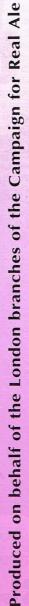




LONDON DRINKER





GARDEN HOUSE

Castelnau, Barnes, SW13 Photo: Andy Pirson

Vol 22 • No. 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2000

WE'RE CREATING A

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THURSDAY 26TH -TUESDAY 31ST OCT Finish it all off with a party on the 31st. www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk

Subject to availability. Participating freehouses.

Editorial -

In ondon Drinker as it name implies caters for all Real Ale enthusiasts in the Capital City. There are literally hundreds of pubs, both good and bad, within the City itself, along grubby main roads, in quiet little back streets or in picturesque river settings. Some are genuine free houses, others owned by pub chains both well known and completely anonymous.

One of the most well-loved features in this magazine is the Capital Pub Check. Painstakingly put together each issue through information mostly given by you, the reader.

It is always pleasing to be able to report new and re-opened pubs that have real ale but it is becoming more and more alarming to read of pubs that have closed or ceased selling real ale. The number seems to increase with each issue of the magazine and many fine ale establishments have sadly gone by the way. A recent CAMRA survey discovered 50 new pubs but also 66 pub closures.

Real Ale sales might well be down according to various statistics including national breweries and large pub chains but you only have to look at the figures for this year's Great British Beer Festival to realise that there are a tremendous number of Real Ale drinkers out there. 41,000 visitors over 5 days and apart from a few bottled beers, the festival was drunk dry by its closure on the Saturday night. Still no demand for real ale? Pull the other pump! On top of that almost 700 new members joined the ranks of CAMRA. We are now stronger than ever before, with over 58,000 members.

London has some excellent pubs with superb real ale. Make use of the pubs, drink the beer and attempt to stop closures and take-overs of both pubs and breweries. One way of doing this is to demand changes in the 'Nanny knows best' archaic British Licensing Laws.

A great number of people seem to think Licensing hour restrictions were introduced during the first world war. This is actually incorrect. In the time of Shakespeare closing time was nine o'clock in summer and eight o'clock during the winter!

Many London Drinker readers who also see the monthly CAMRA newsletter 'Whats Brewing' will have read in the September issue that plans to reform Britain's Licensing Laws are on hold. This is due to a certain confusion and misunderstanding by some brewers and publicans and particularly opposition from several mostly central London Boroughs. (go on have a guess). Many of these seem to believe a relaxation on the law will simply lead to disturbance and general nuisance. This is in sharp contrast to Government evidence. However, the main opposition is due to whether licensing should be controlled by magistrates or

local authorities. At present the there is a wide gap. Tim Martin of Wetherspoons is just one of many suspicious of local authorities gaining too much control. Although CAMRA would prefer administration to remain with local magistrates purely due to their wealth of experience in such a specialist subject, there are strong arguments in favour of both, local authorities and magistrates.

CAMRA fully endorsed licensing reform with the new Campaign '24/7: Time for choice' and commends Labour MP John Grogan who is leading support for reform in Parliament

If we are to change licensing laws at all, we have to inform MPs and local authorities. Reform will not cause havoc and indeed is necessary to stagger the current, and quite likely, 'Real' fight to the nearest kebab shop as everyone swarms out of the pubs at the same time. Government proposals do not mean all pubs will or could open 24 hours.

Pubs being allowed to open or close at their own discretion would have a marked effect on London and is to be greatly encouraged.

In licensing terms, there are no reasons why Sunday should not be treated as any other day. Again, a recent CAMRA survey shows that

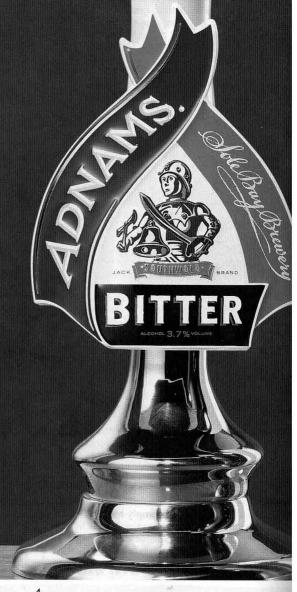
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SEEK OUT ADNAMS at Nicholson's houses ALL OVER LONDON.



CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1 BUTLERS HEAD, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1 BUTLERS HEAD, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1 BUTLERS HEAD, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1 BUTLERS HEAD, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1 BUTLERS HEAD, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1 BUTLERS HEAD, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1 BUTLERS HEAD, 11 Telegraph Street, EC2 MAGPIE, 12 New Street, EC2 CROWN TAVERN, 43 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 FOX & ANCHOR, 116 Charterhouse Street, EC1 VIADUCT TAVERN, 126 Newgate Street, EC1



Brewery News

WETHERSPOONS CONTINUES TO GROW

JD Wetherspoons' latest financial results have shown the pub group to be continuing its record of strong growth and profitability.

Preliminary results for the year to July 2000 were announced in September, and showed continued growth in turnover and profits. 101 pubs were opened in the year, bringing the group up to a total of 428; turnover was up by almost £100 million and profits before tax up by more than a third. Average sales per pub in the year were up to approximately £1 million. Since the year end, a further 10 pubs have been opened including the first in Northern Ireland.

The successful formula of cut-price beers, all day food no music or TV and no smoking areas has seen Wetherspoons outperform other pub companies over the last few years, and this trend is continuing. Like for like sales were up by over 12 per cent in the year, at a time when some other operators are reporting falling sales. The national decline in cask ale sales is not being experiences, with continued growth in sales of beers from regional and micro-breweries.

The group is supporting the Cask Marque quality control initiative, and now has 350 pubs accredited. Plans are reported to grow the company by about 100 pubs a year to an ultimate target of 1500, which would mean gaining a ten per cent share of the market. 30 sites are currently under construction with 32 more to come and 101 other sites earmarked for development.

Dave Lee

EDITORIAL (contd)

nearly 80% of all adults are in favour of longer licensing hours and over 60% agree that a more flexible approach would help reduce binge drinking.

CAMRA welcomes and supports the Government's recent White Paper on Licensing Reform. It is high time for a change. All London drinkers should urge the Government to progress reform as soon as possible and grow up.

"Excuse me Nanny, could I have another Moorhouse's Black Cat? Oh blast! It's eleven o'clock!"

Robin Forshaw-Wilson CAMRA REGIONAL DIRECTOR GREATER LONDON



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For more info, contact Thomas Perera, Director

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Opinion

UNFAIR TRADING

In accordance with the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading, Interbrew's acquisition of Bass' UK brewing interests has been referred to the Competition Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973. Not so the acquisition of Whitbread's brewing interests. Presumably the Department of Trade and Industry does not regard these as significant nowadays. Does anyone?

Allowing about a fortnight for consultation, the Commission set a nominal deadline of 26 September for interested parties to submit evidence in writing to

The Reference Secretary (Interbrew-Bass) Room 338 Competition Commission New Court 48 Carey Street London WC2A 2JT

It is understood that slightly later comments may not be ignored, but the urgency is understandable. The Commission's inquiry is limited to the impact of the Interbrew/Bass merger on the production and supply of beer in

the United Kingdom.

At the beginning of September the Financial Times reported a warning from Hugh Osmond, chairman of Punch Group, that Interbrew's takeover of brewing from Whitbread and Bass could mean higher prices and limit consumer choice. With Interbrew and Scottish & Newcastle controlling more than 80% of beer distribution, competitors could be denied access to pub chains. The Office of Fair Trading should prevent the emergence of such a duopoly.

Perhaps the Government could be more effective on the consumer's behalf in preventing large scale pub chains themselves from tying up anti-competitive supply deals. Extension of

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Printed by Crown Colourprint Ltd, Unit 9, Mole Business Park 3, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7BA. guest ale rights to all pubs operated, directly or indirectly, by chains of more than a certain size (length?) would reflect the spirit of the existing Beer Orders which the pub chains seem to have been set up deliberately to circumvent.

The Office of Fair Trading will be aware of the loss of consumer choice caused by the closure and destruction of the Firkin breweries between their takeover by Punch and the resale of many of the pubs only weeks later. Let us hope that such Firkin vandalism can somehow be

prevented in future.

No such comment appeared in the FT which quoted the view of an 'industry analyst' that Hugh Osmond 'fails to take into account the fact that beer distribution is moving away from the pubs to the supermarkets'. If he and others had allowed more choice of beers in their pubs, such a fact might have become less evident.

Geoff Strawbridge

Peter Anthony, former Barman at the Wenlock Arms, welcomes you to:-

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Book Review

2001 GOOD BEER GUIDE: A BEER DRINKER'S MANIFESTO

The globalisation of the British beer market is the main theme of the 2001 edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. Editor Roger Protz slates Bass and Whitbread for turning their backs on beer – cask ale in particular – but argues that is no reason for welcoming their takeover by Belgian giant Interbrew.

'It may well be that Interbrew will pump new life into the few ale brands bequeathed it by Bass and Whitbread,' he writes, 'but the main thrust of Interbrew's activities will be to maximise the sales of its lager brands.' Interbrew owns Stella Artois, it will take on the sales of the draught version of Grolsch and it controls the heavily promoted Carling Black Label.

The declining interest in real ale among the handful of giant brewers offers tremendous opportunities for smaller regional and craft brewers, according to Protz, although Adnams' Simon Loftus warns that whils strong independent brands will survive, weaker ones will find the going more and more difficult. Stuart Bateman of the Wainfleet, Lincs, brewery says that his company will 'concentrate on developing our premium cask ale, XXXB. There will be casualties, but those who have positioned themselves with a good core brand will prosper. Independent brewers will have to become much more focused. We will have to learn to do a few things well.'

Protz attacks the media for reporting only doom and gloom stories about the brewing industry. He points out that dedicated independent breweries continue to perform well. Fuller's and Young's in London had record years, with sales and profits increased. George Gale of Horndean, Hants, increased turnover by 8% in 1999, with record profits of £30 million. In Cumbria, Jennings Brothers of Cockermouth increased profits by 73%. Timothy Taylors of Keighley, Yorkshire, brewed more beer in 1999 than at any time in its history and installed new fermenters in July this year to cope with the demand for its beers. In Wales, the Tomos Watkin Brewery moved from micro to small regional status when it transferred production from Llandeilo to an industrial park in Swansea. 'There's life in the old cask yet.

Other major features of the Guide include a special 'Green Beer Report' that criticises brewers for being slow to respond to consumer demand for organic products. The report predicts that organic beer will prosper with news that Horticultural Research International at Wye College in Kent is developing a new hop variety that is resistant to pest attack and disease and needs no chemical sprays. At present, most organic malt and hops

have to be imported, often from as far as New Zealand.

Ted Bruning, editor of What's Brewing, calls for an end to the culling of rural pubs, currently closing at the rate of six a week. He argues that rural pubs should enjoy the same tax benefits as rural post offices and other small businesses, and that planning authorities must be more vigilant in stopping the sale of pubs to become private houses.

Columnist Lynne Pearce berates brewers who ignore women in their advertising and promotions. 'Today's pubgoers are as likely to be female as male. Expectations include a smoke-free area, a choice of good food, a welcome for their children – and a decent pint to boot.'

The 2001 Good Beer Guide was launched on 18 September. Full price £11.99.





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CAMRA North London PUB OF THE YEAR

EXCLUSIVE

JOSEPH HOLT'S Crystal Traditional Lager (ABV 4.2%)

...as well as Holt's Bitter ...

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HALLOWEEN BEER FESTIVAL 31st OCTOBER

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www.headofsteam.freeserve.co.uk

Brewery News

THIRD DEFEAT FOR CITY SLICKERS

Contentious resolutions proposed by corporate raiders Guinness Peat were defeated by shareholders for the third year running at Young's AGM on 18 July.

The meeting was attended by more than 200 shareholders who welcomed the company's continuing success in brewing good beer. This year John Young used a megaphone for the benefit of those few who had not heard the message but persisted in proposing unhelpful resolutions about the share structure and future direction of the Company. Young's were determined to remain independent. More than one-third of shareholders donated their dividends to charity and many shareholders were customers.

His speech reinforced the issues he had raised in his written report, featured in the last issue of London Drinker. He deprecated the banning by some companies and councils of their workforce entering pubs during their lunch break, even though they are allowed in other licensed premises. He emphasised the positive aspects of the British pub.

Beer production was up 26% from last year (6% on own brands) with further contracts and an impressive array of recent brewing awards. Young's now brewed most of the light ales in the country plus Mackeson stout. £15m spent on acquisitions etc included a strategic stake in Smiles. Previously, Young's had bid unsuccessfully for Morrells.

Sales of Triple A had been very encouraging and it was soon to be made available to the free trade and chains. It was tasting good at the back of the room after the meeting. Trading in the first 13 weeks of this year had been encouraging.

