

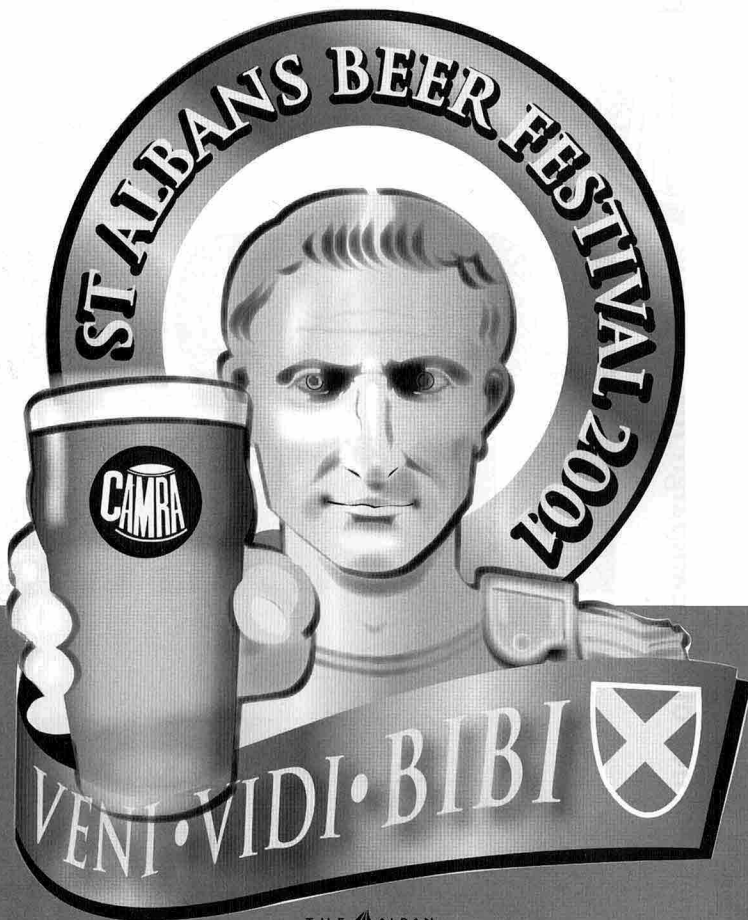
Produced on behalf of the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale

LONDON DRINKER



THE CANBURY ARMS

Photo: Clive Taylor



WED 26th SEP  **TO SAT 29th SEP**

ALE CAESAR. I CAME I SAW I DRANK,
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WED 26th	EVE 5pm TO 10.30 pm	FREE	CHARGE £1.00
THURS 27th	LUN 11am TO 3pm EVE 5pm TO 10.30pm	FREE CHARGE £1.00	CHARGE £1.50 CHARGE £2.50
FRI 28th	LUN 11am TO 4pm EVE 4pm TO 10.30 pm	CHARGE £1.00 CHARGE £1.50	CHARGE £2.00 CHARGE £3.00
SAT 29th	EVE 11am TO 10.30pm	CHARGE £1.00	CHARGE £3.00

Information Hotline: 01727 852 258. Arena Box Office: 01727 844 488.

www.hertsale.org.uk



St Albans
CITY AND DISTRICT



By the time this edition of London Drinker comes out the Great British Beer Festival will be about to begin. There again, perhaps you are reading this at the festival at this very moment with, I trust, an excellent pint by your side.

The GBBF as it's simply known is CAMRA's great publicity machine. This is our great flagship, sails up and all guns firing. We can expect at least 40,000 people on board over the period of five days and if everyone just drinks one pint that is still an awful lot of beer.

All the top Regional breweries and a vast number of the micros are all present. In fact, there are beers from all over the world. Also don't forget the Ciders and Perries.

This is the biggest pub in the world. There are also numerous food stalls, like the beers all tastes catered for. Also traditional pub games, the Brewery Name Game and the famous Tombola where everyone's a winner.

On top of all this there's Live entertainment. No lap top or even lap dog (God, that beers good!) dancing this year but there's great Power Pop from the Tom Robinson Band, Dynamic R and B from Dr. Feelgood, sixties nostalgia with several surprises from the Animals and even the superb lunacy of the completely bonkers John Otway who this year performs for the first time with his big band.

The main reason for the festival is of course to promote Real Ale, and Campaign for it of course.

In the Spring of what is in fact CAMRA's 30th year we launched our biggest promotion yet - 'Ask if its Cask'. Not a tremendous need to bang a drum about this at a beer festival but its another sure way of getting the message across loud and clear. It is all about choice, letting people know Real Ale is out there as well as the nitro-kegs and Irish Stouts and Porters. It is also letting people know of the great variety of Ales, choice again.

CAMRA branches throughout the U.K are informing pub customers about Real Ale through posters, leaflets, and even giant bill boards. In the case of my own branch, Enfield and Barnet, we are giving out free samples. This has proved to be extremely successful, particularly in the case of the 18-26 age group; the potential beer drinkers of the future. I sincerely hope there are a great number of younger people at the GBBF this year. Many, like those at our branch promotions, will probably try Real Ale for the very first time. The feedback from these promotions has been tremendous, young people have said 'Oh that's nice, very different from what I expected!'. They have found they are able to describe the beer, want to know the ingredients (If only they could be stated on the pump clip) and even, in the case of Greene King Old Speckled Hen, ask how the beer got its name. They were most intrigued to

find out about organic beers and where they could find more (very much the beers for a new generation) when we gave out free samples of Brakspears Ted and Ben's Organic beer.

We asked them why they had never tried a Real Ale before and yes, it was purely down to lack of marketing and not having the current image. It was not what their friends drank but rather what Dad drank and they didn't want to be seen to drink the same as him.

It was also the case that they thought a Real Ale would be more expensive than the ubiquitous fizz they normally drank. Again they were surprised to find out this was not so.

As we suspected, very few had ever heard of CAMRA but they took our leaflets, and were interested to find that there is a powerful force of young people who are members, and asked questions about our special membership offer for under 26 year olds.

All in all, very positive and rather like a small child riding a bicycle for the first time, some actually came up to us and gleefully announced 'look at me, look at me, I'm drinking Real Ale!'

Good traditional beer is not a freak. It is one of the most natural beverages there is. Malt, hops and liquor. What's that? Good old Adam's Ale.

Enjoy the Festival and for once there's no need to Ask if its Cask.

ROBIN FORSHAW-WILSON
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CAMRA, GREATER LONDON

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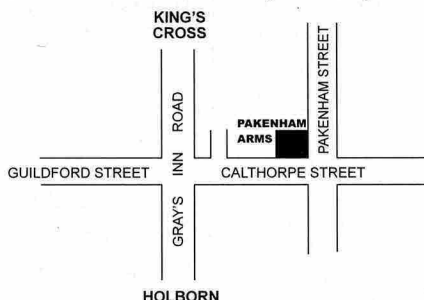
HUGE CASH REWARD

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

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

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

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



SCENE OF 'CRIME'

Notice prepared by your local real ale enforcer

Pat Mulligan

(otherwise known as '**The Guvnor**')!

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LABOUR BREAKS PROMISE ON HOURS

Within weeks of Labour's general election victory, drinkers were foaming at the mouth last month at the news that the election pledge to reform pub opening hours had been dropped from the Queen's Speech. Ex home office minister Mike O'Brien castigated the move, accusing Tony Blair of bad judgement, and adding 'The Prime Minister has broken a promise made to every pubgoer in the land'. This was following the full support given by Downing Street last year to moves to press ahead with the reform.

The reforms would have swept away the ancient restrictions on pub opening, which date from the need to keep munitions workers out of the pubs during the First World War. Tourists are often amazed to find that they can't get a drink after 11pm, and police are pressing for action to prevent the public order nightmare caused by every pub emptying onto the streets at the same time. Contrary to the assertions of opponents of the plans, the reform would not lead to a free for all with all pubs opening 24 hours a day; rather, each pub would have to seek agreement for its own set of opening hours, with local residents and police allowed to have their say in applications.

CAMRA's Mike Benner said 'Many pub-goers will feel cheated today. Licensing reform featured heavily in Labour's election campaign and drinkers deserve to know when the Government is going to stick to its commitment. The Government has stated its commitment to reform on several occasions, but its omission from the Queen's Speech has derailed this important reform yet again'.

One of the more controversial aspects of the proposed reforms was over the plan to hand over licensing to local authorities instead of magistrates. This was strongly opposed by some pub operators, fearing political interference and inconsistent interpretations in the licensing process. Campaigners against the transfer have drawn up counter-proposals of their own, believing that, as they stand, the changes would lead to an administrative disaster. Tim Martin of JD Wetherspoons pointed out that the existing magistrates court system is both good and cheap, and should not be abandoned; CAMRA is hoping that Government will work with the industry and consumers to ensure that such disputes are dealt with through the development of strong guidelines to ensure consistency.

A more promising development was the transfer of responsibility for licensing from the

Home Office to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). It is hoped that DCMS will be able to achieve a better balance between the public order and crime aspects of licensing and the importance of pub going to the British way of life and the tourist industry. Independent Family Brewers of Britain vice chairman Stuart Neame welcomed the move, commenting 'The Home Office discriminated against community pubs and did not give the public clearly what they wanted, which is flexible opening. We want genuine liberalisation of licensing laws.'

Meanwhile, pressure is also continuing on the Government to act on another long standing commitment, to introduce new laws to protect beer drinkers from short measures in pubs. Labour promised to do this in the run up to the 1997 election, guaranteeing that consumers would be able to expect a full liquid pint, with the froth on top not counting as part of the pint. A survey in Cardiff in May showed that the average beer measure in town centre themed pubs was over five per cent short, with one pint being more than ten per cent under. These findings confirm numerous other surveys by CAMRA and Trading Standards Officers.

With the trend towards serving beer with thick creamy heads continuing, there is a clear need to protect consumers from being ripped off.

Disaster in store for Midlands brewing?

The on-off battle for control of Wolverhampton and Dudley breweries, owners of Banks's, Marston's and Mansfield breweries, has entered a new phase following a £450 million hostile takeover bid from Pubmaster. The bid was launched at the last minute possible following the Takeover Panel's imposition of a deadline after months of rumours and no action; it gives shareholders less than two months to make up their minds, and campaigners against the deal a very short time to oppose it.

National News Update

Pubmaster has indicated its intention to sell off the Banks's and Marston's breweries and brands, with the 2,000 pubs being merged into its own estate. The fear is that any buyer of Banks's and Marston's will close down the breweries and have them contract brewed, devastating brewing in the Midlands. Mansfield may be saved by plans to sell it to a local consortium, but following the collapse of a similar deal to save Vaux not long ago, nobody is taking anything for granted.

CAMRA is strongly supporting the current board and the plan they launched in May, Mike Benner saying 'W&D is our biggest regional. It would be a national disaster if it lost its independence, and we want to see CAMRA members campaigning en masse right across the nation to mobilise support'. If it goes through, the deal is likely to further concentrate brewing market power into the hands of the large multinationals, to the detriment of consumer choice.

CAMRA is giving support to for the existing board despite their plans including the closure of the Mansfield brewery. Cameron's of Hartlepool

has already been sold to Castle Eden, leading to the closure of Castle Eden's own brewery. The fact that the most palatable outcome still involves the closure of two breweries is a sad reflection on the current state of the industry.

CAMRA call for Bass merger to go ahead

While opposing some takeovers, CAMRA is supporting the bid for Interbrew to be allowed to take over Bass Brewers. Interbrew bought Bass last year but, following a Competition Commission investigation, the Trade Secretary Stephen Byers blocked the deal and ordered Interbrew to sell Bass. Interbrew appealed to the High Court, and achieved an unprecedented and unexpected victory when the High Court ruled the Competition Commission investigation unfair. However, the Trade Secretary's ruling to block the £2.3 billion deal was not overturned, and the Office of Fair Trading is now carrying out consultation in order to make new recommendations to Patricia Hewitt, who took over from Byers after the Election.

Interbrew expect to be able to sell Bass by September if the Government insists, but

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Abbot Ale • Guest Beer



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- ✿ Open all permitted hours



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

National News Update

CAMRA is claiming that, while being against the public interest, the takeover is less likely to be damaging to the brewing industry than any alternative. It is likely that any purchaser of Bass would have little or no commitment to real ale – among those rumoured to be interested are South African Breweries, Anheuser-Busch and Heineken. CAMRA is instead calling for the end to Interbrew's supply arrangements with the pubs which were once part of the Bass and Whitbread estates.

On a much smaller scale, the purchase of Mole's brewery in Wiltshire by Arkell's has fallen through. The deal was part of Arkell's strategy to create an integrated business covering brewing, wholesaling and retailing in the region. Other Arkell's deals are rumoured to also have failed; meanwhile Mole's continues to trade independently.

