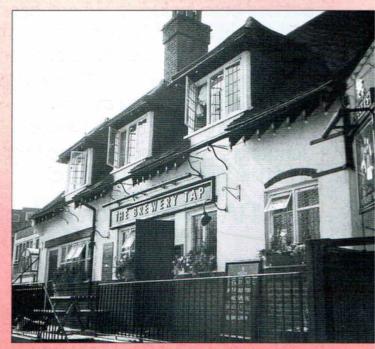


# LONDON DRINKER



THE BREWERY TAP
Brentford High Street, Brentford
Photo: Roy Hurry

Vol 21 • No.11

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

**DECEMBER 99/JANUARY 00** 

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## Editorial

Fifteen years is a big slice out of anyone's life and now the time has come for me to step down from the editorial team. I have often described this magazine as a 'beast', like a rollercoaster which you can't get off.

I have met some wonderful people over the years. The pub and brewing trade is a cut-throat business, but brewers from large and small companies have given me their invaluable time and encouragement. Two of these have, unhappily, passed away. Peter King of King and Barnes was a wonderful character and was so proud of his brewery and pubs. Brian Cowie was instrumental in saving Tolly Cobbold from the asset-strippers and still found time to be full of praise for our efforts and so enthusiastic about his company. We had many a happy drink together. Rest in peace, both of you. From Fullers and Youngs we have Reg Drury and Ken Don plus John Gilbert from Hop Back and Miles Jenner from Harveys. All have shown that brewing is not just a serious business but can be a lot of fun too. I have met literally hundreds of publicans and, almost without exception, they have been generous and genial; full of hope for the future and taking a real interest in their customers and their beer. Many are again, sadly, no longer with us, or have left the trade, becoming disillusioned or finding family commitments more pressing. Some have moved out of London, but many of the characters still remain, though in reduced numbers.

My fellow editors and all members of our team have become personal friends. Andy, Ian, Martin, Stan, Dave, Barry, Lin, Roger and Geoff are all active rather than passive people and what characters! I thank you all for your unstinting efforts and support over the years.

You, the readers, are a very varied bunch. I have met many of you at beer festivals, in pubs all over Europe or in odd places at odd times. Many of you have been with us from the beginning, well before my time, and what loyal readers you have been! Our many letter writers, crossword enterers and those intrepid souls who have criss-crossed London to produce our

The Editorial Team
wish all their readers,
contributors and advertisers
A Merry Christmas
&
Prosperous New Year

articles and have fed us information to keep this magazine going. Many loyal CAMRA members have also given up their time to deliver this magazine far and wide and without their efforts we would have had no readers.

I have griped and groaned about many things and occasionally given praise. Most companies have taken it in good part, though some have taken umbrage. But, when you consider the criticism is from an amateur, they have been amazingly tolerant.

I've had a great time overall and wouldn't have missed it for the world. This has, of course, resulted in excess weight and grey hair!

But remember what it has all been about. Tasty beer, brewed by experts, not chemists. A quality product produced by people who care - not by those held hostage to accountants. A complex drink created by individuals and not bland, sweet, fizzy muck concocted by marketing executives for youngsters who live/exist for image. This fine beer to be served by people who care about quality and who respect their customers who are the life-blood of the industry. Long may they continue to do so, in pubs that look like pubs and not in trendy bars which will fade away as fast as they have appeared.

Chris Cobbold

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## Brewery News

## CHILL OUT WITH FULLER'S JACK FROST

Fuller's launched a new, fruity ale called 'Jack Frost' on 15 November 1999, to replace Old Winter Ale in pubs as their winter seasonal beer.

'Old Winter Ale will continue to be brewed for the off-trade sector where it is still a strong seller nationally through the major multiples' (off-licences and supermarkets, presumably - Ed)



Jack Frost is a warming yet deliciously light amber ale with a malty flavour. Thanks to blackberries in the brew, it also provides a smooth, fruity sweetness, complemented by a refreshingly hoppy finish. Lighter than Old Winter Ale, with 4.5% alcohol by volume, it is designed as a highly quaffable alternative, with far wider customer appeal. It will be available on cask through Fuller's retail estate as well as nationally through the free trade.

From A Fuller's Press Release \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

## WETHERSPOONS WIN AT EASE

The JD Wetherspoon pub chain was the winner in the pub/restaurant category of The Ease Awards 1999 (Ease of Access, Services and Employment.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to nominate companies they thought were making greatest efforts in meeting their needs. The other two finalists in the same category were Yates and Brewers Fayre. The judges said, 'Wetherspoon has looked to fully integrate the needs of people with disabilities into their pub environment. Physical access was generally excellent and the non-music policy is a

significant advantage to people with hearing impairments. Wetherspoon has been recognised for the tremendous efforts being made ....... to ensure that all people can enjoy themselves in a safe and relaxing environment.'

Wetherspoon Personnel Manager, Caroline Bridle expressed the company's delight with the award. 'It has always been our aim to encourage people with disabilities to use and enjoy our pubs. Our outlets are wheelchair accessible and have specially adapted toilets. Some of our pubs have chair lifts. All allow guide dogs in and our menus are printed in Braille to help blind and partially sighted customers.'

From a JD Wetherspoon News Release

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE ORIGINAL WINTER WARMER IS BACK

Young's Winter Warmer has been back on the bar since the beginning of November. The rich, dark ruby-coloured draught beer is believed to have been the first to use the name Winter Warmer when it was launched in the 1960s. It is, say Young's, the best trade mark that was never registered, and has since spawned dozens of look-alike imitations.

Winter Warmer is brewed at 5% alcohol by volume from two kinds of English malt, two varieties of English hops and a special mix of sugars. It was voted the overall champion real ale at the Brewing Industry International Awards in 1992 and won a gold medal at the same event last year.

It will be on sale in Young's 182 pubs and in many free houses and pubs belonging to national brewers and pub chains until March 2000. It will be replaced in March and April by Dirty Dick's, a beer named after a Young's pub in Bishopsgate, and from May to October by Waggle Dance, the honey-flavoured beer acquired by Young's from Vaux of Sunderland earlier in the year.

All three of Young's seasonal draught beers are also available in 500ml bottles from supermarkets and off-licences.

From a Young's News Release

## Pub News

#### **BRENTFORD PUB NEWS**

The latest plans for the redevelopment of the south side of Brentford High Street are known and show no sign of the Brewery Tap. The historic and popular local was the Tap for the William Gomm Brewery which was taken over by Fuller's in the 20's and subsequently closed. The pub is of Victorian origin and is uniquely built with steps up from the road level because of the once common flooding of the Thames and the Grand Union Canal which is at the rear. Whilst it is appreciated that this presents problems for wheelchair users etc. the Richmond and Hounslow branch of CAMRA still intends to make representations to the council, the developers and Fuller's to have a rethink and try to retain the pub. Unfortunately Fuller's record in the borough of Hounslow is not good. A couple of years ago they sold off the Queen Victoria in Hounslow to property developers, and there are now flats on the site. This seems also to be the plan for the Brewery Tap site, although in this case it is presumed that Fuller's would be offered an alternative site in the development for a pub to serve the housing, theatre, hotel and shops which are in the plans. It seams a pity that the Brewery Tap could not be retained and perhaps extended at the rear to form a focal poin.

For many years the regulars have enjoyed the Thursday jazz evenings at the pub (Tuesday also in recent years) and a petition has been drawn up with several hundred signatures to press for retention of the pub.

Other pubs in the redevelopment ares, the Six Bells, the Magpie & Crown, and the Watermans Arms appear to be safe in the latest plans.

Mention of the Watermans Arms (Morland's) reminds me that it has new landlords. On a recent visit only Tanners Jack was on offer - this could of course change quite soon. On the Great West Road the Duke of York isone of the Whitbread Beefeater pubs which has been sold to Crowded House and badged as a Free House. The bizarre interior is still unchanged and the food is still emphasised. Ales are only 6X plus either Old Speckled Hen or London Pride.

Roy Hurry

## BARNES PUB PUSHES THE BOAT OUT

A London rowing club has taken the unusual step of naming a boat after a Young's pub to mark more than a century of liquid refreshment for its members.

The Civil Service's Cygnet Rowing Club, based across the Thames from the White Hart at Barnes, usually names its craft after its own distinguished members but its most newly launched two-man skiff bears the name Ye White Hart, to thank licensees John and Pat Lockwood and their predecessors for the quality of their beers, wines, spirits and food stretching back to the 19th century. John and Pat have been in charge at the White Hart for more than 30 years and helped Cygnet club chairman Mike Arnold-Gilliat to name the boat with a bottle of champagne on the river bank outside the pub; it overlooks the final stages of the University Boat Race. Young's provided free beer for the occasion and the Lockwoods laid on a buffet.



The picture shows Mike Arnold-Gilliat (right) pouring champagne on to the bows of the new boat as John and Pat Lockwood drink a toast. From a Young's News Release

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **BEER DIPLOMACY**

During a state visit to Prague by Slovak PM Mikulas Dzurinda, Czech premier Milos Zeman is reported to have said that Slovak beer was 'only good for cleaning dentures overnight', and urged that Slovakia should not ruin the taste buds of its citizens with Slovak brews but import high quality Czech beers instead.

An official complaint has been made to Slovakia's Czech ambassador, claiming that Zeman was endangering the relationship between the two countries.

## — Pub News-

## PUB NEWS FROMTHE EAST END, CITY & FOREIGN

Ipresume Youngs issued the address of their new Finchs pub as 12a Finsbury Square as quoted in the June edition of London Drinker? Strange because above the door there is a sign for City Road and next door proclaims itself as being 4 City Road. The Royal Mail have issued a post code of EC1V 9AA for 2 City Road. EC1 - Cloak & Habit: Closed.Coach & Horses St Johns Square: After a few name changes, the latest to Blakes, is now closed. Hat & Tun: Renamed Deux Beers Café Bar. Real ale availability not known. MOLLY BLOOMS: Renamed TRADER. NEW MARKET: Renamed back to the NEW MARKET after being the FROG & FIDDLE. Turnmills:Renamed? La Brasas? Who or what is a Brasas? I'm still struggling with English.

EC2 - THREE CROWNS: Ex Courage now Greene King. CITY TAVERN: A Hawkins & Co establishment. EC4 - Master Gunner: Closed. Will be redeveloped as part of the Paternoster Square project. Samuel Pepys: Converted to flats, or should I say apartments? WHITE SWAN (Farringdon Rd): T&J Bernard run. White Swan (Tudor Street): Closed. Will be demolished as part of Northcliffe House redevelopment.

E1 - Katherine Wheel: Looks closed. Rose & Punchbowl: Closed and for sale.

**E2** - Blade Bone and Bishop Bonner both have work going on inside. Septembers: Closed and for sale.

E3 - Little Driver: Pumpclips removed. Outpost: Now TGF Pizza in part. Railway Tavern: Being converted to flats. Rising Sun: Demolished.

**E6** - Dukes Head: Handpumps removed. White Horse: Handpumps removed.

E8 - Rose & Crown: Closed. Pub and brewery signs removed.

**E9** - Bedford: Converted to flats?

E13 - Lord Raglan: Being demolished.

E14 - Royal Navy: Closed.

E17 - ESSEX BREWERY TAP: Renamed Fear. Now a bar and night club.

The above pubs with names in capitals indicate they sell real ale.

Out of town WC1 - MABEL'S TAVERN: Sells five beers, two of which seem to be guests. Boddingtons, London Pride, Flowers Original. Caedonian and Speckled Hen seem to have been the guest beers. The White Hart seems to have disappeared behind hordings. Further down Theobalds Road the Queens Head has closed for refurbishment.

SE1- Anchor & Hope is being gutted.

www.barcitrus.co.uk for info says the banner but  $\Gamma$  ve had no luck accessing it.

SE11 - Tankard, renamed Bar Room Bar.

Merry Christmas Keith Emmerson

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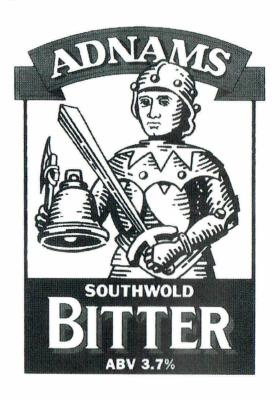
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## Feature-

#### **ALE-EMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON**

On 23rd September 1999 a status of the world's most famous detective was inveiled outside Baker Street Station. If one fine day Sherlock Holmes gets a little thirsty and descends from his plinth. He will find the Globe directly opposite. This is a large pub, somewhat obstreperous on days of important football matches. In the handpump line it offered only Courage Best when I visited.

The inscription on the status refers to the original site of the famous rooms at 221B Baker Street being now occupied by the Abbey National Building Society. A few doors up is the Sherlock Holmes Museum which also has a plaque implying that it is 221B. Pause for commercial. The Museum shop, and the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company opposite, both stock my recent book *The Intelligence of Sherlock Holmes and Other Three-Pipe Problems*. To return. If we locate Holmes at either of these sites, the nearest pub is the *Volunteer* (Charrington), particularly busy in early evenings. Bass and London Pride constituted the handpump choice.

In actual fact 221B cannot have been in this part of Baker Street. A close reading of what fans know as the Canon yields directional clues, admittedly sketchy, which can only fit somewhere much nearer to Oxford Street. I agree with those who think what is now No 31 is the best guess. Unfortunately the original elegant houses here have been replaced by particularly dismal lumps of concrete and metal, and 312 is an office of Marks and Spencer. But if Holme's ghost haunts this ghost of 221B, his local would be The Aristocract just around the corner in George Street. This is a newish house, on the site of a Victorian pub, St George's Tavern, which was demolished in 1961. Bold signs outside claim it is 'famous for our large selection of cask conditioned ales'. Inside, this reduced to Greene King IPA - pleasant enough but no more. The signs also state the pub is 'reputed to have been used by Moriarty...but no proof has been found to confirm this'. Not surprisingly, as there is no hint in the Canon that the infamous Professor frequented a pub, and if he did it would hardly be one a few yards from the home of his arch enemy.

Holme's best known vices are of course tobacco and cocaine. But he certainly enjoyed various tipples. He had a bottle of claret in *The* 

Cardboard Box, 'containing a little choice in white wines', and a glass of port, in The Sign of Four, and a whiskey and soda in The Red-Headed League. In the Empty House he revived Watson, who had fainted on seeing him alive again three years after he had seemed to perish at the Reichenbach Falls, with brandy, from his own flast and presumably for his own use. More particularly, in A Scandal in Bohemia, he accepted a glass of 'half-and-half, no doubt mild and bitter, in return for helping out while disguised as an ostler. In this case he also took beer with his cold beef at home. Probably this was bottled, although Mrs Hudson might have popped out to get a jug filled.

Many of Holmes's cases took him to country locations, and in at least elevan of these he stayed at, or visited, an inn. No doubt he would have sampled the local brew. The nearest to London is the *Bull* at Esher (In *Wisteria Lodge*). This must surely be *The Bear Inn*, a most substantial Young's house, and still functioning as an inn, with seven bedroom all ensuite - an almost unheard-of luxury in Holmes's day.

