM IV, 18 Hadley Highstone for a Good Beer Guide promotion (Bus No. 84 passes the door) - Tue 15 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion. OLD WHEATSHEAF, 3 Windmill Hill, Enfield Town, EN2.

Jan: Fri 1 (12.00 noon) Cobweb Social. WHITE LION, 50 St. Albans Road, Barnet, EN5 - Tue 5 (9.00) Social. DOG & DUCK, 74 Hoppers Road, Winchmore Hill, N21. Our first visit since the retirement of the long standing tenant, Pam Tucker and the pub's refurbishment - Wed 13 (9.00) Social. MADDEN'S (formerly Welch's Ale House), 130 High Road, East Finchley, N2 - Wed 20 (9.00) Social. INN ON THE GREEN, 295 Green Lanes (opposite triangle), Palmers Green, N13 - Thu 28 (9.00) Social & London Drinker Pick-up. OLDE MITRE, 58 High Street, Barnet, EN5.

On Tuesday 19th January, Mighty Oak Brewery of Brentwood are sponsoring as beer tasting at Epping Forest District Museum, 39/41 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey between 12.15 and 1.45pm at £2.50 per head. Any members interested must pre-book with the museum on 01992-716882.

Continued on page 31

THE RELIANCE BAR & RESTAURANT



The Management and Staff of the Reliance look forward to you joining us for:

- Superb Ales from Adnams Brewery, Suffolk's oldest brewery, as well as wines from their award winning wine merchants
- The best of modern British cooking
- Your parties, special occasions, working lunches etc in our function room

"A taste of Suffolk in London"

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TEL 0171 729 6888 FAX 0171 729 4248

-Branch Update

Continued from page 29

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD. Clive Taylor 0181-949 2099 (H) 01483-714898 (W)

Dec: Wed 2 (8.30) Social and Area Pub of the Year Presentation. RUNNING HORSE, Bridge Street, Leatherhead - Wed 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. BERRYLANDS, Chiltern Drive, Berrylands (near railway station) - Tue 15 (8.00) Branch Christmas Dinner. BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hawks Road, Kingston. Four choices of menu: traditional, vegetarian or roast beef (£15.00) or seafood special (£17.50). Bookings as soon as possible with £5.00 deposit please - Sat 19 (8.00) Christmas Drink between Surbiton and Kingston. Meet at the CORONATION HALL, near railway station. Depart 8.30 for Waggon & Horses then various other pubs into Kingston.

NORTH LONDON. Alison Cox 0181-742 0498 (H) 0181-746 8148 (W). Any social queries contact Gary White 0181-801 9513 (H), 0181-772 6045 (W), email: <g.white@sfxavier.ac.uk>.

Nov: Mon 30 (8.00) Branch Social. WENLOCK ARMS, 26 Wenlock Road, N1.

Dec: Tue 8 (8.00) Branch Social. MAGDALA TAVERN, 2a South Hill Park then FREEMASONS ARMS, 32 Downshire Hill, both NW3 - Tue 15 (8.00) Branch Christmas Social (food provided). DUKE OF HAMILTON, 23 New Road, NW3 - Thu 31 (8.00 onwards) Branch New Year's Eve Social. LAMB, Lambs Conduit Street, WC1.

Jan: Mon 4 (8.00) Branch Social. WENLOCK ARMS, 26 Wenlock Road, N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Brian Kirton 0181-384 7284 (H).

The Christmas Dinner should be good on Friday 18th December at the newly refurbished Prince Albert in Twickenham. Please call Brian to book don't just turn up on the night - a Fuller's pub of course. The December Branch Meeting is at the reopened and refurbished County Arms in Isleworth, now run by Wizard Inns.

A new venue is being tried fro the January Branch Meeting when nominations are invited for the 2000 Good beer Guide - yes, we do have to start on that already. We have tentatively set Thursday 14th January for a Bernard Flynn "thank you and appreciation" night at the Brewery Tap in Brentford, a long time favourite jazz venue of Bernard's. Bernard has retired as retired as Branch Treasurer after many years service. However the date may change - please see the January What's Brewing (or call Brian) for confirmation.

Dec: Thu 10 (8.00) Open Branch/Committee

Meeting. COUNTY ARMS, 2 Hall Road, Isleworth - Fri 18 (7.30 for 8.00pm) Branch Christmas Dinner. PRINCE ALBERT, 30 Hampton Road, Twickenham. Cost £10.95; bookings to Brian please.

Jan: Wed 6 (8.00) Open Branch/Committee Meeting. ROSE & CROWN, 333 London Road, Isleworth - Thu 14 (8.00) Jazz Night Social (see notes). BREWERY TAP, Catherine Wheel Road, Brentford.

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Rob Close 0181-659-8067 (H - answerphone), E-mail: rob close@msn.com.

We are fast approaching the time of year when we have to start planning our entries for the 2000 Good Beer Guide, even though the 1999 issue has only just gone on sale! We shall be selecting our list of pubs for consideration at the AGM on 19th January. This will gives us two months to visit and review all pubs before finalising our list at the March Branch meeting. This can be time consuming, so the more reviewers we have the better. If you would like a pub to be considered, please let us know before the AGM, or alternatively, come to the AGM.

One major item of news; at last the Branch have managed to win a quiz at the Howerd Club! This was a great evening with a nearly full hall, despite the foul weather. Our thanks go to Neil and the committee at the Howerd Club for organising the evening.

Mon 30 Nov, Social following Committee meeting, ROYAL OAK, 44 Tabard Street, SE1 at 9-00pm - Fri 4 Dec, Working Social at PIGS EAR BEER FESTIVAL at 6-30 - Wed 9 Dec, Branch Social, RED LION, 10 North Street, Bromley at 8-00pm - Tue 15 Dec, Social, BEEHIVE, 60 Carter Street, SE17 at 8-00 - Sat 19 Dec, Xmas Party, BLACK HORSE & HARROW, Rushey Green, SE6 at 7-30 - Tue 22 Dec, Xmas Crawl, meet at POMMELERS REST, Tower Bridge Road, SE1 at 7-30 - Tues 12 Jan, Social following Committee meeting, SHIP, 68 Borough High Street at 9-00pm -Tues 19 Jan, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SHIPWRIGHTS ARMS, 88 Tooley Street, SE1 at 7-30pm - Sat 23 Jan, GBG survey crawl of Greenwich. Meet at ADMIRAL HARDY 7 College Approach, SE10 at 12-30pm - Mon 25 Jan, Catford Beer Festival Planning, BLACK HORSE & HARROW, Rushey Green, SE5 at 8-00pm - Thurs Jan, GBG survey crawl. Meet BLACKSMITHS ARMS, 257 Rotherhithe Street, SE16 at 8-00pm.

Continued on page 32

-Branch Update

Continued from page 31

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

Dec: Tue 1 (8.30) Social at Pig's Ear Beer Festival. Old Town Hall, Stratford, E15 - Thu 10 (8.30) Social at OLD WHITE HORSE, Ockendon Road (B186), North Ockendon - still Greater London's most easterly pub. Good Beer Guide nominations needed for 2000 edition! Yes, it's that time again if you prefer, you can send them to Andrew Clifton, 46 Havering Drive, Romford, RM1 4BH or fax them to 01708 765150 - Thu 17 (8.30) Christmas Out of Area Social, MOLETRAP, Tawney Common, Stapleford Tawney (OS: TL500014). Coach transport should be available; contact branch for details - Wed 23 (8.30) Christmas Social. CHEQUERS, North Street, Hornchurch (near Emerson Park station) - Tue 29 (8.30) Social and possible mini-crawl starting/finishing at MOON & STARS, South Street, Romford.