More Hogsheads on the way

Following the sale of Whitbread's remaining brewing and pub interests, part of the old Whitbread estate is now run by the Laurel pub company. Speculation that the new operator, which is backed by Morgan Grenfell, would sell the Hogshead pubs has been circulating for some time. Now, Laurel boss Ian Payne has stated that he would like to see fifty more Hogsheads, bringing the number to 200, and would also like to revamp the chain with a wider beer range, better food and wine and less obvious branding. Interviewed in the Morning Advertiser, Mr Payne said that he didn't see a lot of future in branding and would like to move away from it.

439 managed ex-Whitbread houses were sold on by Morgan Grenfell to Enterprise Inns, and 200 more are earmarked to be returned to tenancy.

Britain's best pub

May saw the annual announcement if the winner of the CAMRA National Pub of the Year competition. This year's winner is the Blisland Inn in Blisland, Cornwall, situated on the edge of Bodmin Moor opposite the village green.

The pub has been run for the last seven years by Gary and Margaret Marshall. Mr Marshall said 'We are so pleased to have won this national award. It makes all the hard work worth while and we would like to thank all of our regulars and the Cornwall CAMRA branch for their support of the last 7 years. Although we are very

keen to promote real ale from all over the country, and turn over more than 200 different ales a year, we do go out of our way to promote local beers and ciders from the Cornish breweries.'

All local CAMRA pubs of the year go forward to a regional competition, and the winners of that to a super-regional one. The National pub of the year is chosen from the super-regional winners.

Family Brewers continue duty battle

The Independent Family Brewers of Britain (IFBB) is continuing their fight against the huge differences in beer taxes across the EU 'single market'. With trade suffering from a continuing tide of cheap imports from France, they have lobbied EC Commissioner Frits Bolkestein on the issue. They claim that the biggest distortion of the single market is the 29p per pint difference in duty between Britain and France, and are urging the Commissioner to put right the problems that undermine the effectiveness and credibility of the market.

The Election saw the end of the Conservatives' plan for a new lower rate of tax for lower strength beers, but Brakspears is continuing to campaign for it and has just starting producing 2.5, its 2.5% ABV beer, in bottles. The beer has attracted a lot of favourable comment since its launch just before the Budget this year, leading to the launch of the bottled version, which took place at the Henley Regatta in July.

'American Crap'

The global series of legal actions by Anheuser-Busch against Budweiser Budvar continues, but A-B received an embarrassing setback in June in a court case in New Zealand. They were seeking to cancel Budvar's registered trademark and sue the company for deceiving consumers. However, research commissioned by A-B showed that retailers and consumers were not so easily misled: when asked what the difference between the American and the Czech versions was, responses included 'The Czech is the original' and 'it's better than that American crap'.

The New Zealand High Court rejected all of Anheuser-Busch's claims, but there are still over 80 court and patent proceedings still going on round the world.

German Beer Fest



Our usual fine
selection of
Draught & Bottled
Beers, German Food
& Drinking Songs
A Three Day Event!

**EARLY OCTOBER
LOOK OUT FOR
NEXT ISSUE OF
LONDON DRINKER
FOR MORE DETAILS**

***We've Done It Five Times....
....In A Decade***

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1992, 1994, 1996, 1998,

AND

2000

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Letters to the Editors

LETTERS FROM OUR WEBSITE

Geoff Strawbridge's piece on 'Mobile Beers', with reference to Burton Ale being brewed in Leeds, reminds me that about 25 years ago Allied Breweries tried to brew Burton Ale at their Romford Brewery. They even tried tanking water down from Burton, but still could not match the Burton product and gave up!

John Whitehead
Barbican

I like to try as many beers from around the world as possible but have become fed up of buying what initially appears to be an imported beer only to discover that it was in fact brewed under licence in the UK. Now I always check the small print on the label to see where, and who, the brewer is.

Labels are not always as informative as you would expect as Cobra, Grolsh and Kingfisher only state 'brewed in the UK', and do not give the brewer's name. In fairness to Cobra they did reply to an email requesting this information. Bass are quite open on their web site about the fact that they brew Grolsh but I have yet to discover who brews Kingfisher.

Of particular note in this imitation game is ASAHI, a Japanese beer originally. The label on the front of the bottle clearly states 'IMPORTED' and indeed it is. What is not so clear, until you read the label on the back, is that it is in fact brewed in the Czech Republic.

I suspect that this marketing technique is not unique to the UK and I would be pleased to hear from readers in other countries that suffer from the same play.

I intend to notify the brewers, both UK and original companies, of their inclusion in this article and inviting their comments. I will add a third page, 'right of reply', once any comments come in.

NOTE: There are 2 further pages listing the imitations and real imports.

I hope you can publicise this pub on your website when it is completed.

I am a Camra member working in Grosvenor Place, Victoria, and I am trying to get recognition for a pub which me and my colleagues frequent for a quick pint or two after work. The landlord is fanatical about his beer and keeps a quite splendid pint of all three regular Shepherd Neame beers. The landlord would like to stock a guest beer, but Shepherd Neame are at present refusing this. I recommend any lover of 'Master Brew', Spitfire' or 'Bishop's Finger' to visit the Horse and Groom, Groom Place, off Chester Street SW1.

You won't be disappointed. Thanks.

Paul Smith

I don't suppose you don't want lengthy correspondence on the 'Colin Price crawls' debate, but must say I agree with Keith Flett in that such articles are the essence of London Drinker. Not perhaps as full of details as were Merton's 'Historiccrawls', nor as acerbic as the late-lamented Red Rover's (both of blessed memory!) - the latter of whom must have kept the CAMRA duty solicitor on permanent stand-by. I remember Colin from the 'Spotted Dog' at Barking, and I for one wish to thank him for his contributions to-date.

Kim Rennie
London E3

Hello. Allow me to introduce myself.

I am the recently appointed Press and Publicity Officer of the CAMRA Young Members Task Force Group. The aim of the group is to try and get people under the age of 30 to join CAMRA and to become more aware of real ale.

I would, therefore, be grateful if you could mention us in your next newsletter and add the following website to your list of links:
www.u26camra.f9.co.uk

Is anyone you know who would be able to act as a co-ordinator (provide information on real ale pubs and breweries in the area) for your local area?

Regards
Alan Jepson

And a more traditional letter:

Dear Editors,

I am pleased to note from the June/July London Drinker that Fuller's White Hart has reopened complete with hotel attached. I would like to point out, however, that the pub has not been moved to Kingston and it is still in Hampton Wick. And just in case any reader is trying to find the pub you will find it listed under West London and not South West London in CAMRA beer guides. There seems to be a move to redefine the boundaries of London's boroughs and licensing districts just because the Post Office (or whatever they are calling themselves this year) find it more convenient to deliver mail there from their Kingston sorting office.

Another minor correction - the park just round the corner from the pub is Bushy Park and not Bushey which is somewhere in Hertfordshire.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Pirson
Teddington

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

NEWS FROM YOUNG'S

Young's of Wandsworth are going for a heavy promotion of their beer brands this summer, with the launch of their first major newspaper advertising campaign. The programme, which also includes poster advertising on stations and the Underground, will cost £1 million and concentrate on Young's Waggledance, Triple 'A' and Double Chocolate Stout.

Both Waggledance and Double Chocolate Stout, brewed with honey and real chocolate respectively, are among the best selling bottled beers in the country, and Waggledance is also available as a seasonal ale on draught. The newspaper advertisements are aimed both at the trade press and the national papers, including the Telegraph, Times, Independent, Guardian and Observer as well as the Evening Standard in London.

At the same time, Young's website at www.youngs.co.uk now allows customers to buy beer, wine, spirits and brewery merchandise online through youngswinedirect.co.uk. The website includes information on the company's history, beers, pubs – it lists them all – and hotels, and includes a brewery tour and an explanation of the brewing process..

There is certainly no shortage of news to go with their advertising. The Rising Sun in Twickenham, closed for over a year, has been bought by the brewery and reopened following restoration. Previously a Beefeater pub, it was bought from Laing Homes, who developed houses on part of the site. Licensees Jack and Pat Read welcomed chairman John Young and the Young's dray to celebrate the reopening of the pub, which is situated close to Twickenham rugby ground.

Another new pub is the Waverley in Marine Drive West, Aldwick. Situated on the edge of Bognor Regis, it is the brewery's first seaside pub and their 204th in all, marking the continued expansion out of their traditional London area. The pub was previously a free house, and is named after a sea-going paddle steamer. It features two large front bars, a small snug and a large family room with two skittle alleys, a pool table and darts.

John Young was on hand once again to mark the opening of the Waverley, and he certainly gets about as he was also in on the opening of his company's latest hotel – in his pyjamas. He was helping himself to a quick nightcap before retiring to bed after the celebrations at the Red Lion in Radlett, Hertfordshire. Bought by

Young's 18 months ago, it has been restored to its traditional splendour and has 14 three-star bedrooms, a new conference suite and a restaurant. The company now has 12 hotels, and there are two more in the pipeline.

A Young's pub, the Calthorpe Arms in Gray's Inn was voted North London Pub of the Year by the local CAMRA branch. Licensees Adrian and Tessa Larner were delighted to receive their certificate from branch chairman John Cryne; Adrian said 'It's a great honour to receive this award, which reflects well on the pub, the brewery and the beer'.

More celebrations were in order at the Bull's Head in Barnes. The pub is well known for its jazz, and musician and broadcaster Humphrey Lyttelton led the celebration to mark the 30th anniversary of his first appearance there and his own 80th birthday. Humphrey formed his first band in 1948 and has been chairman of the Radio 4 panel game 'I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue' since 1972. The double milestone was marked by a special evening of jazz organised by licensees Dan and Liz Fleming.

Finally, topping off all this excitement, the Queen Mother visited her local brewery in June, to admire the brewery garden and meet two of the brewery's Shire horses. The visit was organised by the London Gardens Society. Sadly, it was gin on the menu this time instead of Young's Special, which the Queen Mother famously poured (and drank) at the Queen's Head in Stepney 14 years ago, when she was only 86.

Fuller's update

Fullers' main news item this time is their trading results for the year ending 31st March. The good news continues, with beer volumes up seven per cent, and a huge jump in pre-tax profit of 41 per cent, up to £19.3 million. Beer production is at its highest ever level, which is an outstanding achievement in a market generally thought to be in decline. London Pride continues to enjoy increased sales as the brewer's flagship brand, and Organic Honey Dew is reported to be

Local News

the fastest growing premium organic ale.

The profits are supporting continued capital investment, with over £4.5 million budgeted to be spent in 18 months.

Chairman Anthony Fuller said 'I am delighted to be reporting preliminary results which demonstrate further evidence of our continued growth and profitability. Our businesses remain highly cash generative. We have continued to expand our estate of managed and tenanted pubs and bars which deliver consistently good performance'.

He added 'Fuller's Beer Company has yet again outperformed its rivals and, in what is a declining market for ales elsewhere, has shown both volume and profits growth. We intend to continue to invest in our brands which, led by London Pride, are stronger than ever before. This has resulted in our total beer volume reaching a quarter of a million barrels for the first time and a further increase in Fuller's ale market share.'

Not to be outdone by Young's, Fuller's also have a pub re-opening to boast about. The Little Windsor in Greyhound Road, Sutton has been extensively refurbished and was opened by

Simon Emeny, Fuller's retail director, and Councillor John Leach, Mayor of Sutton.

The refurbishment has doubled the area of the bar and improved access to the beer garden. The front of the pub has been opened up with tables and chairs outside, and the cellar has been expanded to fit even more Fuller's ales inside. The Little Windsor has continued to grow in popularity over the three years that licensees Jackie and Alan Cresswell have been there.

Whitbread Archive to be split

The Whitbread Archive, the largest organised collection of historic brewing and pub records and artefacts in the country, will be no more by the end of the year. It is to be split up and disposed of; most of the archive material, housed near the old brewery in Chiswell Street, will be offered to regional museums and academic institutions.

The Scottish Brewing Archive will be taking the material from Campbell, Hope and King and Youngs of Fisherrow. However, the fate of much of the material, including the unique collection of memorabilia, is unclear.

A company spokesman claimed the archive had become unmanageable and would be better managed elsewhere. Some of the artefacts are likely to be used to decorate the new luxury apartments being planned for the Chiswell Street site.

Wetherspoons reaches 500

The Picture Palace in Ponders End has become J D Wetherspoon's 500th pub. Converted from an old cinema, the pub cost £1.1 million to convert. Managing Director John Hutson said 'This is another significant milestone in the company's history. We have stated that our aim is to have 1,500 pubs across the UK, so we are now one third of the way to reaching that target'.



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Youngs Results

YOUNGS RESULTS VINDICATE REAL ALE POLICY

This issue of *London Drinker* goes to print just before Young's AGM, but these comments have been prepared from the company's latest Annual Report containing the Chairman's statement.

