



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

LONDON DRINKER



SHIPWRIGHTS ARMS
SE1

Photo: Andy Camroux

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WHATEVER
YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.



Although this is the February /March issue of the London Drinker I am writing this at the beginning of January ~ ruminations & less lubrication after the Christmas / New Year period.

In my October editorial I emphasised the importance of the Capital Pub check feature but it occurred to me that an equally important feature is the Branch update, knowing what the London Camera Branches are up to in the next couple of months& how you as a member or future member can join in & find out what Camera is all about.

Each Branch hosts a number of events & visits a variety of pubs within its boarders. Pubs are all within fairly easy access either by tube or bus. It is only when one is in a rural area as I was for the whole of the Festive season one realises how important good public transport is.

I would guarantee that a large number of London Drinker readers were in the countryside visiting friends or relatives over the Festive period. I was in deepest South Devon, in the little hamlet where my parents live. Not a town, not a village ~ a hamlet with no more than 14 houses altogether. No Church, no shop, NO pub, my god, you all think, how did you exist?

Remember though, these facilities are disappearing rapidly in all rural areas on almost a daily basis. Also remember we are virtually losing a pub a week in London! Almost everywhere in London there is a pub within very easy walking distance. Yes, it only serves beers from one of only 3 National Breweries, yes its indifferent & yes its expensive but think about the countryside.

Let me give you an example ~ The nearest pub to my parents' house is one & a quarter miles away. It is in a picturesque fishing village, how wonderful you all think. Certainly in summer there are 2 pubs open, in winter one. The beer including Bass is not bad & there is usually at least one guest beer. Over the period I was there

they had Sutton Plymouth Pride & Scattor Rock Devonian. The food is always fairly good & it is a generally friendly pub.

Just before the New Year I met a Camera National Executive member, Rick Zapple, there. He had gone to the pub via bus from the nearest town, Kingsbridge, having already got one from Totnes. Totnes to Kingsbridge being about 13 miles. Then Kingsbridge to the fishing village about another 5. I walked to the pub via the cliffs. The road was incredibly muddy & also icy, the cliffs were actually the safest way of getting there! You are however very close to a 350 ft drop, so it is advisable not to be too 'merry' whilst walking back!

Rick was already at the pub that was packed with holidaymakers staying at holiday cottages or more likely second homes.

We sat in a corner near a blazing fire drinking Sutton Pride & then when I went up to the bar to refill our glasses a voice said "Blimey he's drinking that muck" & it turned out to be the Brewer from the Sutton Brewery who had just made a delivery. We chatted to him for a while, enjoyed the ambience of the pub & then Rick looked at his watch & decided it was time to be off.

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2001 - A BEER ODYSSEY -

Pubs participating between Wednesday 7th and Saturday 10th February.
Beers correct at time of going to press.

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SLATER
LEES**

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Mark welcomes you to a truly traditional pub.

"We are proud to be associated with the
2001 "Touring" Battersea Beer Festival.

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OUR PRIZE-WINNING ALES FROM
**CASTLE ROCK, OAKHAM, FREEMINER
ROOSTER, SKINNER
KELMAN ISLAND
MOORHOUSE**

Also participating - The Hogshead, 10 Streatham High Road.

Beers to include Bateman, Brakspear, Caledonian, Harveys and Hook Norton

2001 - A Beer Odyssey

BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL

The Battersea Beer Festival goes on tour this year, starting at five South West London pubs between Wednesday 7 and Saturday 10 February. Some of the prize winning beers from a decade of Battersea festivals will be available. Participating pubs provisionally plan to include beers from the following breweries:

Brewery Tap – 68/69 High Street, Wimbledon Village, SW19 – Cain, Hyde, Lees, Slater

Hogshead – 70 Streatham High Road, SW16 – Bateman, Brakspear, Caledonian, Harvey, Hook Norton

Priory Arms – 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8 – Bath, Durham, Holden, Oakhill, Otter

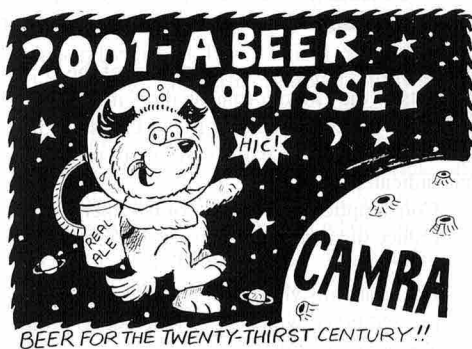
EDITORIAL (contd)

In a rural area, Bus Guides are essential. There was one at 4.15 but then low & behold there was also one at 5.45. Could it be relied on though? It was cold leaving the pub & it was damn cold waiting at a bus stop in a little fishing village with waves coming over the sea wall. Rick had to get two buses before returning to Totnes, a distance of about 18 miles. Would you travel that distance in London for 2 or 3 pints?

Exactly twice a day there is a bus that passes my parents house, apart from holiday times there is hardly anyone on it. I could have got that bus but I decided to walk guided by the light of the moon & the white frost on the mud in the middle of the lane. Rick, rucksack on his back, stood religiously at the bus stop. I hope it turned up. I gingerly & beerily plodded up the hill. No cars passed, the only sound, the bleating of a New Year lamb.

I was just returning from my local pub. Pubs are an important aspect of life in town or country. Think next time you go to your 'Local'. Use the branch update pages. Those pub socials are not as difficult to get to as you imagined & what's more ~ they could be quite fun!

ROBIN FORSHAW ~WILSON
CAMRA REGIONAL DIRECTOR
GREATER LONDON



Rose & Crown – 2 The Polygon (off Old Town), SW4 – Castle Rock, Freeminer, Kelham Island, Moorhouse, Oakham, Rooster, Skinner

Sultan – 78 Norman Road, South Wimbledon, SW19 – Hop Back, Nethergate, Woodforde.

See the Battersea Beer Festival website, www.battersea-beer-festival.org.uk for more details and tell CAMRA South West London Branch if your pub would also like to feature in our gap year odyssey.

ORIENT CLUB

East London's Club of the Year 2000 went to the Supporters Club of Leyton Orient FC. The certificate was handed over to ale supreme Mike Childs during their now annual beer festival by East London secretary Ben Parr-Ferris.

Their tiny clubroom has sold over 175 nines of real ale in the last year. Considering they are only open for five hours on under 35 occasions a year it's a huge achievement. One which most pubs in the East End cannot equal.

Keith Emmerson

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

S. Tompkins
122 Manor Way
Uxbridge

Middlesex UB8 2BH

Price 50p each incl. p&p.

News Round-Up

Beer is good for you! Following the latest research showing that, contrary to received wisdom, moderate beer consumption can bring health benefits, Britain's brewers are planning to launch a publicity drive to promote the benefits of beer.

Much has been made in recent years of the benefits of the "Mediterranean diet" including red wine, but so far the benefits of beer have not hit the headlines. Research carried out recently has indicated that:

- Consumption of 3 glasses of beer per day can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease by 25 per cent
- Beer contains vitamin B6, which isn't present in red wine, and is believed to protect against heart disease
- Beer drinkers are less likely to binge than other drinkers, and can benefit from more sensible drinking patterns.

It is illegal in Britain to claim health benefits for alcohol in advertisements, so the campaign will focus on the consumer media, with the possibility later on of posters in pubs and promotion of a new booklet, "The Benefits of Moderate Beer Consumption", produced by the European trade association CBMC.

Caroline Walker, spokeswoman for Brewing Research International, said "Beer is a wholesome drink made from wholesome ingredients and as part of a balanced diet it is good for people." She added "Beer is a liquid cereal that tastes good. It is a balanced package of water, nutrients, minerals and vitamins derived from hops and malt."

Lifetime award for George Bateman
George Bateman, one of the heroes of the brewing industry, received a standing ovation last month as he was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the British Guild of Beer Writers.

The award was presented by Roger Protz, Guild chairman, to mark 50 years in brewing for the boss of Bateman's brewery. George became a legend in drinking circles following his long battle to save the family brewery in the 1980s. Some directors wanted to sell up and retire on the proceeds, something that has sadly become all too common in recent year (remember Morrells et al). But George was determined that the brewery would survive.

Roger Protz said "....he stumped the country to raise the funds to buy the brewery and I shall never forget a speech to CAMRA's annual conference that brought 1,000 people to their feet. The battle to save the brewery was fought with a courageous disregard for his own health but George won through and kept his beloved brewery alive."

"George, you represent all that is best in British brewing. You have kept the flag flying. You brew splendid beer and you serve it in excellent pubs. You care passionately about your pubs and the communities they serve".

Fullers and Youngs increase sales
Latest results from London's two big breweries continue to give the lie to the assumption that beer sales are in decline. Both have reported increases in sales in their first half results, released in December.

***Samantha and Tim offer
a warm welcome at...***

THE ROEBUCK

50 Great Dover Street, London SE1
Tel 020 7403 4817

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

A freehouse offering a changing
selection of cask ales,
fine wines & good food.
Greene King IPA always available.

Food Served 11.30am - 8pm
Traditional home cooked Sunday lunch

OPEN ALL PERMITTED HOURS

News Round-Up

Fullers reported a 5% increase in beer barrelage, and a 30% increase in off sales - in all, volumes were up to over 83,000 barrels. London Pride continues to do well as a flagship brand, supported by advertising campaigns and other promotions. The pubs side had a tougher time, with poor summer weather and a wet autumn hitting sales, and the increasing cost of complying with legislation driving up costs. Despite this, tenanted pubs increased sales by 4%; the estate now stands at 108 pubs.

Young's managed to increase beer sales by 6.7% with a rise in cask ale sales helped by the launch of Tripe A in April. A slight drop in overall income was caused by lower income from property sales and pub refurbishment costs, but pre-tax profits were up to £4.3 million. Youngs recently spent £5.8 million on the 15-strong Smiles pub estate in the Bristol area, and is reported to be interested in some of the Whitbread estate if it comes up for grabs.

Rewards from Head of Steam

The Head of Steam chain has introduced a reward card scheme for customers who visit their outlets in Liverpool, Huddersfield, Scarborough and Newcastle. The card, promoted jointly with train company Northern Spirit, enables travellers on Northern Spirit's Transpennine Express services to claim half price meals, free drinks and even t-shirts at Head of Steam pubs. Special offers are available to customers who visit more than one of the pubs in the same day, and there is a fortnightly draw to win a rail ticket to any destination on Northern Spirit's network.

For non rail travellers, there is the Head of Steam trail, which includes the London outlet at Euston. Anyone who gets the trail card stamped by buying a drink at each of the 5 outlets can trade the card in for prizes; there is no limit on the number of cards that can be completed, and the more cards filled in, the bigger the prize.

Dave Lee



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Next tour dates, March 2-4, April 4-6 & May 4-6

— Pub News —

LOCKED IN FOR 35 YEARS

Veteran licences John and Pat Lockwood are celebrating 35 years of running the White Hart on the riverside at Barnes, South-West London.

They are now the longest-serving licensees of any pub owned by Young's. John first took the White Hart, which overlooks the end of the Boat Race course on the Thames Tideway, in partnership with his father in 1965.

Half-pint bottles of the specially brewed Lockwood Ale were produced in 1990 and 1995, to mark their 25th and 30th anniversaries at the pub, and now a 500ml bottle, with a label bearing John and Pat's photograph, is on sale at the White Hart.

The picture shows John and Pat Lockwood with a special case containing the three bottles Young's have produced to mark their 25th, 30th and 35th anniversaries at the White Hart.



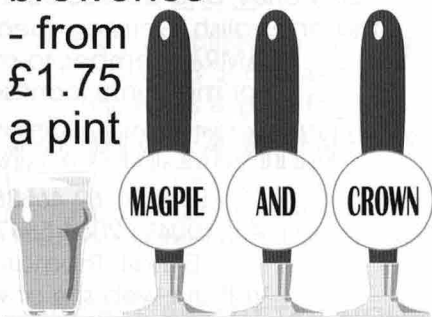
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MAGPIE & CROWN

PUB OF THE YEAR
CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow

128 High Street
Brentford 020 8560 5658

- * **House Bitter:**
Brakspear's Bitter at
£1.75 a pint
 - * Traditional Cider
 - * Draught Hoegaarden
 - * Draught Czech Budvar
 - * Foreign bottled beer
selection
 - * **Accommodation Available**
 - * Selected for the 2000
CAMRA Good Beer
Guide
 - * Open all permitted hours
- Ever changing guest
beers from micro
and small regional
breweries
- from
£1.75
a pint



* singing voice required Friday evenings

REVIEW OF BEER ORDERS - GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers announced in December that the Order protecting publicans' right to offer a guest beer to customers is to remain in place, following a review of the Beer Orders governing competition in the brewing industry. The ban on brewers preventing a pub continuing as such when re-sold has also been retained.

The Beer Orders were introduced after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report raised concerns about the absolute tie between large brewers and their huge pub estates. About 1,700 publicans currently still have guest beer rights guaranteed under the Orders.

Reviewing the 1989 Beer Orders, the Director General of Fair Trading had recommended that only the provisions relating to loan tie agreements, the prohibition on refusing to supply beer for resale and the requirement to publish wholesale prices should be retained.

Stephen Byers accepted the recommendation to revoke the cap on the size of brewers' tied estates and the requirement on large brewers not to tie alcoholic drinks other than beer, but rejected the idea that the guest ale provision or the ban on prevention of continuing pub use should be abandoned:

'The Beer Orders were radical and necessary in their time but, more than ten years on, the market has changed and some of them have now served their purpose. I do not think that the time is now right to revoke the 'guest beer provision' or the rule preventing brewers from imposing conditions when they sell a pub to stop it being used as a pub in future. Retaining this provision will help retain pubs in rural communities.

