

# LONDON DRINKER



THE HALF MOON

Mile End, E1

Photo: Design and Camera

Vol. 22 • No. 2

Produced on behalf of the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale

APRIL/MAY 2000

# AMUAL DEER FESTIVAL

FROM:

7pm THURSDAY 25th MAY

TO:

MONDAY 29th MAY Featuring at least 50 real ales from micro breweries all over the country. To be sampled from our two bars and function room. Then maybe relax in our beer garden or courtyard.

Daily BBQs including the governor's famous fat boy BBQ.

Sunday lunch carvery plus hot salt beef sandwiches available from the bar.

Live music Sunday night until 10.30

Four pint jugs for the price of three. Take away containers available.

Open all permitted hours. So don't be a snail, race down to the Windsor Castle for a pint or two of Real Ale from this CAMRA award winning pub.



### WINDSOR CASTLE

378 CARSHALTON ROAD, CARSHALTON, SURREY

for further information, phone us on: 020 8669 1191

## Editorial

It is scarcely believable but within a few months there could be only one major UK brewery still in British hands. Bass looks increasingly likely to sell its brewing decision and Heineken, amongst others has expressed an interest in buying. If this happens Heineken will scrap its agreement for Whitbread to brew its lager under licence. Whitbread will then become increasingly vulnerable to a take-over bid itself and Belgium private company Interbrew looks the most candidate to purchase the three Whitbread breweries.

This will leave Scottish & Newcastle as the only UK owned major brewer; Carlsberg-Tetley, Britain's other major, is already owned by Danish giant Carlsberg.

It is unlikely that either Heineken or Carlsberg, or in deed any other international brewer such as Anheuser-Busch or South African Breweries, would continue to produce ale brands to any extent.

Therefore real ale drinkers will have to look to regional and family brewers and the small brewery sector to provide interesting and exciting beer brands. Never have these sectors been so important to the real ale drinker.

In the days of the Red Revolution it was family brewers such as Youngs who held out firm against the flow of tasteless keg brands that was threatening to flood the country. Even fellow brewers Fuller's almost succumbed to the siren industry voices proclaiming the benefits of the "new keg brands".

Today with the smooth flow (aka bland) nitro-keg brands increasingly being foisted on the drinking public it is important that all those who appreciate good tasty beer support those brewers who continue to produce quality cask-conditioned beer. That is the 350 or so micro-brewers and pub breweries and, equally as important, the 44 family and regional brewers.

The regional and family brewers are taking over the mantle from the Nationals as being the largest producers of cask conditioned beer. Greene King IPA and Abbott, Wadworth 6X, Brakspear Bitter, Adnams Bitter, Fuller's London Pride and Youngs

Advertise in next month's LONDON DRINKER

from only £45 (quarter page - all inclusive)

call now
Barry Tillbrook
020 8989 7523

Special are the real ales that can help convince the general beer drinking public that there is more to life than John Smiths Smooth or Boddingtons Gold.

Whilst some may feel that these beers are not as exciting as the latest brew from a tiny producer in deepest Devon or the Outer Hebrides, the simple law of supply and demand will show that total beer produced by all the 350 microbreweries put together will still only supply about 10% of current real ale requirements. Real ale drinkers need the long established family and regional brewers to survive and thrive if real ale is to continue to be the beer that most people can enjoy rather than be a drink for a chosen few.

Beer drinkers need to support family and regionals and convince their management that they need to continue to produce cask conditioned beer in the same way that past generations did. The survival of family and regional brewers in tandem with the new small brewers will ensure that beer drinkers can continue to enjoy quality real ale well into the new century even if the likes of Bass and Whitbread abandon their own brewing heritage.

Ian Lowe

#### ON OTHER PAGES

National News	5
Local News	9
Letters	13
Branch Update	15
Fair Deal	
Jubilee Pubs	24
Drinking Round The Dome	
Market Drinkers	28
Pub Games	30
Crossword	35
Capital Pubcheck	
From Our Archives	45
Idle Moments	

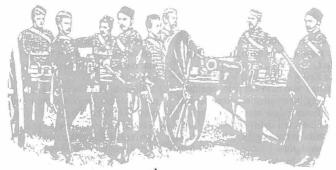
## VICTORIAN MILITARY FAIR

The leading annual event of Victorian military interest

## VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

63 Seymour Street, London W2

Sunday 7th May 2000, 10am-4.30pm



theme

## THE BOXER REBELLION

TRADE STANDS \* MILITARIA
WEAPONS \* PRINTS \* BADGES
PARTICIPATION WARGAMES
MEDALS \* BOOKS \* PERSONALITIES

Why not come along in Victorian period dress?

Enquiries to:

Chris Kempton, Fair Manager, 3 Selbourne Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1QN Telephone 01634 854536 SNACKS LICENSED BAR

ENTRANCE PROGRAMME Adults £4 Children £2

VICTORIAN MILITARY SOCIETY

## National News Round-Up

## Drinkers and Brewers fight Real Ale "Stealth Tax"

Britain's Independent and Family brewers united to condemn the latest moves to introduce a new "stealth tax" on cask beer that could lead to price increases and threaten the smallest brewers. Customs & Excise announced just before Christmas that they were planning to change the rules on taxing cask beer from 1st January – a change they estimate will raise £10-15 million per year.

Tax used to be paid on the amount of beer brewed, but in 1993 the UK moved to the 'brewery gate' system where tax is paid on the beer that leaves the brewery. The intention was to tax the actual beer sold, in line with the rest of Europe, and the tax payable was on the declared contents of the cask – i.e. tax on 9 gallons of beer for a 9 gallon cask.

In practice, breweries tend to slightly overfill casks, both to ensure enough beer is supplied and to allow for losses when starting and finishing casks, pulling through lines etc. Under the new rules, tax would be paid on the total amount in the cask – regardless of the fact that not all of it can be sold.

Industry sources queued up to condemn the change, introduced at short notice without consultation. Carola Brown of the Small Independent Brewers Association says that micro-breweries will be particularly hard hit: "They simple can't afford sophisticated meters and control systems to reduce over-filling of casks. Most people would applaud them for trying to make sure that their customers get full value. Now Customs will effectively fine those who do".

Anthony Fuller, chairman of the Independent Family Brewers of Britain and of Fullers brewery, added "This is a disgraceful example of the Treasury raising duties without reference to Parliament. It is a stealth tax which will hit hardest those taxpayers the Government should be protecting – the smaller brewer, the community pub and the drinkers of traditional draught beer".

The Campaign for Real Ale has been calling for a reduction in beer taxes to counter the torrent of beer imports from France, which continues to cost the Exchequer millions in lost revenue. The Chancellor froze beer duty in the last budget so as not to ruin the Millennium party.

Following the large volume of complaints,

Customs have agreed to postpone the tax increase by a few weeks, but insist that it will go ahead. But Fuller adds "It's unjust and we'll be fighting it all the way".

#### Swallow is Swallowed

The Swallow Group, the remains of the former Vaux Brewery that closed down its breweries last summer to turn itself into a pub and hotel chain, has been taken over by Whitbread.

A year ago, Vaux was a thriving business that included two breweries and a pub and hotels business. In the face of huge local protests, the breweries were closed despite being regarded as viable businesses. The company was renamed the Swallow Group, and promised big things as a 'leisure group'. Shareholders demonstrated how much faith they had in this talk by jumping at the chance to sell out.

Most of the 199 pubs will be sold on by Whitbread, and the Swallow name will disappear as the hotels are re-branded as part of the Marriott chain. The deal is a boost to Whitbread after it lost out in the bidding war against Punch Tayerns for Allied Domecq's pubs.

#### Big Money and Big Protests for Wolves

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries announced pre-tax profits up over 11% to £50.2 million in December, and announced the sale of 284 pubs for £40 million. Wolves is also on the verge of becoming Britain's leading regional brewer with its agreed takeover of Mansfield for £253 million.

However, the company is facing growing criticism that its growth is at the expense of consumer choice. Local activists backed by Alan Meale, the local MP, claim that the 125 year old Mansfield brewery will be closed if the deal goes ahead – even though Wolves have promised to keep it open for two years while they assess its viability.

Meanwhile, W&D have provoked an outcry by announcing the withdrawal of Marston's Bitter. Following the takeover of Marstons, there has already been a rationalisation of the beer range with the withdrawal of the cask version of Owd Rodger and the replacement of Bateman's Dark Mild with the totally different Banks's Original in Marstons' pubs. This second phase of rationalisation means the replacement of Marstons Bitter with Banks's Bitter throughout the Marstons estate.

## -National News-Round-Up

Marstons Bitter looks like being the first casualty of the shake-up of brewing which W&D will have to do if and when the Mansfield takeover goes ahead. A number of breweries are likely to close, with the remaining beers being moved around to one of the survivors. The situation is complicated by the success of Pedigree, now one of the most widely distributed premium bitters, and the contract to brew Burton Ale at Marstons.

However, locals are not happy. In some areas like South Manchester, Bitter outsells Pedigree by up to 12 to 1. Licensees do not believe they can sell Banks's in the large volumes that Marstons achieved – with 40-50 barrels a week going to the Wilmslow Road area. With Banks's Bitter being both weaker and more bitter, the replacement is not 'like for like' and drinkers may just vote with their feet.

#### **Bass Plans Big Spend**

Bass has announced that it will spend a total of £240 million over two years on the ex Allied Domecq pubs bought from Punch Taverns last year. Two thirds of the pubs are likely to be converted to the standard Bass brands – the likes of All Bar One, Browns and Edwards.

The pubs were regarded as among the best of the Allied estate, and the investment is a measure of Bass's determination to move into the lucrative branded pubs sector in the more prosperous parts of the country. Finance Director Richard North said "We have moved out whole centre of gravity from the Midlands to the South".

However, with Bass now owning some notable historic pubs in London, it's worth keeping an eye out for any unwanted changes. The small matter of alleged illegal changes to a listed pub in Westminster is still unresolved, and it remains to be seen whether Bass can be trusted to maintain the best of the unspoilt pubs it has inherited.

#### Welcome for Monopolies Ruling

CAMRA has hailed attempts by the Government to break up local monopolies as the beginning of a new era of protecting consumer choice.

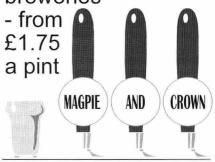
Although Trade Secretary Stephen Byers

# MAGPIE & CROWN

PUB OF THE YEAR CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow

128 High Street Brentford 020 8560 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 2000 CAMRA Good Beer Guide
- \*Open all permitted hours Ever changing guest beers from micro and small regional breweries



## -National News Round Up

allowed the takeovers of 868 Greenálls pubs by Scottish and Newcastle, and Allied Domecq's pubs by Punch Taverns and Bass, he imposed a ceiling of 25% on the ownership of pubs in and one petty sessional division.

This has meant that S&N has had to untie or sell around 700 pubs in the Nottingham area, where its old Home estate overlapped with the Greenalls one; Bass and Punch will have to sell about 50 pubs between them or face referral to the Competition Commission. CAMRA believes that the 25% ceiling has important implications for consumer choice as it will prevent the domination of local areas by one company. As an indication that the Government is taking competition issues seriously, it has been welcomed but it all depends on the Government having the will to follow it up.

Head of Campaigns Mike Benner said "We have been calling for this very action since the 1980s..... these requirements are a victory for the consumer and a positive step towards halting further consolidation in the industry".

#### **Bar Wars!**

Pub and Brewery operators such as Wetherspoons and Wolverhampton and Dudley are leading a wave of price cutting for the New Year in a price war that could see as much as a third knocked off the price of a pint.

The series of January price cuts will further intensify competition in the pub and bar trade. Wetherspoons has been operating regular January price cuts for some years, but industry observers see the latest round as something far bigger – a series of deep nationwide discounts. One regional brewer has been quoted as predicting some pints going from £1.80 to £1.25, which will put margins under severe pressure.

In the short term, the price cuts look like good news for the customer, but the pressure on profits looks likely to renew the drive towards mergers and takeovers which saw a wave of sales of tenanted pubs in 1999. Share prices have dropped dramatically as investors become nervous of the cut-throat competition, and this is likely to leave more companies vulnerable to takeovers. Small brewers are already facing competition from national breweries who can discount deeply, and are struggling to sell their products at a reasonable price.

Microbrewing Gets Trendy

The image of the micro brewer has been subtly shifting over the last year or so. Once viewed as a small and insignificant game for amateurs in a world dominated by the big multinational groups, it's now starting to attract more attention and become trendy – helped by restaurants such as Oliver Peyton's Mash and the as Freedom Brewing Company in Covent Garden.

According to research company Canadean, the rise of microbrewing has come as a reaction to the mass produced bland brands from the big brewers, with about 350 microbreweries operating in England. These are dominated by the very small enterprise, although the likes of Bass and Scottish & Newcastle have jumped on the bandwagon as well.

However, competition is tough – according to Canadean, the average micro has a life expectancy of just six years. The lack of genuine free houses and the huge discounts offered by the nationals puts many on the brink of bankruptcy. Not a month goes by without news of a small brewery closing or in trouble – but as many are starting up as closing down.

Dave Lee

# PORTMANOR BEER FESTIVAL

Thur 20 April -Tues 25 April open all permitted hours

## over 25 beers

(3.7% - 5% ABV)

# all priced at £1.45 pint

We are in the 2000 CAMRA Good Beer Guide

Bar food available all day plus upstairs restaurant

Only 2 minutes walk from Norwood Junction station

**The Portmanor**, Portland Road, South Norwood, SE25 Tel 020 8655 1308

## EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER



THREE WORDS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.

## Local News Round-Up

#### **Dome Pub For Regent**

Regent Inns has been awarded the licence to run the only pub in the Millennium Dome in Greenwich (ish). The contract is for one year and requires that a percentage of the gross profits are paid as rent. So far, there is no indication as to the range and quality of any real ale in the pub – reports please!

Regent had been in a bit of trouble after accounting problems led to a surprise loss, but the company has managed to reverse its fortunes and get back in the black. It plans to expand its chain of "Walkabout" Australian theme pubs, with eight more to be added to the seven already open.

#### **Fullers and Youngs Show The Way**

Fullers and Youngs are continuing to prove that there is profit in good real ale. Latest results show Fullers' brewing division increasing its profits by 65% with a 4 per cent increase in sales of London Pride; meanwhile Youngs has also posted good profit figures, saying it is benefiting from contract brewing niche beers for other breweries, and from the Waggle Dance honey beer it took over from Vaux last year.

#### King and Barnes Confident

Sussex brewer King and Barnes has suffered a torrid year in 1999; early in the year, its head and second brewer were made redundant and the free trade business was sold off in a move that shocked the industry. The aim was to concentrate on producing beer and expanding its pub estate, but just as the plans were going into action came a takeover bid from Shepherd Neame.

Sheps claimed that they wanted the production capacity of the Horsham brewery, but K&B reckon they are after the pubs and that the brewery would close. Chairman Bill King was confident that the Extraordinary General Meeting called to vote on the Shepherd Neame proposal would reject the bid and claims to have the backing of the majority of shareholders. It's all gone a bit quiet recently so watch this space.

#### **London Porter is Back in Bottles**

Fullers have announced the return of their London Porter, the beer that won the gold medal in its category at the 1999 International Beer and Cider competition. The award was judged at the International Food and Drink exhibition at a time when the beer was only being produced for the export market.

Since then, interest from supermarkets and off licences has prompted Fullers to start production for the home market. London Porter uses a blend of brown, crystal and chocolate malts and Fuggles hops and at 5.4% it is claimed to be the ideal after dinner drink. The only drawback is that it will not be bottle conditioned.

The recipe is based on original 1890s brewing books according to Fullers' beer and brands director John Roberts, who commented "It is a testament to the brew that a beer of this style is as desirable today as it was over a hundred years ago".

#### Top Design Award for London Pub

The Half Moon in Mile End Road has won a prestigious award for pub design. The Wetherspoon's pub, managed by Claire Russell, has been named joint winner of the Conversion to Pub Use category in CAMRA's Pub Design Awards. And, in a unique achievement, the other joint winner is also a Wetherspoon's pub – the Billiard Hall in West Bromwich. In the 15 years that the awards have been running, this is the first time that two pubs owned by the same operator have won in the same category, and further enhances the J D Wetherspoon company's reputation for innovative pub design.