The year 2000 saw Young's turnover up 5.7% at £96.9 million, operating profit up 13.7% at £11.3 million and profit before tax up 20.2% at £10.3 million. Profit before tax, once adjusted for property disposals, is up 13.4% at £8.5 million. And all in a 53 week year and the wettest on record.

John Young writes, 'Discerning drinkers and an unfortunately diminishing portion of the brewing industry are proud of the survival of traditional British ale in all its many forms. Nowhere else in the world can you find so many high-quality and individual draught beers or such a choice of styles, from light ale to stout, in bottles on the shelves behind the bars of a diversity of pubs that are unique and together make up a great British institution.'

We have long been committed to real ale. It was in 1964 when I first wrote of its virtues in my chairman's statement, promising that it would continue to be available in every Young's house. More recently, I have predicted that real ale would rediscover its previous popularity and that small and medium-sized brewing companies would prosper as a result. My prediction is coming true as we see our brewhouse working towards full

capacity, supplying draught beers for our pubs and the free trade and a renowned selection of bottled beers for both supermarkets and pubs. Over the years, the national brewers have increasingly put their faith in spurious Continental, Australian and American lagers, brewed here under licence. In doing so, however, they have left the door open for Young's and fellow family brewers to supply the good old British beer that they have forsaken.'

Young's has joined fellow members of the Independent Family Brewers of Britain in drawing up a four-point manifesto to boost jobs and the economy. It calls on the new government to

- reduce tax on beer by 8p a pint;
- retain licensing within the hands of the magistrates;
- cut red tape, and
- give help to cask ale.

Cask ale is an integral part of Britain's heritage and we are asking the new government to look at reducing tax on cask ale to help the industry in the same way as the Scotch whisky industry has been assisted.

The brewing industry and licensed trade are under pressure as never before and it is time our newly elected Government took action. Are you listening, Mr Blair?

STATION ARMS

39 Station Road, Southminster, Essex. Tel: (01621) 772225

BEER FESTIVAL

AUGUST 24 - 25 - 26 - 27

Fri: 5.30pm-11.00pm; Sat: Noon-11.00pm; Sun: Noon-10.30

25 Real Ales

5 Traditional Ciders & Perries • BBQ • Live Entertainment
- only 200 yards from Southminster railway station

Last train back to Liverpool Street (change at Wickford or Shenfield)

Friday: departs 22.40; Sat: departs 22.40; Sun: departs 22.12; Mon: 22.12



BEER CONSUMPTION AT HOME GROWS

CBMC, the international organisation for beer producers, has issued figures for 1999 that shows that 32% of UK beer sales are now consumed at home. This is up from 29% in 1998 and from 12% in 1980, clearly showing a continuing trend for at home beer drinking.

Overall, beer consumption was slightly down at 99 litres per head compared to 99.3 in 1998 but this is a 16% reduction over 1980 consumption. However, beer production in the UK saw a 2% increase over 1998 at 57,800 hectolitres. As exports have gone down, this implies more "home grown" beer being drunk rather than imported beers, good news for UK's brewers but whether this is a real trend or a blip is yet to be seen. Regardless, these figures do not make happy reading for British pubs, whose competition is clearly the supermarkets, with their much improved range of beers, as well as other leisure activities.

Interestingly, the UK has the second lowest figure for home consumption after Ireland where only 11% of beer sales are consumed at home. The traditional beer drinking Germans consume 65% of their beer at home, a figure that has held steady over the last ten years. In comparison, Belgium, known for its quality beers has, like the UK, seen an increase in home consumption to 39%. In both countries the consumption per head and beer production have also declined over the last ten years.

But overall in Europe, beer drinking is holding its own with a 0.5% increase. And the country showing the biggest increase was little Luxembourg! Lets drink to that.

J. J. Duffy



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GUEST BEER REDUCED IN PRICE ON TUESDAYS

THIS MONTH'S GUESTS - BRAKSPEARS,
MARSTONS PEDIGREE, YOUNGS

MONDAY NIGHT - QUIZ NIGHT

TUESDAY NIGHT - REAL ALE PROMOTION

THURSDAY NIGHT - STEAK & WINE
PROMOTION

SUNDAY LUNCH - 12 noon - 4pm

SUNDAY NIGHT - LIVE MUSIC &
TAKE YOUR PICK

ALWAYS IN STOCK - DRAUGHT BASS,
LONDON PRIDE

NEAREST TUBE - NORTHFIELDS
(PICCADILLY LINE)

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

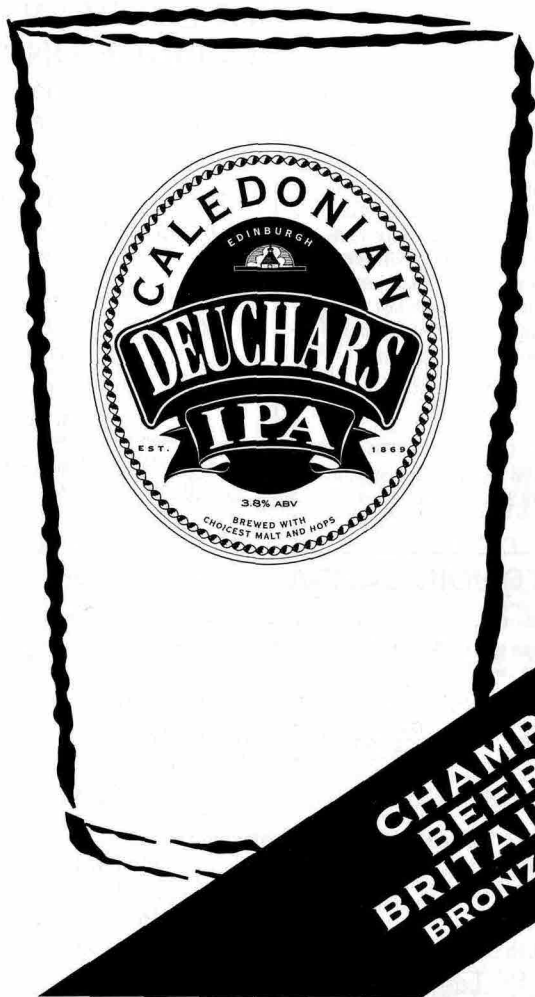
I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership.

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£17 <input type="checkbox"/>	£168 <input type="checkbox"/>	£204 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>	£21 <input type="checkbox"/>	£216 <input type="checkbox"/>	£252 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student/Unwaged	£8 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Disabled	£8 <input type="checkbox"/>			
Retired	£8 <input type="checkbox"/>	£11 <input type="checkbox"/>	£96 <input type="checkbox"/>	£132 <input type="checkbox"/>

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:
Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



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CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

Branch Update

Welcome to our regular details of Branch Contacts and events. This is where branches can say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for August/September are listed below.

BEXLEY. Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H).

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

August – Wed 8 (8.30) Branch meeting, Duke, Northumberland Heath. - Sat 18 Paddle Steamer Trip, Chatham £8.50: contact Alan Spurge 020-8302 0462 (H).

September – Wed 12 (8.30) Branch meeting, Hogshead, Sidcup High St.

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

August – Wed 22 (8.30)pm Social. Sun, West St, Carshalton. - Tue 28 (8.30) Branch meeting. Dog & Bull, Surrey St, Croydon.

September – Sun 2 (12 noon onwards) Lunchtime social. Dog & Bull, Surrey St, Croydon. (in garden). - Thu 6 (8.30) Social. Whispering Moon, Sutton. - Tue 11 (8.30) Social. Alliance, High St, South Norwood. - Wed 19 (8.30) Social. Ship of Fools, London Rd, West Croydon. - Thu 27 (8.30) Branch meeting. Windsor Castle Carshalton

EAST LONDON & CITY. Ben or Robyn 020-8521 4410 (H), Email: robyn@pigsear.org.uk.

Social enquiries: Rob Walker 020-8924 0346 (H), 07930 990646 (M). Website: www.pigsear.org.uk
August – Mon 13 (8pm) Branch meeting, Anchor & Hope, High Hill Ferry, E5; if weather bad, Princess of Wales, 146 Lea Bridge Rd E5. - Tue 21 (8pm) Social. O'Hanlon's, 8 Tysoe St EC1

September – Tue 11 (8pm) Branch meeting, Sekforde Arms, 34 Sekforde St EC1. - Wed 19 (8pm) Pub of the Year presentation, William IV, 816 High Rd, Leyton E10. - Tue 25 (8pm) Social. Miller's Well, 419 Baring Rd E6

ENFIELD & BARNET. Mark Shepherd 020-8441 0174 (H) 020-7712 2081 (W), Email: m.shepherd@ms.41.dss.gov.uk.

August – Wed 1 Deadline for booking trip to Bock Beer Festival, Amsterdam Oct 26-28. Deposit £25. Details and bookings: contact Tony Roberts 020-8482 9673; email TonyRoberts5@activemail.co.uk. - Tue 7 (9pm) Social. Windsor Castle, The Walks, East Finchley N2. - Sat 11 (4pm) Branch BBQ. Orange Tree, 18 Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. Food until 7pm. - Wed 15 (9pm) Social. Lamb, 52/54 Church St, Lower Edmonton N9. –

Tue 21 (9pm) Social. Jolly Farmers, 2 Enfield Rd, Slades Hill EN2. - Sat 25 Visit to Peterborough Beer Festival. Train from Kings Cross 10.21am, Finsbury Park 10.26am, arrive 11.37am. - Tue 28 (9pm) Social. Moon under Water, 10 Varley Parade, Colindale NW9.

September – Tue 4 (9pm) Social. George, 5 The Town, Enfield EN2. - Sat 8 Visit to Chappel Beer Festival (and railway museum), Essex. Train from Liverpool St 10.47am, change at Marks Tey, arrive 11.50am. - Wed 12 (9pm) Social. Mannings, 75 Brent St, Hendon N4. - Sat 15 Beer 'n Brambles ramble round Herts pubs and countryside, led by Keith Dixon. Meet (11am) Admiral Byng, 186/194 Darks La, Potters Bar. - Tue 18 (9pm) Social. Cherry Tree, 22 The Green, (10pm) Woolpack, 52 High St, Southgate N14. - Thu 27 (9pm) Social and London Drinker pick up. Lord Nelson, 14 West End La, Barnet EN5.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD. Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099(H) 020-8540 1901(W)

August – Tue 14 (8.30) Branch meeting. Star, High St, Ewell. - Fri 17 Minibus evening trip to pubs around Chobham and Windlesham area, depart Kingston Rd/Graham Rd 6.45pm, Surbiton Rail Station 7pm. Fare £10. Deposit £5. - Sat 25 Evening Train visit to Aldershot. Depart Surbiton 18.28, change at Woking. Meet Crimea, 1 Crimea Road about 7pm - Thur 30. BBQ Evening. Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston. 7:30 onwards

September – Wed 5 (8.30) Branch meeting. Angel, Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton. - Sat 8 (10.30am) Photo call and breakfast, Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston to promote the Licensing Reform Bill. - Thu 20 (8pm) Pub crawl in Molesey, meet Europa, 171 Walton Road, then calling at pubs back to Hampton Court Station

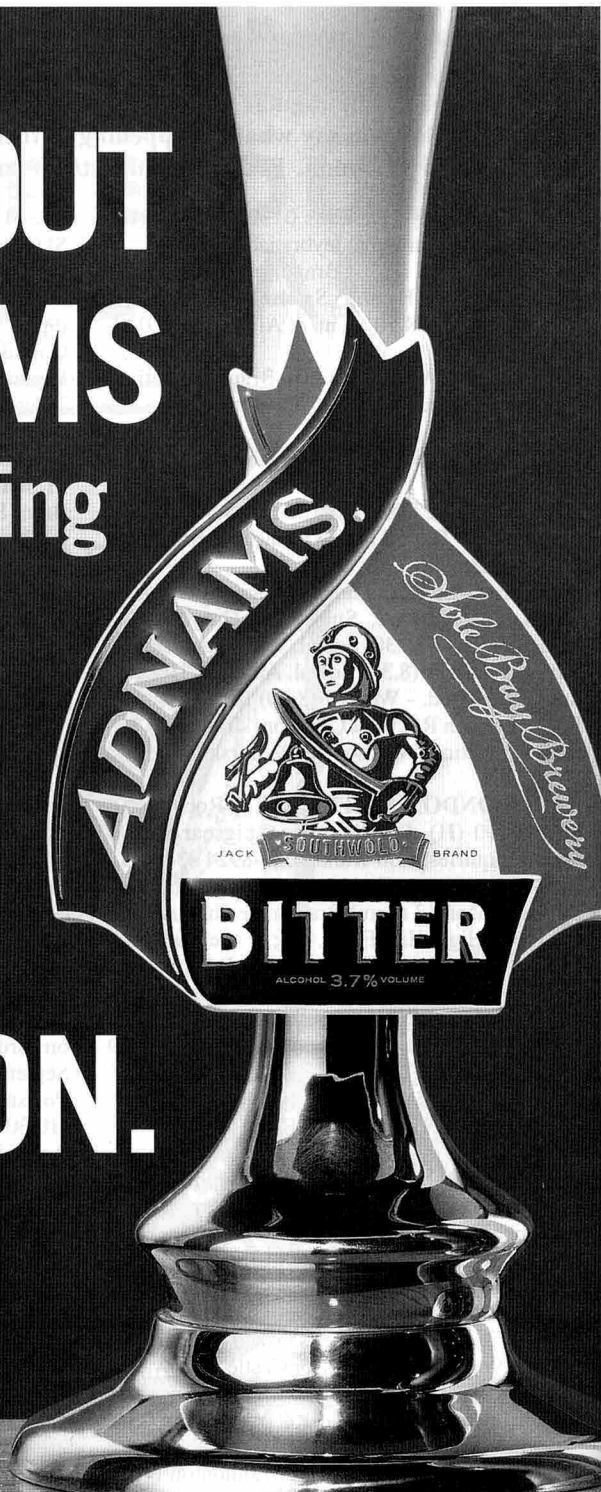
NORTH LONDON. Gary White 07005 355399, Email: gwhitegeog@bigfoot.com.

