



## LONDON DRINKER



THE FOX AND HOUNDS

Latchmere Road, SW11 Photo: Andy Pirson

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

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DECEMBER 2000/JANUARY 2001

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## Editorial

Welcome to the December/January issue of London Drinker, which completes our first year as a bi-monthly free magazine. Our aim in 'going free' was to widen our circulation beyond CAMRA's members and our previous existing readership to the wider but less committed 'drinking public'. We hope that we have gone some way towards this and we will continue to make efforts to widen availability still further.

In October's editorial, our Regional Director, Robin Forshaw-Wilson, highlighted the work of our Capital Pubcheck feature. I would like to endorse his compliments to those responsible, especially the co-ordinator, Roger Warhurst. This is the sort of information-gathering that CAMRA needs, is uniquely placed to do and is something that all members and readers can be involved in.

As Robin noted, sadly, Pubcheck does not always bring good news. Too often we see the words 'closed, future uncertain' whilst all that is replacing these entries are cafe/bar type establishments with little or no commitment to real ale. Cask-conditioned beer is essentially a large volume product. It is difficult to brew economically and consistently in small quantities and it needs to have substantial turnover at its point of sale to retain quality. The continued existence of both the traditional pub and real ale are inextricably linked.

Twenty-five years ago it was all so simple. The Big Six brewers owned and supplied some 40,000 pubs whilst some 80 regional brewers supplied the rest. The Big Six however exploited the power that their size gave them and, eventually, steps had to be taken to limit this. I will not go into the convoluted history of the Beer Orders and the bizarre deals done by the big breweries to avoid this relatively innocuous piece of legislation but the net result has been that most of our pubs are now owned by pub chains. In theory, it should have been a case of 'good riddance'. For the most part we did not want the Big Six's beers anyway and, being free houses, the chain's pubs would give us what we want, not what their company brewed.

Oh were that true... The big pub chains all have supply contracts that are every bit as restrictive as the old brewery tie. When they do bring in beers from small independent and regional brewers, their discount requirements do the breweries no favours. With one or two noble exceptions, they simply have no commitment to beer and as the remaining brewers pull out or 'consolidate' to avoid takeovers, the range of beers available has diminished. The big chains are now having as destructive an effect on our pubs and beer as once did the beer barons of old.

Pub chains are structured as financial vehicles. Their investments have been financed by borrowing and they therefore need to maximise their profits to cover debt repayments. This is why despite the wholesale price of beer having gone down by 15% over the last eight years, pub prices have gone up 10%. More CAMRA scaremongering? No, these are the views of the Chief Executive of Bass Brewers, although he was seeking to defend the sale of his company to the Belgian company, Interbrew.

Interbrew's purchase of the Bass and Whitbread brewing operations is the subject of a report being prepared by the Competition Commission for the Secretary of State for Trade. I feel that the trade's problems go deeper than this single event. The Commission needs to look at the whole issue of trading between brewers and pub chains with a view to getting us beer drinkers the fairer deal that we were originally supposed to get from the Beer Orders.

Tony Hedger

PS The investment company that bought into Ushers Brewery wasted no time in closing the brewery and it is now being dismantled and shipped to North Korea, would you believe?

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## National News Round Up

Apologies for the lack of news in the last issue – the Royal Mail managed to lose it!

#### The end of Old Whitbread

The flight of the ex-national breweries, once the dominant force in the UK pub scene, is continuing to accelerate.

Following the sale of their breweries to Belguim's Interbrew, Whitbread have sold their First Quench off-licence business, which was jointly owned with Punch. Despite the growth in take-home sales, Whitbread was quoted as saying that it was no longer a core part of their business. Since the company's reputation (and share price) took a battering following their loss of the battle for Allied Domecq's pub estate last year, Whitbread has been intent on turning itself into a leisure and hotel company.

The business has been sold to a management buyout backed by Nomura's Principal Finance division, which has already become the country's largest pub landlord by buying big chunks of former national brewers' estates.

Whitbread promised to use some of the money for investment into their core pub estate, but a matter of weeks later came the announcement that the whole estate of 3000 pubs and bars was up for sale. The price tag is £1.5 billion, and again Nomura were rumoured to be in the running, together with Punch and Alchemy who have already expressed an interest. The remainder of the business, which will be have virtually no interest in the licensed trade, it to be called 'Future Whitbread'. Sales in the pubs have increased by 1-2% over the past year, but the non-pub side is growing by an average of 4%.

CAMRA expressed concerns over the future of the Hogshead chain of ale-houses, which is a major customer for regional and small independent breweries. The sale also raises the issue of the guest beer right introduced by the Beer Orders – since Bass and Allied sold their leased estates, Whitbread tenants are almost the last licensees to retain the right to stock a guest ale.

The latest news continues the precipitate rush for the exit by the companies that once were the pillars of the business. Small breweries have been closing for years – of the 6,000 breweries open a century ago, fewer than 100 survive. However, until now the big boys just seem to have got more dominant.

People are still drinking beer – three quarters of UK consumers visit the pub. So why the rush?

Analysts are pointing to the Beer Orders of 1989 as the major factor that transformed the market. Meant to encourage competition, the effect has been the exact opposite with greater and greater concentration. Many regional breweries are under pressure to cash in by selling out – particularly those like Young's, with its large site in Wandsworth potentially worth a fortune as trendy flats or a shopping centre. It seems that only the family's grip on the voting rights keeps the brewery alive. Morrells wasn't so lucky – out went the family, and in came the developers.

Jonathan Neame of Shepherd Neame believes that there is a future for the regional brewery saying that 'for regional breweries with good brand recognition, the opportunities are still quite significant. Shepherd Neame have been successful in promoting the Spitfire brand, now widely available in Wetherspoons pubs and elsewhere. Some regionals are doing very well (see below), but some big names have gone in recent years – not least King and Barnes.

Once thing is for sure – once a brewery closes, there is no way back. The cost of entry to the market is high, and breweries will continue to close for as long as consumers drink lakes of iced euro-fizz

#### Regulators look at Interbrew deals

The Competition Commission is continuing to investigate the implications of the takeover of Bass and Whitbread's breweries by Interbrew. Rumours are circulating about the conditions which may be imposed as a condition of allowing the deal to go through – possibly including the sale of one of the breweries, or the removal of the existing supply agreements with pubs. These agreements are a major cause of consumer concern, as there are now just two companies (Interbrew and Scottish and Newcastle) controlling 60% of the UK beer market. With conditions already highly competitive, there are fears that small breweries will be driven out of business as they find themselves frozen out of the supply chain, unable to get their beer in any pubs.

#### Mixed fortunes in a shrinking market

Recent figures from the Brewing and Licensed Retailers Association show that sales of cask beer fell by over 12% in 1999, with real ale accounting for less than 10% of the market for the first time. Paradoxically, many regional breweries are posting big increases in sales, and

## National News Round Up

the drop in the market has been attributed to a collapse in the amount of ale sold by the national breweries. These are the companies that have been pushing nitrokeg over the last few years and failing to promote cask beer brands; CAMRA estimates that they now only brew 1.6 million barrels of ale a year, and are now outstripped by the regionals selling about 2 million barrels a year.

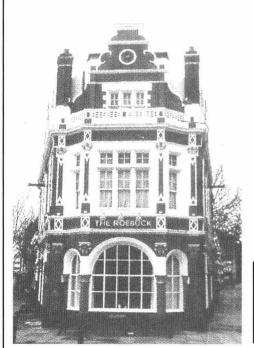
While the nationals try to kill off their real beers or get out of brewing altogether, breweries like Brakspear are going from strength to strength. Their weekly production has gone over 1000 barrels for the first time in its history, and this summer they announced a £750,000 investment in the brewery to allow it to increase capacity by a quarter. Use of traditional methods and equipment, including an 80 year old mash tun, will remain, but ancillary plant will be upgraded or replaced. Head brewer Peter Scholey said "with our capacity demands, we must have everything working at peak efficiency".

Other regional breweries are expanding their tied estates to protect their share of the market, and many are expanding outside their traditional

areas. Thwaites of Blackburn have made their biggest ever managed house acquisition with nine Midlands pubs coming from Bass; also buying pubs are Hardys and Hansons, Hall and Woodhouse and St. Austell, who are now up to 150 pubs. Closer to home, and as mentioned in the last London Drinker, Young's have purchased the Court House in Dartford, which was formerly a magistrates court.

However, it's not all easy going for everyone. The list of microbreweries closing their doors continues to lengthen, this summer's casualties including Four Rivers of Newcastle (brewers of Hadrian ales), Backdykes of Thornton, Fife and Station brewery in Easingwold, Yorkshire. Micros are increasingly being frozen out as the number of truly free houses drops, and their troubles have led to the redoubling of calls for Progressive Beer Duty, which would help small breweries to compete with the larger companies.

Even the higher profile regionals are not having it all their own way, with Wolverhampton and Dudley in the news again for the wrong reasons. Overambitious price cuts and the impact of the national minimum wage have been blamed for a fall in half year profits, and the company is



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## -National News Round Up

now the target of a takeover bid led, by Robert Breare, the man who closed Usher's. This would probably mean a bleak future for at lease some of the breweries, with Mansfield looking most at risk. Even if this bid fails, the company remains highly vulnerable.

#### Harveys under water

One of Britain's most successful and best loved breweries, Harveys of Lewes in Sussex, was left counting the cost in October as the river Ouse burst its banks following torrential rain in the area.

The brewery, situated right next to the river, had installed new flood defences, but these were overwhelmed by the flood, which left the ground floor under six feet of water and washed a thousand casks out to sea. Two pubs and the brewery shop were forced to close, and brewery staff had to be rescued by lifeboat.

To make matters worse, the flood water was contaminated with sewage and diesel, which means that many more casks may have to be written off. Initial fears that the brewery's borehole had been contaminated seem thankfully to have been unfounded. Head brewer Miles Jenner said that the water 'went through at a height that took out our electricity and buckled empty vessels'. The two houses where Mr Jenner and his father, brewery chairman Anthony Jenner, live are adjacent to the brewery and were also flooded by water which rose even higher than the marker from a previous flood in 1960.

Staff worked throughout the following weekend on the clean-up operation. Mr Jenner said 'there's such a remarkable amount of good will in the company - the work in all departments has been tremendous'. Harveys pubs were supplied with beer from the Beer Seller until the brewery could get back to full production – things were back to normal by early November. The brewery is insured for damage and loss of turnover, so its future should not be threatened.

#### Licensing reform under threat

Government plans to reform the archaic licensing laws in England and Wales look to be heading into a dead end, following conflicting responses from the trade and opposition from some central London boroughs.

Despite strong public support for a change, the lack of clear consensus has damaged the case for reform. A rash of sensationalist and often inaccurate reports of the horrors of unrestricted 24-hour opening have hardened opposition, and

some councils have mounted a strong campaign against change on public order grounds; this is despite the obvious public order problem caused by the current 'chuck everyone onto the streets at 11.20' rules, and the fact that the proposals would have given councils control over licensing hours and conditions.

Brewers and pub companies have raised vocal opposition to the proposed involvement of local authorities in licensing, citing the probability of more bureaucracy and politically motivated decisions. Tim Martin of Wetherspoons said that delays and red tape would lead to 'higher prices, lower standards and less choice'. Stuart Neame of Shepherd Neame has voiced concerns about business being able to be effectively shut down by neighbours, and local magistrates are also against loss of their powers.

Those in opposition have been a minority, but large and loud enough to muddy the waters and make the Government shy away from an apparently contentious issue. They remain officially committed to reform, but only 'when parliamentary time permits', which could well be after the next election. Mike Benner of CAMRA said that 'doubt and disagreement' look to have sunk hopes of quick reform.

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## National News Round Up

#### Black Cat is the Champion!

Moorhouse's Black Cat has become the first mild for twenty years to win the prestigious Champion Beer of Britain at the Great British Beer Festival. The was relaunched last year, with a new logo, a slightly tweaked recipe including an increase in strength to 3.4%, and a reduced emphasis on the word 'Mild' which is seen as old fashioned. Since the changes, which also included retiring the old style black cat on the pump clip in favour of a much more aggressive and spiky moggy, it has since seen a substantial sales increase which looks set to continue with the latest triumph.

Runners up were Hogs Back TEA (Traditional English Ale) and York Yorkshire Terrier Bitter.

#### Pub names under debate again

Changes to historic pub names hit the headlines again earlier in the summer, with Culture Minister Chris Smith calling for an end to the insensitive renaming of historic pubs, many of which have names representing the history and traditions of the local area. Smith said 'We are surely in danger here of losing an important part of local history and local folk memory'. While acknowledging that it was up to owners to decide on the names, he expressed hope that breweries will 'bear in mind the unique historic role that many of our public houses have and think twice before destroying that link with the past'.

Statistics show that, in the five years to January, an average of over 100 pubs a year were renamed in London alone. One of the pubs cited was the Plough in Dulwich, a well known local landmark that was renamed the Goose and Granite, earning its owners the Golden Steamroller award from South East London CAMRA!

At CAMRA's national AGM in April, a motion was passed calling for pub name changes to be made part of the planning process.

#### White Shield moves back to Burton

Worthington White Shield, the famous bottle conditioned beer, was saved a couple of years ago when King and Barnes won the contract to continue brewing and bottling it. Following the closure of K&B, brewing has now been moved back to Burton on Trent, and will now take place at the Museum Brewing Company situated in the Bass museum.

Bass Museum director Mike Maryon referred to White Shield as a 'king among bottled beers',

and promised that they would ensure that the beer's quality and distinctive taste will remain every bit as good as it used to be. Good Beer Guide editor Roger Protz welcomed the move, saying 'this is marvellous news – a classic beer saved.

#### Pub Superchefs in your kitchen

Yes, now you too can have that authentic pub food in your own home. Not the old fashioned dog eared sandwich, but the recipes from top pub chefs who have revolutionised pub catering. A decade ago, pubs were the Cinderellas of the food trade, derided by foodies for unimaginative menus and dodgy quality. But now, pub chefs are winning awards, appearing on TV and even include some celebrities.

CAMRA's latest book, 'Pub Superchefs', features around 170 recipes from top pub chefs to allow you to recreate some of the best of British. They include regional recipes like Jugged Yorkshire Hare and Oxford bacon clanger, sophisticated modern dishes, and unusual vegetarian ideas. There is a whole section on cooking with beer, not to mention some recipes including cider.

The book is edited by Sue Nowak, editor of all five CAMRA Good Pub Food Guides and author of the Beer Cook Book.

#### Head of Steam opens in Liverpool

The Head of Steam chain has expanded again with the opening of their latest outlet in Liverpool's Lime Street station on 30th October. The pub, reputed to be the largest licensed premises on Merseyside, occupies the northern part of the London and North Western Railway's North Western Hotel.