In London itself, he actually recorded as entering only one. This is the Alpha Inn, 'a small public-house at the corner of one of the streets which runs down into Holborn', and ferquented by Mr Henry Baker who described it as near the British Museum where he worked. It was there that he acquired the goose which surprisingly turned out to have in its crop the famous Blue Carbuncle. The obvious candidate is the Museum *Tavern.* It is of the right age, is the only nearby pub on a corner in the sense of the end of a road, and the first for anyone leaving the Museum. In pursuit of their enquiries, Holmes and Watson took 'two glasses of beer' - of what capacity is not stated. The Museum currently offers Threakston Best Bitter and Old Peculiar, Marston's Pedigree, Courage Director's and Charles Wells' Bombardier (very good if a bit pricey at £2.33).

### **Feature**

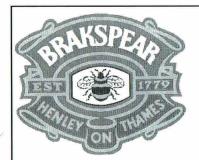
A less touristy alternative is *The Plough* half-way down Museum Street. Today, this seems more of the sort of place a group of honest toilers in the Museum might favour. *The Plough* (1723, rebuilt 1855) offered Tetley, London Pride, Pedigree, Ind Coope Burton, Green King Abbot, and Adnam's at a more reasonable £2.15, and very acceptable. Of course there may have been other local pubs in Holmes's day, but they must have been further away.

There is also the *Sherlock Holmes* pub itself, just off Northumberland Avenue. This has no direct connection with the detective, but is close to the site of the former Northumberland Hotel. It was there that Sir Henry Baskerville stayed on the way to take up his inheritance in Devon, and where one of his boots was purloined, so as to provide a scent for the eponymous *Hound*. The pub is full of Holmes memorabilia and is generally busy with local workers and Holmes fans or just the curious, and offers Boddington Bitter, Green King Abbot, Flowers IPA, Deuchars IPA (Caledonian - excellent, although a very touristy £2.53), Old Speckled Hen and 'The Sherlock Holmes Fine Ale', about which I know nothing. Perhaps one should mention *The Criterion Bar* in Piccadilly Circus, where Watson met young Stamford, his dresser at Bart's, who introduced him to Holmes and kicked off the whole saga. The bar is now a restaurant, part of the Marco Pierre White empire.

Holmes was clearly not adverse to alcohol. But he was definitely addicted to both tobacco and cocaine, and also prone to take large quantities of strong coffee. All these are central nervous stimulants, and I show in my book that Holme's personality when assessed by modern psychometric methods fits in exactly with this. He needed excitement and stimulation, the 'high' of the chase of failing that of a drug. He would get less from a central nervous depressant such as alcohol, and certainly would not, as it sometimes alleged, smoke opium.

© John Radford 1999

The intelligence of Sherlock Holmes and Other Three-Pipe Problems is available as above and at Murder One, Charing Cross Road, at £9.95; or at £11.00 post paid from Sigma Forlag International, 22 Jellicoe House, Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3AY.



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## Letters to the Editors

#### **Dear Editors**

For heaven's sake, let's have more beer festivals, not fewer! I don't know about Ray Prior (Letters, November) but I'm absolutely dependent on festivals for getting a decent drop. (no Twickenham Festival this autumn was a mighty blow.) Even the best CAMRA recommended pubs can disappoint; it's festivals, not pubs, that consistently offer superb beer. And superb beer, Ray, is what it's all about. Sure, Wetherspoons and Hogsheads are big, generally comfortable and woman friendly - with clean toilets too - but so what? When was the last time you had a truly delicious pint at either of them? A long row of pump handles does not a beer festival make. More often than not, sadly, the beers are warmish, tired or otherwise out of condition. Be honest.

Beer festivals, opines Ray, have to evolve or die. Depends on what you mean by evolve. My 20 year old daughter and her mates love the GBBF as well as the smaller ones. And the Germans have kept their same format for centuries.......

Nonetheless, Ray's right in one respect. All these festivals are spoiling us with their amazing variety of excellently kept, flavoursome beers. Going to the local after is such a let down. But I think I can live with it.

John Griffin Hanworth

#### **Dear Editors**

The sudden and arbitrary scrapping of the Firkin beer range by the chain's new management must rank as one of the worst cases of sod-thecustomers arrogance the London pub scene has suffered in recent years.

For years I've been a regular at the Phoenix & Firkin, and - like many others - have enjoyed the house beer range and their special brews. All that has been swept away to be replaced by ....... Tetleys and Burton Ale. Nothing wrong with either, but nobody asked - or even warned - us, the punters, and London's beer choice has been significantly reduced at the stroke of some faceless executive's pen. We can't take this lying down, and I hope London Drinker will mount a London-wide campaign to get this arrogant decision reversed. Every reader and former Firkin drinker can do their bit, so let's get busy! And let's see a petition in every Firkin pub demanding the return of our favourite brews.

Graham Larkbey London E17

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Dear Editors

With all the current interest in Czech beers, I think it should be pointed out that, whilst we are the clear real ale Mecca for north London, being the North London CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year and having 10 real ales - sorry, nine plus Biddenden real cider - we are also the QUALITY 'REAL LAGER' capital of the capital! We have on draught three great Czech lager beers - Staropramen, Budweiser Budvar and Pilsner Urquell, as well as Hoogaarden and Grolsch. So anyone who wants as good as it gets lager beer, The Head of Steam is the place for them!

On another point, why don't more real ale pubs actually take the 'take out' trade battle to the off licences and supermarkets? Every good pub operator should be trying to get its customers to buy as much as possible from itself - polypins and take out containers are a great way to boost marginal trade.

All the best, Tony Brookes
Director, The Head of Steam Limited

#### Dear Editors

Yes, I got my Orange Trees mixed up. My mild criticism of Enfield and Barnet Branch for making the Orange Tree in N20 their Pub of the Year was unjustified as they gave the Orange Tree in N21 that honour. My apologies for any confusion or embarrassment caused.

While on the subject of Orange Trees, there is a Young's pub of this name near Richmond station which is well worth a visit. Perhaps an Orange Tree Crawl could be organised.

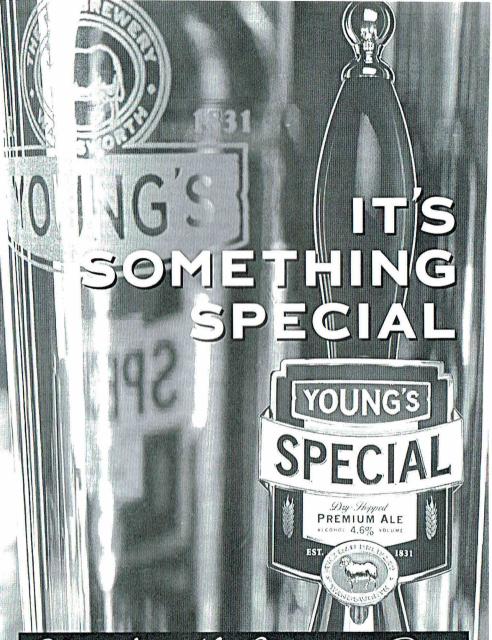
According to November London Drinker, Courage Imperial Russian Stout is on its deathbed and it is not listed in the beers and breweries section in the Good Beer Guide. However in late October I visited the Black Lion in E13 near Plaistow station and noticed it is still available there.

I am also fairly sure it is available at the Earl of Essex, Manor Park E12. Colin Price Barking

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## -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 / January are listed below.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Eric Martin 0208-697 2147 (H), 01223-582735 (W).

December - Wed 8 (8.00) Historic Pubs Crawl of Maida Vale area. Meet at WARRINGTON HOTEL, 93 Warrington Crescent, W9. - January - Wed 12 (8.00) Business Meeting. ROYAL OAK, Tabard Street, SE1. Anyone interested is welcome.

#### **CROYDON & SUTTON.** Paul Everitt 0208-686 5053 (H & W).

December - Fri 10 (7.00) Christmas Social. Cottage Room, Windsor Castle, 378 Carshalton Road, Carshalton. - Mon 13 (8.30) Social. Upstairs Function Room, Dog and Bull, 24 Surrey Street, Croydon. - Wed 29 (8.30) Pre-Millennium Social. Royal Standard, Sheldon Street, Croydon. - January - Thu 6 (8.30) Social. Saloon Bar, Railview, 188 Selsdon Road, South Croydon. - Tue 18 (8.30) Two Pub Visit. Moon On The Hill, Hill Road, then The Hogshead opposite, Sutton. - Tue 25 (8.30) Good Beer Guide Nominations. Dog and Bull, 24 Surrey Street, Croydon.

EAST LONDON & CITY.Ben or Robyn 0208-521 4410 (H). Email robyn@pigsear.org.uk. Social enquiries Bob Walker 0208-924 0346 (H).

December -Tue 30 Nov to 5 Dec Pig's Ear Beer Festival. See beer festivals entries or advert for details. - Tue 14 (8.00) Branch Meeting. Old Spotted Dog, 212 Upton Lane E7. - January - Mon 10 (8.00) Branch Meeting. Sekforde Arms 34 Sekforde St. EC1. - Tue 18 (8.00) Social. Coborn Arms 8 Coborn Road E3.

#### **ENFIELD & BARNET**. Derek Smith 020-8805 1436 (H & W).

December - Wed 1 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion. King William IV, 18 Hadley Highstone, Barnet EN5. - Tue 7 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion. Tally Ho, 749 High Road, North Finchley N12. - Sat 11(7.00) Christmas Dinner. King William IV, 18 Hadley Highstone, Barnet EN5. £5.00 deposit required (total cost £10.95). Details and bookings to Tony Roberts (020 8482 9673). - Wed 15 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion. Chequers, 22 Church End, Hendon NW4. - Tue 21 (9.00) Good Beer Guide Promotion. Albion, 74 Union Street, Barnet EN5. - January - Sat 1 (12 noon) Millenium 'Cobweb' Social and Paul Brown Memorial Drink. White Lion, 50 St. Alban's Road, Barnet EN5. - Wed 5 (9.00) Social. Stag, 1 Little Park Gardens, Enfield Town EN2. - Tue 11 (9.00) Social. Madden's, 130 High Road, East Finchley N2. - Tue 18 (9.00) Social. Dog and Duck, 74 Hoppers Road, Winchmore Hill N21. - Thu 27 (9.00) Social and London Drinker Pick Up. Railway Tavern, 3 East Barnet Road, New Barnet EN5

#### KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD. Clive Taylor 0208-949 2099 (H) 01483-714898 (W)

Wed/Thu 8/9 Branch Christmas Dinner. North Star, Chessington. Date and venue to be finalised. - Thu 16 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Rising Sun, Heathcote Rod, Epsom. - January - Thu 6 (8.30) Branch Meeting. The Brewster, Kenley Road, Norbiton. - Thu 13 (8.00) Visit to Pubs of Hampton Court. Meet for 7.51 from Surbiton or in The Prince of Wales. - February - Thu 3 (8.00) Branch Meeting and AGM. The Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Road, Kingston, bring your mebership cards for voting.

**NORTH LONDON.** Alison Cox 0208-742 0498 (H) 0208-746 8148 (W). Any social queries contact Gary White 07005 355399, email: <gwhitegeog@bigfoot.com>.

#### RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Brian Kirton 0208-384 7284 (H).

December - Tue 7 (8.00) Open Branch Meeting. PRINCE ALBERT, 30 Hampton Road, Twickenham - Fri 17 (7.30) Branch Christmas Dinner. COACH & HORSES, 8 Kew Green. Phone Brian for bookings and menu options. - January - Tue 11 (8.00) Open Branch Meeting. COACH & HORSES, 183 London Road, Isleworth - Thu 20 (7.30) Social (at pub quiz night). RED LION, 92/94 Linkfield Road, Isleworth - Wed 26 (8.00) Good Beer Guide 2001 Nominations Meeting. OLD ANCHOR, 71 Richmond Road, Twickenham

## Branch Update

#### SOUTH EAST LONDON. Dave Lee 0208-694-2687

A relaxed month in December, starting with the Pig's Ear Beer Festival where many S. E. London members will be working. Later in the month, the Christmas Party is also the branch's 25th birthday party - slightly late, as the branch was actually formed in July 1974. The main event in January is the branch's Annual General Meeting. The AGM details the activities of the Branch in the previous calendar year. The new committee is formally elected, and the Branch's nominations are made for the 2001 edition of the Good Beer Guide. These nominations cover the South East Greater London area, excluding the boroughs of Bexley and Croydon. The nominations will be surveyed during February to ensure that their beer quality is sufficiently good to merit entry in the Guide.

December - Fri 3 (7.00) Working social at the Pig's Ear Beer Festival, OldTown Hall, Stratford E15. Easiest access from our area is bus 108 from Lewisham, Blackheath and East Greenwich, or the DLR if it's open by then. - Mon 6 (8.00) Branch/Committee meeting. The Dog and Bell, 116 Prince Street SE8. 5 minutes from Deptford station or buses 47, 188, 199 to Creek Road. - Wed 15 (8.00) Social. The Dulwich Wood House, 39 Sydenham Hill SE26. Sydenham Hill is the nearest station; buses 63 and 202 go past the pub. - Sat 18 (8.00) Branch Christmas Party and 25th Birthday celebration at the Wheatsheaf, 6 Stoney Street SE1. A free buffet will be available, and maybe even a free pint if you come early enough! The pub is next to Borough Market, close to London Bridge for rail, tube and many bus routes. - January - Mon 10 (8.00) Branch/Committee meeting at the Crown, 117 Burnt Ash Hill SE12. About 10 minutes from Lee station or buses 202 and 261 to the junction of Baring Road and St. Mildred's Road. - Wed 19 (7.30) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Shipwrights Arms, 88 Tooley Street SE1. 5 minutes from London Bridge. - Tue 25 (8.00) Good Beer Guide survey crawl. Location to be decided at the AGM. - Mon 31(8.00) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting. The Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove SE10. Buses 180 and 199 stop close by in Greenwich South Street, closest station is Greenwich about 5-10 minutes away.

#### SOUTH WEST ESSEX. Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H). Email swessex@clara.co.uk

December - Wed 1 (8.30) Branch Social. Pigs Ear Beer Festival, Old Town Hall, Corner of Broadway and West Ham Lane, Stratford, London E15. - Thu 8 (8.30) Social. Old White Horse, Ockendon Road(B186), North Ockendon. - Wed 15 (8.00 at Brewery) Brewery Trip/Christmas Social. Mighty Oak Brewery, 9 Prospect Way, Hutton Industrial Estate, Hutton – Transport details – Contact Andrew Clifton (Branch Contact). - Thu 23 (8.30) Christmas Social. Plough Inn, off Sabines Road, Navestock Heath (OS: TQ538970). - Thu 30 (8.30) Social. Moon & Stars, 99 South Street, Romford. - January - Thu 6 (8.30) 12th Night Social. Stag, Brentwood Road (A128), Marden Ash. - Tue 11 (8.30) Joint Games Evening with Herts/Essex Borders. Carpenters Arms, Carpenters Arms Lane (B1393), Thornwood Common. - Thu 20 (8.30) Social. Bell Inn, High Road, Horndon on the Hill. - Tue 25 (8.:30) Burns Night Out of Area Social. Prince of Wales, Woodham Road (near B1012), Stow Maries.