The brewing industry has undergone major changes since the Beers Orders were first introduced, but the guest beer rules still help to promote choice and competition - benefiting small brewers, publicans and their customers. These measures remain important safeguards for effective competition and consumer choice at local level.'

Draft 3, dated 4 December 2000, of the Supply of Beer (Tied Estate) (Amendment) Order 2001 is now available for consultation with a deadline of 15 February. It is a short and perfunctory document. Comments should be sent to DTI Competition Policy (Beer Orders Review), Room 625, 1 Victoria St, London EC4Y 8JX,

preferably by e-mail:

martin.payne@dti.gsi.gov.uk.

Whilst the guest beer provision may represent a valuable safeguard in theory, the Office of Fair Trading has seemingly failed to realise that it will continue to be of little significance in practice if it remains applicable only within brewers' own tied estates. Few brewers seem to own many pubs these days and instead a lot of non-brewing pub companies dictate which few beers their pubs can sell, with no permission for guest beers in many cases.

Only if the new Beer Order could extend the guest beer provision to those pubs run by pub companies, as well as those tied to brewers, would the guest beer rules indeed remain effective safeguards for effective competition and consumer choice at local level. If not, then by the time the Director General of Fair Trading next reviews the Beer Orders in 2005, these may be a very dead letter. In the face of unfair competition from pub companies, brewers may be much more likely to sell their tied estates than expand them, if the pattern of the last ten years is anything to go by. In reply to the question, Martin Payne of the DTI Competition Policy Directorate explains:

'Extending the guest beer provision to the pub retail chains could only be done if a new complex monopoly investigation by the Competition Commission found evidence of anti-competitive behaviour by these companies. However, the Director General of Fair Trading found no evidence, during the Beer Orders review, to warrant such an investigation by the Competition Commission. He concluded, in fact, that competition at the retail level was satisfactory.'

With an election looming, the government could perhaps be doing more to attract drinkers' votes. But there again, larger party donations may be expected from the pub companies.

MOBILE BEERS

Two years ago I questioned the ethics of beer labelling, where companies used names likely to confuse consumers about whose ales they are drinking and where they are brewed. Between the respective controls available to Trading Standards Officers and to the Advertising Standards Authority, there seemed a wide area of discretion, sanctified as 'branding', in which marketing folk traditionally enjoy unrestricted licence to mislead people. Shouldn't we protest against their cynical attempts to con us?

Well we haven't been very effective. One pumpclip nowadays reads 'Morrells, Oxford, 1782' after Morrells have stopped brewing and the Oxford brewery has been demolished. Another reads 'King & Barnes Ltd Traditional Brewers in Sussex for over a century', after the closure of the Sussex brewery and the takeover of the company. Again, Old Speckled Hen continues to be sold as a Morland beer, long after Greene King took over and closed the Abingdon Brewery. Nostalgia in pursuit of amnesia? I'd call it false branding.

The latest joke is to sell as Burton Ale something brewed in Leeds. I'll accept that it was getting difficult to work out who was actually brewing Burton Ale for whom these days, but it did have a genuine association with Burton, where it had always been brewed. Not any more. Given the choice, John Grover at the Brewery Tap in Wimbledon Village refused to take it. He's not going to insult his customers, and I welcome his decision.

But what line does CAMRA take? An 'External Policy Document', reissued annually, captures the accumulated AGM resolutions and policy statements adopted over the years in response to the moving targets of the Campaign. This document deserves to be better known and used to promote CAMRA objectives. For example,

'CAMRA does not accept that a beer can be 'saved' by being brewed by the same company miles from its original brewery and then being transported back to be sold in its home trading area. CAMRA believes that this is nothing more than a flagrant attempt by brewers to mislead the public.'

'CAMRA opposes promotion of national brewers' beers as if they came from small independent companies.'

'CAMRA doesn't oppose the brewing of beers under contract provided that the site of production is clearly stated to the consumer both at the point of sale and on product labelling.'

Following such policies, we should now take the offensive against false branding, and reject categorically the ludicrous notion that in taking over and closing a brewery you can at the same time preserve its brands under its name. CAMRA should take a lead in deprecating the progressive devaluation of any brand to the point where only the name remains. We don't want non-breweries paraded as breweries and non-brewers parading as brewers.

A traditional beer builds its reputation on how it is brewed, who brews it and where. CAMRA should uphold these three elements in promoting an appreciation of beer as a sensory product rather than an alcoholic commodity - Sean Franklin's challenge. In the words of a branch colleague, we should distinguish the Parma hams from the Cheddar cheeses. For that matter, it's the difference between a Budvar and a Bud.

On that note, in targeting the major offenders, CAMRA does at least seem to recognise the truth of John Gilbert's Law, that quality is inversely proportional to advertising spend. To quote again from the External Policy Document,

'CAMRA supports the complete prohibition of all mass media advertising of alcohol.'

So long as anything goes in advertising, identity counts for everything and quality means nothing. A concerted lobby by CAMRA against false branding could usefully fuel more widespread resistance to the dumbing down of our national beverage.

Geoff Strawbridge

LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS

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

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

Wed 7 (7.00). The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Sat 17 (2.00) Brighton social starting in the 11th Sussex Beer & Cider Festival, at Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, (10 minutes from Hove Station). £4 to get in with £1's worth of beer vouchers if you can present your CAMRA membership card. Followed by a two pub Kemp Town Crawl. (6.00) The Barley Mow, 92 St. George's Road, Kemp Town, (01273) 682259, getting gayer? and (7.30) The Bulldog Tavern, 31 St. James's Street, (01273) 684097. Bass, Worthington's, Harvey's Best, couldn't really get any gayer?

Tue 27 (6.00) Central London two pub crawl. Admiral Duncan, 54 Old Compton Street, W1, (020) 7437 5300, generally only Theakstons Best Bitter. Rather crowded, but worthy of support. Between Piccaddilly Circus and Leicester Square tubes, then (7.30) onto our usual haunt King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020) 7734 5907.

Not our regular monthly meeting, but an extra visit, as we generally only ever come here once a month?

MARCH EVENTS:

Wed 7 (7.00). The King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, W1, (020-) 7734 5907, monthly social – all welcome.

Sat 17 (6.00) Brighton social. The Queen's Head, 10 Steine Street, (01273) 602939. Only one ale but well kept. Support its retention. Then (7.30) a short hop over the road to The Aquarium, 6 Steine Street, (01273) 605525. Friendly traditional pub, can get crowded, but quite pleasant. Again only one beer.

Tue 27 (6.00) London two pub crawl. Halfway to Heaven, 7 Duncannon Street, WC2, (020) 7930 8312. Draught Bass or London Pride. Then (7.30) by 11 bus (direct), or two tubes and a walk (possibly quicker) to Queen's Head, 25-27 Tryon Street, SW3, (020) 7589 0262. Good Beer Guide listed Courage pub; serving Best Bitter & Directors

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

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

Name(s)

Address

..... Postcode

Signature Date

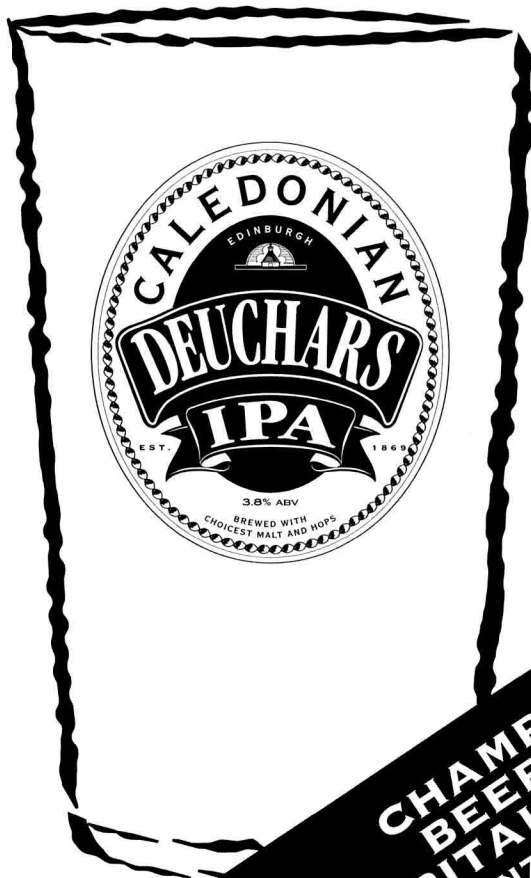
I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership.

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**CHAMPION
BEER OF
BRITAIN ~ 1999
BRONZE AWARD**

CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Al Ferrier's letter in December's LD did surprise me somewhat. Are my articles really the most boring ever in LD? More boring than the Red Rover crawls of the eighties? More boring than Dear Dipsy? More boring than, well perhaps I had better not go on for fear of offending anyone.

The original idea of drinking in every postal district in the year of 1999 occurred to me in late 1998 and I thought it would be a fun thing to do. It was only afterwards that the idea of writing it up for LD came to me. I duly wrote up each month's pubs and they were printed by the then editors. Later in the year I was told that LD had been having problems getting sufficient copy for a monthly issue.

I do agree that three of my articles in one magazine can be regarded as too much of a good thing but that was not down to me. Making LD a bi-monthly publication did solve the problem of insufficient copy but having printed nine articles of a series of eleven LD was rather obliged to print the last two. When I e-mailed the editor about the delay at printing the last article I did point out that while it did not bother me for an article of mine not to be printed I was a bit miffed at the thought that ten of the series would be printed but not the last one.

As for my style my own preference, both for reading and writing, is for a clear and simple style as I regard the purpose of writing as the conveyance of information rather than to show how clever the writer is. There is a saying that the best style is no style.

Due to changes in personal circumstances I will no longer have the time to write for LD so I will hang up my pen. No doubt there are many others who can write more entertainingly than me. Unfortunately if they don't send it in it can't be printed. If you think you can do better than me do it, then send it in.

If you haven't seen the articles and would like to do so as well as being in several back issues of LD they are also posted on the Internet at www.edmund1.demon.co.uk.

Colin Price

Dear Editors,

In this month's "DRINKER" mention was made of "THE BLUE POSTS" formerly the ROSE & CROWN in Newman Street during the Oxford Street crawl.

I suspect that the former is its original name. Between 1960 and 1963 I was a member of the Jazz club 100 Oxford Street; in those days they didn't have a drinks license and during the band's interval we used to rush round the corner to the Blue Posts it being the nearest pub to the club. I believe at the time it was a Friary Meux house but I'm not sure.

This trend of renaming old pubs is confusing, after all they are local landmarks, my own local was called "THE TRAVELLERS REST" for at least seventy years until the Magic chain got hold of it and called it the "RAT & CARROT"; that lasted for all of four years until some other lot got hold of it and called it "THE TRAVELLERS" that went by the board after a year and now Greene King have called it "THE OLD BULL & BUSH".

It was and always will be known by the locals as "THE TRAVELLERS" no matter what the brewery call it and that is the name that will be used whenever directions are given.

John Dodd

Dear Editors,

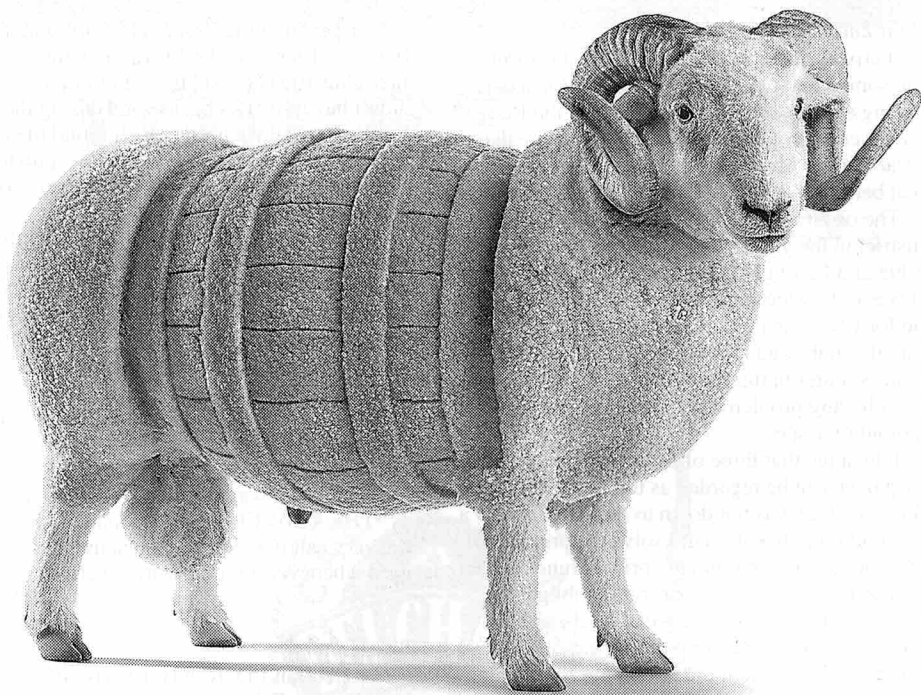
In the Dec/Jan LD, Roy Hurry says of the Hogshead in Dering Street that he hopes "nothing will change" as a result of the replacement of its manager.

As far as the beer range is concerned, I agree. However, I'd be delighted if one thing changed; this would be the end of the Hogshead policy of inflicting compulsory music on its customers. I was driven out of the Dering Street Hogshead by the deafening music on one of my visits, swearing never to return.