August – Mon 6 (8pm) Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd N1. - Tue 14 (8pm) Social & landlord's retirement function. Three Cups, 21-22 Sandland St WC1. - Tue 21 (8pm) Social. Cittie of Yorke, 22 High Holborn, then Swan, 7 Cosmo Pl, both WC1. - Tue 28 (8pm) Social. Starting Gate,

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ADNAMS**

at discerning
outlets

**ALL
OVER
LONDON.**



- Branch Update -

Station Rd N22 (opposite Alex Palace BR)
September - Mon 3 (8pm) Social. Wenlock Arms,
26 Wenlock Rd N1. - Tue 11 Hampstead pub crawl.
First pub (8pm) Three Horseshoes, then Flask,
Holly Bush, Duke of Hamilton last (10pm)

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

August - Thu 9 (8.30) Open Branch meeting - all
welcome - Adelaide, 57 Park Rd. (Shepherd
Neame) - Wed 15 (8pm) Beer Festival publicity
crawl in Twickenham, convene at Eel Pie, 9 Church
St. - Tue 28 (8pm) Festival publicity crawl in
Richmond, convene at Watermans Arms, 12 Water
Lane

September - Sat 1 (5pm onwards) Branch Pub of the
Year presentation to the Rose of Denmark, 28 Cross
St., Barnes SW13; good turnout with local press
attendance hoped for. - Wed 5 (8pm) Festival
publicity crawl in Teddington, convene at Queen
Dowager, 49 North Lane. - Wed 12 (8.30) Open
Branch meeting at recently refurbished and
extended Cross Lances (Fullers), 236 Hanworth
Rd., Hounslow. - Sun. 16 (12 noon onwards) 'Ask
if it's Cask' promotional day at the Eel Pie, 9
Church St., Twickenham (arrangements to be
confirmed in September 'What's Brewing'. - Thu.
20 (8pm) Festival publicity crawl in (west)
Twickenham, convene at Prince Blucher, 124 The
Green.

Many pairs of feet needed for the Festival (see back
cover) publicity crawls. Please try to come along and
help. You might even discover some decent pubs
you were not aware of!

Full details of all branch activities, plus Festival
info and staffing form, on our website
www.jobin.freeseve.co.uk/rhcamra1.htm

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Dave Lee 020-8694
2687. Website: www.selcamra.org.uk/camra3.htm
August - Sat 18 (5pm) Social. George & Dragon,
26 High St, Downe (bus 146 stops outside), moving
on to Queen's Head, 25 High St, Downe. - Tue 28
(8pm) Social. Trafalgar Tavern, Park Row,
Greenwich SE10.

September - Tue 4 (8pm) Branch/committee
meeting. Clock House, 196a Peckham Rye SE22. -
Mon 10 (8pm) Social. Dacre Arms, 11 Kingswood
Pl, Lewisham SE13. - Thu 20 (8pm) Social. Rose's,
49 Hare St, Woolwich SE18. - Tue 25 (8pm) Social.
Railway Telegraph, 112 Stanstead Rd, Forest Hill
SE23; then (9pm) Capitol, London Rd SE23 (the

MAGPIE & CROWN

PUB OF THE YEAR

CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow

128 High Street
Brentford 0208 560 5658

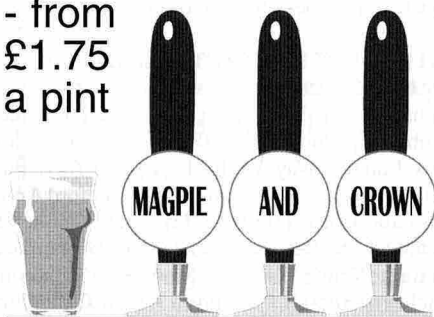
* House Bitter:

Brakspear's Bitter at
£1.75 a pint

- * Traditional Cider
- * Draught Hoegaarden
- * Draught Czech Budvar
- * Foreign bottled beer
selection
- * Accommodation Available
- * Selected for the 2001
CAMRA Good Beer Guide
- * Open all permitted hours

Ever changing guest
beers from micro
and small regional
breweries

- from
£1.75
a pint



* singing voice required Friday evenings

Branch Update

new Wetherspoons in the former cinema).

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

August – Thu 2 (8pm) Branch social at the Great British Beer Festival, Grand Hall, Olympia. - Thu 16 (8.30) Social. Mawney Arms, 44 Mawney Rd, Romford; come and revisit the pub where the Branch was formed. - Wed 22 (8.30) Out of area social. Vigo, Gravesend Rd (A227), Fairseat, Kent. - Thu (8.30) Out of area social. Viper, Mill Green Rd, Mill Green (OS: TL641018).

September – Tue 4 September (8.30) Branch social. Chappel Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel & Wakes Colne Railway station. Further details: www.earn.co.uk. - Wed 12 (8.30) Social. Chequers Tavern, Chequers Rd/Coxtie Green Rd, South Weald (OS: TQ551951). - Thu 20 Double Header social starting (8.30) Crooked Billet, Billet La, Stanford le Hope, then (10pm) White Lion, Lion Hill, Fobbing. - Mon 24 (8.30) Social. Nags Head, 44 Brook St (A1023 near M25/A12), Brentwood.

Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H) 020-7438 6418 (W), Email: markbravery@cablenet.co.uk. Cricket: Andy Robinson 020-8653 8885 (H) 020-7739 4440 (W). September – Thu 6 (7.30). Open branch committee meeting. Old Sergeant, 104 Garratt La, Wandsworth SW18. - Tue 18 Crawl of Wandsworth Common and Battersea. Early taste (6.30-7pm) County Arms, 345 Trinity Rd SW18, meet (7.15-7.45) Faith & Firkin, 1 Bellevue Rd, SW17 (2 mins from Wandsworth Common Stn) then (8.30) Eagle Ale House, 104 Chatham Rd SW11 and (10pm) Falcon, 2 St Johns Hill, SW11. Website: www.battersea-beer-festival.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT. Martin Few 01923 252412 (H).

August – Fri 3 (6pm) GBBF Social. Meet membership stand. - Fri 10 (8.30) Social. Essex Arms, Langley Way, Watford. - Thu 16 Three pub Watford crawl. Nescot Arms (8.30), Bedford Arms (9.15) and Horns (10pm). - Fri 24 (8.30) Social. Swan, Park Rd, Bushey. - Sun 26 (8pm) Committee meeting. Venue TBA. - Mon 27 (12 noon) Lunchtime social. Clarendon Arms, Chandlers Cross.

September – Fri 7 (8.30) Social. Black Boy,

Windmill St, Bushey Heath. - Fri 14 (8.30) Social. Estcourt Arms, St Johns Rd, Watford. - Thu 20 (8.30) Social. Wetherspoons, Bridlington Rd, South Oxhey. - Sun 23 (8pm) Committee meeting. Venue TBA.

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

August – Sat 11 (2pm) **Branch Pub of the Year** presentation to the **White Horse**, 1 Parsons Green SW6. - Tue 14 Paddington W2 crawl. (8pm) Fountains Abbey, 109 Praed St; (9pm) Royal Exchange, 26 Sale Pl; (10pm) Mad Bishop & Bear, Unit 2, Paddington Stn concourse. - Thu 30 Branch meeting (all welcome). Coopers Arms, 87 Flood St, Chelsea SW3.

September – Wed 5 (6pm) Early evening social. Seven Stars, 53 Carey St (behind the law courts) WC2. - Mon 17 Pimlico & Belgravia SW1 crawl. (8pm) Country Pub in London, 52 Cambridge St; (9pm) Duke of Wellington, 63 Eaton Terrace; (10pm) Orange Brewery, 37 Pimlico St. - Tue 25 Two pub social in Hammersmith W6. (8pm) Andover Arms, 57 Aldensley Rd; 9pm William Morris, King St.

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

August – Thu 2 (8.30) Beer Festival planning meeting. Bridge Hotel, Western Ave, Greenford. - Wed 8 (8.30) Branch meeting. Duke of York, Steyne Rd, Acton. - Thu 16 (8pm) Social. Royal Oak, Peel Rd, Wealdstone. - Sat 25 (11.30) Otmoor Ramble. Red Lion, Islip, Nut Tree Inn, Murcott, Abingdon Arms, Beckley (other pubs if still open!). 09.44 train from Ealing direct. Further details from Branch Contact. - Tue 28 (8pm) Two-pub social. Red Lion & Vine, both Hillingdon Hill, Hillingdon

September – Thu 6 (8.30) Beer Festival planning meeting. Bridge Hotel, Western Ave, Greenford. - Wed 12 (8.30) Branch meeting. Load of Hay, Villier St, Uxbridge. - Tue 18 (8pm) Two-pub social. Gate and True Lover's Knot, both Rickmansworth Rd, Northwood. - Thu 27 (9pm) London Drinker pick-up. Magpie & Crown, High St, Brentford.

Deadlines for the October/November edition, 31st August (hard copy), 12th September (electronic text). **Please send all diary material in electronic form to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.**

Reflections

HOME JAMES - OR DON'T SPARE THE HORSES.

The English pub has long been the centre of social life for its locality. Over the years many acquire legends or stories about themselves unconnected with the provision of food and drink. Some are apocryphal or their origins are lost in the mists of time, others are well recorded, or in living memory. Here's one in my memory - it's autobiographical.

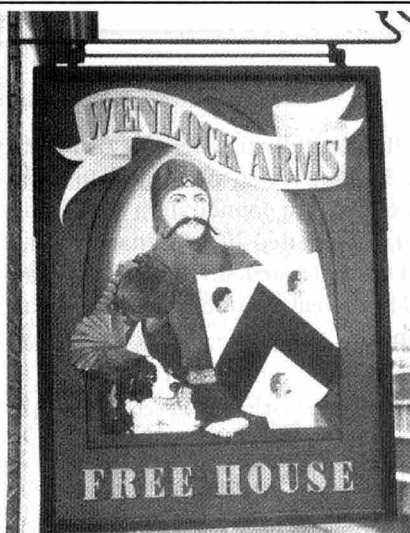
Several decades ago my uncle and aunt were tenants of a pub well out in the sticks. I often spent my school holidays there, and my uncle put my spare time to good use by making me his apprentice!, which basically meant changing casks or running the bar while he entertained the customers on the other side, 'quality controlling'. By my tenth birthday I was, I'm told, a proficient bar cellarman. It also fell to my lot to provide live entertainment towards closing time - many was the time I was pulled out of bed, sat on the bar piano and plied with local cider (which I preferred to beer or coke) and sang until I fell off - bets were allegedly made on how long I'd last. But I digress!

At the time the law was clamping down on drinking, though the breathalyser had yet to be invented, and a number of rural customers took to arriving on horseback. It became part of my duties to care for these beasts - of which I knew nothing, being city bred and not knowing one end from the other. I soon learned, and am wary of them to this day.

A farmer and his brother shared a farmhouse with the farmer's wife. After the day's work the brother - who lived elsewhere - and the farmer, with their one horse, met at the pub for several pints. Whenever one was obviously under the weather, Uncle Bill and his regulars helped him on to the horse and pointed it in the right direction. A phone call to the farm announced their imminent arrival. The lady of the house would in due course escort the gentleman involved to a safe seat, and send the horse back to us. The same procedure was repeated for the other man.

