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LONDON DRINKER



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Editorial

When I was asked to write this month's guest editorial I didn't know what to write about. I sat myself down in a quiet corner of my local and as I supped I got to thinking. Why was I there and not next door? Why was I drinking a pint of bitter there and not in a bar down the other end of town? What was it that made me go back time after time?

Well, here are the answers. I like a reasonably priced pint, served in excellent condition at the right temperature in a lined glass.

This got me thinking about the changes in serving a pint in a pub. The sparkler, that little addition to the outlet, that creates a tight creamy head on even the thinnest, most bland beer. The way it does its job is to force the natural gas that is produced back into the beer to give it the head that the ad men would have us believe we want on a pint.

Well I for one do not want an unnatural head on my beer. 'So you want a flat pint?' they ask. No I reply. What I want is the beer pulled straight into the glass with a smooth steady pull. Without a sparkler most bar staff tend to pull a pint as fast as they can, finishing off with three or four short rapid pulls to try for a head that they feel your really want.

Another issue is the swan neck, designed to reduce the volume in the line, thereby reducing the wastage when pulling beer through or line cleaning. The biggest down side to a swan neck is it is virtually impossible to pour a pint without having the end of the pipe at the bottom of the glass. As the beer is poured on the down stroke it is partially sucked back on the return stroke. Then the whole thing is repeated over and over until the glass is nearly full and then the glass being lowered as the bar staff struggles to ensure a full pint is poured.

The swan neck itself, by design, is an unhygienic piece of dispensing equipment. To pull a pint with a swan neck you need to immerse the end in the beer you are serving. But of course the equipment is sterilised between pints!!!! Isn't it?

Anyone who regularly attends beer festivals will know that regardless of whether the beer is a mild, bitter or porter it is just as tasty served by gravity. Most pubs, however, don't have the facilities to serve beer this way so a return to the larger bore 2-pull beer engines is clearly a better way to serve beer. After all there hasn't always been sparklers to give a tight creamy head and my northerner will admit that a decent pint tastes better without them.

KEVIN REEVE

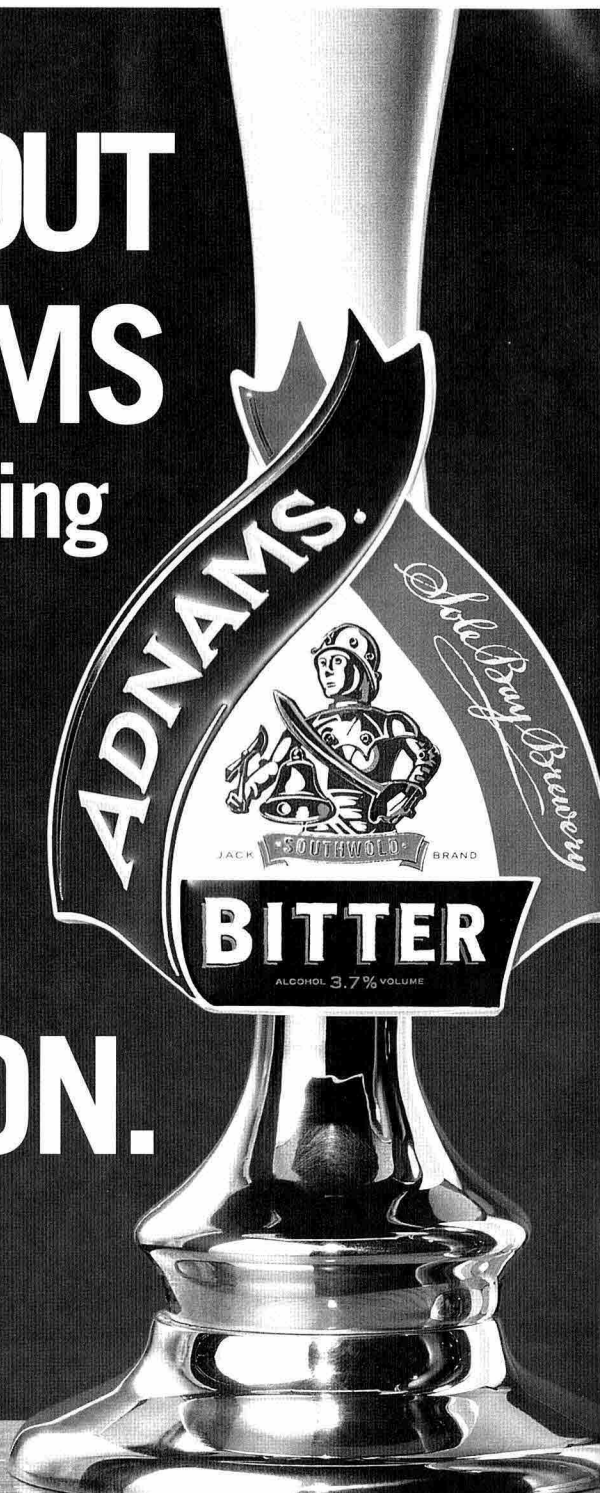
FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 3 - 6 Oct | 24th Bedford
Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square, Bedford |
| 4 - 6 Oct | 3rd Twickenham
York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham |
| 11 - 13 Oct | 8th Croydon
Wallington Halls, Stafford Road, Wallington |
| 18 - 20 Oct | Oxford
Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates Street |
| 25 - 27 Oct | Harlow
The Old Ski Slope Club House
Nr Harlow Town Railway Station |
| 26 - 27 Oct | Hampshire Downs
St Luke's Hall, Overton |
| 1 - 3 Nov | Beer on Broadway XIV
Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing W5 |
| 9 - 10 Nov | 8th Woking
Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park
(Admission By Ticket Only) |

ON OTHER PAGES

<i>News Update</i>	5
<i>Letters to the Editors</i>	11
<i>London Pubs Group</i>	13
<i>London Pubs of the Year</i>	14
<i>Branch Update</i>	17
<i>Early Risers</i>	21
<i>Opening Hours</i>	24
<i>Drinking in Upminster</i>	26
<i>Down Cotswold Way</i>	29
<i>What's in a Name</i>	31
<i>Capital Pubcheck</i>	33
<i>Lesbian & Gay News</i>	39
<i>From Our Archives</i>	41
<i>Crossword</i>	43
<i>Idle Moments</i>	45

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LONDON.**



Oakham wins Champion Beer award

The threatened Oakham brewery has won the Champion Beer of Britain award, announced at the CAMRA Great British Beer Festival in August. The pale and hoppy JHB (Jeffrey Hudson's Bitter) was voted the supreme champion by the judges, with second and third places going to Hop Back Summer Lightning and Brains Dark.

The Oakham brewery was founded in 1993 and, when more capacity was required, moved to a converted dole office in Peterborough. The new building opened in 1998 and includes a pub, the brewery tap, from where the brewery is visible through a large glass wall. Situated opposite the station, it claims to be the biggest brewpub in Europe, but has a wider appeal than just ale fans – with a Thai menu and DJs on Friday and Saturday nights it's a popular venue with younger drinkers.

One wall of the pub is covered with awards that have been presented by CAMRA beer festivals around the country, a fair representation of the formidable reputation for superb beer that the brewery has built up in its short history. The awards include a couple of awards from the Great British Beer Festival, but now they have one the big one as overall Champion Beer of Britain.

Sadly, it is all under threat from a proposal to demolish it to make way for a new shopping centre; the brewery and pub could be scheduled to end up as the entrance to an underground car park. Brewery manager Jake Douglas said 'We are not against the regeneration of the area, which has been badly neglected. But we say we have something positive to offer. We can be part of the attraction. We have been a huge success in drawing people to this part of town. Redraw the plans around us and you'll see what a contribution we can make'.

Peterborough CAMRA have been active in fighting the threat to the brewery, and hope that its status of the producer of Britain's champion beer will help in their campaign.

Fuller's launch Beer Quality Initiative

To back the continued expansion in cask ale at the Fuller's brewery, the company decided in 2000 to research their position in the market and work out how to keep their excellent growth rate going. One of the findings was that, while

Fuller's ales remain superb, variable quality of all cask ales damages the cause – or, as beer and brands manager John Roberts said, 'real ale on form is a real crowd puller, but, served out of condition, it is a liability'.

Thus was the Quality Initiative born. Not content with their Cask Marque achievements, Fuller's Technical Services team went to work on a system that would maintain consistent temperature and presentation, remove unnecessary wastage and be easy to use. The result, dubbed the 'Fuller's System', is now being rolled out to the flagship estate and will be standard in all new installations.

The system includes self tilting stillages, which tilt the cask forward as it becomes lighter; dedicated cask ale pythons with micro bore piping to reduce the amount of beer sitting in the line; and water cooled beer engines. In total, over half a million pounds will be spent on extra cellar equipment.

The Drayton Court in Ealing is one pub that has had the new system, and landlord Mark Foster is positive: 'yields are up 8 per cent and quality is consistently superior. Every drop, from the first pint pulled through to the last, is in perfect condition'.

Cask beer fights back

We are used to hearing the received wisdom that cask ale is in decline, with sales shrinking every year. But there are signs that the slump in cask beer sales, which has gone on for seven years, may be coming to an end.

Top market analysts AC Nielsen carry out distribution surveys twice a year, and they are clearly showing that the decline is slowing. Not only that, but the commitment of regional breweries is leading the way, with the likes of Fullers, Adnams and Greene King doing much better than the market as a whole, backed up by a wholehearted commitment to marketing their real ales.

While nationals have given up on ale and are still transferring to keg, nitrokeg brands such as Caffreys are declining rapidly. And the removal of real ale from town centre bars, which gathered pace through the 1990s when pub companies did not see real beer as important to their success, is being reversed. Problems where pubs simply didn't sell enough ale to maintain quality have been addressed by regional brewers with



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News Update

investment being made in quality improvement.

Regionals are backing up their ale commitment with significant investment in their breweries and rising sales. Adnams has just finished a project, costing £1.7 million and taking two years, to expand its capacity by 35,000 barrels a year; Batemans has just started on its new brewhouse, said by MD Stuart Bateman to represent their biggest ever investment in brewing; meanwhile both Brakspear and Hydes Anvil breweries have reported substantial rises in cask ale sales.

Analysts also point out that there is a big opportunity for ale sales to grow through attracting more mature drinkers back to the pub. Many over-40s have given up on going to the pub because so many of them don't offer what they want. With the proportion of the population of in this age group rising, there is a huge potential to tempt them back, and a well crafted quality pint of ale is a key element in achieving it.

Unique rolls out Ale Club

The Unique Pub Company has declared last year's trial of cask beers supplied by the Society of Independent Brewers a success, and is to roll the arrangement out across the country. The Cask Ale Club gives licensees the opportunity to stock a choice from the wide range of micro breweries involved in the scheme.

The trial, in north-east England, involved 150 beers from 70 breweries, and this is to be extended to 350 beers by the end of the year. A new selection of beers will be available every four weeks, following the successful integration of the range of products into Unique's supply chain by SupplyLine, their transportation company.

Nick Stafford of Hambleton Ales has been instrumental in driving the scheme forward, and said 'This is an important step in our quest to access the pubco market'. He added 'Several retailers are taking guest ales for the first time because Unique's support gives them confidence. The project has generated much-needed sales at a time when small brewers are under immense market pressures'.

Unique owns over 3,000 pubs across the country.

The Wolves saga goes on...

The long running battle over the future of Wolverhampton and Dudley breweries continued

through the summer, but the hostile bids for the company have come to nothing with the narrow defeat of the Pubmaster takeover.

There was a widespread campaign against the Pubmaster bid, which was expected to lead to the closure or sale of all W&D's breweries. A petition with over 3,000 signatures was raised at the Wolverhampton show, and local MPs and the City Council also weighed in. The campaign was a success, but the margin of victory was narrow – 47 per cent of shareholders accepted the deal, leaving Pubmaster just a few per cent short of victory. Chairman David Thompson acknowledged the impact of the campaign, saying that the significant number of private shareholders living locally appreciated the company's commitment to the community. He also thanked CAMRA for its help in defeating the bid.

However, the news was not all good as the result marked the end of the proposals for a management buy-out of the Mansfield brewery, and also means that the plan to sell Cameron's to Castle Eden will go ahead, leading to the closure of the Castle Eden site.

Wolverhampton and Dudley may also not be out of the woods yet. Similar results in the past have been reversed not long after – Greene King's takeover of Morland being on example where the original bid failed by a narrow margin, only for the predator to return later. With City investors still sceptical about the merits of integrated brewing and pub companies, the management will have a lot of persuading to do, and they got off to a poor start with the attempted sale of the Pitcher and Piano pub chain. The proposed sale was a key part of the management's defence against the bid, but reports are of a distinct lack of takers for the 33-strong chain, valued at around £75 million.

Pub Design Awards

The 2001 Pub Design awards have recently been announced, with the Conservation award going to the Phoenix in George Street, York. The pub, owned by Unique, mostly dates from the 1890s, when extensive alterations were made to the original which is about 60 years older. Regular consultation with the City Council and the Victorian Society has helped achieve a sensitive refurbishment.

The Conversion category was won by the Sedge Lynne in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester. As with last year's winner, it is a

— News Update —

JD Wetherspoon conversion of an old billiard hall. The sensitive execution of the new features and retention of many of the old ones was cited, as was the effective 30's style bar back and the innovative lighting.

The Refurbishment category produced two high commendations. Doctor Duncan's in Liverpool is a part conversion from a bar an offices by Cain's, and includes the Marble Bar, said to be one of the most impressive rooms in any pub in the country. The other winner, the Hillsborough Hotel in Sheffield, was rescued from closure by a local entrepreneur, who revived the bar and adjacent hotel. It was commended as an excellent example of how much a seemingly down and out pub can offer.

The Joe Goodwin award is given for the best refurbishment of a street corner local, and was awarded to the Monkey in West Street, Crewe. Owned by Slater's brewery of Ecclelland, it was commended as presenting the simple, unassuming interior and an excellent example of how to update a pub without losing sight of its history.

Once again, no award was made in the New Build category, with none thought to be of sufficient merit.

Row over 'fake' brands

The debate over the continuing use of closed brewery names for beers taken over by other companies has hotted up over the summer, following CAMRA's decision not to order Morland or Ruddles beers for the Great British Beer Festival. Both breweries were bought by Greene King and closed, with the beers now brewed at the Bury St Edmunds brewery. The policy also involved the exclusion of King & Barnes brands, now brewed at Hall & Woodhouse in Dorset, and Morrells and Ushers beers which now come from the Thomas Hardy brewery (formerly Eldridge Pope).

Greene King reacted angrily to the move, putting up 'banned' posters on its bar and attacking the policy. 'Given CAMRA's stated commitment to cask ale, it beggars belief that they should actively seek to damage these brands. The future of cask beer is dependent on companies like Greene King who invest heavily in production, distribution, trade quality and marketing' said Greene King's statement. They added '.....the vast majority of real ale drinkers are more interested in the survival of beers like Ruddles and Old Speckled Hen and are only too pleased to find them increasingly available. They want to see these beers celebrated, not banned'.

MAGPIE & CROWN

PUB OF THE YEAR
CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow

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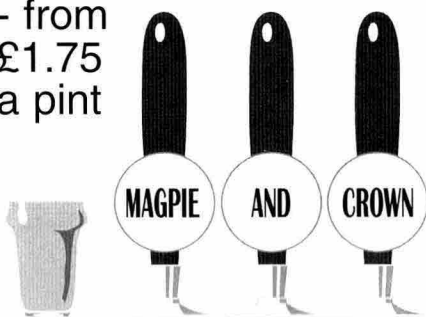
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News Update

However, Trevor Holmes of Wadworth in Wiltshire supported the policy. Questioning the legitimacy of brewing beers away from their original brewery, he commented that, in his personal experience, it is extremely difficult to replicate a beer at a different site. 'The more distinctive and complex the beer flavour, the closer is the relationship with the brewery of origin' he added. However, his criticisms are based as much on the dubious authenticity as on flavour.

Mr Holmes says that Greene King deserves general support for its support of cask ales, but questioned some of the brands – for example Ruddles County, which is substantially weaker than the version brewed twenty years ago.

The CAMRA policy banning beers brewed away from their brewery of origin, but passed off as being original, was introduced at the annual conference in April. It does not cover breweries such as Oakham and Woodforde that have had to move their whole operation to new premises – a situation quite common among expanding micro breweries.

