



30p

# LONDON DRINKER

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



THE ROYAL OAK, Westminster, SW1





# IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL



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## DRINKING IN AND AROUND SOUTH WEST ESSEX

**T**his is the first column (of hopefully many) of CAMRA SW Essex branch news, but first some geography. The branch covers a large area stretching from the east London areas without E-numbers in their postcodes such as Ilford, Barking and Woodford Green to Grays (home of a large beer festival in June), Tilbury and Stanford Le Hope in the east. The northern boundary reaches Marden Ash (a continuation of Ongar) whilst the Thames borders the south. Only the western part of the branch comes under CAMRA's London Region (the rest being under Essex) and I shall therefore mainly refer to news in this part of the branch. Strangely enough all the branch events in What's Brewing come under East Anglia, so that's where to look (apart from this magazine) for social events to which anyone is welcome.

Having two defined areas means we have the luxury of two Pub of the Year competitions. We have just voted the Chequers, Hornchurch our London area Pub of the Year for the third year running. This is a fine community pub with a long serving landlord. It is a former Romford Brewery pub which now sells the standard CT house beer, the now rarely seen CT Friary Meux Bitter, Youngs Bitter (at about 50p per pint cheaper than most other pubs) and best of all an ever changing guest from a small brewery. It's well worth a visit and is easily reached by bus from Romford and close to Emerson Park station on the Romford to Upminster line.

Sadly a long standing favourite and until recently a Good Beer Guide regular, the Hornchurch Pit Theatre Bar close by is under threat. It has been rumoured that the bar is not going to be open to the public and on a recent visit only Greene King IPA and Abbot were on sale. Previously there were also two beers from small breweries available direct from the cask from a cool room behind the bar and sometimes Greene King seasonals too. Clearly this is a move in the wrong direction and a sad loss of beer choice in the area.

Other pubs in Hornchurch where you should be able to have a good pint or two are JJ Moons, not surprisingly a typical Wetherspoon shop conversion,

which has at least two guest beers and the Fatling and Firkin. The Firkin chain has sometimes been a bit unfairly criticised by CAMRA over the years. Sure, they can be noisy and are standard formula circuit pubs, but the beer is to a high standard and brewed with only the four normal ingredients. The beers here come from the Ford and Firkin in Romford which has a large brewery (for a Firkin) and brews for several pubs as far away as Dover. Those who visited the brewery last year and sampled all four beers straight from the cask in the sampling room were pleasantly surprised.

Finally a number of drinkers think that the best thing that has happened in the SW Essex area in recent years has been the advent of the Mighty Oak Brewery near Brentwood. Initially only in some local pubs, the trade has considerably expanded and the beers have now been seen (and quickly drunk) in some east and north London pubs. I hope to give you more details and maybe a full article in a future issue.

Happy drinking.

Simon Fyffe

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## FULLER'S BRINGS BEACH RUGBY TO LONDON

**W**orld class teams will battle barefoot in 750 tonnes of sand on Saturday 26 June at Hurlingham Park, Fulham, London SW6 when Fuller's launches a new sports spectacular in the shape of the 'Fuller's Beach Rugby International Challenge'.

Fuller's is leaping over the logistical hurdle of the lack of a beach in London by creating its own. 750 tonnes of white sand will be delivered to Hurlingham Park this June, via a convoy of 30 large articulated lorries. A 5,000 seat stadium is being specially built for the event and the highlights of the day will be televised nationally across Britain on Sky Sports.

Some of the world's top rugby personalities will captain the eight international teams. Four women's club teams will also be represented in a separate competition on the day. England captain Peter Winterbottom was delighted to be approached to take part. 'Beach rugby in Britain is certainly a novel idea and I'm looking forward to the challenge of playing on sand - it will be an entertaining day', said Winterbottom.

Each squad will be made up of a maximum of ten players, only half of whom are on the field at any one time. Each game will consist of two six-minute halves and up to three substitutions can be made at any time during play with the departing player tagging his replacement. Otherwise the rules of Rugby Union apply in full - including the scoring system, tackling, mauling and rucking - but with scrums made up of two players from each side and lineouts of one.

The beach atmosphere will be enhanced by palm trees, barbecues and beach bars selling London Pride throughout the day. The tournament begins at 11.00am and the final will take place at 5.00pm. The winning team will be presented with the 'Fuller's London Pride Trophy'.



Left to right: Peter Winterbottom, who will captain England; John Roberts, Fuller's Marketing Director; Damien Cronin, who will play for Scotland, alongside captain Gavin Hastings

John Roberts, Fuller's marketing director said, 'This is our first major sport sponsorship deal and it will complement our recent national television rugby advertising campaign for 'London Pride' - which features Brian Moore, the former Lions and England hooker, reading the Agincourt speech from Henry V. lately, Rugby Union has become a tough professional sport with less time for the mix of competition and sociability that was part and parcel of the game. The Fuller's Beach Rugby International Challenge is designed to address that!'

Fuller's will be raising funds for the Richard Langhorn Trust in the run up to the event via pub promotions and by programme sales on the day. Richard played rugby with the Harlequin Football Club for ten years. He died in 1994 at the age of 29, failing to regain consciousness after undergoing a routine back operation. The Trust was set up in his honour shortly after his death and aims to provide sporting facilities for underprivileged and disabled children.

Tickets for 26 June cost £14.50 each and are available now by telephoning First Call on 0870 8401111 (local rate).

*From a Fuller's Press Release*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## IAIN'S A-HEAD OF THE REST

**I**ain Masson, pictured below, 41, has been appointed head brewer by Greene King. He replaces Alistair Heeley, who recently retired as head brewer after 22 years' service with Greene King and 44 years in the brewing industry.



*continued over the page*

## YOUNG'S PUBS ARE BRITAIN'S BEST

**Y**oung's pubs are the best in Britain, according to the judges of the country's leading licensed trade competition. The 182 pubs, bars, hotels and restaurants owned by the Wandsworth brewer have won the national title of Pub Estate of the Year.

The judges of the Publican Newspaper awards said, 'Young's is a delightful mix of the traditional family brewer and the modern pub business ..... it is not afraid to adopt new formats to attract the trendier drinker and, increasingly, the female pub visitor. Its staff are dedicated, enthusiastic and efficient. It is a fine example of a company dedicated to the British pub industry.'



Paul Collins (left) and Terry O'Connor, with the Pub Estate of the Year trophy, outside the Leather Bottle in Garratt Lane, Tooting

They described Young's as 'a long-established, traditional business which has succeeded by taking a focused approach to excellence in all areas of its business', including customer service, food, wine and beer.

The award was announced at a ceremony at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane.

*From a Young's Press Release*

*continued from page 5*

Iain was born in Ipswich and moved to the Midlands when his father joined bass in Burton-on-Trent. Iain himself joined Bass as a trainee brewer and when he eventually left the company in 1989 to join Greenalls as a quality control manager, he was the holder of an Msc in Malting and Brewing Science and a Diploma Master of the Institute of Brewing.

Iain says that he joined Greene King largely because of the company's commitment to cask ale. "The enthusiasm for cask ale here is tremendous. It's quite clear that the company wants to expand its beer sales, and that we'll only succeed if we brew great beer full of character - ones that will make people want to drink real ale.

"I want to ensure not only that we supply only the highest quality beer to our customers - and that's where my experience in quality control will stand me in good stead - but that the beer stands out, in terms of flavour, from all the rest."

*From a Greene King Press Release*

## APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

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

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Signature ..... Date .....

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership.

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£17 <input type="checkbox"/>	£168 <input type="checkbox"/>	£204 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:  
Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW





## PUB NEWS FROM EAST LONDON AND CITY BRANCH

I have heard some interesting news from the William IV, High Road, Leyton, E10 where serious consideration is being given to establishing a micro-brewery in the old stable block behind the pub. London generally (with a couple of notable exceptions) and East London in particular has missed out on much of the latest rapid expansion in the number of new small breweries and this project will be very good news indeed if it comes off. We can be proud of and enjoy the excellent beer being brewed around London and nearby in Essex, but wouldn't it be good to once again have a truly local brewery in the Branch area.

Reigning East London & City CAMRA Pub of the Year, O'Hanlon's, Tysoe Street, EC1 is now open all day on Sundays and what's more is serving Sunday lunches. I called in on the evening of St Patrick's Day and what a night that turned out to be with crowds of drinkers stretching along the pavement each side of the pub and a huge throng within. As well as 4 O'Hanlon's beers there was a Red Ale from the Carlow Craft Brewery in the Republic of Ireland, brewed, I gather, by John O'Hanlon's cousin. Nearby, the Jerusalem Tavern, Britton Street, EC1 continues to sell up to 6 different cask beers from the St Peter's Brewery of Bungay. This small pub gets very crowded in the early evenings with a 'mobile phone' sort of crowd, but you can usually squeeze in somewhere and the beer is worth the effort. When walking between these two pubs you might pass the Dovetail, Jerusalem Passage, EC1, a staggeringly expensive Belgian beer bar. The place always looks busy so there are presumably people out there who are prepared to pay the prices.

Whilst on the subject of prices, an increasing cause of irritation to me is pubs which charge more for a half pint than half the cost of a full pint. I'm reasonably happy to pay, let's say, 89p for a half where the price of a pint is £1.77. But recently in the West End I was charged £1.15 for a half where the cost of a pint was £2.20 and at a non-CAMRA beer festival I recently attended, all beers were a reasonable £1.75 a pint but halves were charged at £1.00. I wonder if this is even legal? Perhaps one of our learned readers could enlighten me. Maybe it's a job for Trading Standards offices.

Good Beer Guide surveying has just been concluded and for the second year running we had a JD Wetherspoon pub which ruled itself out by saying that it used cask breathers on all its real ales. Meanwhile another Wetherspoon's place had no real ale available on a recent visit. The reason? "Our gas system is not working at the moment". Is it just that the staff in these places don't know what they are talking about, or is there something going on in 'spoon's cellars that

they've been keeping quiet about?

The beer festival at the Walthamstow Town Hall Social Club, Forest Road, E17 was a great success and so many CAMRA members turned up that the club has amended its constitution to admit CAMRA members on non-festival days throughout the rest of the year. On evenings when there is a charge for entertainment, CAMRA members will still need to pay the guest rate, but it will no longer be necessary to find a club member to sign you in to use the bar. Whilst in Walthamstow, I mentioned a couple of months ago that the Market Trader, Hoe Street was now selling a guest real ale. Well, it still is, but the pub has been re-named the Sir Winston Churchill, just in case you are having trouble finding it.

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## RAILWAY PAINTINGS AT THE HEAD OF STEAM

The Head of Steam pub/restaurant/railway museum at 1 Eversholt Street NW1, by the bus station outside Euston Station, is exhibiting 19 paintings by artist Arthur E Gills, an ex-railwayman in Newcastle upon Tyne but who comes from West Ham.

The paintings which now dominate the pub feature railway scenes from around the country, including views of Kings Cross, Euston and Moorgate. It is believed that this is the first exhibition of its type in the capital.

Arthur is a well known railway painter and also a West Ham football club fan (as is our advertising man Barry Tillbrook - Ed) and he always hides the 'hammers' symbol somewhere in his paintings. The exhibition lasts until the end of June.

Among the regular real ale festivals being held at the Head of Steam this year is one each month between May and November featuring as many as possible of the champion beers from each of the last ten Great British Beer Festivals.

*From two Head of Steam Press Releases*

EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER



THREE WORDS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.



# Festivals

## GBBF ENTERTAINMENT

**Question:** When you have the choice of over 500 real ales, numerous ciders and perrys and a wealth of beer from around the world what more do you need?

Answer: Nothing.

