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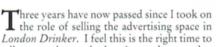
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A Message from the Advertisement Manager



tell our readers and advertisers where we have come from and, more importantly, where we are going.

Thanks to the continuing support of CAMRA's London Branches, both financially and editorially and by distribution to all our outlets, more copies of London Drinker are being printed and circulated than ever before. Increased income from our loyal advertisers means 10,000 copies go out every other month. On top of that, the Wetherspoon organization now distributes 3,000 extra copies through its London pubs.

In short, London Drinker's circulation has virtually doubled in three years from 7,000 copies in 2000 to a 13,000 print run with the October/November 2003 issue.

I would like to thank everyone, particularly those loyal pubs, breweries and other organizations who advertise, for allowing us to 'spread the word' to such an extent.

Of course, printing twice as many copies costs us more and this will be mirrored in an unavoidable rate increase from the February/March 2004 issue of around 30%. Regular advertisers already enjoying preferential rates will still receive discounts but the proportionate increase will still be in the region of 30%. Full details of our advertising rates can be found on page 4.

Rest assured any increase in funds will, as before, go back into printing even more copies and improving the quality of *London Drinker*.

All the best and thanks again,

Peter Tonge

Advertisement Manager Tel: 020 8300 7693

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

EDITORIAL

OUR CAMPAIGN

Another year's campaigning done, but more reason than ever for CAMRA to continue to rally drinkers to speak up for local beers and local pubs. The questions I asked this time last year have not gone away. It is good news that McMullen's in Hertford will carry on brewing, but it is no comfort to find the majority of pubs in the country, their choice and supply of beer controlled by so few people. Thirty years ago our targets were the 'big six' national brewers. In the 2004 Good Beer Guide we find there are no 'national' brewers left. Instead, eight out of ten pints brewed in the UK come from six 'internationals': Anheuser-Busch, Carlsberg-Tetley, Coors, Guinness, Interbrew and Scottish Courage.

We can be grateful that most of these groups brew at least some real ale, including favourites like the Bass Museum beers, but the strong campaigning message spelt out clearly by Roger Protz in his introduction to the 2004 Guide is **Think local...drink local.** London can be thankful for Fuller's and Young's, but others are hard to come by - I was very lucky to find both Power Station Porter from Battersea Brewery and Haggard's Imp available on a busy Sunday lunchtime recently at the Brewery Tap in Wimbledon Village.

The Good Beer Guide uniquely lists very many regional and micro-brewery beers of which few people outside CAMRA, apart from Wetherspoons, may be aware. Such breweries cannot match the vast sums spent by the global companies on advertising, and the restrictive influence of the huge pub companies (both of them, you could almost say), that now own most of the pubs that used to belong to the national brewers, makes matters much worse. Following Roger's commentary on the real ales, Ted Bruning, editor of the monthly What's Brewing, attacks the pub companies as 'faceless corporations'

that are abusing you, me, publicans, brewers, maltsters, farmers. They overcharge shamelessly. They underpay equally shamelessly. They have power of life or death over an entire sector of the brewing industry, power which they exercise on behalf of foreign shareholders and investors. They need to be controlled'. Between them, Punch/Pubmaster and their ilk make it very difficult for the Grand Union Brewery of Hayes, Middlesex, for example, to find any local outlet for its award-winning beers, let alone an affordable Brewery Tap.

So buy the Good Beer Guide and look out for some good local ales. Join CAMRA and help to exert some collective pressure on our politicians and regulators. Be noisy, be awkward, and don't be afraid to complain. We need to be critical; we cannot be complacent. Help CAMRA, in your local branch and at the national AGM in April, to get its priorities right and to campaign for them more effectively.

A curious motion found its way on to the AGM agenda in April this year, to the effect that editors of newsletters publishing articles critical of CAMRA should be 'disciplined'. Naturally, the motion was roundly defeated after some robust banter. CAMRA is a broad church, and our strength is the consensus that comes from debate and from resolving many conflicting points of view. If you disagree with me, or with Ted, or with Roger, then say so. Let's enjoy a good argument from time to time.

But I do hope there is no disagreement among CAMRA members, the industry and the politicians about one thing: don't drink and drive. Enjoy Pig's Ear, have a safe and merry Christmas, and look forward to Battersea, the first of London's 2004 beer festivals, in February.

Geoff Strawbridge

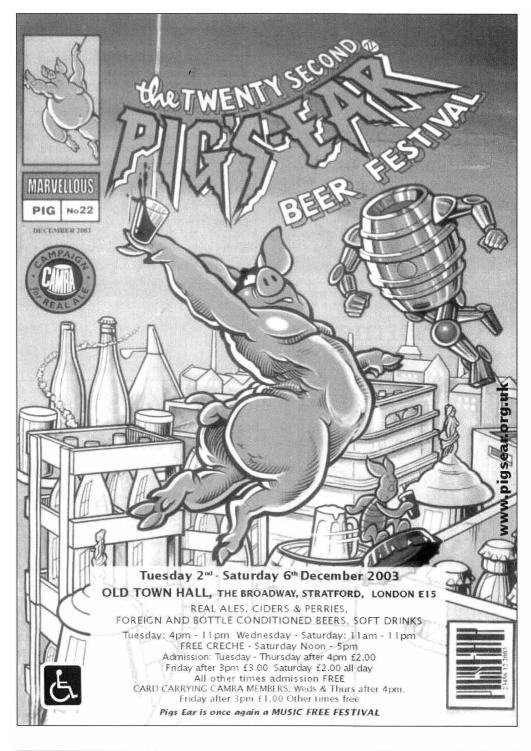
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> CAMRA Good Beer Guide 1994/5/6/7/8/9/2000/1/2/3/4

PINT PRICES

The Kingston and Leatherhead branch of CAMRA has discovered that the area holds an unfortunate record - the most expensive pints in the country! The average price of real ale is £2.23 against a South East average of £2.15 and national average of £1.98. The respective costs for lager are £2.38, £2.35 and £2.17.

There were considerable variations within the branch area but prices had generally increased above the rate of inflation. Dave Morgan, branch publicity officer, remarked: 'I have just come back from holiday on the Macclesfield canal where I paid £1.27 for a pint of mild and £1.34 for bitter; these differences are extraordinary and wider than variations for most other goods and services. On the positive side, real ale remains better value than lager, particularly so since lager is mass produced and commonly inferior in ingredients and certainly in taste.'

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NATIONAL NEWS

• Big brewers distort real ale's market share

Real ale's share of the beer market is far bigger than statistics claim, says marketing expert Martyn Cornell. Writing in the 2004 CAMRA Good Beer Guide, published in September, he says that while brewing industry analysts AC Nielsen claim that cask beer represents only 8% of the total beer market and is declining, many regional brewers report increased demand for their beers.

Greene King's volumes of Abbot Ale have risen by 20%, with Old Speckled Hen up 13%. Wolverhampton & Dudley is investing millions in its Burton-on-Trent plant that produces Marston's Pedigree and has just launched Old Empire, a genuine recreation of a 19th-century India Pale Ale.

Fuller's of West London saw brewing profits rise by 18% in 2003, while Shepherd Neame of Faversham, Kent, reports sales of Spitfire bitter up by 20%. Hardy's & Hanson's of Nottingham have announced a substantial increase in sales for 2003, while sales of Youngs of Wandsworth's Bitter were up by 6.6% and its Winter Warmer climbed by 21%. Adnams of Suffolk reports that its Bitter sales have risen by 11% while Broadside increased by 15.5%.

The reason for the gap between statistics and brewers' own figures lies in the retreat from cask beer production by the new Big Four brewers: Scottish Courage, Interbrew, Coors and Carlsberg-Tetley. ScotCo now owns the French lager brand Kronenbourg, Interbrew concentrates on promoting Stella Artois, Coors owns the leading lager brand Carling, while C-T, wholly owned by Danes, brews Carlsberg lager in Northampton.

ScotCo and C-T own the two biggest ale brands in Britain — John Smith's and Tetley Bitter — but put the overwhelming bulk of advertising spends behind the 'smoothflow' nitro-keg versions of the beers, not the cask versions. The declining amount of real ale brewed by the big international companies, who are responsible for eight out of 10 pints brewed in Britain, distorts the overall market statistics and seriously under-reports the real ale revival enjoyed by regional and micro-brewers.

Martyn Cornell points out that AC Nielsen works closely with the British Beer and Pub Association (the former Brewers Society), which is funded mainly by the big brewers and pub companies. An independent statistical company, CGA, has drawn a startlingly different picture of real ale's share of the beer market. CGA's survey shows that cask ale sales are actually around five million barrels a year, and that cask in reality is more than 20% of total ontrade beer sales, making it the second biggest category after heavily advertised standard lagers.

While Nielsen says the nationals' brands account for nearly half of UK cask ale sales, CGA claims the Big Four sell much less, only 27% of all the cask beer drunk in Britain, with 40 regional brewers accounting for 57% and 400-plus micros mopping up the final 15 or 16 %.

'Despite gloomy talk about a declining market overall, the number of outlets for cask ale is actually increasing,' Cornell adds. 'CGA found that compared to 2001 there were another 1,160 pubs stocking cask ale.'

Second National Pubs Week set for success

Plans are already in hand for CAMRA's second National Pubs Week, which kicks off on 21st February 2004. The objectives of NPW are simple: to encourage people to visit pubs more often. The event is a response to the alarming number of local pub closures and changing patterns of pub-going. It's important that pubs across the land take the opportunity NPW offers to remind people just how great pubs are.



CAMRA is keen to stress that Pubs Week is not just about real ale pubs. Mike Benner, CAMRA's Campaigns Head says, 'CAMRA is well-known for campaigning for beer and for real ale pubs, but National Pubs Week goes much further than that. It's a partnership with the pub trade to attract people back into pubs by creating a week of special attractions and events.'

10,000 pubs got involved in the last National Pubs Week in February 2003. Participating pubs ran a range of promotions and events during the week such as themed party nights, food and beer promos, quizzes and charity darts matches.

Find out more and get the latest updates on NPW 2004 at www.camra.org.uk/pubsweek

NATIONAL NEWS

◆ S&N sells pubs and Theakston's brewery

Britain's biggest brewer Scottish and Newcastle has been busy streamlining its empire recently. S&N has sold the 176 year-old Theakston's brewery in Masham, which returns to family ownership almost 20 years after losing its independence. S&N will continue to distribute Theakston's beer, and much of the beer will continue to be brewed by the Newcastle brewery, at least for the time being.

S&N is also delisting some of its poorer selling brands, including Courage Light Ale, while Hofmeister lager is 'under review'.

The £2.51 billion raised from the sale of S&N's UK pubs to the private-equity backed Spirit Amber group is expected to be used to fund expansion into

European brewing; the deal includes a seven-year agreement to supply the pubs with beer. Chief Executive Tony Froggatt says he will be looking to expand the firm's beer business in Europe after buying Kronenbourg and Hartwall (in Finland) in the last three years.

The S&N pub estate includes Chef and Brewer, Henry's Bar and the Bar 38 chain and also 131 Premier Lodge budget hotels which industry sources said Spirit was likely to sell off to Whitbread Ple's Travel Inn or Travelodge, owned by private equity group Permira. Spirit will now become the UK's biggest managed pubs group with 2,500 pubs and 46,000 employees. It beat off the challenge of two other final bids for the pubs from fellow private equity group Laurel and from Nomura in partnership with Paribas Affaires Industrielles.

LOCAL ROUND UP

◆ Fuller's top two for Christmas



It's that time of year again when Fuller's releases its limited edition bottle-conditioned Vintage Ale. The beer, which has an ABV of 8.5%, has been produced since 1997 and is currently on sale in selected pubs and supermarkets.

Although it has been produced for the past seven years, each vintage always has its own distinct flavour

according to the variations in the blend of yeast and malt.

This year's beer is described as having a nose bursting with fresh citrus and pineapple aromas that Fuller's beers are often noted for. These flavours derive from Challenger, Target and Northdown hops and Fuller's own unique yeast. As the beer will only be a few months old at Christmas, it will still have malty sweetness in taste, which will balance the bitterness of the hop. The taste will continue to evolve as the beer matures. Regulations mean that there is a three-year best before date on the beer, but in fact it will last for around 10 years and improve with maturity. Served on draught at Twickenham in October, Vintage Ale won the Beer of the Festival



award, ahead of Grand Union Old Ale.

Jack Frost, originally launched in 1999, is again available until 30 January 2004, as one of Fuller's seasonal beers this winter. It has a distinct fruitiness provided by the added blackberries, which complement the refreshingly hoppy finish. This

ale has proved so popular in cask as a seasonal ale that it is now also available in 500ml bottles.

♦ Young's quench summer thirsts

Young's have seen half year pre-tax profits rise from £4.7m to £5m on turnover £2.2m higher at £57.7m thanks in part to the hot summer. As at 13 November England's success in the Rugby World Cup is also boosting trade. Fingers crossed!

... and make Winter Warmer

Young's Winter Warmer - the first beer to carry the name when it was launched in the 1960s - made its annual reappearance the week before Greenwich Mean Time darkened our afternoons.

The 5.0 per cent dark ale is available in Young's 203 tied houses throughout the South of England and in free-trade outlets, clubs and pub chains until next spring.





Natural

How would you describe the taste?

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LOCAL ROUND UP

 Improved training reinforces Fuller's beer quality

Puller's has revamped its cellar training course for licensees and senior staff who, having completed the course, will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to go back to their pubs and train their teams. The new course looks at the whole life of a pint, from raw materials to the handling and storage of beer in the cellar and the way the beer is served and presented. It is available to Fuller's own managers and tenants, as well as free trade and national account customers.