Uncertain future for Eldridge Pope

Speculation is growing that both the Eldridge Pope beers and the pub company of the same name may be under threat.

Although EP sold off their brewery in 1997, it retained the rights to its beer brands and contracted their brewing to their former brewery, which was bought by ex Courage brewer Peter Ward and renamed Thomas Hardy. But, since then, national brands such as Bass, Courage and Tetley have made inroads into the estate, and the company has been accused of doing nothing to promote their own beer brands. Although Eldridge Pope chairman Christopher Pope expressed a sentimental interest in the brewery and its beers, he has angered supporters of the beers by saying 'I would certainly not be very confident of the long term future of the EP brands'.

The company is said to be in talks with a property company to sell the freehold of the brewery site, although the brewery's new owners, who have a 24 year lease, have claimed no knowledge of plans for a sale. They have stated that they will be brewing in Dorchester for the foreseeable future; Thomas Hardy currently brews around 2,000 barrels a week, and supplies Morrell's and Usher's beers as well as Eldridge Pope.

The pub company itself is said to be under threat of a takeover, with possible interest from Fuller's Young's or Greene King. Given Young's

recent purchase of the Smiles estate, a takeover of EP would be an ideal expansion for Fuller's or Greene King; however they have dismissed the rumours as pure speculation.

Young's threat beaten – again

The fourth attempt by shareholder Guinness Peat to change the Young's brewery share structure has gone the way of the other three, being defeated by 92 per cent of shareholders voting at the Annual General Meeting.

Guinness Peat claim that the two-tier share structure, that ensures that control of the brewery remains with the Young family, is obsolete and undemocratic. Enthusiasts for the brewery may think it's an obscure and arcane point, but for as long as the structure stays as it is, the chances of the brewery being torn down and redeveloped as yuppie flats are very small. The fate of Morrell's, for one, is a graphic example of what can happen when the asset-strippers get their hands on a brewery sitting in a prime city centre site.

However, the City is wondering how long demands for change can be kept at bay. With John Young at the helm and the trading figures of the brewery looking strong, all is well for now. But for how long?

Shock resignation at Cain's

In a surprise move, Cain's managing director Steve Holt has resigned from the Merseyside brewery, and will leave at the end of the year. Mr Holt was brought in 11 years ago, just after the brewery, formerly Higson's, was purchased from Whitbread who had acquired it through buying Boddington's. Since then, Cain's has built up a strong portfolio of cask ales and a number of showpiece managed pubs, winning three CAMRA/English Heritage Pub Design Awards in the process.

Mr Holt says the decision to go was a personal one, as he had decided he needed to take on a new challenge; he intends to stay within the industry. The replacement MD is Ole Timm, who has confirmed that Cain's strong commitment to real ale would remain.

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Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

A somewhat disturbing poster is displayed on the wall of a pub I frequent. It reads: 'PUBLIC PLACES CHARTER ON SMOKING'. This is to certify that ÖÖÖÖ has considered the preferences of its customers and decided upon the following Charter Smoking Policy ÖÖÖÖÖ 'SMOKING ALLOWED THROUGHOUT'. The text explains that this refers to all sections of the premises open to the public and not just pubs. The address of the issuing organisation is London NW1, so presumably such posters have been distributed far and wide.

There are a number of 'No Smoking' pubs, and the landlord of one of these has informed me that since that ruling was imposed, his custom has increased rather than dropped. As I recall some years back a fair number of pubs in London took to having smokeless zones so that the customer has the choice. Being a lifelong non-smoker I am biased, but why should you or I be forced to indulge in passive smoking while enjoying a pint? As with all CAMRA members I'm all for choice, and we don't attempt to force our taste in drinks on others. Tobacco smoke will invariably find its way behind the bar and I'm sure none of us really like our drink to taste of foreign matter, such as nicotine. Or am I in a minority of one? What do other readers think of this retrograde step?

Yours truly,

Martin Smith
Llandybïe, Carms.

Dear Editors,

Church Farmhouse Museum at Hendon will be mounting an exhibition in Summer 2002 on the history of pubs and breweries in the London Borough of Barnet area.

The Museum would be interested to hear from any of your readers who have any historic objects from furnishings to bottles, advertisements to beer-engines - relating to local hostelrys and breweries which they might be prepared to lend.

Please contact the Curator on 020 8203 0130.

Yours faithfully

Gerrard Roots
Curator

Dear Editors,

Regular readers of London Drinker will know that I ceaselessly investigate public houses and other licensed premises to obtain information about the availability of real ale. Any information I obtain is forwarded to the relevant branches and to Capital Pubcheck.

However I feel that my latest discovery should be reported directly to the letters page of LD. The nudist camp at Brocken Hurst near Swanley in Kent has a bar which sells Bass and at least one other real ale. Unfortunately this information was not obtained by a personal visit but from a photograph accompanying an article about nudism in the Evening Standard of 31 August 2001. Regrettably the view of the handpumps on the bar in the relevant photograph is partially blocked by a naked woman so I cannot be more specific about the real ales available.

Swanley is just on the Kent side of the border between Kent and Greater London, so the camp may just be in Greater London although it is more likely that it is in Kent. Still, if you want to drink real ale with your kit off, this is the place

Colin Price
Barking

Dear Editors,

The problem about imported beers that are actually brewed in the U.K. (Paul Smith's letter) was also mentioned by the drinks correspondent of the Sunday Telegraph magazine, who complained about the difficulty of getting a genuinely brewed Indian beer to accompany a curry.

They may be interested to know that I did notice, in an off-licence at 65 Brick Lane, a beer called Sunny Beeches that, according to the label, is brewed in India. I have also occasionally noticed Sri Lankan brewed beers in off-licences in Manor Park (E12) and in the Yaal restaurant in Barking Road E6.

On a different point, while the idea in Capital Pubcheck of listing the closed and lost pubs is a good one there is a slight problem in that no time scale has been given. Therefore may I, tongue in cheek, report the fact that the Peto Arms in Barking closed in 1906.

Colin Price
Barking

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.

— Pub History —

PUB HISTORY SOCIETY

Educating – Co-ordinating – Celebrating the history of pubs

'There is nothing', Samuel Johnson famously remarked, 'which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn.' This sentiment has been echoed by generations of drinkers. Historians too have enjoyed the hospitality of pubs for many generations, but rarely have they written about their historical importance.

Over the centuries pubs have played a unique role as community centres, homes for clubs and societies, a place to do business, and of course, somewhere to meet friends for a quiet pint. However, they have changed more in the last forty years than in anytime in the past four hundred. Even so, they remain at the heart of British life.

Yet so much of this history has been forgotten or lies unrecorded. The recently formed Pub History Society exists to put this omission right, by:

encouraging research into public houses, the people who worked in them, and their importance to society as a whole by organising meetings and other events. We're already planning the first conference ever on the history of the pub to take place in 2002;

co-ordinating and publicising the work of people already researching the subject through regular newsletters and a journal. We're also building a comprehensive index to the books published about pubs over the years;

and above all, celebrating and commemorating a unique heritage – what's the point of a pub history society if we can't celebrate the Great British Pub – much imitated and never bettered. It comes as little surprise that our first event was a guided pub-crawl of the historic taverns of West London.

If you are interested in why your local came to be like it is, what pubs were like a century or two ago, or even curious about the people who pulled the pints, then the Pub History Society is for you. Subscriptions are £10 per year, or £8 if you are unwaged. If you would like to join, or would like further information, please contact Simon Fowler, 13 Grovewood, Sandycombe Rd, Richmond, TW9 3NF or visit our website www.uk-history.co.uk/phs.htm

The Pub History Society was formed in March 2001 by Steve Williams, of Peterborough CAMRA and a well-known pub historian and enthusiast, and Simon Fowler, a writer on history and magazine editor.

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London Pubs

LONDON PUBS GROUP

The London Pubs Group was first formed in 1992 with a gathering of CAMRA members who were both interested in historic pubs and concerned at the large number of interesting Victorian interiors that were being lost through mindless refurbishments. Our first organised pub crawl, or evaluation exercise, was around a notable selection of Knightsbridge/Pimlico public houses, which we later repeated as a social for volunteer staff at the Great British Beer Festival, at its first year at Olympia.

It was clear that saving pubs would be an important issue for CAMRA, as pubs were a unique part of the British way of life and the best place to drink real ale, and that the threats of closure and alterations should be challenged. The Pubs Group is a forum for branches to discuss pub preservation issues and initiatives to fight and save individual pubs when under threat. Forging links with brewers, licensing and planning authorities, we could all achieve a common goal in both promoting and developing the British pub. Through this we were also keen to draw a list of pubs which are of such importance that they deserved national recognition and protection. This has since developed into the National Inventory which is now published in the Good Beer Guide each year and has been helped forward by Dr. Geoff Brandwood who has also been assessing

pubs worthy of listed building status.

It is clear that many pubs that we cherish have been altered to some extent, but some still retain their character with surviving areas and fixtures, which all add to our enjoyment and pleasure. Pubs with partitions, multi-rooms, including public bars, where different types of people are able to use them, hold a unique interest in the development of our pub stock and as such are becoming increasingly rare. Such pubs, by their very nature, can all too easily be destroyed once the modern designers and builders get their hands on them.

The Pubs Group is not about *all things old* and we have been keen to discuss the merits of new pub design and refurbishments. Here in London we have the largest number of new pubs opening in the country, so that there is no shortage of examples. Most seem to be unimaginative concepts but it's clear that where a new building mixes good design with good ale, the interest generated can be rewarding. Personally, I really enjoyed the opening of the Porterhouse in Covent Garden, although I was not too sure about some of the beer! CAMRA with English Heritage now hold a Pub Design Award competition each year to reward such innovative and sensitive pub designs, including good conservation and refurbishment, which all adds to greater public and commercial awareness of the importance of public houses within our communities.

My personal view is that there is nothing to compare to drinking a good pint in a traditional pub. I have greatly enjoyed my visits to the Holly Bush in Hampstead, which is now justly receiving sensitive treatment, but there was a time not so long ago where we were fighting against the benefits of ripping out the interior. Go, see and enjoy.

The Pubs Group has recently been reformed and will now meet quarterly at the Harvey's Royal Oak pub, Tabard St., Borough SE1 with social pub crawls in between. We welcome CAMRA members interested in pub preservation, pub heritage or new design to our events, which are all advertised in *London Drinker* and *What's Brewing*.

Eric Martin

J.J. Duffy



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London Pubs

LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR 2001

I managed to visit the 13 pubs nominated for the London Pubs of the Year competition during a hectic two-week period in July. This article is my personal view of these nominated pubs.

However, firstly, a bit of background information. Each branch of CAMRA that is either partly or wholly in London, nominates their Pub of the Year (POTY) and this goes into the London heat. The winner of the London POTY then goes into the next round and competes against others from the Home Counties. This continues until a national winner is finally announced early next year. Interestingly, any CAMRA member can be judge and if several judges from the same branch take part, their votes are averaged so each branch scores each pub (including their own nominee). The scoring system covers several categories such as value for money, atmosphere and of course, quality of beer. A pub can score a maximum of 140 points. There is no category for range of beers so genuine freehouses (and I bet no one can name more than 10 of these in London) have no overall advantage. The highest score overall becomes the winner and you cannot be fairer than that.

Visiting all the pubs is a rewarding yet fairly tiring experience as branch winners often seem to be tucked away from the main transport routes. Pubs are in the order visited and comments in [] relate to earlier visits.

The Chequers, Hornchurch
Situating close to Emerson Park station and a good example of an old fashioned East London boozer. It is actually plonked right in the middle of a one way system which has to be circumnavigated. Service seemed friendly and beer was very good value albeit very pedestrian. Beers on offer were Youngs Bitter, Tetley Bitter, Bass and Friery Meux Bitter, all of which were drinkable but nothing more. Overall, I found this to be good but not great. [Sadly this pub has been 'Punched' in recent years and the ever-changing - guest beer is no more].

The Clathorpe Arms, WC1
A pleasant and under-rated, small Youngs pub in a residential part of central London. Fairly smart dEcor comfortable and a nice retreat from the stresses and strains of London. All three of Youngs Beers on, that included Waggle Dance, but thankfully not the exceedingly bland, Triple A were at their best.

The Olde Mitre, Barnet
A wood panelled traditional High Street pub best accessed by a long haul to the summit of the Misery Line. Beers on offer were Adnams Bitter and Broadside, Tetley Bitter and Benskins Bitter and those tried were ok but nothing special. Overall, a bit of a disappointment. [The last time I visited, this was a Tetley Festival Ale House, where there was a wider range of genuine guest beers. Another victim of Punch Taverns?]

The Willoughby Arms, Kingston
This is a very pleasant back street local situated about 5 minutes walk (in pouring rain this time from Norbiton Station). It was particularly pleasant to find that a total stranger received a warm welcome. Beers on offer included Taylor's Landlord (which was ok but far from its best) and I believe this is permanently available. I also tried a very odd tasting London Pride that tasted very unlike Fullers.

The Rose of Denmark, Barnes
Another back street local but this time careful studying of the rail timetable and A to Z map was needed in order to get here from Kingston. An old fashioned pub with a mature clientele. Beers permanently on offer were an interesting trio of Brakspear's Bitter, Woodforde's Wherry and Landlord again. The Brakspears and Wherry were both disappointing and lacked their normal hoppy character.

The William 4th, Leyton
After some rather disappointing beers it was good to visit London's latest brewpub. It is another fine example of an east London pub but far more grand than the Chequers and with a mixed clientele. Their own beers are nothing special but quite drinkable, the best being East London Mild. They also sold London Pride, and ESB, the latter being the biggest seller. All beers were in good nick.

The Market Porter, SE1
Situating opposite Borough Market and a good all round pub with a very mixed clientele including business people, tourists, the 'Time Out' brigade and beer enthusiasts. There were 8 different beers on offer and these were mainly from

London Pubs

microbreweries. Grainstore (from Oakham, Rutland) Mild was most enjoyable, as was the Harvey's Best Bitter, the beer that appeared most often in the 13 pubs.

The White Horse, Parsons Green

I found it very disappointing on this visit. Service, beer quality and just about everything else were poor. Jugs of Pimms were outselling real ale and of those tried, the Harvey's Best was very bland, the Highgate Dark was totally uninspiring and the Roosters House Beer on the turn. [I have been here many times during the last decade, mainly to their rather good beer festivals, and the beer has generally been fine].

The Drayton Court Hotel, Ealing

Situated close to West Ealing station this is a smart Fullers' pub that also has a proper public bar. The Chiswick was good but the London Pride was excellent and quite the best pint of this I have tried during the last 2 years.

The Priory Arms, Stockwell

Another back street local that is a genuine freehouse and sells Adnams Bitter and Broadside, Harveys BB and 2 ever changing guests. On this visit the pub was lively and beer quality of a high standard, particularly the hoppy Stonehenge Heelstone. Also on offer is a good range of German beers. [I have to admit that I have never really been a big fan of the Priory Arms but this visit has gone some way to change my opinion].

The Robin Hood and Little John, Bexleyheath

I found this friendly, back street local pub to be excellent in just about every respect. Service was efficient with strangers treated as locals, d'Écor very comfortable and beer quality very good. I tried both the Flagship beers and Harvey's Best again and was not disappointed. This won London POTY last year and it gets my vote for this year.

The Swan, Bushey

After a lengthy tube journey (to Stanmore) and a bus trip, I found this cracking local just off the main drag. It is very small and totally unspoilt and even on a Monday night, there was initially standing room only. Beers on offer were Ansells Mild (good), Benskins Bitter (good) and Youngs Bitter and Special. Permanent mild is most welcome and I believe a relatively recent addition. One of the best, I felt.

The Princess Royal, Croydon

Can Greene King beers taste good? Not often, but they can if you visit this excellent back street local on the outskirts of Croydon that is affectionately known as the Glue Pot. The full range of GK beers was on offer with the IPA tucked away to the side of the bar. The Mild was very good and the GK 'Ruddles' County excellent. Despite the lower gravity, this is easily the best (of many) version of this beer since the original.

Simon Fyffe

ALL LONDON SOCIAL

SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

THE ROYAL OAK

TABARD STREET - SE1

To celebrate the Lord Mayor's Show

PIGS EAR 2001

East London CAMRA has announced the dates for their 20th Pigs Ear Festival, 4th - 8th December and once again the venue will be the Old Town Hall Stratford Broadway London E15. This will be the 14th year that the festival is to be held in the London Borough of Newham. Originally based in York Hall Bethnal Green (London Borough of Tower Hamlets) sites were changed when there were objections to the music. Local councillors also feared it encouraged the drinkers to drive. They didn't seem to mind encouraging two men to knock nine bells out of each other in the name of sport at the same venue though!