Jan: Wed 6 (8.30) 12th Night Social. GREEN MAN, Cricketers Lane (off A128), Herongate - Sat 9 (11.00am at brewery) Brewery Trip to Larkins Brewery, Chiddingstone, Kent. Details & bookings from Mark Leslie on 01227-220801 - Thu 14 (8.30) Social at ROSE & CROWN, 16 Ilford Hill (A118), Ilford - Wed 20 (8.30) Social at WHITE HORSE, 173 Coxtie Green Road, Coxtie Green - Thu 28 (8.30) Social at NEW INN, Squirrels Heath Lane, Gidea Park.

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

The Falcon at Clapham Junction has been saved from the nineties "makeover" treatment. The planning application submitted by Bass Taverns in June - which proposed the removal of the pub's original Victorian fittings - was withdrawn following objections from CAMRA and others. Instead, the Falcon will just get a much needed lick of paint and new carpet in the New Year.

The Spotted Dog in Garratt Lane, Wandsworth was one of the J.D.Wetherspoon pubs taken over by the Ambishus Pub Company during the summer. Unfortunately, the change came too late for the pub's entry in the 1999 Good Beer Guide to be withdrawn; the Spotted Dog is thus described in the GBG as a Wetherspoon pub. However, early indications are that the new licensee is following in the tradition of his predecessor, offering a decent range of well kept and competitively priced real ales.

Finally, the Branch has drawn up its shortlist for the 1998 Pub of the Year award. The eight shortlisted pubs are: the Priory Arms (South Lambeth, SW8); Surprise (South Lambeth, SW8); Pied Bull (Streatham, SW16); Prince of Wales (Tooting, SW17); Old Sergeant (Wandsworth, SW18); Queen Adelaide (Wandsworth, SW18); Sultan (South Wimbledon, SW19) and the Rose & Crown (Wimbledon Village, SW19). Branch rules mean that last year's victor, the Hand in Hand in Wimbledon is not eligible this year. Branch members will be receiving ballot papers over the Christmas and New Year period. The winner will be announced at the Battersea Beer Festival.

Forthcoming Events: Fri 18 Dec (from 7.30) Christmas antisocial. BREAD & ROSES, 68 Clapham Manor Street, SW4 - Thu 14 Jan (7.30) Open Branch Committee Meeting (to include shortlisting for Good Beer Guide 2000 and any deletions from 1999 Guide) and Open Festival Committee Meeting. PRIORY ARMS, 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8 - Thu11 to Sat 13 Feb BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL.

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

WEST LONDON. Di Kehoe 0171-218 3999 (W). Dec: Fri 4 (6.30) Early Evening Social. ARCHERY TAVERN, 4 Bathurst Street, W2 - Tue 15 (8.00) Christmas Evening. BRITANNIA, 1 Allen Street, W8 - Tue 29 (8.30) Social. SCARSDALE, 23B Edwards Square, W8.

Jan: Tue 5 (8.00) Good Beer Guide Survey Crawl. Start RED LION, 48 Parliament Street, SW1 then (8.35) WESTMINSTER ARMS, 9 Storeys Gate, SW1; (9.10) SANCTUARY HOUSE, 33 Tothill Street, SW1; (9.45) MONK EXCHANGE, 61 Victoria Street, SW1; (10.20) BUCKINGHAM ARMS, 62 Petty France, SW1 - Thu 14 (8.00) Branch Meeting. BEEHIVE, 7 Homer Street, W1 - Sat 23 (12.00) Day out to Bedford.

WEST MIDDLESEX. Paul Dabrowski 0181-571 9146 (H), 0171-713 3882 (W).

Dec: Tue 1 (8.30) New Landlord Welcome Social. CHANGE OF HART, Edgware Road, Edgware - Wed 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. LOAD OF HAY, Villier Street, Uxbridge - Sat 19 (6.45) Branch Christmas Party and Prize Quiz. DRAYTON COURT HOTEL, The Avenue, West Ealing, W13 - Wed 30 (11.00am) Out of Branch Pub Crawl in Rickmansworth. Feathers, Church Street then COACH & HORSES; FOX & HOUNDS; HOGSHEAD, all High Street (approx every hour).

Deadline for the February edition, 8th January. Material for March to arrive by 5th February. Please be sure to send all diary material to Ian Amy.

London Drinker Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON '

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Name	
Address	

All correct entries received by first post on 27th 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

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£10 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1.	What remains of the holiday.	[4]
3.	It may be drowned by Santa.	[7]
8.	Adventurer, i.e. prone to recklessness.	[7]
9.	Chicken with head covered.	[5]
10.	Plunder the top off the Christmas treat.	[5]
11.	He was tight every Christmas.	[7]
13.	Working for oneself?	[9]
17.	Christmas transport kills, apparently.	[7]
19.	Letter from the taxman.	[5]
20.	It's nice to have a little bit of this at	
	Christmas.	[5]
22.	Be warned about tree, lad.	[7]
23.	Christmas greetings, we hope.	[7]
24.	Ales distributed in the shops at Christm	as.

DOWN

2.	It has its points at Christmas.	[9]
3.	It's usually eaten after lights out.	[9,4]
4.	Suffer from plain curtains.	[5]
5.	Pinch a drink.	[3]
6.	Rodney drunk? Over there!	[6]
7.	Bear a grudge for incomplete gift.	[6]
12.	Carthorse blundering around players.	[9]
14.	You may be at the end of it while shop	oping.
		[6]

Low-down on Christmas drink.

[4]

161

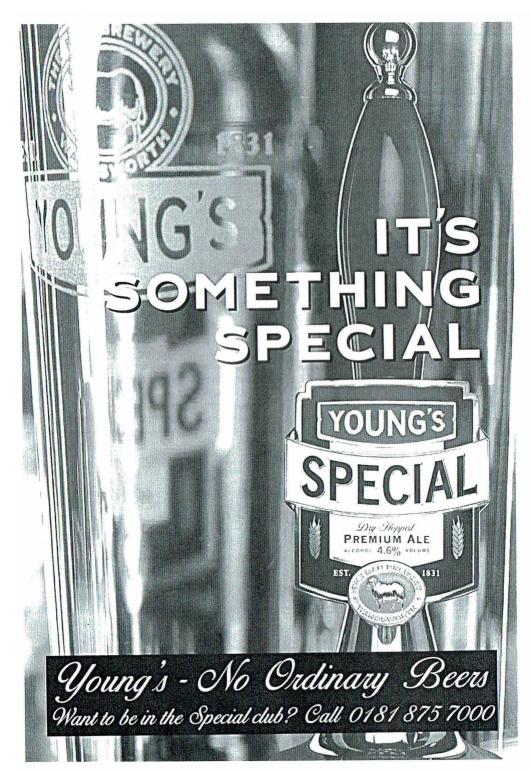
15. Rate for a female donkey? [6] 16. It gets on your wick. Just the opposite! [6] 18. It's very good, I hear, in the fireplace. 151

21. A number of prime ministers. 131

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword: Billy Hernon, Streatham, SW16.