The Half Moon was once a chapel, and later a theatre for 14 years. The building appeared to have little future a few years ago; the report of the award judges welcomed the resurrection of the building as a local landmark, noting the sensitive treatment of the street frontage and the restoration of historic brickwork, plasterwork and cast iron features.

## Local News Round-Up

The interior was praised for its bold wooden bar design in the western Chapel, and for a vibrant modern colour scheme next door in the Florian Bar. Wetherspoons deserve credit for producing an attractive but modern pub design without resorting to mock Victoriana or gutting the interior.

Steve Parissien, chair of the panel of judges, said that Wetherspoons were becoming experts at sensitive conversions of historic buildings, noting that "in recent years they have gained a reputation for inspired refurbishment".

However, Parissien also lambasted the treatment of many historic pubs by Britain's breweries and pub companies for appearing to have no knowledge of, or interest in conservation. Rapid changes in the industry, and frequent changes of ownership of pubs, had resulted in the number of entries for the awards declining, and some of the proposed entries seemed to "equate conservation with wholesale gutting and reinvention of history". Demolition of pubs' original bar plans and partitions, replacement of fixtures and fittings with cheap substitutes, and burying the lot under an avalanche of blackboards and garish promotional material was described as "conservation as conceived by Attila the Hun".

The good news is that the trend for theme pubs seems to have passed, with some pubs actually reverting back to former names and identities. Pubs continue to be robbed of their character, but the more enlightened operators are giving them more sympathetic attention. This is evidenced not just by the Wetherspoon's awards but also by Cain's brewery, which won the Pub Refurbishment award for the loving restoration of the Dispensary in Liverpool. This ex-keg pub was resurrected using as much as possible of the surviving Victorian fittings, and the addition of matching elements salvaged from elsewhere.

The judges felt unable to make a New Build award, noting the chaos and uncertainty in the brewing world, which has led to fewer quality new pubs being built.

#### Britain to Lose a Pub a Day

Over the next four years, Britain will lose a pub every day, with London set to lose an average of two pubs a week. That's the stark message from a report by analysts Key Note. More than 3,500 pubs have closed in the last ten years, and closures are set to continue with small locals most under pressure.

Cut-throat competition, and the growth of high street 'superpubs' are making trading conditions difficult for many traditional establishments, and the London property market is aggravating the situation. Pubs are now worth so much more as private residences, made even more desirable by solid construction, large rooms and relatively low price. Planning laws are often useless where councils rubber-stamp change of use applications, particularly when they can cite the availability of pubs in the surrounding areas.

The Evening Standard has highlighted the problems faced by publicans, citing the Fox in Hanwell – to be gutted and converted into flats – and the Royal Albert in Greenwich, set to become flats and an office. The Royal Albert was taken over by new licensees only last March, but despite their efforts in turning the pub round and increasing its popularity, they are now on their way out.

Planning officials, who can be the only people who can prevent closures, often don't know whether a pub is genuinely viable. This is the reason behind CAMRA's development of the Public House Viability Test, a questionnaire that aims to give a proper view of whether a pub is a genuine basket case or a possibly profitable business.

#### News from Fullers

Fullers has made its first move into organic beers with the launch of Honey Dew as an organic ale. Claimed to be the world's first organic honey ale, the beer will be available in bottles at 5% abv (sadly not bottle conditioned), and also in cask at 4.3% as a limited edition ale for Spring.

The new beer replaces the original version of Honey Dew, first brewed in 1997, and is made with English malt and hops approved by the Soil Association. It is designed to be served slightly chilled and will be available by the time this is read.

John Roberts, beer and brands director emphasised Fullers' desire to do something different rather than launch a 'me too' brew just to get into the organic sector. He said "there has been a substantial amount of research in sourcing the ingredients (there is only one grower of organic hops in the country) and in making sure the recipe was right. This was essential as it had to have all the quality and flavour of the rest of the Fuller's range. We are in the fortunate position of bucking the national trend of declining beer volumes and we cannot afford to take risks with our reputation". Chiswick, London Pride and ESB are the ales bucking the trend – all three have increased sales over the last six months.

## Local News Round-Up

The bottled version of Honey Dew will be available nationally through supermarkets, while the cask version will be restricted to London and the South East in Fuller's estate and selected free trade outlets.



Meanwhile, Fullers have sold their retail wine shops to Unwins in a £7.5 million deal. Unwins took over the 61 shops on 29th February, to add to its existing off licences which number nearly 400. The Fullers chain has won the industry's regional wine chain of the year award for the past

four years, but with the difficulty in finding new sites to expand, the decision was made to sell to a company with a larger operation. Fullers have negotiated a five year supply agreement with Unwins, that will see Fullers ales throughout the Unwins estate.

The wholesale wine business serving th Fullers estate and the free trade is not affected by the deal.

## International Awards – Young's Beers Reach the Final

The bi-annual Brewing Industry International Awards will be presented on April 11 in London, and Young's have an interest in four categories.

The judging in Burton in February placed Chocolate Stout, Oatmeal Stout, the keg version of Bitter, and cask Triple A in the top three in their categories. The final results of the prestigious awards will be announced at the Allied Brewery Traders' Association's annual luncheon at the Guildhall.

Several breweries managed to get two beers into the finals of the awards, which date back to the 19th century. They include Boston Beer Company and Alaskan Brewing Co. from the USA.

Dave Lee

# MAYFLOWER

117 Rotherhithe Street, Rotherhithe, SE16 Telephone 020 7237 4088

Landlord Phil Glover invites you to enjoy the unique atmosphere of this historic Thameside inn

Greene King IPA • Triumph

Abbot Ale • Guest Beer

- Restaurant on the first floor overlooking the river
- Private jetty adjoining the bar
- Open all permitted hours



Originally known as The Shippe in the village of Rotherhithe, this inn is the very one from which the Mayflower set sail on her historic voyage in 1620

## — Pub News-

## TRINITY UNDER THREAT, BUT ROEBUCK REVIVED

The Trinity Arms in Trinity Street SE1, just off Borough High Street, has been closed since the departure of the last landlord in 1997. It was previously a lively pub much used by locals on the Trinity Estate, who have been hoping since it closed that it would eventually reopen. It was also a favourite among ale drinkers, being a Good Beer Guide entry in 1996 and 1997, often featuring Rebellion beers among its selection from various small breweries.

Now, concern has been expressed that the owners of the pub, Trinity House, plan to convert it for residential use instead. The Borough area is seen as offering prime development potential, as a number of schemes are afoot to re-develop some of the more run down areas. This makes the Trinity potentially valuable if sold as flats or a private house.

Locals are now hoping that someone will come forward to take the pub on. Change of use permission can be denied by the council, but the owners could claim to have failed to find anyone willing to run it as a pub. Anyone out there fancy the challenge?

Evidence of the pub potential for the area exists in the form of the revitalised Roebuck in

Great Dover Street. This was another pub which had seen better days and a possible candidate for conversion or demolition, but it has now been extensively refurbished and reopened.

An enterprising beer range is promised; a visit a week after the opening in February discovered a cask lager from the Stonehenge brewery, Ridleys ESX and Adnams Broadside available, all in excellent condition, as well as a selection of Belgian beers. The initial impression is of a pub well worth a visit and deserving to succeed. It's a bit of a hike from London Bridge, but only a few minutes from Borough, and the number 21 bus stops almost outside.

Dave Lee

## **MUSEUM BREWING COMPANY**

The Flavour Of Our Heritage



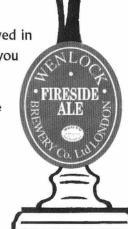
WENLOCK 'FIRESIDE' ALE

Wenlock 'Fireside' Ale last brewed in the sixties has been revived for you to enjoy today.

For more information about this ale and other promotions contact:

Phil Rush - AVS
Tel: 01474 537767
Chris Voyce - Museum
Tel: 01283 513501 x.3565

"The Discerning Publicans Alternative Choice of Fine Ales"



## Letters To The Editors

Dear Editors,

Re:- Mr Healy's letter to Wetherspoons
I hope he gets short shrift from Mr Martin. Not
only is a prohibition from smoking at the bar in
line with good Health & Safety practices, it helps
to keep the bar area clear for the use of those
who actually want to buy a drink. Hamilton Hall
is vast, so there is no need for anyone to smoke
anywhere near the bar. Incidentally, why does Mr
Healy mention the professions of his
companions? Would his point be different if he
had been accompanied by, say, a lavatory
attendant and a street sweeper?

Re:- Duke of Cambridge, Islington I, too, have suffered the prices at this place, which is more an organic restaurant than a pub, despite having 4 draught organic beers available. A good night out here (a meal washed down with 8 pints of bitter) would set you back around £40. In case readers think this is the norm for Central London, it is not. For instance, in the Leicester Square area, you could have as much chinese food as you can get down your throat for £4.50 at any of several outlets, washed down with 8 pints of Sam Smiths at the Chandos for £1.60 a pint. Total £17.30.

the Sleeping Scooper

#### Dear Editors,

I have recently set up the London Guide to Belgian Beer website, which may be of interest to you and your readers.

It's main purpose is to list those pubs, bars & restaurants in and around London which offer a range of Belgian beer (i.e. not just Stella or Hoegaarden) and also to promote an interest in Belgian beer in general. It is independent and I make no financial gain from those places featured (although the occasional beer on the house has been welcomed). Although I have already featured the specialist Belgian bars, I would like to list more pubs, and welcome any input from visitors. I would also welcome your comments.

The website can be found at http://www.belgianbeerguide.co.uk

Peter Garrod

#### Dear Editors,

I am tempted to go into the "Half Moon" (Wetherspoons in Stepney Green) and ask for a pint of "Sorry Not Available".

In contrast, I was told by staff in the "Mad Hatter", (Fullers "Ale and Pie House" in Stamford Street) that they are forbidden to turn

pub clips away from the public when a beer is unavailable.

Gordon Joly London E14

#### Dear Editors,

On being charged £1.20 recently for a half of Adnams Bitter in the Faith & Firkin, SW17, I asked whether £2.40 per pint was indeed the right price. I was told that no, the price of a pint of Adnams or, for that matter, Marston Pedigree, was £2.25 but that it was the management's policy to charge £1.20 for just the half. For the third beer, Tetleys, the prices were £2.05 and £1.05. The price list, high on the wall behind the bar, showed only the pint prices.

Have other drinkers had similar experiences in other pubs? Can CAMRA at least please ensure that the Good Beer Guide excludes any pub which overcharges for a half pint.

Geoff Strawbridge Raynes Park

#### Dear Editors,

There is a new internet facility which should be of interest to everyone who likes real ale. It is called WAISTLINE (World Association of Internet Scoopers & Tickers on LINE) and is absolutely FREE to join. It contains details of forthcoming Festivals (including advance beer lists where available) many links to other beer-related websites, discussion groups, articles written by members, and much more. Members can contribute to the site as well as access the information in it. To join, visit http://WAISTLINE.intranets.com and register using the code: beergut.

the Sleeping Scooper

## DISTRIBUTION POINTS FOR LONDON DRINKER

The following is a list outlets for London Drinker that carry extra stock in case your normal outlet has run out. Full addresses are only given where there are two pubs of the same name in the same postal district.

OUTLETS - EAST and SOUTH EAST PUBS SEI ROYAL OAK

**OUTLETS - WEST CENTRAL and NORTH PUBS** N1 WENLOCK ARMS

OUTLETS - NORTH WEST PUBS NW1 HEAD OF STEAM

**OUTLETS - SOUTH WEST and WEST PUBS** SURBITON, WAGGON AND HORSES BRENTFORD, MAGPIE & CROWN

## - Letters To -The Editors

#### Dear Editors,

There was an article in the Evening Standard of Wednesday 23 February about pub closures in London. The underlying problem is that a lot of pubs are worth more as a property for redevelopment that as business producing an income. If property prices carry on increasing and pub turnovers and profits do not increase similarly more pub closures are likely.

The article caught my eye because one of the pubs featured was the Fox in Hanwell W7. This was the pub I drank in for W7 in my postal drinker crawl featured in previous London Drinkers. The main reason I chose the Fox is that it was the most Westerly pub in W7 and therefore the most westerly pub in the London postal area. According to the article the owner is selling because he is in his fifties, has health problems and wishes to retire. He would like to sell the pub as a going concern but understandably wants to get the best price for it and can get more by selling it to a property developer for conversion into flats.

I must confess that I was not over impressed by the Fox. It is a little out of the way and had few customers when I called although that was during a weekday afternoon. The beer range was Courage Best, Directors and Marstons Pedigree which, for a pub describing itself as a free house, was a bit disappointing although my pint was in good condition. According to the describtion of the Fox in latest Good Beer Guide "The beer is deliberately on the pricey side to reflect the quality establishment the long-sanding landlord presides over". Perhaps when he has sold the pub he can sit down.

I can't remember what I paid for my pint of Courage Directors but I do remember noticing two other pubs on the way back to the station which are both in the Good Beer Guide. They are the Dolphin, a free house with a wider range of beers than the Fox, and the Viaduct, a Fullers pub which is now the most westerly pub in the London postal area.

Colin Price

Views expressed in this publication are those of their individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial Team or the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.



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

- Mild always available
- Cask Marque quality award
- La Trappe Trappist ale & Pilsner Urquell both on draught
- Function room free to CAMRA members
- Thursday night is Quiz Night
- Jazz piano Sunday afternoons
- Jazz/Blues every Friday and Saturday evening
- Open daily from midday

CAMRA
NORTH LONDON
PUB OF THE YEAR
1995 & 1996

## 26 Wenlock Road London N1

020 7608 3406

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

## -Branch Update

Welcome again to our regular branch information page where we have details of Branch Contacts and events as well as general items of news from the various branch areas. This is where branches can tell drinkers across London what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to them. Branch events for April / May are listed below.

#### ALL LONDON BRANCHES.

May - Tue 23 (7.00) Social and Discussion. Shipwrights Arms, 88 Tooley Street SE1. Guest speaker, Paul Nunny, director of Cask Marque will talk in the function room from 8.30.

**LONDON PUBS GROUP**. Eric Martin 020-8697 2147 (H), 01223-582735 (W).

April - Wed 12 (7.00) Pub design crawl. Convene at St. Pauls Tavern, 36 Chiswell Street. Anyone interested is welcome. - May - Wed 10 (8.00) Business meeting. Royal Oak, Tabbard Street, SE1. Anyone interested is welcome.

**CROYDON & SUTTON**. Paul Everitt 020-8686 5053 (H & W).

April - Sat 1 (12.00 Noon) Heritage Pub Crawl, Meet Warwick Castle (Warwick Avenue Tube). - Thu 6 (8.30) South Norwood Crawl. Meet in the Alliance 91 High Street, then the Portmanor, Portland Road. - Mon 17 (8.30) Carshalton Crawl, Start at Racehorse, 17 West Street, Railway Tayern, Sun and Lord Palmerstone, Mill Lane. - Tue 25 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Dog & Bull 24 Surrey Street Croydon. - May - Thu 4 (8.30) Two Pub Social. Duke of Cambridge Holmesdale Rd, then Clifton Arms, Clifton Road SE25. - Thu 11 (8.30) Purley Crawl. Jolly Farmers then Foxley Hatch, Russell Hill Road. - Sun 28 (12.00 noon) Beer Festival social Windsor Castle 378 Carsharlton Road. Carshalton. - June - Thu 1 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Windsor Castle (as above)

EAST LONDON & CITY. Ben or Robyn 020-8521 4410 (H). Email robyn@pigsear.org.uk. Social enquiries Bob Walker 0208-924 0346 (H).