Now of course the festival is music free and Stratford is better served by public transport than London E2 and I think the bar managers rest more easily knowing they don't have to worry about barrels heating up due to the baths and saunas that were at York Hall.

The usual range of beers in barrels and bottles, ciders and perries and foreign beer will be available as will the creche (Saturday only, noon to 5pm).

Some people don't go to festivals on Saturdays fearing lack of beer variety but figures for the last three years should dispel any such fears as last year some 60 beers were available on the last day with some 18 left at close of play. In 1999 the figures were 65/9 and a year earlier 78/26.

Further information from
www.pigsear.org.uk/festival.html



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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 October/November are listed below.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Jane Jephcote 020 7973 3102 (W).

September - Sat 29 Social Crawl of Hornsey area. Meet (3.30) Queen's, 26 Broadway Parade, N8 then (4.45) Queen's Head, 677 Green Lanes; (5.30) Salisbury, 1 Grand Parade; then to include Palace Gates, 22 Palace Gates Road; Phoenix Bar, Palm Court Entrance, Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Park.

October - Wed 10 (7.30) Meeting. Royal Oak, Tabard Street, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

ALL LONDON SOCIAL. Saturday 10 November, after the Lord Mayor's Show. Royal Oak, Tabard St, London SE1.

BEXLEY. Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H). Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk
October - Wed 10 (8.30) Branch meeting. Alma, Sidcup.

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

October - Wed 3 (8.30) Social. Moon on the Hill, Sutton. - Thu 11 (noon) to Sat 13 (6pm) 8th Croydon & Sutton Real Ale Festival, Wallington Hall, Stafford Rd, Wallington. - Mon 22 (8.30) Social. Rail View, Selsdon Rd, South Croydon. - Tue 30 (8.30) Branch meeting. Dog & Bull, Surrey St, Croydon.

November - Thu 8 (8.30) Croydon Pub of The Year Social. Princess Royal, 22 Longley Rd, Croydon. - Thu 22 (8.30) Sutton Pub of The Year Social; Greyhound Hotel 2 High St, Carshalton. - Sat 24 Country Outing to Red Lion Snargate. Meet East Croydon Station 10am for train via London Bridge and Tonbridge. - Thu 29 (8.30) Branch meeting. Windsor Castle, Carshalton.

EAST LONDON & CITY. Ben or Robyn 020-8521 4410 (H), Email: robyn@pigsear.org.uk. Social enquiries: Bob Walker 020-8924 0346 (H), 07930 990646 (M). Website: www.pigsear.org.uk
October - Wed 3 (8pm) Social. Chequers, 44 Old St EC1. - Tue 9 (8pm) Branch meeting, Birbeck Tavern, 45 Langthorne Rd E11. - Fri 12 (7.30) Club of the Year presentation. Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Brisbane Rd, Leyton E10. - Thu 25 (5pm) Harlow Beer Festival. (See Beer Festivals.)
November - Tue 13 (8pm) Branch meeting, Artillery Arms, 102 Bunhill Row EC1. - Next events all Pig's Ear publicity crawls - phone for

details - Thu 1 (7pm) Banker, Cousin Lane EC4; Fri 16 (7pm) Lamb, Leadenhall Market EC3; Sat 24 TBA.

ENFIELD & BARNET. Mark Shepherd 020-8441 0174 (H) 020-7712 2081 (W), Email: Mark.Shepherd1@dwp.gov.uk.

October - Wed 3 (8.30) Pub of the Year presentation and launch of 2002 Good Beer Guide. Olde mitre, 58 High St, Barnet EN5. - Tue 9 (9pm) GBG Promo. Kings Head, Market Place, Enfield EN2. - Wed 17 (9pm) GBG Promo. Madden's, 130 High Rd, East Finchley N2. - Tue 23 (9pm) GBG Promo. Monken Holt, 193 High St, Barnet EN5. - Fri 26-Sun 28 Weekend in Amsterdam at Bock Beer Festival. - Wed 31 (9pm) GBG Promo. Beehive, 24 Little Bury St, Lower Edmonton N9.
November - Tue 6 (9pm) GBG Promo. Albion, 74 Union St, Barnet EN5. - Wed 14 (9pm) GBG Promo. Dog & Duck, 74 Hoppers Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - Sun 18 (noon) Beer + Biriani. Meet Beehive, 24 Little Bury St, Lower Edmonton N9, then to Gandhi's Indian Restaurant for buffet meal £7.50 per head. - Tue 20 (9pm) GBG Promo. Railway Bell, 13 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet EN4. - Thu 29 (9pm) GBG Promo and London Drinker pick up, Old Wheatsheaf, 3 Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2.

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

October - Thu 4 (8.30) Social gathering at Twickenham Beer Festival. - Tue 9 (8.30) Branch meeting. Victoria, Victoria Rd, Surbiton. - Tue 16 (8.30) K & L Branch Surrey Pub of the Year presentation. Jolly Farmer, Princes Rd, Weybridge. - Sat 20 (9pm & 11.30) Canal Boat Trip. Depart Farmcombe Boathouse, then calling at various canalside pubs. Fare £15 approx. Deposit £5. Details and bookings from Dave Morgan 0208 546 5181 or dmorgan@britishlibrary.net. - Wed 24 (7pm) Minibus evening trip to the Surrey Pub of the Year for presentation to The Surrey Oaks at Newdigate. Depart New Malden, Kingston Rd/Graham Rd 6:45pm, Surbiton Rail Station 7:00pm. Fare £10. Deposit £5

November - Thu 8 (8.30) Branch meeting. Royal Oak, Coombe Rd, New Malden. - Tue 13 (7pm for 8pm)

Chinese Evening Meal in Surbiton. Meet Coronation Hall, near Surbiton Rail Station, then across the road to the Chinese Restaurant. - Sat 17 (6pm) Joint Richmond/Kingston Pub Crawl. Start in Richmond, Triple Crown (6pm), Princes Head

Branch Update

(6.45), Watermans (7.30), then bus to Kingston for Canbury (8.30), Willoughby Arms (9.30), finish Park Tavern (10.15) - Sun 25 (12.30) Sunday lunch/afternoon visit to Weston Green. Meet Marney's Pond, Alma Rd.

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

October - Mon 1 (8pm) Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd N1 - Tue 9 (8pm) Social. Skinners Arms 114 Judd St, then Smithys, Leeke St, both WC1. - Tue 16 (8pm) Social. Earl of Radnor, 106 Mildmay Grove, then Duke of Wellington, 119 Balls Pond Rd, both N1. - Tue 23 (8pm) London Drinker Beer Festival 2002 Planning Meeting, Wenlock Arms (as above). - Tue 30 Social and meal. Meet 8pm, Lamb, Lambs Conduit St, WC1, then to a local restaurant.

November - Mon 5 (8pm) Social. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd SW19 (Colliers Wood/South Wimbledon tube stns)

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

October - Thu 4 to Sat 6 3rd Twickenham Beer Festival. - Mon 15 (8pm) Festival debriefing. Coach & Horses, 183 London Rd, Isleworth: all members' views and comments welcome. - Wed 24 (8.30) Branch meeting. Jolly Gardeners, 36 Lower Richmond Rd, Mortlake SW14.

November - Sat 17 (6pm) Joint Social Crawl with Kingston & Leatherhead Branch, starting at the Triple Crown, 15 Kew Foot Rd, Richmond, then including (6.45) Princes Head, 28 The Green, (7.30) Watermans Arms, 12 Water Lane, then on to Kingston for (8.30) Canbury Arms, 49 Canbury Pk Rd., (9.30) Willoughby Arms, 47 Willoughby Rd., (10.15) Park Tavern, 19 New Rd. - Wed 21 (8.30) Branch meeting. Windmill, 80 Windmill Rd., Hampton Hill - a venue we have not been to for some time.

Advance notice Fri 14 December Branch Xmas Dinner, again at The Lion, Wick Rd, Teddington (details from Brian)

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

October - Wed 3 (8pm) Branch/committee meeting. Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St SE1. - Tue 9 (8pm) West Wickham pub crawl. Meet Swan, 2-4 High St, West Wickham. - Sun 14 (noon to 4pm) Mini beer festival at Crown Woods School, Riefeld Road, Eltham SE9. - Tue 16 (8pm) Social. Jolly Woodman, 9 Chancery La, Beckenham. - Wed 24 (8pm) South East London Pub of the Year

presentation. Market Porter, 9 Stoney St, SE1. - **Sat 27 Visit to the Castle Rock Brewery, Queens Bridge Rd, Nottingham. We are planning to catch the 09:00 train from St Pancras. A group discount day return is available. Contact Tom Carrington on 01689 834783 to book a place; first come first served and no bookings will be taken after 12 October.**

November - Mon 5 (8pm) Branch/committee meeting. Kings Arms, Leaves Green Rd, Keston. - Mon 12 (8pm) Social. Hope, 49 Norwood High St SE27. - Thu 22 (8pm) Social. Beehive, 60-62 Carter St SE17. - Mon 26 (8pm) First planning meeting for the tenth Catford Beer Festival. Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove SE10

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

October - Wed 3 (8:30) Social. Old White Horse, Ockendon Rd (B186), North Ockendon - Come and visit Greater London's most easterly real ale pub. - Thu 11 (8:30) Social. Cricketers, 299/301 High Rd (A11), Woodford Green. - Tue 16 (8:30) Social. Theobald Arms, Kings Walk, Grays (5 minutes from Grays Railway and Bus Stations). - Thu 25 (8:30) Social at Harlow Beer Festival, The Old Ski Hut (Moguls), Harlow Town Station Roundabout, Harlow (for further information see <http://www.heb-camra.org.uk/hbx.html>). - Wed 31

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Branch Update

(8:30) Halloween Social. Foxhound, 18 High Rd (B188), Orsett.

November – Tue 6 (8:30) Out of Area Social. Moletap, Tawney Common, Theydon Mount, Stapleford Tawney (OS: TL500014). - Wed 14 (8:30) Branch meeting to consider nominations for Good Beer Guide 2003. Green Man, 11 Cricketers Rd (just off A128), Herongate. Come and make your views felt. - Thu 22 (8:30) Social at Rochford Beer Festival, The Freighhouse (next to Rochford Railway Station), Rochford (for further information see

<http://www.inebriate.freereserve.co.uk/page13.html>)

- Thu 29 (8:30) Social. Eva Hart, 1128 High Rd/Station Rd, Chadwell Heath.

Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H) 020-7438 6418 (W), Email: markbravery@cableinet.co.uk, Cricket: Andy Robinson 020-8653 8885 (H) 020-7739 4440 (W). October – Wed 17 (7.30). Open branch committee meeting (including Pub of the Year shortlisting, 2002 Good Beer Guide distribution). Grapes, 39 Fairfield Rd, Wandsworth SW18.

November – Mon 12 (7.30). Open branch committee meeting (inc 2003 Good Beer Guide long-listing, issues for AGM motions). Grove, 39 Oldridge Rd, Balham SW12. - **Sat 24-Sun25. Branch visit to Bateman's Brewery, Wainfleet, catching 09.10 train from King's Cross; cost not exceeding £60 including overnight accommodation. To reserve a place no later than 31 October, send David Paterson, 26 Havers Avenue, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4ND, cheque for £30 payable to CAMRA SW London Branch.**

- Fri 30 Brixton and Streatham three pub social. Meet (6.30-7.30) Trinity Arms, 45 Trinity Gardens, Brixton SW9. then (8.30-9.30) Crown & Sceptre, 2a Streatham Hill, SW2. finally (10pm onwards) Hogshead, 68-70 Streatham High Rd SW16.

Website: www.battersea-beer-festival.org.uk

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

October – Wed 3 Croxley Green social. (8.30) Coach & Horses, (9pm) Artichoke, (9.30) Sportsman. - Fri 12 (6pm) Social. Head of Steam, Euston. - Tue 16 (8pm) Hertfordshire liaison meeting. Estcourt Arms, St Johns Road, Watford. - Thu 25 (8.30) Social. Rickmansworth Sports Club, Park Rd, Rickmansworth.

November – Fri 2 Bushey and Oxhey publicity crawl for Watford Beer Festival. Start (8pm) Black Boy, finish (10pm) Swan. - Fri 9 (5pm) to Sun 11 (3pm) Watford Beer Festival. West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford. - Sat 17 Pub crawl by train, meet (noon) Head of Steam, Euston; finish

(8pm?) Estcourt Arms, Watford. - Thu 22 Rickmansworth social. (8.30) Coach & Horses, (9pm) Pennsylvanian, (9.30) Feathers, (10pm) British Legion. - Wed 28 Watford town centre social. (8.30) Red Lion, (9.15) One Crown, (10pm) Estcourt Tavern.

Advance notice Wed 5 December (7.30 viewing for 8pm) Annual Breweriana Auction, West Herts Sports Club.

WEST LONDON. Alex Langford 020-7821 8101 (H). Email: westlondoncamra@aol.com

October – Thu 4 (7pm) Social. Twickenham Beer Festival, York House, Richmond Rd. - Tue 9 (8pm) Club of the Year for West London and Greater London. Imperial College Southside Bar, Princes Gdns, Kensington SW7. - Tue 16 (8pm) West London Beer Guide planning meeting. Carpenters Arms, 12 Seymour Place W1. - Tue 23 (8pm) Branch meeting. Clachan, 34 Kingly St W1.

November – Thu 1 (7pm) Social. XIV Beer on Broadway Festival, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing W5. - Mon 19 Maida Vale and Notting Hill crawl. (8pm) Truscott Arms, 55 Shirland Rd W9, (9pm) Carlton Bridge (reopened by then), 45 Woodfield Rd W9, (10pm) Duke of Wellington, 179 Portobello Rd W11. - Sat 24 Outing to Rochford Beer Festival in goods shed, station car park, Rochford, Essex. Meet 11.30 by platform 16, Liverpool Street station or at the festival.

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

October – Mon 1 (8.30) Beer Festival planning meeting. Bridge Hotel, Western Avenue, Greenford. - Thu 4 (7pm) Twickenham Beer Festival Social. York House, Richmond Rd, Twickenham. - Wed, 10 (8.30) Branch meeting. Drayton Court Hotel, The Avenue, West Ealing. - Tue 16 (8pm) Two-pub social. Dolphin, Boston Manor Rd, then Fox, Green Lane, both Hanwell. - Thu 25 (8.30) Branch (Beer Festival) Social. JJ Moons, Victoria Rd, Ruislip Manor.

November – Thu 1 (noon) to Sat 3 (11pm) Beer on Broadway XIV. Victoria Hall, Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing. - Wed 14 (8.30) Branch meeting. Beaconsfield Arms, West End Rd, Southall. - Thu 29 (8pm) London Drinker pick-up and drop-off. Magpie & Crown, High St, Brentford; Rose & Crown, Church Pla, South Ealing; Red Lion, St. Mary's Rd, Ealing (approx 1 pub every hour).

Deadlines for the December/January edition, 31st October (hard copy), 13th November (electronic text). Please send all diary material in electronic form to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

EARLY MORNING PUBS

Drinkers of a certain age (i.e. older than me) will remember when pubs near the markets in Central London had special licences to allow them to open in the early morning for the benefit of the market staff. The markets have declined in importance over the years and several have moved from Central London to enclosed sites further out of Central London.

Covent Garden market was the most famous of them but it moved in the early seventies to Vauxhall. The only bar with an early morning licence is in the market site itself and entry to the site is restricted to market staff and registered traders.

Spitalfields market moved to Temple Mills in Leyton in the nineties and the two pubs at the old Spitalfields site, the Gun and the Golden Heart, that had an early morning licence, stopped using it when the market moved. I have not been able to find out if there is an early morning licence at the new market but I imagine it would be similar to Covent Garden i.e. on site and entry restricted. I also imagine that any bar on either market would not sell real ale.

Billingsgate Market moved from the Monument to Poplar and has a bar on the site which opens at five in the morning. Unfortunately when I visited it several years ago it had no real beer but the bar had quite a friendly atmosphere and it was quite an experience to pay an early morning visit there. The bar was used by night shift workers from the various newspaper offices nearby as well as by the market staff and customers.