Other correct entries were received from:

Pat Andrews, Tommy Atkins, Geoff B, John Blundell, Boozy & Loin & Co, Ben Burfutt, Cash'n'Calais, A.P.Comaish, Steve Cooper, Charles Creasey, K.Creighton, Dik Denman, Kathryn Everett, Mike Farrelly, Gobbles the Dog, Eileen Graves, Bill Gray, J.E.Green, John Heath, Graham Hill, Peter Large, Dylan Mason, M.J.Moran, Al Mountain, Rab Noolas. Mick Norman, David Oddy, Derek Pryce, Tracy Rowland, Geoff S, Super Scooper, Bryan Smith & Isa Nunes, Old Smokey, Table 49 JJ Moons at Ruislip Manor, Bill Thackray, Paul Tiffany, Fred Vere, Terry Watkins, Martin Weedon, Susan Wilson, David Woodward, Yak.



Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 141

The aim of 'Capital Pubcheck' is to share information about the latest happenings on the London pub scene including new pub and bar openings, name changes, acquisitions, closures, notable changes to beer ranges etc. Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are also provided to enable easy updating.

Information is gathered from a variety of sources including London Drinker readers, individual CAMRA members and branch contacts, breweries, pub operators, landlords etc. If you would like to contribute to 'Pubcheck' please send your news to the address below. A pro-forma is available for regular contributors.

This Month we welcome three new Wetherspoon pubs of which two, in N1 Islington and SW18 Wandsworth, are pub acquisitions, the other being a brand new pub in Thornton Heath - all unfortunately are equipped with brim measure glasses. Bass Leisure has opened a new brewpub as part of a bowling alley complex in SE16 Surrey Keys - the second of the type in the Capital. Another brewpub café/bar has been opened in Putney by the Parisà pub group. Both breweries, regrettably, use gas pressure to dispense their beers. The latest Whitbread Hogshead has opened in WC2, just off Leicester Square. The Slug & Lettuce chain have opened a new outlet in W12 Shepherds Bush and SFI have opened a new Litten Tree pub in Kenton. On the down side, the Lowndes Arms, the oldest pub in SW1 Belgravia, has closed following the granting of planning permission by Kensington & Chelsea Council for change of use to housing, despite local protests.

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.

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

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, CHEZ GÉRARD, 84, Roseberry Avenue. No real ale. Free House/restaurant and bar in former bank opened mid 1998. WC1, POINT 101, 101 New Oxford St. No real ale. A Free House/café bar under Centre Point office block.

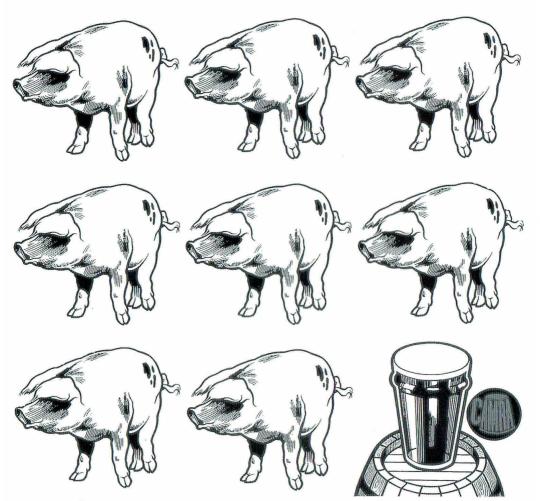
WC2, HOGSHEAD, 5/6 Lisle St.
Boddington: Bitter. Flowers: Original Bitter.
Greene King: Abbot Ale. Marston: Pedigree.
Morland: Old Speckled Hen. Wadworth: 6X
(H). 4 Guest beers (G). Beers may vary. Latest in Whitbread chain opened early November in former hospital for skin diseases building with attractive red sandstone and Dutch style

frontage. Front lobby opens out to a bar in traditional style with wood panelling and wooden and stone flagged floor. Polished wood furniture and comfortable chairs and benches. Raised no-smoking area and 'fireplace' area at rear. Subtly lit with pale yellow ceiling, theatrical posters on walls and exposed ventilation ducts. Background music. Two staircases and a lift lead to upstairs bar with similar decor and beer range. The promoted "views of Leicester Square" are of the very restricted variety! Full menu and specials on board. Belgian bottled beers. Disabled WC via lift. Open all permitted hours.

NORTH

N1, BARTIZAN, 3/5 Islington High St. Renamed ANGEL. Courage: Directors Bitter. Marston: Sundance. Shepherd Neame: Spitfire.

THE SEVENTEENTH



PIG'S EAR BEER FESTIVAL

TUESDAY 1st – SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 1998 At OLD TOWN HALL, STRATFORD, LONDON E15

LAUNCH: TUESDAY 4pm – 11pm ALL DAY SESSIONS: WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY 11am – 11pm

FOOD: ALL SESSIONS

FREE CRECHE: SATURDAY 12 noon - 5pm

ADMISSION: TUES - THURS after 4pm: £2 FRI after 4pm: £3 SAT: £2 all day. All other times admission FREE

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REAL ALES, CIDERS & PERRIES, FOREIGN BEERS & SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE

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Capital Pubcheck-

CAPITAL PUBCHECK UPDATE 141 continued

Theakston: Best Bitter, Former Grosvenor Inns bar acquired and opened as a Wetherspoon Free House in late October. Retains its café bar style with french windows, yellow and red walls, cream ceiling, mirrors, abstract paintings and pine flooring. Raised, carpeted no-smoking eating/seating area at rear. The name is derived from the 17th Century Angel Inn which gave the district its name and stood next door on the site of No1 Islington High St. The original building was replaced in 1819 and again in 1921 when the dome was added, before becoming a Lyons Corner House in 1922. Local history panels record these and other interesting details about the area. Disabled WC. Food. Formerly BAR CENTRAL. Open all permitted hours. (U113, U123)

NORTH WEST

HARROW, ANGIES, 2 The Broadway, Northolt Rd, Roxeth. No real ale. Irish run Free House in former shop unit.

HARROW, SHAWL, 320 Northolt Rd, South Harrow. Irish run Free House in former shop

KENTON, LITTEN TREE, 177-179 Kenton Road. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Wadworth: 6X. House beer (Litten Tree Best Bitter). Large, new SFI Free House opened late August in two former shop units. Carpeted throughout with raised seating area complete with sofas and dusty books. Coloured glass, 'roof lights', food, widescreen TV, disco console. Special events on Thursdays including comedy, male strippers, drag artists, etc. Open all permitted hours. SOUTH EAST

SE13, RISING SUN, 120 Loampit Vale. Fuller: London Pride.. (SE121)

SE13, SYDNEY ARMS, 122 Lewisham Rd.

Courage: Best Bitter. (SE123)

SE16, HOLLYWOOD BOWL, Surrey Quays Leisure Park, 3A Toredo St. Original: Best Bitter (3.8%), Glens Special (4.4%). New Bass Leisure 5 barrel length brewpub opened July 1998 and attached to 10 pin bowling alley complex. Both bitters are racked into casks but regrettably kept under mixed gas pressure in

accordance with company policy. Also brews Pale Lager (4.1%) and Strong Lager (5.0%) served direct from tanks and two nitrokeg beers: Cream of Quays Lager (4.7%) and Cream of Quays Bitter (4.8%). Decorated in traditional pub style with pine wood flooring, chunky wooden tables and chairs, glass screens and tiled bar area. Raised seating area at rear. Pool table, TV and video games enclave. Description of brewing process and samples of malt and hops on display. Open all permitted hours.