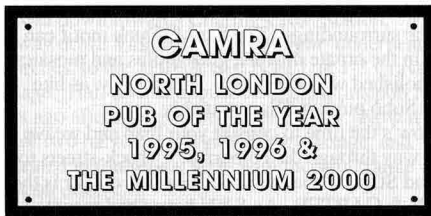
You hear stories of dogs being sent for the newspaper, but this was even better planned. The coming of the breathalyser drink/drive laws nearly ruined the business, and horse power did a lot to save it. The pub was originally established at the foot of a long climb, in order to provide extra power for heavy traffic. Most of the farmers and other customers who had a distance to travel took to riding out for a drink, often with a foal in tow to learn the road. At times the car-park resembled the OK Corral - and my Uncle's prize roses flourished!

Martin Smith.



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<http://www.wenlock-arms.co.uk/>

WEST END RAMBLINGS

The Great British Beer Festival at Olympia should be enough for any real ale lover, but London has so much more to offer. So here's a guide for both residents of and visitors to London to a popular area often underrated for its good pubs and decent beer - the West End. I've visited 20 pubs in all roughly in order of preference split evenly between Soho and Covent Garden. I'd recommend therefore two trips to sample just a fraction of the 130 or so real ale pubs and bars in the West End. I would also advise you to use a good map - the 'London - Visitors Map' by Bensons Map Guides is excellent.

SOHO

A good place to start is at the centre of the West End - Cambridge Circus, a well pubbed area where the best choice would be the COACH & HORSES at 29, Greek Street. Trapped in a time warp, circa mid 1960's it's a Soho institution with a famously rude landlord (Norman Balon). The wood panelling and basic furniture create a homely feel attracting all sorts - getting very crowded and noisy by the evening despite being a 'quiet' pub. Three ales on offer - Burton Ale is my favourite; best time to visit is 11:00 - 16:00 (Mon-Fri) - Happy Hour - 'cheap' beer and sandwiches.

Just two doors away is the next little gem, the THREE GREYHOUNDS at 25, Greek St. The striking tall mock brewers' Tudor exterior hides a rather small and cramped pub. Recent changes have detracted from its noise-free and real food status but the beer range and quality is excellent - in this ex-Nicholson's (now Bass but maybe not for long) pub. Try the Timothy Taylor Landlord, and just watch the world go by in this chaotic corner of Soho. Wander along Greek St and turn into Bateman St, you will see the DOG & DUCK at No 18 on the corner. There's hardly room to swing a cat in this ex-Nicholson's pub but the beers are beautiful, and so are the surroundings. The Dog & Duck motif can be seen in the ornate mirrors, glazed tiles and mosaics, and polished wood abounds. Come early, as like most Soho pubs, it fills up quickly.

Now's the time to consult your map and weave your way through the colourful back-streets to Poland St (off Broadwick St), near the corner is the STAR & GARTER. An S&N house and recent addition to the GBG, try the Fullers London Pride if Courage beers don't inspire you. It's friendly and popular, and easy on the eye (& ears) kept in its traditional state by the long standing landlord who likes the blues; talking of which brings us to the next watering hole - the AIN'T NOTHING BUT.. at 20 Kingly Street (off Carnaby Street). Yes, it's a real blues club with real ale - three ales in fact with Adnams as a regular.

Naturally it's the haunt of night owls with opening times approx 5:30pm to 11:45pm (SUNDAY), to

00:45 (MON-THUR) AND TO 02:45 (FRI & SAT).

Wow, a late licence, eclectic live blues and free entry except after 9pm Fri & Sat, so what's the catch?

Pints at around £2.80 - still not bad. May be crowded!

If you're too early head along the road to 34 Kingly Street, for the CLACHAN, a solid dependable old gin palace, much altered yet retaining some fine features. Lots of space to sit around and admire the Victorian architecture. Yet another ex-Nicholson's with a good beer choice, Landlord being the best bet. Usually closed on Sunday as is the Star & Garter; several other pubs open late/close early on Sundays.

While in this mood walk up towards Oxford Street for the ARGYLL at 18 Argyll Street. A somewhat



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Next tour dates,

Sept 7-9, Oct 12-14, Nov 2-4.

controversial choice as its beer quality has been variable (and expensive); but the pub itself is a classic. A well known listed pub retaining several small bars both upstairs and down with a mass of etched glass, polished wood, plasterwork, mosaics etc - a feast for the eyes if not the stomach. Touristy at times.

Now for the return ramble by the way of the OLD COFFEE HOUSE at 49 Beak Street. Traditional and quaint it once existed as a coffee house when the Temperance Movement tried to encourage people off the demon drink. Ironically now coffee shops have practically taken over central London, but a few good pubs remain for us sinners, and this one serves Pedigree and maybe a guest in addition to the standard Courage beers.

Now make your way towards Wardour Street, at 181-185 on the corner of Noel Street is the MOON & SIXPENCE - a fairly standard Wetherspoons. Beer range varies rather drastically but standards are pretty good, and watch out for special offers and festivals for rare local good value. Finally in Soho (just) is another Wetherspoons - the MOON UNDER WATER at 105 Charing Cross Road (but with another entrance in Greek Street.

Not so typical as it used to be a theatre then the Marquee Club - now on three levels and with a high balcony; a weird and wonderful place attracting a

weird and wonderful crowd - join em.

COVENT GARDEN/CHARING CROSS.

Close to Covent Garden Piazza, off Garrick Street is a tiny side road called Rose Street (blink and you'll miss it) you will then see the LAMB & FLAG. Probably the oldest and most interesting of all West End pubs it has history in bucketloads. Actually once known as the 'Bucket of Blood', due to its boxing connections; but also has more literary ties eg Dryden, Samuel Johnson etc, full history inside the pub. Live jazz upstairs Sunday evening but quiet otherwise. Beer ranges up to 5 or 6 from national and regional brewers - but quality can be variable and prices high.

Now for a real contrast, the very newest pub in Covent Garden, the PORTERHOUSE at 21-22 Maiden Lane via Bedford Street. Somewhat controversial but a great addition to the area. Costing £7.5 million, this three floored rambling Irish Pub is built to a high standard; check out the wide use of copper, wood and leather, and the fine use of space with alcoves and balconies everywhere. A hundred bottled beers may tempt you but their own ale - T.S.B, brewed in Dublin is excellent, with Brakspears as an occasional ale. Their eight other beers are kegged but of top quality. The 'craic' is great with good food and live music, for a real night out - not cheap mind - but worth it.

Just along the road down Chandos Place is and old favourite the MARQUIS OF GRANBY at No 51. Another ex-Nicholsons with a recent re-furbishment leaving this wedge shaped pub a little devoid of its character (and fittings). It has succumbed to the modern scourge of plain glass windows, so its less cosy than before - but the beers are fine, Adnams and Timothy Taylor preferred.

Head down towards Charing Cross Station, halfway down Villiers Street turn right 'underneath the arches' to the SHIP & SHOVELL at 1-3 Craven Passage. Hall & Woodhouse re-opened this pub four years ago after being closed for ten years. Now it's a pub of two halves - each side of the passage, and decorated in traditional style with their full range of beers on offer.

Carry on just a few more metres and you'll come to the SHERLOCK HOLMES at 10-11 Northumberland Street. Not such a tourist trap as might be expected this Whitbread house offers a good range of beers, some even from micros. Yes, it may be the original 'theme' pub - but it's well done, check out the upstairs 'study'. It's a quiet pub but often crowded - with a pleasant pavement patio taking the overflow.

Re-trace your steps back to the Strand - at No 91 near the Savoy there's an often overlooked treasure

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

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Real Ales

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the COAL HOLE. Yet another ex-Nicholsons, so expect something special - at least architecturally. High ceilings show off the dark timbers, plaster friezes, and leaded windows; a wide staircase leads to a comfortable balcony area. Lots of features to admire and the beer ain't bad either.

Over the road and around to Wellington Street next to the Lyric Theatre is a well known and respected HOGSHEAD at No 23. Consistently decent beer from eight hand pumps make this pub worth staying in a while. Space maybe at a premium at times so quieter periods are recommended to appreciate the ales on offer.

Wander around Covent Garden Piazza and head towards Long Acre, near the junction with Drury Lane is the FREEMASONS ARMS. A Greene King house with a reasonable beer range including a guest or two. Masonic connections may be seen but it's more famous as the place where the Football Association was formed. If this place does not suit then try a more intimate and pleasant little pub along Endell Street - at No 21 - it's the CROSS KEYS. Hidden behind foliage is a cosy and comfortable S&N pub with the usual beers plus Pedigree all in good nick. But the real appeal is in the mass of paraphernalia including .. well check for yourself. A

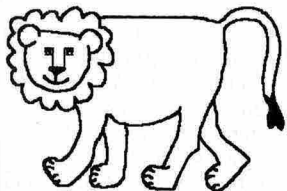
quiet oasis worth finding.

Our final pub on this ramble is just a short stroll towards Drury Lane - at No 21 on the corner is the SUN, another Hogshead pub of limited size and beer choice, but makes up for it in spirit. Relax in this simple well kept pub which manages to be 'quiet' despite theatre-goers from 'Cats'.

I think I've rambled on enough but there's just a few more worth trying to add to my 'Top 20'. There are two other Hogsheads - one small, old one in Rupert Street, and a large, new one in Lisle Street (both Soho). There are two other Wetherspoons, the brash and busy Moon Under Water in Leicester Square, and the slightly better Shakespear's Head at 64-67 Kingsway. In Covent Garden also try the Opera Tavern in Catherine Street, and Theodore Bullfrog in John Adam Street near Charing Cross Station. Finally a new pub from Hall & Woodhouse - the Shaston is definitely worth seeking out in Ganton Street, off Carnaby Street in Soho.

Cheers and Happy Rambling.

Ray Prior.



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GREAT BRITISH
BEER FESTIVAL
OLYMPIA
LONDON W8

17-18 AUG

26TH PORTSMOUTH
THE GUILDHALL
PORTSMOUTH

23-26 AUG

CLACTON ON SEA
ST JAMES'S HALL
TOWER ROAD
CLACTON

1-2 SEPT

WOODCOTE FESTIVAL OF ALES
WOODCOTE STEAM RALLY
5 Miles North of READING on A4074

8 SEPT

MAIDSTONE
MUSEUM OF KENT LIFE
SANDLING
MAIDSTONE

20-22 SEPT

LETCHWORTH
PLINSTON HALL
BROADWAY
LETCHWORTH

20-23 SEPT

BOOZE ON THE OUSE
BURGESS HALL
ST IVO RECREATION CENTRE
WESTWOOD ROAD
ST IVES, CAMBS

26-29 SEPT

ST ALBANS
ALBAN ARENA
ST PETER STREET
ST ALBANS

4-6 OCT

TWICKENHAM
YORK HOUSE
RICHMOND ROAD
TWICKENHAM

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Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 160

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

Information is gathered from a variety of sources including London Drinker readers, individual CAMRA members and branch contacts, breweries, pub operators, landlords etc. If you would like to contribute to 'Pubcheck' please send your news to the address below. This Update, together with some previous ones, is posted on the Internet via www.londondrinker.co.uk with any additional information available but not yet published in London Drinker.

This time we welcome three new Wetherspoon Free Houses in E3 Bow, E14 West India Quay and Ponders End, Enfield, the latter two being particularly noteworthy conversions. Additional openings recorded include a Geronimo Inns pub in E16 Custom House and a 'Via Fossa' pub/restaurant also in E14 West India Quay. Youngs have acquired a former Whitbread Beefeater pub in Twickenham, Fullers have extended a pub in Hampton Wick to include a hotel and we catch up on a Hall & Woodhouse acquisition in W1 Marylebone. Bass continue to convert more pubs to the Goose 'brand' with the loss of historic names, and more Firkins are absorbed into the tired old O'Neill's pseudo-Irish chain with the loss of real ale. More closures and conversions to other uses are recorded across the capital. We are currently trying to quantify the number of closed and lost pubs in London – please send us details of any you are aware of (do not assume we already know).

To qualify for inclusion as a 'pub' in Capital Pubcheck and CAMRA's Greater London database, the premises must serve draught beer ('real' or gas-dispensed), be open to and welcome the general public, allow drinking without requiring food to be consumed and have no admission charges (except on occasions when entertainment is provided). Hence premises with no draught beer described as wine bars, cocktail bars, oyster bars, tapas bars etc and restaurants with ancillary bars aimed primarily at diners, hotel bars restricted to residents and guests, and clubs with membership restrictions and/or entry fees, are not included. Closed pubs are retained on the database until converted to non-pub uses or demolished.

The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to the page numbers in the following guides: E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; H - Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale, 2000 edition; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - Real Beer in West London; X - Essex Beer Guide, 9th edition.