The new pub offers the ultimate railway station refreshment room, a railway and advertising museum, art exhibition, collectors shop and its own merchandise shop. Not to mention the promise of 15 real ales, American beers and regular beer festivals. It is open from 6am to 2am Monday to Saturday and 9am to midnight Sunday.

The new outlet offers the opportunity of a long distance 'Head of Steam' crawl by train, taking in the new pub plus existing outlets in Huddersfield, Newcastle, Scarborough and the London one at Euston.

Dave Lee

## Pub of the Year

#### ROBIN HOOD AND LITTLE JOHN WINS LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

Bexley Branch's pub of the year has been voted London Pub of the Year, in a competition against the best pubs in London. The Robin Hood and Little John at Lion Road Bexley Heath, in the London Borough of Bexley, takes a bit of finding as it is in a side road off the Broadway, but it is worth the walk.

This back street local dates from the early 19th Century, when it was set amid fields and farms. Now it has been overtaken by suburbia but retains its very rural character. It has established a reputation for a wide selection of well kept ales and good food in congenial surroundings.

The selection of about seven real ales varies but normally includes a selection from independent breweries, particularly the Flagship brewery, Chatham. The most popular beer recently has been Reverend James after it was featured in a recent newspaper article about the pint.

This pub also has a good reputation for its cooked food at lunch times. Besides the regular menu it also offers daily themed specials. Meals can be eaten at tables made from old sewing machines.

What really makes this pub outstanding is the friendly atmosphere of a traditional family run pub. If you are looking for a good beer in pleasant surroundings, it is well worth a visit to this hostelry.

The London Regional Director of CAMRA will present the London Pub of the Year award to the landlord of the Robin Hood and Little John on Wednesday 13th December. This will also coincide with the monthly meeting of the Bexley branch of CAMRA, who are currently celebrating their 25th year. All current and former members of the branch will be particularly welcome to this event.

Martyn Nicolls CAMRA Bexley branch chairman



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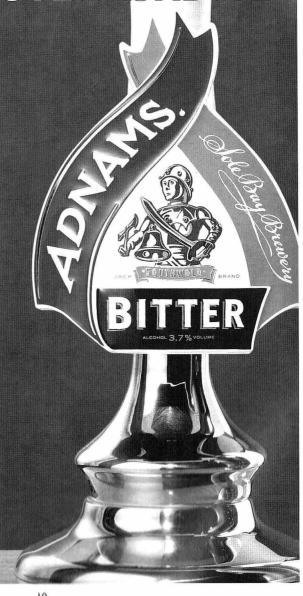
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## Local News Round Up

#### Firkin 'knackered'

The demise of the Firkin chain of pubs has been signalled by Hugh Osmond of Punch Taverns, which took over the chain along with the rest of Allied Domecq's pubs. Osmond is of the opinion that customers are more interested in lager than ale, and regards the Firkin identity, based on David Bruce's pioneering brewpubs, as 'knackered'.

Industry commentators have earmarked the Firkin estate for rebranding for some time, and the pubs have been a shadow of their former selves since the closure of the breweries immediately after the Punch takeover.

One early casualty is the well known Phoenix and Firkin at Denmark Hill Station, which was built in the remains of the ornate railway booking hall. It was converted in September to an 'Irish' themed pub - surely another knackered brand these days.

#### Wetherspoons still on the up

J D Wetherspoons has announced its trading results for its latest financial year, reporting a continuation of its growth in size, income and profits. 101 new pubs were opened in the year, bringing the total to 428. Average sales per pub are now up to a million pounds a year, and operating profit was up by a third.



Chairman Tim Martin said 'I am pleased to report another year of excellent progress for Wetherspoon'. The company has bucked the trend in some areas – for example the North West, where some other companies have reported difficulties. The new pubs have been opened in a variety of locations, with an expansion out of the standard major High Street location into suburban areas and smaller towns. Their first pubs in Northern Ireland opened this year.

10 Lloyds No. 1 pubs have been purchased, all in town centre locations. They are distinct from the normal Wetherspoons and include music, banned in the rest of the chain. These will

continue to be run as before.

Despite reports of a declining ale market, Wetherspoons reported strong growth in sales, with successful national distribution of Shepherd Neame Spitfire and Green King Abbot Ale, as well as promotion of smaller breweries like Hop Back. Timothy Taylor and Butcombe. The company is committed to the Cask Marque quality control scheme, with 350 pubs having received the awards up to June this year.

At the time of the announcements, 30 sites were under construction and terms had been agreed on over 100 more.

The second oldest pub in the Wetherspoon estate reopened in November following a four month closure for a £620,000 building project. The White Lion of Mortimer in Stroud Green Road, Finsbury Park has been redesigned with a new bar and toilets, and is fully air conditioned. Wheelchair accessibility and a disabled toilet have been added, together with a no smoking area. Manageress Nicke Foster said "The pub looks fantastic and I'm confident that people in the area will be impressed with the transformation"

#### Fullers take over the White Lion

The White Lion in Barnet, formerly a free house, was bought by Fullers earlier this year and has been run by Allan Phillips and Anne-Marie Pilkington since April. In October, the pub was treated to an official opening featuring legendary jazz musician Humphrey Lyttelton, a local and regular in the pub. He was accompanied by Fullers managing director Michael Turner.



As well as pulling a ceremonial pint and signing autographs, Humphrey treated the packed pub to an exclusive trumpet performance of 'Show me the way to go home'

Allan, a former chef who has revitalised the pub's menu to the delight of locals, commented 'It was a fantastic occasion, and was very much enjoyed by the customers and staff alike'.

### **Feature**

#### **GROWTH IN FARMERS' MARKETS**

Since my article in the August/September edition of London Drinker there has been an increase of four more weekly farmers' markets. These as are the former five former farmers markets mainly concentrate on producers within 100 miles of the M25 and some just on the outskirts of London. The idea of farmers markets returning to Britain is the idea of a young American living in London, Nina Planck who grew up on a family run farm and was tired of not being able to buy fruit and vegetables in season.

As is in my last article I will concentrate on the location of each farmers' markets and the nearby pubs where you can relax after buying produce and sample real ale prior to your journey home.

The first one is on every Saturday from 12 noon until 4pm is the Barnes Farmers' Market located just off Barnes High Street, opposite Barnes Green pond and is located in a doctor's surgery car park. The Sun Inn opposite the farmers' market is an interesting building but not worth stopping at as the beer range is not interesting and expensive.

However the best pub I can recommend is the Coach and Horses on 27 Barnes High Street. A Youngs pub, the beers are Youngs Bitter, Special and a Seasonal beer. A former coaching inn it is a friendly single bar pub with wood panelling, open fire and frosted windows showing the days of mail coaches. There is a sizeable beer garden with a children's play area which warns that unattended children will be sold as slaves. Food is served all day.

Hidden in the back streets, of which the quickest way to approach is via a footpath leading from Brookwood Avenue (off Station Road), is the Rose of Denmark on 28 Cross Street. The beers are Brakespears Bitter, Timothy Taylors Landlord and Woodfordes Wherry. This is another friendly local which has a darts and football team with a display of trophies in a display cabinet. The landlord always looks after his beers and is a popular pub for the Richmond and Hounslow branch of CAMRA.

The second farmers' market is the Chiswick Farmers' Market which is held on every Sunday from 10am until 2pm. The market is held north of Dukes Meadow near the corner of Burlington Lane and Edensor Road. It is held in the car park of the Masonian club and at the time of visit the club bar was open but only sells keg beers.

The nearest and best pub which is a ten minute walk up Burlington Lane and is a good stopping

off point before another ten minute walk to Turnham Green underground station is the George and Dragon on 8 Burlington Lane. Beers are Fullers Chiswick, London Pride, ESB, and a Seasonal.

Opposite the Hogarth roundabout and next door to the Fullers Brewery it is a traditional two bar pub with separate public bar with street entrance only and a more comfortable saloon bar with entrance to a rear beer garden. The saloon bar is carpeted with a mirrored fireplace and has an attached function room with a chandelier and old prints. Sunday lunch from 12 until 4pm.

In the opposite direction along Burlington Lane is Chiswick station with an hourly train service. Over the footbridge and a good place to wait for the train is the Grove Park on 2 Grove Park Road. This is Scottish and Newcastle John Barras theme pub serving Courage Best and Directors and is usually cheap for that chain of pubs. The pub has been converted to semi open plan retaining an open fireplace which I am doubtful is used. The pub is still popular with the locals who mainly stay in the former public bar area to watch Sky TV and family groups with children stay in the former saloon bar area where all day food can be obtained.

The third Farmers Market is the Palmers Green Farmers Market(N13), held on Sundays from 10am until 2pm in the Palmers Green station car park on Aldermans Hill. The best pubs are up to a 20 minutes walk away.

The first one is the Woodman on 128 Bourne Hill and is on the way to Southgate underground station. Beers are normally Bass, and two guest beers and at the time of visit were Black Sheep Bitter and King and Barnes Sussex Bitter. The pub has been converted from two cottages with three separate rooms. The front room has a small bar with pump clips around the bar, (in October the bar is likely to be moved towards the rear of the room exposing the original fireplace).

## **Feature**

The rear room has its own bar which is open when busy with tables along the side of the room. To the left of the front room is a veranda area which is normally set aside as a restaurant. Towards the rear of the pub is beer garden with children's play area and a car park for non drinking partners. Sunday lunch can be obtained from 12 until 6pm.

The nearest pub to the market is the Whole Hog(Wetherspoons), on 430-434 Green Lane which has the usual range of Courage Directors, Theakston Best, Sheperd Neame Spitfire, Greene King IPA and 1 guest beer. Converted from shop premises the pub is split level with two bars with a wheelchair lift to the rear drinking area. Usual all day food.

Further up Green Lane and towards Winchmore Hill can be found the Orange Tree on Highfield Road. The beer range is Greene King IPA, Adnams Bitter and 1 guest. The pub is a regular GBG entrant and has won the Enfield and Barnet branch of CAMRA branch pub of the area in 1999 and 2000. It is a single bar pub with a collection of ceramic pots and jugs and a pleasant beer garden towards the rear. The pub also hosts a local darts team. Sunday roast is served from 12 to 2.30pm, otherwise all day sandwiches.

The final and fourth Farmers' Market is the Blackheath Farmers' Market(SE3), situated at the Blackheath Halls uphill from Blackheath station on the corner of Lee Terrace and Lee Road and is held on Sundays from 10am until 2pm.

There are three real ale pubs in Blackheath village overlooking Blackheath Common. The first one is a Scottish and Newcastle TJ Bernard pub is The Crown on 49 Tranquil Vale. Beers are Courage Best, Directors, Greene King IPA, Abbot, Morlands Old Speckled Hen and two guest beers. The pub is a small and friendly one bar local catering for mainly tourists and has not been spoilt by the usual open plan decor of S&N style. The pub still maintains a snug by the front window and a small area towards the rear. There is an outside front drinking area where in 1890 a William Hailey started a practice of hanging a leg of mutton on the top of the pub sign pole and selling tickets to the local lads to climb the poll. Sadly this practice has stopped. Usual all day

A short walk away is the Hare and Billet at 1a

Elliot Cottages. A Hogshead pub with the usual beer range of Flowers Original, Boddingtons Bitter, Youngs Special, Fullers London Pride, Wadworths 6X, Greene King IPA, Abbot and 1 guest. A one bar pub with soft furnishings towards the front raised seating area with fireplace and a period bookcase towards the rear. Usual all day food.

Across Blackheath Common on 1a Montpelier Road is the Princess of Wales. Beers are Bass and Fullers London Pride. The pub has two bars, the front bar(Heath bar), retains the original advertising of Old Tom Liquer. There is a separate bar to the side of the pub which is more spacious and leads to a curtained ceiling veranda. there is rear beer garden and during warm sunny days drinkers can sit on the common but only with plastic glasses. Sunday roast lunches are available.

Information on Farmers' Markets can be found on the web at www.londonfarmersmarkets.com or by post to London Farmers' Market Ltd, 6 St Paul Street, London, N1 7AB

ALEX LANGFORD





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## Brewery News

#### Winter Warmer is on song again

Young's Winter Warmer, the award winning dark draught beer from Wandsworth has made its seasonal return at a celebration breakfast.

Regulars and invited guests at the White Cross, by the Thames at Richmond, enjoyed pints of the 5% real ale along with food from a buffet groaning under the weight of bacon, eggs, black pudding, kidneys, liver, hash browns and kedgeree.

Winter Warmer - winner of a world championship and two gold medals in the Brewing Industry International Awards in the past eight years - is available now until March next year.



The picture shows live music from Elaine and Kindred Spirit Entertains (left to right) Young's chief executive Patrick Read, landlady Phyl Heggie, deputy chairman James Young and landlord Ian Heggie

#### Young's honour veteran director

The man who wrote the first advertisement on British television has now marked an outstanding achievement in the brewing industry.

Brian Palmer, who devised the Gibbs SR toothpast commercial at the dawn of Independent Television in 1955, has divided his working life between advertising and brewing since he completed his National Service as a Royal Artillery officer in 1949.

He has been a director of Young's Brewery in Wandsworth, south London since 1965 and has just been accepted into the exclusive 35 club for directors and employees who have chalked up 35 years' service.

He was presented with a silver 35 Club tankard by his second cousin, John Young, who is chairman of Young's. Both men are greatgreat-grandsons of the founding father of the company, Charles Allen Young, who bought the 16th century brewery in 1831.

Young's, which is Britain's oldest existing brewery, produces some of the country's best known real ales, stouts and lagers.



The picture shows John Young (right) filling Brian Palmer's silver tankard with champagne.

#### Young's expand to South Coast

Young's have expanded to new territory by buying their first two pubs on the South Coast.

The London independent brewers have acquired the Sussex Brewery, an 18th century traditional inn near Emsworth, Hampshire, and the Grog and Sausage, a modern bar in Southampton city centre.

Both were owned by Malcolm and Pamela Roberts, who are now retiring. Their son, 34 year old David Roberts, is to stay on in charge of both pubs with his partner Elisabeth Hay.

The Sussex Brewery, which is in the hamlet of Hermitage, just across the West Sussex boundary from Emsworth, was called Dirty Dick's until a now defunct brewery was set up on the premises in 1976.

The pub - which was bought by the Robert's family in 1984 - is listed in the Good Beer Guide and the Good Pub Food Guide and is recommended by Egon Ronay for its local fish and 50 varieties of sausage.

The Grog and Sausage, a former baguette shop in The Strand, opened up as a bar in April. It, too, has a menu containing 50 different sausages.

Young's, who now have 187 tied houses in London and the Home Counties, are on the look out for more pubs and potential pub sites.