THORNTON HEATH, BAR 68, 68 Brigstock Rd. Free House. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop unit.

THORNTON HEATH, WETHERSPOONS,

2-4 Ambassador House, Brigstock Rd.
Courage: Directors Bitter. Fuller: London
Pride. Hopback: Summer Lightning. Marston:
Sundance. Theakston: Best Bitter. Guest beer.
Wetherspoon Free House, opened late October
in rather bland former bank and restaurant
premises. Large open plan pub with blue and
green panelled walls and matching fussy
carpet. French windows at front. No
smoking/eating area at rear, alcove seating,
soft lighting. Old photos of Thornton Heath
and local history panels highlighting local
characters. Video games. Disabled WC. Open
all permitted hours. Something of a return to
basics but with 'modern' overtones.

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), SUSSEX ARMS, 17 Sussex St. Reopened and renamed CONTENTED VINE. Theakston: Best Bitter. Now more of an upmarket wine bar with beer. The usual light and modern look with plain woodwork. A screen subdivides the single bar. Large clear windows. Emphasis on food. Open all permitted hours. (SW44, U137, U138) SW1(SJ), SPORTS CAFÉ, 80 Haymarket. No real ale. Free House/café bar with emphasis on sports, including video games, under office block.

SW8, DEWDROP, 58 Stewarts Rd. Ind Coope: Burton Ale; Guest beer. (SW76, U130) SW15, PARISÀ, 146-148 Putney High St. No real ale. Café/bar with in-house brewery opened in September in former shop and building society premises. A first London outlet in a Warrington based chain. Two beers

The Sultan

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The only Hop Back pub in London

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 £46
18 pint minipins from £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

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK UPDATE 141 continued

are currently brewed - Parisà: Silver Shadow Ale (4.2%) and Parisà: Pilsner Lager (4.0%), in a cellar brewery, held in tanks believed to be under gas pressure and pumped to bar fonts. "Coppers" prominently displayed inside the front window may be part of the delivery system. Two other beers - Parisà: Gold Shadow Ale (5.0%) (a dark seasonal) and Parisà: Amber Shadow (3.5%) (a session bitter) were apparently tried but discontinued. A varying seasonal beer is likely to replace them. Heavy emphasis on food and wine with table service and limited bar space. Parisian theme featuring a "Madame Bollinger" champagne floozie. Attractively furnished with polished wooden floor, flagstones around bar, orange and cream painted walls etc. Opens 8am (9am Sat, 10am Sun) for breakfast and all permitted hours.

SW18, GLEESON & SONS CORNER HOUSE, 134 Wandsworth High St. Reverted to original name, ROSE & CROWN. Courage: Directors Bitter. Fuller: London Pride. Theakston: Best Bitter. 3 Guest beers. Acquired by Wetherspoons, retaining exterior glazing but completely remodelled inside in the latest, more modern bright mode, reopened in late October. A central bar with distinct areas in a variety of colours and seating with tiled, wooden and carpeted flooring. Local history panels and mosaic from local artist Gail Farnesi. A garden area with some imagination and plenty of seating is likely to be popular particularly in summer (over 18's only policy applies also to garden). No smoking areas. Food. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours. (SW112)

WEST

W10, ION, 165 Ladbroke Grove. No real ale. New Free House/bar and restaurant under M40 motorway.

W12, SLUG & LETTUCE, 96-98 Uxbridge Rd. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. Latest addition to chain decorated in typical style. Occupies part of the former WELLINGTON, converted to a Burger King restaurant in 1990 and unusually now reverted back to a pub. (W92, U56)

HAMPTON, RAILWAY, 125, Station Rd. Reverted to RAILWAY INN. Morland: The Tanners Jack, Ruddles Best Bitter. Now a Morland pub, ex Phoenix. (W103, U60, U100, U112)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

WC1, HARRISON ARMS. Ex Grand Met (Watney), closed, future uncertain. (W46, N23) WC2, POLAR BEAR. Renamed WEST CENTRAL (also written in Chinese). Bass, H removed. (W56, U67)

NORTH

N1, NOLIAS CAFÉ BAR. Free House, converted to Jindivick restaurant. (N53)

NORTH WEST

HARROW, LA PARISIENNE BAR. Renamed OSCARS. Free House, H removed. (W113)

SOUTH EAST

SE13, FREEMASON'S ARMS. Ex Grand Met (Courage), closed, future uncertain. (SE120)

SE13, HANSBURY'S. Free House, no real ale. (SE120, U102)

SE18, FORT TAVERN. Phoenix, converted to residential use. (SE168, U112, U125)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), LOWNDES ARMS. Inntrepreneur, closed after Kensington & Chelsea Council granted planning permission for change of use to residential against the wishes of the local residents. The sad loss of one of the oldest pubs in Belgravia. (SW38)

SW4, RAILWAY. Bass, H unused. (SW60, U135)

SW8, BUILDERS ARMS. Marr Taverns, H removed. (SW76)

SW8, BRITANNIA. Renamed BRITANNIA PUB TAPAS BAR. Inntrepreneur, H removed. (SW76)

SW8, CANTON. Bass, H unused. (SW76) SW8, CAFÉ MONEYPENNY. Free House, H removed. (SW76)

SW8, CAVENDISH ARMS. Discovery Inns, H unused. (SW76)

SW8, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE. Bass, H removed. (SW78)

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK UPDATE 141 continued

SW8, FEELEYS FREE HOUSE (PRINCE OF WALES). Free House, H unused. (SW78) SW8, PORTLAND ARMS. Free House, H removed. (SW79)

SW8, SHAFTESBURY. Renamed SHAFTESBURY CAFÉ. Free House, H unused. (SW80)

SW8, VASCO DA GAMA. Sycamore Taverns, H removed. (SW80)

SW9, BREWERY TAP. Mayfair Taverns, H unused. (SW81)

SW9, 'O'. Inntrepreneur, closed, future uncertain. Formerly COACH & HORSES. (SW82, U131)

SW9, OLD WHITE HORSE. Allied Domecq. H unused. (SW82)

SW9, **SWAN**. Inntrepreneur, H removed. Now open evenings only until late from 5pm Mon-Fri, 7pm Sat and Sun. (SW83)

SW11, CEDARS. Ascot Estates, H unused. (SW87)

SW14, QUEENS ARMS. Free House. Now demolished for housing development. (Green tiled facade is to be retained in new building according to planning approval). (SW98, U138)

WEST

W2, IRON GATE. Ex-Courage. Now demolished (W59, U69).

W2, TYBURN. Renamed HANGING TREE. Ex Grand Met (Courage), H removed. Now a café-bar. (W64, U76, U93)

BRENTFORD, WINDMILL. Free (Labatts). Now demolished for housing development. (W99, U68, U79, U100, U132)

HAMPTON WICK, RAILWAY TAVERN. Ex-Courage. Closed, future uncertain. (W106)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

W1(May), SHELLEYS. -Nicholson: Best Bitter. +Marston: Pedigree. (W40, U98) W1 (May), VIGOS. -Beers listed. +Courage: Best Bitter. No longer badged as Youngers but still S&N. Formerly THISTLE. (W40, U48, U90, U92) W1(S), BATH HOUSE. -Marston: Pedigree. -Wadworth: 6X. +Adnams: Bitter. +House Beer. (W41, U48, U93, U129)

W1(S), PLANTERS & HALF SOVEREIGN BAR. Renamed CALLAGHANS. Now Irish theme bar. Still fizz. (W43)

WC1, FALKLAND ARMS. Reverted to BULL & MOUTH. Now badged as part of T&J Bernard chain. (W46, U106)

EAST

E1, LORD RODNEY'S HEAD. +Guest beer.