Trade quality advisor Emma Watts, who joined Fullers from Brewing Research International two years ago, says: 'Our existing cellar course needed updating - it was very practical, but really only focussed on dealing with the beer in the cellar. We needed to ensure that people who are selling Fuller's beers have a greater understanding of the product itself and the elements that can affect quality. We thought it was important that people understood the complexity of our beers in terms of production and flavour.'

Technical services manager Dennis Royle says: Emma has created an excellent course, which will improve the skills and knowledge of even the most experienced licensee. At Fuller's we are totally committed to the quality and consistency of our beers and are always looking at new ways of supporting our brands in trade. This course is a great example of that, and I would recommend it to any licensee that sells Fuller's beers.

◆ Caledonian sponsors London Scottish

Edinburgh's Caledonian Brewery is sponsoring the London Scottish rugby team for the 2003/04 season, with their Deuchars IPA logo appearing on the shirts. Deuchars IPA was CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain in 2002 and sales were up by over half in the year after the award. They are hoping that their success will rub off on the rugby team, who are aiming for their third consecutive promotion season. Deuchars IPA is available at the club's base (Richmond Athletic Club) as well as some local pubs including the Triple Crown.

EGYPTIAN CONNECTIONS

Chris Elliott, whose letter appeared in the last issue, still wants to know about any London pubs, past or present, with Egyptian connections. If you can help with any, write to him at 87 Wanstead Park Avenue, Manor Park, London E12 5EE, telephone 020-8989 6285 or email c.elliott@dsl.pipex.com (note corrected email address).

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Youngs Special
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See you soon!!!

PUBS ON LONDON'S REGIONAL INVENTORY - PART FOUR

Here we offer three more tasters of the forthcoming London Regional Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. The pubs have very differing characters and are widely spaced geographically.

The oldest is the Rising Sun in Mill Hill, a fine pub near the northern edge of London. In common with most pubs of considerable age, it has been refitted repeatedly and what we can make out today is Victorian or later.

Late Victorian times gave us some of the grandest pubs of all and a good example is the Swan & Sugar Loaf on a prominent site in the fork of the road south of Croydon. It was an expensive rebuild in 1896 designed to catch the eye and a substantial trade. The later snug at the rear is particularly worth a visit.

The Windsor Castle (which features on the CAMRA National Inventory) is Photograph by Bob Steel particularly interesting for what was done

in the 1930s. The timberwork can be closely dated and the arrangements, with screens with low service doors, are a survival of Victorian traditions. The best example of such partitioning anywhere is at the Prince Alfred, Formosa St, W9 (despite the unfortunate gastropub atmosphere created a couple of years ago).

The Rising Sun, 137 Marsh Lane, Mill Hill, NW7 (Tel: 020-8959 1357)

A pub since the 17th century but one can see nothing from that time. Delightful nineteenth-century servery with high-level glazed screenwork and original counter. Old wall panelling, seating and shelf above. Flagstone flooring installed in a generally careful refit after a bus embedded itself in the front wall! Snug up steps on the right. The large left-hand room is entered by a cut-through from the service lobby and dates from the 1950s; there was previously a single-storey structure on the site. The present brick facing of the building dates from this time. 'The Barn' on the right is a function room and dates from before the Second World War.

Adnams Bitter, Greene King Abbot, Young's Special. Open 12 noon to 11pm Monday to Saturday, 12 noon to 10.30pm Sunday.

The Swan & Sugar Loaf, 1 Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 (Tel: 020-8686 2562)

Dramatically designed for the fork in the road by architect Alfred Board of Croydon. When built in 1896 it would have had numerous internal divisions. These have gone but the counter and rather plain



bar-back are original. But the impressive later (perhaps of c.1910 or the 1920s) feature is a cosy, low snug with three stained glass panels over the entrance showing two swans and a sugar loaf. It has a Jacobean-style brown ceramic fire surround forming the focus for highly unusual seats - sort of pub equivalents of monastic stalls. There are six either side, each separately articulated and with fixed, round, upholstered cushions for the posteriors of drinkers.

Open 11am to 11pm Monday to Saturday, 12 noon to 10.30pm Sunday.

The Windsor Castle, 114 Campden Hill Road, W8 (Tel: 020-7243 9551)

Refitted about 1933 with timber screens dividing the pub into different areas: the date can be fairly accurately determined from plaques saying when various items of timber were felled. arrangements are still Victorian and thus an interesting survival into the inter-war years. There are even low service doors for staff to get from one part to another. Contemporary window glass names the parts - Campden Bar, Private Bar (on the corner), Sherry Bar. Rather ungainly modern opening on the right to bring a new room into use.

Adnams Bitter, Fuller's London Pride.

Open 12 noon to 11pm Monday to Friday, 11am to 11pm Saturday, 12 noon to 10.30pm Sunday.

Geoff Brandwood (CAMRA's Historic Pubs Caseworker)

Jane Jephcote (Chair of CAMRA's London Pubs Group)

PAWLEY CIDER TRIP

n 1 November, SE London CAMRA went to Faversham, Kent, on another trip. No, not Shepherd Neame, but Pawley cider, down the road in Painters Forstal, a small village in the countryside. After lunch at the Alma, the local village pub, a gentle stroll down a country lane lies Pawley farm, home of the Massey family for generations. Mr Massey met us at the gate, and showed us round the orchards. Under a perfect blue sky, we learned the farm mainly grows Bramley and Cox apples for the supermarkets; the cider making is a sideline.

The tour was very interesting; we learned that in order to grow more apples, it was necessary to make the branches grow below the horizontal. If the branches are allowed to grow upwards, they grow more wood than apples. After a quick stroll back to the main farm buildings, we peeked inside the storage area where the oak casks used to mature the cider are kept.

All this strolling around orchards builds up a thirst, so we tried the cider. Along with dry, medium, and sweet cider, they do two unusual varieties: mulled cider, with cinnamon and nutmeg, and cider with honey.

It was hard to drag ourselves away from the place but, after buying samples, we got the bus back to Faversham and went to the Elephant. Only a 5

CROYDON & SUTTON REAL ALE FESTIVAL

Croydon & Sutton Branch reports another successful festival at Wallington with attendance up about 15% on last year. This increase was fortunately evident at the end of the first day -Thursday - and a top up beer order had to be placed with East-West Ales. As a result, whilst beer range was a bit restricted early on Friday evening, the range recovered during the evening as the re-order came on tap. Beer volumes held up very well on Saturday to the advertised closing time so we ran on a little beyond to nearly 7pm.

The Beer of the Festival competition was won by Fullers London Porter with Dark Star Hophead (last year's joint winner) coming second, followed by

Scottish brew Atlas Latitude.

Cider and perry sales were also up on last year with all stocks sold out on Saturday afternoon. Larger volumes in 2004 are planned with the festival title and publicity changed to further emphasise the cider and perry bar. The winner of the Cider/ Perry-ofthe-Festival competition was JB Dry from Sussex.

Next year's event is planned for 7-9 October with more beer, cider and perry on site to meet the growing demands of our customers. Festival Organiser Steve Collins would like to thank all those who supported the event as drinkers and workers. Thanks also to Fullers for sponsorship and technical support.

Terry Hewitt

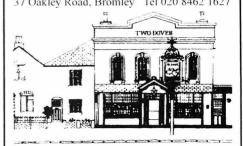


minute walk from the station, the Elephant is an impressive GBG pub with a good range of local beers. There is a garden out the back, but it was a bit cold, so we stayed inside. Suitably refreshed, we caught a cab to the Shipwrights Arms. A fairly remote GBG pub, it sits at the edge of two creeks. The whole pub is full of sailing mementoes. An amazing old pub, it has all beers on gravity, a roaring fire and low beamed ceilings - watch your head. Goachers brewery from Maidstone brew the house beer, Shipwrecked. Even the food was worth travelling for.

At the end of the night we caught a train back to London.

Cheers, Andrew McGuinness





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£2 admission (£3 after 5pm)
(£1 Wed before 5pm)
£1 discount for CAMRA members at all times

http://beerfest.org

STEVE KEMP

Steve Kemp, known to many people in and around London, died in November, aged 44.

I first met Steve sometime in the 1980s. He was one of the earliest supporters of real cider in CAMRA, and his main tipple was cider, although he also liked Belgian beers. He was one of only a handful of CAMRA activists who was not a lover of real ale.

Now cider people in CAMRA are always looked on as loonies, and in this respect, Steve fitted in perfectly. He worked on the cider bar at umpteen beer festivals, usually accompanied by his fox glove puppet, proof that us cider drinkers are indeed a weird bunch.

Whenever a driver was needed to collect cider, Steve was always willing to take a van round to various cider makers. It's a hard job visiting numerous producers, but someone's got to do it, and I was usually there to accompany him.

Steve had a number of problems in the last few years, and his medication often made him appear drunk when he wasn't, so his appearances at recent festivals had been limited. But until then, if there was anything happening in CAMRA that was cider-related, he was always there.

Finally, Steve was instrumental in me meeting my other half, Pam, at the final Surrey Beer Festival in 1996. No, he didn't introduce me to her. We were playing Matador with a double twelve domino set on the bar, when she wandered over and asked what we were doing. Matador? I hear you ask. See, us cider people have always been strange.

Mick Lewis

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WATFORD BEER FESTIVAL: THEY DRANK US DRY!

At Watford and District Branch we enjoyed our most successful beer festival yet as over 800 drinkers turned up, despite the wet weather, to see off 43 casks of ale over two days. This is the second year that the festival, which took place on 31 October and 1 November, has opened at lunchtime on Friday and, just like last year, ale enthusiasts turned up from the very beginning, eager to taste the brews on offer before the barrels started to run dry. Numbers through the door were up from last year and everyone drank more ale. The beer range had been increased for the festival, Watford's ninth annual event, but that didn't stop the casks from being emptied by 9.30 Saturday. The membership stand was also busy over the two days. 20 new members signed up compared to 11 last year.

The success of the event, a familiar phenomenon for CAMRA festivals recently, has left organisers wondering whether to open on Thursday next year. Still, early days yet.

As for the beers, everyone had their favourite but Grand Union's 'One Hop Crystal' (4.2% ABV) took the title of 'Beer of the Festival' followed in second and third place by Mighty Oak's 'Triple Dick Porter' (4.5%) and Cheriton's 'Village Elder' (3.8%). Here's to next year's festival and thanks to all who came and drank us dry. We hope you can make it next year.

Andrew Vaughan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

OAKDALE ARMS

You are quite right to describe the opening of the Milton focused pub the Oakdale Arms, in Hermitage Rd, N4 as big news (Capital Pubcheck 173). However, while the postcode may be Finsbury Park, the pub itself is in proletarian Tottenham, not all that far from the closed Wetherspoons pub, the Suffolk Punch in Green Lanes (which continues to stand empty).

The Oakdale is indeed an excellent pub, although it is a little difficult to access, requiring a shortish walk from the nearest bus or tube. In this respect it should perhaps be mentioned that Seven Sisters Ward, where the pub is based, has long suffered from the continuing impact of the policies of Mrs Thatcher, in terms of high unemployment and poverty. This makes it all the more noteworthy that the pub should be based in the area, but it also suggests a need to have a map when visiting from afar!

Keith Flett Tottenham secretary@LondonSocialistHistorians.org

Dear Editor FRENCH BAR PRICES

As your correspondent points out the cost of drinking in French bars is expensive compared to this country; this is because the price of beer reflects aspects other than the basic price and the duty. Bars in France are still mostly old-fashioned, family operated operations with limited capacity, in which a small number of regulars are made welcome although they may spend hours chatting over a couple of beers or a coffee and cognac. As the proprietor still has to cover his overheads, from a volume turnover that is lower than that seen in the U.K. his income must come from an increased margin on the goods that he does sell.

The hard lesson to be seen from this is that, in some respects (although it pains me to say so) we may be paying too little in this country! Whilst the likes of the large chains, with high capacity pubs and large volume sales, can do very well small locals cannot afford to match them on price and still make a living, hence the number of pub closures which we see on a regular basis.

David Todd By email

Dear Editor

WETHERSPOON'S TASTE

I have visited Wetherspoon's pubs since they began. I was a regular visitor to JJ Moon's, Landseer Road N19 and the Old Suffolk Punch in Green Lanes N4. Today, I regularly visit three or four of Tim Martin's pubs and find that most of the beers have an 'off' taste, i.e. they don't taste like the beers they are supposed to be. I rarely drink more than a pint

before moving on to a pub where I know the beer will taste like it should.

I wonder whether other members (e.g. Keith Flett or Colin Price) have noticed this 'off' taste.

Could the cellar management or dispense arrangements be responsible? Who supplies the beers? Are they responsible? Have Cask Marque picked up on this phenomenon?

Geoff Bradley Potters Bar

Dear Editor

FREEMASONS EXCLUSIVELY?

I have visited the Freemasons in Hampstead for twenty years or more and have always appreciated the opportunity to sit outside in its garden in a family friendly environment. Recently I became a father and looked forward to taking advantage of the opportunity to sit in its garden and drink their excellent beer. FORGET IT. I arrived last summer and strolled in with my son in a pram and was faced with a lady at the front door who insisted on asking me what my table number was. When I told her that I did not need a table number and that all I planned to do was have a few drinks and sit outside in the garden with my son. She immediately let me know in no uncertain terms, despite my protestations, that without a table number I should forget about the rather naive idea that I could stroll up to the bar and order a drink.

Obviously I had no choice but to leave. IS THE FREEMASONS A PUB OR CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE NO LONGER HAVE A DRINK THERE?

Perhaps you could pass this message on to your readers.

