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LONDON DRINKER



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As this is the edition of *London Drinker* that will be available at the Great British Beer Festival, I thought it would be appropriate to review what has happened in the brewing industry in the year since the last festival and comment accordingly.

Those of you that are CAMRA members or regular readers will know that the pervading theme throughout the last year has been mergers and closures of breweries. The last year has seen the closure of the Morland brewery following their take-over by Greene King, the closure of the Courage brewery in Bristol, the closure of all the Firkin Breweries, the closure of Ushers brewery and finally, during the week of this year's GBBF, the closure of King & Barnes following their takeover by Hall & Woodhouse. Mansfield brewery was taken over by Wolverhampton and Dudley and, although it remains open at present, is regarded as under threat in the longer term. Finally we saw the Belgian beer giant Interbrew swallow up the brewing divisions of both Whitbread and Bass.

So what is the reason for this carnage? Let's investigate some of the reasons that have been issued from the spokesmen for the companies concerned.

One reason given is that declining beer sales have made some breweries unviable. There may be some truth in this, but if Interbrew want such a big slice of the UK market they must feel that it is financially worthwhile. Other family brewers such as Young's and Fullers seem to be doing alright and have both recently announced increased profits over previous years.

Others have cited the fall in demand for Real Ale against Nationally promoted lagers, but in a lot of cases this is because the brewers have chosen not to promote the Real Ales in the first place. Bass recently spent a lot of money trying to prop up the ailing Caffreys brand but could not be bothered to advertise Draught Bass. How much promotion did Scottish Courage give Courage Best in the year before the Bristol Brewery was closed?

A lot of the blame must lie with the so called experts in the City who have decided that brewing is no longer trendy. Their scaremongering has led to shareholders putting

pressure on these breweries either to produce unrealistic returns or provide them with a fast buck by selling out to a developer or larger concern. The continuing emphasis on short term profits rather than long term growth is not a new phenomenon but, if it continues, can only lead to further losses from our ever shrinking National brewing heritage.

In the case of the Firkin breweries, words almost fail me. For Punch Taverns to claim that customers have demanded such brands as Tetleys rather than the Firkin beers, when the real reason was to avoid the risk of having to allow some licencees in other parts of their estate to sell a guest beer of their choice can only be described as cynicism in the extreme.

I am sure that the number of customers at GBBF this year will once again show that the demand for good quality real ale is still there. Let us hope that those who have influence over the brewing industry will take notice.

John Norman

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

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PUBLICAN TURNS BACK THE TIDE OF SWAN NECKS

When landlord John Fallon took over the Sun public house at Carshalton recently he decided to do something about the three swan neck beer engines in the pub owned by the Inn Business chain. Regulars had voiced their dissatisfaction with the now-ubiquitous spindly 'necks' and longed for a return to the days of the solid brass dispensers with rollover taps.

With the acquiescence of the owners and the help of regulars, the job of tracking down acceptable alternatives began, and ended with a couple of handsome refurbished engines supplied by Ian Singleton, a regular advertiser in 'What's Brewing'. Customer Bob Steel said; "Its getting hard to get the real thing these days and we had a number of disappointments as suppliers sent us brochures packed with the usual swan necks and little else- but we hope that we're sending out a little message to the homogenisers that we the drinking public want our old-fashioned dispensers back! Swan necks should be seen on Carshalton Pond just down the road- and nowhere else!"



TWO FOR JOY

The Magpie and Crown in Brentford has won the Richmond and Hounslow Branch's Pub of the Year award for the second year in a row.

The photo shows Steve Bolton (right) landlord of the Magpie and Crown, receiving the certificate from Brian Kirton, Branch Chairman of Richmond and Hounslow CAMRA, who is also holding the 1999 award.

HOLTS AT STEAM

Customers of The Head Of Steam, Huddersfield and The Head Of Steam, Euston Square, London are now able to sup a pint of Joseph Holt's Bitter on a regular basis. The beer was launched at The Head Of Steam, Huddersfield by Richard Kershaw, Managing Director of Holts and Barry Kelly, Sales Manager for Holts on Friday 16 June (it was made available in London on Wednesday 21 June). Joseph Holt is a family brewery, based in Manchester, and was established in 1849 by Joseph Holt and celebrated 150 years in brewing in 1999.

Real ale fans will appreciate that this is quite an exciting achievement for The Head Of Steam as Holt's Brewery does not supply its beer on a regular basis to any pubs outside a 15 mile radius of Manchester!" said Karen James, Market Development Manager for The Head Of Steam.

Holt's Bitter, with an abv of 4.0% is one of the most sought after beers in the country, (in fact, it is the top cult beer), a tawny beer with a good hop aroma, although balanced by malt and fruit, the uncompromising bitterness can be a shock to the unwary. It will become a regular at The Head Of Steam in Huddersfield, Euston and the Liverpool outlet when it opens in October this year. Holt's Mild, an exceptionally dark beer with a complex aroma and taste, will also be featured as a guest beer at The Head Of Steam.

From a CAMRA Press Release



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National News Round Up

Nationals go International

Within the space of a few months, the British brewing industry has been transformed by takeovers involving the country's biggest brewers. Following Scottish and Newcastle's takeover of Kronenbourg a couple of months ago, both Bass and Whitbread have sold their brewing interests to Belgian beer giant Interbrew.

Rumours of Whitbread's desire to get out of brewing had been circulating since the failure of the company in its attempt to buy Allied Domecq's pub estate. This came to pass at the end of May with the sale to Interbrew for £400 million. While similar rumours also surrounded Bass, everyone was caught on the hop when, less than three weeks after the Whitbread deal, Interbrew swooped again in a £2.3 billion deal that gives it a market share of over 30 per cent in the UK. Some brands, possibly including Heineken, will probably have to be sold to satisfy the competition authorities.

There are bound to be concerns over threats to beers and breweries following the takeover, with Whitbread and Bass owning 10 breweries between them. However, so far Interbrew have emphasised that the companies would continue to operate independently and would be "committed to the UK beer heritage and offering a rich portfolio of both ales and lagers". Interbrew remains family owned and has a history of showing some respect to Belgium's rich tradition of beer styles. Given the lack of commitment to real ale from Bass and Whitbread in recent years, the takeover may even improve the chances of cask beer being given the promotion and support it deserves.

CAMRA head of campaigns Mike Benner was encouraged by Interbrew's offer of a meeting to discuss the future of their new acquisitions, and promised to grill them over their plans for promoting their cask beers. "If they really respect our beer heritage as they say they do we will be urging them to put their money where their mouth is", he said.

As well as the future of the beers and breweries, concentration of supply to pub companies is also a worry, with the danger that smaller independent breweries could be even further frozen out. The Independent Family Brewers of Britain condemned the takeovers, claiming that globalisation would lead to concentration on a few lager brands. "Britain's

family brewers will soon be the last guardians of Britain's ale heritage" said spokesman Stuart Neame. However, some independent brewers were less pessimistic, holding the view that strong independent brands will survive, while the weaker ones will find things increasingly tough.

Regional takeovers continue

Brewery takeovers are still continuing at a regional as well as a national level, with varying implications. The Highgate brewery of Walsall is optimistic about its takeover by Aston Manor, which new MD Bob Norton says will open up new opportunities for its existing beers. It would also release funds to invest in their ten leased pubs.

However, the acquisition of Tom Hoskins by Archers means the end for brewing at the century old Leicester brewery. Production of the Tom Hoskins beers is being moved to Swindon, while the Leicester site could well be redeveloped as a working brewery museum.

ScotCo aim for ale promotion

Scottish Courage, now Britain's biggest brewer, is investing £25 million in a new cask conditioned beer, to be named Theakston Cool Cask. In the biggest large scale real ale promotion by a national brewer for years, ScotCo is to spend £4 million on promotion for the new beer, and is investing over a thousand pounds per pump to ensure it is served at the correct temperature.

The 4.2 per cent ale is designed to be served at 10 degrees C, a couple of degrees cooler than normal ales, and is aimed squarely at the 18-25 age group. The company claims that drinkers in this age group, who mainly drink lager, have often tried cask beers only to be put off, not by the taste, but by the temperature.

Spokesman David Jones said "In recent years there has been an overwhelming consumer shift towards colder drinks, and yet three out of four cask ales served in the UK are still served out of specification, which usually means too warm". Cool Cask follows the introduction of AAA by Youngs, which was introduced a few months ago with exactly the same market in mind.

Further encouraging news from ScotCo is the rumour that the company, despite its heavy investment in John Smiths Smooth nitrokeg, is planning a generic real ale promotion involving point of sale material and cinema advertising.

National News Round Up

This comes at a time when research shows that most people no longer know the difference between cask and keg beers – possibly not surprising given the nationals have spent years promoting their nitrokeg brands, often using the same names as the real equivalents (like Boddingtons and John Smiths).

CAMRA welcomed ScotCo's conversion to the cause of cask, pointing out that real ale must have the backing of the national breweries if it is not to become a niche product, only produced in small volumes by small brewers.

Cask Marque update

The accreditation process for pubs joining the Cask Marque real ale quality scheme continues, with the scheme receiving praise as a powerful weapon in the struggle to halt real ale's decline. St Austell brewery saw the reward for investing hundreds of thousands of pounds in pub cellars when all 28 of its pubs gained accreditation at the first attempt. Head Brewer Roger Ryman said "the days of warm, cloudy beer have gone. The customer demands a cool, tasty pint every time, and pubs that fail to address the temperature issue run the risk of losing their custom."

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Brakspear of Henley on Thames is also investing heavily, and is a third of the way through its project to bring the majority of its pubs up to Cask Marque standard. Jim Burrows, MD of Brakspear, pointed out that the Cask Marque plaque made ordering real ale less of a lottery for customers – people will not buy it if they cannot rely on consistently good quality. As well as the Cask Marque scheme, Brakspear has also been driving quality measures such as stricter hygiene in the brewery and control of every stage of the brewing process. They are also offering four and a half gallon pins to pubs in an attempt to stop slow selling beers going off.

Full pints hit the news

Following years of CAMRA campaigning, the government is consulting on a possible change in the law to help ensure that drinkers get a pint when they pay for a pint. Studies continue to show that many pubs get away with serving pints ten to fifteen percent short – a lot of money when a lot of places charge more than two quid a pint.

The Evening Standard featured the issue in late June, noting the debate as to how much beer should be served. Current guidelines state that a pint should be at least 95% liquid; this could be given legal force, but some are pushing for a stricter definition. However many sections of the trade are, of course, resisting the threat to their ill-gotten gains, and are threatening price rises if they are obliged to give people what they pay for.

Sheps short of capacity

Following the failure of their bid to buy the King and Barnes brewery, Shepherd Neame are now urgently looking at ways of increasing capacity. Sheps had claimed that they needed the extra capacity of the Horsham brewery, although it was widely suspected that they were planning to close it if the bid succeeded. This has been strongly denied – "everyone's saying that we were telling porkies – no we bloody well weren't" was the quote from one insider.

The current Shepherd Neame brewery is on a cramped town centre site with no room for expansion, and they will now have to look at contracting out some of their production, building a new brewery on a different site, or looking for another brewery to take over. Which option they favour is currently unknown.

GOVERNMENT SLATED BY YOUNG'S

Notwithstanding a third successive year of double-digit growth at Young's, the chairman's statement in this year's annual report makes a scathing attack on the continuing catalogue of government failings. John Young's comments strongly reinforce CAMRA's national campaigning objectives. We are pleased to reproduce the words of his statement.

'We are totally committed to our continuing independence while expanding but keeping a family feeling. We are concerned, however, about certain issues affecting our industry and you as citizens.

We, regional family brewers, are fast becoming an endangered species. Sixteen breweries have closed down in the past three years, some as a result of takeovers, others because their owners saw better commercial prospects in running pubs rather than producing beer. The latest companies to announce that they will cease brewing include the large and national, such as Whitbread, a once proud family firm like ourselves, and the small and local, including our old friends and rivals, King & Barnes, in Sussex. Much of the blame for this state of affairs can be squarely laid at the door of successive governments. The rot set in with the Beer Orders of 1990, which followed yet another inquiry in the late 1980s by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This body unwittingly created an atmosphere that bred more and more monopolies and mergers in the industry at a time when it seemed that the number of breweries was already at rock bottom. Such bodies as the Monopolies Commission should be obliged to reconvene after a span of time to consider the result of their original recommendations.

We at Young & Co are fortunate still to be here, brewing beers that win prizes and satisfy our customers, and running pubs that are recognised as some of the best in the land. Our survival is the outcome of prudent management and a share structure criticised by some but which enables us to take a long-term view. It is certainly not in any measure due to help from government.

Our industry is beset by the illegal imports of beer. The Chancellor has closed his eyes to the threat to the entire industry from high levels of excise duty in Britain: 34p on a 5% alcohol pint compared with 5p in France. Britain brews only 19% of all the beer brewed in Europe but pays 45% of the excise duty collected. Yet British pubs manage to serve beer more cheaply than French bars. The Chancellor must look again at

the duty that slips through his fingers every time a white van crosses the Channel packed tight with bootlegged Continental beer, destined to be sold by unsavoury characters, even in pub car parks and often to under-age drinkers. The amount of smuggled beer is staggering. At least 1.4 million pints cross the Channel every day and according to Customs & Excise, 75% is resold illegally. The problem is even worse as far as the smuggling of cigarettes and tobacco is concerned, and soon, if not already, the smugglers will be peddling petrol and oil. It is high time the government took action to stop this pernicious problem, either by reducing the incentive to criminals through lowering British duty levels or by applying more effective controls.

We are seeing a serious erosion of our freedom

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GOVERNMENT SLATED BY YOUNG'S (contd)

through being over-governed and hyper-regulated. Are you aware, as citizens of a free country, of provisions being inserted into contracts of employment by large corporations and local councils, among others, forbidding their employees to enter pubs during working hours and even during their lunch break? These provisions amount to a gross invasion of our freedom and an infringement of personal liberty, especially when you consider that a quarter of everything that we sell at Young's is non-alcoholic, in the form of soft drinks and food. There are no restrictions on staff going into restaurants. They are just as likely to drink beer or order a bottle of wine as they are in pubs.

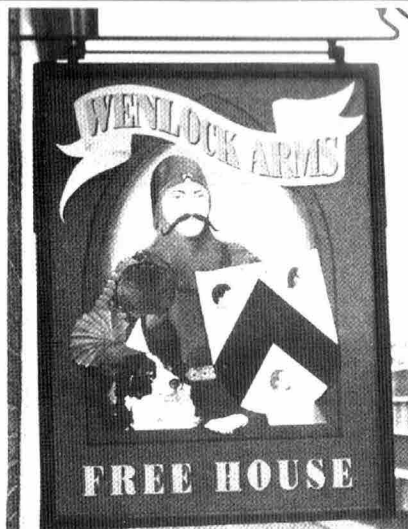
It is a further bad reflection on our society that some planning and licensing authorities are now insisting on closed-circuit television cameras being installed to survey customers, even in small, intimate locals – it smacks of Big Brother watching us.

We welcome the government's proposals to modernise Britain's licensing laws. We do have reservations, however, which correspond to those being expressed by organisations representing the magistrates, in that we believe the suggestion that local authorities should take over responsibility for liquor licensing is a grave mistake. We base our opposition on experiences in Scotland as well as on grounds of justice, conflicts of interest, inconsistency and cost. The government should reconsider this part of their proposals.

There have been further pronouncements during the year on corporate governance, in the form of the Turnbull report. The plethora of regulations brings with it the danger of a 'box ticking' approach to the governance of companies that will result in superficiality. It is time for a pause in the seemingly unending stream of such pronouncements so that boards of directors can reflect properly on the substance of their responsibilities with regards to governance.

Finally, I cannot repeat too often that people are the most important ingredient in the success of any business and I want to thank all who have contributed to the prosperity and renown of Young's.

Young's AGM on 18 July will be reported in the next issue of London Drinker.



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A WALK IN EPPING FOREST

Regular readers of my articles will know that I give up alcohol for Lent and, on Easter Monday, have a combined country walk and crawl. Three years ago I did a walk from Romford to Chingford stopping at numerous McMullens pubs along the way. Afterwards I wrote an article about the crawl which appeared in *London Drinker*.

For this year I started from Chingford on Easter Monday and headed north through Epping Forest to the town of Epping. If you want to get to Epping without the walk, it is the last stop on the Central Line.