(E69)

E3, BLUE ANCHOR. -Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. +Guest beers. (E89, U77)

NORTH WEST

NW1, RUSSELL ARMS. Renamed J D YOUNG (JD'S) SPORTSBAR. Still fizz. (N174)

SOUTH EAST

SE18, PRINCESS OF WALES. Renamed RAM BAR. (SE173)

SOUTH WEST

SW1 (P), ORANGE KIPPER. Renamed HEDGEHOG & PHEASANT. -Beers listed. +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Now badged as Greene King ex-Magic Pub Co. Refurbished with green and cream exterior and fashionably light brown and cream interior with wooden floors, some mirrors, clear windows etc. (SW41)

SW8, DUCHESS OF YORK. -John Smith: Bitter. (SW76)

SW8, GOOD FELLOWS. -Young: Special. (SW78)

SW8, MASONS ARMS. -Beers listed.

+Brakspear: Bitter. (SW78)

SW8, NOTT. -Courage: Best Bitter. -Fuller: London Pride. +Courage: Directors Bitter. +Young: Bitter. Formerly NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. (SW78, U131)

SW8, ROEBUCK. -Worthington: Best Bitter. +Fuller: London Pride; +Draught Bass or Wadworth 6X. (SW79)

SW8, VICTORIA, 166 Queenstown Rd. - John Smith: Bitter. +Courage: Directors Bitter. (SW80)

SW8, VICTORIA, 642, Wandsworth Rd. +Bass: Toby Cask. (SW80)

SW9, LANDOR. -John Smith: Bitter. -Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW82)

SW9, QUEEN. +Bass: Toby Cask. (SW83)

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK UPDATE 141 continued

SW11, BEAUFOY ARMS. Now BEAUFOY BAR. Now H removed. (SW86)
SW11, NEW CRAVEN. Renamed HARVEYS.
-Beers listed. +Courage: Best Bitter. +Fuller:
London Pride. +2 guest beers. Formerly
HARVEY FLOORBANGERS (BAR). (SW89, U137)
SW11, PUZZLE. +Guest beer. (U140)

SW11, PUZZLE. +Guest beer. (U140)
SW18, PARK TAVERN. -Beers listed except
Courage: Best Bitter and guest beer. +Brakspear:
Bitter (or alternative Brakspear beer).
+Wadworth: 6X. (SW113, U137)
SW18, SLUG & LETTUCE. No longer
displays any name following its sale by
Grosvenor Inns. -Beers listed. +3 guest beers (all
Brakspear on recent visit). (SW114)
CROYDON, JOHN B KEANE. Renamed
CLOCKTOWER (YE OLDE). -Beers listed.

+Flowers: Original Bitter. Formerly MAIL COACH. (3SE245, U49)

CARSHALTON, WOODMAN WINE BAR.

Renamed **OLD DUCKS WINE BAR.** (SW130) *WEST*

W14, PICKLED NEWT (OLYMPIA).
Reverted to LIVE & LET LIVE. Now rebadged as Greene King, formerly Magic Pub Co. (W94, U71, U92, U97, U98, U119)
W14, RAT & CARROT (FOX). Renamed FOX, RATTLE & HUM. Formerly FOX and FOX TAVERN. (W94, U71, U95, U98, U114)
HOUNSLOW, SHIRE HORSE. -Beers listed. +Hardy: Country Bitter. +Guest beer. (W128, U45, U67, U71, U89, U105)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 140

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC. EC4, HOOP & GRAPES (now SAMUELS). Address should read 80 Farringdon St.

E4, CHAMPERS BAR. Is a Free House/bar and restaurant.

N12, SCOTTS. Already reported in Update 110 under former name BONKAZ. Should therefore have been listed as a renaming under 'OTHER CHANGES ETC.'



Brakspear

wish a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all their Drinkers

Mild (abv 3%) • Bitter (abv 3.4%)

Special (abv 4.3%) • Old Ale (abv 4.3%)

Oh Be Joyful (abv 4.8%) - from the Brewer's Selection

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BREWERS OF AWARD WINNING TRADITIONAL ALES

Feature.

THE SIXTIES REVISITED?

British beer lovers do not recall the 1960s with unalloyed affection. For the decade of The Beatles, flower power and Mary Quant also saw the rise of pasteurised keg beers - epitomised by the infamous Watney's Red Barrel - which displaced traditional draught beer in so many of our pubs. At the same time, a spate of mergers and takeovers was concentrating brewing power in fewer and fewer hands, so that a small group of large companies was able to exercise a near stranglehold on the market.

The formation of CAMRA in 1971 was instrumental in restoring traditional, cask-conditioned ale to British pubs. But could the conditions which prevailed here in the sixties be repeated elsewhere? A recent visit to the Czech Republic suggests that they already are.

Few would wish on the Czech people a return to the decades of Soviet domination which followed the Second World War. But the Czech brewing industry did survive communism moreor-less intact. And the Czechs are justifiably proud of their brewing heritage. The 1989 Velvet Revolution, which delivered political freedom to the Czechs, also unleashed the genie of capitalism. Wealthy foreign investors—including our very own Bass—swept into the country like hawks. Prague may now be booming, much as London was thirty years ago. But the price of economic success is being paid by the country's drinkers.

A British beer buff visiting the Czech Republic may well take along CAMRA's commendable Good Beer Guide to Prague and the Czech Republic, written by Graham Lees. But such is the pace of change in the country that Lees' book, although published as recently as 1996, is already horribly out-of-date. Many of the pubs which he describes, particularly in Prague and other urban centres, have changed beyond recognition. Some have closed down altogether. Others have been converted into American-style bars or restaurants. And those that do remain as traditional Czech hostelries have often fallen into the hands of the big brewers - the likes of Gambrinus (part of the powerful Pilsner Urquell Corporation) and Prague's own Staropramen (in which Bass have a substantial interest). This has meant smaller brewers being squeezed out of the more lucrative markets. Keg products are also ousting beer brewed by traditional methods. In an ironic twist, even Pilsner Urquell itself - the original pale lager, which holds a key place in the history of world brewing - is starting to resemble its muchderided imitators - cold, bland and fizzy. But

perhaps the most potent symbol of decline has been the relentless spread of Krusovice, a Czech brewery controlled by the German drinks group Binding. Krusovice's principal product, a thin, gassy, belch-inducing lager, is reminiscent of many of the mass-produced liquids drunk in Britain. It is the Czech Republic's answer to Red Barrel - and it is fast acquiring the same depressing ubiquity.

Despite all this, there remains much to tempt the discerning drinker to the Czech Republic. Fond memories endure of the wonderful Pegas brew-pub in the country's second city, Brno. And of the excellent Regent Dark, from South Bohemia, which can still be drunk in U Medvidku (The Little Bears) in Prague's old town. Many of the country's basic back-street boozers retain a commitment to traditional draught beer that puts their British counterparts to shame. But, unless one of the Czech beer consumer groups can mount a counter-revolution as successful as CAMRA's, the choice for the country's enlightened beer drinkers looks set to dwindle still further.