However at the Great British Beer Festival we offer far more than that. That is why there is a huge range of things to do while you enjoy the best of beer.

Firstly we have a great range of musical entertainment. Made possible by the very generous sponsorship of the Firkin Brewery Pub Company. The range of acts on offer is better than ever and there is sure to be something for all tastes.

On the opening evening we have something to get you singing along. Buddy Holly and the Cricketers features previous cast members from the stage show "Buddy" and will, naturally, feature all your favourites from the great man.

On Wednesday we slow down slightly with Chaminade, a string quartet at lunch time and the Hendon Brass Band in the evening.

Thursday lunchtime heralds the arrival of Finality Jack for a little folk music from all over Europe and the evening sees the return of beer festival favourites, Mad Jocks with their unique brand of humour and folk music.

A trio of bands make Friday the most musical day of all. At lunch time Jazzy Trousers, a quartet, will

keep you entertained while in the evening we start off with the Fabulistics, 13 musicians who love their soul! To top the evening off there is Utter Madness, no, not the staff talent contest but a wonderfully faithful tribute to the eighties pop sensations. Don't forget to wear your baggy trousers!

On Saturday we conclude the musical extravaganza with Skokiaan (*if you can pronounce it answers on a postcard please...*) If you have the energy by this time then you will be up and dancing to the township jump and swing that they pump out.

Also on Saturday there is the chance to test your brain power. Once again Fullers are sponsoring a pub quiz with many great prizes. It is only £5 per team to enter so gather up all your intelligent friends!

If all that isn't enough to keep you entertained then I am shocked. However, there is more! The hard workers at CAMRA fundraising will be providing a myriad of games from bar skittles to tombolas.

All of this can be found at Olympia from the 3rd - 7th August. See [www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~beerfest/](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~beerfest/) or ring 01727 867 201 for more information.

See you there!



## BATTERSEA 1999 FESTIVAL REPORT

**T**he tenth Battersea Beer Festival, held in February, attracted some 3000 customer visits to the Grand Hall over three days. Unexpectedly, more beer and cider were drunk this year than over the four days of the 1998 festival, resulting in a healthy contribution to Campaign funds. South West London Branch continued its partnership with Battersea Dogs' Home which had its own stall and collecting tins at the Festival.

The festival was formally opened by Battersea MP Martin Linton, a self-confessed fan of cask conditioned ale, who recalled his long walks in the early 1970s in search of a decent pint. After his speech he underlined his enthusiasm by signing up as a CAMRA member.

Drinkers voted Kelham Island Pale Rider as the Beer of the Festival. In second place was Oakham JHB, with last year's champion, Rooster Yankee, coming in third. Branch Pub of the Year for 1998, announced at the festival, was the Priory Arms free house in South Lambeth (winning the competition for the fourth time). Runner-up was the Sultan (Hop Back) in South Wimbledon, while in third place was the Queen Adelaide (Young's) in Wandsworth.

Apart from some protests about the availability of beer at the beginning and end of the festival, customers' comments were evenly split between compliments and complaints. Indeed, there were things some particularly liked which others equally strongly disliked. All feedback is gratefully received. Whilst it is evident that we cannot please all of the people all of the time, we learn from each year's festival in order to please more of you more the next time. Thanks are due to all our customers and hard working staff for the success of this year's event. The prospects are now good for an eleventh Battersea Beer Festival - the first London beer festival of the year 2000.

# Festivals

## CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN

**E**very year, CAMRA seeks out the best beers in Britain. This is done by numerous tasting panels around the country, individual CAMRA members' votes and votes from local beer of the festival competitions. After twelve months of dedication, the final tasting for the 1999 Champion Beer of Britain takes place on the morning of Tuesday 3rd August at the Great British Beer Festival. And for the first time ever, you can attend, even if you are not a CAMRA member.

This year, the announcements of the Champion Beer of Britain Awards will take place during the Trade Session. The Session is being sponsored by a wholesaler, The Beer Seller, who will also be having a brewery stand in the National Hall, which will feature a range of beers from breweries that this wholesaler represents.

Guy Newell, the Group Managing Director, started the operation in the 1980s after owning a pub in the South West. Having experienced the problems of keeping good real ale, he remains dedicated to the quality of real ale. As a consequence, The Beer Seller has invested in ensuring that beer is kept at optimum temperatures during storage and delivery.

The Beer Seller sponsorship has allowed the

Festival to expand the Trade Session, which will now start at 1.45pm instead of 3pm. And, as a special thank you to Season Ticket Holders, their tickets will allow them to attend this unique session. This means that, for the first time ever you have a route to hearing the results of the Champion Beer of Britain.

Season tickets cost: £16 or £13.50 for CAMRA members (plus 50p booking charge per order to cover p&p); phone 01727 867201. If you cannot afford this, then why not have a go at the London Drinker Cross Word where for the next three months, starting this month, you can win a pair of season tickets. Or, if you are a CAMRA member, come and work and hear it all for free!

The Great British Beer Festival is open 3rd-7th August at Olympia.

**A constantly changing selection of ales from micro breweries up and down the country. Over 2000 different ales served to date with always something new to try.**

**Adnams Bitter & Broadside plus Harveys Best always available. A good selection of German bottled beer including Wheat beers, Kolschbier and smoked malt Rauchbier. Thatchers traditional cider, Belgian beers and Fruit Wines.**

**Function room for hire. Quiz on Sundays. Cask Marque quality award. Selected for the 1999 CAMRA Good Beer Guide.**

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1992, 1994, 1996 & 1998**

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a genuine free house

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# Letters to the Editors

## Dear Editors,

I was interested to read about the latest incarnation of the "Nags Head" in Hampstead, having visited it in both its Midsummer Inns and McMullen's days. Early theme pub it may have been, but it could not have once been called "The Cruel Sea" in order to commemorate the "Cockleshell Heroes".

"The Cruel Sea" was a fictional story by Nicholas Monsarrat set on a corvette during the Second World War's Battle of the Atlantic. It was later turned into a acclaimed black & white film of the same name by Ealing Studios starring Jack Hawkins and Donald Sinden, and was released in 1953.

The "Cockleshell Heroes" were a genuine group of British commandos who carried out a raid against German ships anchored in Bordeaux harbour using canoes. This too was loosely the basis of a film, though in colour and with a screenplay by Bryan Forbes and released in 1955, but was far less successful at the box office.

Either way the subjects seem more tasteful than that of "The Great Escape", WC1 (now Mabel's Tavern), which once considered WW2 prisoner of war camps a suitable theme for light-hearted treatment.

Ask Bernie Peal if you want real knowledge of British films circa 1940-60!]

Yours sincerely,  
Kim Rennie (Mr)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Dear Editors,

The first surprise upon entering one of my favourite north London watering holes was seeing all but one of the usual ample selection of pump-clips turned around. When being served, I pretended to agonise over the 'choice' of real ale available (not) before deciding on the sole option - Theakston's Best. What was this? An extremely bad example of poor cellarman'ship? A lightning strike by the distributors?

'What will you do when this runs out?' I asked the lady behind the bar. 'Nothing' she replied. 'We're closing down tomorrow!' Suddenly all became clear. This was obviously one of the smaller Wetherspoons pubs being disposed of as part of a shake-up of their estate.

On my first visit in the post-Wetherspoon's era a few days later, the ubiquitous audio speakers were already in place (but fortunately still mute), whilst brackets heralded the imminent arrival of

TV screens all around the building.

I returned in early April to find the transformation complete. Noisy music blared out throughout the premises, though I was lucky enough to have missed the televised Saturday sport apparently shown earlier. Evening meals which were once served until 22.00 now ceased at 20.00, and part of the rear 'no smoking' area was now being used as a (chain) smoking and rest area for bar and kitchen staff (even though, as I said earlier, no meals were being provided).

The privacy afforded by the seating bays abutting the walls had been destroyed by the removal of the centre pane of glass in each dividing panel, simply because these had borne the dreaded 'W' symbol. They were removed one lunchtime virtually over the heads of bemused drinkers, and at time of writing had still not been replaced by substitutes. Behind the bar, the once brightly chalked blackboards remained as bare as they were the day after the takeover.

This was now just another run-of-the-mill inner city north London pub, just like hundreds of others which I wouldn't normally give a second glance to. Death by Wetherspoons - and not Whether/with a bang, but with a whimper...

Yours sincerely,  
Kim Rennie  
London EC3



## Beer Festivals

- **Head of Steam, Euston, NW1**  
25 April-1 May 0171 388 2221
- **Head of Steam, Euston, NW1**  
16-19 May 0171 388 2221
- **Windsor Castle, Carshalton**  
27-31 May 0181 669 1191
- **Station Arms, Southminster**  
28-31 May 01621 772225

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

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0181 989 7523**

# Adnams at The Bleeding Heart Tavern

**Adnams newest outlet in London, The Bleeding Heart Tavern at 19 Greville Street in Holborn, is not exactly new. It first started trading some 200 years ago.**

The first record of the Tavern, on the corner of Bleeding Heart Yard and Charles Street, (as Greville Street was then called) is in the 1746 edition of the London Register of Innkeepers and Alehouse Keepers. The licensee is listed as one Roger Hebden, a gentleman with no criminal convictions.

At that time, Charles Street had virtually a tavern on every corner - indeed Holborn boasted one tavern for every five private dwellings. Drunkenness and debauchery were rife, and some taverns boasted their customers could be "drunk for a penny, and dead drunk for twopence". Many Holborn taverns offered a back room with "free straw" where drunken customers were laid out end to end to sleep it off until they were ready to carouse once more.

The Bleeding Heart Tavern continued to trade until 1946. In that year the Tavern relinquished its licence to become The New Windsor Grill cafe, and Charles Street was renamed Greville Street.

In June of this year the New Windsor Grill's lease expired. The freeholder of the building which housed The New Windsor Grill, Robert Wilson, owner of the Bleeding Heart Restaurant and Bistro within Bleeding Heart Yard, decided the time was right to restore the site to its former glory.

"At Bleeding Heart Restaurant we have more than 450 wines on the list but no beer. Restoring the Bleeding Heart Tavern would give us the opportunity to reach a part of the market we had never reached before - ale drinkers", said Wilson. "There was never any question about which beer we would choose - with a weekend place in Suffolk, I've always been an Adnams man".

Wilson has worked closely with Adnams to ensure that the beer is served to his Holborn customers in peak condition from a newly installed state of the art temperature controlled cellar. "Someone once said to us that Adnams didn't travel well - you just have to taste our beer here at the Bleeding Heart Tavern to know that whoever said that must have been a rival brewer!"



*The* **BLEEDING HEART** *Tavern*



## REAL BEER HITS ITALY

**The whole thing started when I was in Nice, in the South of France, visiting “La Cervoiserie” at 50 Rue Trachet. La Cervoiserie claims to be France’s smallest brewery, with all the plant incorporated in the bar counter. Hopefully the Editors will ask me to write about it sometime in the future, because this article concerns a different and newer microbrewery.**

Aldo, who I met in La Cervoiserie, was from Genoa some 100 miles along the coast. He was a professional musician, come to Nice to give recitals on the ocarina during the Carnival. Also, he was a beer lover and it was he who told me about this new microbrewery in Genoa. I decided to make a visit.

Alighting from the train in Genoa’s main station (Piazza Principe) you proceed straight ahead down Via Balbi until you pass the Palazzo Reale on the right. Turn right into Via Rospo and then second on the left into Via Polipo. A narrow alley, Calle Liquirza, is about 50 metres down on the right and here you will find Birreraria Culatorotto.