## Brewery News

## Pubs' football tournament benefits disabled people

London brewers Young's have raised almost £2,000 for charity with a five-a-side football tournament.

Twenty-one teams from Young's pubs and the brewery took part in the competition at Fulham FC's training ground at Motspur Park.

The money, which was raised through entry fees from the teams and sponsorship from Coca-Cola and United Biscuits, went to the Disability Living Foundation, which aims to give disabled people greater independence.

The teams, which came from all over London and Surrey, played group matches, quarter finals and semi-finals before the Sekforde Arms, Clerkenwell, beat the Plough, Beddington, in the final.



The picture shows - Marie Iles of the Disabled Living Foundation presenting the winners' trophy to the team from the Sekforde Arms.

#### Sweet Smell of Success for licensee Geoff.

Licensee Geoff Young took his green fingers with him when he moved the short distance through the Surrey suburbs from Oxshott to Claygate.

Geoff was a regular winner of awards in the Young's Brewery annual gardens competition when he ran the Bear at Oxshott.

Now he and his wife Christine, who are no relation to the Young family at the brewery, have picked up the top prize in the contest for their amazing gardening skills at the Foley Arms in Claygate.

They were named overall winners of the 2000 competition at a ceremony at Guildhall in the City of London after coming second in the sections for patios or yards and for gardens.

The picture shows Geoff Young with the winner's trophy.

Full Results
Front of house: 1.
Ship, Rotherhithe; 2
Clock House,
Peckham Rye; 3
Grapes, Wandsworth.
Highly Commended:
Princess of Wales,
Merton; Mitre
Richmond.
Patio or Yard: 1



Alexandra, Wimbledon; 2 Foley Arms, Claygate; 3 Grapes, Wandsworth

3 Grapes, Wandsworth
Garden: 1 Grapes, Wandsworth; 2 Foley Arms,
Claygate; 3 Hope and Anchor, Brixton. Highly
Commended: Railway Bell, Norwood.
First time entrants: 1 Red Lion, Radlett; 2
Riverside, Chelmsford; 3 Gloucester, Croydon.
Highly Commended Ship, East Grinstead; Royal
George, Walton on Thames; Angel, Roehampton;
Dog and Bull, Croydon.

## North Yorks. Brewing Company Beers.

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or A.V.S Gravesend Kent 01474 537767

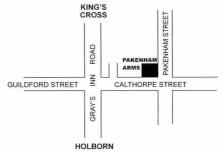
## HUGE CASH REWARD

Missing from the "**Pakenham Arms**', N°1 Pakenham Street, London WC1

Hundreds of gallons of real ales from the following breweries -Fullers, Young, Slaters, Adnams, Ringwood, Fisherrow and many more.

All the beers were of the very best quality - there seems no doubt that the parties who have partaken of these ales are well satisfied, as they would have returned (or at least complained) about them.

The Breweries have kindly replaced these missing ales so that they can be enjoyed by all her majesty's law abiding subjects, and any others who would like to imbibe in these fine ales during the months of December & January.



#### SCENE OF 'CRIME'

Notice prepared by your local real ale enforcer

## Pat Mulligan

(otherwise known as 'The Guvnor'!

0207-837-6933

## Branch Update

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

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

December - Wed 13 (8.0) Crawl of notable pubs in Chiswick area, starting at The Tabard, 2 Bath Rd., W4 (near Turnham Green tube). - January - Wed 10 (8.0) Business Mtg., Royal Oak, Tabard St., SE1. Anyone interested in pub preservation and design is welcome at both events.

#### BEXLEY.

December - Wed 13 (8.30) London Pub of the Year presentation and Bexley branch 25th anniversary celebrations. Robin Hood and Little John, Lion Rd. Bexley Heath. - January - Wed 10 Branch meeting. The Volunteer, Church Rd. Bexley Heath. - Thu 25 Burns night social. Robin Hood and Little John, Lion Rd. Bexley Heath.

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

December - Sat 9 (8.30) Christmas Social.
Princess Royal Longley Road West Croydon. Thu 28 (8.30) Last Social of the 20th Century!
Royal Standard 22 Longley Road Croydon.
January - Thu 4 (8.00) First (two pub) Social of
the 21st Century! Lion Pawsons Road Croydon
then (9.30) Fishermans Arms Windmill Road
Croydon. - Tue 16 (8.30) Social. Orchard,
Orchard Way Shirley. - Thu 25 (8.30) Branch
Meeting. Windsor Castle Carshalton.

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

## **ENFIELD & BARNET.** Derek Smith 0208-805 1436 (H & W).

December -Tue 5 (9.00) GBG promotion. Gilpen's Bell, 50/54 Fore Street Upper Edmonton. Wed 13 (9.00) Social Rising Sun, 137 Marsh Lane, Mill Hill NW7 Bus 251. Sat 16 (7.00) Xmas meal. King Willian IV, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, EN5. Details and bookings to Tony Roberts 020 8492 9673. £5 deposit, £15 per head. Meet in the bar from 6.30 pm. Buses

84,383. Tue 19 (9.00) Social. Maddenps, 130 High Road, East Finchley, N2. - January - Mon 1 (from 12.00) 'Cobweb Social'. Orange Tree, 18 Highfield Road, Wynchmore Hill, N21 - Note the new venue this year.

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

November - Thu 30 (8.30) London Club Of The Year Presentation. Surrey County Staff Club, Penhryn Road, Kingston. All branches welcome. - December - Thu 7 (8.30) Branch Meeting. The Bishop Out of Residence, Riverside, Kingston. -Wed 13 (7.15) Minibus trip to Surrey Pub of The Year Presentation at The Scarlet Arms, Walliswood. Depart New Malden 7.15, Surbiton station 7.30, Epsom 7.45, return 11.30. Book by 8th December, cost £9.00. - Sun 17 (12.00 noon) Lunchtime visit to Wimbledon, Meet Alexandra, depart 1.00 for The Swan, Hand in Hand, Fox and Grapes and back to Wimbledon Village. -Wed 20 (8.00) Branch Christmas Dinner. The Berrylands, Chiltern Drive (near Berrylands station), cost £14.50 deposit of £5.00 by 13th December. - January - Wed 10 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Lamb, Acre Road, Kingston. - Tue 16 (7.30) Evening meal at Noodles, near New Malden Station. Meet B Wons then after meal to Royal Oak. - Tue 23 (8.00) Lick and Stick session (AGM invites). Surrey County Staff Club, Penhryn Road, Kingston.

### **NORTH LONDON.** Gary White 07005 355399, email: gwhitegeog@bigfoot.com.

December - Tue 5(8.00) Branch Social. Pigs Ear Beer Fesatival, Stratford Town Hall (Details from Gary). - Mon 11(8.00) Branch Social and Christmas Party. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1. - Tue 19 (8.00) Branch Social. Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road WC1. - January - Mon 1(Lunchtime onwards) Branch Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1.

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

www.jobin.freeserve.co.uk/rhcamra1.

December - Tue 5 (8.30) Open branch meeting, Royal Oak, 128 Worton Road,

## Branch Update

Isleworth. - Fri 15 (7.30 for 8.00) Christmas dinner. The Lion, Wick Road, Teddington for a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings for £15 per head. A vegetarian option is available. Call Brian now to book your menu choice. - January - Wed 10 (8.30) Open branch meeting, White Hart, 70 High Street Hampton. All members are invited to bring their nominations for the 2002Good Beer Guide. - Thu 25 (8.00) Richmond crawl. Starting at the Victoria, Hill Rise, then the Angel & Crown, Church Court at 9pm and finishing in the White Cross, Water Lane at 10pm. Timings are understandably approximate for the later pubs especially if we fail to pass other pubs on the way.

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

December - Mon 4 (8.00) Branch/committee meeting. Crystal Palace Tavern, 193 Crystal Palace Road, East Dulwich SE22. - Thu 7 (7.00) Social. Pigs Ear Beer Festival, Old Town Hall, Stratford Broadway. - Sat 16 (8.00) Christmas Party. Market Porter, 9 Stoney Street SE. - Wed 20 (8.00) Social. Cricketers, 93 Chislehurst Road, Orpington. - January -Tue 9 (8.00) Branch/committee meeting. The Royal Oak, Tabard Street SE1. - Wed 17 (8.00) Social. Crystal Palace Tavern, 105-107 Tanners Hill SE8. - Tue 23 (7.30) Branch Annual General Meeting. Shipwrights Arms, 88 Tooley Street SE1 - 7.30pm. - Tue 20 (8.00) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting, Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich SE10.

**SOUTH WEST ESSEX.** Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H). Emial: swessex@clara.co.uk. Web site: www.swessex.clara.net

December - Wed 6 (8.30) Branch Social. Pig's -Ear Beer Festival, Old Town Hall, Stratford, London E15 (near Rail and Bus Stations). - Wed 13 (8.30) Social. Stag, Brentwood Road (A128, nr A113), Marden Ash. - Wed 20 (8.30) Christmas Social. White Horse, 173 Coxtie Green Road, Coxtie Green, - Thu 28 (8.30) Festive Crawl in Romford Town Centre, Starting in The Lamb, 5 Market Place, then Golden Lion, 2 High Street (9.00), then Hogshead, 113/117 South Street (9.30), finishing in Moon & Stars, 99/103 South Street (10.00). - January - Thu 4 (8.30) Branch Social. Chelmsford Winter Beer Festival, Anglia Polytechnic University "Placcy" Bar, Chelmsford (near Rail and Bus Stations). -Fri 12 (8.00 - 12.00) Branch 25th Anniversary Social. "The Lodge", Corbets Tey Road,

Upminster. Tickets ,7 including Buffet from Wendy Benson on 01708 723897. If you remember the 21st Anniversary Do at the same place - you weren't there!! - Wed 17 starting (8.30) Grays Mini-Crawl. Starting in Grays Athletic Football Club, Bridge Road, then Theobald Arms, 141 Argent Street/Kings Walk (10.00). - Thu 26 (8.30) Out of Area Burns Night Social. Prince of Wales, Woodham Road, Stow Maries. Further Details/Changes for January will appear in January's 'What's Brewing' and on our web site.

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

December - Thu 14 (8.00) Christmas antisocial. PRIORY ARMS, 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8 (upstairs room). Food provided - charge of approx £5 per head. All members welcome - names to Branch Contact please by 4 December. - January - Wed 10 (7.30) Open branch committee meeting (AGM motions, GBG deletions and shortlisting). SULTAN (Ted Higgins Bar), 78 Norman Road, South Wimbledon.



## BEER? WINE? SPIRITS? LIQUEURS? SOMETHING UNUSUAL OR HARD TO GET?





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3 BOURNE PARADE, BEXLEY

## Social

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

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

#### **DECEMBER EVENTS:**

Wed 6 (7.00). The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020-) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Thu 14 December (7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Christmas meal upstairs at the Edward VI, 25 Bromfield Street, Islington, N1, (020) 7704 0745. We were only here in October when they had Wadworth's 6X and Fuller's London Pride. We'll have menu details nearer the time. If you intend just to turn up contact the pub direct to confirm your place and menu choice.

Sat 30 (Late afternoon) Brighton social - a meal in the Mariner's Kitchen, in the basement of The Bedford Tavern, 30 Western Street, (01273) 739495. Generally has Harvey's Best Bitter, Charles Wells Bombardier and (excellent but deadly) O S Hen. Menu details etc. as per Ed VI, above.

#### JANUARY EVENTS:

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

Sat 13 (6.00) Brighton social. The Queensbury, Queensbury Mews, by the seafront, just to the east of Regency Square – which is towards Hove from the centre of Brighton. Reputedly Brighton's smallest pub, also known as 'the Hole in the Wall'; a small friendly locals pub; Greene King IPA. Then at 7.30 The Bedford Tavern, 30 Western Street, (01273) 739495, and see above. The local of a few of the group – always a warm welcome – but watch out for the O S Hen....

Fri 26 (7.00) The Mayflower, 117 Rotherhithe Street, Rotherhithe, SE16. Greene King pub near Rotherhithe tube (towards the river) – not gay but convenient to meet in and at 8.30 move onto (by bus and/or foot) to The Fort, 131 Grange Road, Bermondsey, SE1, (020) 7237 7742. Generally has a Young's beer from their range. Rather dark – not for the faint hearted... However we were made very welcome indeed last time we went – please try and make it.

#### **BRANCH UPDATE (contd)**

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

December - Wed 6 (8.00) Branch Auction. Weat Herts Sports Club (viewing from 7.30pm). - Sat 9 Branch 18th Birthday Party. Details from Martin Few 01923-252412. - Fri 15 Xmas Curry. Details from branch contact. - Thu 28 Branch Xmas Ramble. Details from John Hurrel 01923-673164. - January - Fri 5 (8.30) Bushey Social. Swan 8.30pm. - Thu 11 (8.30) Watford Social. Estcourt Tavern, then Wellington 9.00pm, Estcourt Arms 9.30pm. - Fri 19 London Pub Crawl. Details from branch contact. - Sun 28 (8.00) Branch Committee Meeting. West Herts Sports Club 8.00pm.

#### WEST LONDON.

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

December - Wed 6 (8.30) Branch Meeting.
Duke of York, Steyne Road, Acton. - Tue 12
(8.00) Two-pub Branch Social. Railway, Station
Road, & De Burgh Arms, High Street, both West
Drayton. - Fri 15 (18.48) Branch Christmas
Party. Drayton Court Hotel, The Avenue, West
Ealing. - Thu 28 (8.00) Two-pub Branch Social.
Old Northwood, Pinner Road, & Sylvan Moon,
Green Lane, both Northwood. - January - Wed 10
(8.30) Branch Meeting. Load of Hay, Villier
Street, Uxbridge. - Thu 18 (8.00) Winter Warmer
Branch Social. Bridge, Western Avenue,
Greenford. - Wed 31 (9.00) London Drinker
Pick-Up. Red Lion, St Mary's Road, Ealing.

Deadline for the February / March edition, 12th January. Material for April / May to arrive by 9th March. Please be sure to send all diary material to Dave Oram (LDEditor@tesco.net).

#### Dear Editors,

Al Ferrier, [Oct/Nov] makes some interesting points about how 'free' some pub chains which describe themselves as freehouses actually are. In the case of Wetherspoons they are clearly about doing deals on barrelage with brewers, large and small, to offer cask beer at reasonable prices. That may suit me in the short term as a drinker, but it raises longer term problems for any campaigner for real ale. The squeeze on brewery margins that Wetherspoons and others achieve to sell beer cheaply benefits larger breweries who can compete more easily. It would be better if beer prices came down all round by a reduction in duty instead.