The late resolutions requisitioned by Guinness Peat concerned enfranchisement of non-voting shares; overt investigation of purchase of a regional brewery and repurchase by the company of its shares (two resolutions). Blake Nixon of Guinness Peat suggested that Young's 6% return on capital was unacceptably low and wanted a sectoral breakdown of activities. (He thought the pubs were probably doing well but not the brewery.) This was refused, given Young's integration of activities and compliance in so doing with Stock Exchange rules, accounting standards etc.

Other shareholders grew impatient with the impudence of Guinness Peat's questioning and one drew attention to the comparatively poor performance of Guinness Peat's own shares over time.

Guinness Peat's claims for shareholder democracy seemed to be based on the needs of those institutions who take a short-term view for their own corporate greed. The other stakeholders did not even rate a mention. Young's will probably remain a target. Its share structure is crucial to its survival as could be the long-term ownership of the family owned shares.

If Guinness Peat had their way and Young's bought another brewery, it would surely be the Wandsworth site with all its development potential that they would wish to shut.

ENFIELD & BARNET PUB OF THE YEAR

On 22 July the Enfield and Barnet Branch of CAMRA held their annual barbecue at the Orange Tree, Winchmore Hill, N21. It was also the occasion of the presentation of the branch Pub of the Year award to John and Marie Maherfor this award and thanks to them for a very enjoyable afternoon and evening.

5th HENLOW BEER FESTIVAL

ENGINEER'S ARMS, HENLOW VILLAGE BEDFORDSHIRE

GEORGE ALEWELL'S
"ANIMAL FARM"
OVER 30 REAL ALES

Thurs 19th Oct -Mon 23rd Oct 2000

(note extended running time)

- PIG ROAST FRIDAY NIGHT
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— Festivals

7th CROYDON & SUTTON REAL ALE FESTIVAL

The annual real ale festival organised by the Croydon & Sutton branch takes place this year from Thursday 19th October until Saturday 21st October.

The festival has been sponsored by First Tram Operations, and the new 'Guide to Real Ale Pubs accessible by Tram' will be available. This has been produced jointly by Camra and Tramlink and is a free guide to pubs near the stops on the new Tramlink system.

The festival will be open all day from 12 noon on Thursday and 11 AM on Friday, closing at 10.30 on both days. Admission is free before 5.00pm.

On Saturday the festival will be open from 11.00 am until 6.00 pm and admission is free.

A souvenir glass will be available.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the Tramlink pub guide before the festival, please send a stamped addressed envelope (at least 8.5 x 4 inches or 210 x 100mm) to:

Tramlink Guide 79A Waddon Park Avenue Croydon CR0 4LXm 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

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

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THREE WORDS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.

Opinion

FREE AS A BIRD

Pree house. Along with hotel, restaurant and several other words in English, it is one of the most misrepresented and abused. The pub sector over the last five years has taken a turn towards pub ownership rather than the traditional lease or tenancy of the past, and with the majority of these outlets not tied or owned by any brewery, there's been a large increase in 'free' houses as a result.

Indeed, it is now a fact that more pubs are owned by non-brewing pubcos than by breweries themselves - the first time ever that this has happened. But as with many things in the pub and brewing game, things aren't always what they seem...

From humble beginnings in north London more than twenty years ago, Tim Martin built up his JD Wetherspoon chain to the susbtantial pubco it is today. Tim's 'formula' was a novel one at the time and yet one which looked back to a past then fast-disappearing: his pubs had no music, live, piped or otherwise, the fruit machines were to be muted, there was no pool tables or darts and the chain's emphasis was on well-kept real ale at reasonable prices. Later there was even the promise of food at a time when pub grub meant the curly British Rail sandwich was the norm. For the cask drinker of the era, Timbo was getting it right by a large margin.

Mr Martin made much of the premise that his pubs were free houses; they were technically free to be able to take produce from any brewer anywhere without restriction but recent history has shown this not to the straight-forward ideal that it seems. Scottish and Newcastle Breweries took an early interest when Tim floated his group on the Stock Exchange in the mid-Nineties and took a small share which they've since relinquished. Even so, S & N left nothing to chance and had signed Mr Martin to a supply agreement that's still in place.

Tim agreed to sell ScotCo-brewed produce alongside that which had was bought-in from other brewers in return for a large barrelage discount. With one stroke of the pen, Martin's empire became tied. The 'free' house premise became a myth, a public relations image, something still trumpeted today.

Do you remember the 59p pint in JDW houses? I do. The pint in question was the now-defunct Younger's Scotch Bitter, a truly grim pint that Timbo just couldn't sell enough of at any price. It was the ultimate loss-leader; it didn't need to be good, it just had to be out there

catching the public eye and bringing them in. Indeed, it is strange to note that S & N was passing the majority of its Scotch production straight to JDW rather than stock it in its own pubs at the time, such was the confidence they had in Tim's selling prowess. The public were beguiled by the idea of such a cheap pint - it seemed to going against the grain to be selling a cask beer at such a low price and it was a perception that JDW was making nothing on Scotch in order to sell it so cheaply.

This too was a myth in my opinion: Martin could afford to almost give it away for buttons because he was still making a profit on it anyway, albeit a small one. If he could sell it 59p a pint and still make a profit, then it begs the question of how much S & N were making when they were selling it at full price, but that's another issue!

I'd go as far as to say that ScotCo effectively gave Tim as much Scotch as he could take for free because they also could afford to do so. With this covert alliance proving incredibly fruitful for both parties, it paved the way for Martin to take his concept to a new level and rapidly push for nationwide expansion since when he's never looked back.

Business is business as they say and Mr Martin is nothing if not a shrewd judge of the pub business. His pubs aren't truly free because they ultimately reside on the solid fiscal core of barrelage discounts from a major brewer and shares which are (of course) available for any brewery to buy up.

Next time you're in a Wetherspoon's house mentally strip out all the ScotCo produce on sale and see how much you are left with - it isn't much.

Why should CAMRA be concerned about JDW's business practices? Two fronts really: the first being that a pub should not be able to descibe itself as free if any ongoing supply agreement is in place and more than fifty percent of available stock is from one supplier. Call me a purist but I don't believe this practice to be correct.

Letters to the Editors-

Dear Editors.

Please note. The Alma, Chapel St, N1 is still thriving. It is the Alma, Spelman St, E1 that has bitten the dust!

Peter Westbrook London N20

Dear Editors,

As I was walking down a street in Colchester recently I spied a couple of bar-type establishments and wondered how any new beer guide will deal with them. In the past it has been easy to ignore the likes of wine bars as these rarely convert to real ale. Any place that sells real ale has an automatic entry. East London CAMRA way back in 1991 decided that they would omit any brassieres/restaurants and bars that sold no real ale.

How will any branch define who will get even a one-liner in their guide? If you include all licensed premises then there would be masses of entries for any city that would be of little use to the beer drinker. I can understand why keg pubs are included in most guides because to look on the positive side they could succumb to real ale. I don't know of too many brassieres/restaurants and bars

OPINION (contd)

The other concern is potentially more serious. By hitching his wagon to S & N's horses so predominantly, Mr Martin operates on a pitch which is less than level for other brewers including micros. Recently there were rumours circulating on the internet, the jist of which were that JDW were scaling down their micro-brewed produce to concentrate on ales brewed by bigger players.

Bigger players = bigger discounts = more profit. Hmmmmmmmmmmmm...

Ultimately, the law should be changed to give the consumer more information. It's no use them being allowed to descibe themselves to uncle Tom Cobleigh and all as a 'free house' if the place is stacked high with one brewer's beers! CAMRA could take a lead here with amending GBG entries for 'free' houses to include information on just how free they are i.e 'ScotCo-based free house' for JDW entries etc. This wouldn't take much more work and would give more information to members and the casual drinker.

Al Ferrier

that have converted to real ale but on the other hand I can think of a few pubs that converted to bars/brassieres that went keg.

So how? What is the criteria? Any establishment selling bulk beer is one idea put to me. What do other drinkers think? What would you like to happen?

Keith Emmerson

Dear Editors,

In the August/September edition of London Drinker I stated that I had been advised by a member of the 135 Association that the Express in Brentford was for sale and that Youngs were likely to buy it. In fact I have now been advised that this has not happened and instead the current managers have leased the pub from the owners. The beers currently available are still Youngs and Bass and no major changes are expected.

The Express was SPBW Pub of the Year in the eighties and still displays the mirror it was awarded to commemorate this. As I am currently doing the Fullers passport I will pay a visit to the Express when I do a few of the Fullers pubs in Brentford.

Colin Price

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Letters to the Editors -

Dear Editors, THE EXPRESS TAVERN - CÓRRECTION

In the August/September issue of *London Drinker*, Mr Colin Price (page 13) states that the Express Tavern is for sale, and that the likely purchaser is to be Young's Brewery, of Wandsworth.

This is incorrect. Ownership of the Express Tavern will remain with the Aldington family, as it has since 1882, and the day to day management will continue in the capable hands of Liz and Gordon Rough.

Further, the Express Tavern will continue to sell Draught Bass, as it has since 1921, and Young's ales

I trust this clarifies the situation.

I remain yours truly, T J Aldington Smyth Proprietor

We do apologise. Whilst the Editors disclaim endorsement of any of the views expressed in London Drinker, it is reassuring to know that the future of the Express Tavern remains secure and that Colin Price was misinformed in this respect. Thank you for your correction.

Dear Editors,

The regular availability of Holt's beer at the Head of Steam (CAMRA Press Release, page 5 of August/September issue) is indeed good news, but Holt's is not entirely new to London pubs.

As well as other guest beers from the north west seldom found elsewhere in London, Holt's has been served in the Priory Arms, SW8. It is also supplied from time to time at the Brewery Tap, Wimbledon Village SW19, as advertised in recent issues of London Drinker (page 33 of last issue). Although not at present listed in the Good Beer Guide - there are several favourite pubs to choose from in SW19 - the Brewery Tap serves an attractive and continually changing range of guest beers in good condition and at reasonable prices for the area. Try it and tell me if I'm biased.

Geoff Strawbridge Raynes Park

Dear Editors,

Mr Cronin (LD Aug/Sep), who understandably bemoans the pernicious and unnecessary 'music' ever-present in nearly every pub, should consider joining Pipedown, which exists to campaign against all forms of canned muzak, whether in pubs, shops, hospitals, airports or any public area.

As with CAMRA in its very early days, it has had some successes (e.g. Sainsbury's and Gatwick Airport) and is run entirely by a few dedicated volunteers; its patrons include Julian Lloyd Webber, George Melly, Simon Rattle, John Humphrys, Joanna Lumley, Spike Milligan and Keith Waterhouse.

The response to Mr Cronin's request for lower (or no) volume, 'you can leave if you don't like it' is one of the main reasons pubs are so empty these days except on Friday and Saturday nights when the Budweiser boneheads are out in force. Over the last couple of decades normal pub customers have indeed left, never to return. When will these pub companies, brewers and landlords realise that there is a market out there far larger and more affluent than the youngsters to who whom all their blurb is directed?

'The Quiet Pint' is as essential to my library/glovebox as the Good Beer Guide.

Pipedown membership is £10.00 p.a., details from Nigel Rodgers, PO Box 1722, Salisbury, Wilts, SP4 7US.

Their fight is as important as ours. J E (John) Green (CAMRA member since1972: Pipedown since 1994 as soon as I heard of both)

Herts AL3

6th Watford Beer Festival

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th November







35 beers plus cider and perry

West Herts Sports Club Park Avenue, Watford

Friday: 5 pm to 11 pm; Saturday: 11 am to 11 pm Sunday: 12 noon to 3 pm

West Herts Sports Club and CAMRA members free

Food available all sessions

Further details from Tony Smith on 01923 221155

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors.

Welcome as the new Wetherspoon's development at Baker Street station, London Drinker should not take the companies 'history notes' too seriously.

Today's 'Metropolitan Bar' is not a "former London Transport recruitment office dating from 1911", as information panels the the pub's entrance claim. Construction of the Chiltern Court flats complex above the station was started in August 1927 and completed in 1930. The existing station restaurant was enlarged as part of this and opened in November 1929. As such it seated 250 people and was provided with the distinctive crests on the walls and ceiling representing areas served by the Metropolitan Railway.

In 1970, it was converted to a pub named the "Chiltern", and remained in this guise until closed in the early-1980s. Some years later it then became a joint London Buses/London Underground recruitment centre, a role it performed until about 1996. It is inconceivable that any organisation - even London Transport (as was), would go to the trouble to decorate a mere recruitment office in such a grand fashion!