The bar/café/microbrewery is owned jointly by two brothers, Guglielmo and Ferrando Albanese. Guglielmo has been in the café business for some 15 years but Ferrando’s work as a representative for a local export company had taken him to many parts of Europe, including the UK, Belgium and Germany. As a result, Ferrando became a beer lover and connoisseur. Returning to Italy, he persuaded his brother to join in the venture of establishing a microbrewery. “Obviously, as a wine drinking country, Italians do not go in much for beer, and domestically produced beers are pretty ordinary. Breweries such as Moretti and Pironi produce lagers in the German style but because they use a high proportion of non-malt in the mash (e.g. rice) and have low hop rates, the results are thin and bland.”

Ferrando’s mission is to brew “birre di cazzo” (literally “beers of the tap”) which are brewed with nothing but malt, hops, water & yeast and are not pasteurised. They cannot be equated exactly with real ale as we define it in Britain as they are allowed to drop bright and are stored under a light CO<sub>2</sub> blanket connected to a demand valve system. They certainly do not taste overly gassy however.

Cazz’imbocca Bionda is in the Pilsener style and is 5.5% ABV. It is well hopped and dry and

has a big meaty mouthfeel with an aftertaste, which is slightly herbal and slightly peppery. It is extremely popular with sailors from the US Navy, whose ships of the Mediterranean Fleet regularly put into Genoa. Ferrando is philosophical about this. “American beer is pretty bad in general but maybe these guys are learning what beer can be like and maybe will look for something better when they return home. But it is the Italian drinker I wish to influence.”

He doesn’t do badly in that respect however. But the locals who patronise Culatorotto in their numbers tend to prefer Cazz’incolculo Bruno, a strong dark beer at 7% ABV. It has a rich puddingy taste with lots of fruitiness and a distinct chocolate flavour. I thought it excellent, although it is not a session beer.

The third beer is Cazzo di Cristoforo Colombo (8.5%) named after Genoa’s most famous citizen. It is an aromatic, straw coloured beer, which reminded me slightly of Duvel although the latter is top fermented and produced by a complicated mashing system. It has a huge flowery hop aroma with plenty of bitterness on the palate together with a complex array of grace note flavours. It drinks all too easily for a beer of its strength and so should be treated with caution.

Ferrando has no immediate plans to introduce new beers to his range, although he has plenty of ideas. “At the moment, all our beers do well and we want to see if it stays that way over the next six months to a year. At the moment, our range is still in the novelty stage so it is possible that one or other may decline in popularity and need to be substituted.”

Surprisingly, Culatorotto is not Italy’s first micro. According to Ferrando, one has been going for nearly two years now in Udine in the north of the country although it seems to cater mainly for Austrians who cross the border to shop in Italy. A second was established in late 1997 in the ski resort of Courmayeur in the Valle d’Aosta region where it caters principally for

*continued over the page*

*continued from page 13*

hard drinking but indiscriminating package tour holidaymakers. "I think we are not the first house brewery in Italy but the first to brew for high quality" says Ferrando.

Culorotto is well worth a visit if the chance permits. As well as first rate beers, Guglielmo's wife Suonatrice is a first rate cook and produces a limited but first rate menu of dishes with the accent heavily weighted in favour of locally caught fish. As yet, she has not got into cooking with beer, something with which both Guglielmo and Ferrando are quite happy. "Apart from the Belgian carbonades and one or two other dishes, I found most dishes cooked with beer to be disappointing," says Ferrando "Many seem totally artificial and pretentious. We may be in the business of selling good beers to Italians but using beer in beer in food is going to far. Strongly flavoured beers and fish for example do not mix well."

I was tempted to agree after trying spaghetti alle vongole verace – spaghetti with clams in their shells cooked in nothing but olive oil and garlic – followed by seppie ala griglia (grilled cuttle fish) prepared with nothing but a few herbs sprinkled over them. To have added beer to either of these beautifully simple dishes would have been gross, although it would no doubt have been greeted with delight by some so-called beer writers.

Talking of beer writers, Ferrando told me that he had not yet been visited by Michael Jackson. This news rounded off a wonderful visit: magnificent beers, excellent food and the chance to write about the place before the Great One. Chalk one up to the Beerstalker and next month read about a new microbrewery in France where the score goes to two-nil!

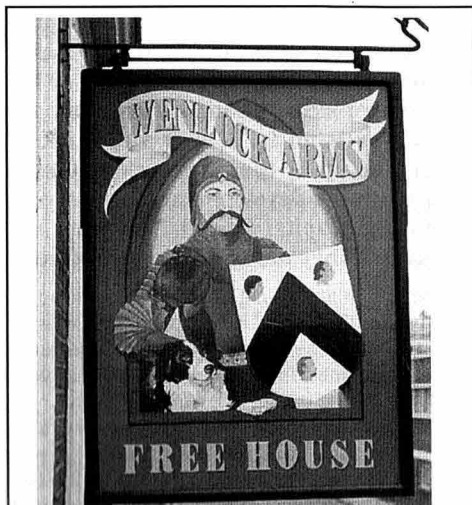
**Gerry Hayward ("The Beerstalker")**

**Back numbers** of most editions of London Drinker are available from:

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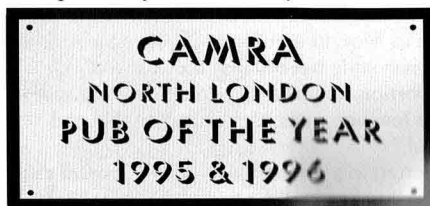
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# Branch Update

## BRANCH DIARY

**W**elcome 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 May are listed below.

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

Wed 12 (8.00) Business Meeting. Royal Oak, Tabard Street SE1, anyone interested welcome.

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

Sat 8 (7.00) Support Mild Action Day. Princes Royal, West Croydon, Clifton Arms SE25, Windsor Castle Carshalton. - Thu 13 (8.00) Two Pub Social. Meet in The Oval Tavern, Oval Road, East Croydon, then The Builders Arms, Leslie Park Road. - Wed 19 (7.30) Curry Social. In The Cottage Room of The Windsor Castle, 178 Carshalton Road, Carshalton. - Tue 25 (8.30) Branch Meeting. The Dog and Bull, 24 Surrey Street, Croydon. - Sun 30 (12 noon) Beer Festival Social. Windsor Castle, in the Cottage Room, address as above.

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

Mon 10 Branch Meeting. OLD SPOTTED DOG, Upton Lane, E7, we will meet wherever we can find room in this large pub, probably in one of the old rooms at the front. If time permits we will make a visit to the new Wetherspoon pub, the HUDSON BAY after the meeting. -

Fri 14 (7.00) Joint Social with Herts and Essex Borders Branch. Based on the Liverpool Street area, we will meet at the PRIDE OF SPITALFIELDS and take it from there. More details from Branch Contact nearer the time. - Thur 10 (8.00) New Pubs Social. CUMBERLAND ARMS, Cumberland Road, E13. Not really a new pub this, but our first visit since the pub has been taken over by Ridley's of Chelmsford, 2-3 of whose beers should be on sale. The nearest station is Plaistow on the District line. - Advance Notice for June Mon 7 **Branch AGM.** This meeting which will take place at the BIRKBECK TAVERN, Langthorne Road, Leyton, E11 at 8.00pm.

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

Tue 4 May (9.00) Social: Cock & Dragon, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters EN4. - Sun 9 (12.00) 'Noodles & Nectar' Chinese buffet lunch: meet Gilpen's Bell, 50/54 Fore St, Upper Edmonton N18, then to 'Magical Wok' restaurant, 64 Fore St, N18. £5.95 per head. - Tue 11 (9.00) Social: Green Dragon, 889 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21. - Wed 19 (9.00) Social: Joiners Arms, 51 Ballards Lane, Finchley Central N3. - Thu 27 (9.00) Social & London Drinker pick up: Railway Tavern, 3 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet EN5. - Sat 29 Pub Crawl of Hampstead: meet (12.00) Flask, 14 Flask Walk, then (12.45) Wells Tavern, 30 Well Walk; (1.15) Duke of Hamilton, 23 New End; (2.00) Horse & Groom, 68 Heath St; (2.30) Holly Bush, 22 Holly Mount; (3.30) Three Horseshoes, 28 Heath St. All timings approximate. - Advance Notice: Wed 9 June (8.30) Branch AGM: Inn on the Green, 295 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13, in upstairs function room. Guest speaker invited.

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

Sat 8 (10.45am) Hogsback minibus trip from New Malden. £8.00 to book a seat contact Clive Taylor, also pick-ups at Surbiton Railway Station (11.00am), return about 7:30pm. - Sun 16 (11.30am) Lunchtime trip to the East End, train to Waterloo, tube to Aldgate East. Visit Pride of Spitalfields & The Alma, Eat afterwards in a Brick Lane Curry House. Trains Surbiton 11:46, New Malden 11:51, Waterloo 12:13, or Kingston 11:30, Norbiton 11:32, New Malden 11:35, Waterloo 11:57, meet outside Coopers opposite platform 3. - Thu 20 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Royal George, Hersham. - **Advance Notice** for June, Sat 12 (6.45) Evening minibus trip to 3 North Downs pubs. £7.00 to book a seat contact Clive Taylor. Pick up New Malden 6:45, Surbiton railway 7:00, Ewell/Epsom 7:10

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

Mon 3 (8.00) Branch Social. WENLOCK ARMS, 26 Wenlock Road, N1 - Tue 11 (8.00) Hampstead Crawl. Start SPANIARDS, Spaniards Road, NW3 then JACK STRAWS CASTLE, North End Way; HOLLY BUSH, 22 Holly Mount - Tue 18 (8.00) Branch Social. GRAND JUNCTION ARMS, Acton Lane, NW10 - Tue 25 (8.00) Stoke Newington Crawl. Start ROSE & CROWN, 199 Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 then (9.00)

*continued over the page*

# Branch Update

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STEPTOES, 102 Stoke Newington Church Street; (10.00) ROCHESTER CASTLE, 143-145 Stoke Newington Church Street - Mon 31 (8.00) Branch Social. WENLOCK ARMS, 26 Wenlock Road, N1.

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

CAMRA's National Mild Day is Saturday 8 May - if you fancy a few pints in convivial surroundings, come along to the Magpie & Crown, 128 High St, Brentford, in the evening. On 20 May we have scheduled a two pub social in Richmond - just drinking; no Branch business, in line with popular demand! The Duke of York was more recently of course Arkwright's Wheel but has now reverted to its former name and been designated a Festival Ale House by Allied Domecq. There is usually a good selection - hope to see you there.

Sat 8 (7.00) Mild day Social. Magpie and Crown, 128 High Street, Brentford. - Tue 11 (8.00) Open Branch Meeting. Beehive, 333 Staines Road, Bedfont. - Thu 20 (8.00) 2 Pub Social. Old Ship, 3 King Street, Richmond, then (9.30) Duke of York, 29 Kew Road.

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

As promised last month, most of May is taken up by pub crawls to publicise this year's Catford Beer Festival, to be held at the usual venue, Lewisham Theatre, in Catford, from 16th-19th June. This is a great opportunity to visit pubs we do not have meetings in and do your bit of campaigning. After all, that is what CAMRA is all about!. If anyone would like to help out at this year's Festival, then please contact Roz Cox on 0181-697-6939.

Wed 5 (7.30) Joint Committee/Branch Meeting. ROYAL OAK, 44 Tabard Street, SE1. - Sat 8 (1.00) Catford Beer Festival Publicity Crawl. Meet at CATFORD RAM, 9 Winslade Way, SE6 - Tue 11 (7.30) CBF Crawl. Meet WATCH HOUSE, 198-204 Lewisham High Street, SE13. - Wed 12 (8.00) London Pubs Group. ROYAL OAK, 44 Tabard Street, SE1. - Tue 18 (7.30) CBF Crawl. Meet at PLUME OF FEATHERS, 19 Park Vista, SE10. - Mon 24 (7.30) CBF Crawl. Meet at FEWTERER AND FIRKIN, 315 Kirkdale, SE26. Thu 27 (8.00) Social Crawl. Meet at ALLIANCE, 91 High Street, South Norwood, SE25. - Sat 29 (1.00) CBF Crawl. Meet at PARTRIDGE, Market Place, Bromley.