However it is a confusing world and confusing times for real ale campaigners. Wetherspoons are also putting the products of smaller regionals and micros on the bar across the country, as a matter of policy, where this is becoming progressively more difficult to achieve elsewhere. To put it bluntly if you want a tasty pint from a microbrewery in North London then, with a handful of honourable exceptions, you have a choice of Wetherspoons or, er, Wetherspoons.

The point is that while the interests of real ale campaigners, pubcos and breweries can never be the same, we need to criticise when need be, and support when appropriate as well. If Wetherspoons ever do decide to scale down their commitment to guest ales then they deserve criticism in a big way. At the moment genuinely free or not they are the only show in town in many parts of London. That doesn't make me happy, but it is a reality we need to recognise.

Keith Flett Tottenham

#### Dear Editors,

I cannot let the destruction of the public bar at The Waggon and Horses, Surbiton pass without comment. This is the final straw in the process of 'knocking through' of bars and carrying out other insensitive alterations to Young's pubs in the Royal Borough of Kingston that I have witnessed in my 25 years of drinking in the area. There is of course one exception to this which is the Bishop Out of Residence in Kingston, but as it was only built in the early 80's, had little to ruin, and only remains a two bar pub because the only way of changing this would be to remove the upper storey of the building altogether, I don't think it counts.

Let us examine the evidence, starting with the worst atrocity which was the removal of the separate drinking areas with their fine glass screens from the front of the Victoria in Surbiton. In carrying out the work, the opportunity was also taken to take out the glass doors leading into what was once the billiard room and subsequently a room where meetings such as the founding meeting of Kingston and Leatherhead CAMRA could be held. No such meeting could be held there now as there is no way of closing it off to make it quiet enough. In recent times a lot of the cut glass in the front windows seems to also have disappeared.

We then move to the Albert Arms on Kingston Hill. The public bar here was thriving, attracting its own community, but I suspect they were the 'wrong type of customer'. In removing the public a nice little 'snug' bar was removed in the name of progress.

I will admit that the Black Lion in Surbiton had an under-used public bar, but that was mainly because it was kept locked a lot of the time! That of course, has also gone.

Although the Grey Horse in Kingston only had one bar in the front at the time I started going into it, it did have a nice bar with a gantry that served to divide the pub into 'public' and 'saloon' ends. First the gantry went, then the rest of the bar followed, leaving one non-descript room.

Finally we come to the Spring Grove in Kingston, where I cut my Young's drinking teeth. This had a totally separate public bar as well as a saloon that was neatly divided into a front and back section with differing clientele. First the public bar went, then most of the front to back divide, taking with it the bar billiard table that had proved so popular with generations of students. At the same time, the pub was decorated in a sort of 'country farmhouse' style that is hardly in keeping with a Victorian town pub.

So there we have it. At least the 'Green Room' at the Waggon has survived this time round, but for how much longer. I'm sure that Young's are pleased that their 'tour of destruction' is complete but I for one am very disappointed, especially as a fan of Young's beers for 25 years.

John Norman Chessington

#### Dear Editors.

I am currently doing the Fuller's pub passport and have done 41 pubs so far. Two of the pubs I would particularly recommend are the Star in SW1 and the Earl Radnor in N1.

The worst Fullers pub I have visited so far is the Green Man in Harlesden which only had keg beer despite the fact it has handpumps. I have sent a letter of complaint to Fullers (see copy below).

Colin Price

#### Dear Sir/Madam.

I am currently doing the Fullers passport tour and visited the Green Man in NW10 on the afternoon of 27 October 2000 and was most disappointed. The pub seemed rather dingy and worse than that, when I asked for a pint of London Pride I was served with a pint of keg despite the fact that the pub has handpumps. The pub is also listed as having handpumps on the pub list.

I appreciate that NW10 is a poor area for real ale but it has the Coliseum (Wetherspoon's) and the Grand Junction Arms (Young's), so it is possible to run a good real ale in the area.

The current situation gives customers of the Green Man a very poor impression of Fullers and it is misleading to list the pub as having handpumps when they are not used. If you feel that it is not possible to run the Green Man as a real ale pub could I suggest you consider disposing of it and reinvesting the profits in a pub somewhere else.

Colin Price And Fuller's reply.

#### Dear Mr. Price

re: The Green Man, Harlesdon, NW10
Thank you for your letter regarding your recent visit to the Green Man. Unfortunately, the trade at this establishment has declined in recent months resulting in our tenant having to cease dispensing cask ale. As you will appreciate, cask ale is a 'live' product and deteriorates if not used in a reasonably quick time.

With regard to the future viability of this outlet, as a Fuller's house, as your letter surmised, the present situation is probably untenable.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence and I wish you well in your travels to complete the 'Fuller's Passport' promotion.

David Seymour Tenanted Area Manager And Mr Price's final comment

#### Dear Editors.

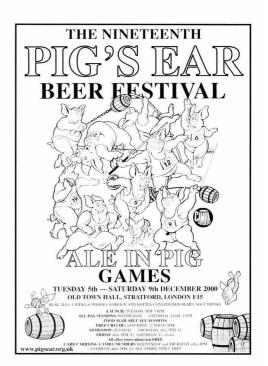
I wrote to you recently about my visit to the Green Man in NW10 and told you that I had written to Fullers. I have now got a reply from Fullers.

In the letter Fullers refer to the pub having a tenant in charge. Presumably the tenant has more control than a manager would and can not be forced to sell real ale. The tenant would no doubt say that the pub's customers do not want to drink real ale so there is no point in trying to sell it.

In the letter Fullers do say that the situation is probably untenable. Presumably the tenancy agreement precludes them from closing it or selling it.

This illustrates the strength and weakness of having a tenant instead of a manager. The tenant has more freedom to run the pub how he sees fit so long as he pays his rent on time and buys his supplies from the brewery. This is a good thing in that a tenant has less interference from the brewery but a bad thing in that if a customer is unhappy complaining to the brewery has less effect.

Colin Price



#### Dear Editors,

As you no longer print my update articles your readers will just have to put up with brewery press releases to read. But all is not lost as all latest pub information including the East London & City Beer Guide can now be obtained from the web via www.keith.emmerson.btinternet.co.uk

Maybe someone can tell me what they think of it? Any suggestions would be most welcome. It lists all the pubs that were in the guide when it was published in 1991. Twenty-seven updates have been integrated into it. Omissions are new drinking establishments calling themselves wine bars/bars/brassieres or cafes that don't sell real ale. Don't be surprised to find over 90 pubs still listed as selling Charringtons IPA, it's because I haven't received notification to the contrary. The only thing it doesn't have are maps - yet. Any ideas for new ones? If you have any East End pubs news then contact me 020 7250 7751 (work) or e-mail

keith.emmerson@btinternet.com

Maybe there should be a web page site on London Drinker? Their website www.londondrinker.co.uk seems to be empty but I notice that OTT (the newsletter of South East Essex) has one and their tome can be read on the web via www.inebriate.freeserve.co.uk . All we need now is for London Drinker, What's Brewing and the Good Beer Guide to do the same?

Keith Emmerson

#### Dear Editors,

I recently visited Putney High Street to visit the Fullers pub, the Whistle and Flute, for the Fullers passport. On the way there I noticed that the Youngs pub, the Old Spotted Horse, was closed for building work. There was no indication how long this work would last or what the building would be like when the work will be finished.

Two other Youngs pubs have gone this year, the Tamworth in Croydon. and the Wickford in Loughborough Junction. Is this the start of a disturbing trend? Have readers noticed any other closures or changes?

Colin Price

#### Dear Editors,

Oh happy day! Colin Price at last concludes his odyssey across the myriad postal areas of the metropolis with a letter to thank everyone for putting up with probably the most boring feature ever to be printed in the Drinker!

Now, I dare say Mr Price is a dedicated ale

lover and all-round good egg, but issue after issue we had to had content with 'it was Tuesday so it's SE4' or 'I reached the Queen's Legs at 4 pm but it was shut' (probably saw you coming, mate!) and my patience was starting to wear thin. If one of his columns was bad enough, I seem to remember in last year's final issue that there were no less than three of them! Thank goodness that Christmas is a busy time socially...

I've nothing against pub crawls - I've written a few of my own - but can we have copy from writers who actually possess flair and insight? This would help to make the Drinker a better read - great at any Price!

Al Ferrier

The Editorial Team would welcome new contributors whether the offerings be pub reviews, pub crawls or features on the beer or pub scene - Ed.

#### Dear Editors,

What a pity the cover of London Drinker shows Garden House SW15. This became Brown's about 9 months ago!.

Jane Brooks

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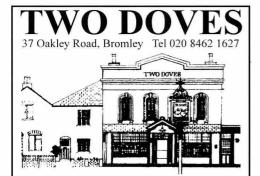
#### Dear Editors,

Normally, I can quite understand and excuse 'literal' errors of the kind that from time to time occur in your organ. 'The Drunken Linda', as an occupational hazard in the production of a journal devoted to drinking matters. But there was an obvious and unforgivable typesetting error in the letter from Mr. Emmerson on page 12 of your October/November issue. The meaning of the sentence "I can think of a few pubs that converted to bars/brassieres that went keg" was completely lost. Clearly, the correct spelling should have been bras/brassieres, and I think your readers and indeed your correspondent deserve an apology for the unfortunate error.

Peter Walker Croydon

#### The Editors' Reply,

We had several problems with the production of the last issue of London drinker. The first problem being that my PC threw a complete wobbly and refused to work. This meant that we had to volunteer someone into typing/producing a lot of the copy into a format for the printer. Unfortunately, our volunteer was neither a beer



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drinker nor a member of CAMRA. The second problem was that my 2 month old daughter and 2 year old son do not understand the concept of giving their dad 'some peace and quiet' to do any work or allowing him to have a reasonable amount of uninterrupted sleep every night. Hopefully, my future errors will add to the article by making the readers laugh. (None of the errors are intentional). - *Ed*.

#### Dear Editors,

West London Branch of CAMRA has just made a discovery - a real ale pub in its area which has gone unreported — for 28 years. Although the pub has never appeared in any guide, it was known to a few people, but never listed.

The GREEN MAN in Harrod's, Knightsbridge (SW1) is on the lower ground floor and is not easy to find (ask at the information desk), but is a genuine English pub with decent beer. After having several owners it is now a free hours serving, at present, two beers from Fullers, but more regional beers are expected in the future. For a premium price of £3.10 a pint it offers a 'manor house' style with a cosy, comfortable atmosphere under a gilded ceiling and featuring a fine fireplace.

It opened in November 1972 after being a Gentleman's club; now, however, women too are allowed in to meet with the modern age!. Smart dress and a large bank balance are not optional. Visit during shop hours after 11.00am and normally closing at 7.00 pm. It is closed on Sundays.

Ray Prior.

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## Crawl -

#### **OXFORD STREET PUB GUIDE**

It is almost inconceivable that 150 years ago there were nearly 40 pubs along Oxford Street! These were gradually whittled down to just 8 by the mid-1950's and now it is well known that the Tottenham (6 Oxford St., near Tottenham Ct. Rd. station) can rightly claim to be the only pub "on" Oxford St. Others may be visible from the street, but without the prestigious address. Whilst the Tottenham may be an attractive pub, with its well-preserved ceiling bosses and colourful mirrors, it can hardly be worth a visit for ale lovers, having only 2 or 3 predictable beers at high prices.

So where can you go for a decent pint if you need a break during that once-in-a-lifetime shopping trip the wife/partner insists on doing? (Sorry ladies, only meant it as a joke). Well here is a purely personal review of the pubs just off the street, or within a minute or two's walk, based on 20 years experience of working and (naturally) drinking in the area, with a few recommendations, working from east to west, from Tottenham Ct. Rd. tube to Marble Arch.

Off on the right is Rathbone Place with the **Black Horse** (Bass - but no real ale), then further up is the **Wheatsheaf** (Scottish & Newcastle) and at the top end facing you is the **Marquis of Granby** (Bass). Don't bother with any of these, or with the ale-less Sam Smiths pub the **Bricklayers Arms** lurking in a side street. Ignore also the new themed bars the other side of Oxford St., e.g. in Soho Street/Square, and in nearby streets.

Next on the left is Dean St. where you can see the **Bath House**, a Whitbread pub which has not been "Hogshead-ised" and is nothing special, nor is the **Nellie Dean** (S&N) further down the street.

Back on the right again is Newman St. with Sam Smiths' **Blue Posts** (formerly called the Rose & Crown) which has recently connected up a couple of handpumps again to serve OBB, but, as with other Sam's pubs in the area, it may not be up to scratch, and like most of their pubs it tries hard to deny its ownership, which is only obvious once you are inside and see the drinks range, ash trays and perhaps a clock.

Wardour St. then goes off to the left. The first pub is Wetherspoon's **Moon & Sixpence** with obviously the cheapest pints in the area, although the standard is sometimes disappointing. A little further on is the **George**, a magnificent pub with some fine mirrors (e.g. for Meux & Co's ales), but now only with Tetley and 6X since the Punch Taverns takeover. Further along on the other side of Wardour St. is the **Ship**, a Fuller's pub with consistent quality.

Continuing again along Oxford St., Wells St. is next on the right. The first pub is **Ben Crouch's Tavern** (formerly the Holyrood), an S&N pub done in the Eerie Pub Co. style, i.e. with mock artefacts depicting dungeons, executions, and all things weird and sinful. Best ignored as is, unfortunately, the **Champion** on the next corner, an ale-less Sam Smith's pub which is a pity, because its magnificent stained glass windows depicting sporting and other national heroes are best viewed from inside.

On the opposite side of Oxford St. is Berwick St. and the **Green Man**, (why does the pub sign show a blue man?) a Bass pub which has undergone a couple of refurbishments and extension in recent years, and is now an All Bar One in all bar name. Further down is another **Blue Posts**, a very basic S&N pub right at the start of the market, where a half of Websters on a recent visit was £1.25! Do not confuse this pub with yet another Blue Posts further along in Rupert St. (the other side of Shaftesbury Avenue) which is in the 2000 GBG.

The next turning on the left off Oxford St. is Poland St., where the **Kings Arms** almost seems to be denying its presence. This is a GBG-listed gay S&N pub (Theakston Best and Courage Directors) although it does get tourists/shoppers at lunch times and regulars say the beers are always in good condition. Almost opposite the Kings Arms is the **Coach & Horses**, an unpretentious Whitbread pub with Boddies, 6X, etc., plus a guest or two (usually including Taylor's Landlord), but not with a Hogshead-style range. A pub where the disinfectant smell from the toilets is prominent.