As an aside, it is a pity the new pub has not been given the 'traditional' grand style of refurbishment typical of earlier 'flagship' Wetherspoon sites, but rather a modernist 'makeover' in pastel shades.

The various coats-of-arms are not depicted in their correct heraldic colours, the sort of attention-todetail which would have been specifically highlighted in the publicity associated with previous conversions.

> Kim Rennie London E3

Dear Editors,

This year's London Pub of the Year (PotY), the Robin Hood & Little John at Bexleyheath, is a worthy winner and a personal favourite. Although I've only visited it once, I judged it the best of all the London nominations, and more trips are ve, awards, in particular, the Evening StandardArms', in Kensington W8, being a classic G.B.G. pub with great character and appeal as well as good food.

Many pubs in my own branch area of West London have won the Evening Standard award and this year was no exception. Year 2000's choice is only about a mile from the Churchill Arms but in great contrast to it. The Cow (formerly the Railway Tavern), Westbourne Park Road W2 is an up-and-coming area between Bayswater and Notting Hill, and owned by Jason Conran (related to Terrance). This 'gastro - pub' is naturally quite pricey and concentrates, oddly, on seafood. The beer range is O.K, but it's expensive and not often in good condition. My complaint this year is that this pub is not a universally appealing place and only seems to cater for the trendy 20/30 something's where food is more important than drink (well beer anyway). Previous E.S. PotY's have featured pubs with good food but this one is firmly 'food - led' and is a dangerous departure.

I'm pleased to say that CAMRA's criteria for judging a good pub have not changed significantly and

still regards the public house as a community focus, with a warm welcome, comfortable surroundings, a pleasant atmosphere and the emphasis on decent draught beer and cider. The trend towards 'foodie' pubs and bars, which the E.S. promotes, is something that CAMRA must campaign hard against. Long live the traditional pub!

Ray Prior London WC2

Dear Editors.

As one who likes good beer, I would like to direct your attention to two matters.

I am concerned to know why some pubs are rowdy and disorderly and others have a clientele as discreet and orderly as might be found in a university staff common room. An example of the second type is The Great Spoon of Ilford where there are some remarkably worthwhile books on the shelves. Another Wetherspoon pub, not quite as orderly or discreet but still having an acceptable standard of behaviour is The Eva Hart, complete with theatre memorabilia. When I went there were doormen monitoring customers entry and subsequent conduct and they had an easy job. It is noteworthy that The Eva Hart was crowded indeed perhaps overcrowded, other pubs in the vicinity, even those selling real ale, were sparsely attended.

All of this has to be contrasted with the newly opened Thomas Willergale. Prices are high, Spitfire is almost half as much again as at a Wetherspoon pub outside the centre of London, the place is well furnished with waitress table service, yet the clientele is rowdy and disorderly in the extreme, leading to complaints from people living around the pub. Why should one pub be a centre for a clientele that miscounducts itself, another be most dignified and another somewhere between? I am told that before long licensing will be the duty of the local authority not magistrates, and as councillors are more under the influence of residents than are magistrates, possibly some pubs selling real beer will have restrictions imposed on their licenses or might even be referred renewal.

I would be pleased to read reader comments.

My second point is to mention The Jerusalem Tavern in Britton Street, just round the corner from Farringdon Station. This is a St Peter's Brewery house and I find the beer superb. Traditional porter is on tap, a real find. There is even a type of lager owing much to the St Peter flavour tradition. This weather, many drinkers are seated at the table on the forecourt, alas there is no garden. Lunches are served Monday to Friday but the premises are small, so arrive early. I have not yet had the opportunity to lunch there. Do not come by car, parking is dire and you will be tempted to drink more beer than is legal for driving.

If you are crowed out from Jerusalem, there are numerous other pubs in the vicinity selling real ale and a decent lunch in much more spacious premises.

Ivor Abelson

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors.

WALLINGTON FARMERS' MARKET

Very interesting to read 'Farmers' markets in London'

(page 18, Aug/Sep issue).

Maybe I should mention the market at Wallington, held every second Saturday in the month (next one 14 October) starting at 10 a.m. It's in the grounds of the Old Town Hall in Woodcote Road. Leave the station, turn right and it's five minutes walk up Woodcote Road, on the right.

There's a coffee/tea shop in situ but, for stronger refreshment, best bet is the Whispering Moon, a **good** Wetherspoon, on the corner of Woodcote Road and Ross Parade, virtually opposite the station.

In the opposite direction (left) to the market, about 10 minutes walk from the station, is a good Young's pub, the Duke's Head.

Our band, 'DPN+1' plays at the market every month from about 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A quartet comprising harmonica/clarinet, vocals and guitars, we play and sing a mixture of hot jazz, blues, ballads, skiffle and general laid-back good-time music – in fact, ideal for beer festivals of the smaller kind, we would have thought. Further details are available on request.

Dave Illingworth Wimbledon 020-8540 2919

Dear Editors.

Thank you for printing my December Postal Drinker article in the August/September London Drinker. This now completes the series of 11articles in which I drank a pint of real ale in every one of the 119 London Postal Districts. Of course since December there have been a few changes.

The landlord of the Queens Head, E14 left earlier this year, after fifteen years, and the pub has been refurbished. However the changes are not too drastic and the fives darts board and most of the memorabilia have been kept. The pub I visited in E13, the Lord Stanley was closed for refurbishment in late August with no indication as to when it would reopen.

I was pleased to see that the Fox in Hanwell, W7 did not get sold for housing, an outcome that seemed quite likely in February, and has survived as a pub under new management. The Fox remains the most westerly pub with a London postal code, with the Viaduct the second most westerly.

Fullers have brought out a new pub passport but unfortunately applications have to be received by 30 September 2000. The passport runs for a year and the prizes are a polo shirt for 60 pubs, a rugby shirt for 120 pubs and a fleece jacket and a reception at the brewery for 180 pubs. Completing the passport will mean a visit to the Viaduct in Hanwell so I can visit the Fox again.

Travelling round the Fullers pubs in the City I noticed that some of them do a guest beer instead of the Fullers seasonal ale. In August it was Hook Norton bitter but I was told the guest beer was changed on a monthly basis and that September's would be an Everard beer.

There are 205 pubs on the Fullers list but I noticed that the Euston Flyer was not listed. When I queried this with Fullers I was advised that the Euston Flyer was regarded as a bar not a pub. I find this a little odd as it

seems far more like a pub to me than the Fleetwood in EC2 which is listed as a pub. Apparently Fullers have about 20 such bars, i.e. not pubs, in the London area.

I visited the Millennium Dome on August Bank Holiday weekend and was pleased to see that three real ales are available in the downstairs bar of the Red Boot. These are Youngs Bitter, Courage Best and Courage Directors. However the downstairs bar shuts at 8pm and the upstairs bar which is open to 11pm does not have any real ale. The Mega Drop ride nearby is quite fun but if you try it do so before a visit to the bar.

On the way home from the Dome I visited the two Fullers pubs in Rotherhithe, SE16 and found them to be quite different in style. The Moby Dick is in Greenland Dock, a new housing development, and seemed a bit characterless with few customers for a Saturday night. However the beer was in good condition and they are trying to set up a crib team and get a local league going. This is a game I saw very little of in my travels around London last year.

The other pub is the Blacksmiths Arms in Rotherhithe Street. This pub is in an area which is a bit out of the way and this gives it the feel of a village local with a good mixture of customers. Several board games are available including Cluedo.

In the London Drinkers at the end of last year I stated that Courage Russian Imperial Stout was still available in the Black Lion, E13 and the Earl of Essex, E12. Sadly this is no longer the case but both pubs still do handpumped Courage Best and Directors and the Black Lion also does guest beers.

Colin Price

Dear Editors,

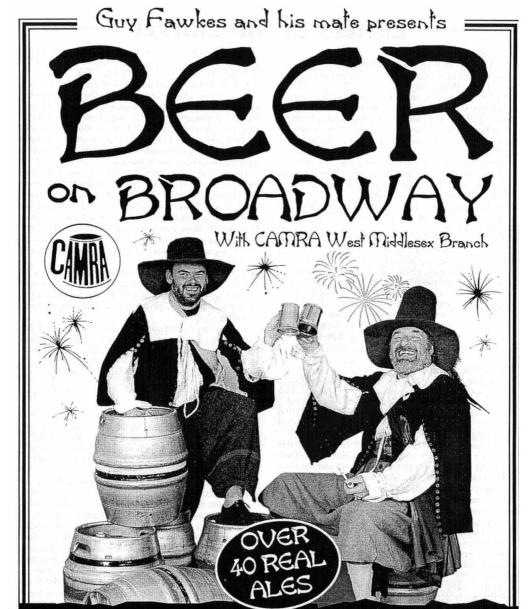
May I support wholeheartedly Mr. P. Cronin's letter in the August/September edition of London Drinker? I have often had to leave pubs because of the excessive volume of the music. Worse than that: I left the staff party after the Great British Beer Festival early, for exactly the same reason; nor was I the only one, not even the first!

A propos the Health and Safety issue: the noise at the Great British Beer Festival was such that staff members were issued with ear plugs, and the stewards with combined earmuff/head-phones. I worked at this festival on the EBCU Stand, which is the one furthest away from the stage, and in the other hall. Despite this, there were times when the music was too loud at my stand! I know that the noise problem caused a lot of complaints from our customers, some of them vehement. The festival organiser was notified of this problem in writing, several years ago; evidently to no avail.

What are we to do about it? Perhaps Mr. Cronin would be interested in a forthcoming CAMRA product: the CAMRA Quiet Pub Kit. It comprises two pairs of earplugs (with the CAMRA logo all the way through, like Blackpool rock), a pair of insulated wire-cutters, and an all-purpose infra-red remote control. Alternatively, both the Health and Safety Executive and the local authorities' public health section should be

Richard Larkin. London NW3

notified.



2nd, 3rd, 4th November 2000

EALING TOWN HALL NEW BROADWAY W5

* Real Cider & Perry * Foreign Beer * Food * Family Room

Open: Thurs 12noon-11pm, Friday & Sat 11am-11pm

Admission: Free before 4pm. After 4pm: Thurs £2, Fri £3, Sat £1.50. CAMRA Members Free

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 October/November are listed below.

LONDON PUBS GROUP Eric Martin 01223 582735 (W)

October - Wed 11 (7.45) "North of Oxford Street" historic pubs crawl. Meet at Ship, 134 New Cavendish St., W1 (nearest tube: Goodge St), finish near Bond St. tube. – November - Wed 8 (8.00) Business mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St., SE1. Anyone interested in pub preservation and design is welcome.

CROYDON AND SUTTON Paul Everett020 8686 5053 (W&H)

October - Wed 4 (8.00) Sutton crawl Meet in the Nightingale, Lind Road. - Thu 19 to Sat 21 7th Croydon & Sutton Real Ale Festival.
Wallington Hall, Stafford Road Wallington. - Thu 26 (8.30) Joint social with Kingston & Leatherhead branch. Princess Royal Longley Road West Croydon. - Tue 31 (8.30) Branch Meeting, Dog & Bull Surrey Street Croydon. - November - Fri 10 (7.30) 25th Anniversary of Sutton branch.

Windsor Castle Carshalton Road, Carshalton. - Sat 18 (12.00 noon) Tramlink pub crawl. Meet at Porter & Sorter East Croydon. - Wed 22 (8.30) Social. Ship of Fools, West Croydon. - Thu 23 (8.30) Joint Social with South East London branch. Clifton Arms, Clifton Road, SE25. - Thu 30 (8.30) Branch Meeting Windsor Castle Carshalton Road, Carshalton.

EAST LONDON AND CITY

ENFIELD AND BARNET Mark Shepherd 020-8441 0174 (H), 020-7712 2081 (W)

October – Thu 5 (9.00) Launch of 2001 Good Beer Guide, Old Mitre, 58 High Street, Barnet EN5. - Tue 10 Joint Social with North London Branch (8.30) Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, (10.00) Alexandra, 98 Fortis Green, East Finchley N2. - Fri 13-Sun 15 Visit to Antwerp Beer Festival, Belgium. Contact Tony Roberts 020-8482 9673. Good Beer Guide promotions: Tue 17 (9.00) Old Wheatsheaf, 3 Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2; Tue 24 (9.00) Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd, Barnet EN5. - November – Good Beer Guide promotions: Wed 1 (9.00) Dog &

Duck, 74 Hoppers Rd, Winchmore Hill N21; Tue 7 (9.00) Albion, 74 Union St, Barnet EN5; Thu 16 (9.00) Beehive, 24 Little Bury St, Lower Edmonton N9; Tue 21 (9.00) Barnet Conservative Club, 33 High St, Barnet EN5; Thu 30 London Drinker pick up (9.00) Half Moon, 749 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21.