#### **SOUTH WEST LONDON**. Mark Bravery 0208-540 9183 (H), 0207-438 6418 (W).

The branch committee has shortlisted eight pubs for the 1999 Branch Pub of the Year. These are, Bread and Roses (Clapham), Hand in Hand (Wimbledon Common), Queen Adelaide (Wandsworth), Old Sargent (Wandsworth), Rose and Crown (Wimbledon Village), Sultan (South Wimbledon), Surprise (South Lambeth) and Trinity Arms (Brixton). Voting forms will be sent to our branch members in December. The ballot will close and the winner will be announced during The Battersea Beer Festival (9 - 12 February).

December - Thu 16 (7.00) Christmas AntiSocial Balham pub and curry night. Meet 7.00 to 7.30 Moon Under Water, 194 Balham High Road, SW12. - January - Sun 9 (12.00 noon) Open Committee Meeting (AGM motions, GBG deletions and shortlisting). Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way SW8.

## Branch Update

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

Wed 1 (8.00) Branch Auction. West Herts Sports Club, viewing from 7.00. - Fri 10 (8.30) Watford Social. Estcourt Arms. - Fri 17 (8.00) Christmas Curry. For details contact Martin Few or Branch Contact. - Mon 27 (10.30 a.m.) Christmas Ramble. Details from Martn Few (01923-252412). - January - Contact branch Contact for January events.

**WEST LONDON**. Di Kehoe 0207-218 3999 (W).**WEST MIDDLESEX**. Paul Dabrowski 0208-571 9146 (H), 0207-713 3882 (W).

December - Thu 2 (8.30) Belated Pub of the Year Presentation. Lion, Wick Road, Hampton Wick (minibus from Drayton Court Hotel, West Ealing, and Magpie & Crown, Brentford - phone Branch Contact for times & places) - Wed 8 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Duke of York, Steyne Road, Acton. - Sat 18 (6.53) Branch Christmas Party. Beaconsfield Arms, West End Road, Southall (Complimentary Drink and Free Curry including Vegetarian Option. For tickets (£5), contact Alex Kovac on 01895-238592 or 0956-699911). - Wed 29 (8.30) Branch Social. Bridge Hotel, Western Avenue, Greenford.







## A DATE FOR YOUR SUMMER DIARY

Once again CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival is returning to Olympia next August to celebrate its tenth year in London.

There will be over 700 real ales, ciders, perries and imported beer on offer adding up to a staggering 250,000 pints, making it the biggest festival of its kind in the world. What better way to celebrate the new Millennium!

Due to the popularity of the bar last year, the organisers will be repeating the New Brewery Bar to show what the new, small breweries are up to. And look out for the Champion Beer of Britain Bar, which will have all the finalists of the 2000 competition.

The Festival opens to the general public on Tuesday 1st August at 5pm and continues until 7pm on Saturday 5th August 2000. For further information and corporate hospitality details contact 01727 867201 or look out for the Festival web page; www.gbbf.org in the new year.

# SH BEE

#### BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL 2000

ore evenings. - After the success of the three day festival in February 1999, CAMRA South West London is pleased to confirm that the eleventh Battersea Beer Festival will take place over the four days, Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th February 2000. Prices held.

The festival, the first London beer festival of the new Millennium, has been planned on the basis that the 1999 admission charges and average cask beer prices will not be increased. Happy hours. - And on the Wednesday, for the first two hours, public admission will cost only £1, with free entry for CAMRA members.

Children's room. - Instead of the mezzanine room provided in February 1999, the hall downstairs will once again be available as the children's room for the Saturday.

Food. - Our specialist caterer from past Battersea festivals, Kam returns this year. Foreign beer. - A single, CAMRA foreign beer bar will offer a wide choice of Belgian, Dutch, German and other speciality beers.

Everything else. - Real cider and perry; bottle conditioned ales, the CAMRA products, the tombola, the jug band on Saturday afternoon, the Dogs' Home collection and, most important, more beer. Make sure you come along and drink it all.

#### Stephen Blann

Battersea Beer Festival Organiser

## Crawl

#### **POSTAL DRINKER 7**

This is instalment seven of Postal Drinker, my attempt to drink in every London postal district this year. I am keeping to my schedule of eleven pubs a month and am now over halfway through the crawl. For the first week in August I am too busy at work to do any new pubs but things slack off in the second week and I am able to get away from work by six. I decide to start the month by finishing off North West London

On the Monday I get a Northern line tube to Colindale (NW9) and walk round to the Moon Under Water, a Wetherspoon pub which disappointingly has only four beers on. As Courage Best is at a special price of £1.35 I have a pint which is in good condition. There are few customers in the pub which is not surprising as it is a Monday night. As I sit and read the Standard it occurs to me that a no music and no TV policy can have its disadvantages. If the pub has few customers it can lead to a flatter atmosphere and customers may go somewhere else on a Monday to see the football. Walking back to the station it also occurs to me that it is a bit unfair to be critical of a pub for selling four real ales. I would imagine the guvnor knows how many beers he can keep in good condition with the turnover the pub has.

The next day I again get the Northern line, this time up to Hendon. The only other time I went to Hendon I drunk in a pub called the Bear and from my memory of checking the North London guide it appears that the best pubs in Hendon are in the Church Street/Burroughs area. However when I get there I am unable to locate the Bear and the other pubs seem a disappointing lot. Eventually I find the Greyhound, a free house just off Church Street, which is the HO of Hendon Cricket Club and appears to be a good community local. However there are only two beers on which are Courage Best and a Whitbread beer. I have a pint of Best which is OK but the pub would be improved by a more imaginative beer range, possibly one or two Courage Guest beers.

Leaving the Greyhound I walk down to Golders Green (NW11) an area with few pubs. The one I chance upon in Golders Green Lane is the White Swan which I believe is a GBG pub. This is an Allied pub with six beers on, including the latest Brakspears seasonal beer Hooray Henley at a special price of £1 per pint. This is a pale refreshing beer which is slightly stronger

than most summer beers. There are notices up advertising a millennium eve party, nothing like planning ahead.

As I have a day off on Thursday I go down to Forest Hill (SE23) on the Wednesday evening. It turns out my friend who lives there is not in so I go to the Railway Telegraph, a Shepherd Neame pub. I remember going here some years ago when it was a two bar pub with the full range of Sheps beers on. It has now been refurbished into one bar in a more modern wine bar style and three beers are available.

I order a pint of Bishops Finger which is completely undrinkable but is immediately changed for another one which is also completely undrinkable. This is changed and this time I have a pint of the bitter which is in far better condition.

Although memory is not always a reliable guide it seems to me that the Railway was a better pub in its previous format. Perhaps if Shepherd Neame spent more time looking after their pubs and beer and less complaining about duty levels they may do better. Anyway for the next pub I walk down Dartmouth Road to Sydenham (SE 26) and enter the Bricklayers.

This is a Young's pub where the two bars have been knocked into one but each bit retains a separate identity. The public bit has a dart board and a television showing athletics and there is also a six-sided pool table although it is not being used. Both Young beers are on and I have a pint of Ordinary which is in good condition. Unlike previous years Young's do not seem to be brewing any seasonal beers this year. While this is an unadveturous policy a smaller range does help keep beer quality up. In past years Young's seasonal beers did not seem to sell very well and quickly fell into the "it does not sell so it goes off so it does not sell" vicious circle. Perhaps Young drinkers are a more conservative lot and prefer sticking to Special and Ordinary.

For the next pub I get the train up to Brockley

## Crawl

(SE 4) for the Brockley Jack. This is a turn of the century pub named after a former local highwayman which is now a Greene King pub with all four beers on so I have a pint of Triumph. The Jack was a Magic pub so it is very cluttered with decorations and memorabilia. The former function room is now a theatre, although closed for the summer, and there are lots of leaflets available concerning local events which is a nice touch.

After work on the Friday I get a train from Waterloo to Mortlake, Although Mortlake (SE 14) has several Young's pubs I try the Railway Tavern near the station which is a Hall and Woodhouse pub with lots of plain wooden furniture. Two Badger beers are available and I have a pint of Dorset Bitter.

Afterwards I walk down to Barnes (SW13) passing the Watney brewery and the Charlie Butler, a Young's pub named after their former head horseman. This is one of the few pubs named after someone who was alive at the time. There are three Young pubs in Barnes and the one I choose is the Coach and Horses for a pint of Young's bitter. This is a small one bar pub in the High Street of an up-market area of London. The day's newspapers and various games are available. Wandering outside I find a garden with a stall selling expensive food, a boules pitch in use and slides and climbing frames for children. There is also a separate room that is used as a theatre. The Coach is a most interesting pub which with its facilities, if not its beer, tries to cram a quart in a pint pot and gets away with it. As I leave I notice a copy of an old notice detailing liquor restrictions in Wales during the First World War. Something that would no doubt interest Martin Smith.

On the Saturday I finish work at lunchtime and wander down through the West End to Charring Cross station. As there is a train to Abbey Wood about to depart I decide to have another attempt at SE 2 following my failure in June. Yet again the first three pubs, the Harrow, the Abbey Arms and the Barchpole have no real ale. Turning into Eynsham Drive I reach the site of the Pegasus which is still closed and boarded up. Checking the map in the library I find that the map in the South East London Guide has an error and I have gone past Grovebury Road, the turning for the Birchwood. Instead of turning back I head on over the railway line for the Jolly Marshman.

According to the guide I should turn right into Brancondale Road for the Jolly Marshman but when I get there and do it and reach the end of the road without finding it I ask someone for directions and am told that I should have turned left and that it is at the other end of the road. Eventually I get there and find that it has a Courage Best handpump but the landlord says he has been having trouble with the beer all day and declines to sell me any. Still it is better than selling me a pint knowing the beer to be off.

After a bottle of Pils I cross the footbridge over the railway, walk up to Eynsham Drive turn right and then left into Grovebury Road for the Birchwood. According to the guide there is no real ale but things have changed since then and Courage Bast is available and in reasonable condition. The Birchwood is a basic one bar locals pub with two televisions showing the afternoons sport and a jukebox. It is also the most easterly real ale pub in the London postal districts unless one of the first three start selling it. Having done the entire district in two hours I head back to the station to get the train back to Waterloo.

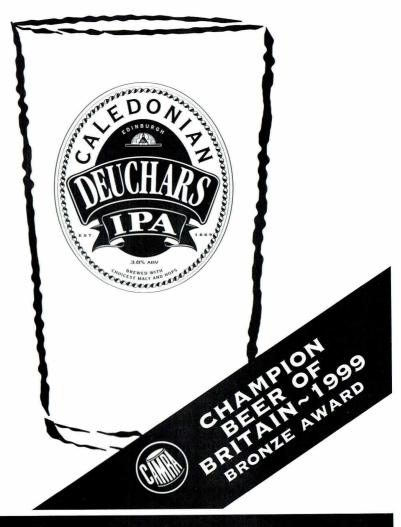
When I get to Waterloo it has stopped raining so I get a train to Putney. There several Young's pubs in Putney but they are all very crowded with Fulham fans celebrating their teams 0-0 draw against Man City especially the pubs by the river. Eventually I try the Old Spotted Horse in the High Street which is slightly less crowded and have a pint of Young's Ordinary. There is a large screen TV showing the Rugby Union international between South Africa and Australia and several South Africans start jumping up and down when their team score a last minute try and conversion to snatch victory.

As the pub is still quite crowded it is difficult to see what other facilities are available, perhaps it would have been better to visit Putney on a non-match day.

For the last pub of the month I get the train one stop back to Wandsworth (SW 18) home of the Young's brewery and fifteen of its pubs. After wandering around I eventually try the Spread Eagle a large, Victorian, two bar, street corner pub and have a pint of Special. The pub has only a few customers which is a relief after the crowds in Putney. No doubt it will get more crowded later in the evening, it certainly deserves to.

Colin Price

## YOU'RE DUE A DEUCHARS.



CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

## -Crawl -

#### **POSTAL DRINKER 8**

Welcome to instalment eight of Postal Drinker, my attempt to drink a pint of real ale in every one of the hundred and nineteen postal districts in London. So far I am keeping up with the schedule of eleven pubs a month, allowing for giving up for Lent and have completed seventy-six so far. Back in February I visited the Queens Arms, a Youngs pub, in NW6 when it was in the process of renovation. I have since been back there and can report that the renovation is now complete, the beer in fine condition and the pub well worth a visit. I have also revisited the Gilpins Bell in N19 for a drink with a friend and we had several good pints including Smiles Golden Brew and something from Pilgrim.

As previously mentioned all my articles are available on the internet at the Hassrale website http://www.edmundl.demon.co.uk. An OAP I know told me that he liked my articles and was pleased to see someone writing about traditional beers and traditional beers. I then explained to him how I typed up my articles on my PC in Word 6, saved them to a floppy disk and took them to a friend who has an Internet account so I could e-mail them to appear in London Drinker and to be put on the World Wide Web. I rather fear I put him off his beer.

Early September finds me still working in Central London and on the first Saturday I leave work about four and head out to West London. The first district I try is Maida Vale (W9), which is a bit neglected and cut-off from the rest of West London. I used to visit the area occasionally from work about fifteen years ago and have a vague memory that that the best pubs are near Warwick Avenue tube station on the Bakerloo line. The first one I try, the Prince Albert, appears to be an unspoilt Victorian pub but is full of customers watching the football and no longer has any real ale available.

The next pub I try is the Warrington hotel, an unspoilt two bar Victorian pub. The saloon bar is empty as all the customers are either outside enjoying the sunshine or in the other bar watching the end of the England v Luxembourg game. Six real ales are available from Youngs, Fullers, Greene king and Brakspears so I have a pint of Brakspears Special which is in good condition despite the warm weather. As I drink my pint the bar starts filling up and I am reminded of Richard Boston's comments in Beer and Skittles that the most unspoilt pubs are often in neglected areas as no-one can be bothered to spoil them.

For the next district and pub I get the tube one stop back to Paddington. when I get there I wander south away from the touristy pubs near the station and chance upon the Victoria. This is a

small Fullers pub apparently visited by Queen Victoria when she opened Paddington Station which is showing the other game in England's group, Sweden v Bulgaria. I have a pint of Chiswick and the landlord is most insistent on serving me a full pint. It transpires that he noticed a Camra logo on the top of a local beer guide in my jacket pocket. While I drink my pint I think what a fine fellow the landlord is then I notice a poster saying that he is leaving next Thursday and for his farewell do various drinks will be available for 99p including pints of Chiswick.

His new pub is the Drayton Court in West Ealing (W13) a larger Fullers pub by West Ealing station which I reported on in my April visits. I did find the Drayton a bit impersonal on my visit although that was a weekday mid afternoon. However Mark and DJ do seem to be the people to liven up a dull pub.

Leaving the Victoria I go to Lancaster Gate tube station and get a Central Line Tube to Notting Hill and the walk up to the Cock and Bottle. This is a small free house in Needham Road on the very eastern edge of Notting Hill (W11). Although it is a free house only Brakspear Bitter and Special are on handpump and I have a pint of the letter. The pub has an interesting mix of customers, including a large gentleman wearing a Camra baseball cap and another man wearing a Gaelic football replica shirt who presumably has been to Mass at the Roman Catholic Church opposite. The television is showing yet another football match, Finland v Germany. When I ask the barman why it is on he tells me that a German customer asked if it was possible to watch it and he eventually found it by flicking round all the satellite channels.