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

April - Tue 4 (9.00) Social. Crown and Horseshoes, 15 Horseshoe Lane (off Chase Side), Enfield EN2. - Wed 12 (9.00) Social. Queens Head, 248 Regents Park Road, Finchley Central N3. - Tue 18 (9.00) Social. Lamb, 52/54 Church Street, Lower Edmonton N9. - Thu 27 (9.00) Social, Builders, 3 Albert Road, New Barnet EN4 - May - Tue 2 (9.00) Social. Wishing Well, 110/112 Chase Side, then (10.00) New Crown, 80/84 Chase Side, Southgate N14. - Sat 6 (8.00) Mild Promotion Social. Tally Ho, 749 High Road, North Finchley N12. - Thu 11 (9.00) Mild Promtion Social. Orange Tree, 18 Highfield Road, Winchmore Hill N21. - Tue 16 (9.00) Social. Arkley, Barnet Road, Barnet EN5. - Wed 24 (9.00) Social. Kings Head, The Green, then (10.00) Salisbury Arms, Hoppers Road, The Green, Winchmore Hill N21. - June - Thu 1 (9.00) Social and London Drinker Pick Up. Old Mitre, 58 High Street, Barnet EN5. - Wed 7 (8.30) Branch AGM, Barnet Conservative Club, 33 High Street (next door to Felix and Firkin), guest speaker invited.

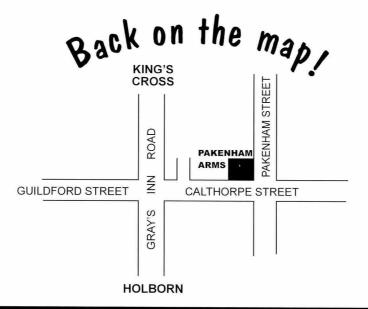
**KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD**. Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H) 01483-714898 (W)

April - Tue 4 (8.30) Branch meeting. The Richmond Park, Kings Road, Kingston. - Sat 8 (11.30) Surrey Liaison meeting. The Rising Sun, Heathcote Road, Epsom. - Wed 19 (8.00) London Bridge Crawl. Meet in The Shipwright's Arms, Tooley Street, then at 8.30 depart for The Royal Oak. See branch contact if interested. - May - Fri 5 (6.00pm) Minibus trip to Brakespeares Brewery. Depart from Surbiton station, cost £10.00 approx. Pick up and drop off from New Malden if required. Booking and money by 28th April. - Wed 10 (8.30) Branch meeting. The Griffin (common room) Claygate. - Sat 13 (11.45) Young's Brewery visit. Tour starts at 12.00, cost £4.50, bookings and money by 6th May. - Fri 26th to Sun 28th weekend trip to Dudley. Visit The Beacon Hotel (home of Sarah Hughes), Holdens Brewery and The Black Country Museum. Names and deposit by 1st May. Travel by train or own transport.

NORTH LONDON. Alison Cox 020-8742 0498 (H) 020-8746 8148 (W). Any social queries contact Gary White 07005 355399, email: <gwhitegeog@bigfoot.com>.

## PAKENHAM ARMS

Pakenham Street, WC1 Tel 020 7837 6933



## FEATURING DURING APRIL & MAY:

- Fullers Chiswick
- Fullers Honeydew
- Fullers London Pride
- Harveys Best

- Nethergate IPA
- Nethergate Bitter
- Timothy Taylor Landlord
- Youngs Bitter

Price per pint from £1.50 (Chiswick, Nethergate & Youngs) to £1.90 4 pint jugs £6.00

Open all permitted hours

Due to demand, additional handpumps installed

## Branch Update

April -Mon 3 (8.00) Branch Social. Wenlock Arms 26 Wenlock Road, N1. - Tue Í1 (8.00) Branch Social. Compton Arms, 4 Compton Avenue & Marquess Tavern, 32 Canonbury Street, N1. - Tue 18 (8.00) Branch Meeting. Three Cups, 22 Sandland Street, WC1. - Tue 25 (8.00) Pub of the Season presentation. Pakenham Arms, 1 Pakenham Street WC1. - May - Mon 1 (8.00)Branch Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1. - Tue 9 (8.00) Branch Social. Lord Palmerston, 33 Dartmouth Park Hill, & Dartmouth Arms, 35 York Rise NW5 - Mon 16 (8.00)Branch Social. To be advised. - Tue 23 (8.00) Branch Social at All London Social Event + guest speaker. Shipwrights, Tooley Street SE1.

## RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Brian Kirton 020-8384 7284 (H).

April - Tue 11 (8.00) Social evening. The Lion, 27 Wick Road, Teddington (Nr. Hampton Wick station, buses 281, 285, 465 stop nearby). - Wed 19 (8.00) Branch AGM. Watrmans Arms (upstairs room), Water Lane, Richmond. Please bring membership cards in case a vote is required. - May - Wed 3 (8.00) Open Branch meeting. Swan Inn, 1 Swan Street, Isleworth. - Thu 11 (8.00) Another Great Quiz night. Magpie and Crown, 128 high Street, Brentford. Everyone welcome, especially teams from neighbouring branches. - Sat 27 to Mon 29 Possible camping weekend. Whitsbury, near Fordingbridge, Hants. Check with Brian for further details.

#### **SOUTH EAST LONDON**. Dave Lee 020-8694-2687

April - Mon 3 (8.00) Branch/Committee meeting. Hogshead, 150-154 High Street, Beckenham. - Tue 11 (8.00) Social. Railway Bell, 14 Cawnpore Street SE19 (near Crystal Palacebus station). - Wed 19 (8.00) Social. Moon and Stars, 164-166 High Street, Penge SE20. -Wed 26 (7.30) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting. Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich SE10. May - Wed 3 (8.00) Branch/committee meeting. The Roebuck, Great Dover Street SE1 (near Borough station). - Sat 6 (1.00) Catford Beer Festival Publicity Crawl. Start Catford Ram, Winslade Way SE6, finishing at the Tiger's Head, Bromley Road SE6 at 5pm. -Tue 9 (7.30) publicity crawl. Watch House, Lewisham High Street SE13, depart 8.00. -Wed 17 (7.30) publicity crawl. Plume of Feathers, Park Vista, Greenwich SE10, depart 8.00. - Mon 22 (7.30) publicity crawl. Fewterer and Firkin,

Sydenham SE26, depart 8.00. - Wed 31 (6.30) publicity crawl. Royal Oak, Tabard Street SE1, depart 7.00.

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

April - Wed 5 (8.30) Social (& Essex Good Beer Guide Selection Meeting). Plough Inn, Off Sabines Road, Navestock Heath (OS: TQ538970). - Tue 11 (8.30) Social. Dog & Partridge, Brentwood Road (A128), Orsett. -Wed 19 (8.30) Branch Annual General Meeting. Green Man, 11 Cricketers Lane (off A128), Herongate. -Thu 27 (8.30) Branch Social. 13th Ongar Beer Festival, Budworth Hall, Chipping Ongar (High Street, A128). For further details of festival see their web site: http://www.hebcamra.org.uk/ongar2000. - May -Wed 3 (8.30) Social. Standard Bearer, Goodmayes Road (B177), (near Goodmayes Station & High Road (A118)), Goodmayes. - Thu 11 (8.30) West End (Chelmsford) Pub Crawl, Starting in Ship, 18 Broomfield Road and finishing in White Horse, 25 Townfield Street. More details will appear in May's "What's Brewing" and on our web site at http://www.swessex.clara.net. - Mon 15 (8.30) Social. Rose, Chelmsford Road (A1023), Shenfield. - Thu 25 (8.30) Social. Olde Dog Inn, Billericay Road, (1 mile from A128), Herongate Tye.

## **SOUTH WEST LONDON**. Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7438 6418 (W).

April - Wed 5 (7.00) Prices survey crawl. Meet Grapes, 39 Fairfield Street, Wandsworth SW18, depart 7.30 (Half-way meeting point 9.15 Kings Arms, 96 Wandsworth High St.). - Tue 18 (7.30) Open branch committee meeting and Club of The Year Nominations. Grove, 39 Oldridge Road, Balham SW12. - Sun 30 (12.30) Branch Pub Of The Year presentation. Sultan, 78 Norman Road, South Wimbledon SW19. - May - Thu 11 (7.30) Open branch committee meeting (Pub Design nominations), and (8.00) AGM. Priory Arms (upstairs room), 83 Landsdowne Way, SW8. - Sat 27 (11.00) Crawl of Wimbledon to Croydon tramlink route. Meet Prince of Wales (opposite Centre Court shopping centre), 2 Hartfield Road SW19, depart 11.30.

For branch cricket information please phone Andy Robinson: 020-8653 8885 (H)

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

## Branch Update

**WEST LONDON**. Di Kehoe (until 17th May) 020-7218 3999 (W).

April - Thu 6 (8.30) Social. Turners Arms, 26 Crawford Street W1. - Sat 15 - Sun 16 National AGM. Derby. - Thu 27 (8.00) Pub Crawl. Albion, 127 Hammersmith Road W14, then (8.45) Hand and Flower, 1 Hammersmith Road W14, (9.30) Radnor Arms, 247 Warwick Road W14, and (10.15) Britannia Tap, 150 Warwick Road W14. - May - Tue 9 (8.00) Open Committee then social. Cock and Bottle, 17 Needham Road W11. - Wed 17 (8.00) Branch AGM. White Horse, 1 Parsons Green SW6. May be followed by a Special EGM to close the branch if a new committee cannot be formed!

**WEST MIDDLESEX**. Paul Dabrowski 020-8571 9146 (H), 020-7713 3882 (W).

April - Tue 4 (8.00) Out of Branch Social. Magpie & Crown, High Street, Brentford. - Wed 12 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Duke of York, Steyne Road, Acton. - Sat 22, (11.00) Easter Isis

Ramble. Jolly Porter, Culham, Plough and Barley Mow (both Clifton Hampden), Machine Man Inn, Vine and Plough (all Long Wittenham), and Carpenter's Arms, Appleford (Approx 1 pub every hour). Train to Culham and return from Appleford. For further details and train times, contact Social Secretary. - Wed 26 (8.00) Two-Pub Branch Social. Oak Tree, Ryefield Avenue, & Star, Uxbridge Road, both Hillingdon. - May -Wed, 10 (8.00) West Middlesex Branch Annual General Meeting. Load of Hay, Villier Street, Uxbridge, Membership Cards Required; note earlier than normal Start-time. - Thu 11 (8.30) Inter-branch Pub Quiz. Magpie & Crown, High Street, Brentford. - Wed 31 (9.00) London Drinker Pick-Up. Red Lion, St Mary's Road, Ealing.

Deadline for the June / July edition, 12th May. Material for August / September to arrive by 7th July. Please be sure to send all diary material to Dave Oram (LDEditor@tesco.net).

#### **LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS**

AGRAD is a group of lesbian and gay members of the Campaign for Real Ale organising to extend the Campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. The group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month from 7.00 p.m. onwards in the upstairs bar of the King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, London W1. All welcome. Or visit our website at http://www.goldings.demon.co.uk/queerale/

#### APRIL EVENTS:

Wed 5 (7.00). The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020-) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Tue 18 (6.30). Richmond Arms, 20 The Square, Richmond, (020-) 8940 2118. Courage Directors last time it was checked out (about twelve months ago). As it's earlier in the week this is an early evening social only. Richmond tube and rail.

#### MAY EVENTS

Wed 3 (7.00). The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020-) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Sat 13 (1.00). Yapton Beer Festival, near the south coast between Littlehampton and Bognor Regis, 1½ miles from Barnham Station. A few of us will be travelling over from Brighton (as it's only just along the coast – best check with someone first if your coming).

Thu 18 (6.30). Richard I, Royal Hill, Greenwich, (straight Young's pub, but a good place for a quick one for early drinkers). Then check out the Gloucester for real ale en route to (7.30) Rose and Crown, 1 Crooms Hill, Greenwich, (020-) 8858 0154. Traditional pub. Then (9.00) George & Dragon, 2 Blackheath Hill, Greenwich, (020-) 8691 3764. Hancocks HB when we visited in May last year. Greenwich, St Johns, & Lewisham stations.

Sat 27 (1.00). Day out in Oxford. Meet at the Jolly Farmers, 20 Paradise Street, Oxford, (01865) 793759. Oxford's only gay real ale pub, traditional type of pub near to Oxford railway station, past the Morrell's Brewery (or where it used to be) and turn right (apparently behind the Westgate Centre). Serving Flower's Original, Tetley Bitter and Draught Bass on handpumps last time we visited (about two years ago). Trains are twice an hour from Paddington and journey time is about an hour. So if the timetable hasn't changed we'll go for the 11.48, or see you there. If you miss the train don't give up we'll have some lunch and a few beers before we move on to explore further a field, probably stopping at West 5, Reading on the way back.

## Campaigning

## CAMRA BRANCHTO DISBAND?

After many years of loyal service, most of the current committee of the West London Branch of CAMRA have decided it is time to stand down. Unfortunately there doesn't seem to be anyone interested in coming along to branch events and getting involved. We know there are at least 350 CAMRA members (including 45 life members) living within the branch area.

Therefore if nobody is prepared to come forward and keep the branch going, we shall have to call a special egm after the branch AGM to close the branch down until there are people who will run the branch again.

If anyone is interested in coming forward, please phone Di Kehoe at work on 020 7218 3999 or come along to the AGM which is being held at the White Horse, Parsons Green, London SW5 on Wednesday 17 May 2000 starting at 8pm.

## BUDWEISER OR BUDWEISER?

The battle of the Budweisers has rumbled on for an incredible twenty-one years. That's how long the USA's Anheuser Busch and the Czech Budejovicke Budvar breweries have been engaged in litigation over the rights to the 'Budweiser' name in the UK.

The Czechs claim to have been brewing the beer for centuries; the name comes from the village of Ceske Budejovice (Budweis in German). The name describes beer from the region, in the same way that Champagne describes wine from the French region of the same name.

However, Anheuser-Busch has been using the name since 1876, when the brewery was founded by German immigrants - they used the name of the beer that was well known in their homeland. The Czech brewery was founded in 1895, hence the Americans' claim to precedence. Beer lovers have been critical of the American company, claiming that its product is vastly inferior to the Czech version, and that Anheuser-Busch has attempted to use its financial muscle to close down or take over its rival.

Legal action has been carried out around the world, but it looks like it is over in this country. The Appeal Court has ruled that, despite the risk

of confusion, both companies can use the 'Bud' and 'Budweiser' names. The UK importers of the Czech Budweiser have welcomed the result as they "won't have to keep shelling out legal fees any more". It gives a boost to Budweiser Budvar at a time when sales are doing well – in 1999, record world sales were achieved, exports were up by 34% and sales are growing well in Britain due to the increase in draught installations. This is despite a virtually non existent spend on advertising compared to their American namesakes.

Dave Lee

## CAMRATO PUSH FOR A FAIRER DEAL FOR BEER DRINKERS

The Campaign for Real Ale has welcomed the publication of the terms of reference of the Office of Fair Trading's review of the Beer Orders.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said today, "We are especially pleased that the Director General has made it clear that he wants to make sure that consumers are getting a good deal. It is also welcome that the OFT aims to minimise uncertainty in the industry by setting a completion date of mid-August."

"There is no doubt that the current legislation has been left behind by developments in the industry and we welcome the opportunity to show the OFT that there are still problems with consumer choice and access to market for small brewers."

CAMRA will be urging the OFT to revisit the recommendations made by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1989.

Mr. Benner added, "The MMC made a series of recommendations to the Government in 1989, but these were watered down in the final legislation. We firmly believe that the beer market of today would offer a better deal for consumers if the government had introduced a progressive system of excise duty for small brewers, outlawed loan ties and limited the ownership of any company to 2,000 pubs."

CAMRA will be ensuring that the consumer's voice is heard loud and clear during the review and will be submitting evidence to the OFT in March.

From a CAMRA Press Release

#### THE FARMERS' MARKET

Why write up a market in a beer-lovers' magazine? Two reasons, really. First, the editors are desperate for material (This is not the case, however -Ed) and, second, there is a lot there to interest anyone who likes good food and beer.

The idea of farmers' markets has been growing for some time now. The one I go to is at the Borough Market in Southwark, London SE1. This is under the railway bridges between Southwark cathedral and Stoney Street and west of (i.e. upriver from) the Borough High Street.

There is a small market every weekend on Friday and Saturday but the big one, when all the stallholders come, is on the third Saturday of every month. On Saturday 18 February there were about 50 stalls. In addition, Neal's Yard has a permanent outpost here, specialising in breads and cheeses, in Park St, and there is a wet fish shop and a fish restaurant under the same ownership on Borough St. One of the nearby bakeries which takes a stall hopes to move later this year into permanent premises nearby. There is a rumour that Bishop's Brewery, on the corner of Park St and Stoney St, may be reopening this year.