It's all more the galling that Hogshead pubs often have several drinking areas, which would make it possible for one or two to be music-free, but there are several speakers carefully placed in strategic corners, so that you can never get away from it. Why do we have to pay to suffer this dictatorship of noise? Another offender is Fuller's, which has piped music in its Central London managed houses, even going to the length of supplying the CDs centrally to the pubs, according to a barperson in a Fuller's pub which I visited recently.

The winner in the pub chain field is of course Wetherspoon's: no compulsory music, interesting beers and reasonable prices. You'd think the others would learn, but presumably they're happy to pocket the profit from the noise junkies.

Rod Prince



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Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Al Ferrier (Dec/Jan) is not alone in finding Colin Price's copy tedious in the extreme. No doubt we can all look forward to further scintillating reports of his jolly japes as he continues with the Fullers Passport.

Please Editors, have pity on the rest of us as it does not appear that Colin is going to show any mercy.

Trevor Wingate

Dear Editors,

We have a new bar in Barking the Top-Up. Unfortunately it is a modern style bar and has no real ale despite having handpumps. However it does do bottled Guinness Foreign Extra brewed in Dublin 7.5% ABV. This is quite palatable and reminds me of the normal bottled Guinness when it was bottle conditioned. However I have been told that the Dublin brewery does not produce any bottle conditioned beers.

If anyone can confirm whether this beer is bottle conditioned or not please let me know.

Colin Price

Dear Editors,

Recently I purchased a book called "London Pub" by Alan Reeve-Jones published in 1962. This fascinating guide features 166 of his favourite pubs with some basic information supplemented by amusing anecdotes and drawings. I decided to analyse the pubs and consequently changes in the intervening 40 years – it was most interesting.

First of all around 60% of the total featured are in my own CAMRA branch of West London. Of the rest 20% were from East London and 10% each from North and South London. Surprisingly, only 33 pubs had closed (about 20%) and of those that were still open (137) 121 served real ale – over 90%. Also oddly a mere 8 pubs had changed names. So it is not all bad news from London; the message is that good pubs do tend to survive and we in CAMRA must ensure that this continues.

This discovery about the bias towards West London (my branch area) led me to analyse more of my district. We have 850 pubs from a total of 6,000 or so in London – around 15%. But what a bias... It has several categories.

Firstly, the Evening Standard has awarded "Pub of the Year" certificates to 10 pubs in West London in the last 33 years (33%).

Secondly, in Susan Nowaks latest "Good Pub Food Guide" we have 13 pubs featured from a total of 44 in London (30%).

Thirdly, the National Inventory (of pub interiors) lists 11 out of 31 in West London (35%); while the local London inventory features 24 in West London out of a total of 77 (33%).

Fourthly, those pubs featured in every Good Beer Guide (28 years) is nationally 24, with 3 of them in West London.

Conclusion, West London is well served with good pubs and decent beer. But alas, although many people enjoy drinking here often where they work, the level at branch activity is well below average, an odd paradox. I urge any potential or existing CAMRA members to help keep West London the premier drinking area of the Capital. Branch survival may depend on it.

Ray Prior

Chairman West London Branch

Dear Editors,

West London Branch, in the person of Ray Prior, is to be congratulated on discovering the pub in Harrods, the Green Man. Another of my hidey-holes flushed out!

I must point out that the pub is not, in fact, difficult to find. Use entrance no. 2 at the southern tip of the shop - the stairs down to the Green Man are straight in front of you.

There is a very good reason for using the pub, in addition to the usual ones. The receipt for your very expensive pint gets you into the plush toilet next door without paying the usual £?1. A liveried flunkey therein will cater to your every need.

Ian Collinson

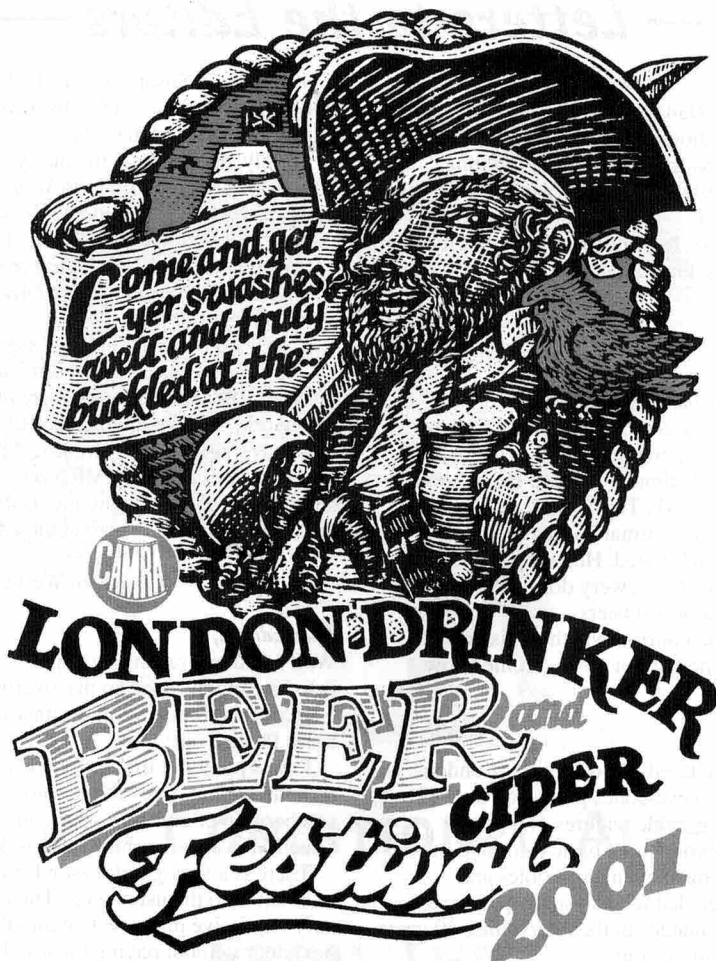
London W10

Dear Editors,

I feel that John Norman has hit the nail squarely on the head with his condemnation of Young's' program of "improvements" to their pubs. The examples throughout south London are endless, and in my experience I have found it rare that anyone I have spoken to feels that the changes are for the better.

Why is it that a company that shows such a strong commitment to its' brewing heritage clearly doesn't give a damn about the views of its' customers as to what makes a cosy, traditional boozer?

Trevor Wingate



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— Pub News —

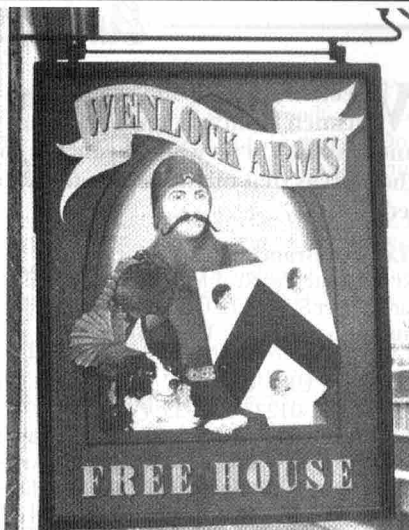
BILL & BETTY LUBBOCK

The Queen Dowager in Teddington came to the end of an era in November when Bill and Betty Lubbock retired after thirteen years as tenants of the North Lane pub - a period which has been marked by the consistently high quality of the beers, the excellent food and a comfortable homely atmosphere.

Bill and Betty have been in the licensed trade for many years - for a time they worked for the Goodhews company and they even knew the Olympic swimmer, Duncan, when he had hair! Since 1971, however, they have run Young's pubs starting with the Britannia in Allen Street, Kensington in 1971. In between times they ran the Alexandra in Wimbledon Hill Road, Wimbledon and they were tenants of the Prince William Henry in Blackfriars Road, SE1 when it first opened. Their first twenty one years with Young's were marked by a splendid lunchtime do in February 1992 attended by brewery chairman, John Young and his fellow directors together with one of the company's magnificent horse drawn drays.

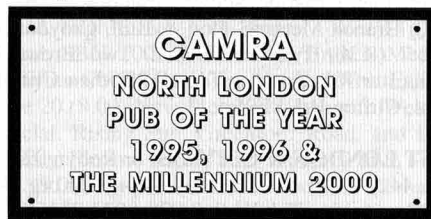
Sadly over the last few years Betty's health has not been of the best and finally the couple decided to call it a day. They have now moved away to Hatfield to be near to the home of their daughter Jane. The local Richmond & Hounslow Branch of CAMRA visited the Dowager en masse to make a presentation of a certificate of appreciation and a glass sculpture to them on 26th October. Unfortunately, as our photo records, Betty was not able to be present as she had just started a short stay in hospital. Consequently it shows Bill being presented with the certificate by long time regular (and Branch Treasurer) Andy Pirson while Chairman Brian Kirton makes up the numbers.

We are pleased to report that the new tenants Norman and Linda Ayling are settling in well and that the quality of the beer is being maintained. So far the changes to the pub have been minimal although we gather that it is due for sprucing up in March.



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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 February / March are listed below.

All London Branch Social.

To celebrate the Real Millennium. Royal Oak, Tabard Street S.E.1. 12.00 onwards. Saturday 10 February. Real Ale For The Real Time.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Eric Martin 0208-697 2147 (H), 01223-582735 (W).

February - Wed 7 (8.00) Crawl of notable pubs in Islington area, starting at the Compton Arms, 4 Compton Ave., N1 (near Highbury & Islington station) - March - Wed 14 (8.00) Business Mtg., Royal Oak, Tabard St., SE1. Anyone interested in pub preservation and design is welcome at both events.

BEXLEY.

February - Wed 14 Branch meeting, Royal Standard, Nuxley Rd, Belvedere.

CROYDON & SUTTON. Paul Everitt 0208-686 5053 (H & W).

February - Thu 1 (8.30) Wallington Crawl. Whispering Moon (dep 9.30) then Duke's Head. - Wed 7 (8.30) Carshalton Crawl. Railway (dep 9.00) then Sun, Fox & Hounds and Greyhound. - Tue 20 (8.30) Social. Claret Free House, Addiscombe. - Sat 24 (12 noon) Tramlink Crawl with Enfield & Barnet Branch. Meet Porter & Sorter, East Croydon Station. - March - Thu 1 (8.30) Branch Meeting. Dog & Bull, Croydon. - Wed 7 (8.30) Two Pub Social. Two Brewers, Gloucester Rd. Croydon (dep 9.30) then Clifton Arms, Clifton Rd. SE25.

EAST LONDON & CITY. Ben or Robyn 0208-521 4410 (H). Email robyn@pigsear.org.uk. Social enquiries Bob Walker 020-8924 0346 (H).

ENFIELD & BARNET. Mark Shepherd 020-8441 0174 (H) 020-7712 2081 (W).

February - Thu 1 (9.00) Social. Black Horse, Wood Street, barnet EN5. - Wed 7 (8.30) Branch meeting. Southgate Cricket Club, Walker Ground, Waterfall Road N14 (buses W6, 121, 184, 299). - Tue 13 (9.00) Social. Tally Ho, 749 High Road, North Finchley N12. - Tue 20 (9.00) Social. St. Monica's Social Club, 6 Cannon Hill,

Southgate N14 (buses W6, 121, 299). - Sat 24 Pub Crawl of Croydon Tramlink. Meet at East Croydon station which is served by Connex trains from Victoria and London Bridge, and by Thameslink services via Kings Cross. All zones Travelcard required, which is valid on the trams. - March - Thu 1 (9.00) St. David's Day/Dydd Dewi Sant 2 pub Social. Lord Kitchener, 49 East Barnet Road, New Barnet EN4, then (10.00) Builders Arms, 3 Albert Road, New Barnet EN4. - Wed 7 (9.00) Social. Greyhound, 425 Ordnance Road, Enfield Lock EN3 (bus 121). - Tue 13 (9.00) Social. Gate, Barnet Road, Arkley EN5 (bus 107). - Wed 21 Working Social at London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street WC1 (tube/BR- Kings Cross). - Thu 29 (9.00) Social / London Drinker Pick Up. Bankers Draft, 36/38 Friern Barnet Road, new Southgate N11 (buses 34, 184, 221, 232, 251).

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

February - Thu 8 (8.00) Branch AGM, Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Road, Kingston. - Sun 11 (4.00) Kingston Pub Crawl, Meet Bishop Out of Residence, Bishop's Hall, Thames St. - Sat 24 (11.00) Minibus Trip to Gales Brewery, Leaving Surbiton Station at 11.00, other pick-ups on request, cost £13 + £2 for brewery trip, ring to book. - March - Tue 6 (8.30) Branch Meeting, Rising Sun, Heathcote Rd, Epsom. - Tue 13 (8.00) GBG Selection Meeting, Waggon & Horses, Surbiton Hill Rd, Surbiton. - Thu 15 (7.30) Curry Night, meet Victoria, Victoria Rd, Surbiton, moving on to East India restaurant at 8.30. - Fri 30 (7.45) Twickenham Pub Crawl, meet at Kings Tun, Clarence Street, Kingston, then catching 20.14 train to Strawberry Hill.

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

February - Mon 5 (8.00) Branch Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road N1.