Is there anything that London Drinker readers can do to help? For a start, we can all try to buy the fine Czech beers that are on sale over here. Budweiser Budvar is available in many pubs and off licences across the capital. Bottled Kozel is stocked (and promoted) in Wetherspoon pubs. (Beware, however, the Staropramen dispensed on tap in the Bass-owned All Bar One chain. This is keg - and costs around £2.50 a pint.) Look out too for beer from the country's smaller provincial breweries, such as Regent and Samson (Zamek) both of which are exported to the UK. But, better still, go to the Czech Republic itself, and make a point of seeking out and drinking the beers in their natural environment. But don't leave it too late. In a few years' time, one of the main reasons for visiting this beautiful country may have all but disappeared.

Mark Bravery

-Feature

CURRY ON REGARDLESS

By our Sub-Continental Food Correspondents, Wynn De'Loo and Poppy Domm

whilst I acknowledge that the cuisine of the mysterious East is not to all of our tastes, it is not unknown for the occasional real ale drinker or four to end up in a curry house after a session. And what happens? Most of us end up drinking pints of the disgusting imitation lagers that we have probably spent all evening making rude comments about. Alas, at curry time only the dedicated purist could stick to water or the traditional regional yoghurt drink. Incidentally, if you have one of the latter as part of your take-away, is it a Lassi Come Home?

No, this article is not just a pretext for foisting that awful joke on you; there is a serious point. Even if you are lucky enough to find an establishment selling both decent curry and beer, what sort of beer truly complements a curry? I recently came across an account by Michael Jackson of a competition organised by the National Hop Association of England for the brewing of a British-style ale to accompany curry. Unfortunately this event – held at the beginning of the year seems to have attracted little attention in the beer press. Mr Jackson, whom I believe takes his curry seriously, was one of the judges and he reports that most entries were ruled out for being too light or too dry. The winners were those that incorporated a certain level of fruitiness and spiciness.

In third place was an IPA (seems appropriate) from Shepherd Neame and second was a beer called Masterpiece, brewed at the Bass Museum brewery at Burton-on-Trent. The winner however, no surprise really, came from the home of the balti in the form of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries' "Ultimate Curry Beer". Mr Jackson describes it as a robust and complex brew made from a mix of Goldings, Fuggles, Progress and First Gold hops making it "distinctly spicy-tasting, with gingery sherbet notes". Sounds as if, like me, his favourite "Spice Girl" is Madhur Jaffrey. I certainly consider that Ms Jaffrey has contributed more to the culture of our Nation. But I digress... Ultimate Curry Beer was about to be test-marketed in the brewery's home trading area back in May when Mr Jackson's article appeared. I wonder what happened? Can any other reader assist?

A friend of mine, the redoubtable Ion Castro who was for many years Chairman of the GLC Real Ale Society, always used to take a supply of bottled Guinness into his local Indian restaurant. They were, of course, used to him and would even keep it properly cold for him. I have tried it myself (with a take-away, I must add, as I lack the nerve to try it on in a restaurant) and the dry roast flavour,

especially when cold *but not frozen* works well. Or at least, it used to when it was the proper bottle-conditioned stuff. Although I have yet to make the experiment, I suspect that another curry-compatible beer would be Hop Back's Thunderstorm, which is handily available in bottles (bottle-conditioned) as well. Does anyone have any other suggestions?

Beer for consumption with curry certainly is a viable product. Look at Cobra, which I find to be one of the more acceptable of the widely available brands. It is, as I understand it, brewed in this country although by an independent company. The company's founder and Managing Director, Karan Bilimoria, hopes to make Cobra a "mainstream premium lager in the UK and ultimately a global brand". Sales in 1997/98 were worth £4.2 million and some 8,000 restaurants now sell the product and the aim is to float the company on the London Stock Exchange within two to three years. I wish him luck in trying to get his product into the pubs still in the grip – direct or otherwise – of the big producers.

Michael Jackson also provoked a touch of nostalgia by mentioning something that I had forgotten. Ten or fifteen years ago, many Indian restaurants sold lager from one of the Dortmund breweries. Presumably this was the genuine imported stuff from Germany? I do not recall these brews being readily available in pubs so how did the curry connection come about? Again, if any other readers can assist I, for one, would be interested to know.

Finally, before the pedants reach for their pens (or keyboards), I use the description "Indian" in conjunction with 'restaurant' as a generic term. I acknowledge that the majority of these establishments are run by those of Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin and that they reflect their particular cultures accordingly – or at least, as far as they dare in this country.

Tony Hedger

-Idle Moments -

Well here we are again; the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness coming to an end and the season of overindulgence nearly upon us. (Actually, it's still SOMAMF time as I write this but we all have deadlines to meet, don't we?)

As usual, I thought I would start with an amusing (well, to me at least) quotation and I found this one from Art Linkletter (1912-). I'm afraid that I know nothing about him other than what you see here; his sole entry in the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations goes as follows:

The four stages of man are infancy, childhood, adolescence and obsolescence.

So that's that out of the way, so now it's number puzzle time. Let's get things started with last month's answers:

- 1. 100 Companies in the FTSE Share Index
- 120 Millimetres is the Diameter of a Compact Disc
- 3. 1024 Megabytes in a Gigabyte
- 4. 3 Kilderkins in a Hogshead
- 5. 114 Miles from London to Norwich
- 6. 5 Percent Value Added Tax on Electricity
- 7. 3 Number One Hits by Frank Sinatra
- 8. 2037 Feet is the Height of Snaefell (Highest Point of the Isle of Man)
- 277 Munros on Scotland (Peaks over Three Thousand Feet)
- 31 Colleges in the University of Cambridge

You've no idea how hard it gets (Nudge, nudge) thinking up new ones every time, but I've managed it again (It took two sessions this time) and so here they are:

- 1. 4 A on the C of L
- 2. 6 Ga-L (my TLSCP)
- 3. 169 S in the LDCG
- 4. 7 P to ST for an AS to LD
- 5. 13 TTH (in GB) by the BB
- 6. 3 W on a FT-P
- 7. 1982 S of CFT
- 8. 6 OTB
- 57 is the SHPS with a SD
- 10. 2 E on a BTS

So that's that out of the way and we can proceed to the brewery anagrams. Here....

MERE CAVE CHUNK

CUCKMERE HAVEN

2. RUM VALE

VERULAM

3. NO BUM'OLE

BLUE MOON

REG FLOOD

OLD FORGE

5. TELLANY CHIVE ITCHEN VALLEY

And as it's nearly Christmas and you may be looking for something to torment the family with as

the turkey lies heavy in your system, I thought I would let you have a double helping of this month's:

- 1. HEART EH?
- CHER LINT
- 3. RUN STEAM
- 4. LESMO
- 5. RAT WITH EWE
- 6. BOIL REV
- 7. HEAR DIVER
- 8. TOT CAGE
- 9. STAY IN DRILL TRAM

10. L. FLINT

As last month's 5BY4 proved so popular (Well, nobody has written to complain), I thought I would do the same again only with beers starting with a different initial. Following C last month I chose D this time and in order to maximise the groan factor I chose the subtitle "Growing a BeerD" - not that I know much about that; the last time I did so was in 1970. So here they are; simply match the beers (1 to 10) with the breweries (A to J) and see if you are right by checking with the answers at the end:

- 1. Duck & Dive
- 2. Dick Turpin
- Dry Stout
- 4. Death Wish
- Dark Oast
- 6. Double Chance Bitter
- 7. Dolphin
- 8. Dark Side
- 9. Deirdre of the Sorrows
- 10. Delight
- A. O'Hanlon's
- B. Mallard
- C. Scott's
- D. Poole
- E. Dark Horse
- F. Coach House
- G Malton
- H. Iceni
- I. Kent
- J. Blue Moon

And at last we come to Trivia Time. If you did not see last month's London Drinker see if you can work out what the questions were from these answers:

Idle Moments

- Martin Luther
- 2. (Carl) Giles in the Express
- 3. Poliomyelitis
- 4. Douglas, Isle of Man
- 5. Grantham, Lincolnshire
- Fruit and seeds
- 7. To get rid of the sparrows living in the three elm trees around which the Crystal Palace was built for the Great Exhibition.
- 8. Nicholas Monsarrat
- Sir Francis Chichester
- 10. Gipsy Moth IV

Nearly dropped one there. When I typed out the questions last time I omitted the important words "non-stop" so I've had to correct the answers to 9 and 10. Still, it means that I can use the questions I intended on another occasion, doesn't it. And as something else to inflict on seasonal visiting relatives, how about these:

- 1. Hughenden Manor in Buckinghamshire was the home of which former Prime Minister from 1848 until his death in 1881?
- 2. What Commonwealth capital city is to be found at 77°E, 28°N?
- 3. At 1704 feet high, Dunkery Beacon is the highest point of what English National Park?

- 4. The Cross Keys is a well known pub name, but what does the motif represent and who was entrusted with them (and by whom)?
- 5. What, in the area of health, did Audrey Eyton invent?
- 6. In the history of the Grand National, what links the jockeys Brian Fletcher and Tommy Stack?
- 7. Who was the Leader of the Liberal Party from 1956 to 1967?
- 8. And which Scottish parliamentary constituency did he represent from 1950 to 1983?
- 9. Sherry's Price won the Grand National in 1971/72/73 and Patricia's Hope won the Derby in 1972/73. How was this true?
- 10. What specifically links the James Bond stories Casino Royale and Dr. No?

Well, that's it for another year. I hope you have a truly excellent Christmas and wish you everything you wish yourself for the New Year (so long as it's not at my expense). Have a good one!

Oops! Almost forgot. Here are the answers to 5BY4:

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

And that really is that. See you next time.

Andy Pirson



Enquiries & orders 01932 703860

A new craft brewer now in full production and ready to expand availability



Halcyon Days (3.9% ABV) A unique golden session ale. A marriage of American and English traditional hops give the beer a delicate floral aroma with a satisfying taste which develops into a thirst quenching pint. Well rounded and brewed with plenty of flavour in mind.

Aurum Ale awarded "Beer of the Festival" at the CAMRA Twickenham Festival of Draught Beers - September 1998

Aurum Ale (4.6% ABV) Derived from the latin for gold, this beer is an attractive pale colour with a delicate floral nose and a delicious golden, malt flavour. Finish is pleasantly dry for a mid range gravity due to the combined forces of anglo american hops in the copper.



Both beers are regularly available at the Bricklayer's Arms, 6-8 Queen's Road, Hersham

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.

same name in the same pos				
OUTLETS - EAST and SOUTH				
	T PUBS			
EC1	O'HANLONS			
EC1	O'HANLONS PHEASANT & FIRKIN			
EC1	SEKFORDE ARMS			
EC1	SHAKESPEARE SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE			
EC1	SIR JOHN OLDCASTLE			
EC3	SWAN			
El	BLACK BEAR			
E1	HALF MOON			
E1	LORD RODNEYS HEAD			
E2	APPROACH TAVERN			
E2	CAMDENS HEAD			
	CONQUEROR			
	COBORN ARMS			
E7	OLD SPOTTED DOG			
E8	PRINCE ARTHUR			
E9	FALCON & FIRKIN			
EH	BIRKBECK TAVERN			
EII	GEORGE			
E15	GOLDEN GROVE			
SEI	ANCHOR & HOPE			
	GOOSE & FIRKIN			
SEI	GLOBE			
	GRAPES			
	JUBILEE TAVERN			
	KINGS ARMS			
SEI	LORD CLYDE			
SEI	LORD CLYDE MAD HATTER			
SEI	MARKET PORTER			
CEL	DDINGE WILLIAM HENDY			
SEI	ROYAL OAK			
SE1	SHIP, 68 Borough Road			
SEI	SHIPWRIGHTS ARMS			
SE1	WHEATSHEAF			
SE1	WHITE HART, Cornwall Street			
	WINDMILL, 44 Lambeth High			
	Street			
SEI	ZANZI BAR			
	BRITISH OAK			
	CROWN			
	FAIRWAY & FIRKIN			
SE3	HARE & BILLET			
	FOX ON THE HILL			
SE5	PHOENIX & FIRKIN			
SE6	BLACK HORSE & HARROW			
SE6	TIGERS HEAD			
SE7	ANTIGALLICAN			
SE7	ROYAL OAK			
SE7	VICTORIA			
	CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN			
SE8	DOG & BELL			
	OLD MANOR HOUSE			
	BANKERS DRAFT			
	ADMIRAL HARDY			
	ASHBURNHAM ARMS			
	RICHARD I			
	HOGS HEAD			
	QUAGGY DUCK			
	AND THE CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PA			

SE13 WATCH HOUSE

SE16 BLACKSMITHS ARMS
SE16 MAYFLOWER
SE16 QUEBEC CURVE
SE16 SURREY DOCKS
SE18 EDINBURGH CASTLE
SE18 ROSE'S (PRINCE ALBERT)
SE20 MOON & STARS
SE22 CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN
SE25 ALLIANCE
SE25 GOAT HOUSE
SE26 DULWICH WOOD HOUSE
BARKING, BARKING DOG
BARKINGSIDE, NEW FAIRLOP
OAK
BEXLEY, BLUE ANCHOR
CHADWELL HEATH, EVA HART
CHELSFIELD, FIVE BELLS
CHISLEHURST, SYDNEY ARMS
CROYDON, BUILDERS ARMS
CROYDON, CRICKETERS ARMS
CROYDON, DOG & BULL
CROYDON, GEORGE
CROYDON, PRINCESS ROYAL
CROYDON, ROYAL STANDARD
CROYDON, SKYLARK
DAGENHAM, LORD DENHAM
ILFORD, GREAT SPOON OF
ILFORD
LOUGHTON, LAST POST
PURLEY, FOXLEY HATCH
SOUTH CROYDON, RAIL VIEW
WALLINGTON, WHISPERING
MOON
CLUBS
SE9 HOWERD CLUB
SE13 LEWISHAM LABOUR CLUB
SE18 PLUMSTEAD RADICAL
CLUB
SE28 BELMARSH PRISON
CROYDON, RUSKIN HOUSE
ORPINGTON, JUBILEE SPORTS
BAR
OFF TRADE
SE3 Bitter Experience, 129 Lee Roa
SE3 Oddbins
BEXLEYHEATH, Maison Maurice
(beer & wine wholesalers)
BROMLEY, Bitter End, 139 Masons
Hill
GRAVESEND, AVS (beer
wholesalers)
tomas (Control of Control of Cont
OUTLETS - WEST CENTRAL and
NORTH PUBS
WCI CALTHORPE ARMS
WC1 CITTIE OF YORKE
WC1 PENDERELS OAK
WCI PRINCESS LOUISE