Just before the south side of the town is the Forest Gate, a pub I have visited once before. This is a small free house with bare floors and the feel of a basic country local which is a regular entry in the Good Beer Guide. Beers from Adnams, Ridleys and Woodfordes are available, both on handpump and gravity, and I have a pint of Ridleys IPA.

As it is just past 11 o'clock I am the only customer but I can imagine a few farmers coming in and moaning about silage prices (whatever they are). Turkey broth and mackerel plate will be available at lunchtime.

Leaving the Forest Gate I head east and the next pub I come to is the Spotted Dog. Here I can have the increasingly rare pleasure of entering a pub for the very first time. As I open the door I wonder what surprises await me. A bar with no handpumps is what I find when I get in, so I turn round and leave.

I head further east along the south edge of the town and into the country where I come to the Merry Fiddlers. This has Benskins insignia outside and I notice a garden and children's playground behind the pub. Four beers are available, Old Speckled Hen, Spitfire, Greene King IPA and Adnams Bitter and I have a pint of the latter. The Merry Fiddlers is more of an upmarket pub than the Forest Gate and is furnished with a lot of horse brasses, tankards hanging from the ceiling, photographs and general bric-a-brac which, to me, gives a bit of a cluttered feel. An MG owners club apparently meets here on Monday nights. Free crisps, peanuts and cheese are available at the bar. As I am about to leave a local comes in and has his pint poured out without having to ask for it. It is always a good sign when the staff of a pub remember what the regulars drink.

Leaving the Merry Fiddlers I head out further east along the country roads and after a walk of about a mile I arrive at the Moletrap in

Stapleford Tawney. This is a small free house with three beers available from a continually changing range. Currently available are London Pride, Deuchers IPA and Mordues Workie Ticket. As the latter is a former Champion Beer of Britain I have a pint of it. Dotted around the walls are numerous pumpclips of previously available beers. There are several newspapers and magazine articles about the pub on the wall but as the seats around them are occupied so I am unable to read them.

Unlike the two previous pubs the Moletrap is full and all the seats are taken, mostly by family groups having a meal. Presumably the fine weather has encouraged families to come out into the countryside today. There aren't many houses nearby for the customers to come from and there are several cars and other vehicles parked nearby.

Leaving the Moletrap I head north then further east through the countryside for just over a mile until I come to the village of Toot Hill and the Green Man. This is a large pub most of which is taken up by two restaurants which appear to be quite full. There is also a small drinking area and a large courtyard area at the front. As it is a sunny day most of the drinkers are sitting in the seats in the courtyard area. Three real ales are available, Tom Woods Lincolnshire Legend, Youngs Ordinary and Fullers London Pride so I have a pint of the former. At the back of the bar is a copy of a photograph of the pub taken in 1907 when it was being rebuilt and featuring numerous workmen dressed in the style of the period, with bowler hats and watchchains posing round the pub. A notice by the photograph states that it was given to the pub in the 1980s by a regular customer who appears in it as a small boy in the foreground.

After the Green Man I decide to leave the road and walk along the footpaths in a north westerly direction. The first part of the footpath runs through open fields and while being a bit dusty has dried out after the recent rains. However the next bit is through the forest and as the sun has not been able to get on it is still muddy.

Eventually after tramping through the mud I emerge in the village of North Weald. When the now-unused Epping to Ongar section of the Central Line was in operation there was a station in North Weald. There is also an aerodrome on the north-west side of the village.

There are two pubs in North Weald one of which is the Kings Head. The beer range here is rather uninteresting consisting of Hancocks and Bass and I have a half of the latter. According to a booklet distributed throughout the pub the Kings Head is part of Vintage Inns, a small chain of historical pubs in East Anglia. It is about 450 years old and some of the beams come from ships timbers. The aerodrome was used an RAF base during World War II and, according to the booklet, many of the pilots used the Kings Head as their local, including Douglas Bader.

After the Kings Head I head west for another mile to the hamlet of Thornwood Common which has two pubs. The first of these is the Blacksmiths Arms, which is a badged as a Big Steak House and is heavily geared towards families. At the back is a Wacky Warehouse and Basker-Robbins ice cream and jelly beans are available. Real Tetleys is available but this is not a pub that will interest a real ale drinker.

The other pub in Thornwood Common more than makes up for this as it is the Carpenters Arms, a London Drinker advertiser. Five beers are available, from Crouch Vale, McMullens, Adnams and Dark Horse and I have a pint of the Crouch Vale bitter. The main bar has several games and magazines and newspapers, including Whats Brewing, are available. Several books about beer, including the current and past GBGs are also available. Brewery memorabilia decorates the walls and there are several articles about the pub and one about the Forest Gate. The smaller side bar is called the Hurricane Bar and is given over to RAF memorabilia. There are also several seats outside.

After another pint at the Carpenters I head back along the muddy footpaths through the forest to Coopersdale, on the eastern side of Epping proper. The first pub here is the unusually named Garcon Bushes which consists of several cottages knocked together. Three beers are available, Greene King IPA, Marstons Pedigree and Bass and I have a pint of the former. For an early evening the pub is quite crowded and no seats appear to be available so I sit outside on the green at the front of the pub. When I return to return my glass I notice an article about the pub on the wall. It appears that some time in the past a local newspaper did a weekly feature in one of

the local pubs and some of them have kept it and framed it for display.

The next pub in Coopersdale is the Theydon Oak, a free house with three beers available, Black Sheep, Wadworths 6X and Swales Mr Pickwick and I have a pint of the former. The Oak does foot and most of the seats are taken by people having a meal. It is furnished in a similar cluttered style to the Merry Fiddlers. A sign on the wall warns customers that bad language will not be tolerated and if they are unable to abide by this they should drink elsewhere. The newspaper article about the pub is displayed on the walls.

As I leave the Oak it is beginning to get dark so I head into Epping to get the train home. On the way I stop in two pubs. The first one is the Globe a basic local with pool and handpumped Tetleys. The second one and the final pub of the day is the Forest and Firkin with Burton and London Pride on handpump and nitrokeg Tetleys, the latter no doubt by popular demand.

Colin Price

BOOK EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

If you aren't thinking of Christmas yet, well Watford and District branch of CAMRA are! They are arranging a pre-Christmas pub crawl of W1 / Marylebone on Friday 15th September.

The branch has held several of these crawls in London over the years and invite all other CAMRA members to join in. They have regular guests from the other London branches and home counties, their record was 14 different branches represented, and although it is unlikely they shall ever beat that again, it would be good to get into double figures, so please turn up if only for a couple of pubs.

The itinerary is as follows:-

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 17:00 | Turners Arms, Crawford Street |
| | Youngs and a guest promised |
| 18:00 | Carpenters Arms, Seymour Place |
| 18:45 | Wargrave Arms, Brendon Street |
| 19:30 | Beehive, Home Street |
| | Youngs and Fullers |
| 20:15 | Harcourt Arms, Harcourt Street |
| | Adnams and Fullers |
| 21:00 | Thornbury Castle, Enford Street |
| | Adnams |
| 22:00 | Wetherspoons, Baker Street |

We look forward to seeing you and if you want to know why we call it a pre-Christmas crawl, just ask one of the Watford branch!

John Hurrell

Letters To The Editors

Dear Editors,

I went to a 135 meeting recently and was advised of the following, Tamworth Arms in Croydon is not on the new list and is now closed and boarded up; Wickford Arms in SE5 is not on the new list but no one knew its current fate; Express in Brentford is for sale and Youngs are likely to buy it.

At a more recent 135 meeting I was advised that the Wickford in SE5 is closed and has had the Youngs insignia removed. It is not boarded up so presumably the new owners will be using it soon.

The Tamworth in Croydon is closed and boarded up.

I was told that at the Youngs AGM it was suggested that Youngs may be disposing of their unprofitable and insufficiently profitable pubs. I would imagine that some of these may end up as something else other than a pub, if Youngs can't make a profit running a pub who can.

Colin Price

Dear Editors,

SOCIALS IN WEST MIDDLESEX

As Social Secretary for the West Middlesex branch, I was very interested to read T. Mellor's letter in the June/July edition regarding the Railway, West Drayton, and would hope that it was directed at all 600 plus CAMRA members who, according to HQ records, currently reside in the branch area. Of these 600, only two dozen at most (as many as that, I hear some branches cry!) can be regarded as "active" who regularly attend branch socials, help out at local beer festivals or who undertake some form of branch responsibility. Given that there are over 400 pubs in our area and, as "active" members no more blessed with ESP or fitted with any special antennae that enables us to seek out pubs that have improved beyond measure from previous poor reputation or whatever, we can only rely upon direct contact from correspondents such as Mr Mellor to let us and the wider drinking public know. Certainly, his letter has been the first intimation received that this pub was now worth a visit and from someone who would not seem, from his opening statement, to be a CAMRA member - yet, I hope!!

In my capacity within the WM branch, I have to say that our branch itinerary each month has to be a balance between established and new or

revamped venues and also has to reflect, to some extent, where our activists live and can gain ready access to further-flung hostels. There is little merit, let alone fun, in organising socials in areas that nobody wants to or cannot easily get to and, probably because I consider myself to be more adventurous than most Social Secretaries vis a vis the spread of venues chosen throughout the branch area over the last two years, I have occasionally been criticised for straying too far from the Uxbridge Road axis that is convenient for most of our "active" people.

Having said that, two recent evenings were organised for the West Drayton/Uxbridge area, in June 1999 2000 comprising the George & Dragon, Jack Beard's and De Burgh Arms, Yiewsley, and, in November 1999 2000 at the Paddington Packet Boat and Crown, Cowley. Only through personal observation on my part regarding the renaming of one pub and the refurbishment of another had either social been prompted. On both dates, only a handful of CAMRA members turned up and no-one other than the regular faces which probably reflects on the fact that just one WM branch activist lives in that area who was - like me - unaware of the growing reputation of the Railway. For this reason, I am indebted to your correspondent and will endeavour to include his favourite local in a forthcoming diary event hoping not only to see him there, but also to sign him as a CAMRA member along with many others besides. How about some of the existing 600 fellow campaigners turning up as well?

I am sure that I speak for all London CAMRA branches (and, probably, beyond) in saying that we welcome any input into branch activities including recommendations and/or constructive comments and, for this reason, have branch contact details published in both London Drinker and What's Brewing (please note my new work number) together with as full a list of socials as is possible given print deadlines. No-one, CAMRA-member or otherwise, had bothered to make any contact regarding the Railway (or any other pub, for that matter) in the two years I've been Social Secretary. I need not remind regular readers of LD that, through the apathy that would appear to be endemic throughout the wider CAMRA membership, one neighbouring London branch came within an ace of being wound up for good recently.

Paul Dabrowski.

— Letters To The Editors —

Dear Editors,

I visited the Anchor and Hope in Clapton E5 at the end of June. For those of you who do not know it this is a small basic Fullers pub on the towpath of the River Lea. It has been a GBG regular for many years and serves an excellent pint of London Pride and ESB. A copy of the latest Fullers list (June 2000) was available and lists the Anchor and Hope and 204 other Fullers pubs. It also gives details of the Fullers Fine Ale Club and the Fullers Web site <http://www.fullers.co.uk>. I would recommend a visit here particularly on a warm summer evening. There is also a Youngs pub the Princess of Wales which is on Lea Bridge Road, a short walk down the towpath.

Colin Price

Dear Editors,

Excessively loud music in pubs

I would like, if you could, through London Drinker magazine or otherwise, bring to the notice of licensees/managers of pubs that they drive away customers by having excessively loud music of rock, jazz or whatever they call these loud outfits/bands. (This is I suppose the age of noise rather than music.). I don't mind the sort of music which goes with a singer from the floor who goes on stage and does their piece.

When I suggested lowering the volume of the music in one pub I was informed, 'you can leave if you don't like it', but I thought the idea, and especially nowadays with fewer people using pubs (lower takings and pubs closing down), was to attract customers rather than put them off by excessively loud music or other unfriendly atmosphere. The music in that particular pub was not bad but too high in volume.

How about environmental safety laws, i.e. protection for the health and safety of customers in pubs, shops etc. - in this case the eardrums of drinkers?

Mr P Cronin, Rotherhithe

Dear Editors,

Congratulations to the Kingston and Leatherhead Branch on their first beer festival.

It was excellent, berr was in good condition, all it needed was a few more new or rare beers to make it perfect.

Sylvie, Edmonton

Dear Editors,

The Ashburnham Arms of Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich SE10 has bar billiards and it is fairly popular here, plus the fact the landlord, David head keeps a great cellar!

Shepherd Neame brewers and one can sit and talk in peace! The 'Ash' has appeared in Time Out.

P Spicer

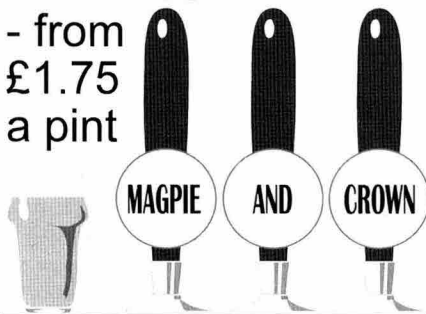
MAGPIE & CROWN

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

- from
£1.75
a pint



* singing voice required Friday evenings

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 August/September are listed below.

ALL LONDON BRANCHES.

September - Sat 16 (12.00) Social. Farmers market at Borough Market SE1. Ales, pies, cheese, morris dancers! In Wheatsheaf, Market Porter, Shipwrights Arms, and possibly Royal Oak, Tabbard Street. More details from Robin Foreshaw-Wilson on 020 8203 0598.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Eric Martin 01223-582735 (W).

August - Wed 9 (7.00) EC2 Pub Design Crawl. Convene at St Pauls Tavern, 36 Chiswell Street, anyone interested is welcome. - September - Wed 13 (8.00) Business Meeting. Royal Oak, Tabbard Street SE1, anyone interested in Pub Preservation or Design is welcome.

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

August - Tue (7.30) GBBF Social. Meet at Scottish Bar. - Thu 10 (8.00) Upper Norwood Crawl. Postal Order, 33 Westow Street (leave 8.45), then Hollybush, Royal Albert. - Tue 22 (8.00) Cheam Crawl. Prince of Wales, Malden Road, leave 8.30 for Claret Wine Bar until 9.30 then Railway. - Tue 29 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Dog & Bull, Surrey Street, Croydon (Upstairs Room). - September - Thu 14 (8.30) Social. Streatham & Croydon Rugby Club, 159 Brigstock Road Thornton Heath. - Wed 20 (8.00) Carshalton Crawl. Greyhound (Front Left Bar). - Mon 25 (8.30) Croydon Crawl. Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey Street, Croydon. - Thu 28 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Windsor Castle, Carshalton Road, Carshalton

EAST LONDON & CITY. Ben or Robyn 020-8521 4410 (H). Email robyn@pigsear.org.uk. Social enquiries Bob Walker 020-8924 0346 (H).

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

August - Tue 1 to Sat 5 Great british beer Festival. Olympia, see you there. - Tue 8 (9.00) Social. Trent Tavern, Cockfosters Road, Cockfosters EN4. - Tue 15 (9.00) Social. Winchmore Hill Cricket Club Beer Festival, Firs

Lane N21. - Wed 16 (7.00) Visit to Alchemy Brewery, Hersham, Surrey. Places very limited. Details and bookings to Tony Roberts (020-8482 9673). We will be travelling by train, catch the 17.58 Guildford departure from Waterloo arriving Hersham 18.21. - Wed 23 (9.00) Joint Social with West Middlesex Branch. Blacking Bottle, 122/126 High Street, then (10.00) Change of hart, 21 High Street, Edgeware HA8. - Thu 31 Social. Kings head, Market Place, Enfield Town EN2. - September - Sat 2 Branch ramble around some of the pubs and countryside of Hertfordshire, led by Ron Andrews. Please catch the following train or meet at Watton-at-Stone station. 10.26 Stevenage via Hertford North from Kings Cross, also calling at Finsbury Park 10.32, Palmers Green 10.42, Enfield Chase 10.49 arriving Watton-at-Stone 11.12. - Tue 5 (9.00) Two Pub Social in High Barnet EN5. King George, 149 High Street, then (10.00) Monken Holt, 193 High Street. - Sat 9 Visit to Chappel Beer Festival, Essex. There is also a railway museum on the site for any transport enthusiasts. Travelling by train catch the 9.47 Liverpool Street to Clacton, changing at Marks Tey (arrive 10.34) for the 10.44 departure for Sudbury (arrive Chappel 10.50). - Wed 13 (9.00) Social. George, 5 The Town, Enfield Town EN2. - Tue 19 (9.00) Social. Adam and Eve, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill NW7 (bus 240). - Thu 28 (9.00) Social and London Drinker Pick Up. Moon Under Water, 148 High Street, Barnet EN5.