However there are still seven pubs left that use an early morning licence. As I am currently working on a night shift I have been able to visit them for a drink after work.

From a beer point of view the best pub to visit is the Market Porter at Borough Market in SE1. It sells seven real ales which constantly change and are chosen from a wide range of beers from independents and micro-breweries. No food is available and the only entertainment available is breakfast TV. Opening hours are 6.30am. to 8.30am. from Monday to Friday. The Market Porter is also used by the Society for the Preservation of Beer from the Wood for its monthly meetings.

On the other side of the market is the Southwark Tavern which is an ex-Nicholson's pub now run by Bass Leisure. Two real beers are available, Fuller's London Pride and Adnams' Bitter. Opening hours are the same as at the Market Porter and, like the Market Porter, the TV is on for breakfast TV but no food is available. Newspapers are provided but in the early

morning they may well be yesterday's. The Globe in Bedale Street used to open in the early morning in the early nineties but has since stopped doing so.

A third early morning pub is the Railway Tavern in Angel Lane, Stratford E15. Only one real ale is available, Greene King IPA. Like the previous two pubs the Railway is open 6.30am. to 8.30am. from Monday to Friday and breakfast TV is available but not any food. There is no market nearby and I have not been able to find out why the pub has the licence. One possible explanation is that there was a market here many years ago but the licence was never revoked. The other explanation I have been given is that the licence was originally for the benefit of the many night workers at a nearby railway works.

The remaining four pubs are at Smithfield Market, the meat market in Farringdon EC1. Being close to a meat market all the pubs do cooked breakfasts and all claim to serve the best breakfast in London. Having a pint with breakfast does improve it greatly and the meat is fresh and of good quality, coming straight from the market. All the pubs do lunch as well and tend to stay open through the morning until lunchtime and shut for the day in the mid-afternoon. The opening hours of the pubs vary as they are in two different licensing districts and come under two different police forces as the north side of the market is on the border between Greater London and the City of London, which has its own separate police force.

The two pubs in the City are the New Market and the Cock. The New Market is a small pub

AN APOLOGY

The August/September Issue of London Drinker carried an advertisement for The Sultan featuring the printing error 'PUB OF THE YEAR, CAMRA SW LONDON (2000)! This should have read 1999.

We apologise to The Priory Arms who actually won in 2000 as well as a previous four years (see ad in this issue).

Apologies also to CAMRA SW Branch.

Early Risers

selling London Pride and Greene, King IPA. It opens at 6.30am, from Monday to Friday and breakfast TV is on. Several breakfasts are available including smoked salmon, scrambled egg and champagne at £30 for two. Smoked salmon and scrambled egg on its own is available for £4.95.

The Cock is a basement bar underneath the market and is like a porters' café with a bar attached. It opens at 6am, Monday to Friday and the breakfasts are the cheapest of all the pubs. As well as the normal breakfasts porridge is available. Lunch is also available until the Cock shuts for the day at 4 p.m. Only one real ale is available and this alternates between Courage Best and Young's Bitter

One famous visitor to the Cock is William Hague (who he? Ed) who had breakfast there on the day of his wedding and on the last day of the election campaign. I suppose an early start helps if you are going to get through fourteen pints in a day. Restaurant critic Matthew Norman gave the Cock an excellent review in the Sunday Telegraph of 15 July.

North of the market in Charterhouse Street is the Hope, a small pub recently bought by

Young's, so that Young's Bitter and Special are available here. Opening time is between 6.30am and 7am, from Monday to Friday, depending on when the landlord has got everything ready. A separate restaurant upstairs, the Sirloin, does expensive cooked breakfasts and lunches. The pub itself does not do breakfasts but does do sandwiches for lunch. During my visits the landlord was sometimes cutting up some freshly delivered meat for the lunchtime sandwiches.

Unlike the other pubs the Hope tends to shut in the mid-morning to give the staff a chance to clear up before reopening for lunch.

The Fox and Anchor is the most famous of the early morning pubs and opens at 7am from Monday to Friday. Like the Southwark Tavern it is a former Nicholson's pub and some of the days newspapers are available. The beer range is one or two beers from Tetley's Bitter, Fuller's London Pride and Adnams' Bitter. Similar to the Hope, expensive breakfasts and lunches are available. The pub is of considerable architectural interest and I believe it is a listed building.

The pubs tend to be busier towards the end of the week with an interesting mix of customers comprising market staff and other night shift workers, city types having breakfast and other early drinkers. Both the Hope and the Fox and Anchor allow customers to sit outside during the warm summer months.

I have been told that the Pakenham Arms in WC1 opens at 9.30am, but have not been able to visit it to check on this. My informant did advise me that several real ales were available but they were not always in good condition.

For those of you who drink at more regular hours the EC1 area is well worth a visit as there are over a hundred pubs in the area. Breweries with pubs in EC1 include Youngs, Fullers, Shepherd Neame, Greene King, Brakspear and St Peters and there are several interesting free houses. The southern part of the area is part of the City and some pubs close early in the evening and at weekends but more pubs are opening longer as the area becomes more residential. The northern part is in Islington and is mainly residential, so most pubs are open to 11 pm and at weekends. If you want to visit a particular pub it would be best to check its opening hours beforehand, but if you do find a pub shut there will probably be another good one open nearby.

If you have internet access you may like to check on EC1 pubs on the CAMRA East London and City Beer Guide and updates which are available on-line at www.pigsear.org.uk.

Colin Price

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RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW PUB OF THE YEAR

Members and friends of Richmond & Hounslow Branch of CAMRA gathered in their droves on Saturday 1st September (despite the alternative attraction of some football match or other) to make their Pub of the Year presentation to Hugh Davidson and Susan Gamble, the joint owners of The Rose of Denmark in Barnes. As a concession to those who like the round ball game, the presentation was made during the half-time break in England's World Cup qualifier against Germany.

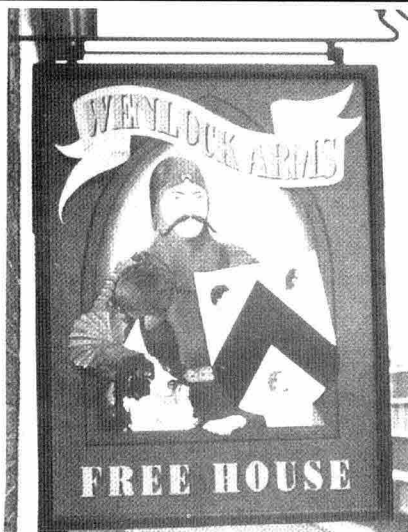
The pub was chosen from a short list of three (voted for at the Branch AGM) by a group of branch members who visited all three on one Saturday in May, using the same selection criteria used by the London branches to select the Regional Pub of the Year. Hence we can be quite happy that the pub is a good consensus choice.

The Rose of Denmark (located in Cross Street) is not easy to find and therefore remains largely a locals' pub but (Yes, you've guessed) all are made very welcome - it is well worth the effort of finding it.

Just three cask beers are sold - as befits the size of the pub - all in tip-top condition (Well, it goes without saying really, doesn't it) and none of them are from national (or multi-national brewers). They are Brakspear's Bitter, Woodforde's Wherry and Timothy Taylor's Landlord. The pub, a former Watney house (originally Isleworth Brewery, we suspect) still bears the Watney Coombe Read insignia on the outside but do not let that put you off. Inside it is simply but comfortably furnished and pride of place is given to a picture of the original "Rose of Denmark," Queen Alexandra, the wife of Edward VII - as well as their newly acquired certificate.

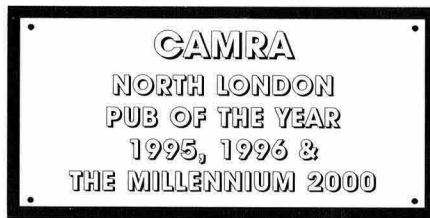


Our photograph shows R&H branch chairman Brian Kirton while Sue hides the Carlsberg font with the certificate and Hugh keeps an eye on Brian.



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THE WHEATSHEAF, LONDON SE1 - A TRIBUTE

Sadly, a few months ago the Wheatsheaf freehouse adjacent to Borough Market in London Bridge shut down and possibly for good. This pub had been a favourite of mine since I first set foot through the doors in the early 1990s and I probably rate it as my all time favourite London pub. The sight of this once great pub boarded up and with a bailiff's notice stuck to it is most sad.

My first visit was in the early 1990s after a visit to the Market Porter, which was in its last days as a brewpub. We had enjoyed a good pint of Adnams Mild there and stumbled across the Wheatsheaf by chance as there was a blackboard outside that advertised St Austell Mild. The range of beers was then Courage Best and Directors, Youngs Special, Marstons Pedigree and a mild that varied. Shortly after, the pedigree disappeared and was replaced by an ever-changing bitter and soon out went the Youngs to be replaced by a second guest bitter. It was a Courage pub that should not really have been selling these guest beers, which changed virtually every day. However, this was not the only attraction. The pub itself was only really a one bar pub but it was split into two very distinctive drinking areas, the left hand side having a really basic public bar feel. There were also a number of characters on both sides of the bar, particularly the ever-present barman, John, who always had a number of anecdotes to relay.


In the mid 90s, the Manager, Gary Leader, appeared to play a more prominent role in running the pub. Out went the Directors and in came an even better range of guest beers from far and near. This was the golden age but Gary eventually left to rejuvenate the Globe (and more recently, the Village in Walthamstow) situated in the market itself. For a while, it was business as usual at the Wheatsheaf, which was now regularly selling beers from the adjacent Bishops' Brewery. It was then that the Market Porter changed management and also started to sell a great range of guests. For about a year Borough Market was the place to drink. Also noteworthy was the threat by Thameslink 2000 that could have meant demolition of the pub. Thanks to pressure by the locals this was avoided and the pub was listed.

Sadly, during the last 2 years the Wheatsheaf gradually started to go down hill and it got to the point where beer quality and service were unreliable to say the least. There were still high spots, especially the mini beer festivals that usually coincided with the close-by farmers' market, but the pub was not what it was. I still paid the odd visit in the dying days but the Market Porter was much better.

There have been many highlights over the years; notably a superb Manchester Beer Festival in the latter years and a session I once had that finished after midnight, thanks to sampling some beers straight out of the cellar. However my favourite moment was probably many years ago when I purchased a pint of Preston Mild. At that time this very short-lived brewery was brand new and the mild was awful in that it tasted of nothing. I took the beer back to John, saying 'this mild tastes of water'. After he pulled through several more pints, he shouted 'this is ***** water' and immediately consigned the cask to the scrap heap. I tried this mild elsewhere a few weeks later and it was just as bad.

Lets hope that this pub opens again and there is a return to the glory days.

Simon Fyffe

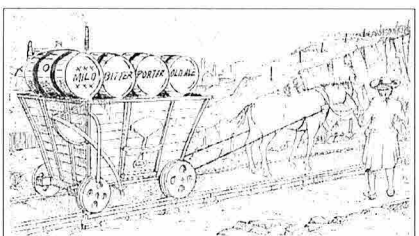


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Thursday 11th: Noon - 10.30pm Friday 12th: 11am - 10.30pm Saturday 13th: 11am - 6pm
Free entry to all sessions except Thursday evening (£2) and Friday evening (£2.50). CAMRA members £1 less.
Last admission to evening sessions 9.45pm

Opening Hours

OPENING HOURS

My current night shift job in Central London means I can drink in the few remaining pubs that have early morning market licences allowing them to open at 6.30am or 7am. This has set me thinking about some of the oddities in pub opening hours. Many of these were swept away by the 1988 legislation which brought in the current all day opening between 11am and 11pm but a few still remain.

Prior to the current legislation opening hours were determined by the legislation brought in during the First World War in 1917. This severely reduced the hours pubs could open. The official reason for this was that excessive drinking was hampering the war effort although it should be noted that the then Prime Minister, Lloyd George, was a teetotaler and wanted to restrict alcohol sales anyway. It did take seventy years from the end of the war for the law to be changed.

The 1917 legislation allowed for opening hours to be decided on a local basis within national guidelines. Pubs were allowed to be open for nine hours a day between 10am and 10.30pm with an afternoon break of at least two and a half hours. An extra half hour's opening to 11pm was allowed for city centre pubs.

The opening hours tended to be determined by the character of the area. Rural areas tended to open at 10am or 10.30am and shut at 2.30pm while urban pubs were more likely to open from 11am to 3pm for the first session. Evening opening time was usually 5.30pm although in some areas it was 5pm or 6pm. Of course many of the areas that were rural in 1917 became urban areas over the years. The 1988 legislation bringing in 11 am to 11pm opening allowed pubs that opened at 10am or 10.30am to keep this dispensation although few appear to use it. One area where pubs still open at 10am is Central Romford. As there is a general market there three days a week many of the market traders start work early. At least three pubs to my knowledge open at 10am. They are the Lamb and the Bull in the market and the Moon and Stars, a Wetherspoon pub in South Street. Two pubs that used to open at 10am but no longer do so are the Essex Yeoman in Upminster and Railway Tavern in Hornchurch.

Some market towns had a special extension allowing later afternoon closing or all day opening on market day. In some cases the extension lasted longer than the market.

A later amendment to the 1917 legislation allowed pubs that shut at 10.30pm to stay open

until 11pm on Friday and Saturday although not all licensing districts took advantage of this concession. In Kingsley Amis's first novel, *Lucky Jim*, there is a hilarious scene when the central character, a university lecturer called Jim Dixon, goes to stay for the weekend at his head of department's house. As Jim hates his head his head of department and finds the weekend totally boring he sneaks out on the Saturday night and heads to the local pub. He knocks back several pints expecting the pub to shut at 10.30pm as pubs near the university did. When he finds out that he is in a different licensing district and that the pub is open until 11pm he drinks several more pints with disastrous consequences later that night and when he gets up next morning.

My only direct experience of a pub shutting at 10.30pm on a Saturday was on a visit to friends in Lancashire. We went to Chester on the Saturday night and found that the pubs shut at 10.30pm. We ended up with our non-drinking driver just making it back to a pub that shut at 11pm with a few minutes to spare. As it was a Greenall's pub I wondered why we bothered.

The fact that different licensing districts had different hours led to the interesting situation of pubs near the border of a district having opening for different hours from their neighbours. This situation was most common in London where licensing districts were smaller and the borders were in built up areas. I once bought a paperback London pub guide from the early sixties. It mentioned several 'booze frontiers', as it called them including one between Tower Hamlets and Newham. Unfortunately I lost my copy of the book when I moved and I can't remember its title or authors. However, I do remember that the East London section of the book was most interesting with references to the docks, dockers and merchant seamen. Most of the East London pubs mention are no longer there e.g Charlie Brown's, Spanish Steps, Connaught and the Merry Fiddlers in Dagenham. The book also mentions that some pubs near the Docks had special early morning licences for the benefit of the dockers; presumably these licences

Opening Hours

ceased when the docks closed in the seventies.

The existence of these 'booze frontiers' led to drinkers leaving pubs in the closing districts near closing time to get to a later closing pub to get an extra half hour's drinking. My most interesting experience of this was at a CAMRA social at the Three Crowns, a now demolished pub near the Woolwich Ferry, that shut at 10.30 pm. A fellow branch member and I realised that the pubs on the other side of the Thames in Woolwich would be open until 11 pm. We left the Three Crowns, walked through the tunnel under the Thames, and had another couple of pints in the Rose and Crown, the nearest pub in Woolwich to the Ferry.

Eventually an 11pm extension was allowed in Newham after a campaign backed by the local branch of CAMRA. This did not please one landlord who called us a crank organisation. This then led to drinkers in the Barking licensing district going to Newham for the extra half hour. One friend of mine who worked in Barking but lived in Newham used to drink in Barking and then get a cab to the Black Lion in Plaistow.

Another friend of mine lived in Southfields on the border of the Wandsworth and Wimbledon licensing districts. When he went out for a drink in the evening, depending on whether he wanted to drink to 10.30pm or 11pm he headed north to Wandsworth (11pm closing) or south to Wimbledon (10.30 pm). Another 'booze frontier' was Oxford Street where pubs to the north closed at 10.30pm while pubs to the south in Soho closed at 11pm. This is sometimes mentioned in biographies of literary figures such as Dylan Thomas who used to drink in the area.