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

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REALALE

EAST

E1, THREE CROWNS, 237 Mile End Rd. Reopened and renamed **L'OASIS**. Adams: Bitter; Wadworth: 6X. Refurbished. (E74, U136, U156)

E3, MATCH MAKER, 580-586 Roman Rd. Courage: Directors Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Shepherd Neame: Spigfire; Taylor: Landlord; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beers. Beers may vary. Large, spacious Wetherspoon Free House opened early July in former indoor market building done out in modern style. Covered patio on frontage with doors leading down steps or ramp to main carpeted bar area with polished pine

flooring at front. Pastel coloured décor – yellow, blue, green etc, cream ceiling, blue lighting, leather seating. No smoking tiled area at rear leading out to another covered patio and beyond to beer garden (closed at 9pm) with potted plants and mobiles. Local history panels include reference to the Bryant & Mays match girls strike in 1888 over working conditions, which led to the formation of a union. The match company's Fairfield works was nearby. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

E3, WHITE HORSE, 473 Roman Rd. Reopened as a licensed premises and renamed **LOUNGE BAR** after 5 years as a clothes shop. No real ale. Open evenings only. (E93, U112, U119)

E13, LORD STANLEY, 15 St Marys Rd. Greene King:

-Capital Pubcheck-

UPDATE 160 continued

Ruddles Best Bitter. Reopened Free House selling predominantly Greene King products. (E136, U124, U147, U157)

E14, BAR 38, Unit C, Port East Building, West India Quay. No real ale. New S&N bar on ground floor of converted docks warehouse complex opened July 2000 but not previously reported.

E14, LEDGER BUILDING, 4 Hertsmere Rd, West India Quay. Courage: Directors Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Hopback: Summer Lightning; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Wadworth: 6X; Guest beers; Addestone : cider. Historic former docks administration building dating from 1800, converted into a Wetherspoon Free House and opened in late June 2001. It adjoins the converted warehouse 'Port East Building' which faces the northern section of West India Dock just across from Canary Wharf. A single storey long frontage brick building with entry through a white painted portico into a modern style, light and airy interior. A cream painted corridor complete with spiky chandeliers gives access to the main bar area to the right, with stone flagged and tiled flooring, brown painted beams and stainless steel bar top and back. Purple and blue covered stools, panels and lighting, with raised area at rear overlooking Hertsmere Rd. To the left, three interconnected no smoking rooms are decorated respectively in light green, mauve and lavender with sofas and chairs to match. Disabled access is by request at rear door and via stairlift and lift to bar. Outdoor patio at front. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours. A splendid example of how to create a contemporary interior inside an historic building.

E14, VIA FOSSA, Unit C, Port East Building, West India Quay. Courage: Directors Bitter. New Free House opened in 1999 and part of converted docks warehouse complex but not previously reported. The ground floor entrance leads into a rather gloomy traditional style interior with decorative tiled and wooden floors, cast iron columns and wooden beamed ceiling. A mixture of benches, stools and tables. Upstairs restaurant and basement bar available for functions. Piped music. Open all permitted hours.

E16, FIGUREHEAD, Custom House Hotel, Custom House Sq, 272-282 Victoria Dock Rd. Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. New Free House opened May 2001 on ground floor of brand new, brick-clad hotel, open to non-residents, located opposite Custom House DLR station and close to the new Excel exhibition centre. Believed to be operated by the Geronimo Inns chain. The main entrance on the corner leads into a foyer and steps lead left to the hotel reception with a separate flight of steps leading to the right down to the bar area with a ship's figurehead above. The spacious bar is decorated in mock traditional style with maroon/cream décor, polished wooden flooring, comfy sofas, trestle tables and chairs, and a 'fireplace'. A separate eating area is partitioned off with bookshelves etc. Adjacent to the large, semicircular

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REAL ALES AVAILABLE**

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 160 continued

bar is the open plan kitchen/servery area. A small patio at the rear faces a controlled car park. Overhead TV screens. Disabled WC. A good attempt at creating a comfortable traditional 'pub' in a new building. The building incorporates the site of the former Railway Tavern, 272 Victoria Dock Rd, closed in the mid '80s and derelict until demolished to make way for the new development. (Note that the advertising material for the new pub gives an address of 265 Victoria Park Rd in error, whereas the hotel brochure shows the correct address.)

BARKINGSIDE, OLD MAYPOLE, 105 Fencepiece Rd. Draught Bass. (X12, U151)

HAINAULT, ALFREDS HEAD, Manford Way. Fuller: London Pride (X61)

NORTH

N11, DUCK, 36 Queens Parade, Friern Barnet Rd. Reopened Greene King pub. No real ale, H unused. Formerly RAT & CARROT. (N109, U109, U117, U154)

BARNET (EN5), FELIX & FIRKIN, 31 High St. Tetley: Bitter. Formerly DANDY LION. (N250, U120, U151, U157)

BARNET (EN5), FIDDLERS, 24 Lytton Rd, New Barnet. Young: Bitter. Formerly LYTTON ARMS. (N251, U157)

ENFIELD (EN3), DELANEYS, 571 Hertford Rd. No real ale. Irish Free House/bar in former shop unit. Open for some years but not previously reported.

ENFIELD (EN3), PICTURE PALACE, Howards Hall, High St, Ponders End (corner Lincoln Rd). Courage: Directors Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; 4 Guest beers. New Wetherspoon Free House opened June 2001 in former community function hall, originally a cinema. White painted exterior with main entrance leading through to large auditorium with long bar in front of former screen now with blow up pictures of silent film stars of the '20s above. Original 'wedding cake' white plasterwork ceiling nicely restored with lavender painted walls and carpet to match and a mixture of pine furniture. Lights are suspended from wires running along the bar area. No smoking/eating area to side leads through to outdoor patio/beer garden next to car park. Another sensitive conversion to Wetherspoon's credit.

SOUTH EAST

SE15, BARNABY, 224 Ilderton Rd. Courage: Best Bitter. (SE134)

SE15, CARLTON TAVERN, 45 Culmore Rd. Reopened. No real ale. Note correct address. (SE134)

SE15, DUKE OF SUSSEX, 77 Friary Rd. Courage: Best Bitter. Erroneously reported in Update 135 as having been converted to flats, it is up and running still as a pub. (SE135, U135)

SOUTH WEST

SW7, SOUTHSIDE BAR, Prince's Gardens. Adnams:

Bitter, Broadside, Regatta; Draught Bass; Brakspear: Bitter, Coniston Bluebird; Rebellion: IPA; Tetley: Bitter. Beers not always all available. Spartan basement bar under Imperial College halls of residence, open to non-residents. Darts and pool available. Open 12-2.30, 5-11 Mon-Sat, 5-10.30 Sun.

SW11, RAVEN, 140 Westbridge Rd. Reopened and now named **RAVEN ONEFORTY**. Now in café-bar style, H removed. (SW90, U156)

WEST

RUISLIP, 10 JOY, 34 Victoria Rd. No real ale. New Free House/bar.

TWICKENHAM, RISING SUN, 277 Richmond Rd. Young: Bitter, Triple 'A', Special, seasonal beer. Former Whitbread Beefeater acquired by Youngs and reopened in late May after refurbishment in traditional style, with a decent carpet and warm, friendly atmosphere. Part of original pub site now developed for housing. (W151, U95, U157)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, DUKE OF WELLINGTON. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), closed and boarded up. (E15)

EC1, PENNY BLACK. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed. (E22)

EC4, FORSTER & FIRKIN, Renamed **O'NEILL'S**, Bass, H removed. Yet another conversion to the tired old Irish theme. Formerly ALBION. (E45, U131, U150, U151)

EC4, LONDON STONE. S&N (Eerie Pub Co), H removed. Formerly VINO VERITAS (CANNON STREET). (E50, U106, U116, U159)

WC1, DANNY BOY, Renamed **PERSEVERANCE**, H removed. Formerly FINNEGANS WAKE, originally SUN. An ignominious end for what was once London's real ale mecca, with not a drop of cask conditioned beer now available. (W51, U75, U106, N30, U109, U155)

EAST

E1, SIR JOHN FALSTAFF Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and boarded up. (E73, U73)

E3, DUKE OF YORK. Ex-Taylor Walker, closed and boarded up. (E90, U76)

E3, EARL OF ELLESMERE. Ex-Taylor Walker, converted to housing accommodation. (E90)

E3, MOULDERS ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), no real ale. (E91, U76)

E3, OLD FORD TAVERN. Free House, converted to flats. (E91)

E3, UNICORN. Whitbread, closed in December 2000 and awaiting development into flats. (E93, U75, U137)

E11, BRITANNIA. Whitbread, H unused. (E127, U89)

E11, NORTHCOTE. Bass, H now removed. (E129, U124, U137)

E11, RED LION. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), H unused.

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Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 160 continued

(E129, U73, U79)

E11, THATCHED HOUSE. Free House, now converted to Spanish restaurant and tapas bar named 'Corazon Latino', bottled beer only. Retains original name on hanging sign. (E130, U125, U156)

E15, LATIN^{1/4}. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), H unused.

Formerly TWO PUDDINGS. (E155, U159)

ALDBOROUGH HATCH, DICK TURPIN.

Whitbread H removed. (X8)

BARKING, BREWERY TAP. Saxon Inns, closed. (X10)

BARKING, WESTBURY ARMS. Intntrepreneur, closed. (X12)

CLAYHALL, UNICORN. Whitbread, H removed. (X34)

DAGENHAM, ROBIN HOOD. Whitbread, closed. (X45)

DAGENHAM, ROYAL OAK. Intntrepreneur, demolished and site due for housing development. (X45)

NORTH

N10, FANTAIL & FIRKIN. Renamed O'NEILL'S, Bass, H removed and all brewing equipment removed.

Yet another conversion to the tired old Irish theme.

(N103, U126, U155)

N12, FRINGILLA & FIRKIN. Renamed O'NEILL'S, Bass, H removed. And another! (U126, U151)

N17, PRINCE OF WALES. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed. (N135)

N20, JO JO BALOUS. Free House, demolished. (N147)

ENFIELD (EN3), NAVIGATION INN. Now simply NAVIGATION, H removed. Now presumably Free, ex-Whitbread (Beefeater). (U126)

ENFIELD (EN3), PRINCE ALBERT. Renamed

KENNEDYS, Intntrepreneur, H removed. (N241)

ENFIELD (EN3), RAILWAY INN. Whitbread, no real ale. (N241)

NORTH WEST

NW10, ORANGE TREE. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), closed and boarded up. (N224)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, WHEATSHEAF, Free House, closed and uncertain future for one of London's very few outlets for micro-brewery beers. (SE38, U102, U105)

SE5, DUKE OF EDINBURGH. Phoenix, converted to flats. (SE57, U112)

SE10, BRITISH SAILOR, 24 Lassell St. Ex-Belhaven, closed and boarded up. Note correct spelling of address. (SE93, U102)

SE15, BUSH. Free House, closed and boarded up. Formerly SIDMOUTH ARMS. (SE139)

SE15, GEORGE. Ex-Allied (Ind Coope), demolished. (SE135)

SE15, GLENGALL ARMS. Phoenix, converted to

flats. (SE135, U112)

SE15, HAIRY LEMON (PRINCE OF WINDSOR).