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

August - Wed 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. The Royal George, Hersham Road, Hersham. - Sat 19 (11.00) Minibus Trip to Sussex Country Pubs. Start Surbiton station, New Malden on request, arrive back early evening. £12.00 to contact to book seat. - Sat 26 (7.30) Branch BBQ. Wych Elm, Elm Road, Kingston. - September - Thu 7 (8.30) Branch Meeting. The George and Dragon, High Street, Thames Ditton.

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

Branch Update

August - Mon 7 (8.00) Branch Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1. - Sat 12 (12.00) Knebworth Country walk and crawl. Contact Ian Burns (Tel: 01438 813055) - Tue 15 (8.00) Branch Social. Spaniards, Spaniards Road NW3. - Tue 22 (8.00) Branch Social. Prince Albert, 16 Elia Street N1, and Prince of Wales, Felton Street. - Tue 29 (8.00) Branch Social. Wells Tavern, 30 Well Walk NW3, and Freemasons Arms, 32, Downshire Hill. - September - Mon 4 (8.00) Branch Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Brian Kirton 020-8384 7284 (H). Website www.jobin.freeseve.co.uk/rhcamral.htm.

August - Wed 9 (8.30) Open branch meeting. Hogshhead (prob. Upstairs), 33-35 York St., Twickenham. - Sat 12 (1.00) Joint crawl with West London branch. Starting at the Bell and Crown, 72 Strand on the Green, W4, then calling at some pubs en route to Brentford, finishing up around 6pm at the Magpie and Crown, 128 High Street. - Wed 30 (8.30) Final Twickenham planning meeting. Queen Dowager, 49 North Lane, Teddington. Anyone who has volunteered for staffing is particularly welcome – you may be assigned a specific job! - September - Thu 7 – Sat 9 – Just the small matter of the Twickenham beer festival – see ad on back page of this edition. - Sun 17 (7.00 p.m.) Festival de-briefing session, again at the Queen Dowager, Teddington. - Wed 20 (8.30) Open branch meeting at the Rose of Denmark, 28 Cross St., Barnes, SW13.

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Dave Lee 020-8694-2687

August - Sat 19 (12.00) Barbecue. Five Bells, Church Road, Chelsfield. - Wed 30 (8.00) Boules social. Dulwich Wood House, 39 Sydenham Hill SE26 - September - Wed 6 Branch/committee meeting. Rose's, 49 Hare Street, Woolwich SE18. - Fri 22 Social. Mayflower, Rotherhithe SE16. - Tue 26 Social. Phoenix and Firkin SE5 (next to Denmark Hill

Station), moving on up the hill to the Fox on the Hill at 9pm.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX. Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H). e-mail: swessex@clara.co.uk. web site: <http://www.swessex.clara.net>

August - Tue 2 (8.00) Branch Social. Great British Beer Festival, Olympia - meet, from time to time, in the CAMRA Lounge. - Thu 10 (8.30)

Social. Brave Nelson, 138 Woodman Road, off B186 Warley Hill, Warley. - Tue 15 (8.30) Social. Green Man, Navestockside (OS: TQ562975). - Wed 23 (8.30) Out of Area Social. Viper, Mill Green Road, Mill Green. - Wed 30 (8.30) Extremely Out of Area Social. Henchy's, 40/41 St Luke's Cross, Cork City, or failing that at Leather Bottle, The Green, Blackmore. - September - Tue 5 to Sat, 9 September Open Tue 6.00 - 11.00 Wed - Sat 11.00 - 4.00 + 5.00 - 11.00 Chappel Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel & Wakes Colne Station - follow signs from A12. - Wed, 6 (8.30) Branch Social. Chappel Beer Festival. - Wed 13 (8.30) Social. Chequers, Junction of North Street and Billet Lane, Hornchurch (near Emerson Park Station). - Tue 19 (8.30) Social. Greyhound, Magpie Lane, Little Warley, Childerditch Common. - Thu 28 (8.30) Social. Britannia, 1 Church Road (off A123 Ilford Lane), Barking. Details of any changes for September will appear in September's 'What's Brewing' and on our web site at <http://www.swessex.clara.net>.

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7438 6418 (W). Website www.battersea-beer-festival.org.uk.

August - Thu 3 (6.30 and 8.00) Social at GBBF. Meet Queen Mother Celebration Bar, Olympia. - September - Mon 11 (7.30) Open Branch Cmtee meeting (Nov mtgs). PIED BULL, 498 Streatham High Road, SW16. - Fri 22 (6.00) Crawl from Wandsworth SW18 to Putney SW15. Wheatsheaf, 30 Putney Bridge Road, SW18, then (6.30 to 7.00) Queen Adelaide, 35 Putney Bridge Road, SW18, then (7.30) Cat's Back, 86 Point Pleasant; Castle (8.30) 220 Putney Bridge Road, SW15, Jolly Gardeners (9.30), 61 Lacy Road; finally (10.00) Railway, 202 Upper Richmond Road (opposite Putney station). - For Branch cricket information please phone Andy Robinson on 020-8653-8885 (home) or 020-7739-4440 (work)

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

August - Fri 4 (6.00) GBBF Social. Meet on the hour from 6.00pm at the membership stand. - Sun 6: Cricket Match - against SW London Branch. Contact Martin Few 01923 252412. - Wed 9 (8.30) Town social. Pub on the Corner, then (9.30) Estcourt Tavern. - Sun 20 (12.00) Pimbed Ramble. Swan, Pimlico, then White Hart, Bedmond 13.15, Bell Bedmond 14.00. - Thu 24 (8.30) Mill End Meander. Whip & Collar, then

Branch Update

Bell Book & Candle End 9.30pm. + Sun 27 (9.00) Branch Committee Meeting - West Herts Sports Club. September - Fri 1 (8.30) Way Out Wander. Dumb Bell, Hornhill (transport from Watford Junction 8.15pm) - Sat 9 Brewery Trip to Gales of Horndean. Contact Martin Few 01923 252412 - Fri 15 (5.00) London Pub Crawl. Start at the Turners Arms, Crawford St.W1. Map available from branch contact. - Thu 21 Branch Meeting - venue TBA. - Sun 24 (8.00) Committee Meeting. West Herts Sports Club.00pm

WEST LONDON. Alex Langford 020-7821 8101 (W).

August - Tue 1 (8.00) Social. Radnor Arms, 247 Warwick Road W14. - Sat 5 (1.00) GBBF Social. Meet at Biers San Frontiers Bar. - Wed 9 (6.00) Early Evening Social. Warrington Hotel, 93 Warrington Crescent W9. - Sat 12 (1.00) Joint Crawl with Richmond and Hounslow Branch. Start Bell and Crown, 72 Strand on The Green W4, finish (6.00) Magpie and Crown, 128 High Street, Brentford. - Wed 16 (8.00 p.m.) Chiswick Crawl. George and Devonshire, 8 Burlington Lane W4, then (9.00) Duke of York, 107 devenshire Road W4, and (9.45) Hogshead, 30 - 34 Chiswick High Road. - Tue 22 Committee Meeting. Duke of York, 47 Rathbone Street W1 (near Goodge Street). - September - Mon 4 (2.00) Fullers Brewery Visit. Chiswick Lane South W4, anyone interested see branch contact. - Wed 6 (8.00) Crawl of Parsons Green. Duke of Cumberland, 235 New Kings Road SW6, then (9.00) Jolly Brewers, 2 St. Dionis Road, and (9.45) White Horse, 1 Parsons Green. - Sun 13 (6.00) Early Evening Social. Hogshead, 11 Dering Street W1. - Sat 30 (1.00) Branch Social to St. Albans Beer Festival. Meet Beer Festival, Alban Arena, St. Peters Street.

WEST MIDDLESEX. Paul Dabrowski 020-8571 9146 (H), 0118-923 7445 (W).

August - Tue 1 (8.00) Great British Beer Festival Social. Meet at entrance to National Hall, Olympia, London W8 - Wed 9 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Duke of York, Steyne Road, Acton. - Tue 15 (8.30) Beer Festival Planning Meeting. Bridge, Western Avenue, Greenford. - Wed 23 (8.00) Joint Social with Enfield & Barnet. Branch Blacking Bottle & Change of Hart, both Edgware Road, Edgware. - Mon 28 (12.00) Branch Borders Crawl. Five Bells & Crown, both Harmondsworth, White Horse & King's Arms, both Longford, then selection from

pubs in Colnbrook. - September -Tue 5 (8.00) Two-pub Social. Duffy's Bar & Kent Hotel, both Pitsanger Lane, North Ealing. - Fri 8 (8.00) Twickenham Beer Festival Social. York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham. - Wed 13 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Load of Hay, Villier Street, Uxbridge. - Tue 19 (8.30) Beer Festival Planning Meeting. Bridge Hotel, Western Avenue, Greenford. - Wed 27 (9.00) London Drinker Pick-Up. Red Lion, St Mary's Road, Ealing.

Deadline for the October/November edition, 8th September. Material for December/January to arrive by 10th November. **Please be sure to send all diary material to Dave Oram (LEditor@tesco.net).**

FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1 - 5 AUG | Great British Beer Festival
Grand & National Halls
Olympia, London W8 |
| 18 - 19 AUG | 25th Portsmouth
The Guildhall, Portsmouth |
| 24 - 27 AUG | Clacton On Sea
St James Hall, Clacton |
| 9 SEPT | Maidstone
Museum Of Kent Life
Sandling, Maidstone |
| 13 - 16 SEPT | 8th Milton Keynes
Wilton Hall, Wilton Avenue
Bletchley |
| 14 - 17 SEPT | Booze On The Ouse
Burgess Hall
St Ivo Recreation Centre
Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambs |
| 21 - 23 SEPT | Letchworth
Plinston Hall
Broadway, Letchworth |
| 27 - 30 SEPT | St Albans
Alban Arena
St Peters Street, St Albans |
| 7 - 9 SEPT | Twickenham
York House
Richmond Road, Twickenham |
| 10 - 11 NOV | Woking
Leisure Centre, Woking
(Admission by ticket only,
available from the Leisure Centre) |

FARMERS MARKETS IN LONDON

Following Richard Larkin's article in April/May edition of *London Drinker* covering the Borough Market, some of us whom like real food would be interested in other Farmers Markets in London and pubs nearby which serve acceptable quality real ale.

There are five small farmers markets to my knowledge mainly in north London. The first one is in Swiss Cottage which is held on a Wednesday in the Market Square off Avenue Road behind Swiss Cottage underground station. This and all subsequent markets have approximately a dozen stalls selling fresh in season fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and cheese.

The nearest pubs are approximately a five to ten minutes walk away. The best pub by far is the Washington at 50 England's Lane. An impressive three storey Victorian pub which does food until 2.15pm, Good Beer Guide listed with the following real ales; Young's bitter, Tetley's bitter, Marstons Pedigree, Fullers London Pride and Ind. Coope Burton Ale. The pub is also the host to the Hampstead Comedy Club.

One other pub worth seeking out is the Belsize Tavern on 29 Belsize Lane. The pub has been restored after a fire back to the original design, incorporating an L-shaped bar and a separate pool room. Lunch is served until 3pm and the beers are Courage Best Bitter and Directors, which are well looked after.

The second Farmers Market is in Camden Lock West Yard which is held on a Friday from 11am until 3pm, the nearest underground is Camden Town which is a five minute walk.

The best two pubs can be accessed via the tow path. Quinns which is at 65 Kentish Town Road is recommended for not just real ale of which is Fullers London Pride, Adnams Bitter, Greene King Abbot and IPA, but for the three draught and twenty three bottled Belgium beers and also two draught and nineteen bottled German beers. Lunch can be obtained until 3pm.

The next pub is the Lansdowne which is located at 90 Gloucester Avenue. The pub is a recent convert onto the real ale scene the beers are Fullers London Pride and Woodfordes Wherry. The pub has been converted to open plan layout with Bistro style kitchen and attracts the young up and coming locals.

The nearest Good Beer Guide pub is the Hogshead at 55 Parkway. This Hogshead pub

has a better than average beer range with ten handpumps and stillage for four barrels. Food of course is served all day.

The third Farmers Market is in Notting Hill which is held on a Saturday from 9am until 1pm in Newcombe house car park close to Notting Hill Gate underground station.

A short walk up Kensington Church Street will bring you to number 119, which is Good Beer Guide listed and the Evening Standard pub of the year, the Churchill Arms. This is a rather up-market Fullers pub which does the full range of Fullers beers and has an excellent Thai restaurant.

The second pub nearby is the Hillgate at 24 Hillgate Street. This is a corner local with a real fire (handy on cold winter days), offering Greene King IPA, Abbot, Charles Wells Bombardier and Morlands Old Speckled Hen.

The fourth and newest Farmers Market also on a Sunday and opened on the 6th May is the Wimbledon Park Farmers Market located at Havana Road just off Durnsford Road in SW19. The nearest pub is the Pig and Whistle at 479 Merton Road, a Young's pub with cane chairs and a raised carpeted area at the back. Lunchtime snacks are served until the pub closes at 3pm. The pub also does the full range of Young's beers.

Users of Southfields underground station will find two newish pubs next door to one another on Replingham Road. The first one is The Old Garage which is a Greene King conversion of an old garage fitted out in café style with bare floorboards. The beers on offer are Greene King IPA, Abbot and one guest from the Greene King portfolio. Next door at number 22 is the Grid Inn, a typical Wetherspoons pub, with the usual Wetherspoons range of beers with one guest and one real cider.

The Wimbledon Farmers Market is located midway between Wimbledon Park and Southfields underground stations and Earlsfield railway station.

Local News Round Up

Fullers Update

Fuller's latest annual results have continued the round of good news from the UK's regional brewers. Turnover increased by 11 per cent to £142 million, with profits up 6 per cent to over £15 million. Given the national decline in real ale sales, the increase of 5 per cent in London Pride sales is an outstanding achievement, and Chiswick Bitter sales also increased.



FARMERS MARKETS IN LONDON (contd)

Finally the fifth Farmers Market is held near Camden Passage at the Angel opposite Islington Green on Sundays from 10am until 2pm and the nearest underground is the Angel.

Halfway between the station and the market is the York at 82 Islington High Street. This is a Georgian coaching inn with an L-shaped bar offering Tetley's bitter, Adnams bitter, Fullers London Pride and Ind Coope Buton Ale. The pub has Sky TV offering mainly rugby matches and lunchtime food until 3pm.

A ten minute walk away on the corner of Canonbury Street and the corner of Douglas Road at 32 Canonbury Street is the Good Beer Guide listed Marquess Tavern. An impressive Victorian local dating back to the 1850's, a Young's pub offering the full range of Young's beers and there are also plans to start Sunday lunches.

And finally, a visit to the Wenlock Arms at 26 Wenlock Road. The most pleasant way is to walk via the Grand Union canal towpath which takes only ten minutes from the market to the pub. The pub has an ever-changing range of real ales and one real cider. Every Sunday after 2pm a Jazz pianist plays popular tunes. Food consists of bar snacks which are door wedged style sandwiches.

ALEX LANGFORD

The brewery's report states that, following record investment in the business last year, considerably more will be spent both on the pub estate and new brewery equipment. The beer side has seen the introduction of new products Jack Frost, Organic Honey Dew and London Porter, while on the pubs side five new tenanted pubs were acquired. This year, the White Hart at Kingston Bridge is to be converted into a 37 bedroom hotel, sites have been bought in Bristol and the City for conversion to hotels.

The city site is at 130-135 Minories, near the Tower, and will be converted to a hotel with 64 bedrooms and a large Ale and Pie pub on the ground floor. Development will cost over £5 million and is scheduled to be complete in time for opening in September 2001. It will join the flourishing Mad Hatter on the South Bank and Sanctuary House in Westminster. The expansion is partly funded by the sale of the wine business earlier this year.

Fullers have continued their promotional activities with their sponsorship of the five a side beach rugby championships at Richmond in July. Some of the top international rugby personalities battled it out on 750 tonnes of white sand and palm trees at the Richmond Athletic Ground, all hoping to lift the London Pride trophy won by the South Africans last year.