Gt. Portland St. runs off to the right just before Oxford Circus and on the left you will see **Mash**, an ultra-modernistic restaurant which has its own micro-brewery at the rear (listed as Mash 2 in the GBG, the London branch of a Manchester-based operation called Mash & Air). You are expected to eat here, and their ales are kept under a gas

## Crawl

blanket. Up the road on the corner is the **Cock**, a Sam's pub which has had handpumps recently reinstalled to serve the OBB. Exceptionally Sam Smith's name is featured on the frosted glass windows, something which was done before they decided to become anonymous. A little further along on the same side is the **George**, a magnificent Greene King (ex-Bass) Victorian pub, which is friendly and has the full Greene King range (apart from the Martha Greene's) including often their Mild and seasonal beers.

Argyll St., home of the London Palladium, is on the left just before the station, and here is the ex-Allied-Domecq (Nicholsons) brilliant Victorian gin-palace, the **Argyll Arms**. Sadly even before the sell-off to Punch the beer range had diminished. You may still however find Adnams Bitter, plus Tetley, Greene King IPA and London Pride, but undoubtedly the days of the annual Nicholsons beer festivals are over. However the pub is worth a visit just to admire the interior which is reminiscent of the Princess Louise in Holborn, but still retains numbered cubicles, and the barmaids who are all tall and slim and attractive (the guv'nor must know a specialist staff agency). At the end of Argyll St. you will see the **Fanfare & Firkin** (ex-Dog & Trumpet) in Gt. Marlborough St. (at the start of Carnaby St.), alas now without any Firkin-brewed ales (just Adnams and Bass), and the mock-Tudor frontage of Liberty's store, to the right of which is the narrow Kingly St. with the Clachan, another Nicholsonbadged pub which, even under Punch Taverns' control still has Taylor's Landlord as a regular guest and Addlestones Cloudy Cider is usually available on handpump. However cellar practices have been a little dubious in recent years. There are other pubs in Kingly St., but that is getting a bit away from Oxford St.

Dotted around Oxford Circus are a couple of All Bar Ones, a Greene King café-bar, and one or two other modern bars, but this is a pub review, so we'll forget about those.

Immediately west of Oxford Circus, on the right, is John Princes St (basically a bus terminus) at the end of which is the **Phoenix**, a Punch Taverns ex-Allied-Domecq pub, surrounded by scaffolding at the time of writing, but still open. No more guest ales here now, and they must be well in the running for winning the "slowest and most inept service in London" award.

Just before New Bond St., on the left, is Dering St., a peculiarly numbered T-shaped street, in which there are 2 pubs, the **Duke of York** (S&N)

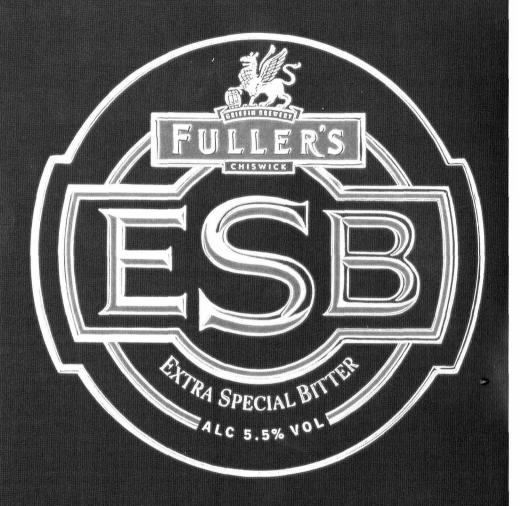
where the Theakston/Courage beers are fine if that's what you want, and the **Hogshead**, a pub much enlarged by Whitbread from a tiny original Wethered pub called the Bunch of Grapes. Here you will find the best beer range in the area. Regulars are Adnams, Brakspear, Boddies, Pedigree, 6X and London Pride (Whitbread version), as well as one or two regular guest ales on handpump or gravity and a cider (usually from Inch's) on handpump. The twice-yearly beer festivals are well supported - 30 or more different ales over a 2/3 week period. This pub has been GBG-listed for 2001, but since publication the manager has moved on. Hopefully nothing will change.

One arm of Dering St. joins New Bond St. (as it is called at this end - Old Bond St. being at the Piccadilly end, there being no Bond St. as such as the Monopoly manufacturers and London Underground would have you believe) and if it is a quality Fuller's ale you want turn right off New Bond St. into Brook St., then left into the narrow Avery Row where there is the Fuller's Ale Lodge (formerly a small Yates's Wine Lodge) with a master-cellarman landlord. No soiled clothing/boots please - it is after all just behind Claridge's Hotel. (Note Sat. opening times are 12.0 to 5.0 pm).

Back on Oxford St., next on the left is Woodstock St. with 2 S&N pubs opposite each other, the Woodstock (branded T & J Bernard, i.e. expensive) and the **Spread Eagle** (unbranded, so not quite so expensive). Both have reasonable ale quality, and the Woodstock usually a guest ale. At the end of the street is a fizz-only O'Neills which has recently been repainted and renamed **The Last Bid.** Is this the end of the road for O'Neills?

Off to the right of Oxford St. at this point is the winding Marylebone Lane. If you follow it, crossing over Wigmore St. and ignoring the Cock & Lion (S&N, but badged as Simonds) and the Pontefract Castle (Bass; long gone are its glory days when it was one of the best pubs around for guest ales from regional and independent brewers - what memories!), past the O'Conor Don (formerly the Coachmakers Arms - Guinness plus Irish-style food - in the last 5 of the Evening Standard's pub of the year this year) you will come to the Golden Eagle, an atmospheric small Bass pub which regularly has Brakspear and Adnams beers, including seasonal ones, and sometimes a second guest. They like the Brakspears here - they used to like Morrells too alas! Lunches are centred on Biggles sausages, whose shop you will have passed in the Lane.

## EXTRA SPECIAL BITTER



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## Crawl

Continuing west on Oxford St., you will now unfortunately see the **Hog in the Pound** (S&N) to the left at the top of Davies St./South Molton St. Avert your gaze; ignore at all costs; do not be tempted by their outside tables. The beer is crap and expensive and short measures are the norm. A real tourist rip-off. If you want ScotCo beers go a little further down Davies St. to the **Running Horse**, just before Claridge's, where the beers are better quality and around 30p a pint cheaper (but only open Mon-Fri.).

Almost opposite the entrance to Bond St. underground is the pedestrianised Gees Court which leads to St. Christopher's Place (signposted as such off Oxford St.) but apart from leading up to the aforementioned Pontefract Castle the only other pub this way, at Barnett St. where the "place" opens up, is the Lamb & Flag, another S&N pub badged as Simonds, plus a Guinness/Caffreys-specialist bar called Three Cheers almost opposite. Not worth the detour.

Duke St. then crosses Oxford St. To the north the first pub is the **Henry Holland** (Whitbread) a 1930's art deco style pub named after Whitbread's architect at the time. Here they still persist with the Strangeways-brewed Flowers Original, plus 6X and perhaps the Whitbread version of London Pride. Further up, over Wigmore St., (almost into Manchester Sq., home of the free-entry Wallace Collection), is the **Devonshire Arms**, a lively Bass pub where you can always have their version of London Pride for comparison (to the Whitbread version). This pub has a fine collection of china plates and jugs and a display of saucy seaside postcards. You will have passed a fizz-only place called the **House of Sports** last time I saw it (formerly Macey's), and around the corner in Picton Place a very food-orientated **All Bar One**.

Down the southern part of Duke St., towards Grosvenor Square, is the **Barley Mow**, one of the better S&N pubs in the area (excellent Director's). A well-patronised pub with a top quiz team who were Evening Standard finalists this year.

Good pubs now become hard to find. After Selfridges, Orchard St. (the start of Baker St.) runs north where the **Cask & Glass** (S&N) is not worth the bother. To the south runs N. Audley St. in which is the **Marlborough Head**, a huge recently revamped S&N pub (yes, another one) but branded the "Eerie Pub Co." like Ben Crouch's Tavern earlier in this round-up. It only has Courage Best.

Accessible from Orchard St., or the next street along which is Portman St., is Portman Mews

South, which houses the **Three Tuns** (S&N again) which might have a couple of regionals' beers in addition to the usual range.

You're running out of options now (consider going back to the Hogshead?). Next turning to the right is Old Quebec St. where the **City of Quebec** (S&N of course, who else?) is now fizz-only although it does have a selection of Belgian bottled beers. It is quite gay in the evenings, particularly downstairs.

If you are desperate now and don't want to backtrack you do at least have one saviour. Go up Gt. Cumberland Place to the right, 2nd left into Seymour St., then right into Seymour Place and you come to the **Carpenters Arms**, a friendly, intimate, basic GBG-listed free house. The regular ales are Courage Best, Websters and London Pride, but they usually have 3 guests on. Alternatively, if you carry on down Seymour St. to Edgware Rd. you will find on the corner Wetherspoon's new all-glass and chrome edifice **The Tyburn**.

Being in a predominantly office and shopping area, with tourist hoards also, every pub around Oxford St. does food, at least at lunchtimes, sometimes during the afternoons and some into the evenings, e.g. Wetherspoons and Hogsheads where you will find special "2 for 1" offers after normal lunch hours. Elsewhere quality and value does vary considerably. Many pubs, unlike most shops now, are closed on Sundays and may only open for limited times on Saturdays (mentioned where known).

Finally apologies if any pubs have changed names, or beers, or have closed down since my last visit. If I have omitted any pubs it is probably for a good reason. For example I was going to give directions to Sam Smith's **Dover Castle** in Weymouth Mews but on a recent visit the OBB was total vinegar and the young unknowledgable staff would only say "Well, it is real ale you know"!

Roy Hurry

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## -Pub of the Year

#### THE ETERNAL STAR - WEST LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

The STAR TAVERN in Belgravia (SW1) wins West London Branch's Pub of the Year 2000. This well known Fuller's pub, which has appeared in every edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide was a popular choice in an area of outstanding pubs.

Although hidden in a mews off fashionable Belgrave Square the Star has built up an enviable reputation for good beer and friendly service within a comfortable and unchanging pub atmostphere.

The phograph (at right) shows Ray Prior, Chairman of West London Branch, presenting the certificate to T.J. and Christin Connell. licensees of the Star Tayern.

Fuller's marked the event with the usual refreshments appreciated by over 20 local CAMRA members who attended. A fine time was had by all and we hope that this pub continues with it's fine ales and will contine therefore to be featured in GBG.



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## Pub News

#### PROTECTION FOR PUBS IN DRAFT PLAN FOR MERTON

Pollowing local CAMRA representations, the published consultative draft of Merton's Unitary Development Plan acknowledges the need to protect community pubs against pressures for inappropriate development.

Policy on protection of facilities states, 'The Council will not normally grant permission for development which will result in the loss of arts, cultural, entertainment and religious facilities in use by the community, except where the present use is an inappropriate use of that land, or suitable replacement facilities are provided in a location close to the original site.'

the London Arts Board and other local and national bodies as appropriate when considering proposals involving a loss of facilities. Loss of public houses, especially those that have other community uses (meeting rooms etc.), in residential areas will be resisted, except where it is no longer economically viable and there is equal alternative provision in a nearby, accessible location.'

South West London CAMRA warmly welcomes the draft policy statement and will strongly support its implementation.

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.

## The Brewery Tap

John and Heather welcome you to the newly refurbished Brewery Tap - still the same wonderful pub!

#### **Five rotating Cask Ales**

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## — Bits & Pieces—

## BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL

South West London Branch regret to announce that there will be no Battersea Beer Festival in February 2001. It is not possible to guarantee that renovation works to the Battersea Grand Hall will be finished in time and there are no other suitable venues. We have every intention of being back in 2002.

#### **EAST LONDON NEWS**

O'Hanlons have a new bottled beer called Port Stout which is 4.8% ABV. This will be in all the Safeway supermarkets nationwide. The beer is enriched with Ferreira Port but sadly it is not bottle conditioned.

Pitfield Brewery in Hoxton, London have two new bottled beers: Organic Lager 3.7%ABV and Christmas Ale 6.0% ABV, which is also organic. The beer is spiced up this year with cinnamon and cloves. Both beers are bottle conditioned.

Another Brewery to go organic is Marble Brewery of Manchester. Registered to brew organic and vegan beers from 10 October, 2000.

City of Cambridge Brewery have produced a bottled beer called Parker's Porter 5.3% ABV. This is bottle conditioned and has been exclusively brewed to celebrate the 19th Pig's Ear Beer festival. Five hundred bottles have been produced and will only be available at the festival

Keen Massey East London and City CAMRA

#### 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

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## **Feature**

#### THE FUTURE OF BEER IS GREEN

A reported in the last edition, the interest is organic beers is increasing all the time. The demand for organic food and drink has taken off in recent years, but brewers have been slow on the uptake, says Roger Protz, writing in the 2001 Good Beer Guide.

Supermarket chain Waitrose estimates that ten per cent of its beer brands will be organic within the next few years. But the development of organic beers has been held back by industry conservatism and the lack of raw materials. Supply of organic grain and hops is increasing, but at the moment the majority of organic hops are imported from New Zealand, and malt from France and Germany. This increases the costs, forming a major deterrent to hard-pressed small brewers who would like to make the change.

The only regular grower of organic hops in England is Peter Hall at Marden in Kent, whose entire crop is snapped up by Caledonian of Edinburgh for their Golden Promise, the best known organic beer which is sold both in cask conditioned and bottled form. The name originated from the Scottish malting barley originally used, although Caledonian have now switched to Chariot as the original became too

expensive. The beer may revert if current plans to team up with a whisky distiller and farmers' co-operative to produce a regular crop at an affordable price.

Despite all these problems, some brewers are making the move. Following the success of Eco Warrior, the Pitfield Brewery off Old Street has converted all its beers this year, although owner Martin Kemp bemoans the cost of importing hops from the other side of the world. The beers are available, although rarely, in cask form, and are also sold from the adjacent Beer Shop in Pitfield Street. The Organic brewery in Cornwall produces just one ale at present, and will add to the range as more supplies become available.

Other organic beers currently produced include Fullers Honey Dew and Brakspear's Ted and Ben (both brewed in spring), Bateman's Yella Belly (November-December), and St Peter's Organic Ale.

## Enjoy Brakspear beers at Christmas and throughout 2001





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## Capital Pubcheck

#### **UPDATE 156**

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.