The difference in afternoon closing hours did lead to other 'booze frontiers'. When I did the Fullers passport in the eighties I had to plan my visit to Kingston and Hampton carefully as while pubs in Kingston shut at 3pm, closing time in Hampton Wick, on the other side of the Thames, was 2.30pm. My driver and I also had a problem when we finished the passport in Reading we drove out to the last pub, the Flowering Spring, expecting it to open at 5.30pm only to find we had gone from Berkshire to Oxfordshire where opening time was 6pm.

My only other direct experience of 2.30 pm closing was a slightly embarrassing incident prior to an afternoon visit by East London CAMRA to the old Godsons brewery in Bethnal Green. We met in the Approach at lunchtime and when I arrived the first branch member there bought me a pint. As other members arrived they bought a round so by the time 2.30 came round I

had had several pints without actually buying anything. I did mention this when I offered to get the last round before going to the brewery but as it had just gone 2.30 I was refused service. Some of the members didn't appear to believe me when I said I thought all pubs shut at 3pm and thought I was just trying to get out of buying my round.

If the previous licensing hours in England were bad, the situation in Scotland, until the seventies, was worse. I recently read an autobiography by a sports journalist, Peter Batt. In this he refers to a period in the sixties when he worked in Scotland and found that pubs shut at 9pm. These early closing hours did not prevent Batt becoming an alcoholic. Batt also refers to his father's work as a market porter at Billingsgate Market which involved a lot of heavy drinking in the early morning pubs and speculates there may be a hereditary reason for his alcoholism.

Licensing laws in Wales were the same as England apart from Sundays. The situation that eventually arose where some area opened on Sundays and some stayed shut led to the creation of more 'booze frontiers'. A former London Drinker editor, Martin Smith, now lives in Wales and has occasionally mentioned this in his writings for London Drinker.

I was told once of there was a pub in Wales that was on the border between two licensing districts and the two bars had different opening hours as they were on different sides of the border. However I have also been told this is a myth as a pub is only licensed by one set of licensing magistrates.

Colin Price

12TH BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL

The Battersea Beer Festival returns next February to the Grand Hall behind the Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill SW11, following the refurbishments completed in January this year.

The Festival will be open from Wednesday 6 to Saturday 9 February 2002. For advance information visit www.battersea-beer-festival.org.uk or contact Festival Organiser Stephen Blann on 020-8542 3823 or stephenblann@ukonline.co.uk.

COLIN CHECKS OUT UPMINSTER

Following recent criticisms of my articles for London Drinker I have been heartened by the letters and other gestures of support I have received from various readers. I can't help feeling that my critics have missed the point a bit. There are many things I find boring, cricket and opera to name but two. However I do not read cricket and opera magazines and then complain they are boring. I would also point out that all the contributors to London Drinker are unpaid volunteers, so if you criticise them too much they may decide not to bother.

I did find the take-off of my articles quite amusing though. I would point out that to me the country isn't Dorset, it is the outskirts of London. Also before going a long distance to a remote pub I do take the precaution of ringing them to check they are still open and what the opening hours are. Finally I never ever use exclamation marks.

Having said this here is the 2001 Easter Monday crawl. Despite earlier good weather Easter Monday was a miserable day, being cold and wet, so I did consider scrapping the crawl. However it did brighten up by mid afternoon so I headed out to Upminster which is at the eastern end of the District Line and is also served by trains from Fenchurch Street.

It was mainly built up during the thirties and represents the end of the eastern expansion of London into Essex. Building stopped due to Second World War and the after-war need to rebuilt large parts of London suffering from Bomb damage. By the mid-fifties concerns had developed about building on green belt land so there was no further expansion of London. Presumably if the Second World War had not happened London would have expanded further out into Essex. Being built up in the thirties, Upminster has few pubs.

On leaving the station in the mid-afternoon I turn left then left again into St Mary's Lane. The first pub I come to is the Masons Arms but a quick inspection of the bar reveals that it is now a keg pub and the handpumps have been removed.

Quickly leaving the Masons I head further east down St Mary's Lane and come to the Jobbers Rest. This is a large Steak and Ale pub similar to the Golden Fleece in Manor Park which I mentioned in my Manor Park Meander article in

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a previous London Drinker. Like the Golden Fleece there is a garden for children at the back and they appear welcome in parts of the pub. If you want to check on this before travelling any distance the pub's phone no is 01708-223251. There is an extensive meat based menu but the beer range is disappointing with only Courage Best available.

The next pub down St. Mary's Lane is the Thatched House (01708-228080). This is even more food based than the Jobbers Rest and I appear to be the only non-eating customer. Two real ales are available: Bass and Tetley's.

From the Thatched House I head further east passing under the M25 and turn south into Clay Tye Road. With a good piece of timing I arrive at the Old White Horse just as it is opening for the evening session at six. This is more like a traditional pub and has two interconnected bars. I have an excellent malty pint of Charles Wells Bombardier and Fuller and Young's beers are also available. As I am the only customer I spend some time examining the memorabilia. This includes two football programs from West Ham's victories in the 1964 Cup Final against Preston and the 1965 Cup Winners Cup Final against TSV Munich 1860, both these games being at Wembley. There is also a sheet of the England World Cup Winners stamp from 1966 and a boxing poster from the 50's featuring all three of the Kray brothers.

The Old White Horse is the most easterly pub in the Greater London area and is the only pub that is in the Greater London area but outside the M25. The barmaid confirmed that you would have to travel a further half mile east to reach Essex proper. As the pub shuts most afternoons it may be best to phone (01708-853111) to check on the opening hours before walking out there.

Heading back to Upminster along Corbetts Tay Road I pass the Huntsmen and Hounds, a large pub in the throes of refurbishment. I have since been advised that it has reopened and sells Bass, Hancocks and London Pride. There are no further pubs until Upminster town centre, the first of these being the Crumpled Horn run by Wizard Inns.

Wizard is a chain similar to Wetherspoon and the Crumpled Horn is a recent shop conversion rather like a Wetherspoon pub. Although four beers are usually available only Wadworth's 6X was available on my visit. I was told by the manager that this was because they were awaiting a delivery on Tuesday for a forthcoming beer festival. Other Wizard pubs in the London area include the Swan in Stratford E15 and the Thomas Whittingdale in Chingford E4.

The final pub is the Essex Yeoman next to Upminster station which no doubt gets a lot of passing trade from this and the fact there are few pubs in Upminster. It is a rather ordinary pub selling Courage and Theakston's beers so I have a pint of the former, watch a bit of the football and then head off home.

Colin Price



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THE COTSWOLD WAY

With long distance walking this year difficult due to the foot and mouth issue, I thought you may like to read a few snippets from last year's walking diary.

Saturday 1st July 2000

It was a sunny July morning, something of a premium during a wet summer, when the three of us, Ian, Peter and myself, set out from Euston station - destination Moreton-in-Marsh in the heart of the Cotswolds. The start of the Cotswold Way was a bus journey to Chipping Campden, but, with buses never being quite on time, we had the opportunity to sample our first pint of the trip, a pint Donnington's 'BB' in The Bear Inn. Donningtons of Stow-in-the-Wold were kind enough to sponsor our trip and, we and Shelter, were extremely grateful for this. By the time we got to Chipping Campden and found the official start of the walk it was, unfortunately, time for lunch so we deferred our start over a pint or two in The Volunteer, well it would have been churlish not to! A very wide range of beers here (five guests), so we sampled a few between us, North Cotswold 'Genesis', Stanway 'Stannies' and Wood's 'Summer That', to name a few.

After lunch, the five miles to Broadway over Dover's Hill were a struggle! This was the site of the original Cotswold Olympics founded in 1612 by Robert Dover and abolished in 1853 due to violence and drunkenness, and we moan about chucking out time in city centre pubs today! Our bed and breakfast in Broadway was very comfortable, albeit that it appeared to have been taken over that day by a couple of Mexican hoteliers. After freshening up, we adjourned to The Crown and Trumpet for dinner. Food was a bit on the expensive side but the beer good - Stanway 'Cotswold Gold' and live music from the resident singer/guitarist. Even Peter was tapping his foot, and he is better known as a bit of a Beethoven fan. We popped into The Horse and Hound for a pint of Goff's 'Jouster' before bed. Well, you never know where your next pint's coming from - do you?

Sunday 2nd July

A Twelve-mile walk from Broadway to Winchcombe. Weather hot and sunny (yes, it was summer 2000!), however, it seemed like a storm was brewing, or it may have been the sausages at breakfast! We slaked our lunchtime thirst at The Mount Inn at Stanton, a Donnington's tied pub (another word from our sponsors). The views across the Vale of Evesham were tremendous. We got talking to some fellow walkers, Mel and Gerry, that evening in The Bell in Winchcombe, over a pub curry - Peter's third in a row. At this point we were becoming aware that too many curries and a 100 mile walk would make poor bed fellows.

Luckily, Peter had his own room throughout! Bedtime drinks (Goff's 'Jouster', obviously the Horlicks of the beer world) at the Plasterer's, a locals' pub, but landlord made us welcome, probably due to the complete absence of other customers.

Monday 3rd July

Another 12-mile hike, this time from Winchcombe to Charlton Kings, on the outskirts of Cheltenham. Peter found today a struggle. It must be all those curries - it couldn't have been the beer - could it? Frequent rest stops were the order of the day. This part of the walk took us round Cleeve Hill on the Cotswold escarpment, which meant we were never very far from where we started - a tad frustrating. No suitable lunchtime pub (Ian thought he was going to die) so we picnicked on Cleeve Hill. We reached 'The Waterside' a Morrell's pub on the A40 at a round 3.30 pm and resorted to telephoning our hosts for the night for a lift - sacrilege I know, but the B&B was a few miles off our route.

After starting our evening at The London Inn, a Whitbread's pub (Goff's 'Jouster' and 'IPA') we found The Beaufort Arms (Wadworth's 'Somersault' and Stowford Press 'Muchmarcle' cider). We eventually retired to a curry house, Peter's fourth, I think he is going for record.

Tuesday 4th July

After a pleasant night at Charlton Kings, sharing our bed with two of the owner's cats, we accepted a lift back to The Waterside and set out from where we left off. Next stop Birdlip (10.5 miles). A very misty morning and we were soon very damp. We still seemed to be walking round in circles! Beer at lunchtime at The Severn Springs - reputedly the source of the River Thames, it seemed like a Bass theme pub to me! Never mind the ale was okay.

Birdlip consists of our B&B and the George Hotel. Service in the George was atrocious, the food order wrong, and they even overcharged for the beers (go on sue us!). Ian was put in charge of negotiating a discount on the bill and did so admirably. Tomorrow's weather forecast awful - rain and storms. I begin to wonder why we doing this? Oh yes, I remember - it's fun!

Wednesday 5th July

A longer walk today - 15 miles to Kings Stanley, South West of Stroud. Easy walking and the weather stayed fine. After passing Cooper's Hill - the cheese-rolling hill, a one-in-one incline where the locals chase a round of local cheese down the hill. They must be crazy. Obviously the effect of the local cider! We stopped at the Edgemoor Inn at Edge for mid-day refreshment (Uley 'SB' and Berkely 'Good Friend'). We arrived at The Old

Chapel B&B just before the landlady dashed off to The Kings Head to cook dinner. The Kings Head was a friendly locals' pub. A few pints of London Pride and a Thatcher's cider for the lady, and a quick game of 'Balderdash' to get the brain cells working before bed. For those of you not in the know, Balderdash is a 'Call My Bluff' type of game, without the stuttering and lisping (a reference for the older readers).

Thursday 6th July

Today started up hill, and got worse. The 14 miles to Bradley Green seemed like 44! This was not helped by a lunchtime stop at The Old Spot Inn at Dursley (CAMRA pub of the year 1997 and 2000). After a few too many 'Old Rics', mainly because Ian had managed to get talking to the somewhat beguiling locals, we got on our way. Now the Cotswold Way circles a golf course at this point. According to Ian, whom it has to be said was getting a bit tired and emotional at this point, the detour was ridiculous (I've deleted the expletives), but the democratic opinion (two people shouting the other down) was that we should walk the extra one and a quarter hours round the golf course. Unfortunately, a bit later on in the afternoon we got caught in an electric storm on the top of

Stinchcombe Hill. The boys suggested I sellotaped my walking pole to my head to deflect any lightning from them. You can guess what my answer to this was! The storm and downpour happened to be exactly one and a quarter hours from our next stop. Ian reminded us of this all the way to the B&B!

We met up with Mel and Gerry again that evening in the Royal Oak in Wootton-under Edge (Wickwar's 'BOB' - a very tasty pint). Also got chatting to four fellow walkers from Macclesfield that we had bumped into during the day. These were known, for obvious reasons, as the 'Macclesfield Boys' and they got uncomfortably close to drinking us under the table.

Friday 7th July - Ian's Birthday

Bradley Green to Tormarton - 16 miles. A quick stop in Wootton-under-Edge to buy, 'I've walked the Cotswold Way' tea towels, (Ian's birthday present). Then we strode forth through the woods to The Beauford Arms at Hawkesbury Upton (Gloucestershire Pub of the Year). A good selection of three guests. Being close to Wickwar we had to have some more 'BOB'. Arrived at Tormarton and Ian and Peter took great delight in watching Lynne get chased by an over friendly horse! Obviously, thought I was a distant relative of Catherine the Great! We met up with all the other walkers in The Portcullis - Mel, Gerry and the Macclesfield Boys and were entertained all evening by the very friendly, if somewhat eccentric, landlord. Beer kept very well, not sure why it is not in the GBG. Uley 'Best' good, but not as palatable as 'Old Ric'. Butcombe 'Best' the preferred pint of the evening. Macclesfield boys showing signs of weakness!

Saturday 8th July

Our final day's walking. Tormarton to Bath - 16 miles. Fairly easy walking as we dropped down into Bath. We didn't stop until we reached the Abbey and we were luckily enough to bump into Mel and Gerry during the final half mile. We persuaded some bemused German tourists to take a group photo of us outside the Abbey entrance. We felt a bit deflated now the walk was over so cheered ourselves up with a pub-crawl round the city. We decided the city pubs were not patch on the country pubs we had visited along the route.

Over the week we walked miles a 100 miles and visited 23 pubs, sampling beers from 23 different independent breweries, 17 of these from the West Country region. I would appear that the art of making good ale is alive and kicking in the area. Oh, and by the way, Peter's curry count reached a commendable seven over the week - well done!


So the Cotswold Way - been there, done that, got the tea towel - I think that sums it up!

Lynne Abbott


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 33, 290, 490, H22, R68 and R70 pass the entrance to York House

Opening Times

Thursday 4th October	-	5.00pm to 10.30pm
Friday 5th October	-	11.00am to 10.30pm
Saturday 6th October	-	11.00am to 10.30pm

Admission £1.50 (£1.00 Friday lunchtime)
 CAMRA members 50p (FREE Friday lunchtime)
 Food by GRAPEVINE CATERING
www.jobin.freemove.co.uk/rhcama1.htm

The Name Game

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Only since 1751 has it been required by law for every pub etc. to have an approved name, registered 'at the sign of' but the inn sign as we know it - as opposed to a simple trade sign such as an evergreen wreath - has existed in Britain since early Christian times. The earliest had religious connections and these I plan to deal with in the next edition.

The use by a pub of a traditional name is no indication of ancient origins on the site, as such names tend to be re-used. This is the second in a series tracing the origins of pub names, and their signs - for interest only, **NOT** a definitive work!

The first secular influence on inn titles (and, naturally, their signs), was the nobility.

Local titled and landed gentry often owned the pub or the land on which it stood, and it was natural to incorporate their name and arms. Although it is tempting to indulge in heraldic terms - which are a picturesque mixture of Mediaeval French and English - I will stick mainly to modern English to save confusion, dropping in the occasional sample to give you some idea of the complications. The subject is so vast that I'm only scratching the surface, and the same is the case with each 'theme' I use. And, of course, there are alternative possible origins for most names.

Heraldry originally came about from the need to distinguish between friend and foe in battle - a man in plain armour is as unidentifiable as the content of a tin can with no label. Thus anyone of substance would adopt a distinctive emblem (often used previously on personal banners as a rallying point) which each of his entourage would display on his shield and on a topcoat - known as a *jupon* or *tabard*. In order to know who were allies, the various banners displaying the arms were paraded before the battle line. This survives today as the ceremony of Trooping of the Colour.