As I leave the pub it occured to me that it might have been a good idea to have a pint of the Bitter and Special mixed. Anyway I walk down to Ladbroke Grove and then turn right and head north to North Kensington (W10). There used to be a Fullers pub here but it was demolished to

## Crawl

widen the road but I remember a free house called the Lads of the Village in Kensal Road at the top of Ladbroke Grove. When I reach it I find that it is now called the Village Inn and is now a semi-Irish pub with only one real ale available.

This is Fullers London Pride so I have a pint which is in reasonable condition. The preliminaries for the Croatia v Republic of Ireland game are being shown on Sentana, a cable station specialising in Irish sport and mainly available in pubs with an Irish clientele. Unfortunately when the game begins the transmission is blocked and no pictures are available. However as I have nearly finished my pint I just drink up and leave. As I head back down Ladbroke Grove to the tube station I notice that the Eagle, a pub that used to be famous as a bus terminus, has two handpumps on that appear to be in use.

For the next pub I get the tube to Shepherds Bush (W12) and then walk to Melina Road, a small back street with a Fullers pub the Crown and Sceptre. This is a two bar pub with only London Pride on so that is my choice. The pub is close to the QPR football ground and a large number of programmes are displayed, some dating back to the Sixties, and there is football on the public bar TV. This time it is Bosnia v Scotland. If you are a real ale drinking QPR fan then this is the pub for you although you would probably know that anyway.

For the last pub of the night I walk down to Hammersmith (W6) to the Thatched House near Ravenscourt Park station. This used to be a two bar locals pub which was Michael Jackson's local. However on entry I have a not entirely pleasant surprise. The pub has been refurbished into a wine bar with a heavy emphasis on wine and food. However both beers are on and I have a pint of Ordinary which is in good condition. The days newspapers are also provided, an idea I am increasingly in favour of.

To be fair the pub is just as full as the others I have visited that night and everyone there seems to be enjoying themselves. If a pub exists to satisfy local demand the as an area changes then so will its pubs. If you would prefer a more traditional Youngs pub you could try the Hammersmith Ram or the Brook Green.

On the Sunday evening I get the tube to Plaistow (E13) to visit the Lord Stanley. This is a

small back street local which was formerly a Shepherd Neame pub but is now a free house. Two beers are available and I have a pint of Marlow Rebellion IPA, an interesting dark beer. The saloon bar has large screen TV and occasional entertainment while the public bar has two pool tables. To get to the Lord Stanley from the station turn right and then turn right again at the Black Lion, a Courage pub which is also worth a visit.

Later that week to celebrate the reopening of the Northern Line I make a trip to South London. The first station I visit is Tooting Broadway (SW17) which has two pubs nearby. There is a Wetherspoon outlet, J J Moons, but I choose the Young's Ordinary. The Castle consists of one largish bar mainly occupied by people having a pint or two after work. There are three dart boards and a pinball machine but none of them are being used. There is a promotional offer of a four pint jug for the price of three pints on various beers including Special.

I then get the tube two stops up to Balham (SW12) were there is a Wetherspoon pub, the Moon Under Water, near the station. It is a small pub full of local characters and two of the handpumps dispense Westons ciders. However as my aim is to have a pint of real ale in every district I resist the temptation to have a pint of cider and order a pint of Morrells Graduate which I understand is now brewed by Eldridge Pope.

For the last pub of the night I get the tube to Borough and visit the Royal Oak. This is the only Harveys tied house in London and sells the full range of Harveys beers so I have a pint of Harveys Mild which is my first pint of mild on the crawl. I am not a great fan of mild but this seems a good example of the style. If you are planning a visit to the Royal Oak, which I would recommend, do note that it is not open at weekends.

I decide to finish September with a visit to W1 as I am working near there. Rather than touristy Soho or up-market Mayfair I visit the area north of Oxford Street which is more residential. Wandering round I notice that the Northumerland Arms, a Nicholsons pub, has Taylors Landlord on so I pop in for a pint. It is in superb form and I can see how it won the Champion Beer of the Year. Also available are two beers from Adnams.

## Odds & Ends.

#### Dear Editors

Speaking of rip offs, I was in the Archery Tavern, Bathurst Street W2 recently. Postcards advertising the pub and its delights (including well kept Badger) were on sale at 75p! Yes, that's right, you are expected to pay for the adverts.

OK, I've heard of T-shirts etc. I would expect to pay for clothing, but a postcard at 75p; it defies belief. Can anybody match this - or go one better?

Ben Burtutt Deptford



- Pakenham Arms, WC1
   December & January 0171 837 6933
- Lytton Arms, Old Knebworth
   10-12 December 01438 812312
- Head of Steam, Euston, NW1 from 13 December 0171 388 2221

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

call Barry Tillbrook 0181 989 7523

#### continued from page 20

I have an interesting conversation with the barmaid and some of the customers about other Nicholsons pubs including the Fox and Anchor which has an early morning license. This was a haunt of mine when I worked nights a few years back. I also tell them about a visit I made to Keighley where Landlord is brewed. One of the customers tells me the jukebox is free which seems a bit odd to me but on inspection it turns out he is correct so I put a few records on.

Halfway through my third pint the mystery of the free jukebox is solved when the repairman turns up to fix the broken coin mechanism. What a spoilsport. This now brings me to eightyseven pubs for the year with thirty two left for the final three months.

Colin Price

#### THE 6TH CROYDON AND SUTTON BEER FESTIVAL

The 6th Croydon and Sutton Beer Festival was held at the Wallington Hall between the 14th and 16th of October 1999. This year was probably our most successful as we managed to sell right out of over 40 draught beers, 4 draught ciders and a wide selection of European bottled beers (much to the disgust of the clearing up party who had to repair to a pub for a post festival pint).

During the 3 days of the festival we received over 1200 drinkers (while keeping within the hall fire limits of only 400) and served over 5000 pints. Particularly pleasing was the fact that we recorded more non-members through the doors than members, and our campaigning message is clearly having some effect as we recruited more than twice as many new members as last year. We even had to get a rush extra print of the festival T shirts!

Although thanks are due to the whole festival team, particular mention must go to Beer Manager Steve Collins who made the whole thing worth while with a wonderful selection of perfectly presented beers, including the Festival Special "Tramlink Ale", named for the imminent start of tram operations within the borough of Croydon. I should also thank Dave Stott at the Windsor Castle for providing the food and beer for the set-up crew and Peppers of Wallington for providing the food for the festival itself.

The improved attendance and subsequent writeups in the local press proved the value of our publicity drive, while Saturday afternoon's experiment with "music to drink to", courtesy of an Oom-pah band, seemed to be a success with many of the drinkers. It was also a pleasure to be able to present Tony Challice of the Princess Royal and Dave Stott of the Windsor Castle with the awards for the Best Pubs in Croydon and Sutton, respectively.

> Patrick Giles Festival Co-ordinator

## —From our Foreign Correspondent—

#### **BEER IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Steeped in history, and perched picturesquely (for an American metropolis!) upon the river Charles, this fine city of New England has, for over 200 years, been inseparably associated with the refreshing brown liquid that is Britain's most popular beverage. Unfortunately that is of course tea, but these days, a 'Boston Beer Party' wouldn't be such a bad idea either, given the plethora of quality brews available in the Massachusetts Bay area

It would've seemed unlikely a few years ago, but several parts of America are (re)discovering the tradition of cask beer, and indeed the pub 'culture' of the mother country, giving beerloving visitors something exciting to write home about at last, after decades of uninteresting fizz. However, as with so many Americanisms, drinking is done slightly different across the pond - perhaps a throwback to the dark days of prohibition. For a start, nearly every 'bar' also doubles as a sit-down restaurant with waiter/ess service and emphasis on an extensive menu. Even if you sit at the bar, it is standard protocol to pay your bill (or 'check' as they say, rather confusingly) when you leave, rather than purchasing rounds of drinks - a system that takes some getting used to.

Every brewpub uses the fact that beer is brewed on the premises as a major selling point, and as in our own Firkin pubs, the necessary apparatus is very visibly located behind glass screens. Most of the brew-pubs that do cask beer only have one on at any given time - and this is done on a rotational basis from their standard range of eight or ten-plus beers. The genuine handpumps do not have pumpelips or any labelling, and you may need to specify that you want the cask version you may even be 'warned' that it is warmer/cloudier/different from 'normal' beers! It has to be said that most of the other beer in these discerning places is not keg beer as we know it, generally being unpasteurised, unfiltered, and served under light pressure from cellar-tanks, rather like certain brewpubs in London, and is by no means a bad product.

The other confusing issue is measure size - ask for a pint, and you'll probably get a US (16 oz) pint. Ask for a 'large' and you might get a 20 oz imperial pint, if they sell that particular size. We also found 10, 12 and 23 oz sizes served in different bars, and the best rule of thumb would seem to be to ask for the largest size on offer. Trays of several 4 or 5 oz sampler glasses (like those found in the Hogshead chain) are also offered in most places where a big selection of beers are available. Beer is not cheap - Imperial

pints of something decent will cost four or five dollars (at current exchange rates, that's around £3). On the plus side, lined glasses appear to be standard everywhere you go.

Boston's most famous brewing figure is of course Samuel Adams - the beer with his name is so successful worldwide that the 'independence' image is becoming something of a self-parody. They only produce cask beer occasionally for festivals (indeed, some has been seen at the GBBF before now), but the original Samuel Adams Brew House (710 Boylston St.). sells the complete range in 'regular' form. Lager, Ale, Octoberfest, Honey Porter and Cherry Wheat these are not brewed on the premises, but at the Sam Adams brewery several miles away in Stony Brook. You will also probably want to visit the Bull & Finch pub (the basement of 84 Beacon Street) aka the 'Cheers' bar, just to say you've been there. A couple of Sam's beers are available here too, along with Harpoon IPA (from another Massachusetts micro), and the famous Pete's Wicked Lager from California. No sign of Norm Peterson though!

The Back Bay Brewing Company (755) Boylston St.) in the fashionable Copley area of the city (just down the road from Sam Adams) was the first place where we got to sample cask beer. We didn't even realise it was on for a couple of drinks, because the lone handpump didn't have a clip on it, and in London, we all know what that means - it's just there for show. Having already tried the non-cask Boylston Bitter, it has to be said that the cask version was only slightly better. It's a fine, hoppy beer at 4.8% ABV, that would be right at home in this country. Also available here was Freedom Trail IPA - a hefty 6.0% ESB-style ale, American Pale Ale - an 'ordinary' 4.0% bitter, Classic Boston Lager - well-crafted and hoppy, Tea Party Porter - dark and roasty at 5.1%, and most intriguing of all, Dunkel Hefeweizen (5.4%) - a dark wheat beer with hints of clove and banana, most similar to a beer I had in Austria some years ago. They also served an (almost) endless basket of homemade potato chips (that's crisps do you and me)

## —From our Foreign Correspondent-

with an interesting horseradish mayonnaise dip, which made an ideal accompaniment.

The post-industrial styled Boston Beerworks (61 Brookline Ave.) is located in the West End of central Boston, opposite Fenway Park stadium where the Boston Blue Sox baseball team play. The cask beer available here was Fenway Pale Ale at 4.2%. This was the only real ale I tried that didn't seem to be kept that well, being warmer than I like, and with a strange cheesy aroma, although the palette was interesting, with that typical American fruitiness. Bambino is a standard American 'light' - a lager under 4.0% without a great deal of complexity. Muddy River Porter (over 5%) was an excellent example of the English style, and is the best selling beer in the Beerworks. Unfortunately we just missed out on the cask version which was going to be on the following week.

Bluebeery is one of many fruit beers available here. Medium violet in colour, and with several blueberries in the glass, that float up to the top, and fall back down when you drink - hold the glass up to the light and it looks like a lava lamp! However, the taste is what matters, and it was pleasant and refreshing, not unlike a Belgian fruit beer. Even more pleasant and refreshing was Watermelon Ale, served with a slice of melon on the side of the glass - I don't think the likes of St. Peters, Kitchen etc. have got round to doing Watermelon yet, and I eagerly await the day when they do - this was absolutely gorgeous! Pumpkinhead didn't come with chunks of pumpkin, but was 5.5%, and well spiced with nutmeg. Whitbread did a similar beer for Halloween a few years back.

About 20 miles away, in Salem, is the sister brewpub, the Salem Beerworks (278 Derby St.) which, given the theme of the place, is perhaps not unsurprisingly decorated in a themed style not unreminiscent of a certain Oxfordshire brewery! The cask beer here was Witch City Red - a Sam Adams-style Red Ale at 4.5% but which tasted a lot stronger. Beers are exchanged between here and the Boston Beerworks, and several of the old favourites from the Boston branch were on, including the Watermelon. The Beerworks pubs also brew 'Ciderjack' - A variation on cider, fermented with wheat. Original (apple) and Lemon varieties were available. These are very weak (2-3%), fruity and refreshing, but had a kind of 'soapy' character to them and were not suited to my rather Anglican palette. Both Beerworks offered a fine menu including special lunchtime deals. We sampled

such traditional American snacks as Quahogs (stuffed clams), 'grilled cheese and Canadian bacon with fried pickles', Blue Nachos and Clam Chowder.

In Cambridge, close to Harvard University, is John Harvard's Brewhouse (33 Dunster St., Cambridge). I think this is a fairly new outlet, as the range here was much smaller than the other brewpubs. Cask-conditioned Milk Stout (4.0%) was available, and was excellent, if slightly too sweet. This is a style of beer that might not have been produced in cask form in England for 60-odd years, and so was a rare treat. American Pale Ale (4.5%) was another example of a modern US ordinary bitter, and was tasty enough. The Light Fantastic was a very pale lager, but over 5.0% in strength, and almost like a Flemish White Beer.

The Brew Moon chain of brewpubs with the emphasis on food have outlets all over the States, and are advertised extensively, but the Boston one (located at 115 Stuart St., Theatre District), at least, didn't have any cask beer. Moonlight was a weak and uninspiring lager, Mayberry Wheat (4.2%) pleasant and refreshing, Prussia's Pride a stronger, much more interesting Dortmunder-style lager, and Planetary Porter (5.0%) another decent example of the style - these Americans certainly know how to brew a decent dark beer.

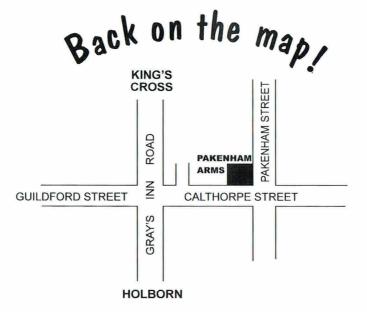
Unfortunately, the most famous Boston brewpub - the Commonwealth Brewing Company (138 Portland St.) - was closed during my visit for an extensive refurbishment and relaunch as a beer and seafood place. This was the first outlet in the city to regularly offer cask beer. The North East Brewing Company, (1314 Commonwealth Ave. near Brookline) was only hosting private functions for the duration of the Ryder Cup, so we didn't get to try there either. Nor did we find anywhere selling any beer from the Tremont Brewery - another smallish Boston brewer. With only a few days to play with, I'm sure I missed out on numerous other treats too.