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

October – Tue 17 (7.30) Open Branch Cmtee meeting (Dec/Jan mtgs, Pub of the Year shortlist, Good Beer Guide distribution) Rose & Crown, 55 High St, Wimbledon Village SW19.

November – Thu 2, crawl of Mitcham. Meet (7-7.30) King's Arms, 268 London Rd, then (8.00) White Lion of Mortimer, 223 London Rd; (8.45) Windmill, 40 Commonside West; (9.15) Park Place, 54 Commonside West; (9.45) Queen's Head, 70 Cricket Green; finally (10.15) Cricketers, 340 London Rd. Wed 15 (7.30) Open Branch Cmtee meeting (Feb/Mar mtgs, issues for AGM motions, Good Beer Guide long listing) Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19.

KINGSTON AND LEATHERHEAD Clive Taylor 020 8949 2099 (H) 01483 714898 (W)

October - Sat 7 (11.30) Surrey Liaison meeting. - Wed 11 (8.30) Business Meeting. Kelly Arms, Glenthorne Road, Kingston. – 19 to 21 Croydon and Sutton Beer Festival. Wallington Hall, Stafford Road, Wallington. – Thu 26 (7.55) Croydon Tram Social. A chance to ride on a tram and sample the pubs of Croydon. Meet on tram platform at Wimbledon for 7.59 tram. -November – Thu 2 (8.30) Branch London Pub Of The Year Presentation Canbury Arms, Canbury Road, Kingston. - Thu 2 to Sat 4 Beer on Broadway, Ealing Town Hall, Ealing Broadway, London W5. - Wed 8 (8.30) Business Meeting. New Prince, Ewell Road, Surbiton. - Fri 10 - Sat 11 Woking Beer Festival. Woking Leisure Centre. - Wed 15 (8.00) Branch Surrey Pub Of The Year Presentation. Railway Guard, 48 Church Road, Epsom. - Thu 23 (8.00) Pub Crawl Norbiton to Kingston. Start The Albert, 57

Branch Update

Kingston Hill, Norbiton, leave 8.30. – Wed 29 (8.00) London Liaison Meeting. The Royal Oak, Tabard Street SE1.

NORTH LONDON. Gary White 07005 355399. Email gwhitegeog@bigfoot.com

October - Mon 2 (8.00) Branch Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1 - Tue 10 (8.00) Muswell Hill Joint Social, with Enfield and Barnet branch. Alexandra, 1 Church Lane, and Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green N2. - Tue 17 (8.00 – 10.00) Stoke Newington Crawl N16. Start at Rose and Crown, 199 Stoke New Church St, then Steptoes, 102 Stoke New Church St, Rochester Castle, 143-145 Stoke New. High St. – Tue 24 London Drinking Beer Festival 2000 planning meeting #1. Venue tba, Please contact Gary. – Tue 31 (8.00) Branch Social N1. Eclipse & The Crown, 164-166 Barnsbury Road and 116 Cloudesley Street. – November – Mon 6 (8.00) Branch Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1.

RICHMOND AND HOUNSLOW Brian Kirton 020 8384 7284 Website:

www.jobin.freeserve.co.uk/rhcamral.htm October - Mon 9 (8.30) Open Branch mtg. Shaftesbury Arms, 123 Kew Road, Richmond Set 21 (12 peop approach) Leint aggicl with N

Shaftesbury Arms, 123 Kew Road, Richmond -Sat 21 (12 noon onwards) Joint social with N. Surrey Branch, Magpie & Crown, 128 High St., Brentford. - Thu 26 (8.30) Social at Queen Dowager, 49 North Lane, Teddington, to wish Bill & Betty a happy retirement. - November -Fri 3 Nov (8.0) Branch social. "Beer on Broadway" Festival, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, W5 (if not working at the festival!). -Wed 8 (8.30) Open Branch mtg. Roebuck, 72 Hampton Road, Hampton Hill. - Wed 22 (8.0) It's Quiz night again! Magpie & Crown (address as above). Everyone welcome, especially teams from neighbouring branches. - December - Fri 15 - advance notice - Branch Xmas Dinner venue etc. to be advised.

SOUT EAST LONDON Dave Lee 020 8694 2687

October - Wed 4 (8.00) Branch/Committee meeting at the recently refurbished Market Porter, 9 Stoney Street SE1 - Mon 9 (8.00) Social at another refurbished pub, the Admiral Hardy, 7 College Approach, Greenwich SE10. The longstanding cellarman left this pub in June this year; however, good things are expected of the

new owners, who also own the Trafalgar Tavern.
- Tue 17 (8.00) Social. Dog and Bell, 116 Prince
Street, Deptford SE8 - Tue 24 (8.00) Social and
launch of the 2001 Good Beer Guide. The Two
Doves, 37 Oakley Road, Bromley Common. This
is our current Pub of the Year, and is easily
accessibly by bus 320 from Bromley which stops
outside. - Sat 28 Visit to the Wolf Brewery in
Attleborough, Norfolk. Contact Dave

Lee to book a place on the trip. - November - Wed 1 (8.00) Branch/Committee meeting, Watch House, Lewisham High Street SE13 - Tue 7 (8.00) Social. Kentish Drovers SE15 - the new Wetherspoons pub in Peckham. - Wed 15 (8.00) First meeting for the Catford Beer Festival 2001. Ashburnham Arms, Ashburnham Grove SE10 - Thu 23 (8.00) Social. Clifton Arms SE25.

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

October – Tue 3 (8.00) Social. Prince of Wales, 199 Roman Road (B1002), Mountnessing. - Wed 11 (8.30) Social. Crumpled Horn, 33-37 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster - new Free House (Wizard Inns). - Thu 19 (8.30) Horndon on the Hill Mini-crawl - from one end of the High Road to the other. The Swan and the Bell Inn! - Thu 26 (8.30) Social. Cricketers, 299/301 High Road (A11), Woodford Green. -November - Wed 1 (8.30) Stapleford Abbotts/Stanford Rivers B175/A113 Crawl. Start The Rabbits, Stapleford Road (B175), Stapleford Abbotts (TL501966); via the White Bear, 149 London Road (just off A113), Stanford Rivers (TQ532998) to the Woodman, 155 London Road (A113) Stanford Rivers. - Wed 8 (8.30) Social. Captain Cook, Axe Street, Barking. - Thu 16 (8.30) Out of Area Social. Queen's Head, Queen Street (just off B184), Fyfield. - Wed 22 (8.30) Social. Rochford Beer Festival. The Freighthouse, adjacent to Rochford Rail Station. - Sat 25 (12.30 @ Brewery) Brewery Trip to Cheriton - Please Note Re-arranged date. Further details/bookings 'phone Graham Platt on 020 8220 0215 or by e-mail to swessex@clara.co.uk. - Thu 30 (8.30) Meeting to discuss Branch Selection Policies and Nominations for 2002 Good Beer Guide (also to approve 2000 AGM Minutes). Green Man, 11 Cricketers Lane (off A128), Herongate - come and make your mark on the new, improved Good Beer Guide.

Branch Update

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 0208 540 9183 (home) 0207 438 6418 (work). Website: www.battersea-beer-festival.org.uk

October - Tue 17 (7.30) Open branch committee meeting, Pub of the Year shortlist, Good Beer Guide distribution. Rose & Crown, 55 High Street, Wimbledon Village. – November - Thu 2 (7.00) Crawl of Mitcham. Meet (7 - 7.30 pm) King's Arms, 268 London Road, then (8.00) White Lion Of Mortimer, 223 London Road; (8.45) Windmill, 40 Commonside West; (9.15) Park Place, 54 Commonside West; (9.45) Queen's Head, 70 Cricket Green; finally (10.15) Cricketers, 340 London Road. - Wed 15 (7.30) Open branch committee meeting (issues for AGM motions, GBG long-listing). Sultan, 78 Norman Road, South Wimbledon.

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

October -Thu 5 (8.30) Abbots Langley Social Swan, then (9.30) Compasses. - Sat 14 (8.00) Heronsgate Social. Land of Liberty beer festival. - Thu 19(8.30) Watford Town Centre Crawl. Red Lion, then (9.15) One Crown, and ((10.00) Moon under Water. - Wed 25 (8.30) Club Social. Watford Indoor Bowls Club, Woodside Leisure Centre. - Sun 29 (8.00) Branch Committee Meeting. West Herts Sports Club. -November - Fri 3 - Sun 5, 6th Watford Beer Festival. West Herts Sports Club. - Tue 7 (8.00) Herts Liaison Meeting. Wenlock Arms, London N1. - Fri 17 (8.30) Bushey Heath Social. Black Boy. - Sun 26 (8.00) Branch Committee Meeting. West Herts Sports Club.

WEST LONDON Alex Langford 020-7821 8101

October –Thu 5 (8.00) Out of Branch area social, Ealing Lawn Tennis Club, Daniel Rd, off Creffield Rd W5. - Mon 9 (8.00 for 9.30) West London Pub of the Year presentation, Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews West, Belgravia SW1. - Thu 12 (8.00) Committee Meeting, Brook Green Hotel, 170 Shepherds Bush Rd W6. - Fri 20 Mayfair W1 Crawl: (8.00) Fuller's Ale Lodge, 11 Avery Rd, (9.00) Guinea, 30 Bruton Place, (10.00) Red Lion, 1 Waverton St. - Sun 29 Hanwell & Southall Joint publicity crawl with West Middlesex: (12.00) Viaduct, 221 Uxbridge Rd; (1.00) Dolphin, 13 Lower Boston Rd; (2.00) Fox, Green Lane; (3.00) Selected Curry House in Southall; (6.00) Beaconsfield Arms, 63 West End

Rd. - November – Thu 2 (7.00) Beer Festival Social, Ealing Beer Festival, Ealing Town Hall W5. - Tue 7 (6.00) Early evening social, Andover Arms, 57 Aldensley Rd, Hammersmith W6. - Tue 14 Olympia area crawl: (8.00) Cumberland Arms, 29 North End Rd; (9.00) Albion, 121 Hammersmith Rd; (10.00) Frigate & Firkin, 24 Blythe Rd. - Sat 25 Covent Garden two pub afternoon social: (1.00) Lamb & Flag, 33 Rose St; (2.00) Porterhouse, 21-22 Maiden Lane.

WEST MIDDLESEX. Paul Dabrowski 020 8571 9146 (home) 0118 923 7445 (work)

Ocxtober - Thu 5 (8.00) Joint Social with West London Branch. Ealing Lawn Tennis Club, Daniel Road, off Creffield Road, London W5. -Wed 11 (6.30) Beer Festival Publicity Crawl & Branch Meeting. Hogshead, The Mall, King's Arms, The Grove, Rose & Crown, Church Place all Ealing (approx 1 pub every hour) then Drayton Court Hotel, The Avenue, West Ealing (9pm). – Tue 17 (8.30) Beer Festival Planning Meeting. Bridge, Western Avenue, Greenford. Fri 20 (7.00) Beer Festival Publicity Crawl. Tabard, Bath Road, George IV and Crown & Anchor both Chiswick High Road all Turnham Green then Bell & Crown, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick (approx 1 pub every hour). – Wed 25 (8.00) Home Brew Tasting Social. Chapel Bell Brewery, Chapel Lane, Colham Green (by The Hut ph) CAMRA members only Sun 29 (12.00) Joint Beer Festival Publicity Crawl & Curry with West London Branch. Viaduct, Uxbridge Road, Dolphin, Lower Boston Road and Fox, Green Lanes, all Hanwell (approx 1 pub every hour) then Indian Meal in Southall (3pm) reconvening at Beaconsfield Arms, West End Road, Southall (6pm) – November – Thu 2 (12.00) to Sat 4 (11.00 pm) Beer On Broadway XIII. Victoria Hall, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing. Help wanted from 1000 on 7th November through to 1700 on 5th November. Contact Alex Kovacevic on 01895-238592 or 0956-699911 -Wed 8 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Beaconsfield Arms, West End Road, Southall. – Wed 29 (9.00) London Drinker Pick-Up. Red Lion, St Mary's Road, Ealing.

Deadline for the December/January edition 10th November. Material for February/March to arrive by 12th January 2001. Please be sure to send all diary material to Dave Oram (LDEditor@tesco.net).

NORTH AND SOUTH - A TALE OF TWO PUB CRAWLS - JULY 2000

Recently, I decided to spend two consecutive evenings (Thursday/Friday) visiting some recommended pubs I mostly had not visited previously, on different sides of town.