Wetherspoons ventures into Peckham

Peckham has not been famous for real ale in recent years, but this might change following the latest Wetherspoons opening in May. The Kentish Drovers in the High Street has been built on the site of a former Barclays Bank; the name refers to its position on a former route along which cattle were driven to market. Real ale is a feature with six promised to be on at all times – a possible challenge to the cellarman given the area isn't a notorious one for selling lots of ale.



Local News Round Up

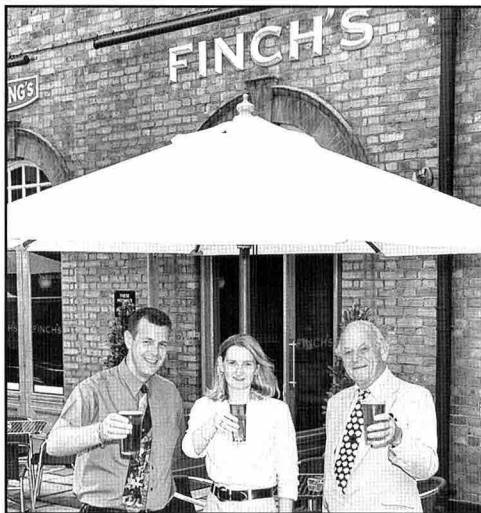
News from Young's

Not to be outdone by Fullers (see above), Young's also posted increases in turnover and profits in its latest results. Beer production was increased by 26 per cent and a new cask ale, Triple A, was introduced. John Young said "we are bucking the market trend with healthy increases in our own beer brands. The recent launch of Triple A will further assist this process and introduce a new generation of beer drinkers to Young's".



Over £12 million is to be spent on refurbishing their existing pubs and buying new ones. One of the latest acquisitions is the Court House in Dartford, a former magistrates court bought from Whitbread. It has been transformed into a traditional style local with a balance between emphasis on Young's beers, an imaginative wine list and a range of meals and snacks. The pub features impressive photographs of eastern Australia taken by tenant Mark Davis when he worked as a cameraman in New South Wales, and is Young's fourth pub in Kent.

Another addition is the latest in the Finch's 'women friendly' bar-restaurant chain, opened in Wimbledon High Street. The first two, in the City and in Chelmsford, have been declared big successes, and feature high class food alongside a varied wine list and, of course, Young's beers.



Rather longer established is the Duke's Head in Putney, where licencees Norman and Anita Golding celebrated thirty years with Young's this year. They started in 1970 at the Dog and Bull in Croydon, before moving to the Duke's head in 1976. Regulars packed the pub to sample a special bottle conditioned beer produced by Young's for the occasion. Norman, 63, admits that he wouldn't know what to do with himself without the pub, and declines to discuss retirement.



Head of Steam kicks out nitrokeg

The Head of steam chain, with its main London outlet at Euston station, has long been an advocate of cask conditioned beer. As well as keeping a range of guests on and running regular beer festivals, they have now gone a step further by giving nitrokeg the boot from the Euston pub. The new one in Liverpool, due to open in October, will also be fizz-free with 15 real ales, a real cider and no nitrokegs the promised range.

DARTS

Fifty years ago darts must have been one of the most popular games in the pub. Not much TV those days so you would have to make your own enjoyment in the boozier. Cards, dominoes, shove h'penny and darts were among the most popular. Skittles to a lesser extent. East London even have their own dartboard (East London Fives board). Darts is not as popular these day and there is not a lot of darts played in City pubs these days though the Watling (EC4) still had a board the last time I was in there. What has become more popular is the playing of darts on company premises. I have fond memories of playing at Esso in Victoria Street SW1 many moons ago but then they did sell some excellent ales.

Dart leagues are still fairly rare in the City but the early start at 7pm means some drinking or even more darts can be played after the match. My home venue is the Wenlock Arms N1 so the home matches are a pleasure, not so the away ones. Here is the story of last season. September 22, first game. Away at the City Retreat, 74 Shoe Lane, EC4, formerly Dizzy's and the Two Brewers against a team calling themselves DT's (is that what they are suffering from?) that includes my old mate Animal. Youngs have it now and I think Charrington before that. We lose. I won't keep telling you how our season went suffice to say we lost all matches. Queens Head, 71 Black Prince Road, SE11 the next away game is a disaster. Hancock HB is the only beer on and by the middle of the night I'm sick of it. Even changing the barrel didn't help. Luckily I spot a bottle of Williams Port on the lower shelf and have a couple of glasses. This team used to play in the bar of a college just off Fleet Street until supplies of real ale and food became unstable. I'm not sure I wouldn't put up with that if all there was to drink was Hancocks. A beer to be consigned to Devils Island if ever there was one. Above the dart board is a bit of a silly place to put a big screen though and a couple of cheesed off locals took their customer elsewhere.

I missed the singles cup competition having opted to go the PINT beer festival in Amsterdam. The City Retreat has two dart teams, as has the Wenlock and Winter Warmer was a welcome addition to the two other Youngs beers. Mables, 9 Mabledon Place, WC1 is the home of the Sports Council dart team where Wadworth 6X, Flowers IPA and Boddingtons are to be had. The guest ale board was blank and nearly was the number of games we won that night until I found the right double.

The next game wasn't until the third week in January following the Christmas break and a couple of cup competitions that I think should be left to the end of the season and the first away game was the last Wednesday in February.

It's 20 years ago since I first played darts in Australia and in those days I could name you two pubs that had upward of eight dartboards in them. No more though. It's hard enough to find a pub with a dartboard let alone anyone playing on them these days. Darts is still played though but these days more in clubs (rugby, soccer, bowls etc). One club I visited had over 20 dartboards and children were being taught how to play. The DETR in Victoria SW1 must be one of a handful of buildings still to have its own bar. No real ale here and I have to wonder why. Judging from the amount of Great British Beer festival glasses behind the bar someone must be interested in it. Surely it is not beyond anyone's capability to look after a polypin?

The White Hart in Giltspur Street EC1 was a new venue for a team that started the season in the Artillery Arms (EC1). Bass, Worthington Best and London Pride were on sale and darts were played in the upstairs room. The final away game of the season was at the Lord Wolsey N1 and Knockers were another team that started the season elsewhere. I fondly remember playing a friendly against North London CAMRA many years ago. It was a Charrington pub then, Sam Smiths took it over and now it's run by Greene King. I dislike Greene King's IPA and this pint at £2 did not make me change my mind. My darting colleagues voted with their lips and started on the Guinness. I had to go around the corner into the Wetherspoon pub to wash the taste out of my mouth but even there the Spitfire was so cloudy I had to send it back. We lost the match by the odd game.

That was the season that was. If you would like to play darts on a Wednesday evening from September to April with your home base in the Wenlock Arms and can put up with the beer at seven other venues then contact me on 7250 7751 or Steve or Will at the pub.

Keith Emmerson

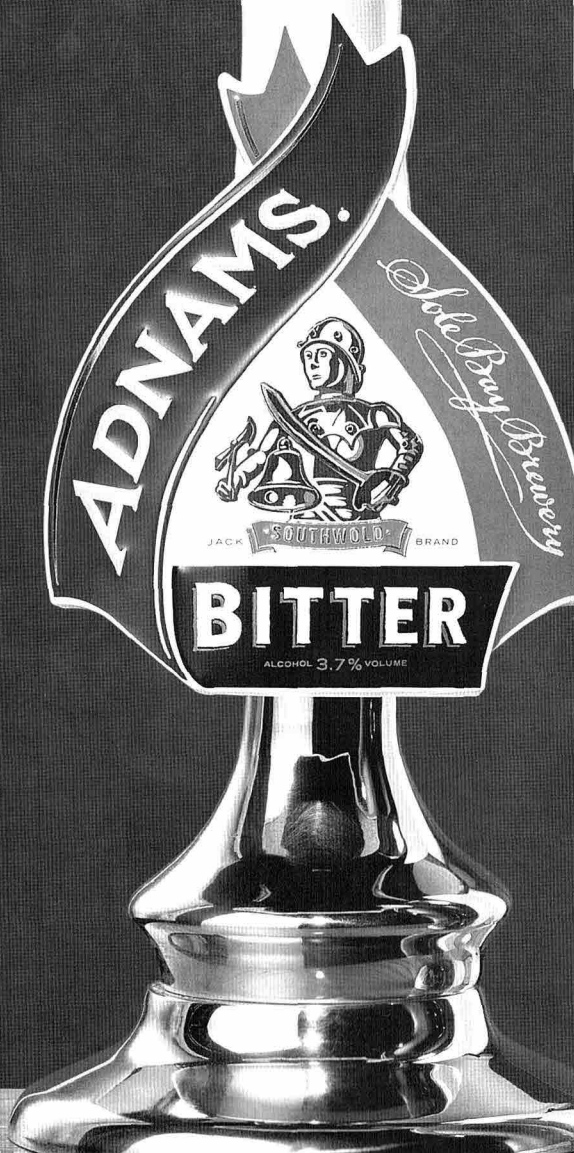
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 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2
 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1
 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1
 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1
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LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS

LAGRAD 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/LATE JULY EVENT>:

Sat 29 (7.00) Brighton Pride. Meet at the Harlequin, 43 Providence Place, (01273) 620630 up off London Road (behind Woollies).

AUGUST EVENTS:

Tue 1 (6.30) Great British Beer Festival, Olympia. Meet at the left hand end of brewery stands facing the main entrance (near the Young's stand)

Wed 2 (7.00) The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020-) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Fri 4 (6.30) Great British Beer Festival – as Tuesday, above.

Thu 17 (7.30) King William IV, 77 High Street, Hampstead, NW3, (020) 7435 5747. Courage; Best Bitter & Directors, plus guest. Hampstead tube. Traditional pub, with beer garden. Food available.

Sat 26 (6.00) August 2000, Saturday Monthly

Brighton social (yet another pub crawl). Queen's Head, 10 Steine Street, (01273) 602939. Traditional sort of pub with Wadworth's 6X and John Smiths. Then (7.15) Dr. Brighton's, 16 Kings Road, (01273) 328765. Seafront pub serving Draught Bass and Flowers IPA. At 8.30 The Aquarium, 6 Steine Street, (01273) 605525. Back to Steine Street (opposite the Queen's Head – but we thought the fresh air would do us good). Seems to be alternating Ruddles Best and Courage Best.

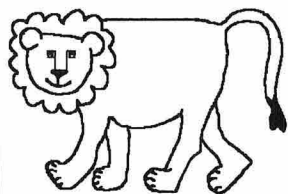
SEPTEMBER EVENTS:

Wed 6 (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, 1_ 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).

Tue 19 (7.30) Cock & Comfort, Bethnal Green (details to be confirmed)

Sat 30 (6.00). Monthly Brighton meeting (details to be confirmed)



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POSTAL DRINKER I I

Welcome to the eleventh and final instalment of Postal Drinker, my attempt to drink a pint of real ale in every one of the hundred and nineteen postal districts in London. I have kept up to my schedule of eleven pubs a month and now have ten pubs left to complete the crawl. There was no article for March as I gave up alcohol for Lent. As previously mentioned all my articles are available on the internet at the Hassrale website <http://www.edmund1.demon.co.uk>.

Three of the pubs were part of the Allied Domecq estate taken over by Punch Taverns. They are the Northumberland Arms (W1), the Clifton (NW8) and the White Swan (NW11). Hopefully (?) Punch Taverns will not make too many changes as I was impressed by all three when I visited them.

According to the Evening Standard of 23 Feb the Fox in Hanwell (W7) will be closing due to the retirement of the owner/landlord (as it is now an advertiser in L.D. it would seem not! - Ed). The Fox was the most westerly pub in the London Postal area, but this honour now appears to go to the Viaduct, a Fullers pub in Uxbridge Road, Hanwell.

By the start of December I have changed jobs and am working the night shift at the Post Office so as I have the first weekend off I make a start on Saturday night. My original intention had been to complete the South East London pubs but a fire at the Deptford signals has caused problems on the railway service.

I get the bus down to the Woolwich ferry and walk through the foot tunnel under the Thames. From Woolwich I head west into Charlton (SE7). The pub I choose is the Victoria in Woolwich Road, a small former Trumans pub which is now a free house. The original Victorian tilework and bas-relief Trumans eagle have been left untouched. On the inside the pub has a wooden floor and several sofas. One beer is available, Victoria bitter, which is brewed in Warrington according to the pumpclip. Be careful if you sit down on a sofa as some of them are rather soft and reclining and you may overbalance and spill your pint. A local Camra member I met a couple of months before did tell me he believed the bitter is in fact Burtonwoods bitter.

Charlton appears to be a bit cut-off from the rest of London with little passing trade and the only other pub I found worth a visit is the Antigallian near the station.

From Charlton I get the bus to Lewisham (SE13) and go to the Watch House in the High Street. This is a medium sized Wetherspoon pub furnished in their usual style. As well as their four regular beers four guest beers are available and I have a pint of Brakspears Grim Reaper.

This is a dark fruity winter beer at 5% ABV. In common with the other South London Wetherspoon pubs I have visited Westons cider is available on handpump. Is there any particular reason for the wider availability of real cider in Wetherspoon pubs south of the river? There are several posters up advertising Wetherspoons 20th birthday celebrations on the 9th. Several drinks will be available at a reduced price but, interestingly, no real ales.

From Lewisham station I get the new Docklands Light Railway extension back to East London. The extension and the Jubilee line extension do make travelling between East and South East London a lot easier raising the possibility of cross river crawls and socials. I get off at Bow Church in E3 and head round to the Blue Anchor in Bromley High Street. This is a small traditional East End community local where customers still dress up to go out on a Saturday night. Two beers are available and I have a pint of Youngs Ordinary. The pub has darts teams, quiz teams and a shove-ha'penny board is available. The darts teams are for both the ordinary board and the traditional local fives board. Two other pubs in Bow that are worth a visit are the Coburn, a Youngs pub off Bow Road, and the Bow Bells in Bow Road.

On the Sunday I again take the DLR to Lewisham and then get a train to Eltham (SE9). Just down from the station is the Bankers Draft a small Wetherspoon pub which presumably used to be a bank. As no guest beers are available I have a pint of Shepherd Neame Spitfire. Although it is early evening one pair of customers order the all day breakfast. One famous former resident of Eltham is Frankie Howard and among the local memorabilia decorating the walls are some old posters advertising his shows.

My next stop is Blackheath (SE3) and the Crown in Blackheath Village which is near the station and on the edge of the large heath. The Crown is a medium sized up-market pub with wooden floors and a large beer range. As well as the Courage/Theakstons range there are several guest beers and several foreign bottled beers including Leffe and Timmermans. From the

guest beers I choose Mansfield Cask Ale a beer I have never seen before. It is a pleasant beer without being particularly outstanding. I also try a bottle of Leffe Blonde, a strong pale abbey beer. The Crown dates back to the 18th century and claims to be the oldest pub in Blackheath. It certainly seems to be the most interesting and an ideal place for an evenings drinking, if a little on the expensive side.

From Blackheath I get a bus to Lewisham and the DLR back across the river to Limehouse (E14). Just by Limehouse station in the north western corner of the district is the Queens Head. This is a small pub with two interconnected bars which is a Good Beer Guide regular and I have a pint of Youngs Ordinary. HRH The Queen Mother once pulled a pint here and photos of the event appear in most Youngs pub. It is also commemorated by a small plaque on the bar of the Queens Head. Both a shove-ha'penny board and a traditional local fives darts board are available. There is a short history of the locality and the pub above one bar with a list of the pubs landlords, the current one having been there for fourteen years.

As I have mentioned the DLR extension makes crossing the river much easier and the Queens Head is an ideal place to start or finish a crawl along the DLR.

I have the next Friday night off so I pop down to the Approach Tavern in Bethnal Green (E2). This is a free house close to York Hall, the former venue of the Pigs Ear Beer Festival. This used to be a two-bar traditional free house but has since changed hands and been turned into a more modern one-bar pub. As well as five real ales several foreign bottled beers are available and food from a modern menu is available. Despite the modernisation some elements of the old pub has been kept.

There are several old photos of the pub and war posters collected by the old owner, Harry King. The Approach won the East London and City Camra pub of the year award in 1990 and the Jack Long Memorial Award, named after the late branch chairman, is still displayed although it has been shifted to the other side of the pub. Unfortunately the beer I wanted to drink, Old Speckled Hen, was not available so I have a pint of Fullers London Pride instead. The Approach seems to combine the best of the old with the best of the new and I would recommend a visit. There is also a Wetherspoon pub called the Camdens Head in Bethnal Green Road which is well worth a visit.