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

Branch Update

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Dave Lee 020-8694-2687

February - Mon 5 (8.00) Branch/committee meeting. The Tigers Head, 350 Bromley Road, Bellingham SE6. - Tue 13 (8.00) Social. The Sydney Arms, Old Perry Street, Chislehurst. - Wed 21 (8.00) Social. The Brockley Barge, 184 Brockley Road SE4, moving on at 9.30 to the Brockley Jack, 410 Brockley Road SE4. - Wed 28 (8.00) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting. The Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich SE10. - March - Sat 3 Visit to Goachers Brewery in Maidstone to present them with the Beer of the Festival award from the 2000 Catford Beer Festival. Contact Dave Lee for details. - Wed 7 (8.00) Committee meeting. The Plume of Feathers, 19 Park Vista, Greenwich SE10. - Tue 13 (8.00) Social. The Hobgoblin, 272 New Cross Road SE14. - Thu 22 (6.30) Social. The London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street WC1. - Mon 26 (8.00) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting at the Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich SE10.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX. Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H). Email: swessex@clara.co.uk

February - Thu 1 (8.30) Social. The Standard Bearer, 7-13 Goodmayes Lane, Goodmayes (just off the A118 High Road & near Rail Station). - Wed (8.30 **sharp**) Social with Brewery Visit to the Sweet William Brewery at The King William The Fourth, 816 High Road, Leyton (just down from the "Baker's Arms" crossroads. - Mon 12 (8.30) Hornchurch "Double Header" Social, compare Wetherspoons with and without "music". Start in Lloyds No1 (formerly the White Hart), 168 High Street; and then at 21:30 J J Moon's, Unit 3, 48-52 High Street. - Wed 21 (8.30) Branch AGM @ Green Man, Cricketers Lane, Herongate. Nominations for Committee, Items for Discussion to Andrew Clifton. - March -Thu 1 (8.30) Chadwell Heath "Double Header" Social. Start in the White Horse, 118 High Road (A118); and then @ 21:30 @ the Eva Hart, 1128 High Road (A118)/corner of Station Road. - Wed 7 (8.30) Ilford Heath "Triple Bill" Social. Start in the Prince of Wales, 63 Green Lane (A1083); then (9.30) the Hogshead, 74/76 Cranbrook Road (A123); and then (10.15) the Great Spoon of Ilford, 114/116 Cranbrook Road (A123). - Wed 14 (8.30) Branch Good Beer Guide Selection

Meeting (London Area). The Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Road (A104), Woodford Green. - Thu 22 (8.30) Wat Tyler Country "Double Header" Social. Start in the Ship, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury Village (OS: TQ686771); and then (9.45) the White Lion, Lion Hill (B1420), Fobbing. - Thu 29 (8.30) Social. The Moon under Water, Broxburn Drive/ Cawdor Avenue (near the B1335), South Ockendon.

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

February - Mon 12 (7.30) Open branch committee meeting. Leather Bottle, 538 Garratt Lane, SW17. - Thu 8 (7.00) Crawl of Tooting. (*Note: not 22 March as previously advertised.*) Meet Gorringer Park (dep 7.30), 29 London Road, SW17 (next to Tooting railway station), then (8.00) Railway Bell, 284 Mitcham Road, (8.45) Jack Beards, 76 Mitcham Road, (9.30) J J Moons, 56A Tooting High Street and finally (10.15) Castle, 38 Tooting High Street. - March - Sun 11 (10.30 am) 2002 Good Beer Guide selection meeting and any other urgent business. Priory Arms (upstairs room), 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8.

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

WEST LONDON.

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

February - Thu 8 (8.30) Two-pub Branch Social. Oddfellow's, Waxwell Lane and Queen's Head, High Street, both Pinner. - Wed 14 (8.30) Final GBG 2002 Nomination Branch Meeting. Drayton Court Hotel, The Avenue, West Ealing. - Tue 20 (8.00) New Members' Two-pub Welcome Social. Rising Sun, Greenford Road, and Black Horse, Harrow Road, both Sudbury Hill. - Wed 28 (8.00) Two-pub Branch Social. Pipemaker's Arms & General Elliot, both Rockingham Road, Uxbridge. - March - Wed 14 (8.30) GBG Final Selection Branch Meeting. Beaconsfield Arms, West End Road, Southall. - Wed 28 (9.00) London Drinker Pick-Up. Red Lion, St. Mary's Road, Ealing.

Deadline for the April / May edition, **1st March**. Material for June / July to arrive by **1st May**. **Please be sure to send all diary material to Dave Oram.**

Overseas Crawl

A BRIEF MEANDER AROUND PRAGUE

In November a group of 4 beer enthusiasts undertook a short tour of Prague (£308). This included BA flights and 4 nights at the Hotel Axa in Na Porichi. This is located quite central, near Namesti Republiky in the old town. Namesti Republiky is an impressive square boasting the powder gate, a 15th century gatehouse tower, forming one of 13 entrances to the old town, and the 1905 art nouveau Municipal house, a large grand concert hall.

After experiencing airline catering (although the wine was good), our first port of call was the Na Porici restaurant. Unlike Britain most Czech restaurants double as bars and most bars serve good meals (which are reasonably priced, also unlike Britain). As well as exotic food, wild boar, and venison, for example, this restaurant had both light and dark draught Gambrinus from Plezen (10%).

Beers tend to be 10% or 12%, which is a Czech measure of original gravity (not alcohol content), which approximate to about 4.2 % & 5% alcohol respectively. Most Czech beers are unfiltered and unpasteurised, and are therefore living beers which are also not at all gassy.

The best known Czech beer is Pilsener, derived from the town of Plezen (for which the German is Pilsen). Pils. To use it's modern bastardisation, is a clear, golden and hoppy, brewed with a top fermenting yeast and must include a slow, low temperature maturation (lagering). This should not be confused with the chemical made by Scandinavians at the ICI plant in Warrington, and drunk by Australians (say no more), which despite being lagered for all of 5 minutes at room temperature, is still described as lager. However I digress.

Most Czech pubs are supplied by a single brewery (pivotar), although they may serve both 10 & 12% and both light and dark beers.

For my pub guide, I merely used the Internet. The Prague Server, and the Prague Guide produce similar lists, which providing that you avoid all bars with a pseudo English or Irish name (as the guides recommend that you do), then you should be alright.

The best Czech bars are populated with locals, rather than tourists and are very, very reasonably priced, typically about 30p for half litre (although this varies from 25p-60p, depending on venue).

Central Prague can be split into 5 main areas, Palace area, Jewish Quarter, Old Town, New Town & Little Quarter. Sightseeing along the

lines of pub, sight, pub, sight, can easily be worked out, or pub-pub-pub etc if you wish. Everything is accessible by an excellent public transport system (unlike London).

A 3-day travel card for about £3 covers everything, bus, metro, trams and even the funicular railway. The typical tram frequency in central Prague is about every 6 minutes, and this is the best way of getting around, although once you are familiar with the layout of the city everything is easily walkable.

In the Palace area make a trip to the spectacular Prague castle and the Gothic cathedral of St Vitus, as well as the array of convents, palaces (including the Royal Palace), powder towers and galleries. Don't miss St George's convent, which was Bohemia's first convent founded in 973. This tour can be combined with a trip to U Kocoura (Nerudova 2), an excellent pub serving good basic Czech food and Budovar (12 %) & Pilsener Urquell.

The nearby U Hrocha, (Thunovska 10) dispensing Pilsner Urquell is an old style pub, next to the British embassy and also well worth a visit. U Hrocha has a quiet monastic style of architecture and ambience.

Move south, have a jar in Krusovicka Pivnice (Siroka 20), which has a refreshing 10% light and then visit the spectacular St Nicholas Church. Before crossing the bridge call at U Stalete Baby (Na Kampe 15), in the Little quarter which serves Gambrinus, Pilsener Urquell and Pukmistr (dark), and which has both good honest bar snacks and an up-market restaurant.

Cross the famous Charles Bridge, spanning the serene river Vlatava.

The bridge is famous for purveyors of antiques, arts, bric-a-brac and the occasional jazz musicians. This is a good area for pubs, provided that the tourist traps are avoided. U Zlateho Tygra (17 Husova), is the pub where Vaclav Havel took Bill Clinton for lunch, after the fall of the Warsaw pact. Good value Pilsener Urquell is dispensed.

Overseas Crawl

This is also a good bar if you like footballana, including a pennant for Hiroshima FC.

From there, turn left (north) towards the Jewish quarter with it's numerous synagogues and the tightly crammed Jewish cemetery (1487) containing over 100,000 bodies. U Milosdrynch (Kozl 21) is in this area near St Agnes's convent and serves cheap Gambrinus and Pilsener Urquell. If you are hungry, a good cheap restaurant/bar is Ceska Hopoda (Vezenska 9), off Kozl.

Head back south through the stunning old town square, with its collection of buildings in many different architectural styles (Baroque, Modern, Gothic, Noveau). Stop in the square to admire the old town hall, the church of St Nicholas and our lady before Tyn, as well as the Jan Hus monument and the Golz-Kinsky Palace, before watering at U Krale Jirho. There are 2 bars here. The plush one, above ground serves Gambrinus 10% light and Pilsener Urquell. The adjacent cellar bar with its bare brickwork interior, and Czech avant-garde rock music dispenses very cheap Platan light (18cr). There are about 60 Czech crowns to the £, so this is about 30p. The James Joyce is across the alleyway, but this should only be used to check the score on the Sky English football game showing on the TV in there. A better bet is U Rotundy (Karoliny Svelte 17), a good basic and friendly local's boozier, which has Staropramen for about 15 cr. The Pivnice Radegast (Templova 2) is a large beer hall (with an outside part for summer), selling Radegast 10% light, 12% dark and allegedly headbanger 18%, as well as very good food (if you haven't had enough already).

Most Czech bars are waiter/waitress service, and beers are often proffered without the need to order them, this constitutes good service, rather than a hard sell, and no offence is caused if you refuse them. Another quaint custom is that Czech establishments appear to trust their customers, and allow them to run up a tab, which is settled upon leaving, or on becoming insensible (whichever occurs first). The Czechs are the largest per head beer consumers in the world, so insensibility is not an unknown state in their bars.

Another good bar in the Old town area is Skorepka bar (Skorepka 5), which had Plevensky Prajdroj (light). Combine a sojourn to this with a look at the nearby St Giles church, and Bethlehem chapel, and then adjourn to the adjacent U Vejvodu (Jilska 17), which serves the unusual Tmazý Lezak dark 12% and yet more

well priced substantial food portions.

If you keep heading south (use a compass if too much ale has dulled your map reading ability), you reach the New Town. Not all that new as it was founded in 1348 by Charles IV.

The famous Wenceslas Square, which has witnessed many an uprising (mainly suppressed), is in this area. The street of Vodickova is a drinker's dream. At number 26 there is a small gem of a basic bar, frequented mainly by working men. Branicky Slipek Pivnice, serving Branicke 10% and 12% light, and sometimes Prazan Mestan 11% dark. The décor is clean, basic cool pine, and the prices are very cheap, and contrary to the suggestion on the Prague City server web site, some women do go into it. There is an adjoining restaurant, serving basic food, as well as the same beers.

A little way further along at number 20 is the Novometsky Pivovar brewhouse. This large multi-level establishment, in which you can sit, and watch the brewing happening in front of your very eyes, dispenses it's own Novometsky Kvasnicovy Lezak (light and dark) 11%.

Another brewhouse in the New town area is U Fleku. As well as the brewery, U Fleku has a very large drinking hall. The only beer is the excellent dark Flekovsky Lezak (dark), relatively expensive at 49Cr. Emanating from 1499, and the oldest family brewery in Prague, this establishment is Prague's most famous and popular, but it is large enough for over-crowding not to be a problem.

U Pinkasu (Jungmannovo Namesti) is not easy to find. This is a homely Czech pub, with vaulted ceilings, and Pilsener Urquell 12% and Domazlice Purkmistr (dark) 11% available. Another enormous beer hall in this area is U Medvidku (Na Perstýne 7). This was a former brewery dating back to 1466. Enjoy a good meal (the fish is excellent, and can swim around happily in Budovar 12% light and Regent 12% dark).

Whilst in the New Town area, have a look at the National Theatre, lavishly rebuilt after fire (which happened before it had even opened) in 1881-83, and restored in recent years, this has impressive interiors and exteriors, especially the ceiling fresco in the lobby. A good eatery near here is Koliba (Narodni 15), which serves good light and dark beer as well as mega size food portions for not very much money. If you need to walk some of this off, go back across the Legii Bridge, and get another perspective of the River Vltava.

Pub News

THE TABBARD - SAVED

When early in the year 2000, the Tabbard Inn, Bath Rd. W4, was threatened by new owners Punch Taverns with a "new image" i.e. the destruction of a community local – the response came fast and strong. An informally organised campaign was started immediately by John Whitworth. He recruited the help of the local community and other concerned groups including CAMRA.

Punch Taverns had plans to get rid of the accommodation and turn the pub into a "lock-up" with the loss of the "on-site" manager and some staff, and the closure of the Tabard Theatre. In addition this listed building (part of the Bedford Park Estate) was to be completely re-decorated with the threats to the character of the interior including the unique William de Morgan tiles.

The good news is that Punch have made significant concession on both points above due to the enormous numbers of objections to their plans. In addition a variety of real ales will continue to be served. However, the plan to turn the well used function room into a restaurant to create a gastro pub style facility with an open kitchen appears to be going ahead.

So the battle may have been won but the war continues.

Ray Prior
Chairman West London Branch

OVERSEAS CRAWL (contd)

Prague is a superb city, mainly for its rich and wide variety of superb architecture, unbespoiled by modern developers, an environment in which history, tradition and culture have not yet submitted to Mammon. I enjoyed all of the bars and restaurants, which had good ambience, as well as serving quality, traditional, local beers and food at very reasonable prices. Even the late autumnal weather was sunny and mild.

Finally if your travelcard is still valid, make your way back to the airport by metro and bus, rather than using one of the specific airport transit services.

John Rooth



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Campaign Update

The Campaign for Real Ale has been voicing its opinions for years on subjects close to the drinker's heart - everything from pub hours to brewery closures. The last couple of months have seen significant developments in many of these campaigns, and here's an update; CAMRA quotes are from Mike Benner, head of Campaigns and Communications at CAMRA HQ, one of the people at the forefront of CAMRA's efforts.