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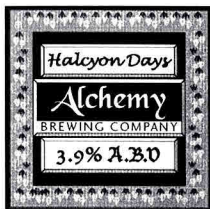
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\* Both beers are regularly available at the Old Crown, 83 Thames Street, Weybridge and the Bricklayer's Arms, 6-8 Queen's Road, Hersham



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Restaurant food is modern British; robust dishes with a light touch. We aim to offer the best in the City; in gastronomic terms and in terms of service and ambience.

# Branch Update

*continued from page 16*

**SOUTH WEST ESSEX.** Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H), e-mail: swessex@clara.co.uk.

Tue 4 (8.30) Social. Moon under Water, Broxburn Drive (Junction of Cawdor Avenue), South Ockendon – Come and see what J D Wetherspoon has done to the Troubadour! - Tue 11 (8.30) Loughton High Street (A121) Mini Pub-Crawl. Starting at Last Post – Number 227; then (9.15) Holly Bush – Number 140; and finishing (10.00) Royal Standard – Number 124/126. - Thu 20 (8.30) Social. Fatling & Firkin, 109 High Street (A124), Hornchurch. - Thu 27 (8.30) Out of Area/All Essex **FOUR** Mild Social. Prince of Wales, Woodham Road (near B1012), Stow Maries. - Tue 15 Day Trip to Southwold – Details from Mark Leslie on 01277 220801.

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

As reported elsewhere, the Priory Arms free house in South Lambeth won the Branch Pub of the Year award (for the fourth time) for 1998. Following a Branch presentation on 10 April, licensees Gary and Nicky Morris have now got another CAMRA certificate to add to their collection! The Priory will be the focus for more Branch activity in May, participating in National Mild Day on Saturday 8th and hosting the Branch AGM two days later.

On 27th we shall be visiting one of the most fashionable districts within the Branch area, Clapham Old Town. There are several pubs here in close proximity, some catering for younger, monied drinkers with little interest in cask-conditioned ale, but also a number of more traditional hosteleries that are keeping the real ale flag flying. We shall be concentrating on the latter! All are welcome to join the crawl - details above.

Our cricket season starts with the home match against the Priory Arms on 9 May. Fixtures are also arranged for 16th and 23rd. Players of all abilities are welcome. Contact Andy Robinson on 0181-653 8885.

Sat 8 May - National Mild Day. Milds available at Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8. - Sun 9 Cricket at home v Priory Arms: meet by 1.30 at the Sultan, 78 Norman Rd SW19. - Mon 10 (7.30) Open Branch Committee Meeting followed by Branch AGM (membership cards required): Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way SW8 (upstairs room). - Thu 27 Crawl of Clapham Old Town area: Early taste (6.30-7.00) Windmill, Clapham Common South Side SW4, otherwise meet (7-7.30) Goose & Granite, 196 Clapham High St (by Clapham Common tube station); then (8.00) Rose & Crown, 2 The Polygon; (8.30) Prince of Wales, 38 Old Town; (9.00) Friesian & Firkin, 87 Rectory Grove; (9.30) Mistress P's, 29 North St; (10.00) Tim Bobbin, 1 Lillieshall Rd; finally (10.30) Plough Inn, 518 Wandsworth Rd SW8.

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

Sun 2 (8.00) Branch Committee Meeting. West Herts Sports Club. - Wed 5 (8.30) Social. Kings Head, Hunton Bridge, survey Dog and Partridge. - Wed 12 (8.30) Club Social. British Legion Club, Ebury Road, Rickmansworth. - Thu 20 (8.00) Herts Liaison Meeting. Flag and Firkin. - Fri 28 (2.00) Fullers Brewery Visit. Names to Martin on Watford 252412. - Sun 30 (8.00) Branch Committee Meeting. West herts Sports Club.

**WEST LONDON.** Di Kehoe 0171-218 3999 (W).

Wed 5 (8.00) Branch AGM. White Horse, 1 Parsons Green SW6, please be early as meeting will start on time. - Thu 13 (8.00) Pub Crawl. Start Dove, 19 Upper Mall W6, then (8.45) Salutation, 154 King Street W6, (9.30) Thatched House, 15 Dalling Road W6, (10.15) Andover Arms, 57 Aldensley Road W6. - Wed 26 Social. Hogshead, 11 Dering Street W1.

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

Mon 3 (12.00) Just Out Of Branch Crawl. Plough, Falcon, Green Man and Swan, Denham; Lambert Arms, Turpins, Nine Stiles and Waggon & Horses, New Denham, then Swan & Bottle and Crown & Treaty House, Uxbridge *approx 1-2 pubs every hour, all venues accessible by half hourly 331 bus from Uxbridge Station (LT Travelcards/Bus Passes valid)*. - Wed 12 (8.30) Branch AGM. Drayton Court Hotel, The Avenue, West Ealing (membership cards required). - Thu 20 Vale Brewery Trip: 10.17 train ex Marylebone to Haddenham & Thame Parkway 11.28 thence crawl around Long Crendon/Thame before brewery trip round Vale at 4.30 and buffet at nearby Rising Sun 6.30; return from Haddenham Station at 20.57 or 22.02. *Numbers limited so apply early; please contact Social Secretary for further details and confirmation of train times when new timetables are published.* - Wed 26 (7.30) Millennium Mayor's Beer Sampling & London Drinker pick up: Photographer & Firkin, High St, Ealing (7.30) and Red Lion, St Mary's Rd, Ealing (9.00). - Mon 31 (12.00) Bentley Priory Ramble: Moon & Sixpence, Uxbridge Rd, Hatch End; Case is Altered, Old Redding, Harrow Weald Common; Vine & Malthouse, Stanmore Hill, Stanmore *approx 1 pub every 90 minutes*.

Deadline for the June edition, 7th May. Material for July to arrive by 11th June. **Please be sure to send all diary material to Ian Amy.**



The South East London Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale presents



**Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> to Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> June**

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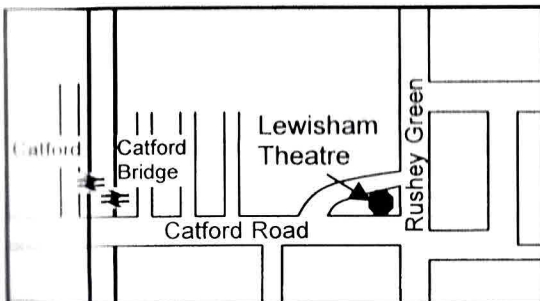
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## THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FROTH BLOWERS

I have recently been given a membership booklet for the Ancient Order of Froth Blowers. This organisation was of a charitable nature and my Mum and Dad were both members in the late 1940's. I remember then telling me that when keg beer was introduced, they used to go mob-handed into a keg pub and order a pint of the filthy liquor each and raise their glasses and blow the froth over the unfortunate publican; put the glasses back on the counter and walk out without paying! This was repeated in every keg or lager outlet in the place until they settled down to drink their favourite Mild, Bitter or Special. With my parents, it was the Star Brewery SBA from Eastbourne. (taken over and closed by Courage). Thanks to the Froth Blowers our family was introduced to real ale at an early age. Thank you John Smallwood for letting me have the booklet and Mike Moran for preparing the following extracts for the magazine. If any readers have further information on what seems to be the prototype for the S.P.B.W. and CAMRA, this would be much appreciated by the editors to whom it should be sent.

Chris Cobbold

This is the first page of the Membership Booklet.

## DO YOU GOLLOP YOUR BEER WITH ZEST?

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The Metropolitan Police have been requested not to arrest, annoy, or apprehend any member under or over the influence of Froth, should the said member be wearing the A.O.F.B. cuff links at the time of the debauch.

E “drinks round” D  
if not wearing a.o.f.b. links when challenged

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# Feature

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These are the Rules of the Order.

## — Observandum —

For all ordained Froth-Blowers and  
all  
Affiliated Communities devoted to  
the Tankard- Lifting Crafts and Arts

1. No toasts to be accorded to, or honoured by, any member or guest adopting a prone or recumbent position.
2. Lager Beer is not considered to be eligible as an implement of work in the profession of a genuine Froth Blower. It is unseemly and should be avoided always excepting by Naval Officers visiting German Colonies (if any).
3. All tankards should be tilted towards the mouth and not the ear.
4. On no account should water be poured or left in any tankard. Many Deaths and Apoplectic seizures having resulted from this Unpardonable Crime.
5. Froth Blowers, when fraternally blowing, are to remain seated, excepting only on the sudden entrance of the following, - Bombs or High Explosives, Money Lenders, Defaulting Bookmakers, Conscientious Objectors, Treacle Benders Apprentices, swarms of Bees or Bugs and Bits of Fluff. In the event of any unusual occurrence, the judgement and good taste of the Senior Froth Blower will suffice.
6. For the benefit of unseasoned F.B.'s three gulps to the pint and fourteen to the gallon are customary. A little latitude is allowed on Guest Nights and on Declarations of Peace or War or Both.
7. F.B.'s, if unable to sing or are ordered to abstain from trying to sing, are advised to croon (softly). This produces Aridity of the Palate and Oesophagus.
8. Aspiring F.B.'s invalidated out of, or Blackballed by other communities, by reason of Borborygmus, are eligible for election, assuming always that they juxtapose themselves near the piano or gramophone.
9. Weird and wonderful rules, invented for the maintenance of good order and amusement of F.B.'s, may be sent to the Hon.Sec., for circulation and general observance.
10. A.O.F.B. cuff links will be worn on all ceremonial occasions. "Crossing the Barman" is unceremonial and links should be removed with shirt.
11. A.O.F.B. cuff links will not be worn with Oxford Bags or Borstal Blazers. Special permits are issued for wearing A.O.F.B. links in the U.S.A.
12. Under penalty of drinks round, A.O.F.B. cuff links must be worn on all occasions of festivity, or thirst.
13. A.O.F.B. cuff links need not be worn under the following circumstances:-

When here is only water or cocoa on the table and no beer within 125 miles radius.

When under going Surgical Operations, Short Arm Inspections, Pack Drill, Competing for Light Weight Boxing Championship, Riding Favourite in the Derby, Testing Giant Super Bombers, Playing Crown and Anchor, Picking Pockets and other Kindred Sports for which a Blue is not awarded.

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## POSTAL DRINKER 2

**This is the second instalment of my attempt to drink a pint in every one of London's 119 postal districts in 1999. I managed 11 in January which were featured in my article in March's London Drinker. As I give up alcohol for Lent I had until Shrove Tuesday (Feb 16) for this months pubs.**

On the first Sunday of February I went to Woodford in the afternoon to visit a friend. When I leave him after tea I walk down to South Woodford (E18). This is a small, suburban district of mainly thirties housing. Some of you may remember staying there at the Queen Mary College Halls of Residence when they were used as accommodation for GBBF staff. There are only four pubs in E18 but all of them sell real ale. A new Hogshead pub in George Lane is also being developed and will be open some time this year.

The one I visit is the George which is a large one-bar Bass pub next to the Odeon cinema, where I have a pint of Fullers London Pride. Two of the other pubs (the White Hart and the Napier Arms) are also Bass, and the other one (the Railway Bell next to the Tube station) sells Courage beers. None of the four pubs are particularly interesting and the pubs in Woodford itself, just north of E18, provide a better choice. One of these, the Cricketers (McMullen), is just a few feet outside of E18.