Brian Kettell By email

BEERS TO BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

There is no fixed definition of Winter Ales but may brewers produce a seasonal beer such as Fuller's blackberry flavoured Jack Frost and Young's ruby black Winter Warmer. The longer hours of darkness are matched by the longer fermentation and dark colours of Old Ales such as Theakston's Old Peculier and Robinson's Old Tom. Many also associate winter with the strong Barley Wines, generally only available in bottles and packing ABVs of around 10%.

Kingston and Leatherhead Branch will follow a pre-Christmas crawl in Surbiton on 22 December to try and seek out some Winter Ales, starting at 8pm at the Victoria in Victoria Road. There will be another winter wander in Epsom on 26 February.

Dave Morgan, branch publicity officer, recommends, 'Try a winter ale and beat the winter blues. Have a Hoppy Christmas.'

YOU'RE DUE A DEUCHARS.



CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

BRANCH DIARIES

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA 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 December 2003 and January 2004 are listed below.

Branch meetings and socials are open to all - everyone is welcome to come along.

LONDON PUBS GROUP. Jane Jephcote 020-7973 3102 (W), jane.jephcote@english-heritage.org.uk All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

December – Wed 10 Evening Crawl of EC2, EC3 and E1. Meet (7pm) Old Doctor Butler's Head, 2 Mason's Ave, EC2; then (7.45) Throgmorton's (downstairs), 27a Throgmorton St, EC2; (8.30) Jamaica Wine House, St Michael's Alley (off Cornhill), EC3; (9pm) Lamb, 10-12 Leadenhall Market, EC3; (9.45) Dirty Dick's, 202 Bishopsgate, EC2; (10.15) Gun, 54 Brushfield St, E1; (10.45) Ten Bells, 84 Commercial St, E1.

January – Wed 14 (7.15 for 7.30) Meeting. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs).

BEXLEY. Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H) Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON. Terry Hewitt 020-8660 5931 (H), 020-7918 3242 (W)

December – Wed 3 (8.30) 2 pub social, Black Horse, 335 Lwr. Addiscombe Rd., Addiscombe then (dep 9.30) to Claret, Bingham Cnr., Lwr. Addis. Rd. - Thu 11 (8.30) Xmas social, Little Windsor, 13 Greyhound Rd., Sutton. Tue 16 (8.30) Social, Royal Standard, 1 Sheldon St., Croydon.

January – Thu 8 (8.30) Social, Ship of Fools, 9-11 London Rd., W. Croydon. – Tue 20 (8.30) Social, New Town, 7 Lind Rd. Sutton. - Thu 29 (8.30) Branch meeting (incl. PotY Boro' final selection and GBG 2005 shortlisting), Windsor Castle, 378 Carshalton Rd., Carshalton.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY. Bob Walker 07957 793360 (M) Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET. Brian Willis 020-8441 1892 (H), Work: Brian. Willis@Saffery.com

December – Tue 2 (9pm) GBG Promo. Monken Holt, 193 High St, Barnet EN5. - Wed 10 (9pm) GBG Promo. Rising Sun, Highwood Hill, Mill Hill NW7. - Sat 13 (7.30 for 8pm) Xmas Meal Three Horseshoes, 1166 High Rd, Whetstone N20. £17.50 per head, £5 deposit. Bookings contact Robin Forshaw-Wilson 020-8203 0598 (H) - Tue 16 (9pm) GBG Promo. Railway Bell, 13 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet EN4. - Tue 23 (9pm) Social. Dog & Duck, 74 Hoppers Rd, Winchmore Hill N21.

January – Thu 1 (12 noon) Cobweb Social Orange Tree, 18 Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - Tue 6 (9pm) GBG Promo. Old Mitre, 58 High St, Barnet EN5. - Thu 15 (9pm) Social. Moon under Water, 115 Chase Side, Enfield EN2. - Tue 20 2 Pub Social in East Finchley N2. (9pm) Five Bells, 165/167 East End Rd; (10pm) Windsor Castle, The Walks. - Thu 29 (9pm) Social and London Drinker pick up. Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd, Barnet EN5.

Branch members can join news group by e-mail to camraenfieldandbarnet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Website: camranorthlondon.org.uk/enfieldandbarnet

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD.

Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H) 020-8540 1901 (W)
December – Tue 9 (8.30) Branch meeting. Swan, Mill St,
Kingston. - Thu 18 (8pm for 8.30) Xmas Dinner. Wych
Elm, Elm Rd, Kingston. £18.50 per head, deposit £5. Mon 22 Christmas Drinks in Surbiton. Meet (8pm)
Victoria, then Hogs Head, Lamb, etc.

January – Tue 6 (8.30) Branch meeting. Albert Arms, Kingston Hill, Kingston. – Sun I8 Afternoon drinks along the river in Kingston. Meet (2.30) Boaters, Canbury Gdns, then to the Bishop and others. – Tue 27 (8pm) Help fill and address envelopes for the AGM at Surrey County Council Staff Club, Penrhyn Rd, Kingston. Usually three ales on.

Website: Kandl@camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON. Social contact: Mike Rose 07986 458517, lynnmikerose@aol.com; Branch contact: Mick Lewis 020-7935 1350 Mob. 07952 244687 orientmoron@yahoo.com

December – Tue 2 (8pm) Visit to Pigs Ear Beer festival, Old Town Hall, Stratford Broadway E15. - Tue 9 (8pm) Branch Xmas party. Duke of Hamilton, 23 New End NW3. - Tue 16 (8pm) Social. Hawley Arms, 2 Castlehaven Rd, NW1; then Spread Eagle 141 Albert St, NW1. - Tue 23 (8pm) Social. Mabels Tavern, 9 Mabledon Pl, WC1; then Lamb, 94 Lamb's Conduit St, WC1.

January – Mon 5 (8pm) Social. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd, N1. - Tue13 (8pm) Social. Crown, 116 Cloudesley Rd, N1. - Tue 20 (8pm) London Drinker Beer Festival meeting. King's Arms, 11a Northington St, WC1. - Tue 27 (8pm) WC1 Social. Enterprise, 38 Red Lion St (30 year certificate presentation), then Dolphin, 44 Red Lion St. Website:www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. Brian Kirton 020-8384 7284 (H), sk014j4253@blueyonder.co.uk

December - Sat 6 (from 11.15) Branch Social at Pigs Ear Beer Festival, Stratford Town Hall, E15. Meet there or on 10.07 Silverlink train from Richmond. - Fri 12/Sat 13 (7.30 onwards each night) Campaigning/party nights at the Red Lion, Linkfield Rd., Isleworth (Branch Pub of the Year 2003) with 12 Christmas beers expected and live music. - Wed 17 (8.30) Branch meeting, Red Cow, 59 Sheen Rd., Richmond. - Fri 19 (7.30 for 8.30) Branch Xmas Dinner, Popes Grotto, Cross Deep, Twickenham, menu options @ £19.85, drinks extra. Contact Brian for details and booking. January - Wed 7 Feltham pub surveying crawl, start (8pm) Sawyers Arms (cnr. Ashford Rd/Chertsey Rd), then incl. Three Horseshoes, Rose & Crown, Red Lion and (10pm) Moon on the Square. - Tue 13 (8.30) Moon under Water, 84/88 Staines Rd., Hounslow, open meeting for nominations for 2005 GBG: all welcome as are suggestions. - Wed 21 (8.30) Branch meeting (incl. GBG short-listing), Brewery Tap, Catherine Wheel Rd., Brentford. - Mon 26 (8pm) Eel Pie, Church St.,

BRANCH DIARIES

Twickenham, first meeting of the 2004 Beer Festival sub-committee: all welcome with ideas and recommendations, not necessarily with any organisational commitment but help would be nice! Website: www.jobin.freeserve.co.uk/rhcamra1.htm

SOUTH EAST LONDON.

Richard Martin 020-8402 0424

December – Tue 9 (8pm) Branch/Committee meeting. Two Doves, 37 Oakley Rd, Bromley Common. - Sat 13 (8pm) Xmas Party, Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1.

January – Tue 13 (8pm) Branch/Committee meeting.
Gate Clock, SE10 (next to Cutty Sark DLR station). Tue 20 (7.30) Branch AGM, Shipwrights Arms, Tooley
St, SE1. - Tue 27 (8pm) Catford Beer Festival planning meeting. Tigers Head, Bromley Rd, SE6.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX.

Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H), swessex@clara.co.uk
December – Wed 1 (8.30) Social at Pigs Ear Beer
Festival. Stratford Old Town Hall, E15 - Tue 9 (8.30)
Presentation as Branch Club of the Year to Grays
Athletic FC, Bridge Rd, Grays followed by
nominations for Good Beer Guide 2005. If you can't
make this and want to suggest a pub, please contact
Andrew Clifton - Thu 18 (8.30) Xmas Social. White
Horse, 173 Coxtie Green Rd, Coxtie Green.
Minibus/transport arranged from Chadwell Heath,
Romford, Upminster and Stanford le Hope. Contact
Graham Platt 020-8220 0215 or Anne Radley 01708
250146. - Tue 23 (8.30) Social. Chequers, North
St/Billet La, Hornchurch (next to Emerson Park
station).

January – Thu 1 (8pm) (Yes, it is New Years Day!)
Social at Chelmsford Winter Ale Festival, 'Placcy Bar',
Anglia Polytechnic University, Chelmsford (details at
www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk). – Wed 7 (8.30) Social.
Travellers Friend, 496-498 High Rd (A104), Woodford
Green – Thu 15 (8pm) Social at Grays Athletic FC Beer
Festival, Bridge Rd, Grays – Wed 21 (8.30) Social.
Anchor, Civic Sq, Tilbury – Thu 29 (8.30) Social.
Britannia, 1 Church Rd, Barking.
Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON.

Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H) 020-7438 6565 (W), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk.

December – Thu 18 (from 6pm) Xmas anti-social. Crown & Sceptre, 2A Streatham Hill, SW2. January – Sun 4 (12.15) Branch meeting, including GBG 2005 short-listing. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19. – Tue 27 (8pm) Battersea Beer Festival planning meeting. Rose & Crown, 55 High St, Wimbledon Village SW19. Website: www.swlcamra.org

WATFORD & DISTRICT.

Andrew Vaughan 01923 230104, watfordcamra@hotmail.com

December – Mon 1 (8.15) Committee meeting. Estcourt Arms, Watford (contact branch to confirm). - Wed 3 Social at Pig's Ear Beer Festival, Stratford. - Wed 10 (8pm, viewing 7.30) Breweriana Auction. West Herts Sports Club. Come along and buy those last-minute Xmas presents! - Tue 16 Christmas curry evening in Watford. Please get in touch for details and booking. January - Fri 9 (8.30) Social. Swan, Pimlico; (9.30) White Hart, Bedmond; (10.15) Bell, Bedmond. - Fri 16 Pre-Xmas London Pub Crawl. Details to follow. - Wed 21 Bushey Social. (8.30) King Stag; (9.15) Swan. - Mon 26: (8.15) Committee meeting. Estcourt Arms, Watford (contact branch to confirm). - Tue 27 Watford Social. (8.30) White Lion; (9.15) Wellington Arms; (10pm) Estcourt Arms.

WEST LONDON Alasdair Boyd (Social Secretary)

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

020-7930 9871 Ext 143 (2.30 to 3.15 Mon to Fri) banqueting@nlc.org.uk Fax: 020 7839 4768 December - Fri 5 Out of Branch social. Meet (7pm) at cider bar, Pig's Ear Festival, Old Town Hall, Broadway, Stratford E15. - Mon 8 (7.30) 30 years in GBG presentation. Britannia, Allen St W8. - Tue 9 West London Guide survey crawl. Meet (7pm) Bushranger, 55 Goldhawk Rd, finishing (10pm) Central Bar, Unit 1, W12 Shopping Centre. - Wed 17 (7.30) Branch meeting. Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews West, SW1. - Sat 27 (6pm) Post-Xmas social. Brook Green Hotel, 170 Shepherds Bush Rd, W6. - Tue 30 Two pub crawl. (7pm) Warrington Hotel, 93 Warrington Cresc; (8.15) Warwick Castle, 6 Warrington Pl, W9. January - Tue 6 (7pm) Social. Duke of Wellington, 94a Crawford St, W1. - Mon 12 (7pm) Quiz night.

January – Tue 6 (7pm) Social. Duke of Wellington, 94a Crawford St, W1. - Mon 12 (7pm) Quiz night. Carpenters Arms (upstairs room), 12 Seymour Pl, W1. - Wed 14 GBG 2005 survey crawls. Meet (7pm) Victoria, 10A Strathearn Pl, W2. - Thu 15 (7pm) Crown (at Chelsea) Surprise, 153 Dovehouse St, SW3. - Thu 22 (7pm) Blackbird, 209 Earls Court Rd, SW5. - Thu 27 Soho revisited. (7pm) Dog & Duck, Bateman St; (7.30) Ship, 116 Wardour St; (8pm) Star & Garter, 62 Poland St; (9pm) Coach & Horses, 29 Greek St; (10pm) Harp, 47 Chandos Pl WC2.

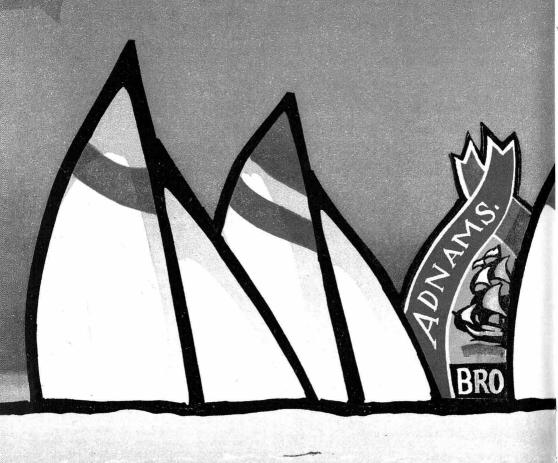
WEST MIDDLESEX. Paul Dabrowski (Social Secretary) 020-8571-9146 (H) 0118-923 7445 (W).