On the Saturday night I am going to a party in Dulwich so I decide to complete the crawl and visit the last three pubs on the way there. The

first one I visit is the Pride of Spitalfields, just off Brick Lane in E1. This is a small free house which I once described for the Good Beer Guide as being ideal before, after or instead of a visit to one of the many curry houses in the area. Four beers are available, Fullers London Pride and ESB, Crouch Vale Woodham IPA and a guest beer Grainstores Three Kings. According to the pumpclip Grainstores is based in Rutland. I try a pint of Three Kings and find it a bit disappointing. On previous visits I have usually drank the London Pride and found it in superb condition.

From here I get the tube to Parsons Green (SW6). Close to the station is the White Horse. This is an upmarket free house has several real ales on and a wide range of foreign bottled beers. The real ales include two rarely seen in London, Adnams Extra and Highgate Mild, and I have a pint of the Adnams Extra. The bottled beers include Coopers, Chimay, Duval, Orval, Rochfort, Westmalle, White Shield and many others. The pub is quite crowded and noisy with a lot of the customers apparently having a drink before going on to a party later. On the other side of the Green is a Youngs pub the Duke of Cumberland.

For the last pub I head back to Victoria (SW1) and the Buckingham Arms in Petty France close to the Passport Office. This is Youngs pub which is a Good Beer Guide regular. I decide to finish the years crawl with the same beer that I started with and have a pint of Youngs Ordinary. As it is not in a residential area the pub has few customers for a Saturday night and sometimes shuts early if there is no custom. Opening hours on a Sunday are 12-5.30. However it is usually quite packed during weekdays. As well as the full Youngs range bottles of Duval are available. The Buckingham is also notable for the founding of the 135 Association for drinkers who have completed the Youngs tour.

Although my crawl was an individual effort thanks are due to the following, to John Wright for lending to me North and West London guides, to Edmund Featherstone for putting my writings on the internet, to the 135 Association for having a social at the Britannia in W8 on New Years lunchtime to start the crawl, to West Middlesex branch and Acton branch of the SPBW for confirming the Fox as the most westerly pub in W7 and to Ken Davison for suggesting the Bank of Friendship for N5.

Colin Price

AN EXPLORATION OF BOSTON AND NEW YORK

For their latest research trip, the team from CAMAL, the Campaign for Authentic Lager, went across the Atlantic to explore Boston and New York. They were happy to confirm that the USA has changed a great deal over the last 20 years and is now home to many new breweries and brew-pubs. Most of them are brewing beer styles from Europe as well America, and make a great effort to provide the taste of the original product. Many of them do a Lager or a Pils but it was found that the standard did not compare to the imported Bitburger found in several German-style bars. There was, therefore, also time to check out the American ales. The new generation beers are available in many speciality bars and bar-restaurants, and knowledge of these places is provided by a variety of beer oriented journals such as Celebrator Beer News. In many of the bars and most of the brew-pubs a chalkboard provided a description of the flavour of the beers on tap. For this trip 'Arry Hart provided a step by step itinerary right to the doors of a large number of good pubs. The team found time to check out 62 of them during the week.

Some of the specialist bars may have 20 or more different beers on tap, from micro-breweries, regional breweries and foreign countries. The bars come in all shapes and sizes, the common thing is the eating space in all but the small pubs, and the television, often wall to wall. The brew-pubs normally provide a range of beers in widely different styles, typically wheat beer, lager, American amber, British Pale Ale and IPA, dark ale, stout, Belgian ale and fruit beer. Often they try and create an authentic style by using the appropriate hops and malt from the country of origin. The Americans do not do things by half, and some of the brew-pubs are huge beer halls. These large beer-halls are often in student areas near the universities where they are well supported, despite the restriction of drinking to adults over 21 years old. On arrival at Boston, Logan Airport provided the appropriate welcome. At terminal E there is a typical airport bar, but it is run by Shipyard Brewery and serves 4 of its own beers, including a good Fuggles IPA, with a hoppy flavour and a nice bitter aftertaste.

Several of the early micro-breweries have now grown large and some cover the country. To distinguish the breweries providing tasty beers from the established national brewery corporations producing flavourless concoctions for the mass market, a range of terms has grown up. The term Micro-brewery is used for breweries brewing less than 15,000 barrels/year while Regional Breweries produce between 15,000 and 500,000 barrels a year. A further term

is used to include these smaller breweries and also the larger breweries providing tasty beers, such as Samuel Adams. They are all classed as Craft Brewers. From the people at the bars and in the supermarkets there is increasing support in the States for beers with flavour.

Breweries

During our tour, we visited two breweries, a regional brewery in Boston, the Massachusetts Bay Brewing Company better known as the Harpoon Brewery, and a national craft brewery, the Samuel Adams Brewery in Boston. We also saw many a micro-brewery behind the glass panels in brew-pubs.

The Harpoon Brewery is in an industrial area on Boston Harbour, just outside the city centre at 306 Northern Avenue, and does brewery tours on Fridays and Saturdays at 1p.m. We were delayed by some Anchor Steam and Catamount Amber beers in the Marriott Long Wharf Hotel, and decided to take taxis. For the next half-hour we sat in a Boston traffic jam just like the central London variety. It would have been quicker to walk. The brewery does a range of beers which varies according to season. While we were there they had Oktoberfest, various Pale Ales, and a wheat beer in their sampling room. Most of their sales are of their IPA. The brewing of each of their beers follows a similar process. They use conical fermenters but use a top fermenting yeast variety for ales and a bottom fermenting variety for lagers. The lager is conditioned at 34°F for 2 weeks, the Hefeweizen for 4 to 6 weeks. The ale

is conditioned at 70oF. The beer is filtered after conditioning. The 'draft' beer is not pasteurised but extra carbon dioxide is added before shipping to suit the American taste. The bottled beers are pasteurised before distribution. They produce about 60,000 barrels/year. Harpoon is available in many of the more interesting Boston bars.

In the suburbs of Boston is the Boston Beer Company at Jamaica Plain, the headquarters of Samuel Adams, a large well known 'craft' brewer. The Boston brewery brews only about 1% of their beers but develops their new beers. There are larger breweries spread around the States. In the Boston brewery they krausen the lager and some of the ales. No adjuncts are used and the beers are conditioned for 3 weeks and dry hopped. The strongest beer they brew is the Triple Bock at 17 % Alcohol By Volume. The brewery tours, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, are distinguished by a serious sampling session in which the flavours of the various beers are explained as the beers are sampled. To get into the sampling session everyone under 50 years old had to show proof of age before getting in. This identification is a regular problem for anyone anywhere near 21.

Boston

New England in the fall has superb woodland scenery but we did not have time to get out of town to see it. There were far too many brew-pubs and interesting bars to investigate. We first examined the target area from the 60th floor of the John Hancock Tower. It provides an excellent view of Boston Common and the Downtown area just beyond. The Boston general area includes Cambridge, across the Charles River from central Boston. The interesting bars are widely spread but well connected by the Subway system.

Boston Brew-pubs

There are eight brew-pubs in the central area of Boston, most of them in the student areas but with a few in downtown Boston. Normally they provide a wide range of beers and a sampler tray is generally available to enable the regular beers to be tried without too much effort. Most of the brew-pubs are quite large, particularly those in the student areas, with lots of eating room and plenty of drinking space at the bar. My favourite brew-pubs were the John Harvard's Brew House in the Harvard student area, and the Boston Beer

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John Harvard's Brew House, 33 Dunster Street, Cambridge, near Harvard Station, is a beer hall style brew-pub. The walls are finished in dark wood, and the dark ceiling and dark furniture create a good beer sampling atmosphere. The brewing equipment is behind large windows at the corner of the bar. The Pale Ale is malty and slightly dry but well worth trying out. If you want to try the east coast style of IPA, the Old Willy IPA is typical, very dry and brutally hopped. The small measure of IPA in the sampler provides quite enough hop flavour for most people.

The Boston Beer Works, 61 Brookline Avenue, is an easy walk from Kenmore Station. In a huge beer hall with a dark decor, it provides a very good drinking environment. There is usually a cask conditioned ale on. The cask conditioned versions of American beers normally provide more flavour than the tank conditioned version of the same brew and are growing in popularity in the States. However, some of the bars are not used to this approach and you can find yourself with a yeasty sludge. The best place to try it is in a brew-pub. At the Beer Works they had the Red Ale on cask, typical of the American 'Red' style. The Back Bay IPA was not as brutally hopped as many of the local brew-pub IPAs so it made a very drinkable hoppy dry beer.

Other brew-pubs worth visiting are - Commonwealth Brewing Company, 138 Portland Street (Downtown), being refurbished when we visited, - Back Bay Brewing Company, 755 Boylston Street (Back Bay), modern basic styling and with IBU bitterness rating listed for each beer as well as the ABV strength - North East Brewing Company, 1314 Commonwealth Avenue (near Boston University), modern woody decor, - Brew Moon, 115 Stuart Street (Chinatown), modern light wood decor with one of the few decent lagers, - Brew Moon, 50 Church Street (near Harvard University), a plush modern styled restaurant, and Cambridge Brewing Company, 1 Kendal Square (near the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), a modern high ceilinged bar.

Boston Pubs

There are quite a few bars which specialise in foreign and regional beers with many of them also having micro-brewery beers. Their beers sell at around £2.25 to £2.90/pint compared to the widely available national beers such as the

Anheuser-Busch and Coors beers at about £1.60/pint. For a traditional style corner street town bar it is worth visiting the Original Sports Saloon, 47 Huntington Avenue (near Copley Station) which has a good range of interesting beers. Getting well away from the centre for a classic American-Irish style bar there is Doyles, 3484 Washington Street at Jamaica Plain. It is near Green Street Station and is handy for visiting Samuel Adams Brewery. A long solid dark-wood bar, with the walls lined with old Irish pictures, and a high ceiling give a traditional feel to the pub to enjoy while you are working your way through the beers.

Of the many interesting beers I tried in Boston, the ones that stood out were the Sierra Nevada Pale, which is widely available in the States and was enjoyed also in New York, and the local Harpoon IPA available in many of the more interesting bars, and particularly good at Jacob Wirth, 33 Stuart Street, a traditional German beer hall restaurant.

New York

Like any large city area in the States, Manhattan, New York, has the usual array of skyscrapers, but there happens to be more of them. We naturally went up the Empire State Building to enjoy the view of them, a very dramatic sight, but we could not see the pubs from there. In fact finding the pubs was mainly a matter of following the underground map, with a final walk in the skyscraper canyons to the desired haunt.

We also fitted in the Staten Island ferry, passing the Statue of Liberty, but at Staten Island we did an about turn as there does not appear to be much in the way of good pubs on the Island. We also had a morning walk in Central Park, an excellent place, which generated a good thirst enabling us to head for the local bars. Travel between pubs was not a problem using the subway system, although most of the routes ran north/south and only a few east/west. It was normally quickest to get off the subway east or west of the destination and walk across.

New York Brew-pubs

We tried 7 brew-pubs in Manhattan, which were similar to the brew-pubs we tried in Boston except that they were much less student oriented. Heartland Brewery, 1285 6th Avenue at West 51st Street in Midtown, was similar to the Boston Student brew-pubs. It had a large high ceilinged town bar with central restaurant area and brewing equipment on show in the gallery

above. It provided a well organised large bar area. Their Indiana Pale Ale had a fairly brutal hoppy start and a long lasting dry bitter aftertaste. In contrasting style was the West Side Brewing Company brew-pub, 340 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th Street. A much smaller cosy room with the bar around the brewing equipment. Their Pale Ale had a perfumed hoppy flavour with a long dry aftertaste, more like the American IPAs. They do a range of beers from Blonde to Black and Tan.

Other brew-pubs well worth visiting include the Carnegie Hill Brewing Company, 1600 3rd Avenue at 90th Street, which was in a modern style with brick clad walls and green ceiling, plus the usual array of television screens, and the Heartland Brewery at Union Square, a more upmarket place. It was here that I decided Pumpkin Ale was not for me, I preferred sampling the more conventional ales. The Tap Room, 3 West 18th Street, is a smart high ceilinged bar-restaurant providing European lager and wheat beers while the Times Square Brewery, 160 West 42nd Street at Times Square, is a modern style bar, built into the brewery, with large picture windows looking out onto theatre-land.

The Commonwealth Brewing Company, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, West 48th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, is a modern styled, high windowed corner bar, carrying the legend "Let no one thirst for lack of real ale." and has the brewery in the bar.

New York Pubs

There is plenty of good sampling to be done in the speciality beer pubs, but they are well spread throughout Manhattan. For pub crawls, Greenwich Village provides the best concentrations of pubs. In the West Village side there are quite a few good pubs around Christopher Street subway station. In the East Village side there are pubs around Astor Place subway station, while to the north of 14th Street/Union Square station there is another concentration all within 500 yards of the station.

West Village

For the West Village tour leave the Christopher Street station and head west. The White Horse Tavern, 567 Hudson Street, provides Dylan Thomas fans with plenty of memorabilia in a pleasant bar-restaurant with ceiling fans. The outside drinking area is not dominated by skyscrapers.

After the touristy bit, the Blind Tiger Ale House down the road at 518 Hudson Street, provides a very good bar atmosphere with its brown wood decor and only one television set. It was one of the best pubs visited. There is a huge range of beers including one cask conditioned ale. I particularly enjoyed the Post Road IPA, grainy with a long lasting aftertaste, which was bitter and slightly dry.

A star attraction in New York is the old speakeasy, Chumley's, 86 Bedford Street, a 250 yard walk from the Blind Tiger. It is not a place you would find without the exact address. It is down an alley, into a basic back-yard, across to an unmarked door in a blank wall. The only clue is a small peep-hole window in a door, covered by a wrought iron grill. There are no signs indicating the presence of a bar. Inside is an old upmarket basic pub, with arches between rooms and plenty of dark wood furniture and dark walls. There is sawdust on the floor. The beers are mainly Chumley's, brewed for them by Chelsea Brewery. The IPA is once again brutally bitter, continuing as a long lasting bitter aftertaste.

In complete contrast, round the corner is the Jekyll and Hyde, 91, 7th Avenue South. A theme pub with lots of appropriate artefacts, such as an electric chair and ghost figures, and strange voices screaming out. However there is a good range of beers, including quite a few regionals, but my Anchor Steam did seem a little harsh and old.

Back towards the station is Barrow Street Ale House, 15 Barrow Street. A small restaurant/bar with about 20 taps, including a reasonable quantity of micro-brewery beers and, unfortunately, a juke box.

Nearby, and only a short walk back to Christopher Street station, is the Slaughtered Lamb, 182 West 4th Street, a nice small dark wood bar which has a reasonable choice of beers.

East Village

Astor Place station provides a convenient drop off point for a nearby group of pubs, all close together in East 7th Street, which are quite distinctive.

The starting point is New York's oldest tavern, McSorley's Old Ale House, 15 East 7th Street. A brilliant olde pub, with a magic atmosphere. A busy basic place, done with style, with sawdust on the floor and the wall covered with old photographs and newspaper extracts. The gents has large wrap around traditional urinals. These can be examined by the ladies through the plain



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glass panes where they have replaced the obscured panes. There is no choice of the light and dark beer available, a pint is served in two half-pint glasses, from superb old beer engines. The Light is a little woody, somewhat dry, with a dry bitter aftertaste. The Dark, smooth and refreshing with a slight taste of caramel, is quite a good mild.

A short way along East 7th Street is Burp Castle, at number 41, which provides an interesting experience. It is a small smart room, with a dark bar and a strange modern style mural, providing an upmarket atmosphere. There are 12 beers on tap, mainly Belgian, and the barman is dressed as a monk. It is well worth trying a Belgium beer to remind the palate what European beers are like.

Next door is Brewsky's, 43 East 7th Street, a very good smart modern woody pub with some interesting beers. I particularly enjoyed the Victory Ale, Victory Brewery,

which was very hoppy and quite dry, and the Sierra Nevada Pale Bock, which had a very hoppy start and a spicy aroma. It was light to drink, and slightly dry with a malty overtone. It had a long finish of hops and biscuits.

Union Square

A mile and a half stroll takes you around 5 interesting pubs near Union Square Park starting and finishing at 14th Street/Union Square station.