After leaving the George I walk down into the next district E11. The northern most part of E11 is known as Wanstead and feels more like a village due to the fact it is cut off from the rest of the district, which is known as Leytonstone, by a roundabout. Wanstead has six pubs although Leytonstone itself has about twenty. The pub I choose is the Nightingale which is in front of a green and has the feel of a village local. The Nightingale has five beers on, all from the Courage beer range, and I have a pint of Charles Wells Bombardier.

The Duke of Edinburgh, which was the ELAC branch's darts venue, is in the same road and there is a Wetherspoon pub, also called the George, by Wanstead station. I was going to pop in the George but a 101 bus comes along and I get on it to go to East Ham (E6). Opposite the Town Hall is the Millers Well, a Wetherspoon pub. This is smaller than average for a Wetherspoon pub and has a more pub-like character than some of their more barn-like conversions. The usual range is on sale and I have a pint of Shepherd Neame Spitfire.

It is pleasing to note that the pub is quite full for a Sunday night.

Later in the week I have to go to Forest Gate (E7) for an interview. I have already done E7 so I walk to Stratford (E15) Town Centre where I try the Swan. This used to be a keg disco pub but is now under new management. It has been refurbished in a super-pub style with the emphasis on drink, food and conversation and no games or music. There are three beers on and I have a pint of Wadworths 6X. The days newspapers are also available. While the Swan is now aimed at the town centre trade and lacks the character of a true local it is a welcome addition to the Stratford drinking scene.

For the Saturday before Lent I get the bus to Canning Town. This is part of E16 which is a former docklands area but without the redevelopment that the Isle of Dogs has had. According to the ELAC guide there are forty-two pubs in E16 of which eleven sell real ale. However twelve of these pubs are closed down and of the eleven listed as real ale outlets five no longer sell real ale.

Of the ten pubs I try four are closed down, two are shut and the other four have no real ale. The only good point is that one of the four, the Ram, has two handpumps with Youngs clips although I was told the beer will not be on until mid-April. The Ram is attached to a Carlsberg-Tetley distribution plant and has been refurbished, apparently with a view to attracting trade from new housing estates nearby.

Perhaps further redevelopment, including a new university campus, will bring new pubs and bring back real ale to some of the others. Until then the best bet seems to be going to London City Airport and getting a plane to Belgium or Germany.

As there was a tube strike on the Monday I use some of the obscure railway lines for a crawl round North London. Firstly I use the Barking-Gospel Oak to go to Gospel Oak and then walk down to Kentish Town (NW5). Here I try the district's GBG pub, the Pineapple, a small back

*continued on page 25*



# **The Bridge House**

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Function Room (with own bar) available

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ales are served at optimum temperature

**“A taste of Suffolk  
in London”**

*continued from page 23*

street free house where most of the customers are watching the charms of Carol Vorderman on Countdown. Two beers are on and I have a pint of Marstons Pedigree. After this I go back to Kentish Town station and get a train to Cricklewood (NW2).

Right out of the station and left into Cricklewood Broadway brings me to another GBG pub the Beaten Docket which is a large Wetherspoon pub with their usual range. As there is a special promotion with Shepherd Neame Spitfire at 99p choice of beer is rather easy. This pub was (and maybe still is) John Crynes local. Another attraction here is a curry night every Thursday.

Leaving the Docket I head south to Kilburn (NW6) as I know there is a Youngs pub, the Queens Arms, in the High Street. Unfortunately it is at the far end of the High Street which means an extra twenty minutes walk and when I get there it is in the throes of renovation. One bar is closed and the other has no decoration, games or music. This makes the whole effect flat and uninteresting but fortunately this criticism does not apply to the beer. I have a pint of Youngs Ordinary which is perfectly acceptable. Perhaps the pub will be worth a visit when the renovations are finished.

Afterwards it is back to Kilburn High Road station for a train to Willesden Junction and then the North London (Richmond to North Woolwich) line back east. I alight at Canonbury station but the pub I had selected for N5 had the pumpclip turned back on the handpump so I head east into the northern edge of N1. Here in Mildmay Grove South is a Fullers pub, the Earl of Radnor. This is a small plush locals pub with classical music playing in the background. I have an excellent pint of London Pride which fully justifies the pub's GBG listing. Somewhat reluctantly I leave and head further east into Hackney (E8).

Here in Forest Road is the Prince Arthur, a free house which was known as the Lady Diana for most of the last twenty years. This is a GBG regular with three beers on and I have a pint of Adnams bitter. Normally I find that Adnams in London is of lower quality than in Suffolk but I am pleasantly surprised here. When I get to Hackney Central station I find I have twenty minutes to wait for the next train home which allows me to have a pint of Charles Wells Bombardier in the Earl Amhurst by the station.

For Shrove Tuesday, the last day before Lent, I am meeting some friends in the Woodins Shades which is in EC2 between Liverpool Street Station and Spitalfields Market. This is a one-bar pub which while having a site-clothes restriction is not as full of suits as most city pubs. For a Tuesday night the pub has a very lively atmosphere helped by the football on Sky Sports. The two beers on are Bass and London Pride and I have a pint of

*continued on page 26*

## FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 29 April - 1 May | <b>Ongar</b><br>Budworth hall<br>Ongar  |
| 29 April - 2 May | <b>Reading</b><br>Kings Meadow<br>Reading   |
| 14 - 16 May      | <b>Yapton</b><br>Yapton and Ford Village<br>Hall<br>nr Arundel - 1.6 miles east<br>from<br>Barnham railway station<br>(Fri/Sat admission<br>by advance ticket only) |
| 18 - 21 May      | <b>Colchester</b><br>Colchester Arts Centre<br>nr The Mercury Theatre   |
| 3 - 5 June       | <b>Nunn Such Island</b><br>Becketts Park<br>Northampton   |
| 9 - 12 June      | <b>Milton Keynes</b><br>National Hockey Stadium<br>Silbury Boulevard<br>Central Milton Keynes   |
| 16 - 19 June     | <b>Catford</b><br>Lewisham Theatre<br>Rushey Green<br>Catford SE6   |
| 3 - 7 August     | <b>Great British<br/>Beer Festival</b><br>Olympia W8  |

## A WET DAY - BUT THE SUN SHONE

**O**ne Saturday near the end of March (you may remember it, it was this year's summer) was the date set for a coach trip laid on by Richmond & Hounslow Branch of CAMRA for the workers at last September's Twickenham Beer Festival. As is often the case, the trip was based around the presentation of a certificate to the brewer of the Beer of the Festival. This year the brewer to receive the coveted award was David Gwylliams of the Alchemy Brewery in Hersham for his truly excellent Aurum Ale. Now, those of you who know the geography of south west London and north Surrey will realise that Hersham is not a very long coach ride from the Richmond & Hounslow area - it's an even shorter journey for one of the finance volunteers who happens to live in . . . Hersham.

So what our maestro route planner did was to sort out an itinerary around Surrey taking in a few other local breweries as well. The first port of call was not, in fact, Hersham but just down the road in Weybridge where the Old Crown is currently the nearest regular outlet for Aurum Ale to the brewery. We arrived there at 11.00am just as the pub was opening and were delighted to find that as well as the Aurum Ale, the pub had laid on the equally excellent Halcyon Days (which I personally prefer as it is even hoppier). Armed with good intentions and my best camera (described by many as "vintage") my plan was to record the trip for posterity but somehow after taking pikkies of the presentation it went back in the bag and I concentrated on the drinking.



*David Gwylliams proudly displays his Beer of the Festival certificate surrounded by some of the Twickenham Beer Festival workers*

*continued from page 25*

Bass. I was going to go after one or two to do a few more pubs but it transpires that my friends have been invited to a party in the upstairs bar so I end up staying for most of the evening and a few more pints of Pride. If you have a train to catch (or miss) at Liverpool Street the Shades seems an ideal place to wait.

I get back home about 10.30 in time for a couple more pints in the local and a curry before six and a half weeks of abstinence before I can start again on Easter Sunday.

From Weybridge we travelled to Coldharbour to visit the Plough, home of the Leith Hill Brewery, lying as it does on the south slope of Leith Hill. I would never have believed you could get a 35-seat coach down some of those lanes but our driver did so - more power to his elbow! A couple of pints of the 4% Crooked Furrow and we were becoming nicely mellow.

We had to leave Coldharbour a bit sharply. No, we didn't disgrace ourselves but the next port of call, The Thurlow Arms at Baynards, home of the Baynards Brewery closes at 3 o'clock. We got there (and amazingly the driver managed to turn the coach round without undue difficulty) without mishap and ordered pints of Station House Brew. Quite frankly, I was disappointed with this one; not enough hops and not even a particularly malty taste considering its 4.2% ABV. My immediate feeling (and one or two others concurred) was that it tasted like a malt extract brew; whether it is or not I do not know. We had something else (I can't quite remember what - it might have been Hog's Back TEA) for the second pint.

Then it was back in the coach to Upper Hale for a couple of mid-afternoon pints of the Hale & Hearty Brewery's Upper Ale at the Ball and Wicket, home of the brewery opposite a cricket pitch in what the Good Beer Guide tells me is part of Farnham. This was more like it; the 3.8% beer is the light hoppy style that suits my taste buds. This brought us to the end of the pubs attached to breweries and our tour guide asked if we wanted to shoot straight off to the last pub or go for the full itinerary of six.

Go for the lot we said, so at about tea time we arrived at a nice free house called the Royal Oak at somewhere called Woodstreet Village; I think it's somewhere near Guildford, though by this time I wasn't too clear about such things.



Perhaps it was right that my camera stayed in the bag and the trip remained unrecorded pictorially. My GBG says it sells Hog's Back TEA among others but I distinctly remember (I think) having a great pint of Highgate Mild followed by (yes, I'm sure) another one of the same.

Right, last leg now and back to familiar (for me) territory back in Weybridge, the Jolly Farmer which almost overlooks another cricket pitch. No, this one isn't attached to a brewery either but it IS a Hop Back pub so where better to finish. It's also great to pop into if you fancy a pint after visiting the excellent Brooklands Museum about a mile away. I am always the teeniest bit disappointed that the Jolly Farmer doesn't sell my favourite Hop Back beer (possibly my favourite beer of all), the uncompromisingly hoppy GFB but the new Best Bitter was in excellent condition and was a damn good second choice.

So there we were six good to excellent pubs in a day, my first foray into the realms of double figures in a while (No, I only had a pint and a half in the Old Crown) and it was still only 8 o'clock - about the time I normally go out for a pint on Saturday evening. That was enough for me though. The coach dropped me back at the Clarence in Teddington and I took a gentle stroll home (Well, it started as one; it was more like a gallop by the time I got there as I was getting mightily uncomfortable. I'm just glad I didn't have to stop to talk to anyone on the way)

Andy Pirson

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## MOST BIZARRE SUICIDE

**A**t the 1994 annual awards dinner given by the American Association for Forensic Science, AAFS president Don Harper Mills astounded his audience in San Diego with the legal complications of a bizarre death. Here is the story:

On 23 March 1994, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. The decedent had jumped from the top of a ten storey building intending to commit suicide (he left a note indicating his despondency). As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast through a window, which

killed him instantly. Neither the shooter nor the decedent was aware that a safety net had been erected at the eighth floor level to protect some window washers and that Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide anyway because of this. Ordinarily, Dr Mills continued, a person who sets out to commit suicide ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended. That Opus was shot on the way to certain death nine storeys below probably would not have changed his mode of death from suicide to homicide. But the fact that his suicide attempt would not have been successful caused the medical examiner to feel that he had a homicide on his hands. The room on the ninth floor whence the shotgun blast had emanated was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing and he was threatening her with the shotgun. He was so upset that, when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife and pellets went through the window striking Opus. When one intends to kill subject A but kills subject B in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject B.