A sunny Thursday evening seemed like a good time to visit some mainly Good Beer Guide 2000 listed pubs in South East London. Firstly, I must say how good public transport can and should be as all trains were on time and there were regular buses when needed. My first trip was via the Docklands Light Railway to Greenwich and then on foot over Blackheath to The Hare and Billet Ale House SE3. This is a typical old style Hogshead Pub which I found to be pleasantly friendly. The beer range was pretty much the standard Hogshead range (Whitbread, London Pride, 6X etc) with Marstons Bitter as the only guest. This was very enjoyable and my first pint since it was saved from the mighty Wolverhampton and Dudley axe. A more reliable beer than Pedegree, I feel, and on gravity as are many of the Hogshead guests.

Two short bus rides via Catford took me to The Rutland Arms SE3. A very welcoming pub but nobody was drinking any of the real ales on offer. This appears to be a genuine free house and the range of beers was very London orientated-Fullers London Pride and ESB, Youngs Bitter & Special and Adnams Bitter. I also noticed some bottles of Worthington White Shield (Bottle conditioned and brewed by King & Barnes) and tried one but found it rather uninspiring. The beer is about to be brewed in Burton again, this time at the Bass Museum micro plant. Their standard of beers in generally very good and so the future for WWS looks bright.

A urther bus and train took me to The Brockley Jack SE4, afreeish house in the GBG was now Greene King owned. I tried halves of Triumph, that certainly was not a triumph, and worse still, Abbot. I have read that GK beers take a it of 'looking after' to be at their best and this was not evident here.

A short train trip from Brockley to Denmark Hill was most interesting for a superb view of London I not seen before. A short walk took me to The Fox on the Hill, etherspoon pub and not a bad one eitm micro breweries) were on and I tried Grainstore Gold. A good all round summer drink brewed in Oakham in Rutland, the original

home for the excellent Oakham brewery (before they migrated to Peterborough and whose brewery tap is highly recommended). The Fox & Firkin is on Denmark Hill station and was one of the first brewing firkins but sadly by Punch Taverns 'now serve what the customer demanded'. These imaginary customers can neither be supporters of micro brewery beer nor the lively firkin pubs of old. A bland half (mainly left) of sub standard 6X said it all.

A short journey took me to The Shipwrights Arms SE1 (near London Bridge, London's real ale capital), the final destination. I thoroughly enjoyed the Nethergate Sheep's Eye, a happy beer of character and easily the best of the evening.

The next day was a bit of a disaster. I made my way by Thameslink for a trip to Mill Hill and a step into the unknown. A lengthy walk took me to The Rising Sun which is also listed in the GBG but was shut for, what appeared to be, a refurbishment. I had a long wait for a bus to take me to Toteridge station and then on by train to High Barnet. I found some good pubs in Barnet a couple of years ago but this time I was to try out The Albion, a basic and friendly boozer just off the main drag. It was now past 8pm but neither Greene King IPA nor Abbot would tempt me and I was sad to see the Burton Ale clip reversed. After three hours of travelling, I opted for Bulmers, Hazy cider. Good to see a real cider available but this was real cider equivalent of John Smiths ie. rather bland.

Onwards and downwards to the Chequers, Hendon, a Barras & Co (Scot.Co) pub but there were no guest ales. I had a half of John Smiths Courage Best that was acceptable and probably as good as you will get it nowadays. The young lady serving seemed to have the charisma and enthusiasm of a cardboard cut-out.

I was now desperately in need of a decent pint and I found it at my penultimate pub, The Hogshead, Crouch End, N8. The pub was packed buzzing and friendly and everyone including the staff seemed to be enjoying themselves. I did too, as I ellent pint of O'Hanlons wheat beer which

Festivals.

FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

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Corn Exchange

St Paul's Square, Bedford

6 - 8 Oct Worthing

Richmond Rooms The Assembly Hall

Stoke Abbot Road, Worthing

13 - 14 Oct Gravesend

Old Gravesendians Association Fleetway Sports Ground

Bronte View Parrock Road

Gravesend

19 - 21 Oct Croydon & Sutton

Wallington Halls

Stafford Road, Wallington

20 - 21 Oct Overton

St Lukes Hall Overton

2 - 4 Nov Beer On Broadway

Ealing Town Hall New Broadway, London W5

3 - 5 Nov Watford

West Herts Sports Club Park Avenue, Watford

10 - 11 Nov Woking

Woking Leisure Centre

Woking Park

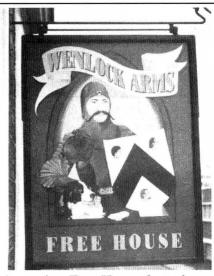
(Admission By Ticket Only Credit Card Hotline 01483 771122)

Crawl (contd)

just slipped down. This was one of three OH beers available which is more than you can now find in the O'Hanlons Pub. (Sadly, the latter seems to have lost its heart and soul since recently being sold).

The Hogshead, Camden, NW1 which although as busy, was glossier and lacked the feel N8. The beer range was standard Hogshead fare (see Blackheath) but they also sold O'Hanlons wheat beer. This example was a bit tired, a bit like myself after this mainly uneventful evening. On reflection this crawl was a bit too ambitious to contemplate in the limited time I had, unlike the previous eveing.

Simon Fyffe



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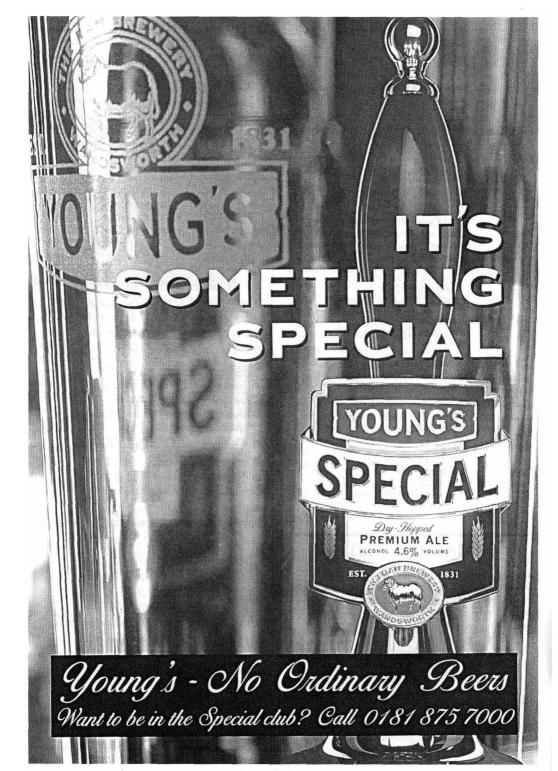
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LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS

AGRAD is a group of lesbian and gay members of the Campaign for Real Ale organising to extend the campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. As of September LAGRAD is now the official lesbian and gay campaign section of CAMRA. This means that campaigning activities will be stepping up a gear – 2001 is going to be a busy year. If you haven't been along to one of our meetings but you'd like to see more real ale in gay pubs, please come and meet us – you'll be made very welcome. 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. Monthly events in Brighton on a Saturday towards the end of the month. Everybody is most welcome to all events. Or visit our website at http://www.goldings.demon.co.uk/queerale/ You can contact the group convenor at LAGRAD@ukgateway.net

OCTOBER EVENTS:

Wed 4 (7.00) The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Thu 19 (7.00) Two pub crawl of Islington starting at King Edward VI, 25 Bromfield Street, N1 (020) 7704 0745. Boddington's Bitter and Wadworth 6X at the end of last year. Ram Bar (8.30), 39 Queens Head Street, N1(020) 7354 0576. Generally has Wadworth 6X on. Nearest tube for both venues: Angel.

Sat 28 (6.00) Brighton social, a Kemp Town crawl (for the first venue catch the 7 or 7A bus from Brighton Station heading east): The Barley Mow, 92 St. George's Road, (01273) 682259. Usually has a range of a few beers. St. James' Tavern (7.30), 16 Madeira Place (but actually on the corner of St. James's Street, more or less opposite the Bulldog), (01273) 626696. Seems to be new to the scene. Had three beers on including Bass and Spitfire last time we looked in (en route to the next venue on a previous crawl). The Bulldog Tavern (8.45), 31 St. James's Street, (01273) 684097. Draught Bass, Worthington Best, Harvey's Best Bitter last time we noted...

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

Wed 1 (7.00) The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Tue 14 (7.00) West London tube crawl. Queens Arms, 223 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, (020) 8230 4775. Ushers Founders plus Ushers seasonal ales. Near Hounslow BR (trains from Waterloo or Clapham Junction), or a bit of a hike from Hounslow Central tube on the Piccadilly line. Then return via the Piccadilly line to South Ealing for West 5 (9.00), Popes Lane, Ealing, W5 (020) 8579 3266. Fullers London Pride last time we were there (but it was actually off so just in

case it's off again: walk back towards the station, but at the traffic lights, instead of turning right to the station carry straight on into Little Ealing Lane and you'll find a Fullers pub, the Plough at 297 Northfield Avenue (also a Free House, TJ Duffy's, 282 Northfield Avenue)). Be warned if you miss the first venue and turn up at West 5 after 9.30 p.m. you might have to pay to get in!

Sat 25 (6.00) Brighton social. The Marlborough, 4 Princes Street, (01273) 570028. Large lesbian friendly pub on the Old Steine. The Harlequin (8.00), 43 Providence Place, (01273) 620630. Multi-level pub, usually has a few choice beers on tap.

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Campaign for Real Ale



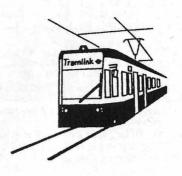
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Thursday 19th 5pm - 10:30pm

Friday 20th 11am - 5pm

Friday 20th 5pm – 10.30pm

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Last Admission 9.45pm

Admission FREE

Admission £2.50 (CAMRA members £1.50)

Last Admission 9.45pm

Saturday 21st 11am - 6pm

Admission FREE

Capital Pubcheck -

UPDATE 155

The aim of 'Capital Pubcheck' is to share information about the latest happenings on the London pub scene including new pub and bar openings, name changes, acquisitions, closures, notable changes to beer ranges etc. Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are also provided to enable easy updating. Additional information for which space in *London Drinker* is currently unavailable is posted on the Internet via www.londondrinker.co.uk alongside this update.

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

Wetherspoon has turned one of its City pubs into an exhibition of changing guest ales. A branch of the Irish 'Porterhouse' chain has opened in WC2 Covent Garden, albeit with only one real ale supplied from Dublin. Two new Whitbread 'Hogsheads' and a 'Slug & Lettuce' have opened in the City, the latest Wetherspoon in Hayes, a Bass All Bar One in SW11 Battersea and an 'organic' pub and restaurant in E3 Bow. Another Continental style brewpub has opened in SE3 Blackheath, producing a range of beers of varying styles. We also catch up on a number of fizz-only bars, including a so-called traditional 'English' bar. Renamings continue apace with Bass owned ex-Firkins seemingly ending up as tired pseudo-Oirish 'O'Neill's' or tacky 'It's a Screams '– more sightings welcome. Yates's have retained real ale in at least two pubs in SW London!

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

If you would like to report changes to pubs or beers, please write to Capital Pubcheck, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR or e-mail: capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REALALE

CENTRAL

EC1, HOGSHEAD, Unit 4, Cowcross Place. Cowcross St. Brakspear: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Marston: Pedigree; Wadworth: 6X. All not always available due to 'low demand for real ale'. Beware nitrokeg Boddingtons. Large Whitbread pub opened in May and located on ground floor of new apartment block tucked away and reached via alleyway from Cowcross Street. Long frontage lined with french windows and outdoor drinking area in front. Doors lead via steps or ramp down to the bar area at a lower level with steps leading up again to seating area at ground level alongside the windows. Fitted out in contemporary style with pastel décor, exposed ventilation pipes, light wooden flooring and furniture, tiled around bar etc. Food, disabled WC. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends. EC1, SLUG & LETTUCE, 36-42 Clerkenwell Rd.

EC1, SLUG & LETTUCE, 36-42 Clerkenwell Rd. Boddington: Bitter, not always available. New outlet for the SFI Free House chain opened in May on ground floor of former commercial premises. Long frontage with large windows. Steps lead up to spacious bar area with predominantly cream décor, mirrors, potted plants, polished wooden floor,

spotlights and modern style lighting. Light wooden bar top and bar back lined with wine bottles and three clocks at one end! Mixture of chairs, tables and sofas. Dartboard. Disabled hoist at entrance and disabled WC. Food. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, 12-11 Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

EC2, FIVE HUNDRED K, 7 Chapel Place, Rivington St. No real ale. Newly built Free House/café-bar in courtyard with entrance off Old St EC1.

EC2, FOUNDRY, 84-86 Great Eastern St. No real ale. Free House/bar in former bank premises. EC2, GEORGE, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool St. No real ale. New Free House opened March 2000 on corner of Great Eastern Hotel block. Describes itself as an 'English bar' and forms part of a complex of restaurants and a champagne bar created on the ground floor of the Great Eastern Hotel next to Liverpool Street Station.