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WC1 UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
WC1 YORKSHIRE GREY
WC2 CROWN & ANCHOR
WC2 FULMAR & FIRKIN
WC2 GEORGE IV
WC2 HOGS HEAD
WC2 MAROUESS OF ANGLESEY
WC2 MOON & SIXPENCE
   179 UPPER STREET
NI
   COMPTON ARMS
NI
   EARL OF RADNOR
    MAROUESS TAVERN
    WENLOCK ARMS
   OLD GATE HOUSE
   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
BARNET, MOON UNDER WATER
BARNET, WHITE LION
BARNET, YE OLDE MITRE INN
EDGWARE, BLACKING BOTTLE
EDGWARE, CHANGE OF HART
ENFIELD, OLD WHEATSHEAF
OUTLETS - NORTH WEST PUBS
NWI HEAD OF STEAM
NWI QUINNS
NWI SPREAD EAGLE
NW2 BEATEN DOCKET
NW3 DUKE OF HAMILTON
NW3 FLASK TAVERN
NW3 THREE HORSESHOES
NW4 CHEOUERS
NW4FOOTMAN & FIRKIN
NW4 GREYHOUND
NWII
        WHITE SWAN
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
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OFF TRADE

Lane

Beer Shop, Pitfield Street

NW6 Grogblossoms, 235 West End

WC1 PRINCESS LOUISE

WCI RUGBY TAVERN

WCI THREE CUPS

— Where To Buy London Drinker

OUTLETS - SOUTH WEST and WEST PUBS

SW1 ANTELOPE

SWI BARLEY MOW

SW1 BUCKINGHAM ARMS

SW1 FOX & HOUNDS

SW1 MOON ON THE MALL

SW1 MORPETH ARMS

SW1 ORANGE BREWERY

SW1 ROYAL OAK

SW1 STAR

SW2 CROWN & SCEPTRE

SW3 BUILDERS ARMS

SW3 COOPERS ARMS

SW3 SURPRISE

SW4 BREAD & ROSES

SW6 DUKE OF CUMBERLAND

SW6 WHITE HORSE

SW7 ANGLESEA ARMS

SW8 PRIORY ARMS SW8 SURPRISE

SW9 BEEHIVE, 407 Brixton Road

SW9 TRINITY ARMS

SW10 FERRET & FIRKIN

SWII ASPARAGUS

SW11 BEEHIVE

SW11 EAGLE ALEHOUSE, Chatham

Road

SW11 WALSH'S SW12 GROVE

SW12 MOON UNDER WATER

SW13 COACH & HORSES

SW13 RED LION

SW13 ROSE OF DENMARK

SW14 HALFWAY HOUSE

SW14 HARE & HOUNDS

SW15 GREEN MAN

SW15 RAILWAY

SW16 HOGSHEAD SW16 PIED BULL

SW17 CASTLE

SW17 J.J.MOONS

SW18 SPOTTED DOG

SW18 SPREAD EAGLE SW19 HAND & RACKET

SW19 PRINCESS OF WALES

SW19 PRINCESS ROYAL

SW19 ROSE & CROWN

SW19 SULTAN

SW19 TRAFALGAR

SW19 WIBBAS DOWN INN CARSHALTON, GREYHOUND

CARSHALTON, RAILWAY TAVERN CARSHALTON, WINDSOR CASTLE

CHESSINGTON, NORTH STAR

CHESSINGTON, WHITE HART

CHEAM, RAILWAY

KEW, COACH & HORSES

KINGSTON, ARTFUL DODGER

KINGSTON, CANBURY ARMS

KINGSTON, COCOANUT

KINGSTON, CRICKETERS

KINGSTON, FIGHTING COCKS KINGSTON, KELLY ARMS

KINGSTON, KINGS TUN

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, DUKE OF YORK RICHMOND, DYSARTS

RICHMOND, ORANGE TREE

RICHMOND, TRIPLE CROWN

RICHMOND, WHITE CROSS SURBITON, CAP IN HAND

SURBITON, CORONATION HALL

SURBITON, NEW PRINCE

SURBITON, SURBITON FLYER SUTTON, FIELDER & FIRKIN

SUTTON, NEW TOWN

WALLINGTON, WHISPERING

MOON

WI BEEHIVE, 7 Homer Street

WI **CLEVELAND ARMS** HOGSHEAD, Dering Street

WI MOON & SIXPENCE

WI MORTIMER ARMS

PRINCE ALFRED W1 WI WINDMILL

W2 ARCHERY TAVERN

W2 **ROYAL STANDARD**

W3 KINGS HEAD

W5 T.J.DUFFY'S

W5 RED LION W5 ROSE & CROWN

W5 WHEATSHEAF

ANDOVER ARMS

W6 BROOK GREEN HOTEL

W10 VILLAGE INN

W11 FROG & FIRKIN

W12 CROWN & SCEPTRE

W13 DRAYTON COURT

W13 THE FORESTER

W14 BRITANNIA TAP

W14 RADNOR ARMS

BRENTFORD, MAGPIE & CROWN

CRANFORD, OUEENS HEAD FELTHAM, MOON ON THE

SOUARE

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, RED LION

ISLEWORTH, ROYAL OAK SOUTHALL, BEACONSFIELD ARMS

TEDDINGTON, HOGARTH TEDDINGTON, QUEEN DOWAGER

TWICKENHAM, HOGSHEAD UXBRIDGE, PRINCE OF WALES WHITTON, ADMIRAL NELSON

WHITTON, WHITE HART

OFF TRADE

W11 Grogblossom

CLUBS

W1 Univ. of Westminster S.U. Bar, Bolsover Street

OUTSIDE LONDON

ADDLESTONE, CRICKETERS ASCOT, CRANBOURNE TOWER BEDFORD, WELLINGTON

BRIGHTON, EVENING STAR CATERHAM ON THE HILL, KING & **OUEEN**

CHERTSEY, CASTLE

CLAYGATE, FOLEY ARMS

CLAYGATE, SWAN

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

HUNGERFORD, RAILWAY KNEBWORTH (Herts), LYTTON

ARMS KNOWL HILL (Berks), OLD DEVIL

LALEHAM, FEATHERS LEATHERHEAD, PENNY BLACK

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, BRIDGE

POTTERS BAR, CHEOUERS

READING, HOP LEAF

READING, HORSE & JOCKEY ROFFEY (Horsham), NORFOLK

ARMS

ROTHERWICK (Hants), COACH & HORSES SALISBURY, WYNDHAM ARMS

STEVENAGE, RED LION SOUTHAMPTON, WATERLOO

ARMS STOW MARIES (Essex), PRINCE OF

WALES STRATFIELD SAYE (Hants), NEW

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 WRAYSBURY, PERSEVERANCE

CLUBS

WATFORD, WEST HERTS SPORTS **CLUB**

Battersea Beer Festival



With true dogged determination, South West London Branch proudly presents the

10th Battersea Beer Festival

Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th February 1999 at

The Battersea Grand Hall behind the Battersea Arts Centre (BAC) Lavender Hill, London SW11

(10 minutes up the hill from Clapham Junction Station, which means it's downhill on the way home . . .)

Open 12.00 Midday to 11.00 pm Thursday and Friday 11.00 am to 6.00 pm Saturday

(or when the beer runs out if earlier)

Admission	Members	Public
Thursday	£1.00	£2.00
Friday before 4.00 pm	£1.00	£2.00
Friday after 4.00 pm	£1.50	£2.50
Saturday	£1.00	£2.00

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