When confronted with this charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant that neither knew that the shotgun was loaded. The old man said it was his long standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her - therefore, the killing of Opus appeared to be an accident. That is, the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun approximately six weeks prior to the fatal incident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

There was an exquisite twist. Further investigation revealed that the son, one Ronald Opus, had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten storey building on March 23, only to be killed by a shotgun blast through a ninth storey window.

The medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

## THE TOP TAVERNS OF TEDDINGTON

A crawl by Al Ferrier

**T**eddington: immortalised by former resident Benny Hill; a quietly affluent suburb of south - west London. The pubs of this area are numerous and varied so for argument's sake, I have elected to start at one end of the town, beside the River Thames and have kept going in a (pretty much) straight path towards Hampton though there are houses closer to Fulwell one way and Strawberry Hill rail stations within walking distance.

Our first stop is the sprawling Angler's, a vast Taylor Walker establishment with a tiny car park that welcomes families and those who work next door at the former Thames TV studios. At one end of the seemingly - unending Broom Road, the threatened Ind Coope Burton Ale and Tetley Bitter are the cask mainstays here. I will confess that I'm not greatly fond of this pub: it tries too hard to be all things to all people and succeeds at few of them as a result.

Next door (and around the corner on Ferry Road), the contrast couldn't be more marked. The Tide End Cottage - the Thames ceases to be tidal beyond Teddington - is a veritable gem of a place. Owned and neglected by Grand Met until they quit the scene and then taken on by the former Magic

Pub Company, this is a free house with a strong Greene King bias, the Suffolk brewer's ales being on the rare side in the area. A small front bar decorated using fishy and river - themed tat leads through to an airy courtyard at the back. The food's a credit to them too with some unusual and creative cuisine apparent most days. On the ale front, you can usually count on Draught Bass putting in a rare appearance for the area and there's a good chance of Greene King IPA and Abbot as well.

Leaving the 'Tide End', we move towards Teddington proper, passing the huge Landmark arts centre on the left. A former church of not inconsiderable size, it lives up to its name in no

*continued on page 31*

# STATION ARMS

**39 Station Road, Southminster, Essex. Tel: (01621) 772225**

## BEER FESTIVAL

**MAY 28 - 29 - 30 - 31**

Fri: 5.30pm-11.30pm; Sat: Noon-11.30pm; Sun: Noon-11.00pm Mon: Noon-11.00pm

**25 Real Ales from the South Coast**

**5 Traditional Ciders & Perries • BBQ • Live Entertainment**

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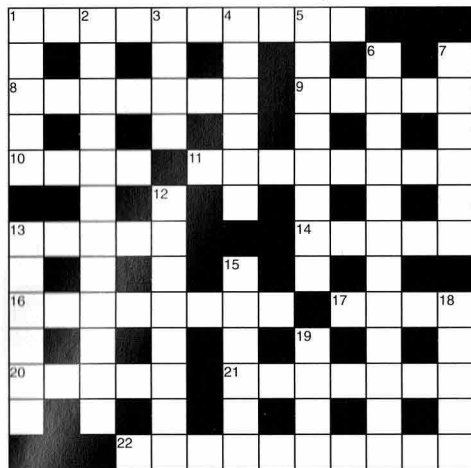
**Last train back to Liverpool Street (change at Wickford)**

**Fri: departs 22.41; Sat: departs 22.44; Sun: departs 22.12 Mon: departs 22.12**



# Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name .....

Address .....

.....

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

Prize winner will be announced in the June London Drinker.  
Solution next month.

All entries to be submitted to:  
London Drinker Crossword  
25 Valens House  
Upper Tulse Hill  
London SW2 2RX

## LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



## TWO SEASON TICKETS TO THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL TO BE WON

### ACROSS

1. Used part of the clock. [6,4]
8. Prisoner with record to go straight. [7]
9. Policeman is miserable but not old. [5]
10. Dropped off the building. [4]
11. English educationalist caught between the sheets is given the chop. [8]
13. I will shortly be heard in the passage. [5]
14. In it she'll enjoy being a woman. [5]
16. Upset to be there in person. [8]
17. Damage Schumacher's first vehicle. [4]
20. Go away with model to film. [5]
21. It's wearing off. [7]
22. No this means keep out. [10]

### DOWN

1. Gets rid of instrument apparently. [5]
2. Company people taking in studies of water. [12]
3. No one is cut this time. [4]
4. Hold up the food basket. [6]
5. Reckoned to have me burned out. [8]
6. Favouring forecast that includes the French. [12]
7. Fizzy lemonade a short time off is flat. [6]
12. Intended, it appears, in fact to go mad. [8]
13. In the morning shrub is a trap. [6]
15. The old men and I following an Arab. [6]
18. Clean and polish reins. [5]
19. Send off for the job. [4]

Winner of the prize for the March Crossword:  
Rod Prince, London SW9.

Other correct entries were received from:  
Geoff B, Sheila Blige, John Blundell, Roger A Boiler, Robin Bolt, Ben Burfutt (with a little help from his friends), "Byeways", Chris Fran & a spotted dog, A.P.Coamaish, Charles Creasey, Kathryn Everett, Garry Gobshite (deceased), Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Billy Hernon, Sheerluck Holmes, Tom Kemp, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Al Mountain, Terry Neill, Rab Noolas, Derek Pryce, Lyn Randall, Mike Richards, Super Scooper, Bryan Smith & Isa, Old Smokey, Bill Thackray, Troglodyte, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Susan Wilson, Yak.

There were also 6 incorrect entries and one correct one without a name and address.



*A Taste of Lincs in London...*

# DEEPING ALES

Market Deeping, Lincolnshire

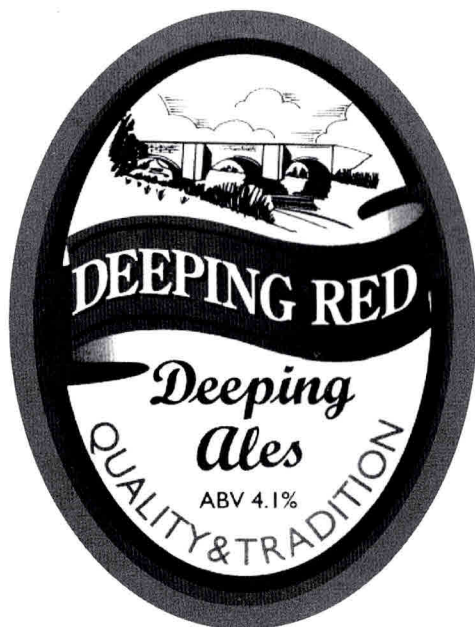
Now available throughout London

TEL: 0956 224414 FAX: 0181 766 6269

## **Red** (ABV 4.1%)

*Our flagship ale. A robust and tasty best bitter.*

*Very hoppy with a bitter finish.*



## **Special** (ABV 4.8%)

*A dark bitter with hops to the fore.*

## **Gunpowder**

(ABV 5.2%)

*Full flavoured with a strong dry finish.*

Seasonal Brews:

**Glory** (ABV 4.3%)

**St George** (ABV 4.5%)

**Snow** (ABV 5%)

*continued from page 28*

uncertain terms! The next pub is less than a hundred yards from the Landmark and also on the left. The Royal Oak, a formerly dowdy Watney pub, underwent a facelift sometime ago and emerged as a blue and primrose oasis. Popular with local students, this is more of a lager - and - nitro place with its large open - plan bar and pool table. Sure, you can get Courage Director's and Best here, but they hardly mark the place out for anything more than a passing interest. Continuing to follow our original route, we pass the door of The King's Head, also a former Watney pub that altered its identity to become, of all things, a restaurant. Just past this on the same side is another former Watney place, the King's Arms, that still bears its (long - obsolete) livery. One small bar leads through to another larger one and a garden at the back. Fuller's London Pride features among the ales here and is as good an example as I've found outside of Fuller's own estate.

Yes, it's that good.

Field Lane is a side turning just up to the left and is home to a great backstreet boozer. The Builder's Arms is a small, two - bar former Courage house that sells a good pint of Brakspear's Bitter as well as the more usual Courage Best. It's a friendly 'local's local' and has much to recommend it if it's a down - to - earth, honest hostelry is what you after.

Turning down Bridgeman Road, and crossing the railway by means of the station footbridge, we turn left and happen across the almost - apologetic Station, a former Courage house that ScotCo haven't quite got around to renovating yet. Now, some of its rivals are small but this is TINY! A front bar barely allowing the proverbial cat to be swung in safety and a shabby pool room to the rear and yes, only Courage Best on as well. Enough said, so we depart for the corner of Park Road and Adelaide Road and the comfort of The Adelaide. It's a joy of a free house with a large, twin - fronted bar, friendly staff, and another creative food menu to tempt your jaded palate. On the ales front, another of Suffolk's brewers put in a regular appearance here with Adnams Broadside and Southwold Bitter in great form. Like their rival in Bury St. Edmunds, Adnams are pretty conspicuous by their absence in the area but not to worry as these examples are worth looking out for and very welcome in a manor that thinks Courage Best is a good pint. As well as the Adnams, Thomas Hardy Country Bitter and Brakspear's Bitter are usually to be found and with a large patio area at the back,

it's definitely a place worth visiting.

Turning right outside and following Park Road back towards central Teddington, next up is the Clarence Hotel. I confess I've only been in here once and that was quite a while ago, but I remember that it's a big place with a function room upstairs. I have reason to believe it's a free house so it'll probably be a case of pot luck ale-wise if you choose to visit.

Crossing the road and walking up The Causeway brings us to a crossroads. Ahead lies Church Road with its solitary pub, The Abercorn Arms. A quiet, two-bar Young's house, the Ordinary is in good form here and the small rose garden is most pleasant in the summer. Back at the crossroads and to our right is Teddington's sole Fuller's house. The Hogarth on Broad Street was once a cramped place with three clocks (!). Bought from Bass (when it was called The Britannia) [*Sorry Al, Charrington changed it to the Hogarth back in the early sixties, about 15 years before it went to Fuller's - former Ed.*], the pub has seen a fair bit of cash spent on it in the last few years. Now more spacious and with that Teddington essential, the beer garden, its food menu rivals The Adelaide's for choice and creativity and the ale's not bad either! Seriously, the London Pride is on pretty good form and ESB drinkers will not be disappointed. The pub also takes the full programme of Fuller's seasonals.

Back onto Broad Street, we take a narrow side turning, North Lane, and follow it round to we come to The Queen Dowager. A regular feature in the Good Beer Guide, this quietly impressive Young's house has two comfortable bars and some of the best Special for miles. It also sells the Drinker!

Returning to Broad Street, turning left and crossing, a short walk brings us to our final stop, The Mason's Arms. Half - concealed down a pedestrian pathway and set back from the road to the right, this former Courage house is a welcoming place that (apparently) use to boast five separate bars. These days it's an open-plan one-bar pub that defies easy description. The ales? Well, Brakspear's is again in evidence - they seem to like it here! - as is the usual Courage pair. Courage's obscure (keg) mild appears on the bar here and it's the only place I know that stocks it regularly. 'The Mason's' is a good place to rest your tired legs (and liver) and a stroll to the bus stop or rail station (via the nearby Indian or chippy) does wonders to clear the head!

Take it slowly and enjoy the difference.

# Capital Pubcheck

## UPDATE 145

**T**he aim of 'Capital Pubcheck' is to share information about the latest happenings on the London pub scene including new pub and bar openings, name changes, acquisitions, closures, notable changes to beer ranges etc. Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are also provided to enable easy updating.