The most popular inn sign in Great Britain is the **Red Lion**, of which there were at one time about 630 examples. This came from the arms of John of Gaunt (d. 1399) and later of King James I who brought it, with the **Unicorn**, its supporter, from Scotland in 1603. An older heraldic sign is the **Chequers**. Notwithstanding the fact that the Romans used it, in the 12th Century it appeared at the entrance of every pub etc to identify the premises to tax collectors. It was the arms of William de Warenne, 2nd Earl of Surrey (d. 1138) who was granted the sole right to grant the sale of licences: *Chequy* or and *azure* - yellow & blue alternative squares. The arms of Lewes, his stronghold, are the same, with and addition: *In*

sinister chief a canton gules, a lion rampant argent, ten crosses crossleet of the same. To us that is in the red top-right corner, a white rampant lion and ten small crosses. Although *sinister* is Latin for *left*, the reference is from the bearer's point of view.



After Richard III lost the Battle of Bosworth and the Wars of the Roses in 1485, there was a run on the sale of blue paint. Pubs bearing the sign of the **White Boar** (his emblem) became the **Blue Boar** overnight, as that was the arms of the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, who supported Henry Tudor. Possibly in places the **White Rose** also changed colour - better to please potential customers than to lose your home and livelihood, let alone your life; pub riots in those days involved rather more than broken windows and furniture.

Heraldry was not the sole preserve of canned military types - in due course (13th century onwards) craft and trade guilds came into prominence, and were granted their arms, frequently illustrating their speciality, such as the Brewer's Company, whose arms show 3 casks and 3 pairs of crossed sheaves. Conversely, the **Elephant & Castle** is the arms of the Cutlers' Company, thought the title is also thought to be a corruption of *Infanta de Castilla*, the Princess of Castile. Often words which were not of the vernacular were prone to alteration. Some of those on pictorial signs are spurious where no arms exist, or even if they do, in a humorous context. Thus, for example, those parts of the anatomy of a worker might be shown bearing the tools of his trade - **The Fireman's Arms** stoking a locomotive, **The Smith's Arms** with hammer and tongs forging a horseshoe, **The Fisherman's Arms** pulling up a net or grasping a rod; the possibilities are endless. The **Deacon's Alms** (sic) in Salisbury, renamed some years ago from something normal, is an example of fooling around with a traditional naming style. As it's open season for daft pub names, it wouldn't come as a surprise to find other parts of the body used - how about **The Athlete's Foot** near a sports ground?

It also became the custom to grant arms to

The Name Game

corporate bodies and towns, usually when they were granted charters, and the arms would be used to property and servants - a rudimentary uniform. It would also appear on town and individuals' seals, in the latter case often as a signet ring. Anyone entering the City of London will be familiar with its arms, *argent, a cross gules, in dexter chief a sword of the same*, a white shield with a red cross and a red sword in the top left quarter. Its supporters, which appear on either side of the shield, are perpetuated in the name of the **Griffin** or **Gryphon**, also as the emblem of Fuller's Brewery. As a rule of thumb, the simpler the blazon (design) the earlier it was granted - though some modern arms, such as of the Open University, have taken things full circle. The oldest recorded one is of St Albans, *Azure, a saltire or* - a yellow x-shaped cross on a blue shield.

A number of pubs owe their names to fabulous or exotic beasts - *supporters and charges* - items appearing as part of the main arms. The **Unicorn** has been mentioned. **Lions** appear in heraldic colours far more than their natural hue, likewise many other animals. They were a popular subject for mass-produced bas-relief mouldings

in the 19th Century, and were easy to paint the required colour. The **Dragon**, a symbol of Wales since Roman times, usually appears on signs in green or red. The **Phoenix** - which rises from the ashes of its funeral pyre - often indicates a pub rebuilt after a fire, as in the **Phoenix & Firkin**, Camberwell. The **Phoenix** is usually coloured yellow or Gold (*Or*). The **Leopard** was the earlier name for the heraldic lion, as on the Royal Standard.

The **Golden Fleece** originated in Greek mythology, and appeared on the arms of *Staple* (wool exporting) towns and wool merchants - it was a very lucrative trade. A number of *charges* had origins in mythology. **Britain** or **Britannia's** connections with the sea are represented by (to give a few examples) a **Ship**, a **Mermaid**, a **Seahorse** and a **Dolphin**, all common *charges* and the nobility's liking for hunting are reflected in some arms by the **Falcon**, the **Boar**, various forms of **Deer** or **Hart**, the **Talbot**, a spotted hunting dog now extinct, and the **Bugle** or **Horn** which a huntsman carried at his belt.

Although found in their colours and native to Britain, the **Black Horse** and **White Horse** are heraldic - the latter appearing in the arms of Hanover and Kent.

A vast proportion of inn signs are pictorial but there are a number of other media in which signs can be and are produced, in days gone by using readily available materials and local or itinerant craftsmen. I have mentioned one, and will discuss others later in the series.

Where a coat of arms is involved, colour is of the essence and most, though not all heraldic signs, are of the pictorial kind.

By the late 1750s most people could understand a street number, which by then was obligatory in towns, and the original purpose of pictorial signs had outlived itself, and in hanging signs and 'gallows' signs were outlawed in London, as a danger to horsemen and pedestrians. To comply with the law from 1770 any sign had to be flush with the wall, and in any event it served a second purpose, advertising, and so the pictorial inn sign, though plentiful in examples, is a rare survivor of its kind.

My apologies also go to the typesetter who is to prepare this, possibly the most complicated article I've yet produced.

More next time, in a seasonal vein.

Martin Smith.

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Capital Pubcheck

UPDATE 161

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 a new 'family friendly' Wetherspoons Free House at NW3 Finchley Road. The small Larrik chain have renovated a listed pub in SW6 Fulham. A Covent Garden pub has been converted into a Belgian/Dutch bar café, with some interesting beers from the low countries, albeit there is no (British) real ale on offer. More 'Firkins' are renamed by both Bass and Punch. More closures and conversions to other uses are reported. We also include a supplement to the list of Cask Marque pubs in Greater London originally published as a centre-page spread in the April/May 2001 issue of *London Drinker*.

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 REAL ALE

CENTRAL

W1(S), BRB, 32 Gerrard St. No real ale. Latest outlet for Punch Taverns' growing 'brb' (formerly Bar Room Bar) chain opened in August in part of former telephone exchange.

WC2, HA! HA! BAR & CANTEEN, 6 Villiers St. No real ale. New outlet for Yates's owned Free House chain opened in August underneath Charing Cross Hotel. Mostly occupies site of hotel's former PILGRIMS RENDEZVOUS BAR.

WC2, KUDOS, 10 Adelaide St. No real ale. Gay bar/Free House opened about a year ago, not previously reported.

WC2, LATEST RUMOURS, 33/35 Wellington St. Renamed **CORNER STORE**, Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Refurbished as a gastro-pub with quality wooden furniture, reasonably priced food and real ale! Formerly **BAR ZOLAS**, originally **RUMOURS**. (U54, U130, U137, U142)

EAST

E15, GOLDEN EAGLE, 4 Leytonstone Rd. No real

ale. Formerly solely a private snooker club, the front bar has for some time operated as a Free House open to the general public.

BARKING, BREWERY TAP, 2 Linton Rd. Reopened and renamed **@BARKING**, H unused. (X10, U160)

DAGENHAM, ROBIN HOOD, 807 Longbridge Rd. No real ale. Reopened. (X45, U160)

NORTH

N13, O'CONNORS, 254 Green Lanes. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises.

ENFIELD (EN3), HORSE & DRAY, 8 Alma Rd, Ponders End. Greene King: IPA. (N241)

NORTH WEST

NW3, WETHERSPOONS, O2 Centre, 255 Finchley Rd. Courage: Directors Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; Guest beer. Open plan, spacious bar accessed off circular balcony at Centre's first floor level, opened July in premises formerly 'Babe Ruth's' restaurant. The main bar area has pale green, white and yellow décor, large windows overlooking Finchley Road, fussy carpet, tiled around

Capital Pubcheck

bar, polished dark brown bar with yellow 'portholes' and clock to match. Lighting is hidden by wooden slats hanging from ceiling. Abstract paintings and local history panels featuring famous residents including Sigmund Freud. Unusually for Wetherspoons, there are two 'family areas', one a raised no smoking area to side of main bar, the other to the left of the entrance which also has high chairs available. Strict rules however apply: 'Kids must be accompanied by an adult at all times, they must be seated only in the designated areas and must consume a substantial meal – not just crisps etc.' On this basis families are 'welcome' 12-9 Sun-Thurs, 12-6 Fri and Sat. One almost expects the infamous cane-wielding New Zealand teacher JD Wetherspoon himself to appear to enforce the rules! Kids' meals however (for 10 years and under) cost £1.99, including a Ribena drink, a healthier alternative to McDonalds. Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.

SOUTH EAST

SE15, PRINCE ALBERT, 111 Bellenden Rd. Courage: Best Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale. (SE138)

SOUTH WEST

SW6, KINGS HEAD, 4 Fulham High St. Renamed **LARRIK**. Courage: Best Bitter, Greene King; Morland Old Speckled Hen; John Smith: Bitter.

Latest outlet for the growing small Free House chain in former Bass pub, apparently closed for some time but not previously reported as such. Minimalist bare-boards décor. Retains 'Kings Head 1888' in stonework, original mouldings over outside drinking area and early 1960s 'Charrington Ales' signage, as befits its listed building status.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

W1(Mar), DEVONSHIRE ARMS, 21A Devonshire St. Renamed '**O' BAR**, presumably Punch, ex-Allied (Nicholson's). H removed. Now part of small chain. Retains decorative mirrors and tiles but no bulk beer. This former gin palace must now be considered 'at risk'. (W34, U54)

WC2, EVERGREENS, 36 Drury Lane. Renamed **LOWLANDER**, H removed. A former S&N pub converted into a Belgian/Dutch style bar café/Free House. Sadly no British real ale but 15 keg beer fonts dispense pilseners and various Belgian and Dutch speciality beers together with 30 bottled beers, many bottle-conditioned. Tastefully decorated with wooden floor, cream décor, leather seating etc. Small balcony at rear. Closed Sun. (W53, U51, U106)

The Brewery Tap

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Five rotating Cask Ales

Guests soon to appear include
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EAST

E1, KNAVE OF CLUBS Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). Now converted to 'Les Trois Garçons' French restaurant. (E69, U101, U153)

E1, STAR & GARTER. Wells, now converted to fried chicken outlet. (E73, U157)

E4, ROYSTON ARMS. Bass, no real ale. (E97)

E5, CLAPTON PARK TAVERN. Bass, converted to oriental restaurant. (E99)

E5, JUBILEE. Ascot, closed and boarded up. (E100)

E5, KINGS HEAD. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed in early 2000. (E100)

E5, WOODMAN. Ex-Grand Met (Watney), closed and being converted to flats. (E101)

E9, DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE. Ascot, closed and boarded up. (E120, U99)

E9, JACKDAW & STUMP. Free House, no real ale. (E121)

E9, KENTE SPOT. Free House, closed and boarded up. Formerly ROUNDHOUSE, originally BRIDGE HOUSE. (E119, U70, U84, U108, U151)

E9, KENTON ARMS. Free House, no real ale. (E121, U100)

E9, PRINCE EDWARD. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), no real ale. (E121, U85)

E15, ESSEX ARMS. Bass (East London Pub Co), H removed. (E153, U69, U108, U124)

E15, OLD LOG CABIN. Free House, closed and for sale. Formerly YORKSHIRE GREY. (E156, U126)

E15, PRINCESS OF WALES. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), H unused (beware misleading pump clip – only keg Ansells Bitter available). (E154)

E15, TWO BREWERS. Ex-Wiltshire, still closed and building in danger of collapse. (E155, U71, U110)

NORTH

N2, BALD FACED STAG. Ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), now presumably Punch Taverns, no real ale. Now part of Mr Q's chain. (N65)

SOUTH EAST

SE13, HOBGOBLIN. Reverted to **ROSE OF LEE.** Free House, ex-Wychwood. H removed. Retains HOBGOBLIN name at roof level. Previously SPORTS. (SE122, U102, U107)

SE15, GOLD DIGGERS ARMS. Ex-Grand Met (Courage), now converted to offices. (SE135)

SE15, HEATONS ARMS. Now **HEATON ARMS,** Ex-Grand Met (Watney), H unused. (SE136, U102)

SE15, STAR OF INDIA. Free House, demolished and replaced by flats. (SE139)

SE15, TYRELL ARMS. Bass, demolished and replaced by flats. (SE140)

SE16, ADAM & EVE. Bass, no real ale. (SE144)

SOUTH WEST

SW6, PHARAOH & FIRKIN. Renamed O'NEILL'S. Bass, H removed. The destruction of the Firkin chain continues. (SW70, U151)

SW9, PLUG. Innentrepreneur, closed and boarded up.

Planning application submitted for housing. Formerly PLOUGH. (SW82, U131)

SW11, SPIKEY HEDGEHOG, 136 Falcon Rd.

Planning application for demolition and development for flats now submitted. Note correct address.

Formerly **QUEEN VICTORIA.** (SW89, U125, U144)

SW19, NAGS HEAD. Free House, now demolished. Planning permission for flats on the site. (SW118, U131, U136, U159)

MITCHAM, OAK & ACORN. Greene King, demolished, site currently vacant. (SW147, U137, U145)

WEST

W10, CARNARVON CASTLE. Renamed **BED** in early 2000. Ex-Grand Met (Truman), H removed. Now a North African theme bar. (W86, U92)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC2, FIRST & LAST. -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride. Formerly **SIR PAUL PINDER.** (E36, U66, U89, U155)

EC4, OLD COBBLERS. Is a Regent Inns Free House. Formerly **CROWN & ANCHOR, FLEETS** and **SPATZ.** (E54, U69, U98, U118)

EC4, PAVILION END. Is a Regent Inns Free House. (E52)

W1(F), G E ALDWINKLES. Reverted to **NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS.** (W32, U49, U60, U82, U89, U98)

W1(F), KING & QUEEN. -beers listed except Greene King: Ruddles Best Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Guest beer. Now a Free House, ex-Grand Met (Watney). (W29, U66, U84, U88)

W1(S), BRASSERIE NORMAN. Renamed **BAR MONACO.** (U107)

W1(S), GLASSBLOWER. -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter. Now badged by S&N as part of 'Original Pub Co' estate. (W42, U53, U90, U101, U106)

WC2, CROSS KEYS. -beers listed; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree; +Sweet William: Brodies Best (William the Conqueror) 4.4%. Now a Free House, ex-Grand Met (Watney) and owned by William Brodie, as is Sweet William Brewery E10. (W53)

WC2, HOGSHEAD. -beers listed; +Boddington: Bitter; +Bragspear: Bitter; +Caledonian: 80/-; +Everard: Tiger; +Greene King: IPA; +Hook Norton: Old Hookey; +O'Hanlon: Firefly, Dry Stout. Beers will vary. Formerly **HOGSHEAD (IN COVENT GARDEN),** previously **GILBERT & SULLIVAN.** (W54, U53, U85, U147, U150)

WC2, MARQUIS OF GRANBY, 51/52 Chandos Place. -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +2 Guest beers. (W55, U54, U115, U151)

Capital Pubcheck

WC2, PORTERHOUSE. -Brakspear: Bitter, Seasonal beer; +Porterhouse: Seasonal beer (eg Strawberry Blonde 4.2%) or Guest beer (eg Greene King: Morland Old Speckled Hen). Note Porterhouse TSB is often not available. (U155, U157)

WC2, SUSSEX. -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter. Refurbished in light modern style and badged as part of S&N's 'Original Pub Co' estate. (W56, U58, U80, U106)

WC2, THEODORE BULLFROG. Now Regent Inns Free House, ex-Enterprise. Formerly ST MARTINS TAVERN. (W56, U139, U149)

EAST

E1, ARCHERS. -Flowers: Original Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. (E60)

E1, BAKERS ARMS. -Tetley: Bitter; + 'House Beer'. (E123)

E1, BLACK BULL. Current 'guests' include Nethergate: IPA, Suffolk County BB. (E61, U110)

E1, GRAVE MAURICE. -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. (E67)

E1, KINGS STORES. -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. (E69)

E1, PRIDE OF SPITALFIELDS. -Theakston: Old Peculier; +Crouch Vale: Woodham IPA; +Fuller: Chiswick Bitter. (E71, U131)

E2, VICTORIA. -Webster: Yorkshire Bitter; +Greene King: IPA, Seasonal beer. (E85, U108)

E4, THOMAS WILLINGALE. Correct address is 134 Station Rd. (U152)

E10, DRUM. -beers listed except Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Courage: Directors Bitter; +Hopback: Summer Lightning; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Theakston: Best Bitter; +5 guest beers. (E123)

E15, MANBY ARMS. -Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. (E154, U73, U125)

NORTH

N12, COACH STOP. Renamed **STOPZ AT CHERRY TREE**, still no real ale. (N111, U120)

N14, CHERRY TREE (YE OLDE). -beers listed; +Draught Bass. Historic inn extensively refurbished with emphasis on food. Hotel at rear built on site of function rooms. (N119, U109, U151)

N14, HAYWAIN. Reverted back to **WAGGON & HORSES.** (N119)

N14, RISING SUN. Full name is **RISING SUN (YE OLDE).** (N119)

ENFIELD (EN1), HUNGRY HORSE. Renamed **LINCOLN ARMS.** -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Formerly **SALISBURY'S.** (N230, U109, U117)

ENFIELD WEST (EN2), FALLOW BUCK. -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Draught Bass. Presumably now Punch Taverns, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). (N233)

ENFIELD WEST (EN2), RIDGEWAY TAVERN. Renamed **RIDGEWAY.** -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Draught Bass. (N236, U151)

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-Capital Pubcheck-

NORTH WEST

NW4, FOOTMAN & FIRKIN. Reverted to **WHITE BEAR.** (N195, U120, U151)
NW6, LA FOLIE. Renamed **FOLLY BAR.** (U137)

SOUTH EAST

SE3, FAIRWAY & FIRKIN. -beers listed; +Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. Formerly **RAILWAY TAVERN.** (SE48, U123, U151)

SE10, COACH & HORSES, 13 Greenwich Market.