So, what is there? Well, first the booze. There is always a cidermaker from the New Forest. with real farmhouse ciders and perries, and fruit juices. In the winter he has been known to sell mulled cider, a very welcome form of antifreeze! He also stocks some of the products of The Somerset Cider Brandy Company. That firm does not turn up every month but, when they do, don't dither: go and see them. Not only do they distil cider, and bottle a three-, a five- and a tenyear-old brandy, but they bottle apple juices from named varieties of apple and blend an 18% ABV aperitif based on the juice of the Kingston Black cider apple. The 3 and 5 year old spirits are available in full and half bottles (hooray), but the 10 is only in full, 75 cl ones (boo!). Recently, a company called Utobeer has been taking a stall, selling a variety of good British and imported beers.

What else? Well, there is always lots of fruit and vegetables, most of them organically grown; there are usually at least two bakeries; the Chocolate Society has been known to show up, the Monmouth Coffee Company too. Now, we suspect that neither of these two actually grows their own, but who cares? Similarly with the couple of stalls that sell olives and olive oil.

Sillfield Farm from Cumbria has the largest stand, selling all sorts of good grub: cheeses, some smoked; meat or game pies; black puddings - turn up early for these, they soon sell out - various sorts of bacon and sausages including wild boar, boerwors, chorizo and venison. Some of the sausages are hot-smoked, so that you can eat them straight away, likewise the hot-smoked chicken and duck breast. Recently they have shared their stall with a fisherman selling wet fish and a farmer selling Cumberland lamb. Last December they even had pheasant.

For lunch you can buy various forms of pies and pasties, cooked sausages and burgers: venison and beef, etc. The Market Porter pub will be doing meals. The Wheatsheaf sometimes does, especially if it is holding one of its beer festivals. If it isn't, just ask for permission to bring your own food in from the market; you'll get it.

All in all, this makes doing the shopping a pleasure.

**Richard Larkin** 

## DARTMOUTH ARMS

35 York Rise, Dartmouth Park, NW5 (5 minutes Tufnell Park tube) telephone: 020 7485 3267 e-mail: nick@dartmoutharms.freeserve.co.uk

Free half pint of any real ale with any main dish purchased (on production of this ad)

#### Regulars

Adnams Best Bitter and Youngs Special

**Guests** (currently) Wood: Shropshire Lad Bank Top: Fred's Cap

Traditional home cooked British food. Menu changes daily and includes Sausages & Mash, Fresh Seafood, Roast Meats and Full English Breakfast

Real fires • In-house bookshop

## North of the River

## **WEST MIDDLESEX NEWS**

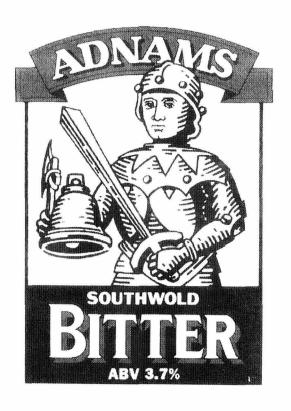
In mid-November, we held our twelfth 'Beer on Broadway' festival which featured over forty different beers, plus assorted ciders and perries, from all around the country and various foreign ales as well. There was even a cider from Italy! Over 2,200 people attended another successful event which reflected well on the fact that, owing to Remembrance Day services being held on our first day, the opening time was put back on the Thursday to 12 noon so that festival workers could also pay their respects. It also ensured that Ealing's current mayor, Phil Portwood, was able to officially open proceedings, he became a familiar figure in the Victoria Hall over all three days on which the event was held. Gerry Scanlon's fine ales were available (whether brewed at O'Hanlon's, Rebellion's or Vale's premises) and it was with the help of the first-mentioned that a beer that the mayor had originally commissioned from the Photographer & Firkin, the 'Millennium Mayor's Ale', was able to be brewed again following the precipitate closure of the Firkin breweries following Punch Tavern's takeover of former Allied Domecq pubs. It seemed even better than the original which itself had been an extremely hoppy but eminently quaffable ale at 4.0% ABV.

Owing to the Twickenham festival not being possible this year, West Middlesex was able to take advantage of sponsorship from Alfa Laval which had been offered to the neighbouring Richmond & Hounslow branch. This partly went to provide, for the first time, paid-for advertising on the outsides of Centrewest and Armchair buses which serve Ealing Broadway. It may be recalled that, following support for our festival from the former in 1996, new timetables had been subsequently introduced on their trunk routes 207 & N207 which meant a severe reduction in the numbers of daytime buses returning from Uxbridge in the late evenings and a commensurate increase in the balance of night buses together with all the problems that the lack of one-day Pass and Travelcard validity entailed. Well, it would seem that representations made at the time by the branch have been heeded as, following the retendering of these services by London Transport (which Centrewest retained under a new contract), new schedules came into force on the closing night of 'Beer on Broadway'. These not only restored a late bus on route 207 at 23:30 (replacing the original last journey at 2325) but with extra last buses at 2315 and 2345 (a great improvement on the revised last journey three years ago of 2306)! A success!

The 1998 branch 'Pub of the Year' had, for the second year running, gone to the Drayton Court Hotel in W13 (not W5 as the current Good

Beer Guide would have it!). However, when the management team left shortly afterwards (any connection?), it was felt that the award more accurately reflected the work that both Don Witts and Myfanwy Williams had put into that large establishment and, as it was known that they were looking for another public house elsewhere, it was resolved that any presentation should be to them wherever their search took them. During summer 1999, they moved into the Lion in Wick Road, Teddington (actually closer to Hampton Wick) and the branch was thus able to present their certificate (which should, more accurately, have been renamed 'Publicans of the Year' perhaps). In early December, therefore, a minibus took about a dozen or so branch members deep into Richmond & Hounslow territory and, with additional representation from both that branch and the adjacent Kingston SPBW, a well-deserved, if rather belated, reward was able to be presented to the licencees. On the night, the regular beers of Wadworth 6X, Wychwood Original and Young's Ordinary were supplemented by a mystery beer using a fourth handpump which your scribe was able to immediately identify. Undoubtedly, West Middlesex's loss will be neighbouring Richmond & Hounslow branch's gain! The pub is located about half a mile north of Hampton Wick BR station and is served by route 281 and 285 buses which pass nearby.

# Appearing in discerning outlets all over London



from
Suffolk's oldest brewery Britain's finest beer

## Bits & Pieces

### **SWIFT HALVES**

Costs associated with the sale of its managed estate to Scottish and Newcastle have pushed Greenalls into the red, with the company reporting a loss of £304 million in December. Excluding the costs, operating profits were well down and there are hints that the loss-making wholesaling business will be sold.

Anyone remember the Romford Brewery? The site where Edward Ind (of Ind Coope fame) brewed beer 200 years ago has been closed for some time, and it has now been sold to Countryside Properties. They plan to build houses on the site along with shops and a museum to be leased to the local council (Havering), along with a cinema and leisure complex. The £12 million scheme started in January and the first residents will be moving in during September.

Shepherd Neame mounted a £250,000 advertising campaign for its Spitfire ale in London before Christmas. The beer was also laid on at the Ritz in Piccadilly for the celebration of the award of the CBE chairman Robert Neame for services to brewing, tourism and the community.

## WEST MIDDLESEX NEWS (contd)

Finally, the branch is currently involved with trying to ensure that one of our regular GBG entries, the Fox, Hanwell, W7 is not sold for redevelopment. One of our longest-serving licencees (if not the longest), Brian Shacklady, is unfortunately having to retire prematurely owing to ill health and, having bought the freehold outright from Scottish Courage just three years ago, he is equally anxious that, if possible, the pub stays as such. However, by the time this is read, the pub may well have closed permanently since, late last year, the only interest shown had been from property developers. A sad state indeed for this ex-Royal Brewery of Brentford hostelry located in a unique location at the confluence of the River Brent and the Grand Union Canal at the bottom of the Hanwell flight of six locks. However, the local branch is assisting concerned local residents in campaigning for refusals to any 'change of use' applications or planning permissions involving the structure's demolition by lobbying local councillors and raising the issue within wider CAMRA circles. Here's to another success!



Young's brewery salesman Cansh Pope has enlisted a pair of Shire horses to help him get fit for the London Marathon. Cansh, who sells Young's beer to free trade outlets in the City, is "training like mad" for the big day in April. He has successfully completed two half marathons, but this is the first full one; the run is to raise money for the Disabled Living Foundation, which works for "freedom, empowerment and choice for disabled people who use equipment or technology to enhance their independence".

Scottish and Newcastle has sold 481 pubs to Royal Bank of Scotland for £180 million. This is the first sale since the Office of Fair Trading ordered the sale of 700 pubs by 1st June following S&N's takeover of Greenall's pubs. The pubs will be managed by S&N on behalf of the Royal Bank, but the licensees will be independent to keep the pubs out of direct S&N influence in order to comply with OFT requirements.

The Good Beer Guide listed Rising Sun in Mill Hill was badly damaged in January when a number 251 bus crashed into the building. The bus ended up about 3 feet from the bar and was severely damaged; it inflicted structural damage to the 400 year old listed building which had to be closed and the licensees moved out. Rumour has it that the driver is no longer employed by Metroline, the bus company!

Dave Lee

## Crawl -

## PUBS ALONG THE JUBILEE LINE EXTENSION

The Jubilee Line Extension was opened in November 1999, bringing an underground service to some parts of South East London for the first time. The new service covers Waterloo, Southwark, London Bridge, Bermondsey, Canada Water, Canary Wharf and North Greenwich.

#### WATERLOO

Waterloo is a major transport interchange, the station serving trains from the South Coast and the Eurostar services through the Channel Tunnel. The major feature of the area is the South Bank arts complex, including the Royal Festival Hall and Hayward Gallery. The South Bank spreads along the Thames either side of Waterloo bridge, and is built on the site of the 1951 Festival of Britain. The latest addition is the British Airways London Eye, a massive Ferris wheel which offers views of the whole of London. South of the station is Lambeth Palace. the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Fire Station, 150 Waterloo Road, SE1 Unsurprisingly this pub used to be a fire station and still retains the large doors for the appliances to get out. This means that in summer pub-goers spill out onto the street and beyond. Best avoided in the early evening as many people stop off for a quick pint. Recently awarded a Cask Marque for the quality of its real ales. L'Auberge, 1 Sandell Street, SE1 The only bar mentioned in this guide where a hand pump won't be seen. No British real ale, but a range of European bottled beers and great food make it well worth visiting. Mulberry Bush, 89 Upper Ground, SE1 Superior Young's pub on Upper Ground, about five minutes walk from the station. Offering the full range of Young's beer and the most reasonably priced wine list of any chain. The pub is opposite the London Weekend Studios so you may get to do a bit of star spotting as well.

#### LONDON BRIDGE AND SOUTHWARK

London Bridge is built adjacent to the site of the first Roman bridge over the Thames and was the only bridge over the river for many miles throughout the medieval period. Being handy for the City but outside the jurisdiction of the City authorities, it was notorious for drunkenness, debauchery and theatres. Shakespeare's Globe is

the most famous of the local theatres and has been reconstructed in original style on Bankside; another reminder of the area's past is the Clink Prison in Clink Street, where local prostitutes were locked up. The prison and much of the area was under the ownership of the Bishop of Winchester, and some remains of the Bishops' palace can be seen near Borough Market. Southwark was famous for its taverns, but sadly of the many galleried coaching inns in the area, only the George remains. The Tabard Inn, starting point of Chaucer's pilgrims in the 14th century, was demolished in 1873. Many others went in various road widening schemes and the construction of the approach to the new London Bridge, which replaced the medieval one in 1831. This was in turn replaced by the present bridge in 1972. Southwark Cathedral is a prominent landmark opposite London Bridge station; it is London's oldest surviving Gothic church, begun in 1220 although with many later additions. Founders Arms, 52 Hopton Street, SE1 Modern, riverside Young's pub with great views. Bitter (known as 'Ordinary') and Special are always available and the best time to visit this pub is when the Winter Warmer is on. The views are just as good in the winter and the pub is less crowded. Near Blackfriars bridge on Hopton Street. Barrowboy and Banker, 8 Borough High Street, SE1 Directly opposite London Bridge station at the southern end of London Bridge. Formerly a bank, the building was converted into a Fuller's 'Ale and Pie' house a few years ago; it usually features the full range of Fuller's Chiswick-brewed ales and a good food menu. Like several of the pubs in the area, it is often busy with office workers at lunchtimes but is closed at weekends. Shipwrights Arms, 88 Tooley Street, SE1 This ex-Courage pub is now a free house featuring Andy Bishop's Bitter, brewed for the pub at Crouch Vale in Essex, as a regular beer. Two other ales are usually on offer - often unusual

## Crawl

ones from various small breweries. Good value food is available at lunchtimes. Further along, by Tower Bridge, are the Pommellers Rest (part of the Wetherspoons chain) and the Bridge House, serving Adnams beers. George Inn, 77 Borough High Street SE1 This pub is the last survivor of Southwark's once numerous ancient coaching inns, with the present building dating from 1676. Only one wing of the original pub has survived demolition by the railway companies in the 19th century. The Wheatsheaf, 6 Stoney Street, SE1 This pub has been the subject of a local campaign over several years to prevent its demolition to make way for a railway viaduct. Campaigners claimed victory late in 1999 when revised plans included the retention of the pub. A small, traditional market pub, it boasts up to six real ales and was good enough to be voted local pub of the year in 1998. It is often closed at weekends. Market Porter, 9 Stoney Street, SE1 This pub has been revitalised in recent years and also offers a wide range of real ales from small independent breweries. It isn't as old as the Wheatsheaf, but is larger and consequently doesn't get as packed. A short walk from Stoney Street are the Old Thameside Inn and the Anchor. These are both on Bankside, next to the Thames, and offer views of the City and St. Pauls on the north bank.

#### BERMONDSEY AND CANADA WATER

Lying to the east of Tower Bridge and the Pool of London, Bermondsey has had a long association with shipping, although later the docks moved eastwards to the Isle of Dogs and Rotherhithe. The area was known in the 19th century for its tanning and brewing industries. Canada Water station is located in Rotherhithe, which lies within a loop of the Thames opposite the Isle of Dogs. Rotherhithe sailors formed the crew of the Mayflower when it carried the Pilgrim Fathers to Massachusetts in 1620, and the event is remembered in the Mayflower pub in Rotherhithe Street which dates from the same period. The Thames tunnel, which now carries the East London line under the river, was the first underwater tunnel in the world, opened in 1834. It was originally a foot tunnel and took almost 30 years to build. With the decline of the Surrey Docks in the area, a great deal of redevelopment has taken place and smart

housing now occupies many of the old dock sites. Mayflower, 117 Rotherhithe Street, SE16 Historical riverside pub, named after the Mayflower ship that took pilgrims to America. situated behind Rotherhithe tube (also licensed to sell US stamps). Blacksmiths Arms, 257 Rotherhithe Street, SE16 Large one-bar pub owned by the Chiswick-based Fuller's Brewery. There is a family area situated at the rear of the pub. The Holiday Inn hotel is nearby. Moby Dick, 6 Russia Court, Russell Place Opened in 1990, this was the first new pub in the Surrey Docks Development area. Splendid view over Greenland Dock, with outside seating on the dockside. Surrey Docks 185 Lower Road, SE16 Large Wetherspoons pub opposite Surrey Quays tube station with very reasonably priced food and drink available.

#### CANARY WHARF

Formerly the West India Docks, this 70 acre site is one of the largest civil engineering projects ever undertaken. The 800ft tower, One Canada Square, is the tallest building in Britain, and one of the tallest in Europe. Not a place to seek out for pubs but if you want to see the tower or are coming from City airport then this could be a life saver. Cat & Canary 25-27 Fishermans Walk, E14 A short walk from the station, this Fuller's pub overlooks the water. Offering the full range of Fuller's beers, including the seasonal specials, you are guaranteed to find something to suit your taste.