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

**A fairly quiet month with only two pubs of note reported. A new bar in EC3 City features Adnams beers and the latest Wetherspoon extravagant conversion of a bank has opened in WC2 Chancery Lane (just around the corner from Fuller's ex "Bank of England" pub). Perhaps to finance the latter, eight more Wetherspoon London pubs have been sold to Ambishus, mostly located in N and NW London.**

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

#### **CENTRAL**

**EC1, CICADA**, 132-136 St. John Street. No real ale. Free House/bar in former commercial premises.

**EC1, DUST**, 27 Clerkenwell Road. No real ale, H unused. Free House/bar in former commercial premises. Some keg Belgian beers available.

**EC1, MATCH**, 45/47 Clerkenwell Road. No real ale. Free House/bar in former commercial premises.

**EC2, MOORGATE ORIENTAL**, 45 London Wall. No real ale. Free House/bar and oriental restaurant in former wine bar.

**EC3, POET**, 20 Creechurch Lane. Adnams: Bitter, Broadside. Courage: Directors Bitter. New Free House featuring Adnams beers opened December 1998 in former club premises. Large ground floor bar, light and airy with pine flooring, light wood furniture, potted plants, yellow and blue painted walls hung with abstract paintings. Food available 12-2.30 includes freshly cooked lunches in basement brasserie. Opens 11-11 Mon-Fri.

**WC2, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**, 95 Chancery

Lane. Courage: Directors Bitter. Fuller: London Pride. Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. Theakston: Best Bitter. 5 Guest beers from micros or regional breweries.. Splendid imposing conversion of a former Nat-West bank into the latest Wetherspoon Free House in London, opened on the last day of March at a cost of £1.3 million. The scroll of the original "Union Bank of London" is retained above the entrance which leads into a grand high ceilinged bar with many decorative features retained and enhanced. A long curved wooden bar counter with brass footrests runs almost the length of one side with a metal sculpture of a knight as its centrepiece. Large long windows with long mirrors hung from the cream painted walls. A variety of seating areas, and tiled and carpeted flooring. Stairs at the rear, topped by a prominent clock, lead to three interconnected non-smoking mezzanine level rooms for quiet and discreet liaisons. There is a disappointing lack of any local history panels or any explanation of the relevance of the 'Knights' theme which the bar staff were also unable to throw any light on. The Templars were a military order of knights founded in the 12th Century who rendered service to the Crown as bankers until dissolved by the Pope in 1312; is this the connection? Food. Open



# Capital Pubcheck

## CAPITAL PUBCHECK

### UPDATE 145 continued

all permitted hours including weekends - welcome for the area.

#### *NORTH*

**N7, GEORGE**, 9 Eden Grove. Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (N87)

**N12, WISHING WELL**, 686 High Road. Ushers: Best Bitter. Is predominantly an Irish bar. (U144)

#### *NORTH WEST*

**NW10, BALL & CUE**, 120 High Street, Harlesden. No real ale. Free House/bar attached to pool hall, formerly a snooker club.

**NW10, CHAMBERS**, 64 Chamberlayne Road. No real ale. Irish Free House/bar in former shop premises.

**NW10, JAMES JOYCE**, 135 High Street, Harlesden. No real ale. Irish Free House/bar in former club premises.

**NW10, T. TAVERNA**, 97 High Street, Harlesden. No real ale. Irish Free House/bar in former Greek restaurant premises.

#### *SOUTH EAST*

**SE6, DARTMOUTH**, 77 Laleham Road. No real ale, H unused. Contrary to appearances and previous report, it seems the pub has never been closed. (SE67, U120)

#### *SOUTH WEST*

**SW2, FRIDGE BAR**, 1 Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill. No real ale. Gay bar next to night club of same name.

**SURBITON, BUN SHOP**, 22 Berrylands Road. Reopened and renamed **BRAVE NEW**

**WORLD**. Young: Bitter, Special. Guest Beer. Refurbished in café-bar style with emphasis on food. Note that there were no pump clips displayed at time of visit. (SW161)

**SURBITON, RISING SUN**, 1 Villiers Avenue. Hancock: HB. Reopened and refurbished. (SW162, U140)

### *PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE*

#### *CENTRAL*

**EC1, LADY OWEN ARMS**. Allied (ex Taylor Walker), now demolished. (E19, U96)

#### *EAST*

**E1, JOLLY SAILOR**. Wells, now demolished and replaced by flats. (E68, U65, U117)

#### *NORTH*

**N7, BENWELL ARMS**. Free House, closed, to let. Formerly MONTAGUE ARMS. (N88, U142)

#### *SOUTH WEST*

**SW4, ALEXANDRA**. Innentrepreneur, H removed. (SW59)

**SW4, SUN**. Bass, H removed. (SW61)

**SW9, CHEEKIE CHAPPIE**. Bass, closed, signage removed, future uncertain. (SW81)

**SW11, PRINCES HEAD**. Whitbread, H removed. (SW89)

**MORDEN, DR. FEELGOODS**. Free House, closed again, boarded up, to let., (SW150, U132, U134)

**SURBITON, ROYAL CHARTER**.

Innentrepreneur, closed, future uncertain. (SW162)

### *OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES*

#### *CENTRAL*

**EC1, GATE**. +Wadworth: 6X. Adnams Bitter now on H. Formerly LONGROOM. (U116, U144)

**EC1, KINGS OF CLERKENWELL**. Reverted back to **THREE KINGS**. -Beers listed.

+Boddington: Bitter. +Fuller: London Pride.

+Morland: Old Speckled Hen. Now a Free House, ex Grand Met. (Watney). (E26, U72)

**EC1, OAKLEY ARMS**. Renamed **JACK BEARD'S**. -Beers listed. +Courage: Best Bitter. (E21)

**W1(Mar), VICTORY**. +Caledonian: Murrayfield. (W36, U87, U135)

#### *NORTH*

**N1, MOON UNDER WATER**. -Beers listed except Fuller: London Pride. +Courage: Best Bitter (99p), Directors Bitter (labelled as guest beer). +Everard: Tiger. +Smiles: Best Bitter. Acquired by Ambishus from Wetherspoon. Recorded music now imposed. Formerly 179 UPPER STREET. (N37, U137)

**N7, ALBION**, 412 Liverpool Road. Renamed **GALLAGHERS**. (N85)

**N9, LAMB**. -Theakston: XB. -Younger: Scotch Bitter. +Courage: Best Bitter (99p). +Guest beer (Bateman: Jolly's Flyer). Acquired by Ambishus from Wetherspoon. (N100)

**N11, BANKERS DRAFT**. -Beers listed except Courage: Directors Bitter. +Courage: Best Bitter (99p) +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. +Hook Norton: Old Hookey., +Guest beer (Bateman: Jolly's Flyer). Acquired by Ambishus from Wetherspoon. (N107, U110)



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

## CAPITAL PUBCHECK

### UPDATE 145 continued

**N21, HALF MOON.** Acquired by Ambishus from Wetherspoon. Beer range likely to have changed. (N151)

#### *NORTH WEST*

**NW3, RAILWAY TAVERN.** Renamed **GARDEN GATE.** (N189)

**NW10, 2 M'S FREEHOUSE & WINE BAR.**

Renamed **IRENE'S WINE BAR.** (N221)

**NW10, RAT & CARROT (CROWN),** 34 High Street. Reverted to **CROWN.** (N224, U117)

**HARROW, J J MOONS,** 20 Broadwalk, Pinner Road, North Harrow. Acquired by Ambishus from Wetherspoon. Beer range likely to have changed. (U79)

**HARROW, J J MOONS,** 3 Shaftesbury Parade, Shaftesbury Avenue, South Harrow. Acquired by Ambishus from Wetherspoon. Beer range likely to have changed. (U56, U86)

#### *SOUTH EAST*

**SE1, BLUE EYED MAID.** -Beers listed except Boddington: Bitter. +Marston: Pedigree.

+Wadworth: 6X. Renovated in typical contemporary style with pine flooring and furniture, cream painted walls, ceiling fans and clock. (SE10)

**SE18, SHIP.** Renamed **COMMONER'S REST,** still fizz. (SE174)

**SE26, PUKKABAR.** Renamed **TWO HALF'S,** still part bar, part curry hall. (U138)

#### *SOUTH WEST*

**SW4, GOOSE & GRANITE.** -House beer.

-Draught Bass. (SW60)

**SW4, MISTRESS P'S.** -Beers listed except Fuller: London Pride. +Wadworth 6X. (SW60)

**SW4, PRINCE OF WALES.** -Beers listed.

+Adnams: Bitter. +Fuller: London Pride. (SW60)

**SW4, TIM BOBBIN.** -Beers listed except Adnams: Extra, Broadside. +Wadworth: 6X. +3 Guest beers. (SW61)

**SW11, PRINCES.** Renamed **CHURCHILLS.** Formerly **PRINCES PUZZLE.** (SW89, U143)

**KINGSTON, LAMB.** -Beers listed. +Shepherd Neame: Best Bitter. (SW143)

**NEW MALDEN, DUKE OF WELLINGTON.** -Beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter. +Courage: Directors Bitter. (SW151)

#### *WEST*

**HAYES, MOON UNDER WATER.** Acquired by Ambishus from Wetherspoon. Beer range likely to have changed. (U72, U86)

## CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 144

### *NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.*

**NW3, ALL BAR ONE.** Should have read "NACHOS, 79/81 Heath Street. Renamed **ALL BAR ONE.**" Ref omitted (N188)

**SE16, QUINCEYS.** Is a Free House/restaurant and bar.

**SIDCUP, SIDCUP PLACE.** Is open all permitted hours.

### *PUBS CLOSED ETC.*

**N7, TRICONAILL BAR.** Should read **TIRCONAILL BAR.**

### *OTHER CHANGES ETC.*

**WC2, SAVOY TAVERN.** Should read **NEW SAVOY TAVERN.**

**E8, DOVE.** Should read +(plus) Guest beers.

**SW17, FREEDOM & FIRKIN.** Firkin: Best should read Best Bitter.

**W12, TYPHOON TAVERN.** Was formerly **SEVEN STARS.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## TASTING SESSIONS

**This year at Olympia there is, as always, a huge range of beers to try, but how do you compare them?**

Why not try one of the organised tasting sessions where you will be guided through a range of beers by an expert.

For only eight pounds why not have Roger Protz take you on a tour of all the category winners in the Champion Beer of Britain competition. This takes place both lunchtime and evening of the Wednesday 4th August.

Alternatively why not sample the weird and wonderful world of American beers with Rob Haiber. Many of these beers are rarely seen in this country and on the evening of Thursday 5th August you can sample a wide range of these delights for only nine pounds.

The White bar is a new addition this year, bringing together the worlds wheat beers into one place and Olaf Schellenberg will be hosting a tutored tasting of a wide range of these beers on the Friday lunchtime. All for only eight pounds.

There will probably be another tasting on the Saturday lunchtime but this has yet to be confirmed. All these prices exclude entry to the festival which must be bought separately.

Tickets for these events are available on 01727 867 201. Book early as places are strictly limited.



# Looking Back

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

**TWENTY YEARS AGO** the cover of the May 1979 *London Drinker* illustrated the **Windmill on Clapham Common** and posed the question, 'Prices - a Political Fix?' referring to a suggestion from an unnamed brewery manager that the recent 3p a pint round of price rises had been politically motivated at a meeting of the Brewers' Society 'to embarrass the Government'.