Boston is certainly to be recommended to anyone who likes good beer, especially if you crave something slightly out of the ordinary. In a four-day visit I got to sample four cask beers, and several other perfectly drinkable brews in a wider variety of styles than those commonly available in London, while there are plenty of sites to see and things to do between sessions at the bar. There are plenty of good 'proper' restaurants too, especially seafood. As a beer and food city break, Boston merits 10/10.

Ben Nunn

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## Crawl

#### **POSTAL DRINKER 9**

Welcome to the ninth instalment of Postal Drinker, my attempt to drink a pint of real ale in every one of the hundred and nineteen postal districts in London. So far I am keeping up with the schedule of eleven pubs a month, allowing for giving up for Lent and have completed eighty seven so far. This leaves me with thirty two districts to be completed. As previously mentioned all my articles are available on the internet at the Hassrale website http://www.edmund1.demon.co.uk.

I have been getting some feedback about my articles, most of it complementary, although someone did ask why I picked so many crap North London pubs. As I explained in my first article I do not know North London very well so pub selection there was mainly pot luck. One pub I was not impressed with was the Occasional Half in Palmers Green (N13). The latest Good Beer Guide lists two other pubs in N13, the Whole Hog and the Inn on the Green. Another North London pub in the Good Beer Guide is the Chequers in NW4 which was closed when I visited the district.

In a previous article I was slightly critical of Enfield and Barnet branch for making the Orange Tree N20 their Pub of the Year. I have since been advised it is the Orange Tree in N21 that is Pub of the Year. My apologies to the branch for any confusion or embarrassment caused.

As I am still temping in Central London when October comes round I start the month with the now traditional crawl after work on the first Saturday. From Victoria I get the train to Gypsy Hill (SE19) and walk up the hill to the Railway Bell, a Youngs pub which was 1981 Evening Standard pub of the year. I have a pint of Youngs Ordinary which is in fine condition. The Railway Bell is a small pub with a garden and most of the customers are watching the Rugby on the TV. Despite its name there are two pubs nearer to the station.

Leaving the Bell I head down Anerley Hill to Penge (SE20). The South East London guide describes SE20 as being worthy of a dedicated drinkers attention. Things appear to have declined a great deal since then and there is little of interest. Eventually I try the Bridge House, as it is close to Penge West station. This is a large pub in need of renovation with one bar appearing to be permanently shut. Only one real ale is available, Hancocks HB, so I have a pint of that. One point of interest is that the pub has an acoustic jam session every Monday night so it may be of more interest to music lovers than beer lovers. Since my visit I have discovered that Wetherspoons have opened the Moon and Stars in the High Street so

that would probably be a better bet.

Unfortunately there are no trains from Penge West so I walk round to Penge East and get a train to West Dulwich (SE21). This is an up-market area with only four pubs, one of which is the Crown and Greyhound. This is a large pub built in 1900 to replace two smaller pubs on opposite sides of the road. It is well furbished with several rooms and a large garden. There is also a separate function room which appears to be hosting a wedding reception and the pub is filling up quickly. There are three regular beers from the Allied range and a guest beer. I have a pint of the guest beer which for October is Youngs First Gold. This is a very hoppy refreshing beer and I would recommend you try a pint of it if you see it.

Leaving the Crown I head north and reach North Dulwich station. As a train to Central London is coming I decide to take it. After six stations I reach South Bermondsey station in SE16 so I get off here and walk round to Surrey Quays tube station. Near the station is the Surrey Docks Tavern, a Wetherspoon pub. This is a little on the small side for a Wetherspoon pub and being Saturday night is quite full. I have a pint of Smiles Wurz Ale which is a darkish sweet beer with a strength of 4% ABV. After I have bought my pint I notice that both Theakstons and Directors are available for £1 per pint.

On Sunday evening I have to pop up Central London so afterwards I get the tube to Earls Court (SW5). I used to work round here in the early eighties but I can't remember anywhere worth drinking round here. The transitory nature of the cosmopolitan population did not appear to encourage real ale pubs. However since then Fullers have opened the Blackbird, an Ale and Pie house in Earls Court Road near the station. I have always thought that these pubs were a bit upmarket but was pleasantly surprised to find the Blackbird is more like a local and quite crowded for a Sunday night. Some of the customers are celebrating the afternoons football results. The full range of Fullers beers are available including the

## Crawl

autumn seasonal beer, Red Fox, so I try I pint of that. It is a most unusual distinctive beer, with a sweet almost sickly flavour. The only beer I can think of that is anything like it is O'Hanlons Red Ale.

Later that week I start picking off pubs on the way home from work. I start by getting the tube to South Kensington (SW7) and walking down to the Anglesea Arms, in a side turning off Fulham Road. This is a small expensive free house in an up-market area that was one of only eight real ale free houses in London during the mid seventies. Two Fullers and two Brakspears beers are on as well as my choice Adnams Broadside. The days newspapers are available and several up-market magazines as well.

I walk back to the station along Fulham Road which forms the boundary between South Kensington (SW7) and Chelsea (SW3) and notice the Crown in Dovehouse Street on the SW3 side of the road. This is a small free house and I notice Black Sheep bitter is one of the two beers on handpump so I try a pint of it. This is a hoppy bitter brewed in Masham by Paul Theakston of the famous brewing family.

Like the Anglesea the days newspapers and several magazines are available. Both pubs do a small range of expensive food.

My next trip is to Denmark Hill station in Camberwell (SE 5) where I try the Fox on the Hill, a Wetherspoon pub at the top of Denmark Hill. This is quite a large pub but is broken up into smaller areas giving it a cosier, more intimate feel. There are seven beers and a real cider on and I have a pint of Brains SA which is in good condition. The South East London guide mentions that the pub has a commanding view of Central London but this appears to be blocked by a lot of trees and blocks of flats. Perhaps the view will be better in winter when the leaves have fallen. Despite this minor criticism the pub is well worth a visit, the view over the bar is excellent.

On the next Sunday I have to visit a relative in Bart's hospital so afterwards I go to Victoria station and get a train to Battersea (SW11) and then walk to the Duke of Cambridge. This is a Youngs pub and is another former Evening Standard pub of the year. It is furbished in a modern wine-bar style with seats outside. There are several family groups inside and outside and the afternoons Rugby Union World Cup match (South Africa v Spain) is on the large screen TV. I have a pint of Ordinary which is in good condition. Like the Thatched House in W6 the Duke has been changed from a basic two-bar pub

into something more up-market but this only reflects changes in the area it is located.

For the penultimate pub I visit New Cross (SE14). Close to New Cross Gate tube station is a new Hobgoblin pub. It was formerly a Courage pub, the Rose, but was taken over and refurbished earlier this year by Wychwood. The pub has a large garden at the back and does a wide range of inexpensive food. It is clearly targeted at the younger end of the market and there is a student discount from 3pm to 8pm aimed at the nearby Goldsmiths College. Two Wychwood beers and Courage Directors are available and I have a pint of Rugby Special which is a darkish, malty beer brewed for the Rugby Union World Cup. New Cross is not a noted area for real ale and the Hobgoblin is a welcome addition. My only complaint is that the music is a bit loud.

The last pub of the month is the Half Moon in Herne Hill (SE24). This is a large late Victorian pub which is furbished in the ornate style typical of the late nineteenth century. There are two separate bars at the front of the pub with quite a lively atmosphere. At the back is a separate music room at the back with frequent live blues and rock music. There is also a boxing and self-defence gym upstairs so behave yourself if you pay a visit. Both Courage beers are available and I have a pint of Best. Also worth a visit is the Commercial opposite the station.

Colin Price

#### \* \* \* \* \*

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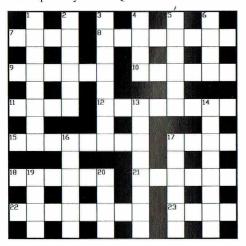
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## Crossword

#### Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name	
Address	

All correct entries received by first post on 27th January will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Details of the prize winner will be available after the above date by sending a SAE to the address below.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword 25 Valens House Upper Tulse Hill London SW2 2RX

#### LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



#### £10 PRIZE TO BE WON

#### ACROSS

- 7. She's always in an overall. [4]
- 8. Look united but mixed up. [8]
- 9. Gold on entrance is sweet. [6]
- 10. He sinks the balls and makes the cup! [6]
- 11. Brand new herb. [4]
- 12. Strikes a different star. [8]
- 15. Arrange to put the Queen at the back of the motor. [8]
- 17. Unusual for two army types to meet. [4]
- 18. Caught very quietly entering school. [6]
- 21. Acquiesce in fool heading hospital department. [6]
- 22. Union agreement. [8]
- 23. English study? Paradise! [4]

#### DOWN

- 1. Include the Spanish in share account. [8]
- 2. Hidden talent developed. [6]
- 3. True churchman will appear after a century. [8]
- 4. Cut in returned barrels. [4]
- 5. Goat fat? [6]
- 6. Only water. [4]
- Point to the danger of new theatre break-up.
   [8]
- 14. Stuck with journalist on London street. [8]
- 16. Meaning to bring goods in. [6]
- 17. Some bacon is more risky. [6]
- 19. Examination of the mouth. [4]
- 20. Measure up wagon. [4]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword: Chris, Fran & a spotted dog, Ruislip Manor.

Other correct entries were received from: Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Ivor Wright-Ardon, Geoff B, Fred Bear, Sheila Blige, John Blundell, A.Bovey, Alan Brooke, Ron Burfutt, E.Carr, Brendan Casey, Charles Creasey, Mike Farrelly, B.H.Fletcher, Michael Flynn, Dudley Freeman, Marion Goodall, Eileen Graves, Paul Gray, Alfred D Great, J.E.Green, Jonty Hawkes, John Heath, Sheerluck Holmes, Mick Jenkins, Tom Kemp, Doug King, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, Al Mountain, Neill & Sophie's Dad, Rab Noolas, Mick Norman, Stuart Osgood, Derek Pryce, Lyn Randall, Richard Joy & Anne, Paul Rogers, Geoff S, L.D.Saul-Pressrelease, Super Scooper, John Scott, Old Smokey, Young Smokey, Ian Sturch, Bill Thackray, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Susan Wilson, David Woodward, Yak, Paul Yarlett

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## Capital Pubcheck-

#### CAPITAL PUBCHECK

**UPDATE 151** 

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 proforma is available for regular contributors. This month we welcome three new Fullers outlets, one a splendid 'Ale and Pie'conversion in EC1 Smithfield, the others cocktail bars in EC2 City and SW12 Balham, a new Hogshead in Hornchurch and three 'All Bar Ones' in EC2 City, W5 Ealing and Twickenham. We catch up with a number of predominantly Irish pubs opened in former shop units in north west and west London but sadly largely bereft of real ale. We also include details of former Allied pubs believed to have been acquired by Bass, including many of London's most historic pubs and several former Firkin brewpubs.

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 - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale 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, 9th 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 REALALE CENTRAL

EC1, BUTCHER'S HOOK & CLEAVER, 61-63 West Smithfield. Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London Pride, ESB, seasonal beer. Splendid conversion by Fullers of former bank for its 'Ale and Pie House chain, opened early November. Originally two buildings, each bar retains its distinctive frontage; one stone clad in classic bank style, the other with wooden framed large windows. The interior is equally impressive with a delicate brass chandelier over the bar and wall paintings of past scenes of the nearby Smithfield meat market behind marble pillars. A decorative wrought iron spiral staircase rises to a mezzanine drinking and eating area, with table service at lunchtimes, available for private functions in the evenings. Beyond, lies a more intimate wood panelled area with alcove seating in traditional style. Food available until 9pm. Disabled WC. Open 7.30am for breakfast until 11pm Mon-Fri only. Fullers are to be congratulated for a fitting conversion in an historic area.

EC2, ALL BAR ONE, 127 Finsbury Pavement. Draught Bass; Fuller: London Pride. Latest outlet for the fast expanding Bass owned chain, opened mid-November on ground floor corner of new office block. It occupies the site of the former LONDON GENERAL Bass pub demolished to make way for the development. The usual ingredients of pine flooring and furniture with the addition of sofas near the large windows, with predominantly cream decor. Mirrors, ceiling fans, exposed ventilation, a prominent clock and blackboard menu complete the image. It reflects the current trend towards the 'middle ground' for the previously distinctive 'brands' of the key pub groups. Food, disabled WC. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends. EC2, ONE OF 2, 45 Old Broad St. Fuller: London Pride. New Fullers pub on three levels, opened June 1999, in complete contrast to 'Butchers' above. Covered steps lead up past a small outdoor drinking area to a first floor level bar in the 'pine and steel' style. Low level lighting under bar counter, tiled flooring, cream decor, pine furnishings and metal framed artwork and mirrors etc. Stairs rise to upper level seating/eating area with optional table service, looking down on bar. A third floor offers a private function room. Loud music in evenings. Emphasis on cocktails, wine and food, with metallic menu. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends.

## Capital Pubcheck

#### EC3, FENCHURCH COLONY, 14 New

London St. No real ale. Free House. First floor bar and brasserie.

W1 (Mar), TURNERS ARMS, 26 Crawford St. Young: Bitter, Special. Reopened as a Liberty Inns Free House, ex-Shepherd Neame. In same ownership as GBG pub and former Watford Branch Pub of the Year, 'Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty', Heronsgate, Herts. Currently under renovation. Beer range likely to increase. (W36, U44, U74, U138)

#### **EAST**

HORNCHURCH, HOGSHEAD, 14-16 Station Lane. Boddington: Bitter; Flower: Original Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Marston: Pedigree; Wadworth: 6X; 2 Guest beers from Whitbread range (G). Latest Whitbread Hogshead in 'new' style, opened late September in former shop premises. Large windows on frontage and double doors leading into spacious bar area with pine flooring and furniture, sofas, stools etc. Bottom lit curved bar counter and tiled bar area. Framed pictures adorn the walls. Exposed ventilation/extraction ducts. Blackboard displays food menu. Belgian bottled beers available. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours, ILFORD, OVERDRAFT, 300-310 High St. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter, New independent Free House, part of small chain, opened late 1998 in former cinema foyer but not previously reported. The cinema proper is retained upstairs, showing Indian films. Spacious bar fitted out with pine flooring, wall panelling and furniture and some potted plants. Pictures on cream painted walls. TV, including big screen for sports, food, no smoking area at rear. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours. ROMFORD, BRANNIGANS, 64 South St. No. real ale. New Free House, bar, reataurant and entertainment venue in former post office, opened July 1999.

**ROMFORD, EDWARDS,** 105/111 South St. No real ale. Latest opening for Bass owned chain in former shop unit, opened August 1999. Unlike previous outlets in the chain, real ale is ominously not on offer.

**ROMFORD, PALS,** 80/84 Market Place. No real ale. Free House/bar and brasserie in former shop unit, opened late 1998.

**ROMFORD, McCLUSKY'S,** 2 Market Link. No real ale. Free House/bar opened late 1998 in former commercial premises.

#### **NORTH**

**N14**, **CAFE RIO**, 47A Chase Side. No real ale. Free House, bar and music venue in former shop premises.

N22, POACHERS, 423 Lordship Lane. Reopened Free House, H unused. (N156, U138) NORTH WEST

NW2, WISHING WELL, 89 Cricklewood Broadway. No real ale. Small Irish Free House, part of chain in former shop premises. NW8, CAFE MED, 21 Loudoun Rd. No real

ale. Formerly purely a restaurant called Blenheim Restaurant but now has small bar area adjacent to restaurant. Previously BLENHEIM (N213, U109)

NW11, BAR MED, 105A-107A Golders Green Rd. Free House/café bar in former shop premises.