#### NORTH GREENWICH

The North Greenwich peninsula was a bleak, derelict industrial site before it was announced that the area was to become the location of Britain's Millennium Exhibition -the Millennium Dome. Since the announcement this derelict area has been completely rejuvenated. However, as at December 1999, this rejuvenation has not included the provision of any new pubs. Pilot Inn, 68 River Way, SE10 Previously hidden away near the Blackwall Tunnel, this pub should be given a new lease of life as the closest pub to the Millennium Dome. The pub was one of the first in

South East London to be awarded a Cask Marque, in recognition of the quality of its real ale.

Andy Camroux

## **Feature**

#### **PUBS ROUND THE DOME**

The London Drinker has recently made reference to the new pub, which the Millennium Dome has spawned. There is still one old pub – the Pilot - functioning at the back end of the Dome site, two others survive albeit renamed, and there are traces of some others in the surrounding area. At one time there were many more – which gradually closed down as the population moved away from the area and factories shut.

Two hundred years ago there were no pubs at all in the area of what was then 'Greenwich Marsh'. The area was virtually deserted except for a maze of drains and ponds, intersecting the fields used for grazing cattle and horses. People entered the marsh by walking down Blackwall Lane from the Woolwich Road and on the corner stood the Ship and Billet – very much a local landmark. Over the years the Ship and Billet hosted a number of events – for instance in May 1862 it was the site of a 'pedestrian match which was won by 'Deerfoot', who although behind, put on a spurt at the end and one by eight yards. The pub still survives although it was renamed in the 1980s as 'The Frog and Radiator' because a new landlady wanted a distinctive 'silly' name. The present building is a Victorian rebuilding of the old pub.

Before 1800 there was one large industrial building on Greenwich Marsh. This was the Government Gunpowder depot and a memory of it survived in a Greenwich pub until 1846 when it was burnt down. It was called the Royal Magazine and stood in East Street (today Eastney Street). We are told that the landlord's bedridden mother was saved from the fire by a 'bold daring young sailor'.

Almost the earliest pub to be found on old maps perhaps the most mysterious. This is Salutation House, after which a modern street in the area was named. It appears briefly in the early nineteenth century and then disappears and it is only a guess that it was a pub at all. There was already a 'Salutation House' in Church Street, Greenwich and another in Woolwich. Another short lived mystery was the Morden Castle, advertised for sale in 1849. It was described as being 'most commandingly situate for business' and that a spirit licence was shortly to be granted.

It may be that the Modern Castle was an early name for a rather better recorded pub. This was The Sea Witch which stood on the Greenwich riverside until the 1940s when it was destroyed in bombing. This part of the Greenwich riverside was owned by the Blackheath based charity, Morden College and in the late 1830s they leased 'Great Pitts' to a developer called Charles Thomas Holcombe. In they reported that he had built a pub on the riverbank at the end of Morden Wharf Road – the lane which today runs from Blackwall Lane down into the Amylum glucose refinery. The pub was on the site of what is now Aylum's laboratory block, and the pattern of their windows eerily echo those which were on the e front of the pub. A plan, of 1879, shows that at one time Sea Witch had a garden on the riverside with the still existing riverside path between it and the pub itself. In 1870 it was a tied house for Gurney Hanbury of Camberwell

### BEER! but not just any old beer

300+ different bottled beers from 23+ countries
A huge range from Germany (15+), Belgium (153+),
Czech (12+), Far East, South America, Mongolia,
Canada, Zimbabwe and more. We constantly search
for and stock different products. We are proud to be
described as a beer oasis. Bottled beer and glass gift
packs, Glasses also sold separately.

#### www.onlyfinebeer.co.uk

Our web-site lists all the different bottled beers in stock. What's on the list is what's on the shelf.

Bottles, 349 Commercial Road, E1 phone or fax: 020 7265 8388 e-mail: gavin@onlyfinebeer.co.uk

open: Mon-Sat 10am to 11pm, Sun 10.30am to 10.30pm

No minimum order for delivery
One bottle or one hundred from £3.50

An independent specialist bottled beer and fine wine retailer. Competitive prices with reasonable delivery charges.

THIS, IN NO WAY, DEPICTS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TEAM AT ANY TIME. ESPECIALLY IN THE EARLY MORNINGS, MUCH.



## **Feature**

but a 1937 photograph shows it as a Whitbread House. Why was it called 'Sea Witch'? In the 1850s there was a famous American Clipper Ship called Sea Witch but a different clipper called Sea Witch was built at Blackwall Yard, opposite the site of the pub, at about the same time. Both Sea Witches were built to carry opium to China and bring back tea and silk – so I wonder what Mr. Holcombe's main income was actually derived from!

Alongside the northbound entrance to the Blackwall Tunnel is a shop selling electrical and other equipment. Drivers with sharp eyes will notice that on the wall is a Whitbread sign. This building was the 'Star in the East' which opened around 1860. In 1865 it was described as a 'wine and spirit establishment'. Star in the East was the name of another Blackwall built opium clipper. The pub was in the papers in 1898 when the landlord was fined for serving a certain Ellen Pope with too many glasses of gin and bitters — despite the fact that she had been barred from the pub some months previously.

There were a number of other pubs in the area about which rather less is known. One of them was the Ordnance Arms in Blackwall Lane - no doubt named for the Blakeley Ordnance Works which was briefly built nearby in the mid-1860s and advertised as a 'wine and spirit establishment'. In 1890s am inquest was held there on a baby, Hannah Whitehouse, who drowned in a nearby ditch while her brother and sister were chasing ducks – a vivid reminder of the marshy, semi-rural nature of the area despite all the industry. The pub has not been found on any maps and its exact location is not clear. Two others are shown on a map of the early 1880s – the Mechanics Arms, at the Blackwall lane end of Morden Wharf Lane, and the Kenilworth Castle in Ordnance Crescent. All of these appear to have been demolished when the Blackwall Tunnel was built.

There is one other old pub near the Dome which is still in use as a drinking establishment of some sort. It is currently being refurbished, yet again, and the new neon sign outside reads 'Meantime'. Until quite recently it was a night club called Dorringtons, but was originally the Mitre The pub was built alongside the gas works for the use of thirsty gas workers - in 1889 the Gas Company granted a lease to Messrs.

Courage for the site. This was a very strange step since the Gas Company generally had a very strong temperance line and the Company Chairman, George Livesey was a national figure in the Band of Hope! For many years the pub has been very isolated and from the 1960s was used for music events – featuring at one time the locally famous Wally Butcher and his Laughing Gravy Orchestra. In the 1970s it became Malcolm Hardee's notorious Tunnel Club – where 'alternative' comedians were booed off the stage faster than they could get on it.

This now leaves that great survivor of the Dome and all its works – The Pilot. The pub dates from just after 1800 – there is a plaque on it which says 'New East Greenwich 1802'. It was built by a local landowner called George Russell as part of development in what was then a very isolated area. Russell built a large tide mill on the site and alongside a big house and cottages for the workers. These cottages still stand as Ceylon Place – recently listed despite an original plan by the Dome authorities to pull them down. For the last 200 years the Pilot has stood and seen changes all around – the mill was pulled down and replaced by a power station, the great gas works was built to the north and a structural steel works to the south. A lot more houses came and went, as did Greenwich Yacht Club. Now in its third century the pub will no doubt see a lot more come and go before it is finished.

It has always been supposed that the pub is called 'The Pilot' because river pilots came and went in the area. However research in local archives has shown that at the time the pub was built the area was leased by a group of politicians, including William Pitt, the Younger. Students of political history might remember that in 1802, when the pub and cottages were built, that at a great dinner to celebrate the Peace of Amiens that a song was sung as a tribute to Pitt – the chorus calls him 'The Pilot who weathered the storm'. So I think that the Pilot is really called after William Pitt.

It seems that at one time workers on Greenwich Marsh were a much thirstier lot than they are now! When the Dome has gone, will their new pub survive to join the Pilot – and the renamed Ship and Billet and Mitre?

## Crawl

## BURROWING IN THE BOROUGH THE MARKET PORTER

The Market Porter has been, as manager Tony Hedigan implies, a 'natural back drop since time stood still.'

Standing on a corner, almost tucked away behind Southwark Cathedral, just off the busy Borough High Street, close to London Bridge Station and overlooking Borough Market, you can almost expect Dickension characters to leap out at you or even Dick Turpin or Nell Gwyne.

Indeed you can at times for the whole area is often used for film productions. A so far unspoilt London hide-away but for how much longer?

The Market Porter dates back to about 1638 and the local library has the pub records. For many years the pub was called the Harrow and has only been known as the Market Porter in fairly recent times.

Nowadays Borough Market is a lot smaller but still attracts a fair number of enormous continental lorries bearing all sorts of exotic fruit and vegetables. Every so often there is a Farmers Market with mouth-watering cheeses, pasties and other country delights.

To cater for the thirty market people and yes, real market porters, the pub is open at the time most of us are just getting up or having a mug of tea and cornflakes - six o'clock in the morning. It stays open until 8.30am six days a week and then reopens at eleven until eleven in the evening. Sunday hours are more conservative 12 noon - 10.30pm.

This pub and the whole little area of Borough Market are another world and a little gem. The great blue meanies or modern day business and communication (particularly the railways) want to change the area - ruin it - basically for profit. This has caused a major outcry and there have been enormous petitions. As a result the pub virtually next door to the Market Porter, the Wheatsheaf, (also worth a visit) has been saved. The market might be smaller but as new businesses move into the area both pubs are thriving.

A friendly man with a keen interest in Real Ale Tony Hedigan has been at the Market Porter for 2\_years. Before that he was at a pub near Marble Arch for 5 years but became bored only being allowed to serve bland national brands. He had

dreams of managing a pub with a wide variety of different beers from all over the country, from both regional and microbreweries.

Then purely by chance he came across the Market Porter, discovered there was a management vacancy, applied and to his great joy got the job! The pub is actually owned by Market Tayerns. However it is free of tie and Tony has complete say in the beers he decides to put on. This can be up to six or seven beers at any time and on my recent visit there was Caledonian Six Nations, Hampshire Wild Thing, Hampshire Lionheart, Kelham Please Please Me. Titanic Best Bitter, Skinners Betty Stogs Bitter and the regular beer, Harveys Sussex Best Bitter. Whilst chatting to Tony he suddenly nipped to the cellar and returned with two halves of the current National Winter Ale Festival champion, Robinsons Old Tom at 8.5% ABV. As we both sipped this wonderful dark beer sitting in a cosy nook of this historic pub you felt you had gone back a hundred years to when Old Tom was first brewed.

Tony told me that he has recently changed beer agencies to Oliver Hare, a fairly young company with a very successful record to date. The major reason for changing was that the rival pub, not one hundred yards away (no guesses as to its name) was using the same agency and both pubs often ended up having exactly the same beers on. No good for trade, beer lovers including the notorious tickers would go to one pub, try the beers there, have a look in the other, find they were the same and then disappear. Sometimes as many as ten customers at a time were lost because both pubs had the same beers

Tony has said that he will try and get any beer that is particularly requested.

I have heard some people grumbling about the price of some of the beers. Tony understands these concerns but says that he has no choice in pricing. He does hope with the forthcoming budget that CAMRA's call for a 2p cut in duty is heeded. This would greatly help the brewing

## - A Bit of a Boar

## WILD BOAR CASSEROLE INYOUNG'S DOUBLE CHOCOLATE STOUT

500g diced wild boar: a stewing cut 500g root vegetables, e.g. carrot, swede, turnip, parsnip

I medium onion, chopped

1 bottle (50 cl) Young's Double Chocolate Stout cooking oil or fat optional extras:

2 bay leaves

I dried red chilli

garlic

a few dried mushrooms

1 small square very dark chocolate, say 70% cocoa solids (brands include Caley's Marching Chocolate, Green and Black, Lindt, Valrhona)

## BURROWING IN THE BOROUGH (contd)

industry and licensed trade and hopefully curb the bootleggers.

Tony doesn't use the cask breather. ('It simply kills the beer'). Of the pubs total beer sales 60% is cask beer. All the guest beers are supplied in firkins and the regular beers come in kilderkins. There is no real cider on at present but it hoped that this will change soon.

Another change before too long, possibly within the year, will be a refurbishment. No, don't panic, the pub is not owned by some insensitive vast pub company and according to Tony it will make the pub look even more traditional than now. He also intends taking up the carpet to expose a wooden floor.

There is a wide lunchtime menu that includes food from Thailand and Singapore, T-bone steaks and vegetarian meals.

As I supped several excellent beers in the Market Porter I was surrounded by people from all walks of life, from Bankers to Barrow Boys, to pinch the name of another nearby pub.

Tony said as he was whisked away to serve another pint 'You come to the pub for what it is'. Long may it remain?

The Market Porter is at 9 Stoney Street, London SE1, telephone 020-7407 2495

Robin Forshaw-Wilson

#### Method

Marinade wild boar in stout for a few hours or overnight. Drain, and reserve marinade. Fry briefly in the oil or fat, a little at a time, until lightly browned. Put into a casserole dish. Fry the onion in the same oil, until softened and beginning to colour. Transfer into casserole, add the root vegetables and marinade, plus any of the optional extras, and place casserole in a low oven: about Regulo 2, 325F, 165C. Cook for an hour or two, i.e. go for a pint and come back to it! If the gravy is too thin, thicken with cornflour or mash a cooked potato into it. Serve with boiled or jacket potatoes and any other vegetables you fancy. Accompany it with the same type of beer, of course.

#### Notes

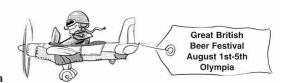
Subtlety is the aim; you should know that there is a 'secret' ingredient but you shouldn't be able to tell what it is. This applies to the garlic as well as the chocolate. If you are cooking jacket potatoes at the same time, rub the skins with a little olive oil; this will prevent them from drying out in the oven.

As wild boar is a very lean meat, do not stint on the oil.

#### Substitutions, alternatives etc.

- Use wild beef instead of wild boar; specify a stewing cut of the meat.
- 2 Use wild boar sausages instead of meat. In this case, no bother to marinade; just stew everything together. Reduce cooking time to 40 minutes. N.B. I haven't tried this variant; so keep a close eye on it, and let the Editor of London Drinker know if it works OK.
- 3 Use any Trappist or Abbey 'dubbel', dark ale or any full-bodied British strong ale. If doing so, add two or even three squares of the chocolate.

Richard Larkin



## **Feature**

#### **UNUSUAL PUB GAMES**

During my tours of London over the last year for my Postal Drinker articles I did notice several unusual pub games. In most pubs the only games available are pool and darts but there are other games available for those prepared to search them out. One problem is that unusual games are hidden away and are only available for matches or for regulars. The games I come across include the following

#### Fives darts

This is a traditional dart board used around the East End. It is the same size as a normal dartboard but has three sectors each consisting of four segments scoring 20, 5, 15 and 10. The doubles and trebles are thinner than on are a normal dartboard to compensate for the greater width across. Games are played in the normal way with 505 being the normal starting point.

Although there are several leagues in East and South London many pubs only have the fives board up for matches and put a normal board up for casual play. The best bet for anyone looking for a game is the GBG listed Youngs pub the Queens Head in Limehouse (E14) which has a fives board up all the time unless customers specifically request a normal board. If a normal board is up and not being used ask the staff to change it back to the fives board. The Queens Head is in two local Towers Hamlets leagues, a mens league on Wednesday nights and a womens league on Monday nights.

Other pubs in the leagues include the GBG listed Blue Anchor and the Lord Cardigan in E3 and the Gun and the George in E14. There is also a league in Bethnal Green and a league in the Barking/East Ham area including the Victoria and Captain Cook in Barking. Several years ago I saw a board in the Abbey Arms, Abbey Wood SE2 and was told there was a league in the area.

#### Shovehapenny

Few pubs seem to have a shovehappeny board these days but I did find one in the Dog and Bell in Deptford (SE8) and the pub is involved in a local shovehappeny league. Two pubs in the East End, the above mentioned Queens Head and the Blue Anchor, claim to have a board but I did not notice it on my visits.

#### **Bar Billiards**

A favourite game of mine which sadly appears to

be in decline. Two pubs that I have seen tables in recently are the Royal Oak, Kings Head Hill, Chingford (E4) and the Globe in Borough Market (SE1).

The Black Lion in Plaistow (E13) used to have a table until a few months ago but it has now been removed. I would be interested to hear of any other pubs with tables.