On the square is Heartland Brewery brew-pub, Union Square, a long pub with a long bar. It is a quality place with a high ceiling and has the brewing equipment at the end of the bar. If you find the India Pale Ale overdone on the hops, they have a wide range of other beers to try.

The Tap Room, 3 West 18th Street, is another brew-pub. It is a smart Austrian bar-restaurant, with a high ceiling, which provides mainly lager

and wheat beers.

To the north, quite nearby, is the Silver Swan, 41 East 20th Street. A nice long narrow town pub with modern styling. The draught is mainly German, and the Bitburger Pils I tried was too gassy for the style, making it harsh. There are several other interesting beers to try.

Tradition is provided by the Old Town Bar, 45 East 18th Street, a picturesque old black bar room with a long bar and a good atmosphere, and a reasonable range of beers.

Pete's Tavern, 129 East 18th Street, is a marvellous old cosy bar room with dark wood wall, a dark patterned ceiling and a good range of beers.

Before heading for the airport bar on the way home, we had to call in at a traditional style American corner bar. We called at the Waterfront Ale House, 540 2nd Avenue, at 30th Street, for one and stayed for several. Sam and Myles behind the bar created the right friendly atmosphere to enable us to sample the range of Regional and microbrewery beers. You can safely ignore the house sign "House of warm beer. Lousy food, ugly owner."

Of the beers I tried in New York, the ones I preferred were the Post Road IPA in the Blind Tiger, and the Victory Ale at Brewsky's.

The States is no longer the country of tasteless beer, there is plenty of flavourful beer to suit all tastes. However some research is needed to reduce the time spent looking for it. There have been a lot of articles in British journals, such as What's Brewing, and there a lot of very good American journals, such as Celebrator Beer News, with pub and brew-pub listings. The Internet has lots of references to beer and breweries for any area you may want to go. With a little planning, a trip can be well worthwhile.

Ken Brewster

Quality Matters

BEER QUALITY AUDIT IN LONDON – JUNE 2000

Quality of beer is one of the most important factors determining where the real ale drinker drinks his or her beer. London has far too many establishments, particularly in the centre that serve consistently indifferent pints.

During June, I decided to take a quality audit of every beer I drank in the London area. To add as much variety as possible, I decided to visit renowned real ale free houses, tied pubs and chain pubs and to try a mixture of established, seasonal and brand new real ales. The list is still very selective as I did at least want to drink something I would enjoy. The marks are a personal, subjective assessment of both the quality of the product from the brewery and quality in the pub (or festival).

This is what I found:

1/6 The Wheatsheaf SE1 – Jennings Cocker Hoop
This has been one of London's premier real ale outlets for years and there were 4 micro brewery beers available. The Jennings was drinkable but lacking something 6/10.

4/6 The Shipwrights Arms SE1 – Old London Bridge Gryphon of Gold
This was the second beer from Andy Bishop's recently rejuvenated and renamed brewery. I found this very different to the hoppy beers from the Bishops' brewery and instead very sweet and out of balance, hence the lowish mark (5). Also tried Alchemy Gemstone which I found unpleasant (3).

5/6 The Drum E17 (Weatherspoon) – Oakham JHB & Everard Tiger
A very disappointing evening quality wise. The JHB was good but not quite there (7) and the Tiger (5) was a bit tame.

The William 4th, E17 – O'Hanlons Yellowhammer & fullers ESB.
Did not like the O'Hanlons' latest but it did taste a bit green (4) and the ESB (3) had a horrid malty taste not associated with this beer. I could not finish it. Worse still, I tried Leffe Blonde on draught and it was a bit off, despite being keg.

7/6 The Great Spoon of Ilford – Hop Back Summer Lighting
This was excellent – 3 pints in less than an hour. Good to see Weatherspoons selling a great beer in tip top condition (10).

8/6 The Eva Hart, Chadwell Heath – Kitchen Ranting Raspberry
A newish Wetherspoon pub and one that has been trying hard. The guest beer has been sounded poor but was in fact very drinkable fruity/hoppy beer with no hint of raspberries (7).

11/6 The Hogshead, Ilford – Bateman Jesters IPA

A pleasant 3.6% session beer which I much preferred to their heavy, malthy beers e.g. XXB (7).

12/6 The Rose and Crown, Ilford – Titanic Best Bitter

This pub has had more down than ups in the last year but this beer was fine, although a little warm. Sadly this was the night England lost to Portugal at football. (7) beer, (2) football.

14/6 Catford Beer Festival
I tried a mixture of British and foreign draft beers, the latter being far better. It was oppressively hot in the main hall and due to no fault of the organisers the beers suffered. I tried beers from Itchen Valley, Abbeydale (a vile spiced beer), Hogsback, Becketts and Pittfield (a disappointing porter) scoring 6/1/6/4/3.

14/6 The Southwark Tavern, SE1 – Wychwood Three Lions
Much improved pub of late but this beer was uninspiring (5).

15/6 The Hudson Bay, Forrest Gate E7 – Harvieston Schiehallion
The first real lager – good condition but an odd fruitiness (6).

15/6 The Great Spoon of Ilford – Hop Back Thunderstorm
Very disappointing when compared to the Summer Lightning (5).

19/6 The Wheatsheaf – Old London bridge bridgehead/bank top sir Kay
Only two beers on this time and both were very enjoyable. Found this OLB much better balanced. The Bank Top was hoppier. Both (9).

20/6 The Head of Steam N1 – Cottage Flying Duck
Cottage beers are normally reliable as is the Head of Steam. An impressive range of 7 micro beers but only time for 1 (7).

21/6 The Br Britannia, Barking, - Youngs Bitter & Special
The Bitter (8) was better than I have tried for a while but not like it was. The Special was mediocre as it too often is nowadays (5).

23/6 East End/ North London Mini Crawl
A 4 pub Friday evening session starting at The Approach Tavern E2 – Marston's Pedigree – totally uninspiring (3) and the Black Bull E1 – Nethergate Suffolk County – very good, very hoppy (9). Later

Quality Matters

to the Leopard EC4 – Adnams Regata - my first tasting since last summer and in good order (8), and finally to the ever reliable Wenlock Arms N1 - Pitfield Organic Summer Ale. This was beautiful and very refreshing (9). A good evening.

25/6 White Horse, Parsons Green SW6.

Three beers (Roosters, Hanby and Church End) and all below their best, probably as this was the last day of a festival. All 5.

25/6 The Shipwrights - Old London Bridge Bridgehead.

Very enjoyable - see above. 8.

25/6 The Head of Steam - Riddleys Thursty. A bit lacklustre but quite drinkable. 6.

26/6 The Wenlock Arms N1 - Mighty Oak Oscar Wilde Mild

Possibly London's only pub with an ever-changing mild. This was a fine example (8) as was an old favourite, Hydes Bitter (9).

26/6 The Artillery Arms EC1 - Fullers Chiswick. 4 Fullers' beers on and this was a good (not great) example (7).

28/6 The Blue Anchor, Bow E3 - Brains SA. Sadly this was virtually vinegar and although gratefully changed, the clip was not reversed (0).

The Shipwrights Arms - Old London Bridge Belfast Bitter.

Decided to watch the first half of France v Portugal here and enjoyed the third new OLB beer (8). Also tried the Special from the more established Hambleton brewery (7).

The Euston Flyer NW ??? (Fullers)

Moved on here to see the second half and to have two Fullers beers. The Summer Ale with 'seriously chilled' badge was only slightly too cold and after 10 minutes was fine. Nor one of Fullers best beers but in fine condition (8) unlike the very tired Chiswick (3).

29/6 The Head of Steam - Everards Lazy Days. This was slightly green. Hazy Days would have been more apt (6).

30/6 Kingston Beer Festival

Despite the hall being very warm, the cooling was working well. Very much an old favourite festival and I was most impressed by the quality. RCH Pitchfork (excellent 9), Belvoir Star (not as hoppy as I recalled 7), Ballards Mild (8) and Tim Taylor Ram Tam (I prefer this to Landlord 8). My only grumble was that the festival special was being held back for another session which I found unacceptable, particularly for just a two day festival.

All in all a very enjoyable month drinking in the capital.

Simon Fyffe

The Brewery Tap

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PUB CRAWL OF RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

A splendid way to spend a day away from London is to purchase a South West Trains day return and visit the many pubs of Ryde. This involves a train to Portsmouth Harbour, a 15 minute crossing with Wightlink (by catamaran) and a 2-minute train journey, on 1930s ex-London Underground stock, to Ryde Esplanade station. These journeys will all be covered by your through ticket.

To do the following crawl I recommend that you get a number 7/7A bus from the bus station (outside the Esplanade train station) to the first pub, the Lake Huron at Haylands. This bus service is hourly and it will save you a long uphill walk! It stops directly outside the pub.

The Lake Huron is a labyrinthine local pub and it was serving excellent Badger Dorset Best and Tanglefoot when we visited. It is in the 2000 Good Beer Guide (GBG) and is well worth the journey. A 5-10 minute walk heading back towards Ryde takes you to an Ushers pub, the Partlands Inn. The Ushers Best Bitter earned the pub a 'try-also' in the 1999 GBG. This is quite an achievement given that a few years ago it was designated the worst pub in Britain! The Partlands has a shove-hapenny table should you wish to chance your luck.

From the Partlands it is another short walk (still heading towards town) to a former Gales pub, The Falcon. This pub became a free house last year and was serving B+T Shefford Bitter and Ventnor Golden, amongst others, when we visited. Both were of a high standard. The pub has a petanque terrain in the back garden, along with a shedful of darts and pool trophies.

Upon tearing yourself away from the Falcon, there is a 10-minute walk (past a post-box which we once saw on fire!) through the old town and its many little shops and kebab emporia. Eventually, on the right-hand side you will reach The Star. Although badged as a Whitbread pub, Goddards Special, brewed just up the road, was available on our visit and was in fine form. You will be relieved to hear that from here onwards the pubs are fairly close together and the walking is all downhill!

Next stop is a Gales pub, The Castle. As well as GB and Butser, the full range of Gales Country Wines is available. The beer is very drinkable (as is the Black Beer and Raisin wine!). Onwards to the only Wetherspoons pub on the island, Fowler and Co. This modern pub opened in spring last year and has already gained a large following (judging by how packed the place was when we visited). One word of advice – the guest beers all appeared to be on the right-hand bank of pumps when we were there and

included the popular Ventnor Golden (a nice drop).

Roll down the hill and into Yelf's Hotel, a pleasant hotel bar. When we dropped in it had Shepherd Neame Early Bird. Next stop for us was Joe Daflou's bar. No real ale (shock horror!) but worth a visit for the range of cocktails (how dare I mention this in London Drinker!) and the fact that Mark King (of top island-rockers Level 42) started this place up.

Next pub down the hill is the Royal Squadron. I cannot tell you what beer they serve as it was so busy we could not reach the bar and legged it to the Redan, which serves Fullers London Pride (in case you are feeling homesick). This pub was doing Goddards beer last summer, so the range disappointed us this time. All the same it is a pleasant pub and hosts live bands on several evenings a week.

There are many pubs on the seafront, most of which are pretty uninteresting, but the King Lud was selling some reasonable local beer when we called in. Out of Ryde, there are several other excellent pubs you could visit if you are on the Island for a longer period of time, many of which are easily accessible by public transport. My top ten is as follows (in no particular order):

- Blacksmiths Arms, Near Calbourne. Former Wessex CAMRA Pub of the Year.
- Volunteer, Ventnor. Regular outlet for Ventnor beer.
- Wishing Well, Near Puckpool. First Goddards tied house, serving excellent-value food.
- Wight Mouse, Chale. Renowned free-house with extensive single-malt whisky range.
- Billy Bunter's, Shanklin. Second Goddards tied-house in the wine bar style.
- Travellers Joy, Northwood. Classic GBG pub with eight handpumps.
- Wheatsheaf, Yarmouth. Popular old coaching house.
- Cedars, Wootton. Gales pub with emphasis on food.
- Griffin, Godshill. Characterful village pub with good food.
- Hole in the Wall, Ryde. Not on the above crawl but opposite St John's Rd Station. The Isle of Wight branch produced an

Branch News

WEST LONDON – BUILDING THE BRANCH

After a successful AGM in May, the West London branch is up and running with new blood on the committee organising and campaigning with an almost missionary zeal.

Our small numbers, I've counted just seven active members out of a below average membership of around 350, combined with awkward work patterns, has produced some difficulties but we do have a full programme of socials, committee meetings and targeted activities. Now we need more members to come forward – preferably from West London i.e. those who live, work or drink in this area, to help campaigning.

CAMRA members ought to need little persuasion as West London is possibly the best of London districts, but here is my "sales pitch". Firstly, we are quite small in area with just 16 postal districts stretching from Chiswick to Holborn, and from Fulham to Maida Vale with a high concentration of pubs – something in the region of 850. We're not quite sure as we need to do more surveys. We have some of the best pubs (and choice of beers) anywhere, three of which have been in every edition of the GBG and others like the White Horse, Parson's Green, (The) Andover Arms W6 and (The) Anglesea Arms SW7 are consistently top notch. Several others have been recent "Evening Standard" Pub of the Year winners and many more are flagship pubs for brewers Fuller's and Young's. The former's brewery is, by the way, on our patch as well as others like Freedom, Orange and Mash.

Back to the pubs; you'll find several on CAMRA's inventory of pub interiors most of them listed buildings (grade II) in such areas as Maida

Vale, Covent Garden, W1 and SW1. Other interesting areas include the West End (an underestimated district) and the north bank of the Thames from Kew Bridge to Waterloo Bridge, with the best from Chiswick to Hammersmith. Pubs tend to be generally of a high standard reflecting the affluence and popularity of West London, with many offering excellent food evenings as well as lunchtime. Pub crawls and surveys may be combined with a day of sightseeing, shopping or even relaxing in the Royal Parks.

A zone 1 and 2 Travelcard is all you need to visit the area, with excellent communication to all parts. However, the branch itself needs better communication and other facilities. To bring it up to date in this communication/information age, help is needed with collecting data and possibly in contributing to further guides such as a West End guide a Zone 1 guide and part of a new West London guide. Campaigning is difficult without a local beer festival, but West London may have one... with more active members. **So come and join West London** – help to build up our rejuvenated branch. We hope to hear from you soon or even see you at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia, right in the heart of our branch area.

Contact our social secretary – Alex Langsford ph 020 7821 8101(h) or 020 7234 1008(w)

Or see our branch diary in this magazine.

Ray Prior (Chairman)

PUB CRAWL OF RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT (contd)

excellent local guide 2 years ago (well worth the investment if you plan to stay a while) and also produces a useful newsletter (available on their website as well as in paper format). The Tourist Board also carries a free guide to eating and drinking on the island, which provides some useful info on pubs and restaurants, and can also provide info on accommodation on the island. There is a tourist office at the bottom of Union Street in Ryde.

If you are visiting for the day, the ferry/train service is very frequent, and the last one on Sat (to get you back to Waterloo) is the 21:35 from Ryde Esplanade. (Please confirm with National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950).

Happy drinking! Tracy Viles

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
SE1 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**

German Beer Fest



Please note that at the time of going to press these dates were awaiting final confirmation. Although as good as certain, it might be prudent to telephone early September, to avoid disappointment.

**Fri 29 Sept
Sat 30 Sept
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*featuring
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Schumacher Altbier, Uerige Altbier, Früh Kölsch, Schneider-Weisse, Schlenkerla Rauchbier, St Georgenbräu and various Dunkels

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*German Food & Drinking Songs
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Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 154

The absence of Pubcheck from the last edition was due to an editorial decision. Pubcheck has now been guaranteed four pages per issue and we will endeavour to continue with as comprehensive a coverage as possible within that constraint. As a back up, any pub information for which room cannot be found in London Drinker will be posted on the Internet via www.londondrinker.co.uk (alongside the latest Update) (Currently there is no official link between the magazine and the website - Ed.). However, only material actually published in this magazine will be cross-referenced.

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

In this issue we try to catch up on the key happenings over the last four months. We welcome five new Wetherspoon pubs, of which two are on the fringes of central London: an impressive traditional style conversion at NW1 Baker Street station and another in modern style at W2 Edgware Road near Marble Arch. Four are in the south east of London, at SE5 Peckham, SE6 Catford, SE18 Woolwich and Selsdon and one in North London at N22 Wood Green. Wychwood have acquired a pub at SE14 New Cross and Fullers have bought a former Free House in Barnet.