NW11, GROVE INN, 1023 Finchley Rd. No real ale. Small Free House in former shop unit. **KENTON, BISHOP CASEY'S,** 217 Kenton Rd. No real ale. Irish Free House in former shop unit.

**STANMORE, CURRAIGH,** 12/13 Queensbury Station Parade. No real ale. Irish Free House in former shop premises.

**WEALDSTONE, DALYS,** 100 High St. No real ale. Irish Free House in former shop unit.

#### SOUTH WEST

SW12, BAR INTERLUDE, 100 Balham High Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Yet another new 'concept' from Fullrs in 'pine and steel' style, opened October 1999 in former shop premises. The inevitable pine flooring and furniture, large windows along frontage, cream painted walls with loud, abstract, coloured paintings. Cocktails, food etc. 'Keg' fireplace. Loud music and light show in evenings. Open all permitted hours.

#### WEST

W3, WISHING WELL, 61 Old Oak Common Lane. Ushers: Best Bitter. Small Irish Free House in former shop unit decorated in style typical of the small chain. Wood panelled and carpeted throughout, with globe lighting. Pictures of Ireland and Gaelic football memorabilia adorn the walls. Open all permitted hours.

W5, ALL BAR ONE, 64-66 The Mall. Draught Bass: Fuller: London Pride. Yet another identikit

## -Capital Pubcheck

Bass owned outlet for the ubiquitous chain in former restaurant premises, opened November 1998 but not previously reported. Fitted out in typical style with pine flooring and furniture, green and cream decor, mirrors, blackboard for food, ceiling fans, clock etc. Food until 10pm Mon-Thurs, 9pm Fri-Sun. Disabled WC. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

**W5, DOHERTYS,** 9/10 Central Buildings, The Broadway. No real ale. Irish Free House in former restaurant premises.

W13, FERRYMAN, 181 Uxbridge Rd. No real ale. Small Free House in former night club premises.

W13, FLANAGANS, 137 Uxbridge Rd. No real ale. Small Irish Free House in former shop premises.

W13, JACKSONS, 80 Northfield Ave. No real ale. Free House/wine bar in former bank premises.

W13, PLAYERS, 184 Northfield Ave. No real ale. Small Free House in former shop premises. W13, SPINNING WIIEFL, 227 Northfield Ave. Wadworth: 6X. (U54)

GREENFORD, BELMULLET ARMS, 2 Ruislip Rd. No real ale. Small Free House in former shop premises.

**GREENFORD, WISHING WELL.**, 10 The Broadway. No real ale. Irish Free House, part of small chain in former shop unit. Despite 'wine bar' on windows, it is more of a pub.

RUISLIP, SPORTSMAN, 68 Victoria Rd. No real ale. Free House in former shop premises.

TWICKENHAM, ALL BAR ONE, 26/28 York St. Draught Bann; Fuller; London Pride. One more Bass owned ABO opened September 1999 in former newspaper offices. Decorated in typical style (see W5 above) including exposed ducting despite comparatively low ceiling. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

WEST DRAYTON (YIEWSLEY), MEEHANS TAVERN, High St. Renamed JACK BEARDS. Morland: Old Speckled Hen; Ruddle: Best Bitter. Now Morland, ex-Grand Met (Truman), formerly RED COW (W161, U62)

#### PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REALALE

#### EAST

E6, TOLLGATE TAVERN. Whitbread, H removed. (E105)

**E8, CROWN & CASTLE.** Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (E112)

**E16, WINSOR HOUSE.** Whitbread (Brewers Fayre), H removed. (U103)

#### NORTH

N1, GREYHOUND. Whitbread, closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (N46) N9, RAILWAY. Fuller, closed and boarded up. (N90)

**ENFIELD EN1, GARDENERS ARMS.** Ex-Bass, confirmed now a McDonalds restaurant. Formerly BULLDOG. (U109, U150)

#### NORTH WEST

NW1, PRINCE GEORGE OF CUMBERLAND. Renamed REIDS, Free House, H removed. (N172) HAREFIELD, MINES ROYAL. Courage,

HAREFIELD, MINES ROYAL. Courage, demolished for housing. (W108, U73)

HARROW, KINGS HEAD HOTEL. Free House, still closed after many years and despite retaining full signage appears now to be in residential use, if only in part. (W113, U78, U86)

**HARROW, TIMBER CARRIAGE.** Allied (ex-Taylor Walker), no real ale. (W114)

#### SOUTH WEST ...

SW8, FESTIVAL INN. Allied, converted to Turners Function Centre, no longer a pub. (SW78)

SW8, GOOD FELLOWS. Free House, converted to Metrogusto restaurant. (SW78, U141)

**SW17, SURREY TAVERN.** Whitbread, H removed. (SW110, U142)

**SW18, TIR NA NOG.** Ascot, H removed. (SW115)

MITCHAM, RAVENSBURY TAVERN. Allied, now demolished. (SW147, U133, U147) MORDEN, DR FEELGOODS. Free House, now converted to a joiners shop. (SW150, U132, U134, U145)

#### WEST

W3, BLUE ANCHOR, Ex-Grand Met (Watney), converted to Mac's, wine bar and restaurant, bottled beers only. (W64, U78, U92) W3, CAPELARMS. Ex-Labatts, closed, future uncertain. (W64, U100) W3, DICEYS REILLYS 2. Renamed

## Capital Pubcheck

**CENTRAL BAR**, Free House, now closed, future uncertain. (U88)

**W3, HARBOUR LIGHTS**. Phoenix, closed, future uncertain. (W65, U112)

W5, PARK ROYAL HOTEL. Renamed PHAE TINGOS, now a Free House, ex-Grand Met (Courage). H removed. (W72, U56, U74, U86) W13, HALFWAY HOUSE. Inntrepreneur (ex-Watney), no real ale. (W92)

W13, NEW ANCHOR. Renamed ROSIE O'GRADYS, now closed, future uncertain. (W92, U44)

**W13, WALSINGHAM ARMS**. Whitbread, no real ale, formerly OLDE HATTE (YE). (W93, U63)

**ALPERTON, ALPINE HORN**. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), converted to Paradise Club. (W96) **ALPERTON, PLEASURE BOAT**. Allied (ex-Taylor Walker), no real ale. (W96)

HARLINGTON, OFFICE. Inntrepreneur (ex-Courage), demolished, formerly CROWN (W110, U86)

HAYES (YEADING), BROOK HOUSE. S&N, ex-Grand Met (Watney), no real ale. (W117)

**HAYES, CAPTAIN MORGANS**. Free House, no real ale. Formerly WELCOME INN. (W78, U103)

**HAYES, FIREFLY**. Greene King, closed, future uncertain. (W117, U98, U117)

**HESTON, HOPE & ANCHOR**. Greene King, closed, future uncertain. (W120, U98)

**HILLINGDON**, **HUT**. Now a Free House, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), no real ale. (W123, U68) **NORTHOLT**, **BYRON**. Greene King, closed,

**SOUTHALL, BRICKLAYERS ARMS**. Free House, no real ale. (W140, U55, U68)

SOUTHALL, FEATHERSTONE ARMS.

future uncertain. (W134, U98, U117)

Bass (ex-Charrington), demolished. (W140, U92)

SOUTHALL, GLASSY JUNCTION. Free House, no real ale, formerly RAILWAY HOTEL. (W143, U43, U78, U86)

**SOUTHALL, NORTHCOTE ARMS.** Free House (ex-Fuller), converted to flats. (W142, U54, U78)

**SOUTHALL, PRINCE OF WALES.** Now a Free House, ex-Grand Met (Courage), no real ale. (W142, U59, U64)

SOUTHALL, ST GEORGE & THE DRAGON. Now Inntrepreneur, ex-Grand Met (Watney), no real ale. (W143, U68)

SOUTHALL, WHITE HART. Now

Standwood Taverns, ex-Grand Met (Courage), no real ale. (W143, U68)

**SOUTHALL, WHITE SWAN**. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and being converted into an Indian Gurdwara. (W143, U64, U78)

**UXBRIDGE, GREEN MAN.** Ex-Grand Met (Courage), converted to fish & chip shop. (W154)

**UXBRIDGE, WHITE HORSE.** Renamed OSTLER (YE OLDE), S&N, no real ale. (W154, U107)

WEST DRAYTON (YIEWSLEY), BENTLEYS. Free House, no real ale, formerly NAUGHTIES. (W161, U61)

WEST DRAYTON (YIEWSLEY), BRICKMAKERS ARMS. Now a Free House, ex-Belhaven, no real ale. (W161, U46, U78) WEST DRAYTON (YIEWSLEY), JOLLY ANGLERS, Ex-Grand Met (Courage)

**ANGLERS**. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), converted to private dwelling. (W161)

#### OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

#### CENTRAL

WC2, COAL HOLE. No longer subtitled (WALKERS ON THE STRAND). -Boddington: Bitter; -Greene King: IPA; -Wadworth: 6X; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. See also under Bass acquisitions below. (W53, U62, U92)

#### EAST

**E9, ROUNDHOUSE**. Renamed KENTE SPOT, formerly BRIDGE HOUSE. (E119, U70, U84, U108)

#### NORTH

N1, HEN & CHICKENS. Full title now HEN & CHICKENS THEATRE BAR (N47) N1, KINGS HEAD, 59 Essex Rd. Renamed KINGS (THE), -beers listed; +Flowers:IPA; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Special. See also 'Corrections' below. (N49)

**N4, FINSBURY PARK HOTEL.** Now simply **FINSBURY (THE)**, now part of Allied's Mr Q's chain. (N75)

N4, FINSBURY PARK TAVERN. Renamed TWELVE PINS (NA BEANNA BEOLA). (N75)

**N4, HORNSEY WOOD TAVERN**. Now part of Allied's Mr Q's chain. (N75)



# Adnams fine Suffolk ales including

# Southwold Bitter and Broadside

## are regularly available throughout the Nicholson's estate

Crown Tavern, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1
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 Tavern, 22 Southwark Street, SE1



## Capital Pubcheck

N4, MORTIMER ARMS. Renamed OLD ALE EMPORIUM. (N75)

N7, HOGSHEAD. Renamed JAILHOUSE. - beers listed except Boddington: Bitter and Fuller: London Pride; +Guest beer (currently Rebellion: Lounge Lizard). Another delisted Hogshead. (N88)

N8, RAT & CARROT (THE SPORTING). Renamed FEELGOODS. (N95) N22, FISHMONGERS ARMS. Renamed O'RAFFERTYS. (N155) N22, NAGS HEAD. Renamed GOOSE & GRANITE. -beers listed; +Draught Bass;

+Fuller: London Pride; +Stones: Bitter. Now part of Bass owned 'Just So' pub chain. (N156) N22, NELSON. Now subtitled (RATTLE &

**HUM)**. (N156) **N22**, **PHOENIX BAR**. -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter. Both beers

£1.40 per pint. (N156) **N22, RAT AND CARROT (TJB's)**. Renamed **GANLEYS** (N157, U109, U117)

ENFIELD EN3, ALMA. Renamed COACH ARMS. (N239)

**ENFIELD EN3, PLOUGH**. Renamed **O'MALLEYS**. (N241)

#### NORTH WEST

NW1, LOCK TAVERN. -beers listed;
+Adnams: Bitter; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale;
+Wadworth:6X. Acquired by Allied from Bass
(ex-Charrington) and now reacquired by Bass.
See also under Bass acquisitions below. (N169)
NW9, GREEN MAN. Now subtitled DE
BURGO'S BAR & RESTAURANT (N217)
EDGWARE, EVERGLADES EXCHANGE
BAR. Renamed JOLLY BADGER. (N256)
HARROW, WHITE HORSE. Now a Free
House, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), -beers listed;
+Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: Lonon Pride. (W114)
PINNER, BELL (AT PINNER). Renamed
ORANGE TREE. (W135, U79, U132)

#### SOUTH EAST

SE1, HORNIMAN'S should read HORNIMAN AT HAYS. -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale; +Marston: Pedigree; +Young: Bitter, Special. See also under Bass acquisitions below. (SE21, U105)

**SE10, FUNNEL & FIRKIN**. -beers listed; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Marston: Pedigree; + Tetley: Bitter. See also under Bass acquisitions

below. It would seem that Firkin pubs transferred to Bass are limited to the same choice of beers as those remaining with Punch, at least for the present. Formerly STUDIO BAR. (SE102, U104, U123)

**BELVEDERE, PRINCE OF WALES.** -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter. (3SE207, K32)

**BELVEDERE, ROYAL STANDARD.** -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. (3SE207, K32) **BELVEDERE, VICTORIA.** -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. (3SE207, K32)

#### SOUTH WEST

SW11, WALSH'S. Renamed PETER BLACK'S BAR. -guest beers; +Courage: Best Bitter. (SW90)

SW15, FOX & HOUNDS. Renamed FOX. - guest beers. Refurbished in café bar style aimed at younger set with variety of scating etc. Are Whitbread anticipating a ban on fox hunting? (SW101)

SW17, FREEDOM & FIRKIN. -beers listed; -Weston: cider; +Greene King:IPA; +Marston: Pedigree; +Wadworth: 6X. See also Bass acquisitions below. (SW109, U144)

SW17, GORDON BENNETT. +Young: Bitter; +occasional guest beer. (SW109, U135) SW17, JJ MOONS. -Fuller: London Pride; -

Hop Back: Summer Lightning; +Boddington: Bitter. (SW109, U135)

**SW17, KINGS HEAD**. -Theakston: XB. (SW109, U142)

SW17, MITRE. -House beer; -Tetley: Bitter; +Ansell: Bitter; +Young: Bitter. (SW110) SW17, PLOUGH. -Greene King:IPA; +Fuller: London Pride. (SW110, U142)

**SW17, ROSE & CROWN**. -Boddington: Bitter. (SW110)

SW18, ROSE & CROWN. -Weston: Old Rosie Cider. Formerly GLEESON & SONS CORNER HOUSE. (SW112, U141, U149)

SW18, WAGGON & HORSES. Renamed GJ'S BAR. -beer listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Hancock: HB. (SW115)

**SW19, OLD LEATHER BOTTLE**. Phone no. is 542 7490. (SW118)

MORDEN, LADY ST HELIER. -Marston: Pedigree; -Theakston:XB; -Younger: Scotch Bitter; +Boddington: Bitter; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +2 changing guest beers. Formerly WETHERSPOONS. (SW151, U147)

## Capital Pubcheck

WEST

**W3, CROWN**. Renamed **OSBORNE ARMS**, now a Free House, ex-Belhaven, still fizz. (W64, U47)

W3, MECHANICS ARMS. Renamed LYNCH'S INN, now a Free House, ex-Grand Met (Courage), still fizz. (W65)

HOUNSLOW, ROCK & FODDER. Renamed HARVEYS IN THE TOWN. Formerly NOBLE HALF, PALIO, MUSWELLS and

ROYAL GEORGE!