#### **Boules**

Boules, or petanque, is a French game similar to bowls. The balls are thrown through the air onto a gravel surface and, like bowls, the idea is to get as near to the jack as possible. The game has been brought into England by people who have holidayed in France and so tends to be available in pubs in more up-market areas. Two GBG listed pubs where I have seen pitches are the Coach and Horses in Barnes (SW13) and the Cricketers in Woodford.

#### Rings

Rings is a game similar to darts but the players throw small rubber or plastic rings at a board with hooks on. Each hook has a points value if your ring lands on a hook you score that number of points. There is also a finishing ritual to be completed to win a game. The game was apparently played all over the British Isles but died out after the First World War apart from a few pockets one of which was in Cork in Ireland. When Fords built a car factory at Dagenham in the 1920s they bought a foundry in Cork and moved it to Dagenham. Many of the workers came over as well bringing the rings game with them.

The game has survived and there is still a league of about twelve teams in the Dagenham and Romford area. Most of the teams are based in social clubs of an Irish and/or Catholic nature but there are still two pubs in the Dagenham areas with boards and teams. These are the

## **Feature**

Beacon in Oxlow Lane and the Anglers Retreat in New Road. As far as I am aware both pubs are keg.

The Admeral Mann in N7 has a board but the barstaff advised me that it was not used.

I have also seen reports that another Cork game Road Bowling is sometimes played in wasteland and marshes in the Dagenham and Romford area. I have never seen the game played but it appears to be a cross between bowls and golf as the players try to throw their bowl round a set course taking as few throws as possible.

#### **Board Games**

A few pubs had board games such as chess, Trivial Pursuit etc available for customers use sometimes on payment of a small donation to charity. This seems quite a good idea to me and is likely to get your customers to stay longer and more likely to return. The Bow Bells (E3), the Priory Arms (SW8) and the previously mentioned Dog and Bell (SE8) are three pubs providing games for customers.

**Colin Price** 

## UNHAPPY CHRISTMAS / MILLENNIUM!

The place - The Flicker and Firkin in Richmond, a former thriving Firkin brewpub. The date - Thursday afternoon, 30th December 1999 - when Richmond was busy with shoppers seeking sales bargains and the usual number of tourists / students. The atmosphere - about as miserable as you can get.

Following the sale to Punch Taverns, then on to Bass, the three banks of five handpumps sported 4 Tetley clips (but only one in use), and one for Greene King Ipa turned round. There were six customers, including me. The three or four staff on duty looked decidedly miserable and disinterested. Attempts at introducing Christmas cheer had ammounted to two streamers and two hanging bells.

The brewhouse was still intact, but leaking badly.

Happy New Millennium to all concerned!

Roy Hurry

## The Brewery Tap

John and Heather welcome you to the newly refurbished Brewery Tap (beginning of May)
- still the same wonderful pub!

## Five rotating Cask Ales

Guests soon to appear include Bank Top, Cottage, Joseph Holts, Hydes & Slaters

Genuine home cooked food every lunchtime Open all permitted hours Nostalgia Juke Box

68 High Street, Wimbledon Village, SW19 (10 minutes from Wimbledon station) 020 8947 9331

## - Join Up The Dots -

## DOT THIS DOT THAT.....

Ithought it may be of interest, as nobody else seems to have done so to supply a list of websites that may be useful for us pub goers. I realise that this will be of no use to those without a personal computer but what the hell. It is usual to start with the CAMRA HQ site at www.camra.org.uk and this lists all those branches with websites (over 60). London is represented by the East and South East branches via www.pigsear.org.uk and http://www.selcamra.org.uk/camra3.htm. Unusual for us East Enders to be at the forefront of technology. Michael Jackson has his page at www.beerhunter.com Buying beer can be done at www.beersdirect.com

The London's Virtual Real Ale Guide www.alt.venus.co.uk/vpub lists pubs though at least one was closed in November 1996 but worth trying for their links and, if you have speakers on your PC you can hear time being called. Try also www.ukpub.com though it does not appear to list any pubs in London. Herts or Essex.

For lists of breweries and beers try www.beerline.co.uk though the last update seems to be in March 1997. So try http://www.personal.u-net.com/~thepub/beers.html. The CAMRA site lists the latest brewery news.

Using BT's Electric Yellow Pages (http://www.eyp.co.uk/index.html) throws up some interesting sites when typing PUBS in the subject box. Scottish Pubs, Beers and Pubs UK, Traditional English pubs, Inns of Cumbria and Liverpool, crawls of Hull and Manchester as well as guides to Stamford, St Ives, Kingston-upon-Thames, Cambridge, Ipswich, Brighton, London, Lancashire, Fulham, Hampshire and Lapworth(!)

#### AND FINALLY THE NEWS FROM THE EAST

There are plans for a new East London Pubs Guide, the current one was published in late 1991 and there are currently 26 (soon to be 27) updates to it. Anyone wanting updates 1-26 can e-mail me at keith.emmerson@btinternet.com. Until that time I will continue to keep updating my database.

Keith Emmerson

### **DRINKER'S VIEW**

Activities in the Midlands and North might not seem relevant to drinkers in London, but happenings there serve as a warning to us all. Not so long ago, drinkers in their respective areas could enjoy Vaux, Mansfield and Marstons beer in their local pubs. Now, Vaux is just a memory, Marstons Bitter is being withdrawn and the future of Mansfield is under threat.

Vaux was not a troubled, unprofitable company – it was a well regarded and viable local brewery – the North East's version of Youngs and Fullers. Now, within the space of a few months, it's gone. The breweries are closed and the pubs have been flogged off.

Don't make the mistake of thinking it can't happen to your favourite brew. We should be thankful that latest news from our local breweries is good as the management there shows how well a brewery can do by sticking to what it knows best – selling good beer in good pubs. Long may they continue.

So, the taxman's at it again. Not content with exporting jobs and revenue to the continent through extortionate beer duty, the Government now plans to change the rules and squeeze another ten million quid or so out of the real ale breweries. In other words, out of drinkers' pockets and the incomes of the marginally profitable small businesses already hit by predatory pricing by the big boys and which the Government waffles so much about wanting to help.

Bad enough news in itself, but the fact that Customs attempted to sneak the change through over Christmas, maybe in the hope that nobody would notice, is particularly annoying. They now promise a delay for consultation, although what price consultation when at the same time they insist that the measure will go ahead?

Dave Lee

## Appeal

## TWICKENHAM BEER FESTIVAL - APPEAL FOR HELP!

Twickenham Beer Festival is 'on' again this year (subject to budget approval) from 6th to 9th September, at York House. The first festival in 1998 was successful, sell ing out early on the Saturday evening. In 1999 the lack of suitable dates for the venue prevented it from being staged, and we were overwhelmed by the voiced disappointment, expressed particularly in the local press, and even the Financial Times!

We are confident that this year's festival will be a big success, and we are appealing for help, not only with staffing whilst the festival is open, but also with organising, particularly:-

- · logo and poster design and production
- · programme design and layout
- selling programme advertising space
- media liaison (especially local press) and publicity
- set up (5 Sept.) And take dowm (a.m. 10 Sept.)
- · Bar work and stewarding

If any reader, CAMRA member or not (although "on site" only CAMRA members can work, for insurance reasons) can help out in any of these roles we will be delighted to hear from you.

We are eternally grateful to those that always help us (at Feltham in previous years) - we could not do it without you. You will know how busy it was, particularly on the Friday evening, in '98.

Contacts: Brian Kirton (020 8383 7284), and staffing officer Gordon Mills, 12 Naseby Close, Isleworth Middlesex TW7 4JQ

Oh yes, nearly forgot, it is all unpaid voluntary work of course - meagre expenses only!

Roy Hurry CAMRA Richmond and Hounslow Branch



#### **Teddington Pub News**

Don Witts and Myfanwy are now well settled in at the Lion (Wick Road) and have had the pub refurbished. Their names will be familiar around the Ealing area - they were previously at the Drayton Court, West Ealing, where they won the CAMRA West Middlesex area Pub Of The Year award last year.

The Adelaide (Park road) appears now to be a Shepherd Neame pub, although this may reflect a new supply agreement. Master Brew and Bishop's Finger were fine on a recent visit, but the pub was almost deserted. The Roebuck (Hampton Road), technically in Teddington, but virtually in Hampton Hill, is doing well with Badger beers and is worth a visit.

News reaches us that the landlord at The Masons Arms (Walpole Road) has put the pub on the market, and hopes to retire soon. Hope the Brakespear stays. Beer quality at the Hogarth (Broad Street) continues to disappoint. On a recent visit the Chiswick was undrinkable.

The two Youngs pubs, Queen Dowager (North Lane) and Abercorn Arms (Church Road) continue to serve Youngs beers as good as they get these days. Am I the only one who thinks both the regular beers are too sweet these days? I drink gallons of them around the Richmond area. Conversely the last Winter Warmer was excellent.

The Clarence Hotel (Park Road) is closed for refurb. or whatever. There seems to be a new hotel going up alongside it - perhaps they will be combined.

Roy Hurry











#### Brewery Tap, Brentford - Update

The Brewery Tap has not (yet) had a Compulsory Purchase Order put on it, and Fuller's advise that they have no intention of selling.

Meanwhile English Heritage have taken an interest in what is going on in the development area.

The situation is still being monitored.

Roy Hurry

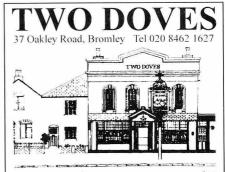
## - BEER-FESTIVAL.ORG.UK

Set up the week before this year's festival, the new South West London Branch Website is available all the year round for real ale pubs within reasonable travelling distance of Battersea to advertise their locations, beer ranges, social events, etc.

For details of advertising facilities and rates, contact our Webmaster on 020-8715 8152 or 0802 714511 or by e-mail: webmaster@battersea-beer-festival.org.uk

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

S. Tompkins
122 Manor Way
Uxbridge
Middlesex UB8 2BH
Price 50p each incl. p & p.



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

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

Bus 320 from Bromley North and Bromley South railway stations, stops outside Hours:12-3, 5.30-11 Mon to Sat & 12-3, 7-10.30 Sun

## Crossword

#### Compiled by DAVE QUINTON,

1 11		1		2		3	1	4		5		6
	7											
8			*								540	
9								10				
										C. Care		
11				1	12					13		
	6 134 307			14	1	311					18	
15						16		Y Pla	17			
		1	ie.					18	1			
19		20				21						
22												
						52.15			il.		11	

Name	6
Address	
	e

All correct entries received by first post on 31st May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the August 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

F	1	R	S	T		S	E	٧	Е	R	Α	L
Α	OT U	Е	1	Н		L	1	Α	181	Α	N.	Е
L	1	٧	Е	R	Р	0	0	L		D	0	G
S		Ε	- Al	Ε	21	0	180	Ε		1		L
Е	R	R		Ε	X	Р	Е	N	S	1	٧	Ε
		Е		F		S		Т	3			S
G	U	S	Т	0	6.1	138		1	Ν	D	U	S
1				U	¥	Е	1	Ν	19	Е	70	
В	Е	Е	R	R	Α	N	G	Е		F	Τ	T
В	N.C.	Q	1	F	1	Е	2	S		L		R
Е	М	U		1	M	M	Е	D	T	Α	Т	Ε
Т	118	1	1	٧	41	Α		Α		Т		Α
S	U	Р	Р	E	R	S	R I	Y	I	E	L	D

#### £10 PRIZE TO BE WON

#### ACROSS

1.	Lovely boy makes bloomer.	(5, 1)
9.	Intermediate gamble; we have	
	game opponents.	(7)
10.	Company supporter is deadly.	(5)
11.	No writer is frank.	(4)
12.	Do they go round the heart of the town?	(8)
15.	Religious festival, outside lately, facing	
	the rising sun.	(8)
17.	Headlight.	(4)
19.	It provides a break in your sentence.	(5)
21.	Odd tyre's full tread.	(7)
22.	Prime hash is in a state.	(3,9)

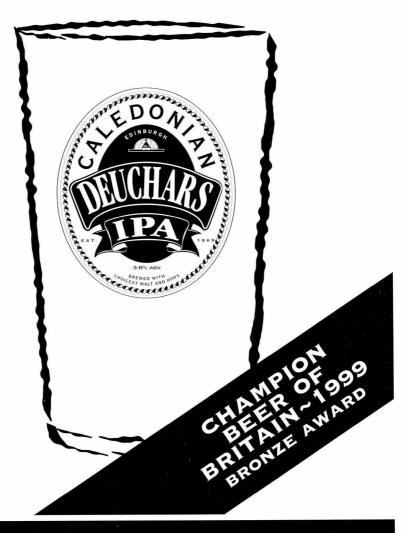
19	. It provides a break in your sentence.	(5)
21	. Odd tyre's full tread.	(7)
22	. Prime hash is in a state.	(3,9)
DO	OWN	
1.	Giggles about wren's first birdsongs.	(8)
2.	Prize, apparently, offered up at party.	(5)
3.	Number left in extremely trendy appar	rel. (6)
4.	It's about something cold but moving.	(7)
5.	At fifty one, Roman doctor becomes	
	member.	(4)
6.	Stirred up devil, fool, it's charged by	
	journalist.	(11)
8.	Old boy's only perfume is disappearing	g. (11)
13	. Runs from early Saharan nomads?	(8)
14	. Escape? I don't believe you	(3,4)
16	'til you get drunk.	(3,2)
18	. River overflows engulfing church	
	and boat.	(5)
20	. Complain, apparently, at being cut.	(4)

Winner of the prize for the December Crossword:

Melville sans dog, Ruislip, Middlesex Other correct entries were received from: Pat Andrews, Geoff B. John Blundell, Jeremy Brinkworth, Alan Brooke, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Charles Creasey, Ribena de Farquar-Toss, Mike Farrelly, B.H.Fletcher, Marion Goodall, Eileen Graves, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Jonty Hawkes, G.Hearne, John Heath, Billy Hernon, Sheerluck Holmes, Laura Jenkins, Joy & Richard, Tom Kemp, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Rab Noolas, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Lyn Randall, Geoff S, Super Scooper, Bryan Smith & Isa, Old Smokey, Young Smokey, John Tapp, Martin Weedon, Sue Wilson, Ivor Wright-Ardon, Yak.

There were also five incorrect entries.

## YOU'RE DUE A DEUCHARS.



CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

### **UPDATE 153**

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

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

Thirteen new pubs have been reported since the last update, including one each for Hogshead and Old Monk in the City, one each for Litten Tree and Tom Cobleigh in Croydon and a new Fullers pub at Paddington Station. More pubs are reported as converted to residential and other uses throughout the capital. More South London pubs have been spotted as badged under the 'Southside Pub Company' name by Bass. Mansfield have acquired a pub in Hornchurch and Shepherd Neame have taken a pub in Teddington. A Russian theme pub has appeared in WC1 Holborn.

Pubcheck' also includes this month a comprehensive list of pubs in Greater London whose licensees have received the Cask Marque award for beer quality. It is intended to update this list regularly.

The numbers in .brackets after each entry refer to the page numbers in the following guides: E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - Real Beer in West London; X - Essex Beer Guide, 9th edition.

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

### NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REALALE

#### CENTRAL

EC2, HOGSHEAD, 26 Throgmorton St. Adnams: Bitter; Boddington: Bitter; Brakspear: Bitter; Flowers: Original Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Marston: Pedigree; O'Hanlons: Red Ale; Wadworth: 6X; Young: Special. A choice of about 6 beers from these plus guest beers (G) and (H). Latest Whitbread Hogshead conversion of former bank head office premises in December 1999. Light pine flooring and bar top, cream and yellow decor with green, red and yellow pillars. Spot lighting, clock, exposed ventilation, arched windows. Raised area to side. Blackboard for food - available 12-9 (8 Fri). Some Belgian bottled beers. Disabled WC. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri only.