Ex-Allied Firkin pubs now owned by Punch Taverns have begun to be 'de-Firkinised' with a further reduction in real ale. Three Bass pubs in North London have been spotted badged 'North London Inns' in a similar style to the 'East London' and 'Southside' pubs elsewhere in London, and again often accompanied by the removal of real ale. More sightings welcome. Yates's have also begun to remove handpumped beers from their pubs. Several ex-Magic Greene King pubs have reverted to original names. Youngs have closed two pubs in SE London and Croydon. Losses of pubs to other uses, particularly residential, continue unabated. Two more pubs have been converted to McDonald's restaurants. A contributor's recent survey of NW5 Kentish Town has revealed a tale of woe. Of the 39 pubs that existed in August 1995, 8 have been converted or redeveloped for other uses, 2 are currently closed and boarded up with another rumoured to follow; a reduction of 25%, with no gains, in less than 5 years.

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. U refers to earlier updates.

NEW & REOPENED Pubs & PUBS CONVERTED TO REALALE

WC1, LONDON PUB. Royal National Hotel, Woburn Place. Adnams: Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale. New Free House created on ground floor of hotel, open to the general public and frequented by tourists. Opened late 1998 but not previously reported. Large, rather gloomy, spacious bar with tiled and dark wood flooring and raised seating areas to front and side and an exposed brick wall. Photos of old London adorn the pub and a sculpture of a bulldog and pup sits on the bar top. Piped music, TV. Food. Disabled WC. Outdoor drinking on patio adjacent to hotel courtyard. Open all permitted hours.

EAST

E2, ORANGE, 24 Kingsland Rd. Adnams: Regatta. Small Free House/bar opened about four years ago in former wine bar and restaurant premises but not

previously reported. Orange painted walls and panels and raised alcove seating area to side. Piped music, food. Open 4-11 Mon-Thurs and 4-2am Fri/Sat.

NORTH

N22, WETHERSPOONS, Hollywood Green, High Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beers. Wetherspoon Free House opened mid May in newly built 'Hollywood Green' leisure/entertainment complex, located at junction with Lordship Lane. The modern style pub occupies a corner site at the southern end of the complex fronting the High Rd and has a small, paved, yellow painted, covered patio at the front and a white 'stone' and metallic façade with large windows. Two sets of doors lead into the spacious bar area with a raised drinking area to the right and curved bar to the left. Blue carpet, blue and cream painted walls and white ceiling with no smoking area and toilets hidden behind a

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 154 continued

large glass screen at the rear. Food. Disabled WC.

Open all permitted hours.

N22, YATES'S WINE LODGE, Hollywood Green, High Rd. No real ale. New pub built as part of 'Hollywood Green' leisure/entertainment complex. Nitrokeg only.

NORTH WEST

NW1, METROPOLITAN BAR, 7 Station Approach, Baker Street Underground Station, Marylebone Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Wells: Bombardier; Guest beer. Splendid new Wetherspoon Free House opened April 2000 in former London Transport recruitment office dating from 1911, located between the Bakerloo/Jubilee and Metropolitan/Hammersmith & City line entrances to Baker Street station. Deceptively small, blue neon-lit entrance leads through foyer area with some seating and local history panels up steps (or lift for disabled) to a grand style ornate high ceilinged large bar. Dark blue and gold painted walls and pillars, blue and gold carpets or polished wood flooring, and matching furniture. Sky blue ceiling adorned with various crests including the Metropolitan Railway and various boroughs which it served, as well as a spoof one for the pub itself reading in Latin, 'Errabundis Urina Minuma Cara'. Some metallic abstract art panels and clocks on the walls. Almost half the bar area is non-smoking. The bar itself is subtly underlit with blue lighting with unobtrusive lighting above. Newspapers available. Food. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours. A worthy addition to the London pub scene. Transport buffs however may be disappointed that, given the name and location, the opportunity to display more historical background on the Met and its role in the development of London has not been fully taken up.

SOUTH EAST

SE6, LONDON & RYE, 109, Rushey Green. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beer. New Wetherspoon Free House in former shop unit opened April 2000. Dark blue flower bedecked facade with large full length windows. Large bar area, with pastel pink and green decor, fancy red carpet or stone flagged floor, low ceiling with air conditioning. No smoking area at rear. Some highlighted jokey animal figures in drinking mode feature under the bar top. Local history panels and abstract paintings adorn the walls. Named after the main road upon which it is located which originally connected London with Rye. Food. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

SE10, RED BOOT BAR, The Round, Millennium

Dome Precinct. Adnams: Broadside; Courage: Best Bitter; Young: Bitter. New pub operated by Regent Inns, opened January 2000 in shopping area near riverside outside Dome proper but within precinct and accessible only to Dome ticket holders. Two storey building of undistinguished contemporary design. No smoking area, snacks and sandwiches available. Open during Dome opening hours.

SE15, KENTISH DROVERS, 71-79 Peckham High St. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; 2 Guest beers. White painted, traditional style Wetherpoons Free House opened late May in former bank premises, latterly a furniture shop. Brown 'marble' pillars lead through a small vestibule with mosaic tiled flooring and seating into the main bar area with wood panelling and white painted walls and ceiling. At the rear is a newly built extension for non-smokers and diners with an outdoor patio and rear entrance from the adjoining leisure centre car park. Abstract paintings and local history panels adorn the walls, recording amongst other things that Thomas Tilling ran a horse drawn omnibus service from the original Kentish Drovers pub (which stood on a site opposite) to the Great Exhibition in 1851. The company, which later operated the first double deck motor buses in London and whose HQ was next door, later grew to operate throughout the country until nationalised in 1948. Food. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

SE18, GREAT HARRY, 1-9 Wellington St. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beer. New Wetherspoon Free House in former shop premises, opened early May 2000. Named after Henry VIII's flagship, the largest ship of its time, launched in 1515 at the then newly established Woolwich Dockyard. Cream and blue tiled exterior with large windows. Cream, maroon and dark blue decor with red carpeting, polished light wood flooring and furniture. Separate no smoking area at side. Disabled WC. Food. Open all permitted hours. Note correct address contrary to Wetherspoons publicity material.

SE15DON (SOUTH CROYDON), SIR JULIAN HUXLEY, 152/154 Addington Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beer (currently Exmoor: Gold and Hopback: Summer Lightning). Yet another Wetherspoon Free House, opened May 2000 in former shop premises, originally a Co-op. Black tiled and green painted facade with curved windows and double door leading into a quarry tiled and carpeted bar area with conservatory at the rear. Steps to the right lead up to a raised seating area leading through to a no smoking room separated by folding doors. Brown and copper decorated walls, bar front and bar back with copper clad pillars and cream and beige coloured ceiling. Clock, bell and newspapers available. Steps lead down to an

Capital Pubcheck

CAPITAL PUBCHECK

UPDATE 154 continued

outdoor, part-covered, enclosed patio 'garden' with water feature. Abstract paintings, black and white photos of old Selsdon and a limited number of history panels including one featuring the Tories' famous 'Selsdon Man' meeting (en route to toilets) and another the pub's name. Sir Julian Huxley, a biologist and the brother of Aldous Huxley, was a notable subscriber to Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve, opened in 1936 and now in National Trust hands. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

SOUTH WEST

NEW MALDEN, BAR MALDEN, 1-3 St Georges Sq. Boddington: Bitter; Courage; Best Bitter, Directors Bitter; Wadworth: 6X. Latest Wizard Inns Free House, opened early June in premises previously occupied by three restaurants. Large french windows with double doors leading into lower non-smoking/eating area with polished wooden flooring and up steps to the main bar area with red and light green walls, abstract paintings, cream ceiling and coloured glass lighting. Mixture of comfy seating, benches, chairs and stools. Piped music, disabled WC, food 12-9.30/10. Open all permitted hours. Like a 'musical' version of Wetherspoons but with a mundane beer range. Only Directors was available on visit – could do better!

WEST

W2, TYBURN, 18-20 Edgware Rd. Boddington: Bitter; Courage; Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; 3 guest beers. New Wetherspoon Free House opened early May 2000 in former shop units under office tower near Marble Arch. In contrast to the new Baker Street outlet, the pub is in ultra-modern style with large, curved, floor-to-ceiling windows, black tiled and polished light wooden flooring, white ceiling, blue and maroon walls, metallic tables and chairs, and imaginative lighting. Red and blue neon lights are used to highlight the pub name and ownership. The toilets are also of modern design and the Gents features a communal, foot-operated, circular wash basin! The name refers to the Tyburn tree which stood nearby and was used for public executions from 1196 until 1783. A limited number of panels (also in modern style) highlight the history of the Tyburn, the adjacent Odeon and Oxford Street shops. The café bar and former pub opposite, now known as the 'Hanging Tree', was also named the Tyburn for 10 years from 1988 to 1998. Although the office tower has an address in Bryanston Square W1, the main entrance to the pub is in Edgware Rd, W2. Food. Disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

W1(S), FALCON. Renamed **WAXY'S LITTLE SISTER**. Formerly S&N, originally Finch's, H removed along with many of the original fine features. Now under same ownership as **WAXY O'CONNORS**, 14 Rupert St, the fake oirish theme pub nearby. (W42, U53, U67, U146)

EAST

E1, LORD RODNEYS HEAD. Renamed **LOUNGE (THE)** although retaining original name on hanging sign. Now a Free House/café bar, ex-Banks & Taylor. (E69, U141)
ROMFORD, YATES'S WINE LODGE. Free House, H removed. (X102)

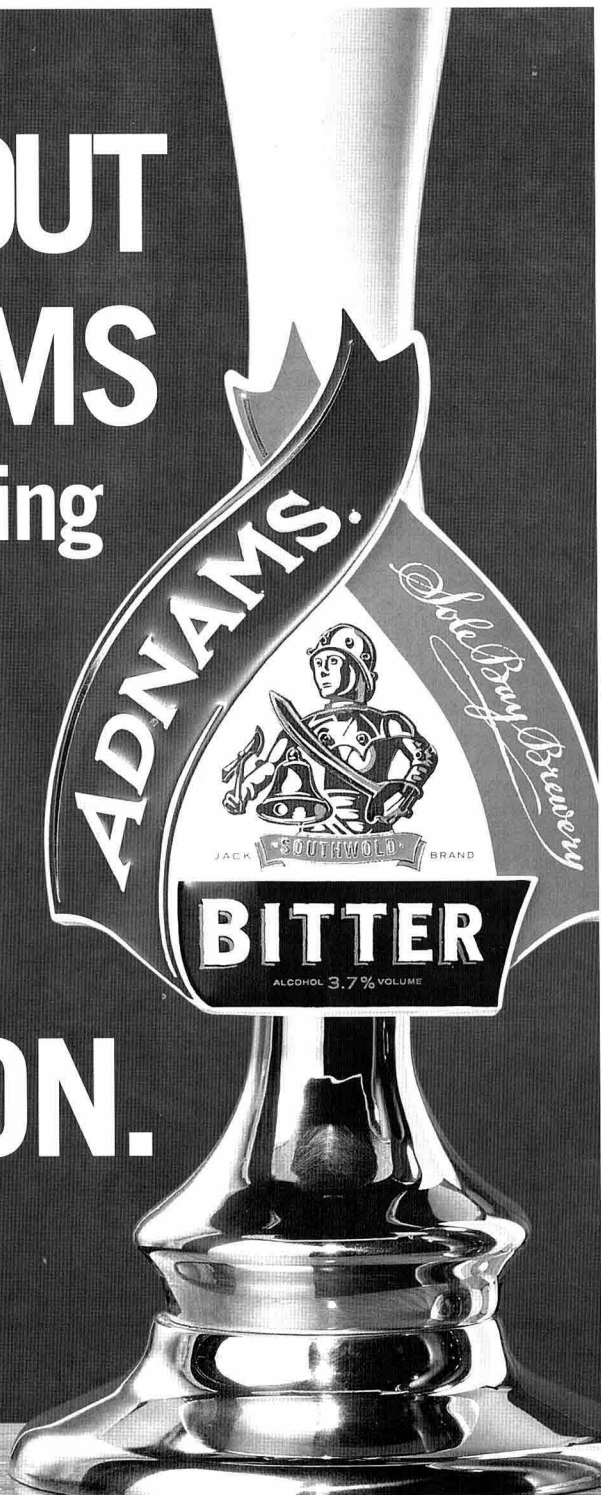
NORTH

N1, ALMA. Now badged by Bass under the 'North London Inns' name mirroring the East London Pub Co chain in East London and Southside Pub Company in South London. The 'community pub' concept however does not appear to include real ale. H removed. (N37)
N11, RAT & CARROT (THE DUCK). Reverted to **DUCK**, Greene King, closed due to fire damage. (N109, U109, U117)
N12, YATES'S WINE LODGE. Free House, H unused. (U144)
N22, FREEMASONS ARMS. Now badged as part of the Bass run 'North London Inns' chain, H unused. (N155)

NORTH WEST

NW5, AUNTIE ANNIES PORTER HOUSE. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), H unused. Formerly **BOOK & CANDLE**. (N197, U109)
NW5, CROWN. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and now solicitors' offices, but retains hanging sign. (N197)
NW5, DREGHORN CASTLE. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), closed and boarded up. (N198)
NW5, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), converted to residential use. (N198)
NW5, FALKLAND ARMS. Free House, now in residential use but retaining external signage. (N198)
NW5, GRAFTON ARMS. Now badged by Bass as part of its 'North London Inns' estate. H removed except for dispensing cider. (N199)
NW5, JOLLY ANGLERS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), now converted to a chicken restaurant. (N199, U143)
NW5, MALDEN ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), converted to flats. (N199)
NW5, ROSE OF ENGLAND. Free House, now demolished and site redeveloped for residential use. (N200)
NW5, QUEENS ARMS. Renamed **MONKEYCHEWS**. Presumably now Free, ex-Bass. Now a bar/restaurant, H removed. (N200)

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ADNAM'S**
at discerning
outlets
**ALL
OVER
LONDON.**



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UPDATE 154 continued

SOUTH EAST

SE5, WICKWOOD TAVERN. Young, closed, future uncertain. (SE63)

SE13, YATES'S WINE LODGE. Free House, H removed. (U115)

BROMLEY, GOLDEN GATE. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), converted to McDonald's restaurant. (3SE218, 8K77)

BROMLEY COMMON, SAWYERS. Shepherd Neame, converted to McDonald's restaurant. (3SE223, 8K51)

CROYDON, TAMWORTH ARMS. Young, closed and boarded up. (3SE251)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, O'HANLON. -beers listed; +3 guest beers (including an O'Hanlon's beer). Free House, now sold to owner of Pakenham Arms, WC1. Formerly **THREE CROWNS**. (E26, U90, U113)

EC1, PHEASANT & FIRKIN. Renamed **PHEASANT**. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Tetley: Bitter. Now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Firkin). Repainted in contemporary style. (E22)

EC4, SLURPING TOAD. Renamed **34 LUDGATE HILL**. Now part of W&D's ex-Marston Pitcher & Piano chain, ex-Eldridge Pope. (U131)

EAST

E1, LONDON HOSPITAL TAVERN. Renamed **LHT URBAN BAR**. -Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Adnams: Bitter. (E69, U125, U130, U153)

NORTH

N7, FLOUNDER & FIRKIN. Renamed **BEER HOUSE**. -Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Adnams: Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree. Now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Firkin) and, of course, brewery closed. A rather ironic renaming in the circumstances.. (N87, U153)

N10, RAT & CARROT (THE MINSTREL). Reverted to **MINSTREL BOY**. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. (N104, U109)

BARNET, WHITE LION. -beers listed; +Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London Pride, ESB, Seasonal beer. Well respected Free House acquired by Fullers. (N253)

NORTH WEST

NW1, PICKLED NEWT (UNICORN). Reverted to **UNICORN**. (N171)

NW6, PICKLED NEWT (THE ALLIANCE). Reverted to **ALLIANCE**. (N205, U117)

NW6, RAT & CARROT (BLACK LION). Reverted to **OLD BLACK LION**. (N206, U117)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BRENDAN O'GRADYS. Reverted to **THREE STAGS** (with subtitle 'Lambeth' on hanging sign only). -Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Greene King: Triumph Ale; +Ruddle: County. Does this mark the beginning of the end for Greene King's 'Oirish' theme pubs after a five year fling? (SE36, U110)

SE14, ROSE INN. Renamed **HOBGOBLIN (NEW CROSS)**. -beers listed except Courage: Directors Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree; +Wychwood: Alchemy Gold. Special. Now a Wychwood pub, ex-Grand Met (Courage). (SE130)

SOUTH WEST

SW11, BOLINGBROKE. Now badged by Bass as part of 'Southside Pub Company' estate. (SW86)

SW18, FOOTE & FIRKIN. Renamed **JUST SO BAR**. -Firkin beers; +Marston: Pedigree. Now owned by Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Firkin). (U130, U146)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 138

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.