An appeal for price information was reported and it was planned to make an appropriate 'award' for London's most overpriced pint, possibly to the Clarence in Whitehall where prices ranged from 43p for Ruddles Bitter to 51p for Ruddles County. In the Shades nearby, Bass was 37p and Charrington IPA 36p a pint. A competition for the pub with the most reasonable prices was also in view.

Sam Smiths had bought its second London pub, the Anerley Arms in Penge, from Charrington. London's second new mini-brewery, 'Simon's Tower Bridge Brewery' was likely to be opening next to Courage's Horsleydown site. Courage's TV commercials were criticised for featuring a pressure tap after emphasising the 'traditional' nature of Best Bitter.

Beginning a series of articles about the Big Six, Tim Amsden outlined the history of Allied and its predecessors. Guinness stew was the first of a series drawn from the SE London CAMRA magazine, 'Hop Vine', on cooking with beer.

The 1979 Good Beer Guide had recently been published, comprising over 6000 entries and costing £2.35 or £1.95 to CAMRA members.

**FIFTEEN YEARS AGO** the New Inn, Ealing, shown on the May 1984 cover, was subject of a pub profile. In 'London Drinking', 'Red Rover' travelled courtesy of his employer, LT, from Morden via Sutton to Purley, Coulsdon and Croydon, while in 'Round the Houses', North London's passport enthusiast visited Young's pubs in Fenchurch Street, Southwark, Bow Street and Westminster, sampling Charles Wells, Sam Smith's and McMullen's beers en route. The centre page spread reproduced a privately circulated new local guide to Balham, drawn tongue in cheek from the words of Peter Sellers and regular LD contributors but nonetheless accurate on local pubs and history. 'Czech This' was Ian Worden's article on real ale in Czechoslovakia.

Watneys had launched Combes Bitter and were about to market low gravity Antler in cask conditioned form. Young's were planning to open the Chelsea Ram in Edwardian premises built but never before used as a pub.

For the Third Capital Beer Night, to be held at the George, Strand, a Charrington pub, the advert on page 24 was placed with the tear-off admission slip in the corner away from the edge of the page, below the Editorial which should have appeared on page 3. This sort of cock-up used to drive me to distraction as Editor i/c production, but this was the last of the 49 issues (since December 1979) printed by Daru Graphic and also the last to use non-glossy paper with coloured sheets for covers. I was not sorry to see the end of the arrangement and transfer of operations from the then beer desert of Harmondsworth to nearer home.

**TEN YEARS AGO** the May 1989 issue saw the launch of Real Beer in West London with a full page advert. The magazine cover showed the cartoon in which a minion of Megalithic Industries informs its Chairman, 'The Monopolies Commission say they've no objection to our taking over Piddlecroft's Brewery - we already own it.' Chris' Editorial discussed inter alia the Commission's limiting brewers to owning no more than 2,000 pubs, the introduction of guest beers and the change in tenancy agreements; the results have not been entirely in drinkers' favour.

As a fourth pointless exercise for Idle Moments, Andy came up with mirror-writing, the idea being to produce coherent sentences using only the eleven reversible letters of the alphabet when read in a mirror or through the page: TIH OHW (YMMOT) HTOMMAM YM HTIW MA I - YMMUM .MAH A HTIW XO TOH A was the first one published.

Merton's continued Historicrawl of Horsham included the last recorded execution by pressing to death, and the sudden spectacular demise of the executioner a week later. John Harrison

# Looking Back

meanwhile went into the history of the brewing of Porter, once very much a London brew.

Greene King had opened a brand new pub, the Spinnaker in Docklands. The first Surrey Beer Festival was announced for two days in Dorking. Fuller's Chiswick Bitter was under threat as sales were falling below expectations - temporarily!

FIVE YEARS AGO the front cover of the May 1994 issue featured the Hope & Anchor, SW2, while the back was a full page advert for the Catford Beer Festival in June at the Lewisham Theatre (replacing Greenwich after closure of the town hall there). In his Editorial, Andy discussed the new 'traditional' pubs that were appearing, the inappropriate naming of existing pubs and the sale of 'house beers' which were really something else. Rereading the general knowledge questions in Idle Moments for this review I was totally stumped by a historical question (that being my forte - forget the piano) so try it for yourself: in regal terms, what did the years 1066, 1483, 1553 and 1936 have in common? The answer appears towards the end of this piece.

Fuller's had opened a new city pub, the ground floor of a modern office block, rather unimaginatively named 49 Gresham Street. The

Green Man and the Old City of London Shades, both in Bucklersbury, had closed for demolition and it was reported also in E London & City Branch News that four local Shepherd Neame pubs were for sale, as was the only London Bateman's pub.

According to a survey by Whitbreads, British women were drinking more beer - 3.5 pints a week compared to 2.8 a decade earlier - while men were drinking less: 9.9 pints a week in 1988 down from 11.6 in 1963. The company was reportedly encouraging landlords to offer free samples to convert the women. Isn't that sexist?

The new SE London Guide was to be launched at the Princess of Wales, Blackheath. Andrew Padgham outlined a planned crawl by the London Pubs Group around the Young's pubs of Richmond. In the same area the Express at Kew Bridge had closed indefinitely for refurbishment.

For those of you who tried the dates puzzle earlier, the answer is that in each year concerned England had three different monarchs.

Until next time - Cheers!

Martin Smith

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**LONDON DRINKER** is published by the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

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## THE HEAD OF STEAM



**Euston Station  
London NW1  
Tel 0171 388 2221**

**CAMRA North London  
Pub of the Season  
Autumn/Winter 98/99**

**LEICESTERSHIRE BEER FESTIVAL**

**25 April - 1 May**

*18 beers from 9 breweries*

**16-19 May 1999**

**FESTIVAL OF 1992  
CHAMPION BEERS**

**WOODFORDE, TIMOTHY TAYLOR,  
RIDLEY, HOP BACK, BATEMAN,  
GIBBS MEW (BADGER) & GALES**

*Exhibition of Arthur Gills railway paintings*

# Idle Moments

**G**reetings all you lovers of culture - you are lost, aren't you! Regulars will know that these days I like to start this farrago with a quotation - often witty, invariably true; this month's is no different, it comes from that great literary figure Spike Milligan in his first novel **Puckoon**:

*Money couldn't buy you friends but got a better class of enemy.*

Right, down to the job in hand - wasting time. And last month's first waste of time was the number puzzles; here are the answers:

1. 20 Tiny Fingers (Twenty Tiny Toes)
2. 2000 Last Year of This Millennium
3. 1 Foot in the Grave (with Victor Meldrew)
4. 5 Live is the Sports Radio Station of the "Beeb"
5. 2 Little Boys by Rolf Harris
6. 1 Fine Day by the Chiffons
7. 1988 Summer Olympic Games Held in Seoul
8. 7 Brides for Seven Brothers
9. 1 Man Went to Mow
10. 48 Crash by Suzi Quatro

Unless you count giving last month's answers as a waste of time, this month's first waste of time is (if you haven't already guessed) THIS month's number puzzles:

1. 10 C in a NM
2. 3 S on the TB
3. 1910 D of KE the S
4. 2 Y in a F
5. 1865 M of AL by JWB
6. 21 MS in a H of P
7. 3 CF (H at, H or WC)
8. 6 OOAHADOTO
9. 4 NT are the P of B
10. 518 F is the H of BT

There, that wasn't so bad was it? (Well not as bad as toothache). Now here are the answers to last month's brewery anagrams:

1. CHEER MUCK VANE

## CUCKMERE HAVEN

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 2. STUN THERE        | THREE TUNS   |
| 3. SIR MERMAN        | MERRIMANS    |
| 4. BREAKS LOCH       | BLACK HORSE  |
| 5. WIPE LED DRY      | WYRE PIDDLE  |
| 6. GO HUNT A JON     | JOHN O'GAUNT |
| 7. TOMB RACE         | BRAMCOTE     |
| 8. WE KISS HER, BERT |              |

## WEST BERKSHIRE

9. ODD FAX ON HUN

## FOX AND HOUNDS

10. STEEP TRAINS

## SAINT PETERS

Back to the usual five brewery anagrams this month. See if you can identify the breweries (No, they are not meant to be descriptive):

1. CLEAR STOCK
2. HUN MOG IN CAT'S MESS
3. BLIND FEAR
4. ROD SHAWL
5. WINE, SO GLAD

Next, as usual, comes 5BY4. People sometimes ask me why it is called 5BY4. It's nice to know that they take an interest in such things. Anyway, this month's is subtitled, "Where in the World?" Wondering what to use as the subject I pulled out my pocket computer and looked up a few towns on the World bit - nothing special, they were just the first towns or cities listed under their respective initial letters. If you would like to link the places to the countries in which they lie, you may derive some satisfaction from this exercise - if not you can look up the answers at the end.

1. Aarhus
  2. Dakar
  3. Faisalabad
  4. Gaborone
  5. Kabul
  6. N'Djamena
  7. Rabat
  8. Ulan Bator
  9. Yaounde
  10. Zagreb
- A. Afghanistan  
B. Botswana  
C. Cameroon  
D. Chad  
E. Croatia  
F. Denmark  
G. Mongolia  
H. Morocco  
I. Pakistan  
J. Senegal

And now we come to the last bit, the Trivia questions, but first come last month's Trivia answers:

1. Dr. Hook



## MAGPIE & CROWN

128 High Street  
Brentford

0181 560 5658

### \* House Bitter:

Brakspear's Bitter at  
£1.75 a pint

### \* Traditional Cider

### \* Draught Hoegaarden

### \* Draught Czech Budvar

### \* Foreign bottled beer selection

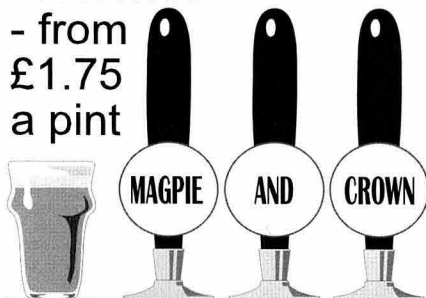
### \* Bed & Breakfast

### \* Selected for the 1999 CAMRA Good Beer Guide

### \* Open all permitted hours

Ever changing guest  
beers from micro  
and small regional  
breweries

- from  
£1.75  
a pint



\* singing voice required Friday evenings

2. Dyfed
3. Gwynedd
4. The opera ain't over till the fat lady sings.
5. Sir Winston Churchill
6. Ford
7. Gout
8. 1513
9. Alan Alexander
10. Duterium and tritium

These are the Trivia questions (You can tell because they have question marks at the end):

1. Euston in London is named after the landowners the Earls of Euston. In which English county is the village of Euston from which they took their title?
2. What kind of weapon is also called an arbalest (or arblast)?
3. Which English poet introduced the oft quoted lines "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," and "A little learning is a dangerous thing."?
4. In the original 18th Century Pantomime, who was the lover of Columbine (and not a rugby player)?
5. "R for Robert" was the call sign of a Second World War bomber rescued from Loch Ness and now refurbished at Brooklands Museum. What make and type of aircraft is it?
6. Who was the scriptwriter of the long running "Dixon of Dock Green"?
7. Who was the last Emperor of India?
8. Which hero of a novel published in 1819 was pursued by rival lovers Rowena (descended from King Alfred) and Rebecca (daughter of Isaac the Jew)?
9. What was Operation Dynamo in the Second World War?
10. What was the particular feature of the American cargo ship Savannah?

Well, that's about it but before I go, here are the answers to this month's 5BY4:

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

Have a good May. See you next time.

**Andy Pirson**

*Due to the volume of copy this month the Where to Buy Listing has had to be held over to a subsequent edition.*

Appearing in discerning  
outlets all over  
London



from  
Suffolk's oldest brewery -  
Britain's finest beer