EC4, SAMUEL PEPYS, Stew Lane, High Timber St. Fuller: London Pride. Reopened in December 1999 by Bass and completely rebuilt on first floor of old warehouse converted to flats overlooking the River and Globe Theatre. Stairs rise to two bar area with exposed brickwork, pine flooring, yellow decor, wood panelled walls and abstract paintings. Food. Open 11.30-10 Mon/Tues, 11.30-11 Wed-Fri only. (E54)

### EAST

E1, OLD MONK, 94-98 Middlesex St. Fuller: London Pride; O'Hanlons: Blakeley's No 1; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beer. Latest outlet for Free House chain in former commercial premises, opened October 1999. French windows to front and side. Large open plan bar area with pine flooring, purple, red and cream decor with raised area to rear. Mixture of seating including leather sofas. TV for sport, live DJs Friday evening. Food. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, closed Sat, open 10-5 Sunday.

E1, RHYTHM FACTORY, 16/18 Whitechapel Rd. No real ale. Café-bar opened November 1999 in former commercial premises.

### *NORTH*

N2, HOWARDS WAY, 133 High Rd. Renamed WEAVERS. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. (N66)

### CAPITAL PUBCHECK

**UPDATE 153 continued** 

**N7, BEDFORD TAVERN**, 160 Seven Sisters Rd. Hancocks: HB. (N85)

#### NORTH WEST

**NW2, CEILI ON THE GREEN**, 88 Walm Lane. No real ale. Irish Free House in former commercial premises.

**NW5**, **GEORGE IV**, 76 Willes Rd. Courage: Directors Bitter or Marston: Pedigree (alternate). (N198)

NW9, CLERYS CLOCK, 225/227 Edgware

Rd. No real ale. McGowan Free House in former bank premises, opened early 1999. NW9, HARTNETTS, 23 Hay Lane. No real ale. Irish Free House in former shop premises. NW9, UPPER WELSH HARP, The Broadway. Renamed HARP. No real ale. Erroneously reported as demolished in Update 140, this large pub has survived and has reopened as a Free House, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). Omitted in error from N Guide although one of two pubs numbered 30 on map. (U109, U140)

NW10, SIPPS LOUNGE, 224 Church Rd. No real ale. Free House in former bank premises. EDGWARE (HA8), JOLLY BADGER, 128 Hale Lane. Marston: Pedigree; Tetley: Bitter. Formerly EVERGLADES EXCHANGE BAR. (N256, U151)

### SOUTH EAST

**SE1**, **BELL**, 57 Webber St. Fuller: London Pride; Marston: Pedigree. Now a Free House, ex-Bass. (SE10)

**CROYDON, CITY LIMITS**, The Colonnades, 619 Purley Way. No real ale. New S&N run indoor leisure complex including Bar Q, First Base Sports & Music Bar and Old Orleans. Opened February 2000.

CROYDON, GIPSY MOTH, 7 The

Colonnades, 619 Purley Way. Courage: Best Bitter; Wells: Bombardier. Large, new, detached Tom Cobleigh Free House aimed at the family market and part of the new leisure complex opposite the old Croydon Aerodrome. Large car parking area (including disabled spaces and cycle racks) and patio at the front with children's play area to side. Red brick building entered through double doors into a spacious bar area with a variety of partitioned drinking and eating areas

including a 'child free' smoking area and 'locals' corner. High rustic wood panelled ceiling, pictures of old aircraft (including a Gipsy Moth) and assorted aircraft-related bric-à-brac. A children's certificate allows under 14s to be admitted up to 9pm and an indoor supervised play area is on offer. Food available until 9.30pm. Open all permitted hours.

CROYDON, LITTEN TREE, 125 High St. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter; Litten Tree: Best Bitter (origin unknown). Latest outlet for Free House chain in former carpet shop premises, opened November 1999. Double doors and french windows on frontage lead into spacious carpeted bar area divided into a variety of seating and eating areas with beige and red decor and chandeliers. Tiled no smoking/eating area to left of entrance. Separate ramp to disabled entrance and disabled WC. Variety of food available. Large screen TV for sports. Music for dancing in evenings and cloakroom at rear. Separate 'Café Litten' area with entrance to street serves speciality coffees, snacks and breakfast, open 7.30-4 Mon-Fri only. Main bar open all permitted hours.

### SOUTH WEST

SW1, JUSTIN DE BLANK, 50/52 Buckingham Palace Rd. Adnams: Bitter (£2.20). New bar and brasserie in former bank premises, opened December 1999. The business has moved from W1 Marylebone (see deletions below). The corner entrance door leads into a bar area with large windows, green/blue and maroon decor, abstract paintings, potted plants, with a sprinkling of steel stools, sofas, pine topped tables and parquet flooring. Bar snacks include devilled crab on toast, oysters and smoked salmon at a price! Separate restaurant area. Jazz background music completes the scene. Open for breakfast at 8am until 11pm Mon-Sat only. SW7, ABBAYE, 126 Old Brompton Rd. No (British) real ale. Conversion of former Café Rouge restaurant into a Belgian brasserie and restaurant, opened January 2000. Keg Belgian beers including Hoegaarden, Bellevue and Leffe together with a selection of Belgian bottled beers, many bottle-conditioned, including Trappist range and gueuze. Originally DENMARK (Courage), then TERRACE and BAR ESCOBA before becoming a Café Rouge restaurant in 1996.

SURBITON, ROYAL CHARTER, 75 Maple Rd. Reopened and renamed GORDON

### CAPITAL PUBCHECK

**UPDATE 153 continued** 

**BENNETTS.** No real ale. Now a bar and brasserie. (SW162, U145)

#### WEST

W2, MAD BISHOP & BEAR, Unit 32R, Macmillan House, Paddington Station concourse. Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London Pride, ESB, seasonal beer; changing guest beer from Beer Seller list. New Fullers pub opened December 1999 at second floor level in an ultramodern style steel and glass shopping and eating complex created at the front end of Paddington Station concourse. Accessed by two sets of escalators, the pub is fitted out in complete contrast to its surroundings in traditional style with high ceiling, mirrored pillars, chandeliers, wooden furniture, tiled flooring and cream and pastel green decor. A raised eating/no smoking area is at rear. Non-intrusive music. Food. Patio area at front with metal furniture, overlooking complex. Open for breakfast from 7.30am (8.30am Sunday) and all permitted hours. W9, PRINCE ALFRED, 5A Formosa St. Fuller: London Pride; Marston: Pedigree; Wadworth: 6X. Reinstatement. Beers not always available. (W84, U95, U152) HAMPTON WICK, RAILWAY TAVERN. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter; Morland:

### PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REALALE

Old Speckled Hen. Reopened and under

U141)

renovation. Beer range may change. (W106,

#### **CENTRAL**

EC4, TOAD IN THE HOLE. Greene King, demolished and redevelopment under way. Formerly GLOBE. (E48, U98, U102, U117) W1(Mar), JUSTIN DE BLANK. Free House, closed. Business moved to SW1 (see above). Formerly STIR CRAZY (U110, U111, U112, U125)

W1(Mar), PRINCE ALFRED. Ex-Allied (Nicholson), closed, future uncertain. (W36, U89)

W1(S), BAR (LOGIC)1. Regent Inns, H removed. Formerly HANDSEL TAVERN. (W42, U80, U139)

### EAST

**E1, KATHERINE WHEEL**, Wiltshire, converted to flats but retaining pub name boards on frontages. (E68, U73, U79)

**E1, KNAVE OF CLUBS.** Still closed and appears to be used as a store for antiques. (E69, U101)

**E1, OLD BLUE ANCHOR**. Renamed INDO, no real ale. (E70, U85, U144)

**E1, SEVEN STARS**. Ex-Allied, presumably now Punch Taverns, H unused. (E73)

**E2, BLADE BONE**. Bass, converted to Chinese takeaway. (E79)

**E2, SHIP.** Phoenix, no longer a pub, in some commercial use. (E85, U112, U118)

E3, BRIDGE HOUSE. Free House, closed and most signage removed. (E89, U98, U99, U131)

**E5, DUKE OF YORK (PUTLOGS)**. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed, boarded up, furure uncertain. (E99, U79))

**E5, HOPE & ANCHOR**. Ascot, now converted to flats (E100)

**E14, GALLOWAY ARMS**. Now converted to a café. (E145, U131)

E15, CHARLESTON. Bass, closed. (E152) E15, ROYAL OAK. Ex-Grand Met (Watney). No real ale. (E154)

HORNCHURCH, NEWT & CUCUMBER. Reverted to original name, WHITE HART. Now a Mansfield pub, probably uniquely in Greater London, ex-Morland. H unused. (X71)

ROMFORD, COLOR'S. Bass, converted to shop. Originally KINGS HEAD. (X100)

### **NORTH**

N2, ALEXANDRA, 1 Church Lane. Ex-Grand Met (Truman). No real ale. (N65) N7, FAT HARRY'S. Allied (ex-Taylor Walker), converted to residential use. (N86)

N7, ST GEORGES THEATRE BAR. Free House, closed, future uncertain. (N90)
N7, SUSSEX ARMS. Inntrepreneur (ex-

Courage), closed and appears to be being converted into flats. (N90)

**BARNET (EN5), OLD WINDMILL**. Allied (ex-Ind Coope), closed for conversion to restaurant. (N252)

### NORTH WEST

NW5, CARLTON TAVERN. Whitbread, closed for conversion to flats. (N197) NW5, CRIMEA. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), converted to flats. (N197)



# 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**

**UPDATE 153 continued** 

**NW5, SOUTHAMPTON ARMS**. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), now H removed. (N200)

NW5, TORRIANO. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), now converted to flats. (N200)

**NW10, WHITE HORSE**. S&N, demolished, and site being redeveloped for housing (N225, U106)

**EDGWARE (HA8), EDGE OF TOWN**. Free House. No real ale. (N256)

**EDGWARE (HA8), GLENGALL PARK.** Now Enterprise Inns, ex-Whitbread, H unused. (N256)

EDGWARE (HA8), RAILWAY HOTEL. S&N, H unused. (N257)

### SOUTH EAST

**SE1, ABBEY**. Free House, closed, future uncertain. (SE8, U102)

SE1, BABUSHKA. Renamed MBIBE, Bass, H removed. (SE10, U102)

**SE24, LORD STANLEY**. Bass, demolished in November 1999. (SE210)

**CROYDON, POPPY**. Bass, closed and converted to McDonalds restaurant. Formerly PAPAVERO'S and originally SHIRLEY POPPY. (3SE247, U98)

**SOUTH CROYDON, RED DEER**. Bass, H removed. Now badged as part of Southside Pub Company estate (3SE278)

### SOUTH WEST

SW2, WAGGON & HORSES. Inntrepreneur, closed for about 2 years, future uncertain. (SW54)

**SW4, AROUND THE CORNER.** Free House, closed, for sale. Formerly AULD TRIANGLE (SW59, U140)

**SW15, RANGER**. Bass, demolished for housing. (SW104)

**SW16, BIG HAND MO'S.** S&N, no real ale. (SW105)

**SW16, NORBURY HOTEL**. Free House, no real ale. (SW108)

SW16, TUDOR TAVERN. Free House, now absorbed into Leigham Court Hotel and no longer a pub; residents' bar only (SW108) SW18, LORD PALMERSTON. Inntrepreneur,

SW18, LORD PALMERSTON. Inntrepreneur, closed, planning application for residential use submitted. (SW113)

SW19, DOYLES. Free House, H unused. Formerly GROVE TAVERN. (SW117, U147, U148)

**SW19, ROYAL STANDARD**. Greene King, H unused. (SW119, U142)

**NEW MALDEN, SUGAR RAYS.** Free House. Converted to restaurant. Formerly RENOIRS. (SW153, U126)

**SURBITON, RAILWAY TAVERN**. Free House. Closed, future uncertain. (SW162)

### WEST

W2, ROYAL OAK. S&N, refurbished, H removed. (W63, U55, U107)

BRENTFORD, NORTH STAR, Ex-Courage, now converted to a private club named 'S&J Members Club'. (W98, U52, U55, U60, U62, U79)

**TEDDINGTON, CLARENCE HOTEL.** Free House, closed for rebuilding, future uncertain. (W146, U62, U94)

### OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

#### CENTRAL.

**W1(Mar), GOLDEN EAGLE**. +Guest beers.. (W34, U66, U89, U90, U98, U99)

W1(May), BRUTONS. Now operated by Wizard Inns, ex-Wessex Taverns. (W38, U100, U110)

W1(S), THREE GREYHOUNDS. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Marston: Pedigree; +Taylor: Landlord; +Young: Bitter. (W44, U80, U151)

**WC1, OLD CROWN**, +Greene King: Abbot Ale. (W48, U81, N26, U138)

WC1, THREE COMPASSES. Renamed MOSKO. -beers listed except Theakston: Best Bitter; +Courage: Directors Bitter. Converted by S&N to a Russian theme pub! Wooden floors, grey painted walls with Communist era posters. A mixture of old furniture and comfy chairs. Music. Food lunchtime. Open 11-11 Mon-Sat, closed Sundays. Real ale not always available. (W51, N31)

#### **EAST**

E1, LONDON HOSPITAL TAVERN. -Guest beers; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Fuller: London Pride, ESB. Repainted externally in garish orange and black stripes to first floor level. (E69, U125, U130)

### CAPITAL PUBCHECK

**UPDATE 153 continued** 

**E4, ROYAL OAK (VENNERS)**. Renamed **FREDDIES**. (E97, U73)

**E8, O'NEILLS BAR**. Renamed **FIDDLERS**. Formerly CROWN. (E112, U79, U136) **E11, BELL**. Now regretfully knocked through

into one large bar. (E127, U112, U124) E15, BRADYS. Renamed WEE JACK, still

fizz. Formerly AMELIAS. (E151, U112, U130) **E15, MOONEYS** Reverted to original name,

BLACK BULL (YE OLDE). Formerly MULLIGANS. (E154, U98)

E16, ORDNANCE ARMS. -Toby Cask; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Opening hours 11-9 Mon-Sat, 12-6 Sun. (E160, U98, U117, U142, U144)

E17, FEAR. Renamed FAT SAMS, a bar and restaurant. Formerly WILD ROVER and originally ESSEX BREWERY TAP. (E167, U105, U124, U125, U152)

**BARKING, WHITE HORSE (PICKLED NEWT).** Greene King Martha Greene's is selling at £1.10 per pint. (X12)

NORTH

**N2, OLD WHITE LION**. -Fuller: London Pride. (N66)

N7, FLOUNDER & FIRKIN. -beers listed; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Tetley: Bitter. (N87) N14, SOUTHGATE. Reverted to FISHMONGERS ARMS. Now badged as part of S&N's John Barras & Co estate. (N120.

U106)

NORTH WEST

NW3, VICEROY. Renamed ADELAIDE. (N190)

**NW4, CHEQUERS**. Now badged as part of S&N's John Barras & Co estate. (N193)

**NW9, GLEN FIRESIDE ROOM.** Correct name is **GLEN**. 'Fireside Room' refers to one of the bars used for music etc. (N217)

NW9, JJ MOONS. -Theakston: XB; -Younger: Scotch Bitter; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Guest beers including Hop Back: Summer Lightning, Taylor: Landlord and a micro-brewery beer. (N217)



### THE ROEBUCK

50 Great Dover Street, London SE1 Tel 020 7403 4817

A recently refurbished free house offering a changing selection of cask ales, real cider, fine wines and bottled Belgian beers

Ushers Best Bitter only £1 a pint to card carrying CAMRA members

Food served 12-2, 5.30-7.30 Monday-Saturday

Traditional home cooked Sunday lunch served 12-3 £4.95

Quiz night Mondays 9pm Traditional games available Open all permitted hours

### CAPITAL PUBCHECK

**UPDATE 153 continued** 

NW9, KINGS ARMS. -beers listed; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. Now badged as part of S&N's John Barras & Coestate. (N218, U106)

**NW9, RED LION**. -Tetley: Bitter; +Greene King: Abbot Ale. (N218, U151)

NW9, WORLDS END. -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +Smiles: BA. Beers not always available, and part of pub closed off. A sad decline since its days as a Wetherspoon pub. Originally WHITE LION OF MORTIMER. Omitted in error from N Guide although numbered 32 on map. (U109, U138, U140) EDGWARE, BLACKING BOTTLE. -Toby Cask; -Guest beer; +Fuller: London Pride. (N255)

**EDGWARE, LEATHER BOTTLE.** -Flowers: Original Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree. (N256)

### SOUTH EAST

SE19, ROYALALBERT. Now badged by Bass as 'Southside Pub Company'. (SE181)
SE24, COMMERCIAL. -beers listed except Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. Now badged by Bass as 'Southside Pub Company'. Partition removed between bars, new carpeting. (SE209)

**SE24, MINGLES**. Renamed **HARMONY**. Now a music bar. (SE210)

**BECKENHAM, BRICKLAYERS ARMS.** - beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Now badged by Bass as 'Southside Pub Company'. (3SE204)

COULSDON, JACK & JILL. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Chris Compton Inns. (3SE229, U108) CROYDON, BULLS HEAD. Now badged by Bass as 'Southside Pub Company'. (3SE236, U108)

CROYDON, HORSE & JOCKEY. Renamed GOOSE & CARROT. Formerly BRIDGE HOUSE. (3SE236, U44, U55)

THORNTON HEATH, PLOUGH & HARROW. Now badged by Bass as 'Southside Pub Company'. (3SE283, U98)

**THORNTON HEATH, WHEATSHEAF.** Now badged by Bass as 'Southside Pub Company'. (3SE285)

SOUTH WEST

SW4, CLOCK HOUSE. Renamed SAND. (SW59)

**SW5, DRAYTON ARMS**. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. (SW62)

**SW6, BEDFORD ARMS.** Renamed **FROG & FORGET-ME-NOT.** -beer listed; +Theakston: Best Bitter. (SW66)

**SW7, NORFOLK TAVERN**. Renamed **NORFOLK BAR**. -beers listed; +Wadworth 6X. Refurbished in contemporary style with light pine and pastel colours. (SW72)

**SW9**, **HOGSHEAD**. Reverted to **BEDFORD ARMS**. -Marston: Pedigree; -Wadworth:6X; +Flowers: Original Bitter. Now only one guest beer. Full range not always available.