EC3, BAR EXCELLENCE, 28 Cornhill. Renamed PITCHER & PIANO by W&D. Marston: Pedigree. (U124, U139, U147)

EC3, HOGSHEAD, 25 St Mary Axe. Brakspear: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Marston: Pedigree; Wadworth: 6X; Guest beers (H) and (G) from micros and regionals. New Whitbread pub opened at the end of March and converted from ground floor office accommodation. French windows along frontage.

-Capital Pubcheck-

UPDATE 155 continued

Doors lead through mixed seating area to bar area with cream ceiling, orange and purple décor, light wooden flooring and furnishings, sofas, exposed ventilation etc. Bar top underlit with opaque lighting. Railed off seating area to side. Mixture of pictures of old and new City buildings adorn walls. Good turnover of real ale and recent cider festival. Food. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends.

W1(Mar), ELUSIVE CAMEL, 34A Paddington St. No real ale. New Free House in basement of former shop premises and part of small chain of pubs with the same name.

WC1, CAROUSEL BAR, Bedford Hotel, 83 Southampton Row. No real ale. Free House/bar attached to hotel but open to general public. WC1, DEANS BRASSERIE, Waverley House

Hotel, 130 Southampton Row. No real ale. Free House/bar attached to hotel but open to general

public.

WC1, SQUARE PIG, 30/32 Procter St. Brakspear: Bitter; Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. New Free House opened in former wine bar and operated by 'Bar & Kitchen Ltd', being sister to a new pub in SW11 (see below). Large windows and a rather spartan interior with wooden flooring and bar top, tiled around bar, light orange décor, abstract paintings and a mixture of chairs, tables and sofas. Wide screen TV. Food. Open 12-11 Mon-Fri only, closed weekends.

WC2, PORTERHOUSE, 21/22 Maiden Lane. Porterhouse (Dublin): TSB (Turners Sticklebract Bitter), 3.7%, £2.55 a pint. Brand new Free House owned by Oliver Hughes, opened in July at a cost of £7 million on site of former 'American diner' with apartments above. The pub is the first British outlet for the Irish Porterhouse chain which has a flagship brewpub in Dublin which supplies the one real ale (brewed specially for London) and another 8 unpasteurised draught beers served with gas pressure. The beers include a red ale, a porter, stouts and lagers, and vary in price between £2.55 and £3.25 a pint. There are 90 bottled beers from around the world including 33 bottle conditioned beers from Belgium. The classic brick and limestone four storey frontage is set back to create a small walled patio, for outdoor drinking. A plaque commemorates the painter JMW Turner who lived in a house on this site. Doors lead into the main ground floor bar area with stairs leading to a mezzanine seating area and first floor bar overlooking the main bar. Stairs also lead down via a lower mezzanine level to a basement bar. Screens and balconies create separate drinking areas at the various levels. The whole 13,500 sq. ft. is fitted out with wooden and tiled flooring, slatted wooden ceilings, copper bar top, piping and balustrading, leather covered furnishings, studded metal girders etc, creating a traditional pub atmosphere. Cabinets display an impressive bottled beer collection. (Customers bringing full bottles for



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Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 155 continued

the collection are rewarded with a free pint.) The upper bar can be booked for private functions with 'self-service' beer paid for by credit cards. The basement bar has live music in the evenings, including jazz and folk. A large, two-faced mechanical clock overhangs the main bar. Table service is optional but not guaranteed during busy periods. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours. The Dublin pub originally brewed a number of real ales but these had been reduced to just one by 1997 owing to poor turnover. Perhaps the opportunity to brew a 'real' porter and stout for the London market could be considered, given the success of the O'Hanlon beers.

EAST

E1, LIGHT, 233 Shoreditch High St. No real ale. A bar and restaurant created in building of character, originally a Great Eastern Railway power station. It is currently under threat of demolition and a campaign to save the building is underway. Sadly there is no real ale as would befit such an historic structure.

E3, CROWN HOTEL, 223 Grove Rd. Reopened after 8 years' closure and now simply **CROWN**. Caledonian: Golden Promise; Pitfield: Singhboulton. Eco Warrior; St Peters: Best Bitter, Organic Ale. Large, imposing Free House, formerly Belhaven, originally Truman, rescued from dereliction and now promoting itself as an 'organic pub' (sister to the Duke of Cambridge, N1). It also dispenses two organic draught lagers from Pitfield and Freedom and a draught organic cider from Luscombe, several organic bottled beers including from Sam Smith and French and German breweries and organic wines and food. The real ale ranges from £2.70 to £3.35 a pint! The ground floor bar features bare floorboards, white painted walls with abstract paintings, a dark green ceiling and wooden tables and chairs (including 'no smoking tables'). Stairs lead to a first floor organic restaurant with outdoor balconies overlooking the park. Opens 10.30(for breakfast)-11 Tuesday to Saturday, 10.30-10.30 Sunday and 5-11 Monday. Breakfast served 10.30-3 and lunch 12-3. (E89, U79) E13, CHARLIES, 247 Barking Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises. BARKING, BAR ORIGINAL, Hollywood Bowl, Jenkins Lane. No real ale, H unused. Bar attached to

bowling alley run by Bass Leisure Entertainments. Unlike earlier examples of the chain, this one has no micro-brewery attached.

NORTH

N1, BAR FUSION, 45 Essex Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises. N1, SHOREDITCH ELECTRICITY SHOWROOMS, 39A Hoxton Sq. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in former commercial premises.

N1, WEAVERS ARMS, 98 Newington Green Rd. Reopened and renamed XANADU. Courage: Best Bitter; John Smith: Bitter. Now a bar and grill. (N61, U152)

NORTH WEST

NW2, ISOBAR, 61 Walm Lane. No real ale. Free House in former shop unit. NW5, TALLY HO, 9 Fortess Rd. Greene King: IPA. (N200, U117)

SOUTH EAST

SE2, ABBEY ARMS, 31 Wilton Rd. Courage: Best Bitter. (SE43) SE2, BIRCHWOOD, 32 Grovebury Rd. Courage:

Best Bitter. (SE43)

SE3, ZERODEGREES, 29-31 Montpelier Vale. New Continental style brewpub and restaurant opened in August in former florist/garden shop premises by an independent Free House partnership. The name signifies the pub's proximity to the Greenwich meridian. Glass doors lead through a white painted entry corridor into the bar area fitted out in contemporary 'minimalist' style with chrome and blue bar top, grey tiles and metallic ceiling, with a mixture of tables, chairs and sofas. An eating area is railed off to the left adjacent to the kitchen/servery with additional seating on a balcony level reached by a spiral staircase. The German brewing equipment is located behind the bar and is operated by Grant Johnston, an American brewer from San Francisco. The beers use only natural ingredients, are unpasteurised and comprise Wheat Ale (4.2%) using American, Belgian and German wheats in rotation, Brown Ale (4.4%), Pale Ale (4.6%) using American hop varieties, Pilsner (4.8%) and a changing 'Special', currently a Stout (4.4%). After fermentation and maturation, the beers are transferred to a collapsible, disposable sterile 'plastic bag' inside a holding vessel and dispensed by air pressure via a cooler to fonts on the bar. This extraneous gas does not come into contact with the beer, albeit it is not spile vented in the normal way. (Whether this method can be considered to produce authentic 'real ale' is a matter for CAMRA's Technical Committee!) All beers, irrespective of style, are currently unavoidably dispensed at the same (cool) temperature. Food includes mussels, sausage and mash and pizzas and is available until half an hour before closing. Happy hour Mon-Fri 4-7pm, £1.50 a pint (normally £2.20 or £8 for four pints), 5 litre and 50 litre party kegs available (£14.95 and £75 respectively). Disabled WC. Open 12-12 Mon-Sat, 12-11.30 Sun.

SE10, WHITE SWAN, 13 Blackheath Rd. Reopened and renamed **GRADUATE**. Now Free, ex-Belhaven. No real ale. (SE103, U102, U120)

SOUTH WEST

SW11, ALL BAR ONE, 6/7 Battersea Square, near Vicarage Cres. Fuller: London Pride. Another branch of the Bass-owned chain opened around

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http://www.camrabranches.org.uk/surrey/

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 155 continued

September 1999 in former restaurant premises. Smaller than many ABOs with light wood floor, tables, chairs and benches and cream and turquoise painted walls. Air conditioning. Board games,

newspapers available. Food, disabled WC. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12.30-10.30 Sun. SW11, HYDRO, 137/139 St Johns Hill. No real ale. Free House/bar and grill opened February 2000 in former shop premises. Jacuzzi for hire at £50 a go. SW11, PIG ON THE BRIDGE, 74/76 Battersea Bridge Rd. Adnams: Bitter; Brakspear: Bitter. New Free House operated by 'Bar & Kitchen Ltd', opened around May 2000 in former restaurant premises, previously a pub named PRODIGALS RETURN and later BRIDGE (see 'Lost Locals', SW guide p35). Semicircular bar area with various tables and chairs leading to back room with sofas and comfortable fixed seating. Secluded garden at rear. Food all day. Pub games available. Disabled WC. Expensive but worth a try. A rare example of a reinstated pub. SW12, EXHIBIT, Balham Station Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant opened March by Bass in recently unoccupied premises of former builders' merchants and later food and book co-operative. Restaurant upstairs.

SW19, TOWN HOUSE, 46 Wimbledon Hill Rd. Renamed CASA. Fuller: London Pride. Now a café-bar. Handpump at end of bar, real ale not always available.

WEST

HAYES, BOTWELL INN, 23-29 Coldharbour Lane. Boddington: Bitter; Courage: Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; 3 guest beers. Spacious new Wetherspoon Free House opened in July in former furniture shop premises. Long frontage with two double doors and french windows with patio and outdoor seating in front. Light and airy feel with predominantly yellow and gold décor, white, ochre and green ceiling, mirrors, modern lighting, yellow and orange furnishings, 'furry' carpet and yellow tiling. Some limited local history panels, in modern abstract style, highlight local buildings and celebrities including George Orwell. Abstract paintings and small sculptures on walls. No smoking area to side and rear. Small paved patio area at rear. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REALALE

CENTRAL

EC2, GREAT EASTERN BAR. Free House, converted to 'Terminus' restaurant and cocktail bar (only bottled beers). Effectively replaced by new 'George' bar (see 'Additions' above). (E32, U92) WC2, KINGS ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney). now converted to shop. (W54, U59, U74, U152)

EAST

E1, CROWN & DOLPHIN. Ex-Wiltshire, converted to flats. (E63, U71, U79) E1, DOVER CASTLE. Ex-Taylor Walker, now a private hotel named 'Dockside Hotel'. (E65, U79) E1, DUKE OF NORFOLK. Free House, closed and converted to residential use, name retained in stonework at roof level. (E65, U119)

E1, EAGLE (GUV'NERS). Free House, demolished and replaced by flats. Formerly PEASANTS REVOLT. (E71, U83, U108, U109) **E1, GLOSTER ARMS**. Ex-Grand Met (Watney),

now converted to shop. (E66)

E1, KINGS HEAD. Free House, now being converted to shop. (E68, U73, U100, U120) E1, LION. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), closed and building work in progress, probably for conversion to flats although signage still intact. (E69)

E1, QUEENS HEAD, 57 Greatorex St. Phoenix, closed and boarded up. (E71, U112)

E1, ROYAL GEORGE. Ex-Grand Met (Trumans), closed and now a charity shop. (E92) E1, SEVEN STARS, 49 Brick Lane. Ex-Grand Met

(Watney), closed and boarded up. (E73, U67) E1, THREE SWEDISH CROWNS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), converted to restaurant named 'Le Spice'. (E74, U75, U79)

E3, BOMBAY GRAB, Free House, now converted to 'Bow Muslim Cultural Centre'. Once the brewery tap of the Smith Garrett Brewery. (E89, U69)

E3, RAILWAY TAVERN. Confirmed converted to flats named 'Taverners Court' and retaining 'Toby' tilework in places. (E92, U152)

E8, SAMMY J'S. Renamed NEW BREWERY **TAP.** Free House, H removed, formerly BREWERY TAP. (E111, U96, U119)

E14, RICHARD COBDEN. Phoenix, demolished and site redeveloped for housing. (E148, U112) E14, ROYAL NAVY. Ascot, being converted into flats. (E148, U99, U152)

E16, ARTFUL DODGER. Free House, demolished. Originally RAILWAY TAVERN. (E157)

BARKING, STAG. Ex-Allied, demolished. (X12)

NORTH

N1, MITRE. Bass, now badged as part of 'It's a scream' chain. H removed. (N52)

N1, PIPE OF PORT. Free House, now demolished. (N55)

N2, GEORGES. Reverted to GEORGE. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (N66)

N4, OSBORNE TAVERN. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), converted to Nando's restaurant. Note correct spelling of title. (N76)

N4, RAILWAY, 60 Wightman Rd Whitbread, renamed SHELTON HOTEL, bar closed, future uncertain. (N76)

N10, ALEXANDRA. Now ALEXANDRA ARMS, Whitbread, H removed, (N103)

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 155 continued

N11, BIG HAND MO'S. Renamed ORANGE TREE. S&N, H removed. Formerly GROVE. (N107, U106, U110) N12, TILTED GLASS. Renamed ERRIS

TAVERN, Free House, H removed. (N112)

NORTH WEST

NW1, ANCHOR. Whitbread, now converted to residential use. (N161, U109, U130)

NW1, ENGINE ROOM. Renamed BARTOK, ex-Grand Met (Watney). Now a café-bar, H removed. (N165)

NW1, FRIAR & FIRKIN. Renamed ROCKET. Bass, brewery equipment removed, badged as part of the 'It's a scream' chain. H removed (N166, U151) NW1, JUBILEE. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), converted to residential use. (N168, U130) NW1, KINGS HEAD. Whitbread, now demolished and site redeveloped for residential use. (N168, U130)

NW2, HOLE IN THE WALL. Renamed ST **JAMES'S GATE**. Free House, no real ale. (N180) NW2, PRODUCTION VILLAGE. Bass, demolished. (N180)

NW6, ROMAN WAY. Free house (correction to N guide), converted to Nando's restaurant. (N206) SOUTH EAST

SE2, BARGE POLE. Free House, no real ale. (SE43)

SE4, LORD WOLSELEY. Bass, being converted to flats. (SE52)

SE18, PRINCE OF ORANGE. Ex-Allied, renamed ELECTRIC ORANGE. No real ale.