Government blocks Bass takeover
Interbrew's UK expansion strategy has been left in tatters by the decision of Trade and Industry Secretary Stephen Byers to block its £2.3 billion takeover of Bass's brewing arm.

The move, which came as a shock to the industry, obliges the Belgian giant to sell Bass to a buyer who must be approved by the Government. Byers ruled that the completion of the merger would work against the public interest and would reduce competition in the market - with Interbrew already owning Whitbread's breweries, the deal would have created a market dominated by just two companies - Interbrew and Scottish & Newcastle.

An order to sell some brands had been expected, but not an order to scrap the whole deal. As Interbrew has already completed the acquisition, it is too late to prevent the deal taking place, so the Government ordered the resale instead. This is almost certain to be at a loss, possibly of as much as £800 million.

CAMRA welcomed the decision, claiming that it sent a clear message that further consolidation in British brewing is off. Mike Benner said "We hope that the Government's hard line approach will continue as a policy. Today's decision sends a clear signal to other global brewers that the UK market is not open for abuse".

Not everyone was impressed, though. The Belgian Government attacked the decision as being damaging to the Belgian company, while being likely to favour UK company Scottish and Newcastle. Belgian Economy Minister Charles Picque raised "the particularly prejudicial consequences of the decision for the businesses concerned" with both the British Government and the European Commission, but having already referred the merger to Britain's authorities, the EC has no authority to review its decision. Any ruling on a new buyer for Bass may have to be approved by the EC as well as the British Government, however.

In a further blow for the company, it emerged

shortly after the takeover was blocked that Interbrew faces a hefty fine from the European Competition Commission for alleged abuse of its dominant market position in its home country, where it has some 56 per cent of the total market. If anti-competitive activities are proved, the EC has the power to levy a fine of up to a tenth of the company's worldwide turnover (which in 1999 was 4.35 billion Euros). Interbrew admits to offences up to 1998, but claims it has taken "the corrective measures necessary". It also points out that other EU countries suffer even greater market domination, with Carlsberg having 71% of the Danish market, and Heineken 82% in Greece.

Meanwhile, for Bass, the future is uncertain. Possibly the ideal solution for the consumer would be the establishment of the brewery as an independent company. This might lead to some long overdue promotion for Draught Bass, a unique high profile brand that has been sadly neglected. However, other large companies including South African Breweries and Heineken are rumoured to be interested.

Full pints on offer at last.....

Government proposals released in December offer a mixture of news for beer drinkers.

The good news is that the 15 year battle for pubs to serve a full pint may be nearing an end. The latest proposals will oblige landlords to serve 100 per cent liquid on average, and never to serve less than 95 per cent liquid.

Brim measure glasses will remain for some beers, although frothier ones will have to be served in lined measure glasses or from metered dispensers; there will be a two year transition period to allow glass stocks to be replaced and staff to be trained.

The move has been welcomed by CAMRA: "There has been too much short measure in too many pubs for too many years. These proposals are a giant leap forward for consumer rights. The great British Beer rip-off costs drinkers a million

-Campaign Update-

pounds a week and the Government has finally decided to do something about it. Drinkers should get what they pay for - a full pint."

The industry has been accused of spreading scare stories about the measure, claiming it could cost 500 million pounds to implement and lead to higher prices, due to the need to serve more beer. Mike Benner dismissed these claims as "nonsense", pointing out that Wolverhampton and Dudley have been serving full pints for 30 years, but still sell some of the cheapest beer in the country. But he warns that the brewers are likely to put up a fight to

preserve their right to inflate their profits by short changing the customer - some breweries even instruct managers to get 76 pints out of a 72 pint cask!

Recent research has shown that pints can be as short as 15%, with the average being well short of 95%. It was calculated that drinkers are short changed to the tune of £1 million per week.

... but no progress on pub hours

The bad news in the Government's announcements is that reform of the archaic pub licensing and hours legislation has been left out of the Queen's speech, and is therefore likely to be put off until after the next General Election.

Consumers are up in arms over the apparent retreat by the Government, with a new survey commissioned by CAMRA showing strong public support for a more flexible approach to pub opening hours. The survey showed that:

- 61% of people agreed that a pub should be allowed to open when the landlord pleases providing the local community is protected from excessive noise or nuisance (only 25% disagreed).
- 58% of people agreed that adults should be treated as adults and should have the opportunity to drink in pubs at any time they choose (only 23% disagreed).

CAMRA has been campaigning for moves to reform our antiquated and over-bureaucratic licensing system, and it is bitterly disappointing to see the measure put off, probably until 2002 at least. The delay is likely to have been influenced by organised opposition from some local authorities including those in Central London, who claimed that it would increase noise, nuisance and crime.



The FOX

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- We proudly announce that we do not possess any filtering equipment. There is no recycling in our pub!
- London Pride is our regular ale, as well as Timothy Taylors Landlord & Brakspears **Plus** ever changing guest ales
- Home cooked food
- Contained pub garden
- 100 yards from Grand Union Canal
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Sundays 12-10.30pm

Campaign Update

Mike Benner commented "The Government seems to have adopted a piecemeal approach to reform with stronger police powers and initiatives to deal with problem pubs, but without the benefits that would come from more flexible hours. The evidence clearly shows that problems associated with binge drinking and alcohol related crime would be reduced if pubs closed at varying times."

Beer Orders review

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has given the go ahead for the big brewers to build up massive tied estates again.

Following the review of the Beer Orders, the 2,000 pub limit on pub ownership by breweries has been dumped. The introduction of the limit transformed the industry as brewers sold off pubs, and the pub company rose to prominence as a major influence on the market; there are fears that its abolition could lead to more consolidation in pub ownership and less choice for the drinker. Today's regional brewer could turn into the national of tomorrow, and major multinational companies such as Carlsberg Tetley could now be tempted to re-enter the pub market.

However, the Orders are not to be scrapped completely. The guest beer provision, which allows the tenant of a brewer who owns more than 2,000 pubs to offer a guest beer, will be retained. This will allow some 1,700 pubs to keep the freedom to serve a guest ale, and is seen as a success for CAMRA's campaigning efforts. Mike Benner said, "We are ecstatic that the Government has listened to our calls to protect consumer choice by maintaining the guest beer provision. The provision offers an important outlet for the beers of Britain's 400 small independent brewers and means beer drinkers can continue to enjoy interesting and distinctive beers."

The ban on de-licensing pubs when sold is also to stay, another welcome move that is seen as essential to the preservation of community pubs, particularly in rural areas.

Gordon Brown loves his beer

William Hague hit the headlines a couple of months ago with claims of his fourteen pints a day consumption. But Hague's lake of beer pales into insignificance when compared with the oceanic nine million pints a day that Gordon Brown takes from drinkers in tax.

Figures released by the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association (BLRA) and Campaign for Real Ale show that when duty and VAT are added together, the Chancellor takes a third of every pint in tax. That adds up to nine million of the 27 million pints bought in the UK every day.

In response, the BLRA and CAMRA are launching a major national campaign, which will run until the Budget in March, to focus consumer attention on the amount of beer tax they pay every time they buy a pint. The campaign aims to involve every pub and beer drinker in Britain. People can vote in a national e-poll on whether they think beer taxes are too high and sign an e-petition to support the campaign to bring beer taxes down.

The annual tax take is equivalent to enough beer to fill more than one and a half Domes, just over three Wembley Stadiums or 21 Albert Halls.

The huge disparity in tax has led to money and jobs being exported to France as drinkers cross the channel in droves to take advantage of France's 5p a pint duty - compared with 34p this side of the water. Add VAT on top, and beer tax comes to £5 billion a year - £228 a year from the pocket of every beer drinker in the UK. In the meantime, 1 to 1.5 million pints of beer every day are imported from France, with 75 per cent of it thought to be smuggled for illegal resale.

Rob Hayward, Chief Executive of the BLRA said, "Now we know why Gordon loves his beer. Every time you buy a pint, the Government takes a third in tax. The Chancellor is the nine million pint a day man. As an industry, we're calling on our customers to tell us what they think about the level of tax they pay on their beer. Their voice is a vital part of our campaign to bring beer taxes down." Mike Benner added "We are calling on Britain's fifteen million beer drinkers to stand up and be counted in the battle for a fair deal on beer tax. High beer tax is not only damaging brewers, pubs and the farmers who grow the raw materials for beer, it is also leading to rural pub closures and the loss of important centres of the community."

Tim Martin of J D Wetherspoon, writing in Wetherspoon News, commented "This is gross economic stupidity, contributing nothing to the Exchequer and resulting in the direct export of jobs to France".

Dave Lee

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 157

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.

Following the destruction of the Firkin brewpubs by Bass and Punch, it is pleasing to welcome a new traditional brewpub at the William the Fourth, E10 Leyton. In addition, S&N have appointed a new brewer for their Yorkshire Grey and Orange brewpubs in WC1 Holborn and SW1 Belgravia. Together with the 'Continental style' brewpubs run by Freedom in W1 Soho and WC2 Covent Garden, Mash in W1 Great Portland St, Pacific Oriental in EC2 City and Zerodegrees in SE3 Blackheath, we now have a grand total of 8 brewpubs out of 5,500 pubs and bars in Greater London altogether. Mash keg beers are now also available at a second (non-brewing) outlet in W1 Mayfair. The Old Monk, Wizard and Slug & Lettuce chains have each opened brand new pubs in EC2 City, Upminster and SE1 Borough respectively. Wetherspoon has opened its first 'Lloyds No. 1' in the London area at Hornchurch, complete with real ale and 'music'. Bass has relaunched the Wetherspoon lookalike 'Goose' chain with a cheap but unadventurous real ale policy. Most are ex-Firkin conversions with one being a brand new pub in Beckenham. Several more Firkins (including ex-brewpubs) have lost real ale altogether following their conversion to the tired, mock-Irish O'Neill's chain. Another 'organic' pub has appeared in W6 Hammersmith, the latest 'Tup' in SW18 Wandsworth, and another Scottish theme pub in SE1 Bermondsey.

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

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

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC2, OLD MONK, 10 Aldermanbury (corner Wood St/Love Lane). Adnams: Bitter, Fisherman, Broadside; Fuller: London Pride; Theakston: Best Bitter. Latest outlet for 'Old Monk' free house chain opened November 2000 under new office block with, confusingly, official address in adjacent street. Large entrance porch leads into spacious bar area with high ceiling and stairs leading up to a mezzanine level bar overlooking main bar and available for private functions. Red and cream décor, abstract paintings, modern style lighting and mixture of chairs, tables and sofas and varying drinking areas. Loud music in evenings. Big screen TV

for sports. Food 11.30-10. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends..

W1(May), MASH, 26B Albemarle St. No real ale. Keg beers served from continental style fonts are Meantime: Mash (lager 4.8%); Mash (Great Portland St): Peach (5.2%), Wheat (5.2%), Seasonal (currently Stout). Opened October 2000 in premises believed formerly occupied by 'Bar Coast' but not previously reported. Entrance leads through green padded corridor to bar area at rear. Restaurant area partitioned off at front with orange rubber tubing hanging from ceiling. Padded spiral staircase leads down to rather gloomy, intimate, basement lounge bar available for functions. House beers vary between £1.60 and £1.80 a half (£2.90 - £3.20 a pint) or a taster of all four for £3.20. Bar open 11-11 Mon-Sat (restaurant 12-3, 6-11), closed Sun.

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 157 continued

EAST

BARKING, TOP UP BAR, 25/27 Station Parade. No real ale, H unused. New Free House opened in December 2000 in former bank premises.

HORNCHURCH, WHITE HART, 168 High St. Renamed **LLOYDS NO 1**. Taylor: Landlord; Guest beers from micros. Acquired by Wetherspoons from Wolves & Dudley along with rest of Lloyds chain, based in the Midlands, it having been acquired in turn by W&D on its takeover of Mansfield. Formerly **NEWT & CUCUMBER**. (X71, U153)

UPMINSTER, CRUMPLED HORN, 33-37 Corbets Tey Road. Boddington: Bitter; Wells: Bombardier; 2 Guest beers (e.g. Coach House Innkeepers and Wychwood). Latest Wizard Inns Free House opened September 2000 in three former shop units. Double doors lead into brightly lit, carpeted bar area with raised seating areas to either side, the right hand area being no smoking. Red and yellow décor. Old pictures of Upminster adorn the walls. Named following local consultation to commemorate the long gone Crumpled Horn dairy. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours. The increased proportion of guest beers, compared with others in the chain, is welcome.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, SLUG & LETTUCE, 32 Borough High Rd. Courage: Directors Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. 'Slug & Lettuce' chain Free House opened November 1999 in former bank premises (originally a town hall) but not previously reported. Steps and carpet lead up to the ground floor bar area with high ceiling, spot lighting, white painted exposed brickwork, pastel green behind bar, mixture of seating, and wooden flooring. Air conditioning. Food. Open all permitted hours.

SE5, BRAMBLES, 25 Camberwell Church St. Reopened and renamed **FUNKY MUNKY**. No real ale. (SE56, U120)

BECKENHAM, GOOSE, 205-213 High St. Draught Bass; Fuller: London Pride; Highgate: Special Bitter (£1 per pint), Saddlers Bitter. New Bass pub opened October 2000 in former shop premises and part of its new 'Goose Pubs' chain. Appears to be the 'Wetherspoon lookalike'

concept previously badged as 'Goose & Granite', re-launched with all draught beers at £1.50 and a 'cheapie' at £1 a pint. The 'Goose & Granite' renamings were specifically criticised by Chris Smith, Culture Secretary – which may have prompted the change. Large frontage and carpeted bar area in 'traditional Wetherspoon' style with tiled area around bar, screens, raised drinking area at side, framed photos of Beckenham and ad hoc pictures on the walls. Even the 'dusty books' have been included, long ago abandoned by Wetherspoon. Special offers on food (2 meals for £5.50 in January) and drinks. No smoking area. Open all permitted hours.