SW9, OLD WHITE HORSE. Renamed BAR LORCA, still no real ale. Now a tapas, cocktail and music bar. (SW82, U141)

SW15, BRICKLAYERS ARMS. Renamed PUTNEY BRICK. -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; +Greene King: IPA. (SW100) SW16, EARL FERRERS. -Morland: Old Speckled Hen. (SW105)

**SW16, FURZE & FIRKIN**. -beers listed; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Tetley: Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X. (U134, U151)

SW16, GENEVIEVE. -Courage: Best Bitter; +Theakston: XB, Old Peculier. (SW105) SW16, GREYHOUND. -Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter; +Theakston: Best Bitter; +Webster: Yorkshire Bitter. (SW105, U131)

SW16, HALF & HALF. Renamed JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE. -beers listed except Young: Bitter; +Boddington: Bitter; +Flowers: Original Bitter; +Jack Stamp's Best Bitter (origin unknown). Refurbished. (SW105)

SW16, HOBGOBLIN. -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter and Wychwood: Shires Bitter: +Wychwood: Special. Formerly WHITE LION. (SW108, U127)

SW16, MITCHAM MINT. +Courage: Best Bitter; +Young: Bitter; +Guest beer. (SW108, U149)

SW16, RAILWAY HOTEL. Now badged by Bass as 'Southside Pub Company'. (SW108) SW16, ROSE & CROWN. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. (SW108)

**SW16, WILLIAM IV.** -Marston: Pedigree; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X. (SW108)

SW18, BOFS. Reverted (almost) to original

name, **EARL OF SPENCER** but with the addition of an 'OF'. -beers listed; +Young: Bitter. Formerly MERTON INN. (SW113, U142, U150)

**SW18, CATS BACK**. -Draught Bass; +Guest beers from O'Hanlons in addition to Blakeley's No 1 already reported. (SW111, U146)

### KINGSTON, WILLOUGHBY ARMS.

Refurbished to two bar layout. (SW144)

**NEW MALDEN, RAILWAY HOTEL**. Now part of former Allied's Mr Q's chain. (SW153)

RICHMOND, DUKE OF YORK. Now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied and sells up to four guest beers in addition to regulars. Formerly ARKWRIGHTS WHEEL. (SW154, U137)

**RICHMOND, FLICKER & FIRKIN**. -beers listed; +Tetley:Bitter (but still 15 handpumps!). (SW155)

**SURBITON, BRITANNIA**. Now Enterprise Inns. ex-Bass. (U140)

SURBITON, ROYAL OAK. -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter. Now badged as part of 'WJ & J Sanderson' estate. (SW163, U140) SUTTON, JENNY LIND. Renamed

NIGHTINGALE. Now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied. -beers listed; +Ansells: Mild; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Special. (SW166)

SUTTON, WINDSOR CASTLE. Renamed LITTLE WINDSOR. (SW167)

WEST

W14, HARVEY FLOORBANGERS
HAMMERSMITH CHARIVARI. Reverted to
HAND & FLOWER, -beers listed except
Brakspear: Bitter and Guest beer; +Adnams:
Bitter; +Draught Bass. Guest currently
Brakspear seasonal. (W94, U58, U71, U76, U95)

GREENFORD, HARE & HOUNDS. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Courage. (W102, U46) HAMPTON WICK, FORESTERS. Now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). -Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Morland: Old Speckled Hen. (W106, U66, U91)

HAMPTON WICK, ROSE & CROWN.-

Wadworth: 6X; +Wells: Bombardier. (W106, U91, U96)

**TEDDINGTON, ADELAIDE**. -beers listed; +Shepherd Neame: Bitter, Bishops Finger. Now a Shepherd Neame pub, ex-Inntrepreneur, originally Watney. (W146, U62, U94, U146) **TEDDINGTON, LION** -beers listed; +Wadworth: 6X; +Young: Bitter;+Guest beer.

Now Unique Pub Co, ex-Grand Met (Watney). (W147, U91, U123)

### **CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 152**

#### PUBS CLOSED ETC.

EC4, MASTER GUNNER should read 'closed for redevelopment'.

**EC4, SAMUEL PEPYS**. Delete entry (see listings above).

**EC4, VINTRY** should have read 'closed for area redevelopment', now demolished. Rumoured to include replacement pub on site on redevelopment.

BARNET (EN1), PLOUGH should read ENFIELD (EN1).

BARNET (EN2), WHITEWEBBS HOUSE should read ENFIELD WEST (EN2).

**RUISLIP, BLACK BULL**. Ref should read (W137, U107)

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

**PINNER, ORANGE TREE**. Formerly BELL (AT PINNER)

SE!!, TANKARD should read SE11.

# THE HEAD OF STEAM



Euston Station London NW1 Tel 020 7388 2221

CAMRA
North London
PUB OF THE YEAR

from 17 April
EASTER & ST GEORGE'S
DAY BEER FESTIVAL

3, 10 & 16 April **SKY SPORTS QUIZ** (straight after the match)

Come and try it!

Lots of news - visit our website

www.headofsteam.freeserve.co.uk

# Looking Back

### FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO London Drinker profiled Arkell's brewery at Swindon, which had 14 outlets in London, and outlined the history, policy and brewery of Young's, whose new house in Kingston, the Bishop Out of Residence, was also described. Approval had been granted for a new Sam Smith's pub, the Gazebo, next door. The Tramshed, Woolwich, faced possible closure. King & Barnes of Horsham had its first regular London outlet, and a new beer on the London scene was John Frailpool's Haywards Heath Bitter.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO the Editorial argued in favour of flexi-hours. The Pakenham Arms, WC1 had undergone a refurbishment. David Bruce had opened his 7th house, the Flounder & Firkin in Holloway Road. After some controversy over the true provenance of Webster's, it was confirmed that it really did originate in Halifax rather than Mortlake. Mild was making a minor comeback.

TEN YEARS AGO Bruce's Brewery, a year into new ownership, was about to launch a new beer, 'Golden Glory', o.g. 1047. King & Barnes had 25 London outlets. 'the Brewer's Dray' was a survey of the history of that organisation, a joint venture by several breweries to make their distribution in the London area more economical. Piers Todd had visited and offered a description of the Bridge, Topsham in Devon, where the lady cellarkeeper had been pronounced the best in Britain. It had been stated in Parliament that imperial measures for spirits were about to be phased out and replaced by measures of 25 ml.

FIVE YEARS AGO the Wenlock Arms, N1 was

featured in the first of a series of profiles entitled 'Hidden Gems'. A new Firkin pub, the Friar & Firkin was due to open in Euston Road. The Firkin chain had introduced a seasonal strong beer, Victoria IPA, ABV 6%. Another seasonal beer, 'The Sorcerer', at 4.5%, was, the second of a Greene King series using the theme of the King's Court. Not to be outdone, Tolly Cobbold brought back the Cobbold name, after 15 years of disuse, with the 4.5% Cobbold's IPA.

The Office of fair Trading was launching a review of the tie, to see whether it disadvantaged patrons of tied houses compared to free trade customers. For May, designated a Mild month by CAMRA tradition and also the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, the Firkin chain was to produce a VE Day Dark Mild, costing a guinea £1.05) a pint. King & Barnes was also producing a VE Day Ale for the month, at ABV 4.5%, the same strength as the new Crouch Vale 'Kursaal Flyer'.

That's all for April and May - more next time.

Cheers, Martin Smith



selected for the CAMRA 2000 Good Beer Guide

### Idle Moments

Hello again. Welcome back to Idle Moments. What I did not mention last time is that I tend to start things off with a quotation that has caught my eye (after a long search) and which tends to reflect my sense of humour. I was reminded of this one reading a fascinating book I received for my birthday last week. It was penned by James Brach Cabell in 1926 and comes from The Silver Stallion."

The optimist proclaims we live in the best of all possible worlds; the pessimist fears that this is true.

Right, now down to business, starting with the number puzzles. The solutions to all of these puzzles, by the way, will be found elsewhere in this issue (In fact as I tend to get the back pages, you've probably read them already and wondered what they were all about.) So here they are then::

- 24 H from T
- 2. 97 is the HPNUOH
- 3 2 Yin a F
- 4. 100 S on a S and LB
- 5. 8 B in a B
- 6. 75 C in a B of W
- 7. 63,072 AU in a LY
- 8. 88 TFL
- 9. 92 is the AN of U
- 10. 4 S on a MB

And now it's brewery anagram time. Guess what? That's right, there are the names of ten breweries all jumbled up in these meaningless phrases:

- SAW SEAN
- 2. WONDER STEER
- SAD BRYAN
- 4. LAY A HAND THERE
- 5. HEN GOT SEEN
- 6. FRY NICE LOUT
- 7. WE BREAK WELL, ROY
- 8. SEXPOT IN BEER CONE
- 9. I WAS TOM KNOT
- 10. KEN GRANTED

And now it's 5BY4 time. This time I've subtitled it "No,No,No." There are ten songs, all of them top ten hits, in the first list while the second list contains ten artists or groups. All you have to do is match the two together (or else cheat and look at the answers). These are the songs.....

- 1. No More Mr. Nice Guy
- 2. No Charge
- 3. No Matter How I Try
- 4. No More Heroes
- 5. No Doubt About It
- 6. No Matter What
- 7. No Son Of Mine
- No Honestly
- 9. No Good (Start The Dance)
- 10. No Limit

....and these are the artists:

- A. J.J.Barrie
- B. Lynsey De Paul
- C. Alice Cooper
- D. Stranglers
- E. Genesis
- F. Prodigy
- G. Badfinger
- H. 2 Unlimited
- I. Gilbert O'Sullivan
- J. Hot Chocolate

Now we have a special treat for you. Just to prove that somebody actually reads this stuff, I have received a response to my invitation at the end of last time's column from John Radford of London E1 which I shall use in place of the usual general knowledge questions. He has come up with a list of ten pubs with literary or historical connections. Some are (or were) real, some are fictitious and some are real but with fictional connections. All you have to do is identify those connections. In fact the answers are worth reading as they give interesting snippets of history about some of the pubs. So here they are then:

- 1. The Boar's head, Eastcheap
- 2. The Angler's Arms
- 3. The George & Vulture
- 4. The Admiral Benbow
- 5. The Mermaid
- 6. The Tabard, Southwark
- Ye Old Cheshire Cheese, Fleet Street
- 8. The Old Bull & Bush
- 9. The Frog & Nightgown
- 10. The Mayflower, Rotherhithe

John also added as a bonus the Rover's Return and the Queen Vic as bonus pubs but you don't need me to give you the answers to these (nor the Woolpack or the Bull...). Thankyou for those John, you saved me some work there.

If this has encouraged you, you too could have a couple of month's of minor fame (No money though - I don't get paid either). If you would like to write to the editorial address or email me, I would be vary grateful for any contributions. My email address is: andy@pirson.demon.co.uk.

So that's it for another edition; see you again in a couple of month's

Andy Pirson

### Odds & Ends

### IDLE MOMENTS -THE ANSWERS

As promised in Idle Moments here are the solutions to the puzzles set in this month's column.

#### NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 1. 24 Hours from Tulsa
- 2. 97 is the Highest Prime Number Under One Hundred
- 3. 2 Yards in a Fathom
- 4. 100 Squares on a Snakes and Ladders Board
- 8 Bits in a Byte
- 6. 75 Centilitres in a Bottle of Wine
- 7. 63,072 Astronomical Units in a Light Year
- 8. 88 Two Fat Ladies
- 9. 92 is the Atomic Number of Uranium
- 10. 4 Stations on a Monopoly Board

### **BREWERY ANAGRAMS:**

- 1. SWANSEA
- 2. DERWENT ROSE
- BAYNARDS
- 4. HALE AND HEARTY
- STONEHENGE
- 6. COUNTRY LIFE
- 7. OAKWELL BREWERY
- 8. BOSTON EXPERIENCE
- 9. TOMOS WATKIN
- 10. KENT GARDEN

#### 5BY4:

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

#### LITERARY PUBS:

Note: The details in these answers are also provided by John Radford who set the questions:

- The Boar's Head, Eastcheap Falstaff and friends in Shakespeare's Henry IV. It was a real place, burnt in the Great Fire, rebuilt and finally demolished in 1831.
- The Angler's Arms Mrs. Mulliner, in stories by P.G.Wodehouse
- The George & Vulture Mr. Pickwick stayed here during his trial for breach of promise in *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens. It still exists, restored, in St. Michael's Court, Cornhill.
- 4. The Admiral Benbow Jim Hawkins (It was run by his Mum) in Stevenson's *Treasure Island*.
- The Mermaid This was a favourite of Ben Johnson and many other playwrights and actors of the early seventeenth century.
- The Tabard, Southwark Chaucer's pilgrims set off from here to Canterbury. Another real inn, this was finally demolished in about 1873.
- Ye Old Cheshire Cheese, Fleet Street Dr. Johnson and other 18<sup>th</sup> century literary figures; later Dickens and others of his time.
- The Old Bull & Bush Florrie Forde popularised the song, which in turn made the pub famous. (The pub still stands close by Hampstead Heath, of course - AP)
- The Frog & Nightgown Ted Ray in his long running radio sitcom "Ray's a Laugh." There is now a real pub of this name but I don't know if anyone in particular is linked with it.
- The Mayflower, Rotherhithe The Pilgrim Fathers set off for America from here, having stopped off on the way from East Anglia

CAMRA Kingston & Leatherhead Branch proudly presents the

### **FIRST**



### KINGSTON BEER FESTIVAL

AT

Surrey County Staff Club

Penrhyn Road, Kingston (next to County Hall) (buses 71, 281, 406, 465, 479, K2 & K3 pass door)

### FRIDAY 30TH JUNE & SATURDAY IST JULY 2000

Open 11am to 3pm and 5.30pm to 11pm both days

- · More than 40 real ales plus a range of cider and perry
- · Food available all sessions
- · Live Music on Saturday evening

### Admission:

FREE Fri lunchtime, £2 Fri evening. £1 Sat lunchtime and evening
FREE at other times to CAMRA members

(cards must be shown on door)

# Beer Festivals

- Head of Steam, Euston, NW1 from 17 April 020 7388 2221
- Portmanor, South Norwood, SE25
   20-25 April
   020 8655 1308
- Jolly Farmer, Weybridge 22-24 April 01932 856873
   Windsor Castle. Carshalton
- 25-29 May 020 8669 1191

   Station Arms, Southminster
  26-29 May 01621 772225

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

call Barry Tillbrook 020 8989 7523