December – Tue 2 North Ealing W5 Two-pub social. (8pm) Duffy's, then Duke of Kent, Pitshangar La. - Wed 10 (8.30) Branch meeting. Load of Hay, Villier St, Uxbridge. - Sat 20 (6.41) Xmas Party. Conservative & Unionist Club, Fairlawn, Southall (£6 at the door including food and complimentary pint). Further details from Branch Contact. - Sun 28 Denham five pub social. (12 noon) Green Man, Swan, Falcon (all in Village Rd); Plough, Cheapside La; then Nine Stiles, New Town Rd, New Denham.

January – Tue 6 Three-pub social. (8pm) Forester, Leighton Rd, West Ealing, then T J Duffy's and Plough, both Northfields Ave, Northfields. - Wed 14 (8.30) Branch meeting (GBG 2005 nominations). Royal Oak, Peel Rd, Wealdstone. - Wed 21 Alperton two-pub social. (8pm) Plough, then Fox & Goose, both Hanger La. - Thu 29 London Drinker distribution. (8pm) Magpie & Crown, High St, Brentford (pickup); then Fox, Green La, Hanwell (first drop off).

Electronic copy deadline for the February/March 2004 edition: 14th January 2004. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

ADNAMS BROADSIDE.
CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2003.
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ADNAMS. BEER FROM THE COAST

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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.

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

This time we welcome the acquisition by Shepherd Neame of two more London pubs in W1 Mayfair and WC2 Covent Garden. Hall & Woodhouse have rescued and reopened a former Young's pub in WC1 Holborn and closed a pub in SW3 Chelsea. The Laurel Pub Co (ex-Whitbread) have actually converted a cafe-bar into a traditional pub in WC2 Charing Cross! Could this be the breakthrough we are all awaiting? Wetherspoons have transferred one of their W6 Hammersmith pubs to its Lloyds No 1 estate. Wizard Inns have opened a new pub in Surbiton. The Puzzle Pub Co continues to revamp and rename its recently acquired Old Monk pubs. Freedom Brewery has sold on its WC2 Covent Garden brewpub, and its W1 Soho brewpub is believed to be for sale. We catch up on some new bar openings in trendy areas like

E1 Shoreditch, E14 Canary Wharf and N1 Hoxton where real ale is in little evidence. Traditional pubs continue to close and be converted to other uses all over the capital. In Hadley Highstone, Barnet, both the local pubs are now converted to upmarket restaurants. One bright note is the reopening as real ale pubs of two former pubs converted to restaurants in SE1 Bermondsey and SW13 Barnes (albeit only in part).

Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are provided to enable easy updating. 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; HB - Holborn & Bloomsbury Pub Guide; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; KT - Kingston Pub Guide; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West 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

EC4, FIFTEEN 05, All Hallows Lane. Adnams: Bitter, Broadside, seasonal beer. Long basement Free House bar occupying a brick archway underneath Cannon Street main line station. Opened in 2000 in former club premises but not previously reported. Carpeted floors with a mixture of tables and chairs, spot lighting and exposed brick walls and ceiling. Steps lead to an upper gallery seating area overlooking the main bar, complete with grand piano, played occasionally at lunchtime by the owner. Food lunchtime and evenings. Pleasant background music. Doors near the entrance lead through to the archway next door used for private functions. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri only. EC4, LAST (THE), 83 Shoe Lane. Adnams: Bitter, Fuller:

London Pride. New modern style bar opened December 2002 by growing Lewis & Clarke Free House chain at entrance to Athena Place office complex. Silver metal-clad exterior with large, floor to ceiling windows. Internally fitted out in a variety of conflicting styles with polished dark wood flooring, light pine clad walls, brown painted ceiling, chandeliers, exposed ventilation ducts and a raised padded booth seating area at rear. Loud 'music' in evenings. Food available 12-9 (10 Thu/Fri). Open 12-11 Mon-Wed, 12-12 Thu/Fri, closed weekends.

WC1, THREE CUPS, 22 Sandland St. Former Young's pub reopened, renamed OLD NICK and extended into adjoining cafe premises by new owners Hall & Woodhouse, in September, with new address 20-22 Sandland St. -beers listed; +Badger: King & Barnes Bitter; Best, Tanglefoot and seasonal beer (currently Fursty Ferret). Spurious rumours of impending conversion into a restaurant or wine bar have proved unfounded since H&W have carried out a sensitive and upmarket refurbishment in their traditional style (cf Ship & Shovell, WC2), with polished wooden flooring and panelling, glasswork, partitions and booths complete with red and cream decor

and a mixture of seating - benches, stools, chairs and tables etc. A separate sitting room is retained at the rear of the bar. Plasma screens are available for sports events and discreet background music plays. Drapes adorn the large windows. Allegedly renamed in honour of a learned friend of one of H&W's directors, following a bet. The pub sign apparently displays a likeness of the Old Nick in question. If this is so, it is sad to see the loss of yet another historic pub name for such a trivial reason and rather tarnishes the otherwise praiseworthy rescue job carried out by H&W. To add to the confusion, 'Old Nick' is of course the name of the famous barley wine brewed by er... Young's! Food available 12-3. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri only, closed weekends. (W51, U67, U73, U78, N31, U169)

WC2, BONAPARTES, Charing Cross main line station concourse. No real ale. A Free House/café-bar in former coffee bar premises.

WC2, DOME, 8/10 Charing Cross Rd. Renamed GARRICK ARMS. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. A rare example of a cafe-bar converted to a traditional pub! The Dome chain was one of the first cafebar chains, created originally by Courage and later sold to Whitbread. New owners Laurel appear to be rebranding Domes and this one has been turned into a traditional pub with polished wooden flooring, tiles around the bar, red and cream decor, pictures on walls, etc. Open all normal hours. (U146)

WC2, TUTTONS, Covent Garden Piazza, corner of Russell St. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in former commercial premises with small bar area accessed from Russell St.

WC2, VILLIERS, The Arches, Villiers St. No real ale. Free House/bar attached to Villiers Theatre (formerly Players Theatre), open to general public.

EAST

E1, DRUNKEN MONKEY, 222 Shoreditch High St. No real ale. Free House/Chinese bar and eatery. Formerly

TRADERS BAR but not previously reported. Originally commercial premises.

E1, JAM, 123 Shoreditch High St. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises.

E14, 1802, No 1 Warehouse, Port East Building, West India Quay, Hertsmere Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in old warehouse run by Seagay's chain

E14, BELUGA CAFE, Port East Building, West India Quay, Hertsmere Rd. No real ale. Free House/champagne & wine bar also offering keg beer.

NORTH

N1, BLUU, 1 Hoxton Sq. No real ale. Free House/bar in former commercial premises.

N1, HOXTON SQUARE BAR, 2-4 Hoxton Sq. No real ale. Free House/bar in former commercial premises.

N1, TROY BAR, 10 Hoxton St. No real ale. Free House/bar in former commercial premises.

N1, ZIGFRID, 11 Hoxton Sq. No real ale. Free House/bar in former commercial premises.

NORTH WEST

NW1, EDINBORO CASTLE, 57 Mornington Terrace. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Fuller: London Pride (£1.25 a half). Reinstatement of real ale. (N165, U158).

NW5, HIGHGATE, Highgate Studios, 53-79 Highgate Rd. Marston: Pedigree. New Free House run by Kushi Ltd on ground floor of former commercial premises now converted to studio flats. Opened June 2001 but not previously reported. Decorated in contemporary style with large windows, maroon and cream decor, exposed structural steelwork, grey flooring, mixture of seating. Food. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. Real ale not always available.

NW5, VINE, 86 Highgate Rd. Fuller: London Pride (reinstatement). (N201, U158)

NW10, GREYHOUND, 64-66 Chamberlayne Rd. No real ale. New Free House run by Kushti Ltd in former wine bar and shop premises, opened early November.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, YORKSHIRE GREY, 99/101 Bermondsey St. Reopened as a pub and renamed GARRISON (THE), after a spell as the 'Honest Cabbage' restaurant. Adnams; Bitter (£2.70 a pint). Basic style decor with bleached wooden floorboards, the odd woven carpet and a motley collection of old tables and chairs etc. Food lunchtimes (till 3) and evenings. Movies downstairs in basement Sat, Sun & Mon. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

SOUTH WEST

SW1 (B), EBURY ARMS, 11 Pimlico Rd. Reopened and now simply EBURY (THE). Marston: Pedigree on unmarked handpump @ £2.70 a pint. Former Enterprise Inns pub acquired by Tom Etridge and now part of small gastropub chain which includes the Wells, NW3. Smart, tasteful decor with polished flooring, subtle lighting, cream and greyish painted walls. Optional table service with about half the ground floor given over to eaters and, in addition, a restaurant upstairs. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. (SW37, U167)

SW6, BABUSHKA HOUSE, 648 Kings Rd. Reopened by

Greene King and renamed MORRISON. Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Formerly PALMERSTON (BLUE ROOM LOUNGE BAR), originally LORD PALMERSTON. (SW69, U143, U155, U168)

SW13, GOURAMYS, 28 Cross St. Courage: Best Bitter; 3 guest beers. Formerly ROSE OF DENMARK and converted to Gouramys restaurant in December 2002, it is now operating as part pub, part restaurant, with the pub part named the Rose Bar. A welcome return to pub use. (SW95, U136, U149).

SW17, SPIRIT, 94 Tooting High St. No real ale. Small Free House/cafe-bar in former shop premises opened c1998 but not previously reported.

SW17, SMOKE, 14 Trinity Rd. No real ale. Small bar/diner opened in former shop premises near Tooting Bec station. Leffe on keg.

SW19, EDWARDS, Unit 8 Hartfield Rd (next door to Yates's). No real ale. Opened June 2003 by M&B in newly built cinema and shopping complex. Unfortunately real ale no longer features in the Edwards chain.

SURBITON, BROADWAY BAR CAFE, 43-51

Broadway, Tolworth. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Young: Bitter. Beers may vary and only one tends to be available. New glass-fronted Wizard Inns Free House opened late July in former shop premises. Bright and airy. Food lunchtime and early evenings (with table service). Low lighting and loud music after 8pm. Open 10-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

WEST

W8, SETTLE DOWN, Basement, Barkers Centre, 63-65 Kensington High St. Fuller: London Pride; Wells: Bombardier. New Free House/basement bar opened c2001 by the small 'Settle Inn' chain but not previously reported. Inconspicuous entrance in middle of Barkers' frontage leads down two flights of stairs and along a corridor into two interconnecting rooms comprising the bar area. Cream and maroon décor, polished wooden flooring, mixture of tables, benches and chairs, pictures on walls, subtle lighting. Separate room on opposite side of corridor has comfy sofas and tartan décor. Additional function room also available. Food 12-3, 6-10. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri only.

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, CROSBY HEAD. Renamed BAR 170, Free House, ex-Truman, H removed. (E14, U94, U97)

EC4, OLD COBBLERS (& TERRACE BRASSERIE). Renamed WALKABOUT in November 2001, Regent Inns, H removed. Formerly CROWN & ANCHOR, FLEETS and SPATZ. (E54, U69, U98, U118, U161)

EC4, SMITHFIELDS FREE HOUSE, Free House, closed and boarded up. (E24, U66, U84)

W1(May), PITCHER & PIANO, 10 Pollen St. Wolves & Dudley (ex-Marston), no real ale. (U143)

W1(S), ADMIRAL DUNCAN, S&N, H unused. (W41, U51, U76, U93)

W1(S), INTREPID FOX, M&B (ex-Bass). No real ale. (W43, U48, U151)

W1(S), RED LION, 14 Kingly St. Sam Smith, no real ale, (W44)

WC2, CONSERVATORY, ex-Taylor Walker. No real ale. Formerly CAFÉ MUNCHEN. (W52, U92)

WC2, CORNER STORE, Free House, no real ale. Formerly BAR ZOLAS, LATEST RUMOURS and RUMOURS. (U54, U130, U142, U161)

WC2, SLUG & LETTUCE, 13/14 St Martins Lane. SFI, no real ale. (U106)

EAST

E1, CITY OF CARLISLE, Inn Business, converted to 'Rosemary Lane' restaurant. (E63, U73, U79, U135) E1, DOCKS & CO, Free House, H removed. (U108) E1, OLD MONK, 32 Leman St, Free House, closed, future uncertain. (U131, U170)

E3, IMPERIAL CROWN, Sycamore Taverns, closed, planning application submitted for conversion to residential use. (E90, U89, U99, U159)

E3, MOULDERS ARMS, Unique, closed, to let. (E91, U76. U160)

E4, FOX & HOUNDS, ex-Watney, converted to children's nursery. (E95)

E15, ANGEL, ex-Bass, closed and boarded up. (E151) E15, BACCHUS'S BIN. Renamed THAILANDER BAR, Free House, H removed. (E152, U118, U131, U172) E15, KINGS HEAD, ex-Bass, H now removed. (E154, U73)

E16, RAM, ex-Phoenix, now used as a cafe serving surrounding building site workers. (E160, U112, U144, U167)

DAGENHAM, PIPERS, ex-Courage, now confirmed

and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

demolished. Originally FANSHAW TAVERN. (X45, U156)

GOODMAYES, BRIDGE HOUSE, Free House, H removed. (X55)

GOODMAYES, LORD NAPIER, ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. (X55)

HAINAULT, OAK, ex-Taylor Walker, converted to flats. (X61)