Renamed **COACH (THE).** -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter and Tetley: Bitter; +Greene King: Morland Old Speckled Hen; +Wells: Bombardier; +Guest beers. Now white painted inside and out. (SE93)

SE15, MORNING STAR. Renamed **NAGS HEAD.**

Full of photos of the TV series 'Only Fools and Horses'. -Webster: Yorkshire Bitter; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Greene King: IPA. Real ale not always available. (SE137)

SE15, SHERGAR. Renamed **SPOTTED FROG.** (SE139)

SE18, GREAT HARRY. Correct address is 7-9 Wellington St. (U154)

SE26, TWO HALF'S. Is a Regent Inns Free House. Formerly **PUKKABAR.** (U138, U145)

BECKENHAM, OAKHILL TAVERN. Now Regent Inns, ex-Grand Met (Courage). (3SE205, 8K37)

BROMLEY COMMON, BIRD IN HAND. Correct address is 62 Gravel Road. (3SE221, 8K51)

CROYDON, PALS. Is a Regent Inns Free House. (U115)

WEST WICKHAM, MANOR HOUSE, Coney Hall, Croydon Rd. Reverted to **CONEY,** still no real ale. Note correct address (error in 8K guide). (3SE288, U49, 8K204)

WEST WICKHAM, SWAN. Now **JACK**

BEARD'S AT THE SWAN. (3SE288, U55, 8K181)

WEST WICKHAM, WHEATSHEAF. Renamed **OLD ANTHROPOLOGIST.** (3SE288, U55, 8K181, U107)

SOUTH WEST

SW4, FRIESIAN & FIRKIN. Renamed **CALF.** -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. (SW60, U148, U151)

SW4, TIM BOBBIN. -beers listed except Wadworth: 6X; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Young: Bitter. (SW61, U145)

SW6, COME THE REVOLUTION. Renamed **ONE,** still no real ale. (SW66)

SW11, MEYRICK ARMS. Address is 148 Falcon Rd. (SW89)

SW17, TRAFALGAR ARMS. Now **HARDY'S AT THE TRAFALGAR ARMS.** -beers listed;

+Brakspear: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Smiles: Best. (SW110)

SW18, OLD GEORGE. Renamed **GEORGE (THE).** (U129)

SW19, DOYLE'S. Reverted to **GROVE TAVERN,** still H unused. (SW117, U147, U148, U153)

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***Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th
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WEST

W5, HARVEY FLOORBANGERS. Reverted to **HAVEN.** (U93, U130)
HOUNSLOW, D SHANNON & SONS (O'ROURKE'S). Renamed **DANNY SHANNONS** and brightened up. Formerly **CHARIOT.** (W126, U44, U131)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 159

OTHER CHANGES ETC

E16, HALLSVILLE ARMS. Should read: **HALLSVILLE TAVERN**
BROMLEY COMMON, BIRD IN HAND. Refs should read: (3SE221, 8K51)
BROMLEY COMMON, TWO DOVES. Refs should read: (3SE224, 8K51)
SUTTON, GOOSE & GRANITE. Should read: Reverted to **GANDER.** Formerly **GANDER INN.**

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 160

NEW PUBS ETC.

E3, WHITE HORSE (now **LOUNGE BAR**). Is a Free House
ENFIELD, PICTURE PALACE. Add to description: 'Food, disabled WC. Open all permitted hours.'
SW7, SOUTHSIDE BAR. Is a Free House
PUBS CLOSED ETC.
E11, THATCHED HOUSE. Should read: converted to Latin American restaurant and tapas bar
SE15, BUSH. Refs should read: (SE139, U120)
W9, BIDDY MULLIGANS. Delete entry, already reported in U156.

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

N12, O'NEILL'S. Should read: Reverted to **BELGRAVE.** (Originally **BELGRAVE TAVERN**)
SE1, COOPERS. Should read: except Fuller: London Pride and Draught Bass
SE15, ATTITUDE (CLUB). Should read: Renamed **HECTORS (CLUB)**
CROYDON, FIDDLER & FIRKIN. Add: Brewery closed
SOUTH CROYDON, SPOOFERS BAR. Formerly **LE REFUGE**
HAMPTON WICK, STRYKER'S RAILWAY. Add: Now Unique Pub Co, ex-Grand Met (Courage)
CORRECTIONS
 Heading: **CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 157** should appear before **PUBS CLOSED ETC. NEW BARNET (EN4) DEN** etc
 Heading: **CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 159** should appear before **NEW PUBS ETC. N7 SHILLIBEERS** etc
 Heading **OTHER CHANGES ETC.** should not be in 'box'.

CASK MARQUE PUBS - SUPPLEMENT 1 (OCT 2001)

ADDITIONS

The following additional pubs and clubs in Greater

The Red Lion
1 Mill Lane,
Godalming,
Surrey
01483 415207



Our 1st Beer Festival **26th-28th October**

*40 Cask Ales from
 Independent Brewers*

Bottle Conditioned Ales

Live entertainment

Home cooked food

*Short walk from
 Godalming Station
 (Mainline from Waterloo)*

*Every entry ticket is a
 Raffle Ticket Star Prize -
 21 gear Mountain Bike*

*From 12 noon, each day,
 all day*

*If you require B&B or
 Campsite information
 please phone us*

**"The only Family owned
 Freehouse in Town"**

CAMRA Good Beer Guide
1994/5/6/7/8/9/2000/1

Capital Pubcheck

London have licensees who have been awarded a Cask Marque plaque. These should be added to the original list published in the April/May 2001 London Drinker. An asterisk indicates a pub listed in the 2001 Good Beer Guide. The figures in brackets cross-refer to CAMRA's local pub guides and updates (see above for explanation).

CENTRAL

EC1, ARTILLERY ARMS, 102 Bunhill Row. Fuller. (E9)
EC2, MAGPYE, 12 New St. Bass. (E33, U82, U151)
W1(F), KING & QUEEN*, 1 Foley St. Free House. (W29, U66, U84, U88, U161)
W1(May), BRUTONS, 15 Bruton La. Wizard Inns. (W138, U100, U110, U153)
W1(S), MIDAS TOUCH, 4 Golden Sq. Hall & Woodhouse. (U147)
W1(S), SHASTON ARMS, 4/6 Ganton St. Hall & Woodhouse. (U158)

EAST

E4, THOMAS WILLINGALE, 134 Station Rd. Wizard. (U152, U161)

NORTH WEST

NW1, METROPOLITAN BAR, 7 Station Appr, Baker Street Stn, Marylebone Rd. Wetherspoon. (U154)
NW3, SPANIARDS INN, Spaniards Rd. Bass. (N190)
NW3, WASHINGTON*, 50 Englands La. Bass. (N190, U151)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, OLD THAMESIDE INN, Pickfords Wharf, Clink St. Bass. (SE28, U105, U151)
SE1, WETHERSPOONS, 125 Newington Causeway. Wetherspoon. (U156)
SE4, BROCKLEY BARGE, 184 Brockley Rd. Wetherspoon, formerly BREAKSPEARE ARMS. (SE51, U156)
SE6, LONDON & RYE, 109 Rushey Green. Wetherspoon. (U154)
SE18, GREAT HARRY, 7-9 Wellington St. Wetherspoon. (U154, U161)
SE23, CAPITOL, 11-21 London Rd. Wetherspoon. (U159)
SE26, WINDMILL, 125-131 Kirkdale. Wetherspoon. (U158)

SOUTH WEST

SW3, BLENHEIM*, 27 Cale St. Hall & Woodhouse. (SW55)
SW3, SURPRISE (IN CHELSEA)*, 6 Christchurch Terr. Bass. (SW58, U125)
SW7, SOUTHSIDE BAR, Princes Gdns. Free House. (U160)
SW11, GROVE, 279 Battersea Park Rd. Laurel (ex-Whitbread). (SW89, U159)
SW11, WOODMAN, 60 Battersea High St. Hall & Woodhouse. (SW90, U146)
SW19, BREWERY TAP, 68/69 High St, Wimbledon. Laurel (ex-Whitbread). (SW116)

SW19, WIBBAS DOWN INN, 6-12 Gladstone Rd. Wetherspoon. (SW120)
CARSHALTON, RAILWAY TAVERN*, 47 North St. Fuller. (SW130)

WEST

W11, PRINCE ALBERT, 11 Pembridge Rd. Bass. (W90, U75, U151)
HAMPTON WICK, STRYKER'S RAILWAY, 91 High St. Unique, formerly RAILWAY TAVERN. (W106, U153, U160)
HOUNSLOW, DANNY SHANNONS, 32/34 High St. Fuller, formerly D SHANNON & SONS and CHARIOT. (W126, U44, U131, U161)
HOUNSLOW, MOON UNDER WATER, 84/86 Staines Rd. Wetherspoon. (U62, U92, U99, U152)

CLUBS ETC.

SW1, BELLAMY'S BAR, House of Commons, 1 Parliament St.

LESBIAN AND GAY NEWS

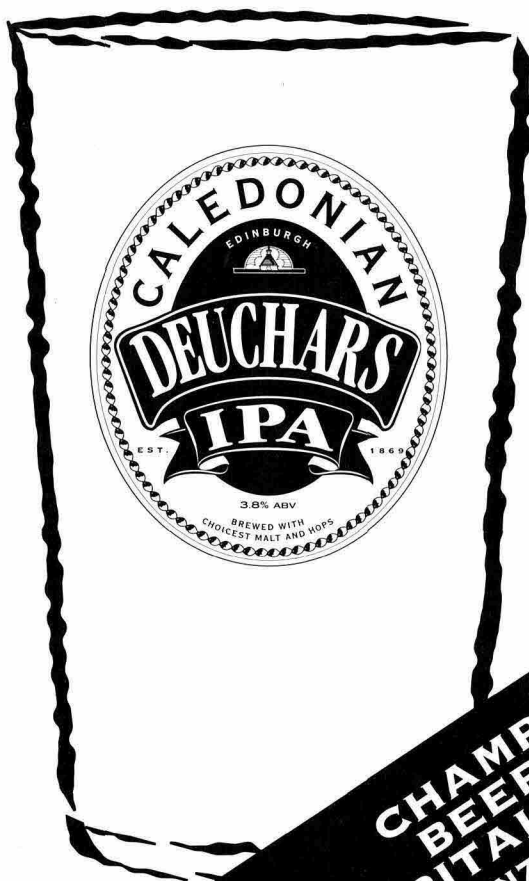
LAGRAD is a group of lesbian and gay members of the Campaign for Real Ale organising to extend the Campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. The group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month from 7pm onwards in the upstairs bar of the King's Arms, 23 Poland Street, London W1. Monthly events in Brighton on the Saturday ten days later than the King's Arms meeting. All welcome to all events. Or visit our website, www.goldings.demon.co.uk/queerale/. The group convenor can be contacted on LAGRAD@ukgateway.net

London meetings:

October – Wed 3 (7pm) Monthly social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St W1 (020-7734 5907). - Thu 11 (7pm) Croydon and Sutton Beer Festival, Wallington Halls, Stafford Rd, Wallington (nr. station). - Wed 17 (6pm) Social. Queens Arms, 223 Hanworth Rd, Hounslow (020) 8230 4775, recently changed hands – needs checking out. We're likely to move on quite quickly if the real ale's disappeared.

November – Wed 7 (7pm) Monthly social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St W1. - Tue 20 Social. (6pm) Halfway to Heaven, 7 Duncannon St, WC2 (020-7930 8312), Draught Bass & Fullers London Pride, then (7.30) Queens Head, 25 Tryon St, SW3 (020-7589 0262), Courage Best Bitter and Directors. - Fri 23 (6.30) Goose and Carrot, 128 Wellesley Road, Croydon (020-8689 3473). Generally features Fuller's London Pride, a Fuller's seasonal beer and a guest. Convenient for East and West Croydon stations and those of us who work in, live in or pass through Croydon on a Friday. A new regular feature in the programme.

YOU'RE DUE A DEUCHARS.



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

CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

Looking Back

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

TWENTY YEARS AGO The Victoria Brewery of Ware, Herefordshire was supplying **Victoria Bitter, og. 1036, to 5 London pubs.**

A national survey to CAMRA (excluding London) had revealed that Whitbread beers tended to be more expensive than those of other breweries. It was asked rhetorically whether any pub in Greater London sold a pint of Wethered's or Fremlin's bitter for less than 60p. The heading above this information was 'Surprise! Surprise!'

Having been chosen as the new Doctor Who, (the fifth), Peter Davison had been forbidden by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to advertise an 'alcoholic product' in this case Webster's Yorkshire.

King & Barnes of Horsham had started a 'Parching' scheme with no time limit.

'Marching Out! Out! Out!' sub-titled 'A Tramp Round Tottenham' was Laurie Gordon's crawl of 11 pubs in that area.

'Britannia Ruled' was a history of the Britannia Tap in W14, once considered London's smallest pub until extended.

In the same district, the Three kings, a new freehouse in North End Road was advertised as selling a number of beers at between 54p and 59p a pint, plus one at 70p.

Trumans were in the area, about to launch a Bitter of 1036 o.g. drawn by conventional handpump rather than the controversial DCL system, which forced air into the cask (and whatever was in the bar's atmosphere) to displace beer into the glass. Truman, Hanbury & Buxton (their full title to which they intended giving prominence) were planning to change the livery of their pubs.

A photograph was featured of Young's (then) furthest outpost, 250 miles from the brewery, Le Greenwich, in Liege, Belgium. The beer didn't actually travel that far as it was produced under licence in Ostend, and was sold as Pale and Scotch Ale(!).

The Tramshed, Woolwich, had been reprieved from demolition until the following July, having been earmarked as a site for a supermarket and carpark complex in the January. In fact it remain in action for much longer.

Moriarty's the pub on Baker Street tube station, (alas, no more) was selling Truman Tap on handpump.

John Conen had been touring Bavaria, where beer prices started at about 40p a pint. In the same edition Laurie Bishop referred to Youngs Bitter at 52p in the Alma, Wandsworth as the cheapest pint in London.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO bore the photo of the Greyhound, Sydenham, to tie in with a Crawl of

Forest Hill presented by Paul Thomas. It also included an engraving of the Crystal palace, ablaze, referring to a Crawl in the content, entitled 'Palace to Burn Again' at the time the 50th anniversary of the largest peacetime conflagration in London since the Great Fire of 1666. It was a photograph Historicrawl article, but gremlins led to one caption with descriptive notes being omitted, and the subsequent reference numbers being one out.

The Editorial defined real ale with a description of its ingredients and brewing method.

The 1986 East London & City Beer Guide had been issued. Listing all 1,006 pubs is numbered EC and E postal districts, its cover price was £2.25, and a special offer for a limited period was £1.25. The cover itself was reproduced in a full page advert.