Free House, now in residential use. (SE138, U116)

SE15, MAISMORE ARMS. Ex-Courage, closed and gutted for some time. (SE136)

SE15, QUEEN. Ex-Courage, closed and boarded up. (SE139)

SE15, RISING SUN. Bass, now demolished. (SE139, U152)

SE15, SURREY VIEW TAVERN. Ascot, converted to café. (SE140, U113)

SE16, RAYMOUTH TAVERN. Phoenix, closed and boarded up. (SE151, U112)

SE23, CHANDOS. Bass, now badged as part of Southside Pub Co estate, H unused. (SE205)

ST MARY CRAY, BLACK BOY. Ex-Courage, closed and boarded up. (3SE269, 8K145)

ST MARY CRAY, BLUE ANCHOR. Ex-Allied (Ind Coope), demolished and replaced by new housing development. (3SE269, U46, 8K145)

ST MARY CRAY, RISING SUN. Bass, demolished and replaced by new housing development. (3SE270, 8K146)

SOUTH WEST

SW10, BLUE BAR CAFE. Renamed BRB @ THE

BRIDGE. Punch Taverns, H removed. Yet another makeover for what was once a 'proper' pub called the GUNTER ARMS until succumbing to the SCRUFFY MURPHYS brand name under Allied control. (SW85, U150)

SW11, CORNET. Renamed BAR RISA. Regent Inns, H removed. (SW87)

SW11, PORTER BLACK'S BAR. Free House, H removed. Formerly WALSH'S. Note correct title – not Peter Black's Bar as reported erroneously in Update 151. (SW90, U151)

SW11, VALHALLA. Free House, converted to 'Dallas' chicken restaurant. (SW90)

KINGSTON, CAMBRIDGE ARMS. Intntrepreneur, H unused. (SW140, U140)

KINGSTON, ROYAL BOROUGH ARMS. Intntrepreneur, H unused. (SW144)

WEST

W3, GEORGE & DRAGON. Ex-Courage, H unused. (W64, U55, U92)

W9, BIDDY MULLIGANS. Greene King, closed and boarded up. Formerly EARL OF DERBY. (W83, U98, U117, U137)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC4, GOOSE AT THE CASTLE. -beers listed except Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA, Morland Old Speckled Hen; +Highgate: Special BB. Formerly BAYNARDS CASTLE. (E46, U70, U157)

Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 160 continued

W1(Mar), MASONS ARMS. -beers listed; +Badger: Best Bitter, King & Barnes Sussex Bitter, Tanglefoot. Former S&N pub acquired by Hall & Woodhouse at least 5 years ago but not previously reported. The lack of any exterior badging by H&W may help to explain the omission. A traditional and friendly corner local. (W35, U106)

WC2, POW. Reverted to **PRINCESS OF WALES.** No change to beer range. (W56, U73, U108, U119)

EAST

E11, BIRKBECK TAVERN. Now +2 guests from independent breweries and a real cider through the handpump. (E127, U69, U113, U125, U130, U135)

E15, RAILWAY TAVERN. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. Opens 6.30-8.30am Mon-Fri. (E154, U83)

E17, FAT SIDES. Renamed **NEW ANGEL**, a cabaret bar. Formerly **FEAR, WILD ROVER** and originally **ESSEX BREWERY TAP.** (E167, U105, U125, U152, U153)

BARKING, HOPE. -Greene King: IPA; +Hancock: HB. (X11, U144)

HORNCHURCH, KINGS HEAD. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale; +Hancock: HB. (X71)

UPMINSTER, HUNTSMAN & HOUNDS. -Guest beer; +Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride; +Hancock: HB. (X121, U151)

NORTH

N9, STEPS. Is subtitled **KELLY'S BAR.** (N101)

N11, ARNOS ARMS. Now renamed **HARVESTER.** (N107, U110)

N12, O'NEILL'S. Renamed **BELGRAVE**, still no real ale. Formerly **PAGES BAR.** (N111, U110)

N12, TORRINGTON ARMS. Reverted back to **TORRINGTON.** (N112, U120)

N16, ROCHESTER CASTLE. -beers listed except Courage: Directors Bitter and Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Everard: Tiger; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Guest beers. (N130)

N17, CHEQUERS. Renamed **BOOTPLACES.** (N133)

N17, SHIP. Now Inn Business, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). (N136)

ENFIELD (EN3), BARNYARD, 69 Ordnance Rd. Renamed **ORDNANCE**, still no real ale. Note full address. (N239)

ENFIELD (EN3), BEEF & BARREL. Now badged by Bass as part of 'It's a scream' chain. (N239)

NORTH WEST

NW1, ENGINEER. -Draught Bass; +Greene King: Morland Old Speckled Hen. (N165)

NW1, PEMBROKE. -Flowers: IPA; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. (N171, U156)

NW4, HUNGRY HORSE. -beers listed; +Brakspear: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA. Formerly **PICKLED NEWT (THE MIDLAND).** (N195, U109, U117)

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Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 160 continued

NW6, SCRUFFY MURPHYS. Renamed CANE, still no real ale. (N203, U152)

NW7, RAILWAY TAVERN. -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. Now badged as part of S&N's 'WJ&J Sanderson' estate. (N210)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BALCONY BAR. Renamed REEF (THE). -beers listed except Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. (SE10)

SE1, COOPERS. -beers listed. except Fuller: London Pride; +Draught Bass. Beware rip off prices of £1.40 a half pint, £2.50 a pint for Pride. (U102)

SE1, SHIPWRIGHTS ARMS. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Under new management. (SE33, U125, U159)

SE1, SOUTHWARK TAVERN. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Opens 6.30-8.30am Mon-Fri for market. (SE34, U105, U151)

SE3, ZERODEGREES. American brewer Grant Johnson has sadly been forced to return to the USA upon expiry of his work permit, to be replaced by English brewer formerly at the Meantime Brewery in Charlton. (U155)

SE5, ENTERPRISE. Renamed COAST BAR. (SE57)

SE6, BLACK HORSE & HARROW. Renamed GOOSE ON THE GREEN. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Highgate: Special BB. (SE65, U151)

SE13, QUAGGY DUCK. Renamed BROADWAY. -beers listed; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Hancock: HB. Still Regent Inns owned but with a reduced and unadventurous ale range. (U110)

SE15, ATTITUDE (CLUB). Renamed HECTORS. Formerly TRAFALGAR. (U112)

SE23, BIRD IN HAND. -Greene King: IPA; -Toby Cask; +Draught Bass; +Courage: Best Bitter. Now owned by Barracuda Pub Co, ex-Ambishus. All beers not always available. (SE204, U102, U138)

CROYDON, FIDDLER & FIRKIN. Reverted to DUKES HEAD. Now part of 'Mr Q' chain. (3SE241, U50, U85)

GREEN STREET GREEN (ORPINGTON), TWO BADGERS. Renamed HIGH ELMS. Has taken the name of the public golf course which it serves. -beers listed; +M&B: Brew XI - probably unique in Greater London. (3SE267, 8K98)

SOUTH CROYDON, SPOOFERS BAR. Renamed FOLLY. (3SE278, U46, U52, U130)

THORNTON HEATH, PRINCE OF WALES. Renamed MCKENZIES, a bar and grill. (3SE283)

SOUTH WEST

SW11, LATCHMERE. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA. (SW89)

SW11, PIG ON THE BRIDGE. Reverted to PRODIGALS RETURN. (U155)

CARSHALTON, SUN. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter; +Guest beer. Now an Inn Business tenancy, ex-Allied. (SW130)

WEST

HAMPTON, BELL HOTEL. -beers listed; +Boddington: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. (W103, U100)

HAMPTON, RAILWAY INN. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Now Greene King, ex-Morland. (W103, U60, U100, U112, U141)

HAMPTON WICK, FORESTERS. -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. Now presumably Punch, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). (W106, U66, U91)

HAMPTON WICK, RAILWAY TAVERN. Renamed STRYKER'S RAILWAY. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Guest beer. (W106, U141, U153)

HAMPTON WICK, ROSE & CROWN. -John Smith: Bitter; +Theakston: Best Bitter. (W106, U91, U153)

HAMPTON WICK, WHITE HART. -Fuller: Chiswick Bitter; -Guest beers; +Fuller: Seasonal beer. Now refurbished and rebuilt by Fullers to incorporate a hotel (branded 'English Country Inns'). (W106, U99)

RUISLIP, SPORTSMAN. Renamed FOX'S, still no real ale. (U151)

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

NEW BARNET (EN4), DEN. Should read: Renamed VOLT

NEW PUBS ETC

N7, SHILLIBEERS. Is a Free House

SUTTON, ICEOBAR. Should read: Renamed CAFÉ MANGO, acquired April 2001

W11, PARADISE (BY WAY OF KENSAL GREEN). Should read W10. Formerly OLD PLOUGH
PUBS CLOSED ETC.

N1, ANGEL CAFÉ BAR. Note correct title

N10, ROYAL OAK. Address is 143 Sydney St

W11, BAR ONE ONE SIX. Originally EARL OF ZETLAND

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

WC1, GOOSE & GRANITE (now GOOSE). Should read: -Just So Bitter

WC2, CROWN & ANCHOR. Should read: -beers listed

E15, TWO PUDDINGS. Should read: Renamed LATIN 1/4

N1, MOON UNDER WATER (now GARDEN).

'Smith & Jones' is part of Barracuda pub group

N1, XANADU (now WEAVERS). Should read: -John Smith: Bitter

N12, SCOTTS (now WOODHOUSE). Refs should read: (U110, U140)

W2, COW. Formerly FARRELLS, originally RAILWAY TAVERN

TWICKENHAM, RUGBY TAVERN. Should read: -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter

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 7pm 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/>. (The group also meets regularly in Brighton.)

August – Wed 1 (7pm) Monthly social. King's Arms, 23 Poland Street W1 (020-7734 5907). - Fri 3 (6pm) Great British Beer Festival, Olympia. Meet near the Young's stand in front of the main entrance. - Thu 23 (6.30) Richmond Arms, 20 The Square, Richmond, (020-8940 2118), Courage Directors. Possibly moving on later to the Crown, also in Richmond, new pub to the scene – needs checking out.

September – Wed 5 (7pm) Monthly social. King's Arms, 23 Poland Street W1 (020-7734 5907). - Fri 14-Sun 16 Bedford Tavern/LAGRAD Beer Festival (all three days) and first National LAGRAD Gathering (Saturday 15 at 2.00pm) both in the Bedford Tavern, 30 Western Street, Brighton (01273 739495). - Tue 25 (7pm) King William IV, 77 High Street, Hampstead, NW3, (020 7435 5747). Courage; Best Bitter & Directors, plus a guest. A traditional pub near Hampstead tube with beer garden.

The Lower Red Lion



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-The Name Game -

WHAT'S IN A NAME

In this age of needless renaming of pubs and the proliferation of ridiculous titles, it is appropriate to look back at the origins of pub names and their signs. To begin with, their use is a relic from the days before universal literacy when in this country from 1870, in theory at least, every tradesman needed a sign either to advertise his wares, or to identify his premises. It is known pictorial signs for pubs are on the walls of ruined taverns in the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the chequer-board, indicating the presence of money-lenders and changers, who used the premises. To indicate that the taverna was open for business, a bunch of grapes was hung outside to signify Bacchus, the god of wine. A variation was a garland of vine or evergreen leaves. The custom reached our shores with the Romans, and still survives in amended form in the 'ale garland' exhibited by some pubs and breweries to announce a new brew. A few other tradesmen's signs still exist in the form of the barber's striped pole, representing bandages from when the barbers were also 'Surgeons' - basically blood letters, the pawnbroker's three golden balls, and the optician's spectacles. Some others are to be found, but they are rarities.

From early times in England every publican was compelled to display a sign. The earliest known reference to this was in 1393 when a landlord was fined for failing to comply. The law is still in force. In the 19th century it was discovered when a pub applied for a licence renewal if had no sign. Hence it is to this day name the 'No Sign Bar'. There are also some called 'The Pub with No Name'. But the purpose of this piece is not to trace the meaning and origins of pub names. That will follow in a planned series of articles of which this is the first.

From time immemorial a sign of some sort provided an address - in Mediaeval times a clear address might be, for example, 'at the sign of the Foot, High Street'. With pubs, when only one existed in a district, a simple 'ale garland' or 'bush' - bundle of green leaves - was sufficient. If there was more than one pub or whatever (there are a number of titles, as you will know) it was necessary to differentiate - thus was born the tradition of the pictorial inn sign.

If none of the above is news to you, or contradicts something you know, it is probably because there are more books on the topic than any other related to the licensed trade. The origins of some names and signs are lost in the mists of antiquity, and the books don't always agree in details, so I will try to find alternatives in future articles, each on a particular theme; heraldic, religious, transport etc. The subject is fascinating, and infinite.

Martin Smith.

Looking Back

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO Tim Chudley had opened his brewery in Maida Vale, producing 50 barrels a week. There were two beers, Chudley's Bitter (later known as 'Local Line') o.g. 1038, and Lord's Strong Ale, o.g. 1050.

John Young had expressed satisfaction on the success of John Young's Lager. The company was producing a bottled lager to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

A crawl of Westminster by Roy Mathews covered six pubs ending in the Buckingham Arms in Petty France.

'Linden Drunker', who then frequently contributed a column, expressed disquiet over the activities of Whitbread and Courage, especially the latter who had started giving away lottery tickets with the beer. In 'Free the Publican' Laurie Bishop discussed the position of tenants and whether or not they should be permitted to sell guest beers.

In September the cover bore an engraving of Beasley's Brewery, in Plumstead, whose history was described in the content, from the early 19th century to its absorption by Courage in 1963, followed by demolition in the subsequent 3 years.

Simon's Tower Bridge Brewery had been sold and was trading again as the Tower Brewery. Work was in hand to convert part of the premises into a brewery tap.

Courage Imperial Russian Stout was being produced at Worton Grange near Reading, apparently to the old recipe.

At the Great British Beer Festival in Leeds (the first to be held outside London), Fullers ESB had taken two prizes, for strong bitter and Beer of the Year.

Dave McKerchar wrote a eulogy on Brakspear's of Henley. This was followed by a photograph of the now demolished Royal George in SE1, which sold its products.

Mostyn Lewis, in 'The Black Sheep of the Family', described the life of Frederick Charrington of the brewing family. He 'saw the light' in 1873, when he witnessed a brawl outside one of the company's pubs when a drunk struck his

wife, who was begging him to come home. She went sprawling in the gutter while he went inside to slake his thirst. Frederick never went into the brewery again, selling his shares for a million pounds, and became a lifelong temperance campaigner and a philanthropist. A few years after this another article on the same subject appeared under my name. I had not known of the earlier article (I must have missed that edition) but must have come across the same source of information. A matter of history repeating itself.