NORTH

N1, GENERAL PICTON. Renamed DRIVER (THE), Free House, H removed. Renovated in cafe-bar style. (N44)

N1, GEORGE IV, 156 Pentonville Rd, Free House (Beards), demolished. (N46)

N1, SHAWS FREE HOUSE, Free, closed/boarded up since 2001. (N57)

N2, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, ex-Truman, demolished. (N66)

N2, WEAVERS, 95 High Rd. Renamed GERTIE BROWNES in late 2002. Free House, H unused. Formerly HOWARDS WAY. Note correct address. (See also corrections below) (N66, U153)

N3, QUEENS HEAD, S&N, H unused. (N70, U106) N8, FAMOUS PIG & WHISTLE. Renamed MOLLIE MALONE'S, ex-Greenalls and probably now a Free

House, H removed. Formerly DICKS BAR. (N93, U157) N8, GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY TAVERN, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (N93)

N8, THREE COMPASSES, Free House, no real ale. (N96, U159)

N12, HOLLYWOOD. Renamed BAR ORIGINAL, Bass

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum

	1 0			
Name(s)				
Address				
Signature			Date	
I/We enclose the remitt	ance for individual/j	oint membership.		
	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£16	£19	£192	£228
Rest of the World	£20 🔲	£23	£240	£276
Under age 26	£9 Date of b	irth		
Unemployed/Disabled	29			
OAP	29	£12	£108	£144
Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA	Ltd) to:		

Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Leisure. Handpumps and in-house brewing equipment removed some time ago from this former brewpub, now just a bar attached to the Hollywood Bowl ten pin bowling alley. (U120)

N14, MERRYHILLS. Now part of the ex-Taylor Walker 'Q's' chain, no real ale. (N119)

BARNET (EN5), KING WILLIAM IV, ex-Benskins, confirmed converted to 'Prezzo' Italian restaurant. Loss of this pub and the Old Windmill next door leaves the Hadley Highstone area with no pub at all and shows up the weakness of our planning system, which permits change of use from a pub to a restaurant without the need for planning approval. (N251, H19, U173)

BARNET (EN5), OLD WINDMILL, Free House, confirmed converted to upmarket 'Loch Fyne' fish restaurant and oyster bar in 2000. (N252, U153)

NORTH WEST

NW3, KING OF BOHEMIA, Laurel, closed and now used as a charity shop. (N187, U110)

NW5, TALLY HO, Greene King, H unused. (N200, U117, U155)

NW11, HARVESTER, M&B, demolished. Formerly PRINCE ALBERT. (N227, U167)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, TRINITY ARMS, Free House, still closed and boarded up. (SE36, U106, U125)

The Oakdale Arms London's newest real ale pub

8 hand pumps serving cask conditioned ales from a fantastic range of British microbreweries with Milton Brewery Beers always on the bar.

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283 Hermitage Road Harringay, London, N4 1NP Nearest Tube - Seven Sisters, Manor House Tel: 020 8800 2013 www.individualpubs.co.uk/oakdale/ SE18, ORDNANCE. Renamed O'CONNOR'S, still no real ale. Formerly ORDNANCE ARMS. (SE171, U156)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), OLD ROSE, S&N, closed and boarded up. (SW49, U165)

SW3, BLENHEIM, Hall & Woodhouse, closed and boarded up. (SW55)

SW6, FULHAM DRAY, ex-Whitbread, closed, future uncertain. (SW67)

SW6, SHOELESS JOE'S, Free House, converted to 'Blue Kangaroo' family restaurant and play centre. Formerly BIJU for a while. (U157, U163, U167, U170)

SW10, WATER RAT, ex-Inntrepreneur, closed, future uncertain. (SW86)

SW17, **GORDON BENNETT**, Wizard, H unused. (SW109, U135, U151, U168)

SW17, MITRE, ex-Ind Coope, H removed. (SW110, U151)

SW17, PLOUGH, ex-Bass, no real ale. (SW110, U144, U151, U159)

SW18, LIVEBAIT, Free House/fish restaurant, closed, to let (SW114, U149, U163)

SW18, SPOTTED DOG, Planet Inns, closed. (SW114, U138, U146, U167)

SW19, PRINCE OF WALES, 336 Western Rd, Colliers Wood, closed and boarded up. (SW119, U142)

J.J. Duffy



282 NORTHFIELD AVENUE, EALING, LONDON W5 4UB Tel: 0208 932 1711 Fax:0208 932 1722

GUEST BEER REDUCED IN PRICE ON TUESDAYS

THIS MONTH'S GUESTS INCLUDE GREENE KING 1799 FULLERS LONDON PORTER & 1845 WADWORTH'S 6X

MONDAY NIGHT - QUIZ NIGHT TUESDAY NIGHT - REAL ALE PROMOTION

THURSDAY NIGHT - STEAK & WINE
PROMOTION

SUNDAY LUNCH - 12 noon - 4pm SUNDAY NIGHT - LIVE MUSIC & TAKE YOUR PICK

ALWAYS IN STOCK - FULLERS LONDON PRIDE AND GREENE KING ABBOT

NEAREST TUBE - NORTHFIELDS (PICCADILLY LINE)

WEST

W2, RAT & PARROT, S&N, no real ale. Formerly BENTLEYS. (W58, U55, U94, U102, U107, U163)

W2, WHITE HART, S&N, closed and boarded up since early 2003. (W64, U93, U107)

W6, LE ST PIERRE, Free House, H unused. Formerly CARPENTERS ARMS. (W74, U55, U89, U94, U138)

W8, CATHERINE WHEEL, ex-Bass, closed, future uncertain. (W79, U92, U105)

W11, LIQUID LOUNGE, ex-Bass, closed, future uncertain. Formerly PRINCESS ALEXANDRA. (W90, U131)

W14, HOLLAND ARMS, Phoenix, now converted to restaurant. (W94, U106, U112, U142)

W14, LIVE & LET LIVE, Greene King, H unused. Was PICKLED NEWT (OLYMPIA) for a while. (W94, U71, U92, U97, U98, U119, U141)

W14, LORD NELSON, ex-Courage, now converted to a private house. (W94, U71, U117)

W14, OLD OAK, now Punch, ex-Bass. No real ale. (W95, U74)

W14, PRIORY, Free House, no real ale. Formerly SAM WORTHINGTONS, originally ROYAL OAK. (W95, U68, U70, U71, U92, U126, U130, U156)

HOUNSLOW, QUEENS ARMS, Innspired (ex-Ushers), closed, boarded up and awaiting demolition for incorporation in bus garage. Formerly GREYHOUND, (W126, U89, U95, U108)

ISLEWORTH, KINGS ARMS, ex-Watney, closed and boarded up. (W131, U60, U62, U158)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, SIR CHRISTOPHER HATTON. Renamed GOOSE (AT HATTON GARDEN), -beers listed; +Boddington: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Tetley: Bitter. (E24)

EC4, CAFE BAR, Cannon Street main line station concourse. Renamed BONAPARTES, -Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Still a café-bar. Formerly BUFFET BAR. (E47, U105)

EC4, PORTERS LODGE, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. (E52)

EC4, LEARNED MONK. Renamed PUZZLE EC4, beers listed except Courage: Directors; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Refurbished in light and airy Puzzle style. (U108, U170)

W1(F), BAR PM (PRINCE MONOLULU). Renamed PÔTON. Free House, still no real ale. Formerly YORKSHIRE GREY. (W33, U67, U120)

W1(F), GREEN MAN (IN FITZROVIA). Now simply GREEN MAN, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride. (W29, U80)

W1(F), HOPE, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord. Now Laurel, ex-Whitbread, and operated by 'Real London Pub Co' as tenants. (W29, U50)

W1(F), MATRIX. Renamed SOUTHSIDE BAR, Free House, still no real ale. (W28, U74, U101, U105, U147)

W1(F), SURGEON (Ye OLDE). Renamed PINT POT, beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier. Originally NEW INN. (W32, U89)

W1(F), WHEATSHEAF, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +guest beers. Now operated by 'Real London Pub Co', ex-S&N. (W33, U50, U69, U98)

W1(May), COACH & HORSES, 5 Hill St, -beers listed; +Shepherd Neame: Bitter, Spitfire, seasonal beer. Former Bass pub acquired by Shepherd Neame in August 2002 but not previously reported. Renovated in traditional style in January. Food. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri only, closed weekends. (W38, U80, U90)

W1(May), OLD MONK. Renamed STONE HOUSE, - beers listed except Courage: Directors; +Courage: Best Bitter; +guest beer. Formerly GILLRAYS. (W39, U90, U93, U102, U131, U133, U170)

W1 (S), BAR MONACO. Renamed MAI TAI BAR, still no real ale. Now primarily a cocktail bar but retaining keg lagers, sold only in half pints! Formerly BURLINGTON BERTIE. (U97, U146, U152)

W1(S), BLUE POSTS, 22 Berwick St. Now Unique, ex-Watney. (W41, U93)

W1(S), COACH & HORSES, 29 Greek St. -Tetley: Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree. Now Punch, ex-Taylor Walker. (W41, U53, U143)

W1(S), ZEBRANO. New brewer Ian Ward (who has set up brewpubs in South East Asia and the Far East) now brews only a pils and a wheat beer once a week, both at 5% ABV. Still owned by Freedom Brewery but understood to be up for sale. Formerly FREEDOM. Note correct spelling of name. (U152, U164)

WC1, OLD MONK. Renamed PUZZLE WC1, beers as in HB guide. (U102, N26, U170, HB11)

WC2, CHESHIRE CHEESE, -John Smith: Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier; +guest beer. Now run by the 'Pub Estate Co', ex-S&N. (W53, U106)

WC2, EDINBURGH TAVERN, -beers listed; +Courage: Directors;+Theakston: Best Bitter. Now run by the 'Pub Estate Co', ex-S&N. (W53, U76)

WC2, FREEDOM, 41 Earlham St. Renamed BÜNKER and acquired from Freedom Brewery in October by the Charlois chain, which has two cocktail bars in Soho. Still no real ale. Retains in-house brewing equipment and new brewer Ian Ward (who also brews at Zebrano) now brews keg Pilsner (4.4%) and Bok (5.4%). Freedom Organic Lager (now believed brewed in Germany) is also available on keg. Refurbished in pseudo-German beer hall style with long benches etc. (U135, U149)

WC2, FREEMASONS ARMS, -beers listed; +Shepherd Neame: Bitter, Spitfire, seasonal beer. Acquired by Shepherd Neame from Greene King in June. (W53)

WC2, WHITE HART. Now thankfully no longer part of the unpleasant 'It's a Scream' chain, its return to normality by M&B comes too late to save much of its original interior fittings. Retains Fuller's London Pride. (W57, U51, U133)

EAST

E1, MERCERS ARMS, -beers listed; +Hancock: HB (E70, U92)

E10, HOUSE BAR. Reverted to LION & KEY. Still no real ale. (E125, U100, U155, U157)

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15th-18th January 2004

30 beers, 6 ciders and a large selection of bottled Belgian beers

Thursday 15th, 6pm - 11pm

Friday 16th, 12 midday - 11pm

Saturday 17th, 12 midday - 11pm

Sunday 18th, 12 midday - 10pm

Live music Thursday 9 - 11pm Gator Blues Saturday 7.30 - 9.30pm Roy Mette

Festival glasses available £2.50

Admission: Thursday 6-11pm £1, Friday 6-11pm £1.50 Saturday 6-11pm £1.50

Free admission to Club Members and card carrying

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SW Essex CAMRA Club of the Year 2003

E16, FIGUREHEAD. Renamed VICTORIA (PUB & KITCHEN). Now completely separated from hotel of which it was once a part. Address is now shown as 265 Victoria Dock Rd. Retains Courage: Best Bitter, Directors. (U160, U163)

E17, HECTORS. Renamed PLOUGH INN, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride, ESB. Major refurbishment. Originally PLOUGH. (E168, U80, U134)

BARKING, CAPTAIN COOK, -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter; +Draught Bass; +Flowers: IPA. (X11)

CHADWELL HEATH, TOLLGATE, -Toby Cask. Now part of 'Sizzling Pub Co' chain. (X27)

CLAYHALL, COCKED HAT. Renamed HARVESTER. (X34, U166)

NORTH

N1, NARROW BOAT, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter; +guest beers. Major refurbishment planned for early 2004. (N53)

N2, FIVE BELLS, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wells: Bombardier. Large community pub with garden, play area, car park and conservatory catering for families (see also Corrections below). (N66)

N6, BULL. Reported as converted to Idaho restaurant in U156. Restaurant now renamed North Six. (N81, U156)

N8, HARRINGEY ARMS, -beers listed (including guest beers) except Courage: Best Bitter; +Courage: Directors. Current GBG pub. (N93)

N8, HOPE & ANCHOR, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Formerly ORANGE KIPPER for a while. (N95, U117, U157)

N8, NOBODY INN. Renamed LION LOUNGE, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride. Formerly LION. (N94, U158)

N14, FISHERMANS ARMS, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. Formerly SOUTHGATE. (N120, U153, U167)

N20, GRIFFIN. Now badged as part of Spirit's 'Firkin Beer Co' chain. (N167, U110, U172)

N21, GRYPHON, -beers listed except Draught Bass. Now part of M&B's Harvester chain but retains original name on pillar outside. (N151)

NORTH WEST

NW1, WORLDS END, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter +Tetley: Bitter. (N177)

NW3, COACH & HORSES. Renamed GERTIE BROWNES (AT THE COACH & HORSES), -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride. Sister pub to one in N2 East Finchley. (N184, U159)

NW3, HAVERSTOCK ARMS, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; + Fuller: London Pride. (N186)