Courage, which had earlier on in the year been sold for £2,600 million was again up for sale for the reduced price of £1,500 m. On the opposite page a camera-ready stop press (in the literal sense) announced the actual sale, to Widars for £1.4 billion. Courage had recently introduced 22 Ale Trails nation-wide, 5 in the London area. The idea was to collect stamps for various prizes.

The Rose and Crown...

Old Town, Clapham, London SW4

... would like to welcome customers to the newly refurbished Rose & Crown. Lunchtime traditional food, congenial atmosphere & a large selection of real ales.

OCTOBER BEER FESTIVAL

Mon 15th - Sat 20th October

Traditional cask ales & ciders from all over the country. Continental bottled beers.

**All welcome
020 7720 8265**

Looking Back

Fuller's were planning to demolish the Flowing Spring near Reading. I am glad to say that when I last visited it, it was still much the same as when my uncle was landlord there from 1956-76.

A brewer, using the pseudonym H. Armstrong, discussed the quality of the pint in one's hand, and where the responsibility lies with the licensee. A short article described CAMRA's beginnings and aims.

The November cover showed the cover of the then newly published Good Beer Guide. Among the content was a report that Fullers had opened a new brewhouse, and was about to test-market a new lager.

In his Editorial, Andy discussed the production and policies of London Drinker. He stressed the fact that the entire magazine was run on an entirely voluntary basis by the people following full-time professions entirely unrelated to journalism - as is still the case. The only professional involvement is on the printing side. (And after all these years nothing has changed - Ed)

The obituary was published of Ben Davis, referred to as 'Probably the most influential pub architect of his generation'. It went on to say that he was a good friend of CAMRA, and ended with the line 'Ben knew, and cared, and will be sadly missed'.

Under the heading of 'Changes at Conway's' was an outline of the career of the newly appointed brewer, Martin Patterson, a local man.

Sadly, both the Brixton and Battersea Breweries ceased production some years ago.

Belgian Beers were described by Adrian Weddell - the country had 200 breweries each producing its individual range of beers.

TEN YEARS AGO In his October Editorial, Andy Pirson discussed the vast difference in prices of beer in London and Greater Manchester.

'Historicrawl - Real Ale at the End of the Line' was Merton's update of an article of his which we published in March & April 1985, covering the London rail termini. In the 6 years that had elapsed, eleven real ale bars remained of the previous 17, and the range of beers overall had dropped from 22 to 4.

In his November Editorial Chris reported the success of the GBBF in the Docklands Arena, quoting a few interesting statistics. 35,000 customers with no drunkenness, all badged glasses were sold, likewise programmes, tombola prizes, foreign beer (twice), the original beer order and 97% of its repeat.

My own chief memories of the event - the last GBBF I was able to attend - was taking a swim in the docks to remove the worst of a glutinous beer which some clown had poured over me as I was drawing a pint from the lower deck of a stillage; and

briefly taking charge of the children's room which necessitated a loud-voiced announcement in French (my original teaching subject) as the P.A system had packed up, to get hold of the parents of 2 kids of that nationality, who had conveniently parked them while they imbibed and learned some English culture!

The aptly named Ernest Beer contributed a rhyming eulogy on the same festival which filled most of one page of the longer than average Letters section.

The 1992 Good Beer Guide had been launched at the commencement of CAMRA's 21st birthday celebrations. It featured 185 breweries including 50 brew pubs, and 900 beers.

Membership had passed 30,000, its highest ever figure.

FIVE YEARS AGO In his October editorial, Andy covered a retrospect of CAMRA campaigning activities with comments on the Courage take-over. A crawl by Ray Wright covered the Loughton area and an article by Giles Whitfield explained the past five thousand years of drinking.

In the November 1996 editorial Chris Cobbold discussed the unacceptable practice of returning spillages and other ullage to the cask. Keith Vivers, a Team Leader at the Surrey Trading Standards Service had assisted in writing an article on the law concerning measures for News & Ale and this was reproduced in full whilst an article by Jon Briggs discussed methods of dispense, a subject which is just as relevant today and is the subject of this edition's editorial by Kevin Reeve. The Youngs 35 club (employees with 35 years service with the company) mentioned two new members, one, director Thomas Young, was the great-great grandson of the founder. The crawl for the month was entitle Supping in Suffolk.

Well, that's enough nostalgia for this edition. More next time gleaned from the dusty recesses of my archives cabinet. Cheers for now and good drinking.

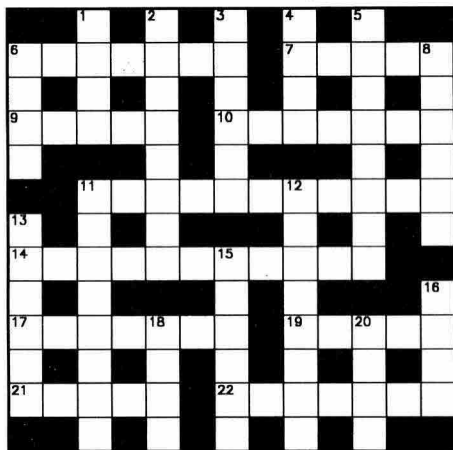
Martin Smith

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LONDON DRINKER
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020 8300 7693

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

£10 PRIZE TO BE WON



Name

Address

.....

.....

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

Prize winner will be announced in the February London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the December 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. Plan to hit bird. [7]
7. Some of the best umpires watch it. [5]
9. Songbird? [5]
10. Army has time for prisoner. [7]
11. Rocket broke up sane meeting. [5,6]
14. He sings from dusk to dawn in "Stormy Weather" [11]
17. Sit in river. It's a revelation! [7]
19. Father entering evil country. [5]
21. Break up state discrimination. [5]
22. Clear out U.S.city crime. [7]

DOWN

1. Deserts rejected celebrity. [4]
2. Very determined but he will shortly get turned down. [4,4]
3. Worker on the verge of song. [6]
4. Fool has a thousand questions. [4]
5. It's supposed to turn up rubbish I have. [8]
6. Choose a tool. [4]
8. It takes the skin off old copper. [6]
11. Director to autograph letters. [8]
12. It sailed on a shark somehow. [5,3]
13. Popular cult of the fly. [6]
15. Edge of sewer? [6]
16. Messenger taking nothing out of ill-will. [4]
18. Measure animals up. [4]
20. Beer an unknown quantity to him. [4]

Winner of the prize for the June Crossword:
Terry Lavell, London E17.

Other correct entries were received from:

Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Ivor Wright-Ardon, Geoff B, R.Barker, Blackpool & Postie, John Blundell, S.J.Brown, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Charles Creasey, Ribena de Farqhar-Toss, Chris Fran & a Spotted Dog, Paul Curson, Robert Day, John Dodd, Richard Douthwaite, J.T.Fish, Rosemary Fisher, B.H.Fletcher, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, M.I.Green, W.J.Hernon, Jonty Hawkes, John Heath, Graham Hill, Sheerluck Holmes, Tom Kemp, Pete Large, Pamela Leach, Steve Maloney, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, Al Mountain, Bob Neill, John O'Donovan, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Richard Rogers, G.H.Seymour, Beverley Simmons, Bryan Smith, (The Real) Billy Sollocks, Arch Stanton, John Tap, Bill Thackray, Mrs. C.Walsom, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Chris Whithouse, Sue Wilson, Terry Wookey, Peter Yarett.

HUGE CASH REWARD

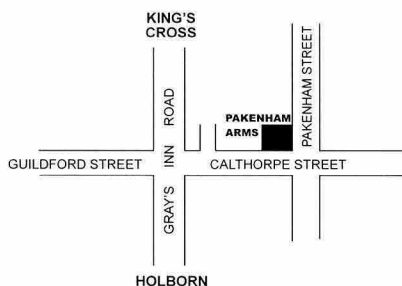
Missing from the “**Pakenham Arms**”,
Nº1 Pakenham Street, London WC1

Hundreds of gallons of real ales from the following breweries -
Fullers, Young, Slaters, Adnams, Fisherrow and North
Yorkshire Brewery.

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 October & November.

**All Fishrow Beers £1.60. All North Yorkshire Brewery
Beers £1.80 when available.**



SCENE OF 'CRIME'

Notice prepared by your local real ale enforcer

Pat Mulligan

(otherwise known as 'The Guvnor'!

0207-837-6933

Idle Moments

Well, here we are again then with Autumn approaching at a rate of knots and thoughts of an idle moment with a pint in a cosy corner of the bar beside a glowing fire. All is well with the World - until you try and get your mind round this lot. But before we start, here is a quotation from the humorist, mathematician and singer, Tom Lehrer: Life is like a sewer. What you get out of it depends on what you put into it.

Now let's kick off with some number puzzles; these have all been used before but not since the end of 1992:

1. 24 BB in a P
2. 6 P on a ST
3. 617 S are the DB
4. 2 FD of JG (LM and LL)
5. 168 H in a W
6. 1812 O by T
7. 7 P in a WPT
8. 76 TL the BP
9. 256 CPS is MC
10. 44 IDC for the UK

And so we come on to the brewery anagrams. What brewers of fine ale have been mutilated to create these meaningless phrases?

1. LUMP DOWN ANN
2. STARE GIRL
3. SHADE NAG
4. BANS DRAY
5. BORE KEMP
6. RAN FORTH
7. WAKE THE OAR
8. NOW BE RAT
9. LNER LIT RAVENS
10. YO, TALL JOB

I was getting fed up with just going through the Good beer Guide alphabetically just for the purpose of providing another month's 5BY4 puzzles, so I thought I would do something different. I went through the book British Hit Singles randomly - just for the purpose of providing another month's 5BY4 puzzles. So here we have "No. 1 Ladies" where the idea is to match the female singers of the last fifty years or so with the songs they took to the top of the charts. You may notice that although they were all number ones, they are not necessarily the singer's most famous song:

1. Orinoco Flow
2. Nothing Compares 2 U
3. Hand On Your Heart
4. Dreamboat
5. I Feel Love
6. Stupid Cupid
7. This Is My Song
8. 99 Red Balloons

9. This Ole House
10. Like A Prayer

- A. Donna Summer
- B. Enya
- C. Connie Francis
- D. Nena
- E. Rosemary Clooney
- F. Sinéad O'Connor
- G. Petula Clark
- H. Kylie Minogue
- I. Madonna
- J. Alma Cogan

And finally, before we release you back into the real world we shall finish with a few questions which may be considered more or less trivial, depending on your views - they are a bit of a mixed bunch though:

1. In what town has Bill King recently established a brewery (Think about it - there's a clue in the question)
2. Raymond Mays was the leading light behind ERA racing cars. With what other make of racing cars was he deeply involved from the late 1940's onwards?
3. What is unusual about an astronomical map compared with a terrestrial or "normal" map?
4. If a Black Friar is a Dominican monk, what respectively are a Grey Friar and a White Friar?
5. By what name is the Royal Highland Regiment colloquially known?
6. What was significant about the American cargo ship, the Savannah, built in 1962?
7. Before 900AD, into how many kingdoms was England divided?
8. Which international airline was the World's first to operate a scheduled passenger air service?
9. How old was Mary Queen of Scots (Mary Stuart) when she became queen?
10. Which biblical character was the son of Zacharias and Elisabeth?

And that's about it then. Next time when we return Christmas will be looming - how time flies!

See you soon (unless you see me first).BFN

Andy Pirson

Idle Moments

IDLE MOMENTS - THE ANSWERS

As usual, here are the answers to the puzzles set in Idle Moments in the August London Drinker.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 9 Children of Queen Victoria
2. 1431 Joan of Arc Burned at the Stake
3. 55 Top Ten Hits by Elvis Presley
4. 880 Yards in a Half Mile
5. 1 Man Went to Mow
6. 99 Ice Cream with a Chocolate Flake
7. 150 Years in a Sesquicentenary
8. 12 Bar Blues
9. 90 Degrees in a Quadrant
10. 70 is "Three Score and Ten"

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. SMART BAR | BARTRAMS |
| 2. HIRE SKY TOWERS | WEST YORKSHIRE |
| 3. SHAG DRAG | HAGGARDS |
| 4. NO LUMBER | MELBOURN |
| 5. HOLY AS BROKER | SHRALEY BROOK |
| 6. PEER SET ONCE IN BOX | BOSTON EXPERIENCE |
| 7. SHE DID RED FLU | HUDDERSFIELD |
| 8. NEWEST RICH | WINCHESTER |
| 9. DOXY'S CAR | COX'S YARD |
| 10. PLOD INTO P.T. | OLD PINT POT |

5BY4:

1. Luddite - Ryburn
2. Lincoln Ale - King & Smart
3. Lionheart - Hampshire
4. Landlord - Timothy Taylor
5. Legend - Hogs Back
6. Lurcher - Green Jack
7. Liberation - Harviestoun
8. Liquor Mortis - Blue Moon
9. Level Best - Rother Valley
10. Landlady - Caythorpe

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The Reliant Robin
2. Twelve
3. Nine
4. Ned Sherrin
5. Macduff in Macbeth
6. Animal Farm - George Orwell
7. William Somerset Maugham
8. Brunel's Great Eastern
9. The Sky at Night with Patrick Moore
10. Last time I finished by asking what gets 36 times as large if you take away a quarter; the answer is a pint - if you take away one letter you get a pin which is 36 pints.

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8TH CROYDON & SUTTON REAL ALE FESTIVAL

Wallington Hall, Stafford Road, Wallington
11th October to 13th October 2001.

Over 40 real ales, cider & foreign bottled beers will be available. Open from noon to 10.30 Thursday, 11am to 10.30 Friday and 11am to 6pm Saturday. Free entrance before 5.00pm. £2 Thursday evening, £2.50 Friday evening. Discount for CAMRA members. Wallington Hall is 10 minutes walk from Wallington Station.

LONDON DRINKER is published by the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Editor: Ian Amy, 10 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TG.

Please send all articles for publication to London Drinker,

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £3.00 for 6 editions should be sent to: Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2BH. (cheques payable to: CAMRA London)

ADVERTISING: Peter Tonge. Tel: 0208-300 7693.

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A DOUBLE REWARD TO ENJOY!



Visit any HOP BACK pub listed here between Saturday 20th October and Halloween Night (fancy dress optional) and enjoy these great beers at refreshingly happy prices!

We've had another cracking year so far thanks to you and we want to celebrate our success at GBBF and the SIBA competition (and many other regional and local festivals) with our loyal customers.

Stocks are strictly limited to the amount we can brew and you can enjoy, so come along!

No gimmicks, just good beer in good pubs.

Hop Back Pubs:

The Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, Wimbledon

The Jolly Farmer, 41 Princes Rd, Weybridge

The Hop Leaf, 163 Southampton St, Reading

The Coronation, 18 Dean Lane, Southville, Bristol

The Wyndham Arms, 27 Estcourt Rd, Salisbury

The Bull Hotel, Downton, Nr Salisbury

The Waterloo Arms, 101 Waterloo Rd, Southampton

See our website or
The Good Beer Guide
for opening hours

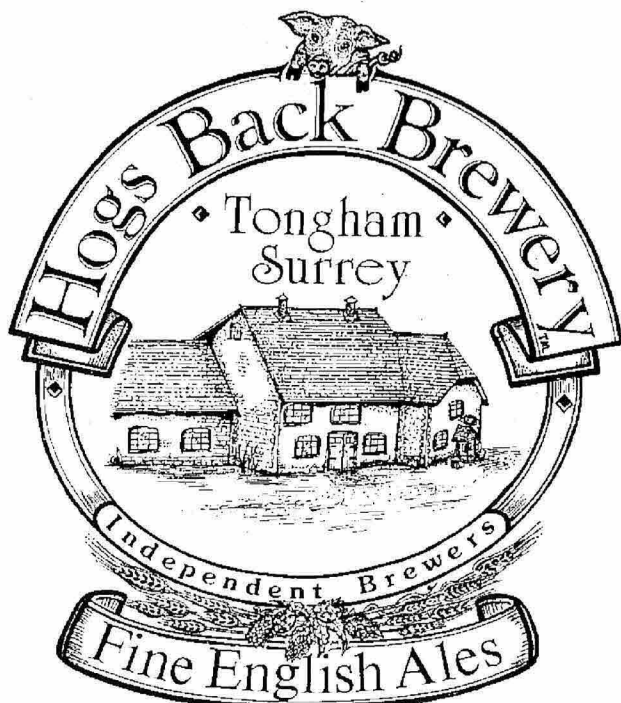
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