CROYDON, TAMWORTH ARMS, 62 Tamworth Rd. Young: Bitter, Special, Winter Warmer. Reopened Youngs pub. (3SE251, U154)
WELLING, LORD KITCHENER, 21 Wrotham Rd. Worthington: Best Bitter (3SE287, U149, K146)

SOUTH WEST

SW6, SHOELESS JOE'S, 555 Kings Rd. No real ale. Outlet for small free house chain in former shop premises.

SW6, SHED BAR, Chelsea Village, Stamford Bridge Football Ground, Fulham Rd. No real ale. Free house in shopping/football complex.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, LEOPARD. Free House, closed and boarded up. (E19, U75, U112)

EC1, PEASANT. Free House, H removed. Formerly **GEORGE & DRAGON**. (E16, U79, U80, U92)

W1(F), BLACK HORSE. Bass, H removed. (W28, U73, U74, U98)

W1(S), FANFARE & FIRKIN. Renamed **O'NEILLS**. Bass, H removed. Formerly **DOG & TRUMPET**. (W42, U115, U151)

WC2, FLYMAN & FIRKIN. Renamed **O'NEILLS**. Bass, brewery equipment and H removed. (U101, U151)

WC2, IMPERIAL. S&N, H removed. (W54, U53, U74, U106)

EAST

E1, STAR & GARTER. Wells, H removed. (E73)

E2, CARPENTERS ARMS. Free House, no real ale. (E79, U110)

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 157 continued

E2, MARQUIS OF CORNWALLIS. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), no real ale. (E82)

E3, BEEHIVE. Free House, no real ale. (E87)

E8, ACTON ARMS (NOLANS). Free House, closed and converted to hairdressers shop. Formerly NOLANS. (E114, U119)

E10, COACH & HORSES. Bass, no real ale. (E123, U75, U124, U134, U140, U144)

E10, HOUSE BAR. Free House, no real ale. Formerly LION & KEY. (E125, U100, U155)

E11, CROPPY ACRE. Free House, H unused. Formerly HALFWAY HOUSE. (E128, U108, U109, U125, U130, U140)

E13, LORD STANLEY. Free House, closed. (E136, U124, U147)

E15, FALMOUTH ARMS. Free House, closed. (E153, U85)

E15, KING HAROLD. Bass, H removed. (E153, U25, U91, U96, U113, U130, U140)

E15, WEE JACK. Free House, closed. Formerly BRADYS, previously AMELIA, originally PRINCESS AMELIA. (E151, U112, U130, U153)

BARKING, BARGE AGROUND. S&N, no real ale. (X10)

BARKING, JOLLY FISHERMAN. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), no real ale. (X11)

BARKING, LIGHTERMAN. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), no real ale (X11)

BARKING, RED LION. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), no real ale. (X12)

BARKING, VICTORIA. Free House, no real ale. (X12)

NORTH

N2, HUNGRY HORSE (MANOR COTTAGE). Greene King, now demolished. (N66, U117, U156)

N4, RACECOURSE. Renamed **FLAGS.** Pubmaster, H removed. Open evenings only mid-week. Formerly TAP & SPILE. (N77, U130)

N6, WOODMAN. S&N, H unused. (N83, U106)

N8, FEELGOODS. Greene King, closed and shuttered. Formerly RAT & CARROT (THE SPORTING), originally WISE SERPENT. (N95, U117, U151)

N10, GREEN MAN. S&N, H removed. (N103)

N10, TAP BARREL (SWISS VILLAGE). Greenalls, H unused. (N104)

N12, MALT & HOPS. S&N, H removed. (N111)

N12, SWAN & PYRAMIDS. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), H removed. (N112)

N12, TRIUMPH. Whitbread, H removed. (N112, U110)

N15, FOUNTAIN. Now a Crowndale Taverns Free House, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), H unused. (N124)

BARNET(EN5), CROWN & ANCHOR. Free House, no real ale. (N250)

BARNET(EN5), FELIX & FIRKIN. Bass, no real ale. Formerly DANDY LION. (N250, U120, U151)

BARNET(EN5), JUG & TRUMPET. Renamed **BAR TEN.** S&N ex-Greenalls, no real ale. (N250)

COCKFOSTERS(EN4), TRENT TAVERN. S&N, closed for housing development. (N247)

ENFIELD EAST(EN3), O'MALLEYS. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), closed and boarded up. Formerly KINGS ARMS. (N241, U151)

NEW BARNET(EN4), DEN. Renamed **BOLT (THE).** Free House, no real ale. (N246)

NEW BARNET(EN4), DUKE OF LANCASTER. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), closed and boarded up. (N246)

NEW BARNET(EN5), LYTTON ARMS. Renamed **FIDDLERS.** Now Free House, ex-Grand Met (Watney). H removed. (N251)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CAMDEN. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), H removed. (N162)

NW1, DEVONSHIRE ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), H removed. (N164)

NW1, DUBLIN CASTLE. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), H removed. (N164)

NW1, EASTNOR CASTLE Free House, H removed. (N165)

NW1, MORNINGTON ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), H unused. (N170)

NW1, PARRS HEAD. Bass, H unused. (N171)

NW1, TAVERN IN THE TOWN. Free House, H unused. (N176)

NW3, ADELAIDE. Bass, H removed. Formerly VICEROY. (N190, U153)

NW3, BAR ROOM BAR. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), H removed. (N184)

NW3, HORSE & GROOM. Young, closed and building for sale, presumably for a more lucrative use. (N186)

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 157 continued

NW6, NORTH LONDON TAVERN. Bass, H removed. (N205)

NW10, OLD GRANGE TAVERN. Bass, H removed. (N205)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, ANTIGALLICAN. Free House with historic name, closed to make way for London Mayor's new headquarters. (SE9, U105, U139)

SE1, DUKE OF CLARENCE, 132 London Rd. Ex-Allied (Ind Coope), closed. (SE14)

SE1, ST JOHNS TAVERN. Free House, closed and to become another victim of the Mayor's new HQ. (SE34)

SE5, PHOENIX & FIRKIN. Renamed **O'NEILLS**, brewery and H removed. (SE61, U151)

SE8, DUKE. Whitbread, no real ale. (SE79)

SE8, HARP. Free House, no real ale. Formerly **NOBODY'S INN**, **HARP OF ERIN** and **LOONEY TUNES**. (SE82, U103, U109, U124, U129, U144)

SE8, NAVY ARMS. Ex-Ascot, no real ale. (SE81, U113)

SE8, ROSE OF KENT. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), H unused. (SE82)

SE10, PRINCE OF ORANGE. Renamed **ST CHRISTOPHERS INN**. Bass, H removed. (SE100)

SE15, KELLIES FREE HOUSE. Renamed **MANTIS**, H removed. (SE136)

SE18, LORD RAGLAN. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), no real ale. Correct address is 158 Burrage Rd. (SE169, U102)

SE18, STAR, 84 Wellington St. Free House (Labatts), closed and boarded up. (SE174, U102, U126)

SE25, ALBION. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), H removed. (SE214)

BECKENHAM, FLAT FOOT SAM'S. Whitbread, no real ale. Formerly **BECKENHAM**. (3SE204, 8K202, U90)

BEXLEYHEATH, GOLDEN LION. Whitbread, no real ale. (3SE212, U43, K34)

WELLING, DUKE OF EDINBURGH. Greene King, no real ale. (3SE286, U44, U87, U146)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), DOLPHIN. Shepherd Neame, closed and boarded up. (SW40)

SW1(W), STAG. S&N, no real ale. (SW50, U137)

SW6, CROSS EYED NEWT (CHELSEA). Greene King, H removed. (SW66)

SW6, HARWOOD ARMS. Now Unique, ex-Inntrepreneur, H now removed. (SW67, U136)

SW8, DUKE OF CORNWALL. Free House, closed and boarded up but still displays old Young's signage. (SW76)

SW8, FLANAGANS OF BATTERSEA. Free House, H unused. Formerly **OLD RED HOUSE**. (SW78, U127, U142)

SW11, CHELSEA REACH. Inntrepreneur, H unused. (SW87)

SW11, HABERDASHERS ARMS. Ex-Allied, H unused. (SW89)

SW11, LEGLESS LADDER. Renamed **GEORGE II (Gii)**, a garden bar and restaurant in September 2000. Now GD Leisure, ex-Conway Taverns, no real ale, H removed. (SW89)

SW11, MESS. Bass, H removed. (SW89)

SW11, SOMERS ARMS. Inntrepreneur, H unused. (SW90)

SW11, STAG. Phoenix, H removed. (SW90)

SW13, GARDEN HOUSE. Renamed **BROWNS**, no real ale, H removed. (SW94)

SW17, HOLLYWOOD BAR. Free House, closed. Formerly **SPINDLES**. (SW110, U147)

SW17, HORSE & GROOM. Inntrepreneur, closed. (SW109)

SW17, KINGS HEAD. S&N, H unused. (SW109, U142, U151)

SW17, SURREY TAVERN. Whitbread, H unused (not removed as reported in U151). (SW110, U142, U151)

SW17, TRAMSHED. Bass, H unused. (U142, U143)

MITCHAM, CROWN INN. S&N, H unused. (SW145)

MITCHAM, GARDENERS ARMS. Inntrepreneur, H unused. (SW145)

MITCHAM, THREE KINGS. S&N, H removed. (SW147)

RICHMOND, BLACK HORSE. Now Jordan Inns, ex-Inntrepreneur, H unused. (SW154)

RICHMOND, BULL & BUSH. Renamed **EDWARDS**. Bass, H removed. (SW155)

WEST

W2, CHAMPION. Bass, H removed. (W58)

W2, DURHAM CASTLE. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), now a café-bar, H removed. (W59, U74)

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 157 continued

W2, FORTUNE CORNER. Free House, closed, future uncertain. Formerly ORIENT EXPRESS, originally GRAND JUNCTION ARMS. The loss of yet another pub of character. (W59, U80, U122)

W10, NEW LATIMER ARMS. Free House, confirmed converted to flats. Formerly LATIMER ARMS. (W86, U92, U133, U147)

W12, FRINGE & FIRKIN. Renamed O'NEILLS, brewing equipment and H removed. Formerly BUSH. (W91, U71, U120)

W12, QUEEN ADELAIDE. Bass, H removed. (W91)

W14, FOX & HOUNDS. S&N, H removed. (W94, U71, U104, U107)

BEDFOT, ROYAL OAK. Innkeeper, closed and boarded up. (W96, U107)

BRENTFORD, GEORGE & DRAGON. Bass, H unused. (W97, U57)

BRENTFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS. Free House, H removed. Formerly MARY O'RIORDANS. (W98, U52, U79, U152)

HOUNSLOW, LORD PALMERSTON. Greene King, H removed. (W128, U95, U98, U117, U147)

TWICKENHAM, RISING SUN. Whitbread, closed and currently used as a 'show house' for adjoining housing development – expected to reopen at a later date. (W151, U95)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC4, BAYNARDS CASTLE. Renamed GOOSE AT THE CASTLE. (E46, U70)

WC1, YORKSHIRE GREY BREWERY. +Yorkshire Grey: specials and seasonal beers (e.g. Knight Porter 4.5%). New brewer Ramsey Brothwick now at the helm.. (W51, N32, U133)

WC2, HEDGEHOG & HOGSHEAD. Renamed DALY'S BAR, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter, Broadside. Former Grosvenor Inns Free House now under same ownership as Daly's Wine Bar nearby. Now open 11.30-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends. (U94)

WC2, PORTERHOUSE.: +Brakspear: Bitter, seasonal beer. (U155)

EAST

E10, WILLIAM THE FOURTH WINE BAR. Now simply WILLIAM THE FOURTH again and a Free House, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker).

Pub brewery installed November 2000. -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride, ESB and Guest beers; +Fuller: Chiswick Bitter; +William the Fourth: Brand X (3.8%) and Brand Y (4.4%) bitters. Guest beer: Holts Bitter at time of survey. A very welcome development at a time when Bass and Punch are busy stripping out brewing equipment from the former Firkin brewpubs. (E125, U85, U109, U130)

E14, BLACKSMITH ARMS. Renamed ROGUE TRADER, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Greene King: IPA. Truman signage still displayed.. (E142)

E17, STANDARD. Renamed TRYST, although attached music venue still called STANDARD. Formerly ROYAL STANDARD. (E168, U101)

ROMFORD, FORD & FIRKIN. -Firkin beers and brewery closed; +Tetley: Bitter. Now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Firkin). (X101)

ROMFORD, MORLAND ARMS. Renamed GOOSE, -beers listed; +Draught Bass; +Marston: Pedigree; +Highgate: Saddlers Bitter. Another Bass 'Goose' conversion in the Wetherspoon style. Cheap beer. (X102, U151)

NORTH

N1, FW'S, 2 Essex Rd. Renamed BAR & DINING HOUSE (ISLINGTON), +Courage: Best Bitter. Yet another makeover for this S&N pub. Previously FINNEGANS WAKE and MARKET TAVERN. Originally CARVED RED LION in its Youngers days. (N51, U109, U152).