NW3, SIR RICHARD STEELE, -beers listed; + Flowers: IPA, Original. (N189, U144)

NW3, WASHINGTON, -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; + Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord. Tastefully refurbished. (N190, U151)

NW5, BULL & GATE. Now a Lynskeys Free House, ex-Bass. Retains Draught Bass. (N197) NW6, FINNEGANS WAKE, 37 Fortune Green Rd. Renamed INN ON THE GREEN, still no real ale. Formerly PRINCE OF WALES. (N205, U146)

NW6, GROG BLOSSOM (OFF LICENCE), Free, converted to restaurant and now closed. (N204)

NW6, OLD BLACK LION, -beers listed; + Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale, Morland Old Speckled Hen. Formerly RAT & CARROT (BLACK LION) for a while. (N206, U117, U154)

NW6, RAT & PARROT, -beers listed; + Courage: Directors. (N206)

NW10, MAGGIES. Now MAGGIES BAR. Address is 102 Chamberlayne Rd. (N223)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, HITCHCOCKS. Renamed BOROUGH, -beers listed; +Courage: Directors. Now a Free House/bar and restaurant run by the Hartford pub chain, ex-Greene King. (U142)

SE1, LORD CLYDE. Now Unique, ex-Grand Met (Truman). (SE24)

SOUTH WEST

SW3, CADOGAN ARMS TAVERN. Now reverted to CADOGAN ARMS, -beers listed; + Adnams: Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier. Refurbished and badged as part of S&N's 'Original Pub Co' chain. (SW56)

SW11, BRITISH FLAG. Renamed CAREY'S 5, still no real ale, H unused. Now presumably a Free House, ex-Phoenix. (SW87)

SW11, CIRCLE. Renamed HEDONIST CLUB, a Ghanaan bar/restaurant. Still no real ale. Formerly GALANGGA, originally FOUR CHIMNEYS. (SW88, U155, U157)

SW11, GEORGE II (GII). Renamed DUSK, still no real ale. Understood to have late licence. Formerly LEGLESS LADDER. (SW89, U157)

SW12, ECLIPSE. Renamed BLITHE SPIRIT, -beers listed; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Young: Bitter. (U124, U146, U159)

SW16, PARK TAVERN. Renamed SAMUEL JOHNSON, retains Courage: Best Bitter. (SW108)

SW17, FROG & FORGET-ME-NOT, -Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wadworth: 6X. Formerly SELKIRK. (SW110, U144, U163)

SW17, GEORGE, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride. Formerly FREEDOM & FIRKIN. (SW109, U144, U151, U159, U172)

SW17, HARDY'S AT THE TRAFALGAR ARMS, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Morland Old Speckled Hen; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. (SW110, U161)

SW19, SULTAN. Hop Back: Entire Stout has had cask breather removed. (SW120, U146)

SUTTON, HOGSHEAD, -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter, Boddingrton: Bitter and Flowers: Original; +Hook Norton: Bitter (U135)

WEST

W2, CLEVELAND ARMS. Now a Free House run by Fox Taverns, ex-S&N. (W58, U93, U107, U162, U173)

W2, MITRE, -beers listed; + Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA. Now a Free House run by Capital Pub CO, ex-Whitbread. (W62, U93, U135) W2, PRIDE OF PADDINGTON. Now Gresham Inns, w. Wytram crill no real also (W62, U163)

ex-Watney, still no real ale. (W62, U163)

W2 PRINCE ALFRED. Now a Free House operated by Glendale Leisure, ex-Courage. (W62, U150)

W2, ROB ROY, -beers listed; +Caledonian: 80/-. Ex-Free House, now Punch. Formerly ROYAL STANDARD. (W63, U51, U142, U157)

W2, SIR ALEXANDER FLEMING, -beers listed; + Wells: Bombardier. Now Gresham Inns, ex-Watney. (W63, U92)

W6, WILLIAM MORRIS, -Theakston: Best Bitter; +Greene King: Abbot Ale; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +guest beer (eg Everard Tiger). Now badged by Wetherspoon as part of Lloyds No 1 Bar chain, complete with plasma screens and loud 'music', but otherwise little changed. (U131)

BRENTFORD, EXPRESS TAVERN, -Young: Special, Winter Warmer; +2 guest beers. (W97, U92, U99)

TWICKENHAM, DUKES HEAD. Renamed AUSTIN'S BAR, still no real ale. (W150, U164)

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 170

NEW PUBS ETC.

N2, **GERTIE BROWNES**. Delete entry - is WEAVERS renamed (see listings above).

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 173

NEW PUBS ETC.

SW1(W) MILLBANK LOUNGE. Is a Free House and City Inn Hotel is part of address.

W3, ROCKET. Refs omitted: (W65, U92, U98, U148)

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

N2, FIVE BELLS. Delete entry, not demolished but trading as normal. Apologies for erroneous information supplied from a usually reliable source.

N17, WATERS EDGE INN. Should read WATERS EDGE

SE8, OLD MANOR HOUSE. Refs should read (SE81, U102)

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

E1, PRIDE OF SPITALFIELDS. Refs should read (E71, U131, U161)

E11, NIGHTINGALE. Ref omitted: (E129)

N4, OAKDALE ARMS. Reference to Pembury Tavern should read E8.

BARNET (EN5), KING WILLIAM IV. Delete entry correctly shown under 'Pubs closed etc'. See also listings above.



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CASK MARQUE UPDATE

Tew Cask Marque awards to licensees of pubs and clubs in Greater London notified since September are listed below. The asterisk denotes a 2004 Good Beer Guide entry.

ADDITIONS

CENTRAL

EC1, SUTTON ARMS, 6 Carthusian St. Free House (Remarkable Restaurants). (E25, U87, U165) W1(F), FITZROVIA, 18 Goodge St. S&N, formerly FINNEGANS WAKE and originally VALIANT

TROOPER (W32, U82, U98, U137, U171) W1(F), GREEN MAN, 36 Riding House St. M&B (W29,

U80, U174)

W1(Mar), THREE TUNS, 1 Portman Mews South. S&N. (W36, U39, U51, U89, U106)

W1(May), ROSE & CROWN, 2 Old Park Lane. S&N. (W40, U50, U90, U106)

W1(S), BATH HOUSE, 96 Dean St. Laurel. (W41, U48, U93, U129, U141)

W1(S), WHITE HORSE, 16 Newburgh St. M&B. (W44, U92)

WC2, GEORGE, 213 Strand. M&B. (W54) WC2, SEVEN STARS, 53 Carey St. Free House. (W56,

SOUTH EAST

SE1, LORD CLYDE*, 27 Clennam St. Unique. (SE24,

BROMLEY COMMON, CHEQUERS, 177 Southborough Lane. Laurel. (3SE222, K42)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), TALBOT, 2 Little Chester St. S&N. (SW39) SUTTON, HOGSHEAD, 60/62 High St. Laurel. (U135, U174)

WEST

W8, SCARSDALE TAVERN, 23A Edwardes Sq. S&N. (W83, U95, U107)

TWICKENHAM, ST MARGARETS, 107 St Margarets Rd. S&N. (W151, U94, U99, U107)

Over 2,300 licensees have the Cask Marque award. The beer in their outlets has been independently inspected for beer quality.

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DELIVERY OF POLYPINS - WE CAN DELIVER POLYPINS NATIONWIDE

LITERARY PUBS OF LONDON - PART 2

Many historic pubs line the Thames River, but one of the most famous is the Prospect of Whitby (57 Wapping Wall, E1, Wapping-East London Line Tube); (020-7481 1095). Mentioned in P. D. James's mystery novel, Original Sin, the Prospect of Whitby, originally known as the Devil's Tavern, has a long and gruesome history as the site of public executions of criminals, notably pirates. Look out of the window to see the noose swaying the in wind as the Thames laps the walls of the pub. Samuel Pepys was a regular when he worked as secretary to the Admiralty; go upstairs to see Ye Pepys Room and a well-appointed dining room with views of the river. Other writers and artists, including Dickens, Gustave Dore, Turner, and Whistler, found their way to the pub. Dickens may have used this as the model for the pub, the Six Jolly Fellowship Porters, in Our Mutual Friend. Take the Metropolitan Line to Wapping Station, turning right on Wapping High St. Wapping Wall runs parallel on the right, a 5 minute walk away and well worth the effort. My pint of Old Speckled Hen was in prime condition.

A seventeenth century pub on the Thames, the Dove, is located at 19 Upper Mall, Hammersmith W6 - Hammersmith Tube (020- 8748 5405). This historic pub has affiliations with Charles II and Nell Gwynne. Upstairs the famous song, 'Rule Britannia' was written by James Thomson, who lodged and died here. Novelists Graham Greene and Ernest Hemingway also visited this pub. Today's customers can sit inside or on the patio overlooking the river, enjoying the assortment of Fuller's beers on draught. It has been a Fuller's pub since 1796. A very popular pub, the Dove 'has endless associations with literature and the stage,' good reasons to frequent it on the literary pub crawl. To find it, walk from the Tube Station to the green Hammersmith Bridge, turn right, and walk approximately 1/2 mile to the old pub on the Thames.

William Morris, the nineteenth century Man for All Seasons, is commemorated in two pubs in London. One, the William Morris, is at Swan Island, 1-4 King Street, Hammersmith W6 (020-8741 7175), opposite the Hammersmith Tube entrance. This huge pub has photographs, art images, tiles, tapestries, and information on Morris, the famous Hammersmith resident who died there in 1896, aged 62. One of the Wetherspoon pubs, the William Morris offers guest beers and a variety of reasonably priced meals. Take time to wander around the pub and read the plethora of items on the walls connected to Morris.

Hampstead NW3, the leafy northern suburb of London, has been home to several writers and artists, including John Keats, John Galsworthy, Constable and Hogarth. The last of these is connected with the pub allegedly made famous in a music hall song, the Old Bull and Bush (North End Way, Hampstead NW3: Hampstead Tube, 210 bus, or a nice walk from the station); (020-7455 3685). Hogarth lived in the house when he first married and laid out the gardens. Sheridan, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Goldsmith, Charles Dickens and George Du Maurier were customers at the pub, which has recently (spring 2002) undergone renovation. Unfortunately, most of the history of the pub has been ignored, except for a back room near the kitchen in which there are photographs of Florrie Ford, who immortalized the pub in a music hall song. Tradition has been almost ignored, but at least the building remains, which is not true of the nearby Jack Straw's Castle, currently being made into posh flats...

Also in the area is the Spaniards Inn (Spaniards Lane, Hampstead NW3: Hampstead Tube and 210 bus); (020-8455 3276), associated with that rogue highwayman, Dick Turpin, whose father was landlord here and who supposedly checked out his prey from an upper story window, and poet John Keats, who is said to have drunk a pint there, then gone home to write 'Ode to a Nightingale,' or perhaps the poem was written at the pub, according to the information found there. Joshua Reynolds and Lord Byron also drank here. A mention of the Spaniards Inn in literature is the famous tea party in Dickens' Pickwick Papers. Visit the bar named for Turpin, 'Turpin's Room,' read the information on its history scattered throughout the pub, and sit in the lovely and extensive gardens if the weather is nice to quaff your Bass or London Pride.

The Flask (14 Flask Walk, Hampstead NW3, Hampstead Tube); (020-7435 4580) is a traditional pub with two distinct sides, the bar and the lounge. Samuel Richardson described it in Clarissa as 'A place where second-rate persons are to be found occasionally in a swinish condition.' However, this reputation has not survived to the present day. This is a Young's house, and the London brewer has a winner on its hands.

While you are in the neighbourhood, travel to Highgate via Tube or walk there using a local map of Hampstead Heath. The residents are eager to offer directions; just ask. Once there, walk up the hill to the Flask (77 West Hill, Highgate N6, Highgate Tube); (020-8340 7260). It dates from 1663, across from St. Michael's Church, where poet and critic Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his wife are buried. Coleridge lived across the street from the Flask. This popular pub also has connections with highwayman Dick Turpin, who allegedly hid there. Turpin is the model for Macheath, a character in John Gay's The Beggar's Opera, about which Samuel Johnson said, 'I do not deny that it may have some

LITERARY PUBS OF LONDON - PART 2

influence, by making the character of a rogue familiar, and in some degree pleasing.' The Flask has a number of rooms indoors in which to eat and drink Burton and Young's beers; however, the large courtyard is pleasant on sunny days.

For a nice change from pounding the pavement in London, try a day trip on the Tube to Barnet, north of London which still maintains its village feel, along with some lovely homes and greens dotted about. While there, relax at the Old Mitre Inn (58 High St., Barnet N21, High Barnet Tube); (020-8449 6582). Today's pub is a remnant of the original sixteenth century inn; in fact, the present pub is only the tap room. According to the notes on the menu, 'Dr. Johnson visited the inn in 1774, in company with Mrs. Hester Thrale.' Samuel Pepys claimed it served 'rotten mutton,' but the current chef certainly puts out tasty food at reasonable prices. It has a 'changing list of real ales,' according to the CAMRA North London web site.

To conclude our literary pub crawl, we come back into Central London to visit pubs that George Orwell and Dylan Thomas drank in. The Marquis of Granby is at the end of Percy St., Soho, W1 - Tottenham Court Road Tube, Exit 2; turn left on Percy St. (020-7307 9951). Thomas and Orwell drank here at this no frills pub with wooden floors. It was licensed until 11pm, 30 minutes later than other pubs in the area, so these two writers and their friends would quaff a last one here. Around the corner is the Wheatsheaf at 25 Rathbone St., Fitzrovia, W1T - Tottenham Court Road Tube (020-7580 1585), which is not open until noon on weekdays. Satisfy the invitation to drink a toast to

'Dylan Thomas, George Orwell, Burgess, and all the other hangers on,' while reading the framed articles on Thomas and Anthony Burgess. This pub is cosy and carpeted, with stained glass around the bar and a 'Writer's Corner.' Here Orwell drank dark beer and, when he bought a round for his friends, he insisted that they, too, drink dark, not lager. Thomas met his future wife, Caitlin Macnamara, here in 1936; within an hour he told her he loved her. Formerly a Younger's house, now privately owned, the Wheatsheaf serves Courage Directors as one of its draught beers.