N17, GILPINS BELL should read **N18**

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 152

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.

RUISLIP, LULA'S BAR address is 153 High St.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 153

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.

E1, RHYTHM FACTORY is a Free House/ café-bar. **CROYDON, GIPSY MOTH** was opened in November 1999.

N2, HOWARDS WAY (now **WEAVERS**), address should read 95 High Rd.

SW1, JUSTIN DE BLANK should read **SW1(W)**. It is a Free House/bar and brasserie.

SW7, ABBAYE is a Free House.

SURBITON, ROYAL CHARTER should read: renamed **GORDON BENNETT!**

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

E1, OLD BLUE ANCHOR should read: Renamed **INDO**, ex-Mercury Taverns, now a café-bar. H removed.

E1, SEVEN STARS address is 112 Whitechapel High St.

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

SW15, BRICKLAYERS ARMS (now **PUTNEY BRICK**) should read +Adnams: Bitter or Broadside.

SW16, GENEVIEVE should read -Courage: Directors Bitter.

SURBITON, BRITANNIA. Ref should read (SW161, U140).

Looking Back

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO supplements to the August and September 1980 issues of *London Drinker* listed 468 additions to and 32 deletions from the total of 750 real ale pubs recorded in the 1976 *Real Beer in London*. Reviewing the first ten years of CAMRA in London, Laurie Bishop noted that real ale had become trendy, costing around 45p a pint, 2-3p more expensive than keg. The future of mild seemed bleak although Young's had reported an increase in its sales of Best Malt Ale at 33p a pint.

The GBBF was again being held in marquees in the grounds of Alexandra Palace following the fire the year before. An 'Ally Pally Ramble' featured 12 pubs. Historical articles focused on Hammersmith pubs and their beers and on the Shepherd Neame brewery at Faversham.

Much to CAMRA's dismay, Bass was thinking about replacing its Union system with conventional fermenters. Courage had finally announced its intention to cease brewing at Horselydown in March and bottling some time later, with 700 job losses. The quality of its real ales seemed to be deteriorating, and bright beer and keg were being passed off as the real thing.

Fuller's had decided to brew their ordinary bitter as a cask beer, envisaging 120 barrels a week of 'Chiswick Bitter' at o.g. 1035. A regular venue for London Liaison meetings and London Drinker distribution, the Leather Market Tavern in Southwark, a former free house, had reopened as a Fuller's tied house.

London, Scottish & Newcastle were launching McEwan's 70/- in their London pubs, in some cases replacing Truman's Tap.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO the Government had rejected calls from anti-alcohol groups for a health warning on alcoholic drinks similar to that on cigarettes. Young's had made a deal with Beamish & Crawford, Irish stout brewers, to market the first alternative to Guinness for some time. High priced pubs were reported as selling beer for as much as £1.10 a pint. 32 pubs were listed as stocking Samuel Whitbread Ale, o.g. 1048.

Conway Taverns had reopened the long derelict Crown & Anchor, Brixton. Entertainers Chas & Dave had opened their idea of a perfect pub, the Pegasus in Stoke Newington. A former top jazz venue, the Prince of Orange at Rotherhithe, was about to change hands. It had been a frequent advertiser in *London Drinker* until referred to as a rip-off. The August 1985 issue offered three crawls of Lewes and the

September issue a 10-pub crawl of Arundel.

TEN YEARS AGO Young's had clinched a deal with Courage for their beers to be sold in the latter's pubs in the London area. Fuller's were intending to buy 44 pubs from Allied. Belhaven's of Dunbar had bought 98 pubs in London via Brent Walker. Two new Tap & Spile pubs had opened, in E10 and N4, bringing the total to 18 nationwide, with more in the offing. At least eight real ales were available at any time.

In his editorial, Chris Cobbold offered the opinion that it was up to the smaller independents to produce truly bitter beers. Concluding a series begun in September 1982, Merton's last *Historicrawl* covered 22 pubs in Chichester.

FIVE YEARS AGO Chris had been interviewed on Radio 4 about the effect of the Beer Orders. He explained that the larger breweries were making life difficult for their tenants and for the smaller independents, with the result that the customers' choice of drinks had declined. The new North London Pub Guide had been launched, costing £4.95 for 250 pages. Celebrating 150 years in business, Fuller's had published its history, 'London Pride'. Their India Pale Ale would be brewed until the end of October, to be succeeded by draught and bottled Old Winter Ale.

Young's had announced four senior appointments to strengthen the board of directors and management team. Wetherspoons were advertising a Septemberfest with up to 30 cask ales and a cider at £1.49 a pint. The Freedom & Firkin, Tooting was due to open, themed on the TV sitcom's local anarchist, 'Citizen Smith'.

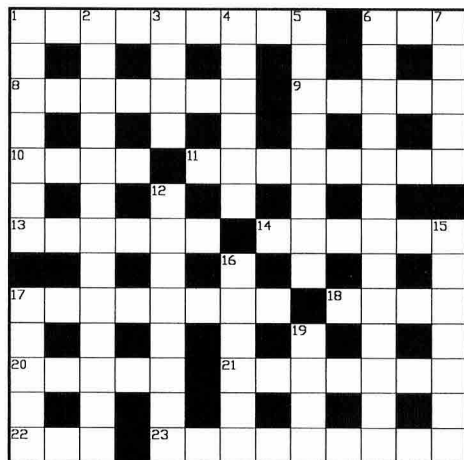
That's about all for now, fingers crossed. In the past more than one contribution of mine for September went into the post never to appear – anywhere – so let's hope this greeting does actually reach you. Cheers!

Martin Smith

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON ,

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



ACROSS

1. A doctor's turn to inject in this vehicle? (9)
6. Came across some time travellers. (3)
8. Shreds turnip top into spuds. (7)
9. It's worth being fashionable in the valley. (5)
10. About to cut and eat. (4)
11. Revealing lie? (4,4)
13. All men ought to have sufficient. (6)
14. Weaver's pride's hurt. (6)
17. At war set off untrained. (3,5)
18. 20 has no right to punch. (4)
20. Cockney wanting a drink initially. (5)
21. About ham being a source of power. (7)
22. See first person, apparently. (3)
23. Southern couple, in fact, lost heart. (9)

DOWN

1. Make it clear about writing. (7)
2. Getting married? You're for it! (6,2,5)
3. Brewer's sediment. (4)
4. Overwhelming desire to be out of the way.
Built a home. (6)
5. It's addressed by correspondent. (8)
6. Hot and cold weather drink. (4,3,6)
7. Subject to the debilitating condition. (5)
12. A soldier volunteer, Edward is very upset. (8)
15. Got worn out again and went to bed. (7)
16. Closely examines flight, apparently. (6)
17. Plunder weapon. (5)
19. A prisoner turned up at the fete. (4)

Name

Address

.....

.....

All correct entries received by first post on 25th September will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the December London Drinker.

Solution next month.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

Winner of the prize for the April crossword:

Paul Gray, Crawley, West Sussex.

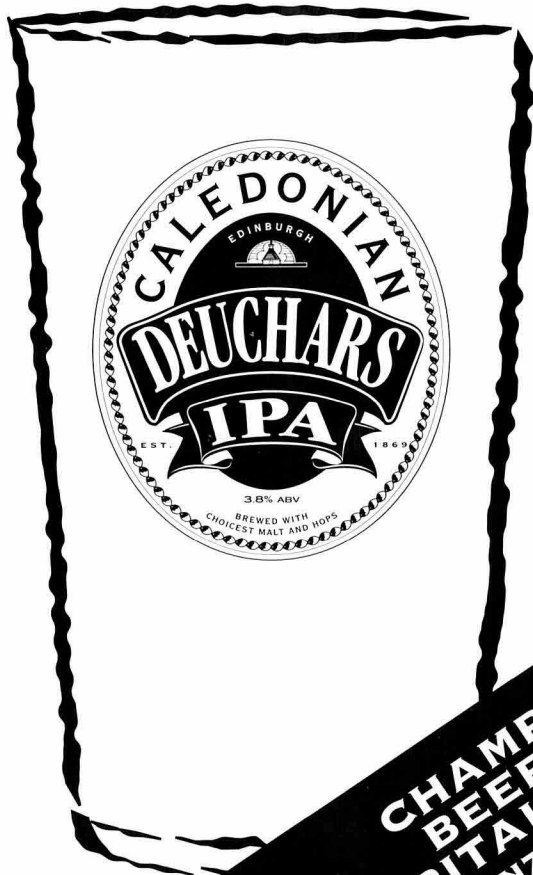
Other correct entries were received from:

Alf Ben & John, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Geoff B, John Blundell, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Brendan Casey, Ian Chapman, A.P.Comaish, Charles Creasey, Mark Foley, Marion Goodall, Eileen Graves, J.E.Green, Jonty Hawkes, John Heath, Billy Hernon, William Hill, Sheerluck Holmes, Alun Jones, Tom Kemp, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, Al Mountain, Bob Neill, Rab Noolas, John O'Donovan, David Oddy, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Lyn Randall, Geoff S, Super Scooper, Bryan Smith & Isa Nunes, Billy Sollocks, Jack Taylor, Bill Thackray, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Sue Wilson.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



YOU'RE DUE A DEUCHARS.



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BRONZE AWARD**

CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

Bits & Pieces

MILD DAY IN A MILD DESERT

The Enfield and Barnet Branch of CAMRA, having no mild outlets in their branch area (other than the occasional offering by Wetherspoons and McMullens AK, which appears not to be considered a mild anymore), wanted to participate in CAMRA's mild campaign during May. I was delegated to have a chat to a friendly accommodating landlord and landlady to see if they would be prepared to put a mild on for a branch event.

The Orange Tree (the branch's Pub of the Year), in Highfield Road, Winchmore Hill, N21 was chosen and John and Marie Maher readily agreed and a date was set for 11 May. The mild supplied was Greene King XX and the branch turned up in full force to drink the pub dry.

As well as providing a mild, John & Marie put up notices in the bar to advertise the event a few days prior to the evening and the locals were also there in large numbers to sample the mild.

The branch purchased several jugs of mild and handed out small sample glasses and leaflets to any customer that was interested in trying the beer.

Many thanks are due to John & Marie for a very successful and enjoyable evening.

Sandie Ward
Secretary, Enfield & Barnet Branch.

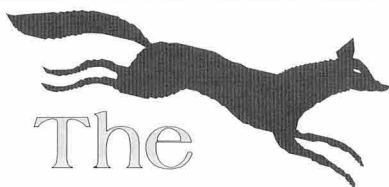
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Idle Moments

Hello again and welcome to Idle Moments for August and September. If you picked up your copy of the London Drinker at the Great British Beer Festival, I trust that you had (or maybe are still having) a good time - and don't forget that there will be another, slightly more intimate, beer festival in Twickenham between Thursday 7th and Saturday 9th September.

Anyway, having got the advert out of the way, let's kick off with a quotation. This time it comes from H.G.Wells who wrote in 1914:

Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo.

And now to get down to brass tacks, here are this month's number puzzles - just four new ones this time as I was warned at rather short notice that this edition's production schedule had been changed and I had a week less thinking time than I was expecting (moan over):

1. 4 I in a H
2. 25 M of the GLA
3. 37 DC is NBT
4. 2 H by PC
5. 15 RB on a ST
6. 3 W on a MB and S
7. 32 WS on a CB
8. 7 D in SW
9. 4 C in the HH
10. 12 S of the Z

As is usual these, the answers to all of these puzzles will be found elsewhere in this copy of the Drinker. Now let's have some brewery anagrams:

1. ALTER A CREW
2. THE DOORS
3. FILED SHUDDER
4. MAD HOP ON TOW
5. A RADISH, MAN
6. BREW ON SLAB
7. REM HEAP
8. POKES CHAR
9. BILL'S SEX
10. SHARE BLOCK

There, they weren't difficult, were they? Well I didn't think they were and I had to make 'em up.

And so we proceed with all due dispatch to 5BY4. So why is it called 5BY4? Okay, for those who don't know here is the story. In March 1994 (Yes, it really was that long ago) I had the idea of picking five songs by groups walled the Four

Something-or-others. That lasted two months as I found just ten groups including the word "Four". Since then I have kept the same format except that we have ten rather than five these days. So there you go, neither the five nor the four are relevant these days but it is still 5BY4 - 'cos I say so. When I can't think of a subject I tend to go to my trusty Good Beer Guide and pick beers beginning with the same letter. This month I have reached H; can you match the beers with the brewers that produce them?

1. Head in the Clouds
2. Hazy Daze Seriously Ginger
3. Horsepower
4. Henry's Original IPA
5. Hatters Mild
6. Honeypot Bitter
7. Heritage
8. Helterskelter
9. Hobby Ale
10. Hop Garden Gold

- A. Hogs back
- B. Robinson's
- C. Smiles
- D. Coach House
- E. Cotleigh
- F. Wadworth
- G. Oakham
- H. Frog Island
- I. Clockwork
- J. Titanic

Those of you who read last time's Idle Moments may remember that for the trivia questions I ripped off a round from a quiz I set for the Richmond & Hounslow Branch quiz held at the Magpie & Crown in May. Yes, you've guessed - it's rip-off time again:

1. What do Bath Rugby Club & Chesterfield Football Club have in common?
2. Who, in literature, are Mistress Ford and Mistress Page?
3. Who is the only man ever to have won world championships in both Formula One motor racing and motorcycle road racing?

Idle Moments

4. Which parliament became the first in the world to accept women members? (It did so in 1881)
5. What is the name of the Iron Age hill fort in Dorset, two and a half miles south west of Dorchester?
6. Who became President of the USA when William McKinley was assassinated?
7. How many MEPs represent England, Wales and Scotland in the European Parliament?
8. Who was buried in 1400 in the part of the south transept of Westminster Abbey now known as Poets' Corner?
9. Who wrote the novel "Goodbye Mr. Chips"?
10. What character was created by Mary Tourtel in 1920?

So there we are then, that's about it for another couple of months. Maybe I shall see you at Twickenham.

Bye for now.

Andy Pirson

TWO DOVES

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IDLE MOMENTS - LAST TIME'S ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 4 Inches in a Hand
2. 25 Members of the Greater London Assembly
3. 37 Degrees Celsius is Normal Body Temperature
4. 2 Hearts by Phil Collins
5. 15 Red Balls on a Snooker Table
6. 3 Wheels on a Motor Bike and Sidecar
7. 32 White Squares on a Chess Board
8. 7 Dwarves in Snow White
9. 4 Chambers in the Human Heart
10. 12 Signs of the Zodiac

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. CLEARWATER
2. RED SHOOT
3. HUDDERSFIELD
4. WOODHAMPTON
5. MASH AND AIR
6. ABEL BROWN'S
7. REEPHAM
8. PACKHORSE
9. SIX BELLS
10. BLACK HORSE

5BY4:

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

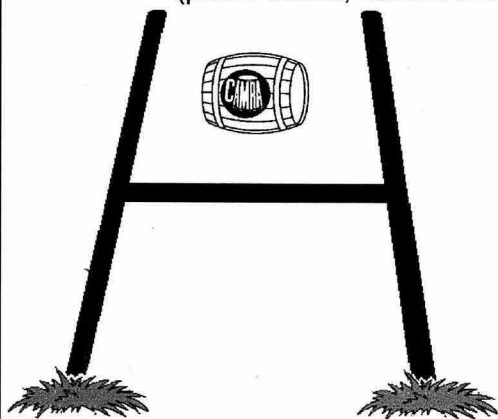
1. They both play home matches at "The Recreation Ground"
2. Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor"
3. John Surtees
4. Tynwald (the Isle of Man Parliament)
5. Maiden Castle
6. Theodore Roosevelt
7. 78
8. Geoffrey Chaucer
9. James Hilton
10. Rupert Bear



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Friday	8 September	11am - 10.30pm
Saturday	9 September	11am - 10.30pm

Admission £1.50 (£1.00 Friday Lunchtime)
CAMRA Members 50p (Free Friday Lunchtime)

Family Area - Saturday 11am - 7pm



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