N1, NOBODY INN. -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Refurbished. 'ALE HOUSE' no longer part of title. (N53)

N8, BLUE BAR CAFE. Renamed O'S BAR, still no real ale. Formerly BIRD IN HAND. (N93, U143)

N8, DICKS BAR. Renamed FAMOUS PIG & WHISTLE, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. (N93)

N8, FIDDLERS ELBOW. Renamed FIDDLERS, still no real ale. (N93)

N8, MAYNARDS ARMS. Should read MAYNARD ARMS (correction to Update 143). (N94, U117, U143)

N8, ORANGE KIPPER. Reverted to HOPE & ANCHOR. (N95, U117)

N17, WATSEEDGE INN. Should read WATERS EDGE, -beers listed; +Brakspear: Bitter, Special, Seasonal beer. Free House now leased by Honeypot Inns. (N137)

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 157 continued

BARNET(EN5), BENNIGANS. Renamed **JEFFERSONS**, formerly TJ'S RIB PLACE, still no real ale. (N253, U128)
COCKFOSTERS, GERSHWINS. Renamed **BAR MED**, still no real ale. (N246)
NEW BARNET(EN4), WARWICK HOTEL. Renamed **BAILEY (THE)**, still no real ale. (N247)

NORTH WEST

NW3, HOLLY BUSH -beers listed; +Adnams Bitter, Broadside; +Benskins: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch, ex-Allied. (N186, U152)
NW6, CALCOTT TAVERN. Correct address is 18 Willesden Lane. (N204)
NW6, PRINCE OF WALES, 101 Willesden Lane. Now badged as part of S&N's 'WJ & J Sanderson' estate. (N205, U149)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, CROWN & ANCHOR. Now a Free House, ex-Phoenix. (SE13, U112)
SE1, HORNS. Renamed **BRIDGE** but name now removed and nameless. (SE21, U102, U112)
SE1, WOOLPACK. Renamed **LONDON SCOTIA BAR**, -beers listed; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA, 80/- Ale. Now a JD Morison Free House with a Scottish theme, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). (SE41)
SE14, WHITE HART. Now **JACK BEARDS AT THE WHITE HART**. (SE131)
SE18, EAGLE. -beers listed; +Courage; Best Bitter; +Greene King; IPA. Main signage reads Eagle but hanging sign reads Eagle Tavern. (SE166)
SE23, ST GERMAINS HOTEL. Correct address is 1 St Germans Road. (SE207)
BEXLEYHEATH, CROOK LOG. Renamed **TOBY CARVERY (BEXLEYHEATH)**, -beers listed except Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. (3SE211, K33)
BEXLEYHEATH, WRONG 'UN. Address is 234-236 Broadway (correction to Kent guide). (U93, K35)
BROMLEY, PARISA. House beers no longer supplied from Putney 'brew café' outlet which has now ceased brewing. (U149)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), PAXTONS HEAD. -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree; +Wadworth: 6X. Now

Punch, ex-Allied (Nicholsons). Sensitive redecoration of main saloon with the basement now a smart lounge and upstairs a Thai/Malaysian restaurant. (SW38)
SW1(P), COUNTRY PUB IN LONDON. -beers listed; +Barnsley: IPA, House beer, +Guest beers. Formerly GROSVENORS. (SW41, U137)
SW1(SJ), COMEDY. -Young: Bitter; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Tetley: Bitter. Now S&N, ex-Greenalls. (SW45)
SW1(SJ), TWO CHAIRMEN. -Morland: Old Speckled Hen; -Guest beers. Refurbished with light wood panelling and flooring and more airy feel. Stools and a few basic tables. Restaurant upstairs and toilets banished downstairs. Courage Best Bitter £1.80 a pint. (SW46)
SW1(W), OLD STAR. -beers listed except Boddington: Bitter and Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wadworth: 6X. Now branded as 'Hawkins & Co/Pizza Hut' by Whitbread. Refurbished with split level, semi-carpeted main bar. Basement bar and room upstairs for functions. (SW49)
SW6, HOBGOBLIN (FULHAM). Reverted to **JOLLY BREWER**, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier. Now presumably Free House, ex-Wychwood. (SW67)
SW6, PICKLED PELICAN. Now simply **PELICAN**. (SW70)
SW9, FLOURMILL & FIRKIN. Renamed **GOOSE**, -beers listed; +Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride; +Highgate: Special; +Taylor: Landlord; +Guest beer. Yet another Bass conversion to the new Goose Pubs chain. (U138, U151, U152)
SW9, ISO BAR. Renamed **LIVINGROOM**, still no real ale. (SW82, U141, U149)
SW10, FRONT ROOM. Renamed **246**, still no real ale. (U156)
SW11, GALANGGA. Renamed **CIRCLE** in September 2000. H now removed. Formerly **FOUR CHIMNEYS**. (SW88, U155)
SW15, CYCLISTS REST. Renamed **BOAT & DRAGON**, styled 'traditional pub and Thai restaurant', -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Flowers: IPA; +Tetley: Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X. Formerly **CRICKETER**. (SW100, U143)
SW15, PARISA. No longer a 'brew café'. Keg House beers now supplied from chain HQ in Warrington, brewer unknown. (U141)
SW16, FURZE & FIRKIN. Renamed **GOOSE**; another in the new Bass chain (U134, U153)

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 157 continued

SW18, ROYAL STANDARD. Renamed **TONSLEY TUP** and now part of Massive Ltd chain following November 2000 refurbishment. - beers listed; +Greene King: IPA; +Wells: Bombardier - both £2.30 a pint.. (SW114, U144)
SW19, CASTLE. Renamed **FIRE STABLES.** -Ind Coope: Burton Ale; +Fuller: London Pride (at £1.30 a half). Refurbished as a 'pub and dining room'. Name refers to use of former pub stables by local fire brigade. (SW116, U144)
MITCHAM, QUEENS HEAD, 70 Cricket Green -Shepherd Neame: Best Bitter; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire, Seasonal beer. (SW147, U149)
RICHMOND, JOE'S. Renamed **BAR ESTILO**, still no real ale. (SW155)

WEST

W2, ROB ROY. Is a JD Morison Free House. Formerly **ROYAL STANDARD.** (W63, U51, U142)
W6, ANGLESEA ARMS. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Marston: Pedigree. Now leased from Enterprise Inns, ex-Belhaven. (W74, U88, U94)
W6, GROVE TAVERN. Now simply **GROVE.** -beers listed; +Pitfield: Organic Bitter (£2.50). Now a Free House, organic bar/restaurant, ex-Grand Met (Watney), with open kitchen, solid wooden furniture etc. (W76)
W6, LE PUB. Renamed **BAR W6.** +Fuller: London Pride. Spacious, comfortable, expensive bar. (W76, U57, U71)
A new edition of the Hertfordshire guide was

HERTFORDSHIRE GUIDE TO REAL ALE

published in September 2000. For the first time the guide includes some pubs in Greater London located within the London Borough of Barnet, also covered by the North London guide. However, whereas the N London guide lists the pubs by postal district (EN4 and EN5), the Herts guide lists them by more localised names, viz. Arkley, Barnet, Cockfosters, East Barnet and New Barnet, although only the name Barnet appears on the map. Despite this 'technical incompatibility', future editions of *Capital Pubcheck* will cross-reference relevant pubs to both guides.

Any additions, deletions or changes included in the Herts guide, not already reported in the Updates, are included in the listings above. A couple of small amendments should be made to

the Herts guide to bring it into line with the N London guide:-

Add

ARKLEY, JEFFERSONS, Stirling Corner EN5. Bass owned. No real ale. Formerly **BENNIGANS**, previously **TJ'S RIB PLACE** and originally **KINGS ARMS**. Omitted in error (see also 'CHANGES' above). Note: recent boundary changes may mean the pub is now in Hertfordshire rather than Greater London, but it should be included for completeness.

Amend

NEW BARNET, FIDDLERS. Delete reference to **LYTTON ARMS** in title - no longer displayed (see also 'DELETIONS' above).

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 153

OTHER CHANGES ETC..

E17, FEAR should read: Renamed **FAT SID'S**, a bar and night club.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 156

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC.

EC1, BIERODROME is a Free House.

E1, POET opened September 2000.

SE1, BELUSHI'S (OF COVENT GARDEN) is a Free House.

SE4, BREAKSPEARE ARMS (now **BROCKLEY BARGE**) reopened October 2000. Ref omitted: (SE51)

SW1(S), GREEN MAN is a Free House.

SW10, FRONT ROOM is a Free House and was opened in mid 1999.

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

Title omitted by printers in error

E2, BRITANNIA address is 12 Chilton St.

SW1(W), BAR EXCELLENCE (now **SHOELESS JOE'S**). Refs should read (U130, U147)

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

Title omitted by printers in error

W1(Mar), COCK & LION is part of Simonds chain.
W1(Mar), LAMB & FLAG is part of Simonds chain.

E1, WHITE HART. Ref should read (E75)

NW5, PEMBROKE CASTLE should read **NW1.**
EDGWARE, CAILI BAR should read **CRILI BAR.**

CHESSINGTON, FOX & HOUNDS should read: Renamed **SKY HORSE.**

Looking Back

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO the Mild Marketing Board had just been formed.

Young's had beaten the big brewers in the New Year's race to put up prices, to the tune of 4p a pint. It was thought that a pint of any sort of bitter in Central London at less than 50p would soon be a rarity.

The impending closure of Courage's Horselydown Brewery by Tower Bridge was causing a storm, and one of their TV adverts had given rise to criticism. It promoted an old-fashioned image, using sepia colour until the last shot, which showed a modern fizz dispenser.

In "False Impressions" Brian Desmond wrote about fake handpumps, and Pete Watson, in "A Plea for Hygiene", wrote about the condition of glasses in some pubs and the means of cleaning them, advocating legislation to enforce better standards of pub hygiene in general.

In "Northern Heights" was John Conen's crawl of Highgate Village, visiting 10 pubs. The 4 centre pages of the March edition comprised 4 crawls of Amsterdam and Antwerp. Martin Cornell gave a history of Barclay Perkins' Anchor Brewery in Southwark from its heyday in 1842.

Another Sandown Park Beer Festival was in the offing, with 20 beers. Sam Smith's had opened the Lord Wolsey, N1 as its latest London pub, and David Bruce had opened his third pub, the Frog & Firkin in W11.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO it was announced that the Victoria – opposite the station of that name – had re-opened with ten real beers – all at over £1 a pint.

"The Stamford Street Stumble" was R. M. Rider's crawl of Waterloo between the station and Blackfriars Road, visiting 5 pubs. A second pub crawl, of Beckenham, was presented by Paul Thomas and covered 9 pubs.

The March centre-page spread was taken by Bruce's Brewery to advertise the newly-opened Falcon & Firkin (formerly the Victoria) in Hackney, equipped with an in-house brewery. The brewing of real ale had ceased in Romford.

The March editorial quoted three articles at length from the Brewers' Society Journal. Each was about rising prices, and the comment at the end read: "If you wish to protest to your MP about the continuing rise in beer taxation and prices by the brewers, we advise you to write...

using material from the above articles as ammunition."

TEN YEARS AGO Stan Tompkins – who has faithfully run the back numbers service from its inception – wrote the February Editorial, in which he discussed whether the newly-introduced guest beer scheme would lead to a better choice for the drinker, and how long it would last.

CAMAL – the equivalent to CAMRA to enthusiasts of real lager – put forward a case in CAMAL COMMENT for the brewing industry to brew and dispense real lager properly, for the home market and for export to the EEC when it eventually came into existence.

The Old Wheatsheaf in Enfield, which had already been voted CAMRA's national Pub of the Year, had been chosen as the best pub in London. Belhaven were acquiring more pubs in the East End, though there was no sign of real ale.

THE HEAD OF STEAM



Euston Station
London NW1
Tel 020 7388 2221

CAMRA
North London
Pub of the year 1999

BEER FESTIVALS COMING UP

St. Valentine's Day

St. Patrick's Day

(ask in the pub or see website
for exact dates)

Also available at

The Head of Steam
Weston's Traditional Cider

www.theheadofsteam.com

— Looking Back —

Meanwhile Sam Smith's had opened their first pub in that part of the Metropolis, the Captain Kidd in Wapping.

Wetherspoon's, for two months, were selling what seemed to be the cheapest beer in Britain, Younger's Scotch Bitter at 79p a pint.

In the House of Commons, MPs were trying, by means of an Early Day Motion, to get real ale in the Members' Bar.

FIVE YEARS AGO in a Guest Editorial Mick Lewis wrote about the number of ciders on sale through a fake handpump – which rendered the pub concerned ineligible for the Good Beer Guide.

Eldridge Pope had introduced "Pope's Traditional Bitter", 3.8% ABV, brewed to their original 1880 recipe. Dennis Pavey offered "A Clapton Riverside Sojourn." The Royal Standard, Croydon, had been voted CAMRA's London Pub of the Year for 1995.

Fuller's latest pub named the "Hung, Drawn & Quartered" had opened in a converted bank next to the Tower of London. Fuller's London Porter, 5% ABV, was on sale as a seasonal ale and would be available until the relaunch of IPA in late March.

Young's were experimenting with a nitrokeg, made from a recipe based on draught Ram Rod to a strength of 5% ABV. Weatherspoon's new guest ale policy meant that each of its pubs would have a choice of 30 real ales a quarter.

In March Andy expressed dismay that Sam Smith's was withdrawing real ale from its London pubs. John Elliott was full of praise for a joint project by Young's and Lambeth Council to provide a 5 lane covered boules pitch in Larkhill Park adjacent to the Surprise SW8.

The former London Drinker beer & cider festival had been re-named "Squiggle" and was advertised as being promoted by N. London CAMRA Branch. Quite why the original title was chosen I cannot recall, though it presumably used to cash-in on the magazine's success.