Still wanting literary pub connections? Try the John Keats at Moorgate (83-85 Moorgate, Moorfields/Moorgate, London EC2; Moorgate Tube), where Keats was born in a house on this site in 1795; a plaque in the pub commemorates this as well as prints of famous Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood paintings inspired by Keats's poems. The pub has two distinct personalities: traditional and modern. Choose the one you like, but get there early as this pub draws a huge clientele.

Even when you travel from London, you can enjoy literary pub connections. If you haven't pursued your favorite author enough and still long for literary links, enjoy a last brew at the Shakespeare, a Wetherspoon's pub in Terminal 3 at Heathrow Airport. Lines from the plays and pictures dot the walls, along with a portrait of the Bard. Although Will himself never quaffed an ale in this modern airport pub, you can lift a pint to the best known playwright in the English language as you say goodbye to London.

© Judith Black

A STRATFORD CRAWL

Any of you will be reading this before, after or even during a visit to the 23rd Pig's Ear Beer Festival in Stratford, E15. The festival, organised by the East London and City Branch of CAMRA, was first held in York Hall, Bethnal Green in 1982 but has been held at Stratford Town Hall since 1988. The name, Pig's Ear, comes from the Cockney rhyming slang for beer.

One of the reasons for the festival's popularity is that Stratford has very good transport links and the Town Hall is opposite the bus and train stations. The train station is served by five railway lines and in 2007 there will be a direct rail link from Europe via the Channel Tunnel. Recent extensions to the Jubilee line and the DLR have made it easier to get to Stratford from South London. There is also a major freight terminal and railway repair yards next to the station.

While the Pig's Ear Festival is an excellent festival

and is by far the best place in Stratford to go for a few pints it does have the disadvantage of only being open for five days a year in early December. If you want a drink in Stratford on one of the other 360 days of the year (or 361 if it is a leap year) you will have to try the pubs of Stratford.

The last East London and City beer guide dates from 1991 and lists 52 pubs in E15 of which 31 sell real ale. However a check on the updated online guide on the ELAC website (www.pigsear.org.uk) reveals a decline in both the number of pubs and the proportion selling real ale. Some of the lost pubs were demolished owing to the Channel Tunnel link development and the building of new hotels for the expected increase in visitors due to the link. Presumably if London does get the 2012 Olympics this will mean more changes.

When I did my research for this article I tried nineteen pubs but only five had any real ale available.

A STRATFORD CRAWL

In two of the ones where it wasn't on I was told that it had just run out that night and was usually available. Most of the real pubs are in the town centre and virtually all of the back street local pubs no longer sell real ale.

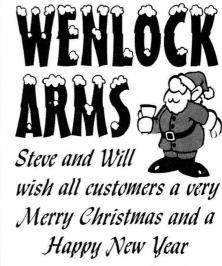
Fittingly for a major rail terminus, Stratford has a pub called the Railway Tavern. Actually it had three but one has been demolished and the other remaining one has no real ale. The Railway Tavern in Angel Lane is just north of the town centre and usually has Greene King IPA available. As well as being open all the year around it has another advantage over the festival in that it has an early morning licence to open from 6.30 am to 8.30 am on weekdays. The licence was originally granted because there was an early morning market locally. When the market closed the pub was allowed to keep the licence for the benefit of night workers at the nearby railway yards and freight terminus. The Railway has pool and darts and occasional discos. It also does inexpensive food in large portions mainly for the benefit of local workers.

East of the town centre is the Manby Arms in Water Lane. I have not been to this pub before and so know little about it. However some friends of mine have recommended it and on entering it I find that it is a one bar locals pub with darts and a busy notice board, although at about 8 pm on a Saturday night there are few customers in the pub. Perhaps they will come out later. Only one real ale is available, Fuller's London Pride, but it is in excellent condition.

Back in the town centre there are three real ale pubs within a few yards of each other that have opened in the last ten years. The first of these is a Wetherspoon pub, the Goldengrove, on the corner of The Grove and Great Eastern Street. It was opened in 1993 and appears to be one of the better Wetherspoon pubs. There are eleven handumps with nine British real ales, De Koninck from Belgium and Addlestones cider. I try the De Koninck and Wadworth's Malt and Hops and both are in excellent condition. The Goldengrove has all the usual Wetherspoon facilities and is getting quite crowded at about 8.30 pm.

Just along the road from the Goldengrove is the Fox@Stratford. This is a modern style bar, opened just over a year ago in September 2002. With a doorman to open the door for customers and a DJ playing loud music it is not really to my taste. However two real ales are available and the London Pride I have is in good condition. Greene King IPA is also usually available.

A few doors down the road is the third of the new pubs, the Goose at Broadway which opened in March 2001. The Goose pubs are a chain operated by Six Continents in an attempt to imitate the



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A STRATFORD CRAWL

Wetherspoon chain. There are no games or music and the wall on the other side of the bar has a large number of bookshelves filled with all kinds of books. However only three real ales are available: London Pride, Tetley's and Bass and the prices, although still reasonable, are higher than at the Goldengrove. As a change from London Pride I have a pint of Bass which is in good condition. Despite the close proximity of the Goldengrove, the Goose is quite full.

Leaving the Goose it occurs to me that the rise of such town centre superpubs is probably a major factor in the decline of the number of pubs selling real ale. If you have large pubs selling a good selection of reasonably priced real ale they are going to attract real ale drinkers from the smaller pubs nearby and the decrease in real ale consumption in those pubs often leads to it becoming unviable for them to stock real ale. Although fewer pubs will do real ale the ones that do will have a wider range, keep it in better condition and will usually be more reasonably priced. Whether this is a good thing or not is a moot point.

The final two pubs are on the south side of the town centre. The King Edward VII is a more traditional pub consisting of two split-level bars and it is a listed

building. It was originally called the King of Prussia but in September 1914 the landlord thought it might be a good idea to change the name. Greene King Abbot, Old Speckled Hen and London Pride are available. Despite the traditional nature of the pub most of the customers seem to be on the young side.

Close to the King Edward is the Swan. This used to be a large modern disco pub but in 1999 it was taken over by Wizard Inns who run a chain of pubs on similar lines to Wetherspoons. No real ale was available on my visit but I was assured that it is normally available. The other Wizard pubs I have been in usually sell three of four real ales from national and major independent brewers.

Colin Price

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BORDER PATROLS

The Marches, on the England/Wales border, have great scenery and conceal many excellent pubs for walkers, the only drawback being the distance between them. One solution is Wheely Wonderful, who arrange accommodation and transport of luggage between overnight pubs on a number of cycle routes and footpaths. My wife and I have walked two of the latter - The Mortimer Trail and Offa's Dyke.

One Friday lunchtime we were briefed at the Queens Head in Kington over some fine Brewhouse Bitter (3.8%) and Early Riser (4%) from the Dunn Plowman micro. Contrary to the Good Beer Guide (GBG), the pub opened at 12 on weekdays so an extracurricular walk visited the Burton Hotel (Wye Valley Bitter) and Olde Taverne (then closed for building works). The well marked Mortimer Trail leads for six miles to Titley where the Stagg Inn focuses on food bur still has a good local clientele. Beers were Hobsons Best and Premium but we drank bottles of Greggs Pit perry and Radnor House cider. The overnight stop was a former convent in Presteigne, we were picked up and taken there to freshen up. The Radnorshire Arms offered Castle Bitter but at the Hat Box restaurant there were good food and bottles of Black Sheep, Crooked Furrow (from Kington not Coldharbour) and a superb Dabinett and Bramley cider from Cheyney Lodge.

Unfortunately Saturday comprised 12 miles with no lunchtime stop. We were sustained, however, by views out to the Malverns, Black Mountains and beyond. The section ends at the Riverside Inn at Aymestry which itself offers various planned walks based on the pub. On the hottest day of the year this pub, with its all day opening and beautiful gardens, was much appreciated. The Black Sheep Bitter and Dorothy Goodbody Golden Ale were even more appreciated. The Riverside is food-oriented but friendly and the landlord hoped to replace a lager with a draught cider as an experiment.

Sunday morning offered tearooms and a 13th century fortress at Croft Castle, one of the bases of the Mortimers, the Marcher Lords. Suitably refreshed, we had a stiff climb to Croft Ambrey, a prehistoric hillfort overlooking 14 counties. This was the longest section at 15 miles so Ludlow was a welcome sight. Our overnight pub was the Wheatsheaf, built into the city walls at the Broadgate. Ludlow has a variety of cultural activities and Michelin restaurants but we headed for the Church Inn, which sold Gwatkins perry on a previous visit. Alas they merely stocked seven real ales, a concept spelt out in seven languages on their

blackboard (cerveza sin gaz and biere dy pays were two of the renderings). The staff know their beers and used lined glasses, often brimful. Food portions were generous too but with 10.30 closing we only managed five beers, all in good nick. We need not have hurried, the Wheatsheaf is a family-run pub and they were happy to drink late with their guests in the midsummer twilight. Their Mother Haggy's (Tring) was an ideal summer beer to finish a thoroughly enjoyable beer and walking weekend.

Wheely Wonderful knew our predilections and suggested their Offa's Dyke walk when Bishops Castle Beer Festival came around. We started from Knighton in Wales on a hot Wednesday. Although there were promising looking pubs we only visited the Red Lion. The landlord was interested in real ale and we had some reasonable Adnams Bitter but the locals were surprised we should attempt an eight mile walk rather than continue drinking.

The route crosses the River Teme and Mid Wales railway into England then follows the Dyke up a bracing 1 in 3 incline for nearly !,000 feet. The reward is fine views towards Wales with the Knucklas viaduct and GBG pub far below. The Dyke is rarely over six feet high now but it is still an impressive sight, climbing up to 432 metres at Llanfair Hill. Our overnight stop at Newcastle-on-Clun was wonderfully remote but its pub, the Crown, boasted that most exotic of beers - Young's 'Ordinary'.

Thursday began with another semi-vertical climb overlooking the scenic Clun Valley. Offa's Dyke does not follow the ridges here but repeatedly drops into valleys and rises back up. Although this was only a 12 mile section it was much tougher than the Mortimer Trail and so, after a packed lunch in the picturesque but publess Churchdown, we cut along a tarmac road in the drizzle. Coming to Bishops Moat we rejoined the route, following the Kerry Ridgeway into Bishops Castle.

A whole article could be devoted to Bishops Castle where the whole town gives itself over to a beer festival; all six remaining pubs participate. On Thursday we concentrated on the GBG Six Bells, sampling their Marathon (4%), Duck and Dive (4%), Big Nevs (3.7%) and my favourite, Cloud Nine (4.2%). As the pub was not open when we arrived we also sampled Courage Best at the Boars Head (the festival did not start till Friday) and Reverend James at the Kings Head, where the pub dog's star turn was to catch snooker balls.

Friday dawned fair and sunny but it was an effort to

BORDER PATROLS

force my legs up the steep High Street to the Castle Hotel. Excellent Hobsons Mild and Bitter, however, made it worthwhile and their Big Névs was better than in the Six Bells. Also at the top of the castle hill is the other brew pub, the Three Tuns, which had just reopened. Their accommodation looked superb and their Sexton (3.7%) and XXX (4.2%) were most palatable. On our return to the Boars Head there was now a Proud Salopian whilst the Vaults had their Golden Thread. Meandering back to the Castle and now on halves we tried four of their festival beers of which Shropshire Gold was best and Cotleigh Blue Jay disappointing. After a rest at our B&B it was back to the Six Bells for Holdens Special and Bathams Best plus more of their own beers. The festivities go on far into the night but are good natured and trouble free - only the resident ducks at the Six Bells are seriously inconvenienced.

Bishops Castle is a fascinating place in its own right, though the museum is only open at weekends, so the Offa's Dyke walk is recommended at any time. If you complete the walk you have earned your Marathon at the Six Bells. Wheely Wonderful can be contacted at 01568 770755.

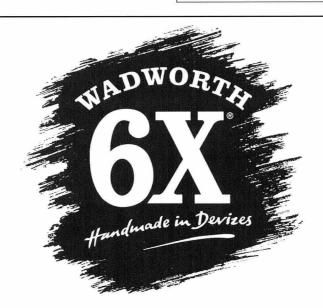
Dave Morgan

LAGRAD LONDON GROUP

L AGRAD (Lesbian and Gay Real Ale Drinkers) is a group of CAMRA members extending the Campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. The London group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month from 7pm onwards in the upstairs bar of the King's Arms, 23 Poland St, London W1; the Surrey & Sussex group on the last Friday of every month from 9.30 onwards in the back bar of the Bedford Tavern, Western St, Brighton, and the Scottish Group in the Holyrood Tavern, Edinburgh on the first Monday of every month from 8.30 onwards. All are welcome to all events. Contact the group convenor on LAGRAD@ukgateway.net or visit www.goldings.demon.co.uk/queerale/

December – Wed 3 (7pm) Social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St, W1 (020-7734 5907). - Thu 11 (7 for 7.30) London Group Christmas meal. Princess Victoria, Earls Court Rd (nr. junction with Kensington High St.): advance booking necessary.