SOUTHALL, THREE TUNS. Renamed PUNJABI JUNCTION. Now Free House, ex-Grand Met (Watney). (W143, U86, U120)

WEST DRAYTON, CHERRY TREE.

Renamed **FOX & PHEASANT**. Now S&N, ex-Grand Met (Watney). (W161)

WEST DRAYTON, ENGINE. Renamed STATIONS. (W161, U71)

#### EX-ALLIED PUBS ACQUIRED BY BASS

Since the takeover of Allied Domecq's pub estate by Punch Taverns backed by Bass, the latter has cherry picked the estate and the following Greater London pubs are now believed to be owned by Bass. The whole deal is still subject to Office of Fair Trading investigation. In the following list, the last known branding is noted. The list includes many historic Nicholson pubs and several Firkins including former brewpubs. Brewing equipment is believed to be

awaiting removal to Burton upon Trent. \* indicates pubs last reported as without real ale.

#### CENTRAL

EC1	CROWN TAVERN	Nicholson (E15)
EC1	FOX & ANCHOR Nicholson, ex-Taylor Walker (E16, U83)	
EC1	KING OF DIAMONDS	Taylor Walker (E19)
ECI	VIADUCT TAVERN	Nicholson (E26, U121)
EC2	BUTLERS HEAD	Nicholson (E30)
EC2	LORD ABERCONWAY	Ind Coope (E33, U88)
EC2	MAGPIE Nicholson, ex-Ta	aylor Walker (E33, U82)
EC2		
	Nie	cholson (E36, U69, U70)
EC3	3 CITY OF LONDON YEOMAN	
	Г	aylor Walker (E39, U70)
EC3	RED LION, 8 Lombard Court	Nicholson (E42)
EC3	SHIP, 11 Talbot Court	Nicholson (E42, U131)
EC3	SHIP & COMPASS (WALKERS OF FENCHURCH	
	STREET)	Nicholson (E42, U92)
EC4	BLACK FRIAR	Nicholson (E46)
EC4	FORSTER & FIRKIN	
	Firkin, formerly ALE	BION (E45, U131, U150)
EC4	OLD BELL	Nicholson (E51)
EC4	SCRUFFY MURPHY'S*	

Scruffy Murphy's, formerly KING & KEYS (E50, U102)

EC4 WALKERS OF HOLBORN

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EC4 Williamsons TAVERN
                               Nicholson (E56, U119)
W1(F) FITZ & FIRKIN
             Firkin, formerly ALBANY (W28, U75, U120)
W1(F) FLINTLOCK & FIRKIN
             Firkin, formerly CANONS (W28, U75, U120)
W1(F) NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS, 43 Goodge Street
                Nicholson, ex-Taylor Walker (W32, U50)
W1(F) TOTTENHAM
                  Taylor Walker (W32, U48, U89, U134)
W1 (May) SHELLEYS Nicholson, ex-Taylor Walker
                                    (W40, U98, U141)
W1(S)
          ARGYLL ARMS
                                Nicholson (W41, U80,
                                               U90)
WI(S)
          CLACHAN Nicholson (W41, U80, U90, U101))
          CROWN & TWO CHAIRMEN
WI(S)
                                Nicholson (W42, U48)
W1(S)
          DE HEMS Taylor Walker (W42, U53, U146)
          DOG & DUCK
W1(S)
                         Nicholson (W42, U93, U150)
W1(S)
          FANFARE & FIRKIN
     Firkin, formerly DOG & TRUMPET (W42, U48, U115)
                             Taylor Walker (W43, U48)
WI(S)
          INTREPID FOX
W1(S)
          SCRUFFY MURPHY'S*
Scruffy Murphy's, formerly QUEENS HEAD (W44, U48,
U90, U102)
WI(S)
          THREE GREYHOUNDS
Nicholson, ex-Taylor Walker (W64, U80)
WC2
          BEAR & STAFF
Taylor Walker (W52, U93)
          BLOOMSBURY TAVERN
WC2
Nicholson (W52)
WC2
          CAMBRIDGE
                             Taylor Walker (W52, U58)
WC2
          COAL HOLE
          Nicholson (W53, U62, U92)
WC2
          FAUN & FIRKIN
Firkin, fomerly LOCOMOTION (W55, U120)
WC2
          FLYMAN & FIRKIN
Firkin ex-brewpub (U101, U147)
          FULMAR & FIRKIN
Firkin, formerly KINGSWAY TAVERN, note current
          spelling of title (W54, U54, U82)
WC2
          GLOBE
Nicholson (W54)
WC2
          MAROUIS OF GRANBY, 51 Chandos Place
Nicholson, ex-Taylor Walker (W55, U54, U115)
WC2
          OPERA TAVERN
Taylor Walker (W55)
WC2
          PORCUPINE
          Taylor Walker (W56, U58)
WC2
          ROYAL GEORGE
                               Taylor Walker (W56)
                       EAST
BARKINGSIDE
                     OLD MAYPOLE*
                                         Taylor
Walker (X12)
                     UNICORN Taylor Walker (X55)
GIDEA PARK
HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER ORANGE TREE
                                      Big Steak (X68)
HORNCHURCH
                     HARROW Big Steak (X71)
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Railway Hotel Taylor Walker (X71)

Taylor Walker (X102)

Big Steak (X121)

Taylor Walker (X100)

**HUNTSMAN & HOUNDS** 

ROMFORD MORLAND ARMS Romford Brewery (X102)

Nicholson (U69)

HORNCHURCH

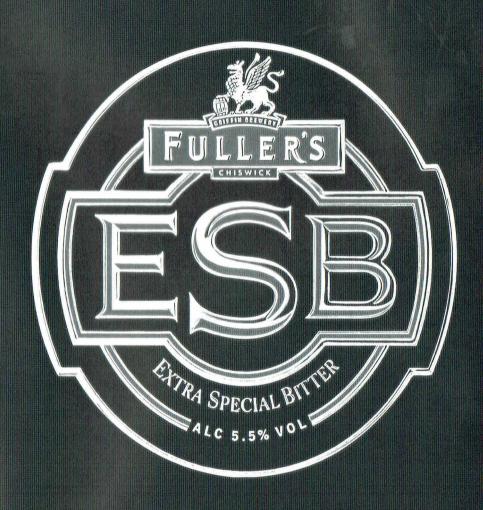
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ROMFORD BULL Taylor ROMFORD MAWNEY ARMS

## Capital Pubcheck-

	SEI DOGGETT'S COAT & BADGE Nicholson, ex-Ind Coope (SE13)	ICKE	NHAM COACH & HORSES Taylor Walker (W130)
	SOUTH EAST	W12	FRINGE & FIRKIN Firkin ex-brewpub (W91, U71, U120)
	any and a comment of the court of the court of the court	WID	Taylor Walker (W90, U92, U131)
	Taylor Walker (W156, U78, U79, U86)	W11	WARWICK CASTLE
	WEALDSTONE ROYAL OAK	WII	PRINCE ALBERT Taylor Walker (W90, U75)
	Faylor Walker (W156)	Will	Nicholson, ex-Taylor Walker (W82, U49, U72, U94)
	WEALDSTONE CASE IS ALTERED	W8	DEVONSHIRE ARMS
	BLACK HORSE Taylor Walker (W144)	W8	CATHERINE WHEEL Nicholson (W79, U92)
	SUDBURY	11/0	Firkin ex-brewpub (W105)
	HONEYPOT Taylor Walker (W144)	CW	PHOTOGRAPHER & FIRKIN
	STANMORE  STANMORE	W5 W5	NORTH STAR Taylor Walker (W73, U74, U94)
9	STANMOREABERCORN ARMS Benskins (W144)	W2	LEINSTER ARMS Nicholson (W62)
	(W135, U78, U79, U126)	Wa	LEINSTED ADMS Nicholcon (W62)
	Firkin, formerly SEDGWICKS, originally GEORGE		WEST
I	PINNER FROTHFINDERS & FIRKIN	RICH	MOND MARLBOROUGH Taylor Walker (SW155)
	Benskins (W135, U67)	RICH	그리고 요즘 그 아니는 그리고 있는데 그 나이는 그들은 그는 사람들이 되었다고 있는데 아이들이 아니를 하는데 아니는 사람들이 아니는 사람들이 되었다고 있다.
	NORTHWOOD TRUE LOVERS KNOT	RICH	Firkin ex-brewpub (SW155)
	Benskins (W134)	RICH	MOND FLICKER & FIRKIN
I	NORTHWOOD GATE	WILL	Taylor Walker (SW147, U146, U149)
	Benskins (W114)	MITC	HAM RAVENSBURY ARMS
I	HARROW WEALD DUCK IN THE POND	MINO	Taylor Walker, formerly Royal Barge (SW144, U143)
	Benskins (W114)		STONRB'S*
I	HARROW WEALD CASE IS ALTERED		STONFINANCIER & FIRKIN Firkin (SW142)
	Firkin, formerly GAYTON HALL (W113, U126)		SSINGTON FOX & HOUNDS Big Steak (SW134)
I	HARROW PHILOMATH & FIRKIN		SSINGTON BONESGATE Big Steak (SW134)
	BAR (N256, U151 above)	CHE/	
	Taylor Walker, formerly EVERGLADES EXCHANGE	SW19	
	EDGWARE HA8 JOLLY BADGER*	SW17	
1	NW11 WHITE SWAN Taylor Walker (N227)	SW16	
	NW10 MASONS ARMS Taylor Walker (N223)		Firkin ex-brewpub (U126)
	NW9 RED LION Taylor Walker (N218)	SWII	FARADAY & FIRKIN
	(N213)	SW10	
	Nicholson, ex-Regent Inns, formerly Taylor Walker	SW9	FLOURMILL & FIRKIN Firkin (U138)
I	NW8 CLIFTON		Firkin ex-brewpub (SW70)
	NW7 THREE HAMMERS Taylor Walker (N210)	SW6	PHARAOH & FIRKIN
	NW7 MILL Taylor Walker (N209)	(112.17	Firkin ex-brewpub (SW60, U148)
16	Firkin, formerly WHITE BEAR (N195, U120)	SW4	FRIESIAN & FIRKIN
I	NW4 FOOTMAN & FIRKIN	CW	Nicholson (SW46)
		5W1(	
		SWI	
	NW3 BULL & BUSH Taylor Walker (N184)	12.11	Nicholson (SW46)
P	NW2 CRICKLEWOOD HOTEL Taylor Walker (N179)	SWI	
1.0	Allied, ex-Bass (Charrington) (N169)	13. 1. 23.	Nicholson (SW46)
	NW1 LOCK TAVERN	SWI	and the second of the second o
1	NW1 FUSILIER & FIRKIN Firkin (N166)	SWI	SJ) GOLDEN LION Nicholson (SW45)
	Firkin ex-brewpub (N166)	SWI	
1	NWI FRIAR & FIRKIN		SOUTH WEST
	NORTH WEST		
	Taylor Walker (N236)		Taylor Walker (3SE288, U55, 8K181)
1	ENFIELD EN2 RIDGEWAY TAVERN	WEST	Г WICKHAM RAILWAY
	ENFIELD EN2 KINGS HEAD Taylor Walker (N235)		Firkin ex-brewpub (U120)
30	Firkin, formerly DANDY LION (N250, U120)	BROM	
1	BARNET EN5 FELIX & FIRKIN		Firkin, formerly GREYHOUND (SE223, U114, U122)
	N20 BLACK BULL Taylor Walker (N147)	SE26	FEWTERER & FIRKIN
	Taylor Walker (N119, U109)		CROWN & GREYHOUND Taylor Walker (SE194)
J	N14 CHERRY TREE (YE OLD)		GIPSY MOTH Taylor Walker (SE95)
	N12 FRINGILLA & FIRKIN Firkin (U126)	222	Firkin, formerly STUDIO BAR (SE102, U104, U123)
	NII RANELAGH Taylor Walker (N109, U110)	SE10	FUNNEL & FIRKIN
	N10 FANTAIL & FIRKIN Firkin ex-brewpub (U126)	SE6	BLACK HORSE & HARROW Taylor Walker (SE65)
	N9 STAG & HOUNDS Taylor Walker (N101)	SE5	PHOENIX & FIRKIN Firkin ex-brewpub (SE61)
	N8 KINGS HEAD Taylor Walker (N94)	are	Firkin, formerly RAILWAY TAVERN (SE48, U123)
	N6 FLASK TAVERN Taylor Walker (N82)	SE3	FAIRWAY & FIRKIN
	N3 TAYLORS Taylor Walker (N70)	SEL	SOUTHWARK TAVERN Nicholson (SE34, U105)
	VI YORK Taylor Walker (N62)	SE1	OLD THAMESIDE INN Nicholson (SE28, U105)
	10.20 Charles of the control of the	CP4	Nicholson (SE21, U105, U151 above))
,	NORTH N1 FINNOCK & FIRKIN Firkin (N44)	SE1	HORNIMAN AT HAYS
	NODTH	CEL	HODNIMANIATHAVE
	▼		

## EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER



THREE WORDS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.

## -Capital Pubcheck-

Taylor Walker (W138)

RUISLIP

TALLY HO!

**IDLE MOMENTS** 

TEDDINGTON ANGLERS HOTEL	As promised in this month's Idle Moments
Taylor Walker (W146, U94, U101) UXBRIDGE SCRUFFY MURPHYS	column, here are the answers to the puzzles set
Scruffy Murphys, formerly METROPOLITAN (W154, U57,	NUMBER PUZZLES:
U113)	1. 7 is the Maximum Number of Digits on a Vehicle
	Registration Plate
CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 147	2. 3560 Feet is the Height of Mount Snowdon
	3. 2 Copies of Magna Carta in the British Library
	4. 9 Players in a Rounders Team
PUBS CLOSED ETC.	5. 5 Formula One World Championships of Juan Fangio
N1, KINGS HEAD, 59 Essex Rd. Delete entry; still a pub and	<ol> <li>2200 Miles is the Length of the Appalachian Trail</li> <li>20 Pound Notes have Sir Edward Elgar on the Back</li> </ol>
not converted to residential use (see entry under 'Other	<ol> <li>20 Pound Notes have Sir Edward Elgar on the Back (the New Ones)</li> </ol>
Changes' above).	8. 2,768,400 Seconds in March
	9. 333 Highest Cricket Score by Graham Gooch
CONTROL OF THE LAND LAND LAND LAND	10. 9 Motor Cycle World Championships of Mike
CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 150	Hailwood
NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.	BREWERY ANAGRAMS:
W1(S), YO! BELOW is a Free House.	1. TIPSY TOAD
N14, WISHING WELL sells Ushers: Best Bitter.	2. MILLWRIGHT'S ARMS
ICKENHAM, TICHENHAM INN opened mid-September	3. OLDERSHAW
1999.	4. DARKTRIBE
	5. TRUEMAN'S
	5BY4:
PUBS CLOSED ETC.	1-G, 2-E, 3-J, 4-I, 5-A, 6-B, 7-F, 8-H, 9-D, 10-C
ENFIELD, BULLDOG postcode is EN1.	TRIVIA:
W12, ORANGE KIPPER should be listed under 'Other Changes' since already rapported as 'firer' in 11125	1. The Earls of Oxford
Changes' since already reported as 'fizz' in U135.	2. Chiswick
	3. A market
CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 149	4. Alcoholics Anonymous
W12, VESBAR is apparently a Fullers pub, although there is	5. Colchester
no indication of this fact either externally or internally.	6. Billy the Kid
no manda man man anna anna anna anna anna	7. Drink to me only with thine eyes.
arte arte arte arte	8. The Authorised or King James version of the Bible
* * * *	9. Bradford
	10. William Pitt (the Elder)
APPLICATION TO JOIN CAME	A
I/We wish to become members of the Campaig	n for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the
Memorandum and Articles of Association of the	Compaign
Memoralidum and Articles of Association of the	Campaign.
N. ( )	

Postcode..... I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership. Individual Joint Individual Joint Annual Annual Life Life UK and EEC £14 £17 £168 Rest of the World £18 £21 £216 £252 Student/Unwaged £8 Disabled £8 Retired £8 £11 £96 £132 Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to: Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

### –*Looking Back* – from our archives

TWENTY YEARS AGO the first double issue of London Drinker appeared, for December 1979 and January 1980, depicting the newly opened Bishop out of Residence at Kingston. An article reported that an appeal had been lodged with the Department of the Environment against local council refusal of permission for the pub's main sign; due to its length it would be 'too prominent'! The rear cover invited landlords to stock London Drinker, with plans to list all outlets.