In Enfield, the former Ponders End Pumping Station had been transformed into a pub and restaurant called the Navigation Inn.

On a final historical note, in February 1986 we quoted a short piece from "What's Brewing" of November 1973. It ran: "An Essex University economist has warned that by the turn of the century, a pint will cost 65p." Our heading was, predictably (and printably) "NEVER!" It just shows that it takes an economist to get it that wrong.

Happy New Millennium.

Cheers,

Martin Smith

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

THE VICTORIA

Ravenscroft St, Bethnal Green, E2 7QP

(nr. Columbia Flower Market)

Tel:- 0207-739-7281

Traditional East End Free House with Traditional East End Prices

- Fri - 'Free and Easy' with Peter Anthony & Guest
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- Sun - OPEN 8A.M! Singalong Around The Piano with the fabulous Jamie Rowan from 1pm

- Guest singers always welcome
- Functions catered for
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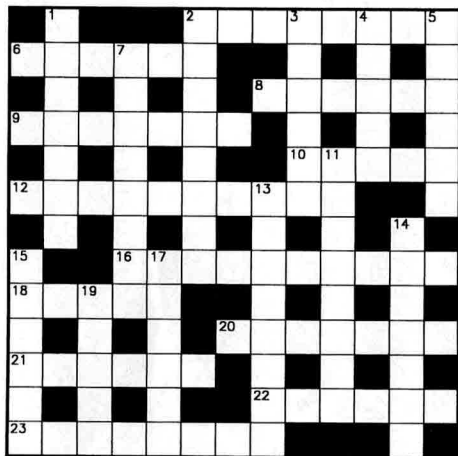
Please phone for details-ask for
Peter Anthony

AND ALWAYS -
AT LEAST TWO
REAL ALES AVAILABLE

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



Name

Address

.....

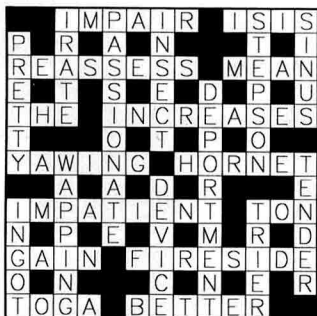
.....

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

Prize winner will be announced in the June
London Drinker.
The solution will be given in the April edition.

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

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

2. How one may regret drinking (8)
6. Churchman behind alternative meeting (6)
8. Show resentment, apparently, of wedding (6)
9. Speech at Nazi rally shows authority (7)
10. It's always in poetry that is weird (5)
12. Turning off the lamps and having fun (10)
16. River Test dominated by factories (10)
18. American Indian lost aspiration quickly (5)
20. I will look, as they say up north,
for misfortune (3,4)
21. Edward, after the toilet, is sacked (6)
22. I leave very loudly, like Parker (6)
23. Look at the way a soldier, say, is steady (8)

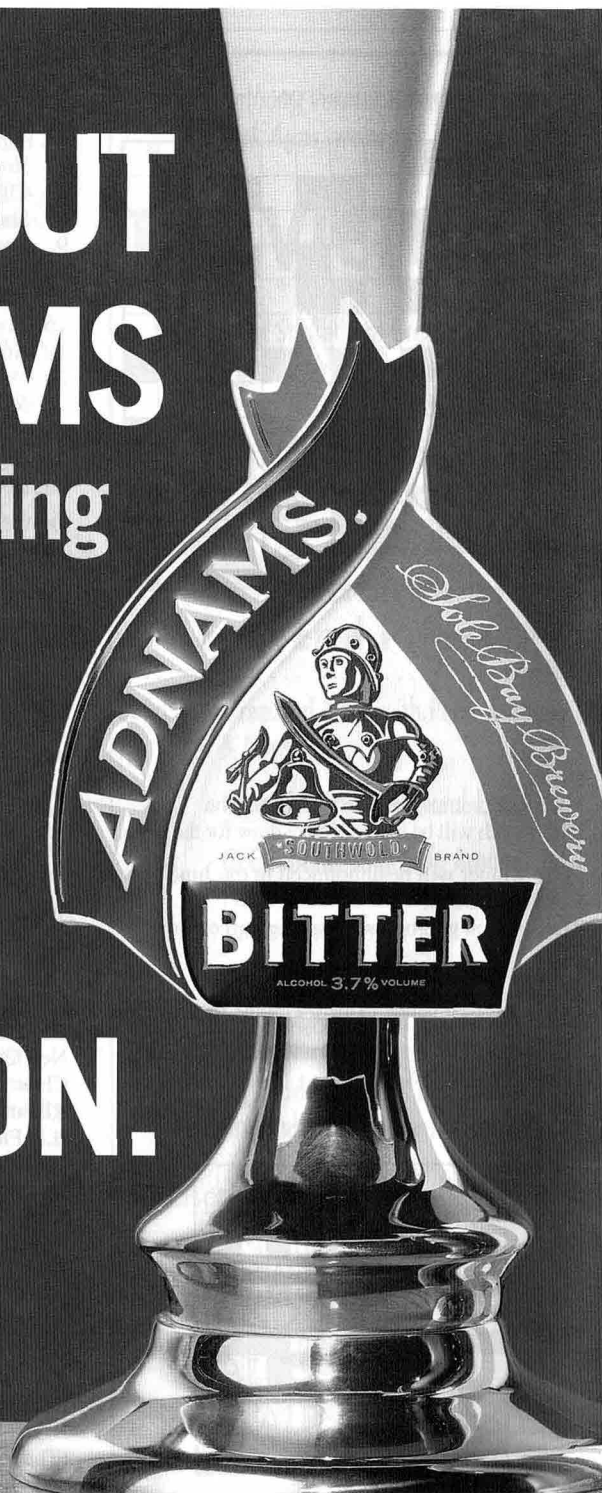
DOWN

1. Swear after low-lifer finds corpse (7)
2. Bishop raised cattle, diversified (8)
3. It's fashionable to live in wooden vessel (6)
4. It's an extra for the horseman (5)
5. He shouts at the sign of western cowardice (6)
7. It's frightening but great (8)
11. Goes round after urge to
make sandwiches (3,5)
13. Cheeky and very nearly broke (8)
14. Hoodlums disfigured Al with scars (7)
15. It's bitter being in charge of the French (6)
17. One way and another it's most up-to-date (6)
19. Trouble on the seamen's deck (5)

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:
Tom Kemp, London SE5.

Other correct entries were received from:
Pat Andrews, Ivor Wright-Ardon, Geoff B,
Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Brendan Casey,
Neil Chapman, Charles Creasey,
Chris Fran & a Spotty Dog, Kathryn Everett,
Ribena de Farqhar Toss, Mike Farrelly,
B.H.Fletcher, Michael Flynn,
French Frank & German, Dudley Freeman,
Marion Goodall, Eileen Graves, Paul Gray,
J.E.Green, M.I.Green, Patricia Green,
Richard Gregory, Jonty Hawkes, John Heath,
Billy Hernon, Doug Jarvis, Terry Lavell,
David McA McKirdy, K.I.May, M.J.Moran,
Al Mountain, Terry Neill, Mick Norman,
David Oddy, Stuart Osgood, Tony Portsmouth,
Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Lyn Randall,
Richard & Joy, Geoff S, Super Scooper,
Bryan Smith & Isa, Old Smokey, Young Smokey,
(The Real) Billy Sollocks, Bill Thackray,
Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Sue Wilson.

**SEEK OUT
ADNAMS**
at discerning
outlets
**ALL
OVER
LONDON.**



Idle Moments

At fifty, everyone has the face he deserves.[George Orwell - Last words in his notebook
A - 17/4/1949]

Happy new millennium! Have you noticed the revolutionary change this month? Yes, I put the quotation first, before anything else. I think I'll try it like this for an edition or two and see how it goes. My eye fell on this quotation and I thought it would be relevant now as I shan't be 50 any more by the time the April edition comes around.

Anyway, enough of the rambling and on with the real stuff. The more observant among you may have noticed without prompting (mainly 'cos you don't read the rubbish in between the puzzles) that this month's number puzzles are all years:

1. 1000 NAD by LE
2. 1553 LJG was Q for ND
3. 1485 B of BF
4. 1954 FMMB by RB
5. 899 D of A the G
6. 1838 O of the NG
7. 1694 F of the B of E
8. 1979 MTBPM
9. 1431 J of AB at the S
10. 1658 D of OC

And so we head on to the brewery anagrams:

1. RAKED BRIT
2. OSIER SIR?
3. TROTS TO CRACK
4. ROB'S ICES
5. WE'D SELL AA
6. AT MARSHY HOD
7. WALES
8. CHEAP TORY
9. CHEAT TRAD RANT
10. KOY HAM GIT

For this time's 5BY4, in the absence of any other inspiration, I have reverted to beers beginning with the same letter of the alphabet - we have now got up to I. All you have to do is match the beers (1 to 10) with the brewers (A to J) who produce them:

1. Invincible
2. Ivory Stout
3. Independence
4. If
5. Inspiration Ale
6. Ironside
7. Imperial Best Bitter
8. Iron Brew
9. Italian Job
10. In the Mood

- A. Goddards
- B. Hampshire
- C. Brunswick
- D. Freeminer

- E. Durham
- F. B & T
- G. Man in the Moon
- H. Bateman
- I. Haggards
- J. Inverlmond

And so finally we come to the General Knowledge bit (I can't really call it trivia because it is, if anything, the least trivial bit of the whole column - marginally). How many of these can you answer?

1. What is the name of the recently opened building above Westminster tube station containing offices and other facilities for MPs and their secretaries?
2. What are the names of the bridges immediately upstream and downstream of London's Millennium Bridge?
3. What river flows across Gatwick Airport and enters the Thames opposite Hampton Court?
4. And what river, which recently flooded Brooklands Museum, enters the Thames opposite Shepperton Lock?
5. In what city does Roberts Stephenson's High Level Bridge stand?
6. And what is the most unusual feature of Stephenson's High Level Bridge?
7. How were George and James Loveless, James Brine, James Hammett, and Thomas & John Stansfield, farm labourers from Dorset collectively known?
8. Who wrote the poem "To a Skylark"?
9. Who was War Correspondent for the Morning Post During the South African (Boer) War?
10. What chronological statement did Bishop James Ussher (Archbishop of Armagh) make in 1654

So there we are then; that's about it. But before I go - I thought I would look up when George Orwell died so I could see how long before his demise he wrote the quotation at the start. Coincidentally, as I sit typing this (on 21st January) it is the fifty first anniversary of his death - I make that a probability of one in 365.

So until next time I shall wish you all a fond farewell. It should be Spring when we next communicate.
Andy Pirson

IDLE MOMENTS - THE ANSWERS

Here are the solutions to the puzzles set in the December Idle Moments column.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 1415 Battle of Agincourt
2. 028 is the New Dialling Code for Northern Ireland
3. 1776 Declaration of Independence (of the USA)
4. 2 Daughters of Henry the Eighth
5. 3458 Miles Between London and New York
6. 1603 Death of Queen Elizabeth the First
7. 5 Olympic Gold Medals of Steve Redgrave
8. 1083 Degrees Celsius is the Melting Point of Copper
9. 2004 Olympic Games to be Held in Athens
10. 692 Feet was the Length of Brunel's Great Eastern

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. MEATY LEVEL | TEME VALLEY |
| 2. A Y.C. BIRD FIG COMET | CITY OF CAMBRIDGE |
| 3. POLLING HUN | PLOUGH INN |
| 4. CHAR ROD | ORCHARD |
| 5. OWE CLUB | BLUE COW |
| 6. WHAT, WE TIRE? | WHITEWATER |
| 7. KOI SEES FLY | ISLE OF SKYE |
| 8. NON-LAWN DUMP | DUNN PLOWMAN |
| 9. WILD FINES | WINFIELDS |

SBY4:

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

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. Banter

2. It was a laxative
3. Salmon (dry cured and marinated in herbs)
4. Australia - it was an Aboriginal language from the area around Sydney
5. Pear
6. The nightingale
7. The shoulder blade
8. Pregnant (or carrying eggs)
9. The emperor penguin
10. It is dissolved in alcohol

Distribution Points for **London Drinker**

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

OUTLETS - EAST and SOUTH EAST PUBS
SE1 ROYAL OAK

OUTLETS - WEST CENTRAL and NORTH PUBS
N1 WENLOCK ARMS

OUTLETS - NORTH WEST PUBS
NW1 HEAD OF STEAM

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

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AN EASTER TREAT
AT THE
PAKENHAM ARMS

1 PAKENHAM ST, LONDON WE1

0207 837 6933

Pakenham has stood and sells

Ales from Breweries strong and pure.

Known to many that we sell the Best, which

Everybody may judge at the Establishment.

Numerous Ales daily are drunk, so

Have a try and visit us, do not be shy!

Ales from North, South, East, West and Poole.

Many are strong, a few weak -

And some are cheap-not many (*we like to make a penny*)

Red, Pale, Golden, Light, Indian, Ales

Malty, Hoppy, Honey Beers

Stouts, Porters and Dry.

Guests this season; **Slaters, Fisherrow, Brakspears,**
Adnams, North Yorkshire Brewery...

And, of course... **O'Hanlons**

from grain to glass...

We pride ourselves on the quality and unique taste of the stouts and beers we brew, so much so that Porterhouse stouts and beers are only available in a Porterhouse Pub, this ensures quality from grain to glass.

**3 great stouts, 3 ales, 3 lagers
& specials all on the premises.
Including one of the largest
selection of bottled beers.**



TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE PORTERHOUSE COVENT GARDEN

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



www.porterhousebrewco.com



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also @ 16-18 Parliament Street, Dublin 2 and Strand Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, Ireland