Sam Smith's outlets in London were on the increase, largely through taking over a number of Henekey pubs.

Only three London postal districts had no real outlets, SE2, SE28 and SW20.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO the August 1986 edition was, unusually, printed in chocolate brown with mid green as the second colour and, not surprisingly, featured the forthcoming Great British Beer Festival, at the Brighton Metropole on the cover.

A snippet from the Morning Advertiser assured us that the southern beer drinker was not overcharged despite the gulf between North and South beer prices. Elsewhere the issue reported - under the heading 'Rip-Offs', that the Footlights Real Bar of the Waldorf Hotel in WC2 was selling Courage Best at £1.32 a pint.

'Eastender' took us on a crawl of Shoreditch covering 18 pubs, John Elliott provided a photo-crawl of Fleet Street and Ludgate Hill, while for the benefit of those visiting the GBBF Merton supplied an Historicrawl of Rottingdean, a short distance along the coast from Brighton.

In September, two crawls were provided, one of Chipping Ongar, at the time the furthest outpost of the Central Line, comprising 6 pubs, and John Conen toured Muswell Hill via 11 pubs. September's front cover featured the Goat House, South Norwood, Dave Sullivan who took the photo, provided a pub profile on that subject.

'Real Beer in S.W. London' had been issued. It covered all 850 pubs in the SW London postal and outer districts, listing all beers and facilities of the houses serving real ale.

Sadly, the closure was recorded of the Darley brewery and the Lorimer & Clark brewery, both by Vaux.

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Looking Back

Ruddle's had sold out to Watney's for £14 million, and Mathew Brown of Blackburn were to close the Theakston's brewery in Carlisle.

'Badger', in 'Why Bother?', discussed the continued need for CAMRA despite the fact that so many pubs have real ale. That continues to be the case today.

An un-named writer chronicled the history of Hoegaarden wheat beer from Belgium, first mentioned in 1318 but from a much older tradition.

TEN YEARS AGO in his September Editorial Chris wrote of the trials and tribulations of organising beer festivals. Martyn Cornell described the history of Truman, Hanbury & Buxton in a part article. Andy wrote about his favourite pubs, the Queen Dowager and the Builders' Arms, both in Teddington.

A circular sent out to Taylor Walker managers to help them to reply to customers questioning the recent 8p per pint increase in beer prices was reproduced and illustrated that the brewery expected some resistance. Wetherspoons on the other hand were proudly announcing the investing of a further £4m in opening six more outlets by the end of the year, bringing the total to forty. (As noted elsewhere in this edition this has now reached 500 - Ed)

The GBBF in the Docklands Arena was described as a roaring success. 35,000 customers between them drank over 100,000 pints in 4 days.

A real ale pub had opened in addition to the four already existing at Heathrow Airport. Sporting twelve handpumps, this new Tap & Spile was intending eventually to serve 6 real ales at any one time.

The 135 Association - whose members had visited every Young's tied house - had presented its Pub of the Year Award to the Nightingale, Balham.

The history of the Dog & Bull, Croydon was chronicled from 1431 onward.

CAMRA had presented an award for the best mild promotion of 1990 to Sally Cruickshank of the White Horse, Parson's Green.

FIVE YEARS AGO the August 1996 edition was the last for which Ian Amy wrote this column - for in September the reins were handed back to me - thrown back, more likely. Although by no means onerous, the task can be most frustrating.

The Fleetwood in Clerkenwell (Fullers) had undergone a £150,000 refurbishment. In the same area, O'Hanlon, formerly the Three Crowns, Whitbread, was brewing its own beers: Dry Stout, Blakeleys No.1, Myrica Ale (brewed with bog myrtle and honey) and Malsters Weiss, a wheat

beer.

South-East London Branch had named the Howerd Club, SE19, as its Pub of the Year.

Danny Blyth, in 'Real Pubs - and Real Guv'nors Please!', looked back nostalgically at the characterful (rude) licensees from his younger days in Edinburgh. Two of the telling points he made were: 'Those were the days. Now we are faced with managed houses run by uniformed Guv'nors according to a retail company's textbook. The characters have been designed out of things by the big brewery training departments.' And: 'Each year the brewers rob us of characters and of characterful pubs. Each year more pubs close and less beer is sold in pubs.'

After a summer of drought the previous year, it was reported that the 1996 hop harvest looked promising.

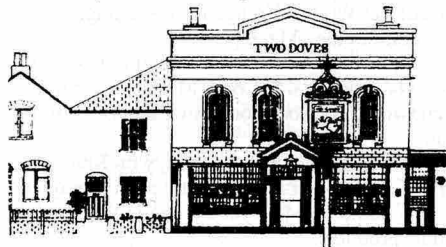
That's it for this issue. Many thanks are due to Ian Amy for standing in for me when I was out of action. The greater part of this article is drawn from his researches during that period.

Cheers for now,

Martin Smith.

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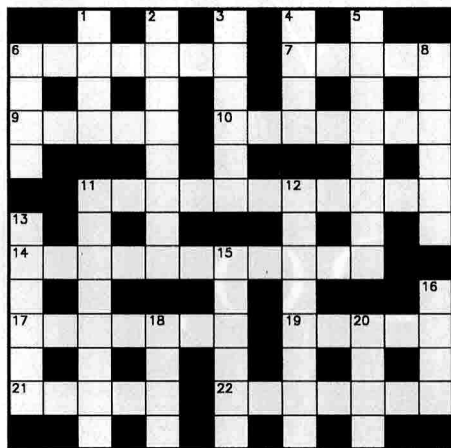
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Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

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Name

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All correct entries received by first post on 26th September will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the December London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the October edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

6. Mother's row with the dog. (7)
7. Romeo and Juliet lost their head? Balls! (5)
9. Give approval digitally. Up with it! (5)
10. Great unrest after university bombing, say. (7)
11. It'll make you run and jump. (8,3)
14. Idle about money and food. (4,2,5)
17. Fielding reduced on the off?
I don't believe it! (7)
19. Just over half way through pullover for
boyfriend. (5)
21. King's horses? (5)
22. Insists upon emphasis article rejected. (7)

DOWN

1. Use a diversion to find him. (4)
2. Ferdinand. Well done! Here's a flower. (3,5)
3. Given some grief for the attempt. (6)
4. Received ant's head inside butter? (4)
5. In fact called mad. (8)
6. China to end game. (4)
8. Is sent abroad for containers (6)
11. Employees with nothing on the way
to town. (8)
12. To have more than enough? No point! (8)
13. Friends, it's very nearly total fabrication. (6)
15. Song and dance poster. (6)
16. I get up, lose the point and flag. (4)
18. Father, be quiet and run. (4)
20. Extremely light? (4)

Winner of the prize for the April Crossword:
John Heath, Pinner.

Other correct entries were received from:

Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Geoff B,
Clare Batty, Block of Cliftonville, John Blundell,
Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, A.P.Comaish,
R.Conway, Charles Creasey, Liam Crotty,
Paul Curson, Richard Douthwaite,
Kathryn Everett, B.H.Fletcher, Marion Goodall,
Darryl Gorman, Eileen Graves, Paul Gray,
J.E.Green, M.I.Green, Tarnya Haigh,
Jonty Hawkes, Graham Hill, Sheerluck Holmes,
Gerald Hughes, Tom Kemp, Terry Lavell,
Lenny L'Iren, Jim Mason, K.I.May, M.J.Moran,
Al Mountain, Kid Neestones, Neil's Company,
Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Kevin Reeve,
Sheila Renwick, Geoff S, Bob Selwood,
Bryan Smith, Bill Thackray, Martin Weedon,
Susan Wilson, D.Woodward, Terry Wookey,
Ivor Wright-Arden.

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.



Idle Moments

Well here we are in the dog days of summer - what is generally reckoned to be the silly season in the popular press (not that you'll find anything sillier than usual here - now that would be difficult). So it's business as usual here and I think I shall start, like I did last time, with a dig into the file of non-rhyming limericks. This one was penned by our crossword compiler Dave Quinton and first appeared in August 1988:

A charming young lady called Chloe
In the garden was using a hoe.
The daylight had gone,
She hit on a stone
Which ended up inside her shoe.

Now, on with the fun and we shall start as ever with the number puzzles. These ones have all appeared before but you may have to go back to the beginning of 1993 if you want to cheat:

1. 9 C of QV
2. 1431 J of AB at the S
3. 55 TTH by EP
4. 880 Y in a HM
5. 1 MW to M
6. 99 IC with a CF
7. 150 Y in a S
8. 12 BB
9. 90 D in a Q
10. 70 is "TS and T"

So then we come on to the brewery anagrams; you know what to do with these (but if you can't ignore them then you can try to sort out what brewery names I messed up to produce them):

1. SMART BAR
2. HIRE SKY TOWERS
3. SHAG DRAG
4. NO LUMBER
5. HOLY AS BROKER
6. PEER SET ONCE IN BOX
7. SHE DID RED FLU
8. NEWEST RICH
9. DOXY'S CAR
10. PLOD INTO P.T.

For this time's 5BY4 I have moved on to the letter L in the beer list. See if you can match the beers (1 to 10) with the brewers (A to J):

1. Luddite
2. Lincoln Ale
3. Lionheart
4. Landlord
5. Legend
6. Lurcher
7. Liberation
8. Liquor Mortis
9. Level Best
10. Landlady

- A. King & Smart
- B. Caythorpe
- C. Harviestoun
- D. Hogs Back
- E. Timothy Taylor
- F. Blue Moon
- G. Rother Valley
- H. Green Jack
- I. Hampshire
- J. Ryburn

And to finish off with we shall have a few trivia questions, all except for the last one which is a bit different.

1. What car was announced last month as being put back into production (with leather seats) by a new manufacturer only a few weeks after the original manufacturer ceased production of it?
2. How many people have walked on the moon?
3. How many aeroplanes take part in a Red Arrows display?
4. David Frost is remembered as the presenter of the BBC's television shows "That Was The Week That Was" and "BBC3" but who was the producer of these programmes?
5. Who, according to Shakespeare, was "from his mother's womb untimely ripped"?
6. "Napoleon had commanded that every week there should be something called a Spontaneous Demonstration" - where, and according to whom?
7. We all know by now that the "Moon Under Water" was an invention of George Orwell, but who was the author of "The Moon and Sixpence"?
8. What ship was used to lay the first successful transatlantic telephone cable?
9. What monthly television programme has been broadcast without a break and with the same presenter since April 1957?
10. And to finish off here is a bit of a brain teaser with a beer connection. What is it that if you take away one quarter of it you end up with something thirty six times as large?

Well that's about it so I shall leave you with that little lot until next time.

Here's hoping for some more summer.

Andy Pirson

Idle Moments

IDLE MOMENTS - THE ANSWERS

Here are the solutions to the puzzles set in June's Idle Moments:

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 32 Boroughs in Greater London
2. 6 Legs on an Ant
3. 4000 Holes in Blackburn, Lancashire
4. 1 Leg on Robert Louis Stevenson's Long John Silver
5. 212 Boiling Point of Water in Fahrenheit
6. 12 Labours of Hercules
7. 186,000 Speed of Light (Miles Per Second)
8. 4 Engines on a Boeing Seven-Four-Seven
9. 206 Bones in the Human Body
10. 8 Gallons in a Bushel

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. COWS TOLD THORN | NORTH COTSWOLD |
| 2. FELL BAD INCH | BLANCHFIELD |
| 3. IT CHIPS | PICTISH |
| 4. OR MEND ANVIL | INVERALMOND |
| 5. COST RAT CORK | SCATTOR ROCK |
| 6. KEEN FLOATS | ALES OF KENT |
| 7. SINGING POND | SPINNING DOG |
| 8. LADS' WHORE | OLDERSHAW |
| 9. SAFE PENCIL ROW | PRINCE OF WALES |
| 10. LEAD COVER | CORVEDALE |

5BY4:

1. Knight Rider - Goff's
2. Kangaroo - Ventnor
3. Killellan - Houston
4. Kamikaze - Dent (Flying Firkin)
5. Kiss Me Quick - Bateman's
6. Kursaal Flyer - Crouch Vale
7. Kett's Rebellion - Woodforde's
8. Keelman's - Big Lamp
9. King Billy - Cropton
10. Kodiak Gold - Beartown

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. George II (in the Battle of Dettingen, 1743)
2. Sir Tom Stoppard
3. Czechoslovakia (Klin in 1937)
4. Cumbria
5. The trampoline
6. The New Seekers
7. Coca Cola
8. King Arthur
9. Henry VIII
10. They all have classes of lifeboat (in current service) named after them

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