January – Wed 7 (7pm) Social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St, W1. - Tue 20 Groydon crawl. (6pm) Bird of Pride, Sydenham Rd, 20 mins north west of East Croydon Station, just over the railway bridge, then along the path by the railway to (7pm) Goose and Carrot, 128 Wellesley Rd.



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GARRY GOBSHITE'S FANTASTIC REVIEW

First, a belated apology to Des de Moor for suggesting that his column was a spoof on Roger Protz. In my defence I have to say that I was by no means the only person to believe that Des's sub-Joycean stream-of-consciousness style was a p*** take, but it turns out that Des is just a Roger Protz tribute writer! (John 11, 35!)

Brakspear's brewery closed in the summer. Members of Old CAMRA (among whom I number myself) were outraged and would probably have been happy to see those responsible strung up from the highest lamp post in Henley. Not so New CAMRA, however. Their monthly newspaper What's Brewing waxed lyrical about the fact that an attempt is being made to replicate Brakspear's beers at the Wychwood Brewery. A particular cause for rejoicing is that Wychwood is also (wait for it) in Oxfordshire! Now I could not give a flying **** whether ersatz Brakspear's is to be brewed in Oxfordshire, Omsk or Onanist, Ohio. As anyone with more than a nodding acquaintance with brewing knows, accurate replication of a distinctive beer on a different plant is well nigh impossible (just consider Morlands, King & Barnes, Brains, Ruddles etc). Wychwood will probably come up with some pretty decent beers but don't make a book on them being close matches to Brakspear's originals. So despite the best efforts of New CAMRA's spin doctors to project this disaster as a triumph, I for one continue to feel sickened.

Seeking nowadays to make What's Brewing more inclusive, Editor Ted Bruning recently reported the outcome of a tasting panel - himself, Roger Protz and others - which compared a number of mass-produced pasteurised and filtered keg lagers. Stella Artois produced in Leuven, Belgium, came out well ahead of its UK manufactured namesake: apparently Interbrew had difficulty replicating the original. My curiosity aroused, I procure some Leuven Stella and conduct my own tasting panel. My verdict is that although the two products differ, there is about as much point in drawing comparisons between the contents of two specimen jars as there is in this exercise.

A month or two back, I attend a meeting of CAMRA's London Liaison Committee and witness a heartwarmingly reassuring incident. Regional Director Robin Forshaw-Wilson announces plans for a regional meeting whereat members can discuss topics of interest, hear guest speakers, participate in seminars and the like. Fortunately National Executive member Bob Jones is present and steps in to avoid a catastrophe. He sagely points out that to describe the proposed event as a 'Regional Meeting' contravenes Article

378, Section 69, Subsection 96, Clause (A), Subclause (xxxiv), line (t) of CAMRA's Policy Document, 'How to hold a meeting'. The proposed event must be described as an 'All-London Meeting'. Just knowing that New CAMRA is led by people of the calibre of Bob Jones helps me sleep easier at night. You know, if they'd only asked him, I bet Bob could single-handedly have saved Brakspear's brewery.

A few years ago the National AGM condemned the decision to mark CAMRA's 25th Anniversary by holding a £60 per head dinner in the former Whitbread brewery in Chiswell Street. Since then, in accordance with the principle that democracy is unsuitable for New CAMRA, several more banquets have been staged at that venue. The latest was CAMRA's Annual Awards Lunch, which merited a two-page spread in What's Brewing. (Well, I did say Ted the Ed was seeking to break new ground.) This particular meal - a snip at £65 featured a special menu created by M. Jean-Christophe Novelli, a celebrity French chef, intended to mark the announcement that New CAMRA had declared 2004 as 'The Year of Beer with Food'. This news is really exciting: at last New CAMRA will get involved in hard-core, cutting edge issues such as which beer is best suited to accompany Steamed Wild Mushroom Gateau in Port Stout Sauce with Ale Crepes made with Coniston Bluebird Bitter and Parmesan Crackling (Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted - though you probably knew that already). Even so, I can't help thinking that it would still have been possible, after the announcement halfway through the year, to designate 2003 as 'The Year that Brakspear's died' and organise a dinner in Chiswell Street to mark the occasion.

While surfing the Internet I discover a website for a German rock band called Protz. The three-man rhythmic combo have recently issued a new CD and been employed to promote a local brand of pizza.



Dare one suggest that they add a certain appropriately named fourth member? Or that they might get work promoting Interbrew 'beers'?

Cheers! Garry

IDLE MOMENTS

OCTOBER'S ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 1. 8 Lanes on an Athletics Track
- 2. 6 is Between Thirteen and Ten on a Darts Board
- 3. 49 is Seven Squared
- 4. 9 Planets in the Solar System
- 5. 20 Hundredweight in a Ton
- 6. 3 Noughts in a Thousand
- 7. 10 Chains in a Furlong
- 8. 7 Sides on a Fifty Pence Piece
- 9. 4 Kings of England were Called William
- 10.2 Blank Tiles in a Scrabble Set

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- 1. FIE! KEY LOSS ISLE OF SKYE
- 2. DAMN HOG MAO GOODMANHAM
- 3. CERN ACTION CONCERTINA
- 4. WED BIG ROD DOWBRIDGE
- 5. PA CROW WARCOP
- 6. ITS CHIP PICTISH
- 7. CALL BIKES BLACK ISLE
- 8. SANTA'S WOODEN ADDERS

EASTWOOD AND SANDERS

- 9. HARM PEE REEPHAM
- 10. WIN RAD DARWIN

5BY4 (Anoraks only):

- 1. Prairie 2-6-2
- 2. Baltic 4-6-4
- 3. Mikado 2-8-2

- 4. Mogul
 5. Centipede
 6. Mastodon
 4-8-0
- 7. Mountain 4-8-2 8. Consolidation 2-8-0
- 9. Atlantic 4-4-2
- 10. Decapod 0-10-0

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- 1. Acetylsalicylic is better known as Aspirin.
- And still on the subject of acids, the acid which breaks down the food in your stomach is Hydrochloric acid.
- The novel "Keep the Aspidistra Flying" was wriiten by George Orwell.
- It was Clarence "Frogman" Henry who had top ten hits in 1961 with "But I Do" and "You Always Hurt the One You Love."
- Ian Matthews of Matthews Southern Comfort was formerly a member of the British folk rock band, Fairport Convention.
- 6. And Ian Matthews' girlfriend at the time, the writer of "Woodstock" was Joni Mitchell.
- 7. The insect Pulex Irritans(as you might have guessed) is commonly known as the (human) flea.
- 8. The name shared by an Auguste Rodin sculpture and a Gustav Klimt painting is "The Kiss."
- 9. And talking of sculpture, the "Venus de Milo" is to be found in the Louvre in Paris.
- 10. And finally, the sculptor of the "Angel of the North" which overlooks the A1 in Gateshead was Antony Gormley.

As the season of good cheer is approaching I thought I would try to inject a touch of Christmas into the proceedings every now and then (even though it's not the middle of November yet as I write this). So let's start off with a quotation attributed to W.C.Fields:

A Merry Christmas to all my friends except two.

And now to get things under way properly, how many seasonal references can you detect in the number puzzles?

- 1. 1440 M in a D
- 2. 100 Z in a G
- 3. 24 S of P in a Q
- 4. 11 LaL
- 5. 37 S on a RW
- 6. 144 P in a K
- 7. 13 C in a S
- 8. 19 IS in C
- 9. 3 WM 10.633 S

No, I haven't scoured the 2004 Good Beer Guide yet

for new breweries to anagrammatise - you'll have to wait until February for those and make do with these in the meantime:

- 1. R.E.M. LAB
- 2. BURN ELK
- 3. I'D FLOWER
- 4. START A BEE
- 5. NOT TOP
- 6. BELTS WIT
- 7. TALL DIN
- 8. LOWER MASS
- 9. TEENY REG
- 10. HOP CARES

As usual I was casting around aimlessly for something to use as a subject for 5BY4. Eventually I came up with "40 Years Ago". These were all No. 1's in 1963. Can you match the artists with the records?

- 1. Bad To Me
- 2. Do You Love Me?
- 3. The Wayward Wind
- 4. Diamonds
- 5. The Next Time/Bachelor Boy

IDLE MOMENTS

- 6. (You're The) Devil in Disguise
- 7. From Me To You
- 8. How Do You Do It?
- 9. Dance On
- 10. Sweets For My Sweet
- A. The Searchers
- B. The Shadows
- C. Jet Harris & Tony Meehan
- D. The Beatles
- E. Elvis Presley
- F. Gerry & The Pacemakers
- G. Frank Ifield
- H. Cliff Richard
- I. Brian Poole & The Tremeloes
- J. Billy J Kramer & The Dakotas

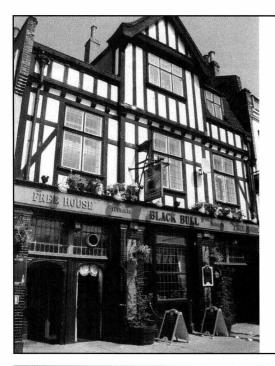
And finally I managed to drag up 10 trivial questions with a Christmas connection:

- In what European city is Wenceslas Square located?
- 2. We all know that Bing Crosby had a huge hit with "White Christmas" a long time ago, but who wrote the song?
- In "Fairytale of New York" by Kirsty MacColl and The Pogues "The boys of the NYPD choir were singing" ... What? ... "and the bells were ringing out for Christmas Day."
- 4. We all know that Captain Cook discovered

- Christmas Island on Christmas Day but in what year did he do so?
- 5. The Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square has been a gift every year since 1947 from the people of which Scandinavian city?
- 6. The village of Bethlehem (the one in south Wales) is on the north west edge of which national park?
- 7. The first Christmas song to top the UK hit parade did so in1955, sung by Dickie Valentine. What was it called?
- 8. What is the common name of the "small white flowered winter blooming plant" (according to the OED), Helleborus niger?
- 9. Who is the odd one out from Conrad Hilton, Rebecca West, Kenny Everett, Humphrey Bogart, Charlie Chaplin and Lew Grade - and why?
- 10. What British Commonwealth city was devastated by cyclone "Tracy" on Christmas Day in 1974?

Well that's me done for this year. I wish you all a "Cool Yule" (showing my age there!) And a happy new year - don't go making any resolutions to spoil it.

Cheers!
Andy Pirson



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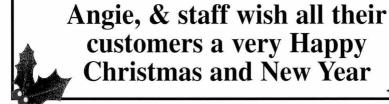
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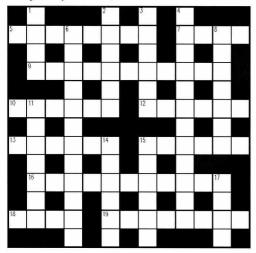
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LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name			
Address _	7		
iddress _			

All correct entries received by first post on 28th January will be entered into a draw for the prize. Prize winner will be announced in the April London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the February edition.

All entries to be submitted to: London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER CROSSWORD



£10 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

- 5. Carrying a present container. [8]
- 7. Chopped fruit for everyone. [4]
- 9. Girls in Germany give up lots for Christmas visitor. [5,6]
- 10. A fitting present for Christmas. [6]
- 12. It's good to tell what a candle may do. [6]
- 13. I follow rascal for food. [6]
- 15. Diagonal stripe for father. [6]
- Surprise for alleged criminal taken in by a French journalist
- 18. Risk a second letter. [4]
- 19. You may have them in for a party. [8]

DOWN

- 1. Quietly moving from the eye to the ear. [4]
- L. Support for prisoner who's taken ill. [6]
- 3. For example, spirit gives initial encouragement. [6]
- 4. Watermen's leading crew trifle upset by strongman. [6,6]
- 6. The present time. [9,3]
- 8. Knives stuck right into speleologists. [7]
- 11. Take in writing material, indecent I hear. [7]
- 14. In London area caught bug. [6]
- Attractive redhead in run of mill surroundings.
- 17. Russian agreement to navy repair. [4]

Winner of the prize for the August Crossword: Mike Farrelly, London E1.

Other correct entries were received from:

Geoff Adams & Tom O'Leary, Tony Alpe, Mark Antony, H.Ayling, Pete Bartlam, S.J.Block, John Blundell, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Charles Creasey, Paul Curson, Richard De'Terred, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Colum Duddy, C.Dyball, Arthur Fox-Ache, Dudley Freeman, Steve Fulford-Brown, Buzz Fumble, Peter Giles, Marion Goodall, Daz Gorman, Eileen Graves, Paul Grav, J.E.Green, Stuart Guthrie & Curtis E.Carr, Stuart Guthrie & , Patty O'Dors, Stuart Guthrie & Vinny Gartitz, Tarnya Haigh, Brian Hall,. M. Hannell, Jonty Hawkes, John Heath, Kevin Henriques, Billy Hernon, Graham Hill, William Hill, Sheerluck Holmes, Tom Kemp, P.J.Kerrigan, Audie King Zorses, Terry Lavell, Mrs. Lilleman, John McDonnell, Mike McHugh, K.I.May, Kerry Mellor, M.J.Moran, Joe Murat, Phil Partington, Martin Pearson, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Geoff S, Sheffield United Formation Drinking Team, Bryan Smith, W.Smyth, Billy Sollocks, Richard Stevenson, Nick Stone, Bill Thackray, Thamesmeado, Tony Watkins, Liz Watts, Martin Weedon, Eric Wells, David Whitelam, Ian Whiteman, John Williams, Sue Wilson, John Witts, David Woodward.

WHATEVER YOU DO, TAKE PRIDE.



Hogs Back Brewery

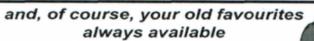
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Hop Garden

Gold

Hair

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