This time we welcome two new Wetherspoon pubs in SE1 Elephant & Castle and SE4 Brockley. We record no fewer than three new Bierodrome Belgian bars in EC1 Farringdon, WC2 Kingsway and SW6 Fulham and two new Fullers bars, also in Farringdon and Kingsway, although only the latter, a 'Fine Line', offers a cask beer. The latest Bass 'All Bar One' has opened in Croydon, a 'Poet' Free House in the City and a Tom Cobleigh family pub in SW19 Merton. David Bruce's latest venture, 'Honeypot Inns' has resulted in Brakspear's beers becoming more widely available in London. The end of the 'pseudo-Oirish' theme pubs seems closer with both Fullers and Whitbread converting examples back to standard pubs. Bass appears to be confusing us all by doing likewise with some of the existing 'O'Neill's' whilst at the same time converting some of its recently acquired Firkins to new 'O'Neill's', ripping out handpumps and brewery equipment in the process. Pub closures and conversions to other uses continue across 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, 2rd 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, BIERODROME, 71 St John St. No (British) real ale. New outlet for fast expanding Belgian bar and restaurant chain, opened June 2000 in former restaurant premises. 7 keg Belgian beers including the well respected De Koninck and Straffe Hendrick and many bottled beers (several bottle conditioned). Corridor leads through into rather gloomy bar area with light wood and cream decor. Stairs lead up to mezzanine bar (available for hire for functions). Separate restaurant area to side. Belgian food. Open 12-11 Mon-Thurs, 12-12 Fri/Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

EC1, ONE OF 2, 67/69 Cowcross St. No real ale, H unused. New Fullers café-bar opened February 2000 in former restaurant premises. Contemporary cream decor with polished flooring, mixture of tables, chairs and sofas and south facing outside terrace at rear. Sadly only bottled London Pride is available, together with draught Hoegaarden. Open 12-11 Mon-Fri only.

The other 'ONE OF 2' is in Old Broad St, EC2, already reported in Update 151.

EC1, STREAM, 51/52 Long Lane. No real ale. Bar and eaterie in former commercial premises. WC2, BIERODROME, 67 Kingsway. No (British) real ale. The latest opening for the Belgian chain in mid November 2000 in former bank premises. The emphasis here is on the beer bar with a small restaurant/eating area to the right side. The same range of beers as EC1 (above). Black polished floor, white painted walls and ceiling with low tables and stools at the front and benches and tables to the left of the bar. Belgian food. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, closed Sun. WC2, FINE LINE, 77 Kingsway. Fuller: London Pride. New Fullers bar opened in November 1999 in former building society and shop premises, but not previously reported. Cream and pale yellow decor, large windows, polished wooden flooring, light pine furniture and purple sofas with matching rugs. Abstract paintings, mirrors. Optional table service and emphasis on food and cocktails. Open for breakfast, 7am-11pm Mon-Fri only, closed weekends.

## Capital Pubcheck

#### **UPDATE 156 continued**

WC2, SHOELESS JOE'S, Temple Place. No real ale. Large barn of a bar above Temple tube station opened in early 1999 by small Free House bar/restaurant chain.

#### EAST

E1, POET, 82/84 Middlesex St. Adnams: Bitter, Broadside; Courage: Directors Bitter; Marston: Pedigree; Wadworth: 6X. New Free House opened in former commercial premises. Utilitarian decor with cream polished walls, yellow lighting, purple pillars, polished light pine flooring, granite bar top and exposed ventilation ducts. Busts of poets at side. Food, disabled WC. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri only.

**E2, EARL GREY**, 272 Bethnal Green Rd. Brakspear: Bitter (E80, U98, U99)

**BARKING, CAFE RIVIERA**, Ibis Hotel, Highbridge Rd. No real ale. Free House/hotel bar open to public.

**BARKING, PREMIER LODGE BAR**, Premier Lodge Hotel, Highbridge Rd. No real ale. Free House/hotel bar open to public.

#### NORTH

**N19**, **SHAFTESBURY**, 534 Hornsey Rd. Courage:Best Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. (N145).

#### NORTH WEST

**NW10, CHARLIES WINE BAR**, 236 Neasden Lane. No real ale. Free House in former shop premises.

NW10, DICEY'S, 289 Neasden Lane. No real ale. Free House in former shop premises. EDGWARE, CONWAYS 2, 34 South Parade, Mollison Way. No real ale. Irish themed Free House in former shop premises.

**WEMBLEY, CROCK OF GOLD**, 23 Bridge Rd. Courage: Directors Bitter. New small Free House in former shop premises. Open all permitted hours.

#### SOUTH EAST

SE1, BELUSHI'S (OF COVENT GARDEN), 161 Borough High St. No real ale. A bar/café/diner in former commercial premises SE1, WETHERSPOONS, 125 Newington Causeway. Courage: Directors Bitter; Morland: Old Speckled Hen; Theakston: Best Bitter; 4 Guest beers. Latest Wetherspoon Free House, opened early November in former bank premises under block of flats, formerly 1960s DHSS offices, 'Alexander Fleming House', now renamed 'Metro Central Heights'. Blue fluorescent name and yellow awnings brighten up the rather sombre grey frontage. Inside, the bar area is divided into three: café style along the front with slatted wooden chairs and metallic tables; the main tiled bar area with white painted ceiling, brown and blue pillars and mixture of chairs, tables and stools, with a small rounded bar; and a rear, raised, carpeted no smoking/eating area with yellow and blue decor. Local history panels are largely confined to lining the walls en route to the toilets. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours. SE4. BREAKSPEARE ARMS, 184 Brockley Rd. Renamed BROCKLEY BARGE. Courage: Directors Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beers. Former Courage pub, closed for 6 years, refurbished and reopened as a Wetherspoon Free House. The name refers to the former Surrey Canal which passed nearby. Doors at front and to side, cream, light and dark green decor, tiled flooring predominating with green carpeting at rear. Mixture of chairs, tables and stools around pillars. History panels highlight famous people who lived locally including Edgar Wallace and Henry Williamson (the original intended new name for the pub, rejected after his right wing credentials became apparent!). Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

CROYDON, ALL BAR ONE, 10 Park Lane. Draught Bass; Fuller: London Pride. Large two storey Bass run bar, opened September 2000 in part of brand new mixed use development. Fitted out in typical style with cream and green decor, large windows, pine flooring, ceiling fans, church chairs, clock etc. Stairs lead up to first floor balcony bar overlooking main bar area. Board games available, piped music, food, disabled WC. Open 12-11 Mon-Wed, 12-12 Thurs-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

**CROYDON, BAR MED**, Unit 2, 2-8 Park Lane. No real ale. Latest branch of the Free House chain in same development and next door to All Bar One.

**CROYDON, ELEPHANT BAR**, 24 South End. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises

## -Capital Pubcheck-

#### **UPDATE 156 continued**

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), GREEN MAN, Lower Ground Floor, Harrods Department Store, 87/135 Brompton Rd. Guest beers (Fuller: London Pride, Red Fox on visit) at £3.10 a pint (£1.60 half pint)! Originally opened in November 1972, this instore previously fizz only 'pub' was noted in the early days of CAMRA West London branch but somehow never found its way into the subsequent comprehensive SW London guides. Full marks to the current branch chairman for rediscovering it! Fitted out in 'traditional' style, it has the appearance of a manor house room with bronze gilt ceiling, fireplace, wood panelling, comfy chairs and stools, with old maps and pictures adorning the walls. TV for sport but otherwise fairly quiet. May increase beer range. Open 11-7 Mon-Sat, closed Sun. SW6, BIERODROME, 678/680 Fulham Rd. No (British) real ale. Another outlet for the fast growing Belgian speciality chain, opened August 2000 in former restaurant premises. 7 keg Belgian beers and around 70 in bottles (many bottle conditioned). Bar and drinking area at front with eating area at rear and separate table service/restaurant area to side. Predominantly brown decor. Wide range of Belgian food.. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. SW10, FRONT ROOM, 246 Fulham Rd. No real ale. Newest outlet for small café-bar chain.

opened October 2000 in former restaurant premises.

SW16, WATERFRONT, 426 Streatham High Rd. No real ale. Free House, bar/restaurant opened March 2000 in former bank premises. Draught Hoegaarden available.

SW19, KISS ME HARDY, Priory Retail Park, Christchurch Rd. Courage: Directors Bitter; Guest beer

(Courage Best Bitter). A Tom Cobleigh Free House in brand new building opened October 2000, with one large space divided into main bar and smaller public bar areas. The main bar is food and family orientated, with baby changing facilities and separate play barn. Carpeted, with dark wood and brown painted walls and nautical furnishings. The public bar area has large screen TV, pool table and is child free. Named after famous last words of former local resident. Convenient pedestrians entrance from High Street, Colliers Wood. Open all licensed hours.

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## Capital Pubcheck

#### **UPDATE 156 continued**

#### WEST

**TEDDINGTON, CLARENCE HOTEL**, Park Rd. Reopened and renamed **PARK (THE)**. No real ale, H removed. Refurbished as a café/bar/restaurant attached to new hotel development behind. (W146, U62, U94, U153) *CENTRAL* 

EC1, DRUM & MONKEY. Whitbread, closed April 2000. (E15)

EC1, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Free House, confirmed converted to pizza restaurant. (E15, U98, U146, U150)

EC3, COCK & WOOLPACK. Free House, closed and in block, awaiting redevelopment. (E39, U131)

EC4, 34 LUDGATE HILL. Wolves & Dudley (ex-Eldridge Pope). Acquired and converted to wine bar/restaurant by Jamies chain. No draught beers. Formerly SLURPING TOAD. (U131, U154)

EC4, BAR EXCELLENCE. Renamed SHOELESS JOE'S, H removed. Former Eldridge Pope bar now sold by Wolves & Dudley to small bar and restaurant chain. (U139, U147) EC4, MASTER GUNNER. Young, now demolished. (E51, U67, U110, U152) EC4, WHITE SWAN TAVERN, 28/30 Tudor St. S&N, now demolished and site being

W1(May), O'NEILL'S, 21 Old Burlington St. Renamed BACK DOOR. Bass, H removed. Formerly BURLINGTON BERTIE. (W38, U75, U90, U101)

redeveloped. (E56, U106, U152)

W1(Mar), BUBBLES. Free House, converted to restaurant. (W38)

#### EAST

**E1, ALMA**. Free House, closed, future uncertain. (E57, U108, U120) **E1, THREE CROWNS**. Inn Business, closed, future uncertain. (E74, U71, U136)

**E1, ARTICHOKE**. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and gutted. (E60)

**E1, PRIDE OF STEPNEY**. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), closed and boarded up. (E71)

**E1, PRINCE OF WALES**, 14 Waley St. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and boarded up. (E71)

E1, QUEENS HEAD, 83 Fieldgate St. Free House, converted to Indian restaurant named Tayyabs (and not a pub called Taggles as

erroneously reported in Update 120). (E72, U98, U120)

E1, RAILWAY ARMS Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and boarded up. (E72)
E1, ROYAL DUKE. Ex-Grand Met (Truman) closed and boarded up for about five years.
Formerly DUKES. (E65, U72, U108)

**E1, SHIP ON THE GREEN**. Free House, closed, future uncertain. (E73)

**E1, THREE CROWNS**, Inn Business, closed May 2000. (E74, U71, U136)

**E2, BRITANNIA**. Ex-Ascot, closed, future uncertain. Formerly CHILTONS. (E79, U70, U99)

**E2, CAVALIER.** Free House, converted to offices although signage is still present. (E79, U73, U83, U93)

**E2, DOLPHIN**. Phoenix, pub and brewery signs now removed. (E80, U69, U112, U131)

**E2, PARTNERS**. Free House, closed and used for storage. (E83)

**E2, PERS**, 125 Gosset St. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed, future uncertain. Formerly PERSEVERANCE. (E83, U109)

**E2, PICKLES**. Free House, closed, future uncertain. Formerly NORFOLK ARMS. (E83, U74)

**E2, PRINCE OF WALES**, 59 Barnet Grove. Free House, converted to residential use. (E84, U59, U110)

**E2, PRINCE OF WALES**, 1 Teale St. Ex-Magic, still closed and boarded. (E84, U98, U99)

**E2, SEPTEMBERS**. Ex-Bass, now demolished. (E85, U108)

**E5, OLD KINGS HEAD**. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), closed and boarded up. (E100) **E8, PEMBURY TAVERN**. Ex-Grand Met (Truman) and Banks & Taylor, closed and boarded up. (E114)

**E11, THATCHED HOUSE**. Free House, closed and boarded up. (E130, U125)

**E14, ENTERPRISE**. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed. (E144, U138)

**E14, LOVAT ARMS**. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), closed, future uncertain. (E146)

**E16, ANCHOR**. Phoenix, closed.. (E157, U112)

E16, BRITISH FLAG. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and boarded up. (E157) E16, MARQUIS OF SALISBURY. Free House, closed. (E159, U71, U144)



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## Capital Pubcheck-

#### **UPDATE 156 continued**

**BARKING, STAG.** Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), site now developed for Lidl supermarket. (X12, U155)

**DAGENHAM, PIPERS**. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), closed and due to be demolished for housing. (X45)

#### **NORTH**

**N1, JAYS**. Ascot, closed, semi-gutted, future uncertain. (N48)

#### N2, HUNGRY HORSE (MANOR

**COTTAGE**). Greene King, closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (N66)

N4, BECHERS. Renamed BLARNEY

**STONE**, ex-Labatts, no real ale. (N73) **N6**, **BULL**. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker),

converted to 'Idaho' restaurant. (N81)

N7, LION (BEER ENGINE). Whitbread,

closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (N88, U109)

**N15**, **BLACK BOY**. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed, future uncertain. (N123)

N15, PRINCE OF WALES. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and under conversion to residential use. (N125)

N15, SILVER LADY. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), now converted to a community centre. (N125, U138)

N17, HERON WINE BAR & BRASSERIE. Free House, closed and for sale. (U140) N19, FAVOURITE. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), demolished and site redeveloped for flats.