The Editorial celebrated transfer of the magazine's total production to London. Headed 'Campaign for Real Staples', it marked the end of arrangements involving hand-collation and stapling in London of sheets printed in Manchester from stencils typed in London.

An appeal for details of pubs under threat of demolition noted, 'we cannot get real ale into a pub that has been knocked down.'

In the fourth of a series about the Big Six, Ian Mihill outlined the history of Grand Metropolitan from the beginning of Truman's in 1666, covering the various take-overs, Watney's change of heart on cask-conditioned beer with Fined Bitter - later called Stag - and London Bitter, plus Truman Tap. Also discussed was the controversy about the air pressure County Hand Pump.

Whitbread had launched keg and bottled Royal Kaltenberg Diat Pils nationally. Ind Coope had regionalised; the old names of Taylor Walker and Friary Meux were to be revived and new or revived beers were expected. A list was provided of outlets of Ind Coope KK light mild, for which they were doing no promotion. Fullers was about to withdraw traditional 'Hock' - their draught mild, for lack of demand, and market it in keg form. In two years they had almost doubled - to 54 out of a total 116 - the number of their house with hand pumps. At the Goose & Firkin, David Bruce was producing a new winter brew, 'Earthstopper', o.g. 1075.

Mostyn Lewis commented on the anomaly of pub hours remaining inflexible outside the festive season in 'An extended holiday - a plea for extended pub hours' and contended that pubs should be allowed to open to suit local needs. In the event, we had to wait until the 1988 Licensing Act.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, the year was omitted from the bumper December 1984/January 1985 issue, showing a cartoon by Eileen Graves of an inebriated sleigh entourage on a pub roof. An editorial cited the high costs of drunken

misbehaviour with the comment, 'Enough's enough; too much is plain stupid. Beer drinkers can do without such a reputation.

In 'The Great Autumn Rip-Off, Ian Worden outlined recent price rises, leading to an average 80p pint in Greater London and 90p pint in Central London; in the West Midlands 60p was the norm.

Young's had opened the Coborn Arms in Bow, their 144th pub. The Beehive in Peckham, one of 18 Shepherd Neame pubs in London, had just been opened after a £32,000 improvements programme. The Battersea Brewery was about to market a Premium Mild, o.g. 1038-1040, at about 74p, on the eighth Capital Beer Night it would be hosting at the Prince of Wales, Battersea, in mid-January.

'How to be Firkin successful' chronicled the history to date of David Bruce's seven pubs, with more to come. Also related was the history of the former Norwood Brewery, first listed in 1855 as Richard Bennet & Co and later known successively as George Wadley & Son, Duberley & Brookers, A C Beaton & Co and Hoare & Co, who were taken over in 1933 by Charringtons.

CAMRA Camera portrayed the Allison Arms, Glasgow, the most northerly London Drinker outlet; the Volunteer, Ventnor, then selling Britain's cheapest beer, Burt's Mild; the New Inn, Hadlow Down in Sussex; and Campbell's Free House, Islington, our longest-standing advertiser. Paul Everitt and Terry Hewitt presented a Shopper's Guide to Croydon Pubs and 'RM Rider' produced 'Liquid Lunch', exploring prospects for the real ale drinker in central London. 'Rail Rover' contributed 'Lourdes Drinker', conveying impressions of the beer, railways and shrine as part of a tour of France.

TEN YEARS AGO the December 1989/January 1990 front cover featured another of Eileen's cartoons; four presumably antipodean revellers using an upside down book of carols. The back bore the wording of the Edwardian

## Looking Back

music hall song, 'Glorious Beer' with an extra verse for the occasion.

This was the last edition in which I participated as one of the production and editorial team. Shortly after its publication, domestic circumstances found me in Wales, where I remain. My Editorial described the attempts in West Wales by certain ill-disposed parties to swing the referendum which had just taken place, against Sunday opening. I also contributed 'A Winter's Tale', about a stagecoach accident in 1835 due to intoxication, and a pub crawl entitled 'Real Ale in Llandovery'.

Merton's Historicrawl, 'Within a City Wall' followed the course of the Walls of the City of London and I know (having been involved) had taken over two years to prepare. In 'Not a Tramday', Colin Price explored the pubs adjacent to the Romford to Upminster line.

Young's had bought and refurbished the Sekforde Arms, Clerkenwell. The first Battersea Beerex was advertised for February.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Eileen's front cover cartoon for December 1994/January 1995 showed a disappointed Santa, with empty sack, outside a saloon bar with the disheartening sign, 'Closed'. Idle Moments offered new wording to the tune of 'The twelve days of Christmas', each line mentioning a brew, the last finishing with 'a firki of ESB'.

Andy's Editorial offered a personal view of the year, downsides including the reduction of beer choice in supposedly free houses and ridiculous renaming of pubs. On the upsides he listed the reduction in price of Fuller's Hock and Chiswick Bitter, and the opening of the Sultan, Wimbledon, mentioned last month. The same pub featured in two full page adverts, one presenting Christmas greetings to readers, the other a competition for a minipin of GFB, the 3choice question being the animal origin of the pub's name, this being obvious from the photo on the first advert. The Sultan was then supplying Powerhouse (5% ABV) from the Hop Back Brewery, described as a rich and dark winter ale. Clutterbucks in Tottenham, a Taylor Walker pub, had won the Haringey in Bloom competition for its floral displays and come third in the London in Bloom competition among 31 boroughs. Traffic chaos had been caused at the opening of the Pharaoh & Firkin, Fulham by a 'caravan' of a camel and a belly dancer.

Keith Emmerson presented a learned article originating from Joris Pattyn entitled 'A review of Belle Vue - up the Gueuze without a Kriek' - a review of the beer styles of Belgium and Holland.

'Ten Ways to improve your pub overnight' was a review of part of Jeff Evans' speech at the launch of the 1995 Good Beer Guide. Also reviewed was 'The Four Oaks', a book on the age of the horse resulting from 30 years' research by Keith Chivers, the foremost authority on the history of the Shire Horse. Appropriately, the launch was at Young's Brewery.

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. Please put a penny in the old man's hat.

In the era from which that ditty dates, the donation would easily slake the senior citizen's thirst. Nowadays the figure 'two pounds' would be nearer the mark but it doesn't scan. Would it be pessimistic - or realistic - to substitute 'two-fifty'?

Doubtless elsewhere you will be wished a Happy New Millennium - but not in Switzerland where, with customary efficiency, they've done their sums properly and won't be celebrating for another year. With all the hype going on I heard reports earlier in the year of advanced bookings of astronomical figures for the night of December 31st in pubs and other venues, and bar staff (and baby sitters amongst others) being booked for very inflated sums. I don't need to be Nostradamus to predict that bar bills will match, especially with the inevitable crop of Millennium Ales. No doubt when all the fuss is over the penny will drop that the Swiss are correct, and we'll go through the whole lot again with a showing of Real Millennium Ale - and prices to match.

And so at the end of my tenth year as your Archivist, and that of London Drinker's twenty-first, I can but wish you the customary compliments of the season, a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we say here over the border, Iechyd da!

Martin Smith

View 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



#### A DAY TO REMEMBER

My wife Sue and I hopped on a bus to Teddington from Hampton. First port of call was the Hogarth (I really fancied quaffing a few pints of Chiswick as a starter). Had not been there for a couple of years. The pub was very busy, but got served fairly quickly. The first pint served looked cloudy and the barman changed this very quickly under instruction from (I believe) a most observant landlady sitting on my side of the bar but at the opposite end. The second offering looked and tasted much more promising so I accepted. The landlady then came over to me and appologised for the barman's service, and stated 'her firm commitment to customer service'. The landlord then came over, replaced my beer with more appologies. This couple were clearly committed to their beer and customer service - it's great to see and I hope that other publicans read this article.

We then went to the Kings Arms to have a look at their French restaurant (L'Auberge) which has had great reviews. The beer I tasted was OK (Wells Bombadier), then I soon noticed a familiar face walk in, looking for someone or something. I could place it immediately but could not be absolutely certain. I was convinced it was Michael Jackson - the last time I met him 'in the flesh' was at the GBBF 1998 Belgian Beer tasting session (a treasured possession of mine is Michael's 'The Great Beers of Belgium' which he signed 'To Steve - go for Gueuze'. Whenever I get a chance I do!).

I decided to track him down. Michael was sitting in the restaurant and I just had to confirm his identity and say hello. I was right and immediately mentioned the beer tasting event he hosted (and the numerous publications I possess), he smiled (it proved I was hopefully a serious punter!) And we had a chat. He was most talkative and polite and it was a real pleasure and a surprise for me to meet him again. A moment I shall not forget!

> **Steve Dixie** Hampton

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\* singing voice required Friday evenings

## Idle Moments

## Hello there again. For this month's quotation I turn to John Keats who as long ago as 1958 wrote:

"The automobile changed our dress, manners, social customs, vacation habits, the shape of our cities, consumer purchasing patterns, common tastes and positions in intercourse."

Right, as time is a commodity in short supply at the moment, let's dive straight in to the answers to last month's number puzzles (You may recall that they were all years):

- 1. 1919 Treaty of Versailles
- 2. 1820 George the Third Died
- 3. 929 Death of King Wenceslas of Bohemia
- 4. 1942 Birth of Paul McCartney
- 5. 1886 Opening of the Severn (Railway) Tunnel
- 6. 1930 Airship R-One-O-One Crashed in France
- 7. 1935 Elvis Presley Born in Tupelo, Mississippi
- 8. 1841 Hong Kong Acquired by Britain
- 9. 1812 Napoleon's Retreat from Moscow
- 10, 1899 Outbreak of the Boer War

This month I have reverted to the usual rag-bag (only I think I'll call it a miscellany):

- 1. 7 is the MN of D on a VRP
- 2. 3560 F is the H of MS
- 3. 2 C of MC in the BL
- 4. 9 Pin a RT
- 5. 5 FOWC of JF
- 6. 2200 M is the L of the AT
- 7. 20 PN have SEE on the B (the NO)
- 8. 2,768,400 S in M
- 9. 333 HCS by GG
- 10. 9 MCWC of MH

And as it's getting near to going down the pub time I shall waste no more time before giving you the solutions to last month's brewery anagrams:

1. IVER IS RED 2. GOLD BACK RIVERSIDE

BLACK DOG

- 3. MY COLD SHINE
- **OLD CHIMNEYS**
- 4. FUSS IN TOT TRIAL FIRST IN LAST OUT
- 5. BARRY'S BREW TANK

STRAWBERRY

Now see if you can find the breweries that got devastated to produce these bits of nonsense:

- 1. SPOTTY AID
- 2. MRS. WILL'S GRIM HAT
- 3. HOLD WARES
- 4. DART BIKER
- 5. NURSE MAT

And so we arrive at 5BY4. Just to make life easy, I am continuing to progress through the alphabet to find beers to match with their brewers. This month we have got to the letter G. Can you match these beers (correctly)....

- 1. Goshawk
- 2. Ginger Spice
- 3. Grass Hopper
- 4. Gone Fishing
- 5. Grand Slam
- Green Goddess
- 7. G.B.Mild
- Gubernacula
- 9. Granny Wouldn't Like It
- 10. Golden Arrow

...with these breweries:

- A. Tomintoul
- B. Durham
- C. Cottage
- D. Wolf
- E. Leatherbritches
- F. J.W.Lees
- G. Cotleigh
- H. DarkTribe
- I. Brewery on Sea
- I Green Jack

And so at last we arrive at the usual old tat that rejoices in some grand title like "General Trivia" or "Trivial Knowledge". Anyway, be that as it may, here are some answers; if you still have last month's London Drinker you may find some questions to match them (unless you had some disaster with your copy):

- 1. Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
- 2. The Westminster Bank and National Provincial Bank
- Coins (and medals)
- 4. Propelling a punt (or other boat)
- 5. Glamis Castle
- 6. Ludovic Kennedy
- 7. The Local Defence Volunteers (or LDV)
- 8. Owen Glendower
- 9. Gary Glitter
- 10. £20,000

### — Idle Moments-

And for the last time this year (Did I hear you say Millennium?) Here are this month's questions.

- The name of Earl's Court derives from the manor house (or "Court") of the Earls of which English county which stood there until the Sixteenth Century?
- What area of west London has its name derived from the old English for "Cheese Farm"?
- 3. In the place names Chipping Camden, Chipping Ongar etc., what does the word "Chipping" mean?
- 4. What organisation was founded when Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. met in Akron, Ohio in 1935 and decided to help each other?
- 5. What English town was known to the Romans as Camulodunum?
- 6. By what name is William Bonney (1859-1881) better known (although he was born Henry McCarty)?
- 7. The song "To Celia" by Ben Johnson is usually known by its first line. What is that?
- King James I presided over the Hampton Court Conference of 1604. What was the outcome of this conference
- 9. In what city is the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television located?
- 10. This Prime Minister (1707-78) subsequently became the Earl of Chatham. What was his name?

Before I go, we have a bit of a change this month. Instead of waiting for the next edition, all this month's answers are to be found on page 38 of this edition. I hope this will save you from many long sleepless nights over Christmas since we do not have a January edition.

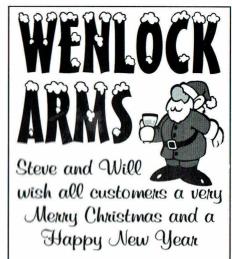
Well that's it for this year. Have a happy Christmas and a fulfilling new year. And I trust that I shall be around to wish you a happy new millennium in twelve month's time.

Andy Pirson

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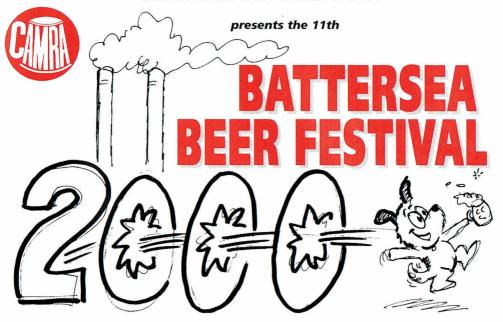
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