SE18, PRINCE RUPERT. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), now converted to a Buddhist temple and school. (SE173, U125)

SE20, O'BRIENS. Free House, converted to pizza takeaway. Formerly LORD PALMERSTON. (SE189, U102, U106)

SE20, RAILWAY. Ex-Belhaven, converted to a youth project and community law centre. (SE190)

SOUTH WEST

SW11, FARADAY & FIRKIN. Renamed O'NEILL'S. The conversion of a brewpub to the worn out, passé 'pseudo-Oirish' theme by Bass who presumably have no better ideas. Brewing equipment and handpumps removed. (U126, U151) SW11, FOUR CHIMNEYS. Renamed GALANGGA, H unused, now a bar/restaurant since late 1998. (SW88)) KINGSTON, LJ's. Inntrepreneur, now demolished. (SW143)

WEST

W4, BOLTON. Free House, converted to residential use. (W68, U59, U92)

W4, FEATHERS TAVERN. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), now demolished reputedly for car showroom. (W68, U94, U149)

W4, MANOR TAVERN. Now O'NEILL'S AT THE MANOR TAVERN. Ex-Courage, H removed. (W69, U46, U94)

W12, ASKEW ARMS. Renamed BAR ROOM **BAR**. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), H removed. (W91, U88)

HANWORTH, OXFORD ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), demolished. (W108, U101)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC2, SIR PAUL PINDAR. Renamed FIRST & **LAST**. -Greene King: IPA. (E36, U66, U80) EC3, COUNTING HOUSE. +Guest beer. (U131) EC3, CROSSE KEYS, 7-12 Gracechurch St. -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +guest ales chosen from a monthly list of 100 chalked up on wall, all at £1.89 a pint! Eleven different guests from micros and regionals were available on a recent visit. This is apparently an experiment by Wetherspoon, starting in September, to test the market's reaction to a continuously changing range of real ales in place of the predictable national and regional brands normally available. Apart from CAMRA beer festivals, such a wide choice of micro-brewed ales is currently confined in London to a handful of speciality Free Houses, proportionally minuscule compared with the number of such places in just about any major provincial city in Britain. If this experiment is successful in the heart of the City of London, it could lead the way for more choice in other Wetherspoon pubs and could encourage other operators to follow suit. Provided quality is maintained, this experiment deserves every discerning London drinker's support. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, 12-9 Sat, 12-7 Sun. (U147) EC3, JAMAICA WINE HOUSE. -Guest beers: +St Peters: Best Bitter, Golden Ale. (E40, U69, U99, U131)

EC3, POET. Now POETS CORNER. (U145) W1(Mar), VINO VERITAS. Reverted to CASK & GLASS. (W34, U51, U80, U106, U118) W1(S), MOLLY MOGGS ALE HOUSE. Now

simply MOLLY MOGGS. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. (W43)

WC1, FINNEGANS WAKE. Renamed DANNY **BOY**. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. Formerly SUN, a one-time beer mecca. (W51, U75, U106, N30, U109)

WC1. PETERS BAR. Renamed TWO ANGELS **BAR**. Still no real ale. (W50, U108, N28) WC2, ANGEL. Defurbished, with the restoration of 3 bars - a public (with darts), a lounge with carpet and real fire and a snug or saloon behind a wooden screen. Retains side/back garden. A good effort by Sam Smith but shame about the limited beer choice -OBB only. Remains a rarity - a real pub in the West End. (W52, U98, U133, U140)

-Capital Pubcheck-

UPDATE 155 continued

EAST

E1, HORN OF PLENTY. Renamed **HORNS**. Closed lunchtimes Mon-Fri, open irregular hours. (E67, U69, U73)

E1, LOUNGE. Renamed FUNKY MUNKY. H unused except for cider. Formerly LORD RODNEYS HEAD. (E69, U154)

E3, FLAUTIST & FIRKIN. Renamed MATTER OF TIME. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot. Presumably now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). (E90, U96)

E4, COUNTY ARMS. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Guest beer (currently Theakston XB). (E95, U106)

E9, VILLAGE INN. Renamed VILLAGE TAP. Formerly McCANNS. Now Inn Business, ex-Wiltshire. (E121, U71, U85, U117, U134) E10, LION & KEY. Renamed HOUSE BAR. (E125, U100)

E11, BIG HAND MO'S. Reverted to **LINCOLN**. (E129, U89, U106, U109)

E11, COWLEY ARMS. Renamed **FASE II**. (E128, U124, U134)

E14, FIVE BELLS & BLADE BONE. Renamed 5b URBAN BAR and frontage painted in cream and black 'snake' stripes. Old name retained in small letters. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride, ESB. Part of small chain including former London Hospital Tavern, E1. Possibly leased from Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). Open till midnight. (E145, U138) E15, DOROTHYS AT THE WOODMAN.

E15, DOROTHYS AT THE WOODMAN.
Renamed JHANKAAR, a bar and restaurant.
Formerly WOODMAN. (E156, U123, U131)
E16, GROUND RENT TAVERN. Renamed UNE
DEUX TROIS. Now a bar and hotel. (E159)
E16, ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL. Renamed
STUDIO BAR. Now a music venue. (E160)
E17, COUPLES. Renamed JD's, formerly
SPORTSMAN. (E168, U92, U97, U110)
E18, HERMANS. Renamed JOE PUBLIC.
Formerly WALL STREET and BOAR & THISTLE.

(E171, U113)

DAGENHAM, JAKE & ELWOODS. Renamed
GOODFELLAS. (X45)

UPMINSTER, BRIDGE HOUSE (PICKLED

NEWT). Now simply **BRIDGE HOUSE** again and badged as Greene King pub. -Greene King: Martha Greene's, Abbot; +Courage: Best Bitter. (X121)

NORTH

N3, GOLDEN EAGLE. Renamed PIZZALO, a bar/restaurant. (N69)
N4, DANZIBAR. Renamed PIPPIN', still fizz. (N73)
N4, SIR WALTER SCOTT. Renamed
FALTERING FULLBACK about two years ago. (N77)
N7, TAPPIT. Renamed SPOOFERS BAR. Brakspear: Bitter; +Courage: Best Bitter. Formerly
TAPPIT HEN. (N90, U121)



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ADNAMS-FISHERMANS

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CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 155 continued

N10, FANTAIL & FIRKIN. -beers listed; +Ansells: Bitter; +Draught Bass; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale. Brewery now closed. (N103, U126, U151)
N22, PARK INN. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA; +Ruddle: County. (N156, U108, U109)

NORTH WEST

NW5, VULTURES PERCH. Renamed JOLENE CELESTE. (N201) NW6, COLE PITZ. Renamed POWERS BAR, still no real ale. (N204)

SOUTH EAST

SE18, VOLUNTEER. Now JACK BEARD'S AT THE VOLUNTEER. -John Smith: Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree. (SE174) SE20, GRACES. Reverted to DR W.G. GRACE. (SE188, U102)

SOUTH WEST

SW6, PALMERSTON. Now subtitled 'Blue Room Lounge Bar'. Formerly LORD PALMERSTON. (SW69, U143)

SW8, NAGS HEAD. Renamed ARTESIAN WELL after complete refurbishment as bar/restaurant. -Courage: Best Bitter; +Theakston: Best Bitter. N.B. Directors sells at £2.60 a pint. (SW78)

SW9, DORSET ARMS. Renamed KELLYS. (SW82)

SW9, GALLEONS. Renamed ZBUD, still fizz. (SW82)

SW11, CLOCK HOUSE. Renamed BAR ROOM BAR. H now removed. Converted to cafébar/pizzeria in early 1999. (SW87, U125) SW11, RISING SUN. Renamed SETTLE INN. - beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X; +Wells: Bombardier. Refurbished in mostly light wood style with some contrasting darker wood. Original name retained in wrought iron above one door. (SW90)

SW11, RIVERSIDE. Renamed **BATTERSEA BOATHOUSE**. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter. Formerly RIVER RAT. (SW90, U152)

SW11, YATES'S WINE LODGE. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. (U149)

SW18, COUNTRY HOUSE. Now also signed JACK BEARDS IN THE FOG. -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +Young: Bitter, Special. 'The Fog' is the nickname of the pub. (SW111) SW18, SAILOR PRINCE. Renamed PUZZLE. -Tolly Cobbold: Original; +Courage: Directors Bitter.

Tolly Cobbold: Original; +Courage: Directors Bitter.
Now run by Puzzle Pub Co, ex-Inntrepreneur.
Refurbished with one large, light and airy room, large windows, cream walls, light wood flooring, tables, bar top and back. (SW114, U138, U142)

SW19, DOG & FOX. Part of building, previously a function room, named FINCH'S from July 2000 with separate access from street although under same licensee and management. +Young: Triple A (in

addition to Bitter (£2.20) and Special also available in main pub). Cream and cochineal walls with contemporary paintings. Light wood tables and chairs with sofas and other chairs to match the colour scheme. Outdoor drinking area. No smoking area. Disabled WC. Meals 12-2:30, 6-10. Snacks 12-10. Open until midnight Fri/Sat. (SW117)

SW19, YATES'S WINE LODGE. –beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Marston: Pedigree. Real ale not always available. (U152)

CHEAM, CAVERN. Renamed HANCOCK'S BAR. Stone me! (SW131)
KINGSTON: PUZZLE. Renamed BAR (THE). (SW144)

RICHMOND, PATRICK CASEYS. Renamed BISHOPS FINGER, formerly BELVEDERE. (SW154, U126)

WEST

W12, CONWAYS. Renamed BRACKENBURY ARMS. –beer listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Webster: Green Label Best. Formerly DUKES.

(W91, U59, U73, U86) W12, GOLDHAWK, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. (W91)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 153

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.

CROYDON, LITTEN TREE is a SFI Free House. **SW7, ABBAYE** address should read <u>102</u> Old Brompton Rd.

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

W1(Mar), PRINCE ALFRED was ex-Taylor Walker, not Nicholson.

E1, OLD BLUE ANCHOR was Mercury Taverns.

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

E15, BRADYS was formerly AMELIA

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 154

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.

N22, YATES'S WINE LODGE is a Free House. SE10, RED BOOT BAR should read RED BOOT. It is located in 'food court' rather than shopping centre. Light green décor, large windows behind bar overlook river. Adjacent to children's play area.

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

E1, LORD RODNEYS HEAD (renamed LOUNGE). Add: H unused. See also listings above. BROMLEY, GOLDEN GATE should read GARDEN GATE.

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

E1, LONDON HOSPITAL TAVERN (now LHT URBAN BAR). Part of small chain, possibly leased from Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). SW18, FOOTE & FIRKIN (renamed JUST SO BAR). Leased by Punch to small pub chain.

Looking Back

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO Charles Fox wrote about the history of Eldridge Pope's brewery in Dorchester, listing 20 outlets of its products in London. The fight continued to save courage Horselydown Brewery, and a special report outlined that company's disastrous policy involving the closure of a number of breweries and diminishing choice for the drinker.