(N143)

#### NORTH WEST

**NW1, CAPT CUTLERS.** Free House, closed due to fire damage. Formerly LORD NELSON. (N169, U130)

**NW1, LAUREL TREE**. Bass, closed and boarded up. (N169)

**NW3, CASTROS**. Free House converted to a pizza restaurant. (N184)

**NW3, LOAD OF HAY**. Ex-Bass, closed and for sale. (N188)

NW5, NEWBERRY ARMS. Now a Free House, ex-Wells, closed and boarded up. (N200) NW8, EXETER ARMS (BEER ENGINE)

Whitbread (correction to N guide), closed and boarded up. (N214, U136)

**EDGWARE(HA8), BROADWAY**. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), closed and for sale. (N255)

**EDGWARE(HA8), WHITE LION**. S&N, demolished and site cleared for development. (N257)

#### SOUTH EAST

SE1, DOVER CASTLE, 6A Great Dover St. Renamed DOVER, Free House, H removed. (SE14)

SE1, RED LION, 280 Borough High St. Renamed RUSE. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), H removed. Formerly BUNTERS. (SE12, U102, U123, U124)

SE4, GOLDEN DRAGON. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), closed, future uncertain. (SE51, U102)

SE13, GREYHOUND. Ex-Grand Met

(Watney), converted to residential use. (SE120)

SE18, COOPERS ARMS (PLAISTED'S). Free House, closed and for sale. (SE166)

SE18, CROWN & CUSHION. Ex-Grand Met

(Watney), closed following fire. (SE166)

**SE18, DOVER CASTLE**. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), demolished. (SE167)

**SE18, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE**. Phoenix, closed, future uncertain. (SE167, U112)

**SE18, ROYAL OAK**. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), converted to Barnfield Estate community project centre. (SE173)

SE18, VILLAGE BLACKSMITH. Free House, closed, future uncertain for one time CAMRA Investments pub. (SE174)

**SE28, ROYAL ARSENAL**. Free House, closed, future uncertain. Formerly WILDFOWLER INN. (SE231, U120)

#### SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), BAR EXCELLENCE. Renamed SHOELESS JOE'S, H removed. Former Eldridge Pope bar now sold by Wolves & Dudley to small bar and restaurant chain. (U130) SW4, LARKHALL TAVERN. Bass, closed

and boarded up. (SW60))

**SW8, BELL**. Inntrepreneur, closed and boarded up. (SW76)

SW11, RAVEN. Phoenix, closed (SW90) SW12, PITCHER & PIANO. Wolverhampton & Dudley, closed, future uncertain. (SW93)

**SW18, LORD PALMERSTON**. Inntrepreneur, planning permission now granted for conversion to flats. (SW113, U153)

**KINGSTON, TWO BREWERS**. Free House, closed and due for demolition. (SW144) *6/00* **MITCHAM, LORDS**. Free House, now converted to shop. (SW146)

## -Capital Pubcheck-

#### **UPDATE 156 continued**

#### WEST

W5, PHOTOGRAPHER & FIRKIN. Renamed O'NEILL'S. Another former brewpub now in Bass hands lost to the outdated 'pseudo-Oirish' theme. Brewing equipment and handpumps removed.. (U105, U152)

**W9, BIDDY MULLIGANS.** Greene King, closed. Formerly EARL OF DERBY. (W83, U98, U117)

**BRENTFORD, PLOUGH.** S&N, closed for site redevelopment (which may also close the Waggon & Horses, with a new pub being built facing the river). (W99, U94, U107)

**FELTHAM, ROSE & CROWN**. Free (Grosvenor Inns), closed and boarded up. (W100, U80, U99)

HAMPTON HILL, JOLLY GARDENERS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and likely to be demolished for housing development. (W105, U94)

HOUNSLOW, DUKE OF YORK, 678 Hanworth Rd. S&N, closed and rumoured to be up for sale. (W126, U99, U107)

#### CENTRAL

EC1, LORD RAGLAN. -beers listed; +Brakspear: Bitter; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Gales: HSB; +Marston: Pedigree; +Wells: Bombardier; +Guest beers. Now badged by S&N as part of the T&J Bernard chain. (E20, U106)

EC1, POETS CORNER. Renamed PAVILION. -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; +Draught Bass; +Morland: Old Speckled Hen. (U130)

WC2, EDGAR WALLACE. -beers listed except Boddington: Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wadworth: 6X; +2 guest beers (e.g. Rebellion). Now part of Whitbread's 'Hawkins & Co' estate, ex-Hogshead. (W53)

WC2, ROUNDHOUSE. -beers listed except Theakston: Best Bitter, Old Peculier; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Greene King: IPA; +Marston: Pedigree; +Guest beers from micros. Now part of S&N's T&J Bernard estate. (W56, U58, U77) WC2, ROUND TABLE. -beers listed except Theakston: Best Bitter; +Greene King: IPA; + Theakston: Old Peculier; +Guest beers from micros. Now part of S&N's T&J Bernard estate. (W56, U48, U77)

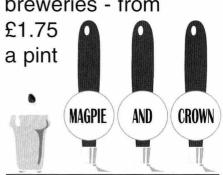
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## Capital Pubcheck

#### **UPDATE 156 continued**

W1(F), HOLYROOD. Renamed BEN CROUCH'S TAVERN. -beers listed;

+Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. Badged as part of S&N's 'Eerie Pub Co', formerly Younger. (W29, U52, U89)

W1(Mar), COCK & LION. Now badged by S&N as part of the 'Simmonds' chain. (W34, U89, U106)

W1(Mar), LAMB & FLAG. Now badged by S&N as part of the 'Simmonds' chain. (W34, U89, U106)

W1(May), MARLBOROUGH HEAD. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. Now badged as part of S&N's 'Eerie Pub Co'. (W39, U90, U101, U106)

W1(May), O'NEILL'S, 22/23 Woodstock St. Renamed LAST BID. (U118) W1(May), WOODSTOCK. Now badged by S&N as part of the T&J Bernard chain, ex-Younger. (W40, U82, U90)

**EAST** 

E1, PEWTER PLATTER TAVERN, 9/11
Folgate St. Now simply PEWTER PLATTER.
-beers listed except Fuller: London Pride;
+Brakspear Bitter, Seasonal beer; +Guest beer.
Free House now leased by David Bruce's new
'Honeypot Inns' chain, a joint venture with
Brakspears. Note full address. Open Mon-Fri
only. (U79)

**E1, WHITE HART**, 1/3 Mile End Rd. -beers listed; +Brakspear Bitter, Special, Seasonal beer. Free House now leased by 'Honeypot Inns'. Good value meals. Note full address. (E125) **E2, HALFWAY HOUSE**. Renamed **ATOMIC**, now a music bar. (E81, U99)

**E8, OLD SHIP.** + Brakspear Bitter. Former Courage pub, now owned by Unique and leased to Honeypot Inns. (E114)

**E10, FOUR FINCHES.** Should read **FOUR FINCH'S**. Formerly ALMA. (E123, U105, U113)

#### **NORTH**

N4, ROBEYS. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), name removed but appears to function as an infrequent music venue. Note correct title. (N77)
N6, PRINCE OF WALES ALE HOUSE. Now simply PRINCE OF WALES. -beers listed; + Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter; +Theakston: Best Bitter. (N82)

N6, ROSE & CROWN WINE ALE & CIDER. Now simply ROSE & CROWN. -beers listed except Flowers: Original Bitter. (N82)
N7, LAMB TAVERN. Also displays LAMB HOTEL on side frontage. Erroneously listed under GIN PALACE in N guide. (N88, U109)
N15, WOODBERRY HOTEL. Renamed WOODBERRY TAVERN. (N125)

#### NORTH WEST

**NW1, CASTLE**. Renamed **VERGE**. now a café-bar and club. (N163)

NW1, DILLONS Renamed FRANK CHARLIES. Now a Free House, ex-Grand Met (Courage). Still no real ale. Formerly

(Courage). Still no real ale. Formerly CLARENCE. (N163, U132)

**NW1, PRINCE ALBERT**, 11 Princess Rd. Now simply **ALBERT**. (N172)

NW1, WINDSOR CASTLE. -Brakspear: Seasonal beer. Brakspear's sole London pub, now managed by Honeypot Inns. (N177, U131, U144)

NW5, FAMOUS ASSEMBLY HOUSE. Now reverted to simply ASSEMBLY HOUSE. (N198, U117)

NW5, MAMELON TOWER. Renamed MAN OF ARAN, still fizz only. (N199) NW5, PEMBROKE CASTLE. Now simply

PEMBROKE. (N171) NW5, ROYAL. Renamed LION &

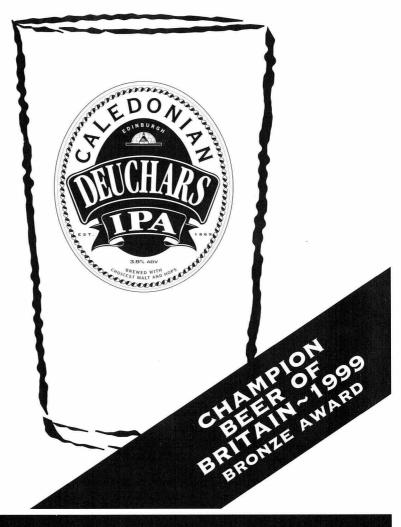
UNICORN, still no real ale, H unused. (N200) NW6, PRINCE OF WALES, 101 Willesden Lane. Now badged as part of S&N's 'WJ & J Sanderson' estate. (N205, U149) EDGWARE, BIG HAND MO'S. Reverted

back to BEEHIVE. (N255, U120)
EDGWARE, CAILI BAR. Renamed OSCAR
WILDE. Formerly SMUGGLERS COVE.
(N257, U109)

#### SOUTH EAST

SE18, CASTLE. Full name is CASTLE TAVERN. (SE166)
SE18, COMMONERS REST. Reverted to SHIP. (SE174, U145)
SE18, MILLION HARE. Renamed MANHATTAN CAFE. (SE169, U102)
SE18, ORDNANCE ARMS. Now simply ORDNANCE. (SE171)
BECKENHAM, EDEN PARK HOTEL. Now simply EDEN PARK. (3SE204, 8K37)

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**CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH** 

## Capital Pubcheck

#### **UPDATE 156 continued**

CROYDON, O'NEILL'S. Renamed CORNER HOUSE, formerly BLACKSMITHS ARMS. (3SE236, U119)

CROYDON, WIG & PEN. Renamed CR0. - beers listed; +Boddington: Bitter; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. Former Morlands pub now presumably a Free House. Takes its name from the postcode for Central Croydon. (U115)

#### SOUTH WEST

SW3, JJ MURPHY & CO's. Reverted to original name, GROVE TAVERN, which it carried until 1984 (correction to SW guide). - Flowers: Original Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wadworth: 6X. Pseudo-Irish theme dropped and now back in mock-Victorian style and badged as part of Whitbread's 'Hawkins & Co' chain. (SW56)

SW10, FERRET & FIRKIN IN THE BALLOON UP THE CREEK. Renamed LOTS ROAD PUB & DINING ROOM by its new owners, Punch, ex-Allied. Brewery equipment removed. -beers listed; +Brakspear: Bitter (£2.30); +Courage: Directors Bitter (£2.50); +Wadworth: 6X (£2.50). A complete makeover for one of David Bruce's original Firkin brewpubs. Converted into a 'gastro-pub' in October with white painted walls and ceiling, polished wooden floors, chrome bar top and 'exposed' kitchen. Just a few old pews and chairs and ceiling fans remain from its former incarnation. Emphasis on food and wine. (SW84)

SW11, EAGLE TAVERN, 231 Battersea Park Rd. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. Now badged by S&N as part of the 'WJ & J Sanderson' estate. (SW87) SW15, P SHANNON & SONS. Renamed WHISTLE & FLUTE. +Fuller: Seasonal beer or Guest beer. A complete refurbishment in September 2000, with the pseudo-Irish 'tat' removed in favour of a light and airy interior with two smaller secluded areas at the back. (SW103)

CHESSINGTON, FOX & HOUNDS.
Renamed CUNNING HORSE. (SW134, U151)

MITCHAM, WHITE HART. Renamed HOODEN ON THE GREEN. Now Inn Business, ex-Bass. Crass renaming of historic pub. (SW147, U146)

MITCHAM, WINDMILL. -Benskins: Bitter; -Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Ansell: Mild; +Fuller: London Pride. An all too rare outlet for mild. (SW150)

#### WEST

W4, RAILWAY TAVERN. Renamed BOLLO HOUSE. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Refurbished by Greene King with one large bar, pine flooring and furniture, cream painted walls, etc. Glass dome over rear eating area. (W69, U94, U98, U117)

W12, RAT & CARROT (THE

**TRAVELLERS**). Renamed **OLD BULL & BUSH**. -beers listed except Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Greene King: IPA. Formerly
TRAVELLERS REST. Spacious pub with island

bar and pool/games area. Red and blue painted walls. Rear patio area with barbecue in summer. (W92, U93, U98, U106, U117)

W14, SAM WORTHINGTONS. Renamed PRIORY. -beers listed; + Greene King: Abbot Ale (£2.80). Former Morland pub, now leased by Greene King as a bar and restaurant with basement function room. Formerly ROYAL OAK. (W95, U71, U92, U126, U130) HAYES, CRANE. Now badged as part of

HAYES, CRANE. Now badged as part of S&N's 'WJ&J Sanderson' estate. (W117, U107) HAYES, GOLDEN CROSS. Badged as part of Greene King's 'Hungry Horse' estate. (W118, U92, U98, U117)

#### **CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 155**

#### NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.

WC1, SQUARE PIG. Opened August 2000. E3, CROWN HOTEL. Reopened June 2000. SW11, ALL BAR ONE. Open 12-10.30 Sun. SW12, EXHIBIT. Delete reference to Free House.

#### PUBS CLOSED ETC.

N1, MITRE. Address is 130 Upper St.

#### OTHER CHANGES ETC.

WC1, PETERS BAR (now TWO ANGELS). H removed.

N3, GOLDEN EAGLE. Should read GOLDIES

## Looking Back

#### FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO the obituary appeared of Joe Goodwin, the immensely popular Chairman of CAMRA, who had died from a severe asthma attack.

Courage had broken off diplomatic relations with CAMRA following an article in What's Brewing criticising the company's policy, including the impending closure of the Horselydown Brewery.

The movement had begun for non-smoking pubs, and pork scratchings – popular in the North and Midlands, had started to appear on the London scene.

Charles Wells of Bedford had taken over their first London tied house, the Hope & Anchor in Waterloo.

Ruddle's of Oakham was the subject of Michael Clutton's profile of its history and products.

Inspired by the fact that restrictions on children in pubs was relaxing, in 'Banished from the Bar', Adele Jones provided her memoirs of her early days in, and more often outside, pubs in the 50s.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO in his Editorial, Chris discussed the need for later closing times, and described 3 experiences of 'afters' in different locations, two good, and one where only policemen were served after 'time'.

The Warrior, Brixton, advertised a Local Beer Night to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the opening of the long-defunct Brixton Brewery.

The Advertising Standards Authority had ruled that a Carlsberg poster showing the liquid being poured from a handpump was NOT misleading.

A potted history of James White Cider, a very pale and potent drink from Norfolk included an invitation to see, sample and enjoy a discount on their products. In due course it was available in all Firkin pubs.

Alan Millington chronicled a visit to Wilson's brewery in Manchester, and Webster's in Halifax, made by a group of LD contributors, at the invitation of the latter company in response to what they described as a 'scurrilous article' in a previous edition, suggesting that the beer was not brewed there. Alan concluded that it was indeed brewed there, and was a pretty decent pint.

Webster's took a full-page advert announcing 'Yorkshire born and brewed'.

The Department of Trade & Industry was advocating that froth should not be counted as part of a pint, and that brim-fill glasses should be phased out. The NULV and Brewers' Society rejected the idea – small wonder; it would have meant serving a full pint.