Alan Greenwood outlined the origins of India Pale Ale and Imperial Russian Stout. Richard Plumb explored the area mainly north of High Holborn, visiting 6 pubs. The prizes at the GBBF at Alexandra Palace went to Thwaites Mild (Best beer), Youngs Special (Strong Beer) and Golden Hill Exmoor Ale.

The Nightingale, N8 - a Watney pub - had dropped its prices as a result of pressure from customers.

A new addition of Real Beer in London had been published, costing 75p, as had Real Ale in Central London, a street map showing 470 pubs, costing 40p.

Within the EEC there was a proposal to bring tax on wine and beer closer together. Effectively it seemed to mean 6p on a pint.

Vaughan Hully charted the history of Greene King Brewery, then expanding its London trade. At the time 20 pubs in London were selling the beers, principally Abbot. 'South London Sampling' was Roger Farenden's six-pub crawl of Carshalton.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO the meaning of O.G. was explained and its relationship to taxation on beer, and that the alcoholic strength of beer had dropped during the 20th century. At that time, it was not mandatory to state the A.B.V. of beer, i.e. its alcohol by volume, by chemical analysis.

In 'Anything to Declare?' an author using the pseudonym 'Eamon O'Ther' (work that one out!) wrote about brewery passport schemes, and their flaws, leading to participants collecting their prizes by taking short-cuts.

In 'Personal View' a prominent CAMRA member attacked the negative campaigning then prevalent, such as 'Don't buy...', as this organisation was founded to promote choice, no matter what took the drinker's fancy.

The Guinea, Mayfair (Young's) had re-opened after six months' closure for a face-lift. The two-part history of Watney's Brewery appeared in consecutive issues.- Much of the history was gleaned from a book provided by Watney's, with whom this magazine was then on excellent terms.

Real Ale in South-East London had been issued. It covered 2,500 pubs in its 240 pages, and cost £2.50.

'Eleven around the Oval' was Tony Flatman's crawl of Kennington visiting 11 pubs. The White

Cross, Richmond was celebrating its 150th anniversary,

The 1986 Good Beer Guide was on sale, featuring 5,000 pubs, including 251 in the London area. 'Rayment's Revisited' was a history of that brewery, and a crawl of some of their pubs in Essex, presented by two authors using the pseudonyms Holmes & Watson.

TEN YEARS AGO Dave Sullivan advocated boycotting Whitbread products - at the time they were CAMRA's Public Enemy No.1 due to their closure of breweries.

Chris Cobbold chronicled an excursion, headed 'To Henley and Beyond', visiting that town as well as parts of Bucks, Berks and Hants. Beer had no small part of the narrative. In the November editorial, Chris reflected on the all-too-prevalent difficulty in getting served in a pub due to neglectful or lethargic staff.

FIVE YEARS AGO the Dulwich Wood House in Sydenham Hill had beaten over 850 pubs to win the S.E.London Branch's Pub of the Year Award for 1995.

A survey at the GBBF among customers revealed that in pubs 76% had received short measure, 26% said they were 'often' short-measured, and of those who said they had received short measure, 63% 'sometimes' or 'never' asked for a top-up. The first Hobgoblin pub in London had opened, formerly the Rose of Lee. The latest of Greene King's range of seasonal beers, was Mad Judge, coloured red with the juice of cranberries.

Tony Hedger expressed doubts about the notion of theme pubs then proliferating. Public bars were in the news - in the Wotton Hatch west of Dorking, Bass had decided after pressure by regulars to preserve the public bar. It seemed that the one in the Duke of Cumberland, Parson Green, was doomed. Previously customers of Youngs' pubs had influenced that company in some cases to preserve them.

The take-over of Boddingtons by Greenalls was strongly condemned. CAMRA had also condemned the proposed closure of the Tetley Walker Brewery in Warrington, which brewed for Greenalls. On that happy note I must sign off.

Cheers! Martin Smith

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

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All correct entries received by first post on 29th November will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the February 2001 London Drinker. Solution next issue.

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

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

A	М	В	U	L	Α	N	C	E		М	E	T
R		E		E		E		N		Ι		H
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E	Y	E		D	E	S	P	A	I	R	E	D

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS Docile, thanks to myself. 1.

(4)Player discovered in deep. 4. (8) Pause as the tea is brewed. (8)Crowd in during a test match. (4) 10. To decapitate parent is different. (5)11. Led traders astray. (7)13. Healthier worker. (6)15. It's foolhardy including rocket in attack. (6)18. Extend sentence. (7)20. Money roll? (5)

23. Check the edge of the pavement, say. (4) 24. He takes offence, apparently. (8)

25. She would take in debtor who's cleaned out. (8) 26. Try to listen. (4)

Bomb in hospital department is conspicuous. (7)

(5)

(5)

Beer is right to be bright.

DOWN

2.

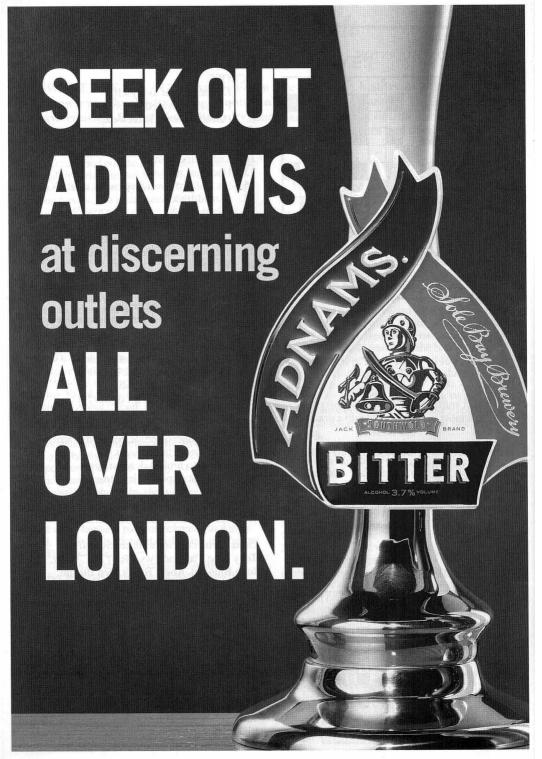
3.

4. Theatre work, or is it? (4) 5. Beginning to open flower. (8)6. Groan about this part of London. (5)Men finally hold talks. Idiots! 7. (7)10. Cricket side is not fresh. (3) 12. Does he get things for doctor? (8) 14. On form but off the pitch. (2.5)16. It provides a glossy coat. (7)17. Starting high on drugs, becoming carrier. (3) 19. Well-used drinking joint.

21. It's near a broken down stadium. (5)22. It corrupts a police department. (4)

Winner of the prize for the June Crossword: Kevin Reeve, Plumstead, London SE18.

Other correct entries were received from: Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Geoff B, C.Batty, John Blundell, Roger Boiler, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Charles Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Mike Farrelly, B.H.Fletcher, Mark Foley, Dudley Freeman, Marion Goodall, Eileen Graves, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, M.I.Green, Jonty Hawkes, John Heath, Billy Hernon, Sheerluck Holmes, Tom Kemp, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, David Oddy, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Lyn Randall, Geoff S, Dick Scratcher, Bryan Smith & Isa, Peter Smith, The Real Billy Sollocks, D.J.Stares, Terry & Munros, Bill Thackray, Ribena de F.Toss, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Sue Wilson, David Woodward.



—Idle Moments — IDLE MOMENTS - THE ANSWERS

And now for the answers to Idle moments in the June/July edition that should have been published in August:

NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 1. 32 Capsules on the London Eye
- 2. 5 Rings on the Olympic Flag
- 3. 75 Lives Lost in the Tay Bridge Disaster
- 4. 864 Buildings in the World are Over Five Hundred Feet Tall (currently)
- 5. 3,097600 Square Yards in a Square Mile
- 6. 5 Points for the Letter K in Scrabble
- 7. 8 Furlongs in a Mile
- 8. 63,000 Tons is the Weight of the Dome of Saint Paul's Cathedral
- 9. 12 Pylons in the Millennium Dome
- 10. 50,356 Square Miles is the Area of England

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- 1. FRANKTON BAGBY
- 2. SALOPIAN
- 3. ABBEYDALE
- 4. WARWICKSHIRE
- 5. LIDSTONE'S
- BRAGWR ARBENNIC O GEREDIGION
- SADDLEWORTH
- EASINGWOLD
- BROWN COW
- 10. OLD LAXEY

Oh dear! I have spotted a cock-up - it's ARBENNIG (not ARBENNIC). Oops!

5RVA.

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- 1. £28
- 2. The World Wide Web
- 3. Sir Anthony Hopkins
- 4. Punch
- 5. Piers Morgan
- The Great Western
- 7. The Liverpool & Manchester Railway
- 8. Harrow School
- Hever Castle
- 10. Brooklands, near Weybridge in Surrey

The answers to this issue's Idle Moments will be included in the next issue.

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.

MAGPIE & CROWN

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MAGPIE AND CROWN

* singing voice required Friday evenings

Idle Moments

Well hello again. Let me firstly start with an apology; two issues ago (That's four months Mr. Editor) the answers to Idle Moments were left out of the June/July edition with a statement that they were being held over to the next issue "due to constraints on space". Yes, I have searched through the August/September edition as well and can confirm that you have not missed the answers, they're not there. I am sending a further copy of the answers with this month's in the hope that the editors will find space for those of you who have not thrown your June/July copy away in disgust. (Apologies, they are on page 37 of this edition - Ed). I also apologise for "due to..." cos I'm a clever dick who knows it should have been "owing to..."

Anyway let's start the column proper with a quotation, as usual. I've just found this one from Dean Martin which I hope you like:

You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.

I'm afraid that I have been somewhat busy over the last few weeks with Twickenham Beer Festival so all but one of this month's number puzzles are recycled:

- 1. 50 W to LYL
- 2. 210 M is the W of AFP
- 3. 7 W of the W
- 4. 1690 B of the B
- 5. 104 S by JH
- 6. 16 P in a S in RU
- 7. 2 M of M
- 8. 27 S on the CL
- 9. 12 D in a G
- 10. 3 V on a T

And on we go with the brewery anagrams. Incidentally, the ampersand (Clever Dick - Ed) in No. 6 represents one in the brewery name as well.

- 1. ALL DRAM
- 2. FAILED LONG BAR
- SETS PAINTER
- 4. FRY MALE VOLE
- SLOW NET
- BARBER & LAGER
- SPOIL NEW FARCE
- 8. DEVIL-MAN RON
- BUNG DIRT BORE
- 10. CHARMING, OK?

So there we are then. Now it's 5BY4 time again and I have returned to a topic that I haven't used for a couple of years (since August 1998, in fact). I've called it "Where's the Brewery (IV)." I'm sure you don't need me to tell you to match the breweries with the towns in which they are located, so I won't.

- 1. Willy's
- 2. Jollyboat

- 3. Four Rivers
- 4. Lidstones
- Frog Island
- 6. Townes
- Springhead
 Drunken Duck
- 9. Concertina
- 10. Kemptown
- A. Chesterfield
- B. Mexborough (S. Yorks.)
- C. Sutton on Trent
- D. Northampton
- E. Newmarket
- F. Brighton
- G. Cleethorpes
- H. Bideford (Devon)
- I. Ambleside (Cumbria)
- J. Newcastle upon Tyne

And finally we come to the general knowledge round but with a difference this time. Back in April we had a list of pubs from John Radford of London E1 with literary connections for you to identify. John has written again, only this time he has given us some expressions, all to do with beer; can you identify them?

- 1. Beer money
- 2. Lamb's wool
- Church ale
- 4. Flip
- Splugen fumee
 - . Ale silver
- 7. Milk stout
- 8. Ale stake
- 9. John Barleycorn
- 10. Stingo

Well, that's about it then. I'm off to send a few more cheques to suppliers of goods and services to Twickenham Beer Festival (back next year from 2nd to 4th October). In the meantime I'll be back here with more rubbish in the December/January edition.

Byee!

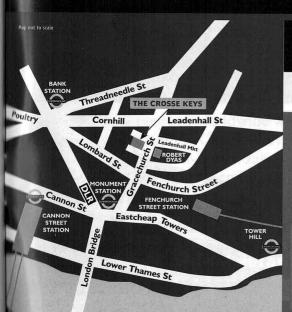
Andy Pirson

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TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE PORTERHOUSE COVENT GARDEN

We've even brewed an ale exclusively for our Covent Garden bar and to commemorate the birth on this site of the artist William Turner. The Porterhouse has brewed a traditional style pale ale with a modern interpretation using a single varietal New Zealand hop, the Sticklebract. A crisp, zesty session pale ale. Enjoy the brewer's art.













www.porterhousebrewco.com