The Pitfield Brewery was due to move to larger premises in Hoxton Square, with a

capacity for 50 barrels per week.

Merton presented a potted history of Winchester, to complement the local Branch's recommendation of 18 pubs to visit in the city.

In 'Out of Town' Pat Manson described a visit to Dublin City Centre.

'Firkin Rhyming Couplets' quoted correspondence between David Bruce and Bass, in which the latter objected to the name 'Barbican' for one of the beers brewed at the Pheasant and Firkin, Goswell Road. Unfortunately Bass had registered Barbican as the title of a low-alcohol beer, so the real brew was re-named Barbarian Bitter.

'Family Skeletons' was about Frederick Charrington, born in 1850 to the brewing family, who 'saw the light' and sold his share in the business to become a philanthropist and temperance evangelist.

Mike Moran contributed a scholarly dissertation on Ginger Beer including two recipes.

TEN YEARS AGO Ian Amy presented his first Editorial, and reflected on the seasonal influx of drinkers in pubs, which could cause difficulties in being served.

Asahi Breweries of Japan, who had almost a quarter of the beer market there, was buying a 20% share in Elders, which owned Courage.

The Junction Inn, Southampton, a LD outlet, was featured – it had been awarded CAMRA's Best Pub Refurbishment citation for 1990.

FIVE YEARS AGO Highgate Brewery in Walsall, Britain's only mild-only brewery, had been saved – the newly-formed Highgate & Walsall Brewing Co had purchased it for £600,000.

The Crown, Clerkenwell had re-opened after a £190,000 refurbishment.

Wetherspoon's had opened a new pub in Wimbledon, the Wibbas Down Inn, a £1.5 million conversion of a former supermarket.

Fullers were continuing their programme of seasonal ales with Old Winter Ale, replacing Mr Harry. A bottled version, ABV 5.3%, was also available.

That more or less wraps it up for another year, so all that remains is to wish you the Compliments of the Season, and a happy new REAL millennium.

Cheers!

Martin Smith

## Crossword

#### Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

|    | 1  |      | 2  |       | 3  |    |    | 4  | 5  |                 | 6   |
|----|----|------|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------|-----|
| 7  |    |      |    |       |    |    |    |    |    |                 |     |
| 8  |    |      |    |       |    |    |    | 9  |    |                 |     |
|    |    |      |    |       |    |    | 10 |    |    |                 |     |
| 11 |    |      | 12 |       |    |    |    |    |    |                 |     |
|    |    |      |    | The A |    |    |    |    |    | N.              |     |
| 13 | 14 |      |    |       |    | 15 |    |    |    | NEWSTERN STREET | 16  |
|    |    |      |    | 100   | 17 |    |    | 77 |    |                 |     |
| 18 |    |      |    |       |    |    |    |    | 19 |                 |     |
|    |    | 1/14 |    |       |    |    |    |    |    | 1               |     |
| 20 |    |      |    | 21    |    |    |    |    |    |                 |     |
|    |    |      |    |       |    |    |    |    |    |                 |     |
| 22 |    |      |    | 23    |    |    |    |    |    |                 | THE |

| Na | ır | n  | e |   |   | • |   | •   | • |   | ٠ |   |   |   |   | ٠ | ٠ |   | ٠   |   | ٠ |   |   | ٠ | 96 |   |   | ٠ | ٠  |   | • | ٠ | ٠ | ٠ |   |
|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ac | lc | lr | e | S | S |   |   | •   |   | ٠ |   |   |   | * |   |   | ٠ | • | ٠   |   | • | * | • | , | ٠  | × |   | × | •  |   |   |   | • |   |   |
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| ÷  | ě  | ٠. | • |   |   | • |   | (e) | ٠ |   | ě | ٠ | 8 |   | • |   | ٠ | ě | (e) | ě | • | ě |   | • | •  |   | ٠ | • | ×  |   | ٠ | • | × |   | × |

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

Prize winner will be announced in the May London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the February edition.

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

#### LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



#### £10 PRIZE TO BE WON

#### ACROSS

| 1. | Devil music spells ruin. | (6) |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 4. | River god.               | (4) |

Think again about Jenny? (8)

9. Intend to be tight. (4)

11. Article found in theatre. (3)12. Becomes more untidy? (9)

13. Looking tired, losing heart and going off (6)course.

15. 3.Down destroyed throne. (6)

18. Claiming to be long-suffering? Just the (9)opposite.

19. Not about to make the weight. (3)

20. For a second time lose head and win. (4)

21. If desire is thwarted, find a warm spot. (8)(4)

22. Write to Georgia for garment. 23. Gambler is improving. (6)

#### DOWN

1. I value being angry. (5)

Father's consumed about Jerusalem; very worked up. (10)

3. Creature of popular cult? (6)

5. Crushes relative? (7)

6. Sun is up in the hollow. (5)Fairly attractive. (6)

10. Send soldiers overseas to Turkish capital

illustrating how to behave. (10)(7)

14. I hear it's very big in London. Sensitive nurse.

17. Instrument of French depravity.

(6)18. Dyslexic entered block. (5)

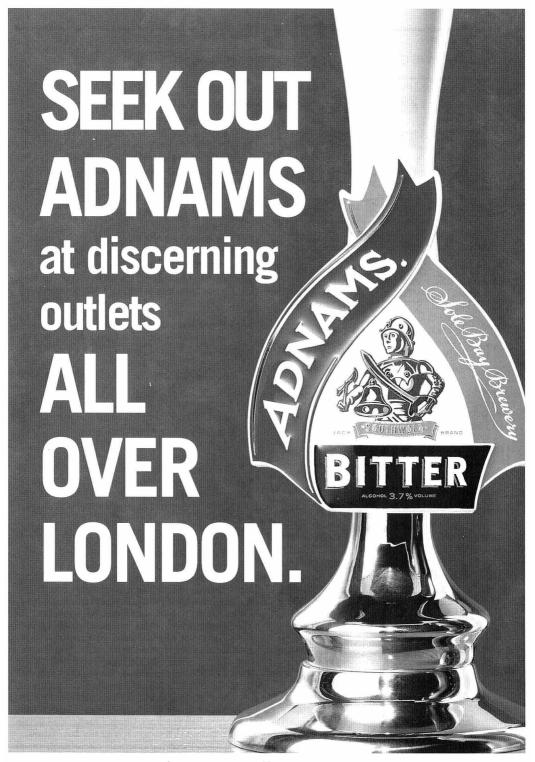
(6)

19. Judge is a hard worker. (5)

Winner of the prize for the August Crossword: Jim Fox, Southsea.

Other correct entries were received from: Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, George Ansell, Mark Antony, Tommy Atkins, Geoff B, C.Battv, John Blundell, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Orson Carte, Neil Chapman, Chris Fran & a spotty dog, A.Comaish, Chas Creasey, Dorothy Crowley, Kathryn Everett, Ribena de Farquar-Toss, The Flowerpot Men, B.H.Fletcher, Michael Flynn, Marion Goodall, Eileen Graves, J.E.Green, John Heath, Billy Hernon, Doug Jarvis, Tom Kemp, Pete Large, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, Terry Neill, Rab Noolas, Mick Norman, Stuart Osgood, Sally "Tin Throat" Osoba, Tony Osoba, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Anne Radley, Lyn Randall, Geoff S, Bryan Smith & Isa Nunes, (The Real) Billy Sollocks, D.J.Stares, Bill Thackray, Chick Tyrrell, Tony Watkins, M. Weedon, P. Wigham, Sue Wilson,

Ivor Wright-Ardon.



## Opinion

#### STRANGE DAYS...

Some time ago, I was drinking in a (former Courage) pub and happened to notice a 'new' nitrokeg draught beer on the bar, Courage Cockerell. I have not seen this beer since that day in any other former Watney/Courage/Truman pub or indeed anywhere else, the preferred nitro in those houses being John Smith's Smooth instead. Can anyone shed any light on this sad product and what became of it and its short-lived stablemate Gillespie's Malt Stout and how many beers is ScotCo still producing on a regular basis (including those in very small amounts)?

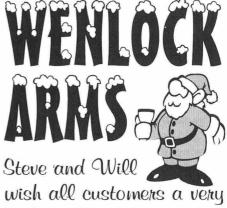
Also, I wonder what brands are still being produced by the majors who have forgotten about their existance but produce them nevertheless. Imperial Russian Stout used to be an example - a beer so obscure that ScotCo themselves had forgotten they still brewed it and didn't remember until it won Best BCA or something at Olympia. It's good to be so in touch with your portfolio!

For what it's worth, I nominate Younger's Light Ale as a formerly-forgotten brew. Strangely, this was rarely stocked by S & N houses and pitched up more often than not collecting dust on the shelves of JDW houses instead. Well, JDW are often more conspicously S & N - based than S & N themselves, enabling one to buy S & N beers there that S & N's own tied pubs don't sell.

So come on: we know about the piddling quantities of Mackeson's that Whitbread brew (and which may now be for the chop under Interbrew) and likewise Mann's Brown Ale, but let's here about the ales that never get as far as their own brewery's on-sale sales material!

Kingston & Leatherhead Gratuitous Beards and Bellies Society

The Editors wish all their readers, contributors and advertisers the compliments of the season and thank them for their support over the past year.



wish all customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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## Idle Moments

Hello again. Well, the fireworks season is over and Christmas is approaching rapidly (or receding if you don't read this until after the New Year) so let me start by proffering the season's felicitations. Now I am sure that you will find yourselves sitting down after just a little too much to eat at some time over the forthcoming holiday wondering what to do to avoid the seventeenth showing of Crocodile Dundee or some such on the old haunted fish tank. I have the solution for you! All you have to do is keep this copy of London Drinker by you and when conversation starts to flag you can use the following little puzzles to entertain your guests. Oh all right then suit yourselves, feel free to fall asleep in front of The Sound of Music.

As regular readers will know I like to start off with a bon mot or aphorism stated by some famous or clever (or both!) person. This month is no exception and I offer this advice from Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President Franklin D:

No-one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

And so to the puzzles. Believe it or not, Through some spark of inspiration I have managed to come up with ten number puzzles that I've not used before - so here they are:

- 1. 1415 B of A
- 2. 028 is the NDC for NI
- 3. 1776 D of I (of the USA)
- 4. 2 D of H the E
- 3458 MBL and NY
- 6. 1603 D of QE the F
- 7. 5 OGM of SR
- 8. 1083 DC is the MP of C
- 9. 2004 OG to be H in A
- 10. 692 F was the L of BGE

Normally at about this time of year I get hold of my new Good Beer Guide and invent some new brewery anagrams from those breweries that are making their first appearance. Unfortunately this year, owing to pressure of work (and the fact that there were some supply difficulties so I even I! - was late getting hold of a copy) I have not yet been through the brewery section so you can still use your 2000 GBG if you want to cheat:

- MEATY LEVEL
- 2. A Y.C. BIRD FIG COMET
- POLLING HUN
- 4. CHAR ROD
- OWE CLUB
- 6. WHAT, WE TIRE?
- 7. KOI SEES FLY
- 8. NON-LAWN DUMP

- 9. WILD FINES
- 10. HAD RUM

As Christmas is a time of peace and love I thought I would subtitle this month's 5BY4 "Lurrve Songs" 'cos they all start with the Lword. All you have to do is match the songs (1 to 10) with the singers (A to J):

- 1. Love Hurts
- 2. Love And Affection
- 3. Love Don't Live here Any More
- 4. Love Is All Around
- 5. Love Song for a Vampire
- Love Child
- 7. Love Is Strange
- 8. Love Me Tender
- 9. Love Is In The Air
- 10. Love On The Rocks
- A. Elvis Presley
- B. Annie Lennox
- C. John Paul Young
- D. Jim Capaldi
- E. Supremes
- F. Joan Armatrading
- G. Everly Brothers
- H. Neil Diamond
- I. Troggs
- J. Rose Royce

There, that was easy wasn't it. Now let's finish with some general knowledge. I can't remember what caused me to be scanning through a dictionary but I found all sorts of interesting words that form the basis for most of these questions. How many do you know?

- What is "persiflage"?
- Gregory powder, invented by Dr. J. Gregory who died in 1822) was made from rhubarb, magnesia and ginger. What was it used for?

## Idle Moments

#### **IDLE MOMENTS - THE ANSWERS**

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

#### NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 1. 50 Ways to Leave Your Lover
- 2. 210 Millimetres is the Width of A Four Paper
- 3. 7 Wonders of the World
- 4. 1690 Battle of the Boyne
- 5. 104 Symphonies by Joseph Haydn
- 6. 16 Players in a Scrum in Rugby Union
- 7. 2 Moons of Mars
- 8. 27 Stations on the Circle Line
- 12 Dozens in a Gross
- 10. 3 Valves on a Trumpet

#### **BREWERY ANAGRAMS:**

- 1. ALL DRAM
- 2. FAILED LONG BAR

**BRIDGE OF ALLAN** 

- 3. SETS PAINTER
- SAINT PETERS
- 4. FRY MALE VOLE
- FROME VALLEY
- 5. SLOW NET

WELTONS

**MALLARD** 

6. BARBER & LAGER

BARGE & BARREL

#### **IDLE MOMENTS** (contd)

- 3. From what is the Swedish dish, gravlax (or gravadlax), made?
- Dharuk is a now extinct language from what country?
   A jargonelle is an early ripening variety of
- A jargonelle is an early ripening variety of what fruit?
- 6. What referred to poetically

7. SPOIL NEW FARCE

PRINCE OF WALES

- 8 DEVIL-MAN RON
- INVERALMOND
- 9. BUNG DIRT BORE

**BURTON BRIDGE** 

10. CHARMING, OK?

ROCKINGHAM

#### 5BY4:

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

#### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- Beer money was paid at the rate of one old penny a day to British soldiers and NCOs between 1800 and 1823, in lieu of an issue of beer (not very generous as best beer was 2d a pint).
- Lamb's wool was a heated mixture of beer and spices with the addition of the fluffy flesh of baked apples. Samuel Pepys enjoyed it.
- A church ale was an event where specially brewed beer was sold in aid of church funds.
- Flip was a mixture of beer and spirits, heated in a special instrument, a flip-dog. Egg flip (or egg nog) has no connection.
- Splugen fumee, according to Michael Jackson is an Italian beer developed fairly recently with a smoky flavour.
- Ale silver was an annual fee paid to the Lord Mayor of London for the privilege of selling beer within the City.
- 7. Milk stout was a creamy stout sweetened with lactose, a sugar derived from milk (which does not ferment with yeast, hence leaving the beer sweet and low in alcohol). The name is apparently no longer allowed as

# from grain to glass...

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