

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

including St John's Wood,
West Hampstead
and nearby areas –
50 pubs featured

DUKE OF HAMILTON



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FOR
REAL ALE

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Guide sponsor - Fuller Smith & Turner

Beer has been brewed on the site of the Griffin Brewery in Chiswick for over 350 years, since the time of Oliver Cromwell. The partnership of Fuller, Smith & Turner was formed in 1845 by John Bird Fuller, Henry Smith and John Turner.

Fuller's is best known as the brewer of London Pride, the UK's leading premium cask ale, but also brews many other award-winning ales such as Chiswick Bitter, ESB and 1845. Three of Fuller's beers - London Pride, ESB and Chiswick Bitter - have been named as CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain, a record unmatched by any other brewer. Fuller's cask ale range also includes Discovery, a delicious blonde beer launched in 2005 to wide acclaim.

Also in 2005, Fuller's completed the purchase of George Gale & Co., of Horndean, Hampshire. The purchase included 111 pubs, bringing Fuller's estate to 363 quality pubs, bars and hotels.

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

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Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Editor's welcome

Many thanks for buying this latest CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) North London Branch real ale guide. Following our guides to Holborn and Bloomsbury, the N1 postcode area and Camden and Euston, this time we are delighted to be able to feature the real ale pubs of Hampstead, Highgate and surrounding areas.

The areas featured in this guide are among the most historic in the capital, and many of the pubs featured have a rich history of their own, with some dating back hundreds of years.

Others have had to adapt to face the same challenges and issues that CAMRA members will be familiar with from the national picture.

Either way, the pubs in this guide are to be applauded for continuing to meet the demand for real ale when so many of their counterparts have disappeared in recent years.

This Guide has been produced by volunteers from the North London Branch of CAMRA, so I would like to make public my thanks to the following:

For historical information and the introductory text on pages 3-5: Christine Cryne

For maps: Laurence Fryer

For surveys and pub reviews: Edward Bace, Christine Cryne, John Cryne, Laurence Fryer, Andy Hall, Ian McLaren, Andy Parkinson, Steve Taylor, Gerard Tierney and Tony-Travis Walsh

For photos: Geoff Brandwood and John Cryne

CAMRA would also like to thank Fuller Smith & Turner for their generous sponsorship of the guide.

Your feedback on this guide is much appreciated - please email steve.ducker@yahoo.co.uk with your comments and suggestions.

Steve Ducker

How to use this guide

In the main sections for Highgate, Hampstead, West Hampstead and St John's Wood, pubs are listed alphabetically within the area concerned. The map reference at the end of text allows you to cross-reference the pub to the map within the chapter. For Other Nearby Pubs, listings are by postcode (N8, N10 or N19), then alphabetical. The entries list address, phone number and website details - where applicable - for the pub concerned. Beers listed are the core range at the time of surveying; if the pub operates a rotating beer range or has regular guest beers, this is noted. Where the pub sells real cider on draught, this is also listed. Opening hours are listed according to the 24-hour clock, so 12.00 is midday, 00.00 is midnight and 01.00 is 1am. The opening times are correct at the time of going to press, but if travelling any distance to the pub, please check before setting out. Finally, the pub descriptions are the opinions of the individual reviewers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

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CAMRA North London Branch

The Campaign for Real Ale has around 180 branches throughout the UK. They are run by volunteers from all sorts of backgrounds, from managing directors to train drivers. All have one thing in common, a love of good beer and pubs.

The North London branch of CAMRA is an active one, running the **London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival**, which takes place every March near King's Cross station, and a mini festival in October, run in conjunction with the Wenlock Arms, N1. We also produce a regular newsletter, **The Full Pint**. The branch is very sociable and welcomes all CAMRA members into its midst. Come and join us for a pint or two.

We are always looking for people to feed back pub news for our online database and The Full Pint, and would also welcome people to help distribute the newsletter around pubs. If you are interested, come and make contact via the branch website at www.camranorthlondon.org.uk or phone us on **020 8452 6965**.

What is CAMRA?

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, was formed in the early 1970s and is an independent, voluntary organisation. Today, its membership is over 90,000 and still growing. The Campaign exists to promote good quality beer and variety of choice, as well as campaigning against pub closures and fighting for the rights of all pub users. It acts as the consumer's champion in relation to both the UK and European beer and drinks industry. We aim to:

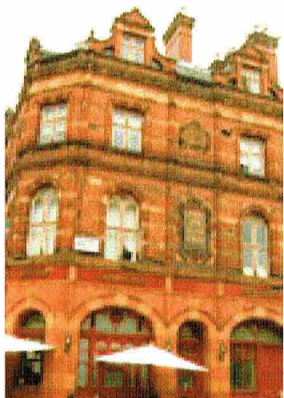
- 1 Protect and improve consumer rights;
- 2 Promote quality, choice and value for money;
- 3 Support the public house as a focus of community life;
- 4 Campaign for greater appreciation of traditional beers, ciders and perries as part of our national heritage and culture;
- 5 Seek improvements in all licensed premises and throughout the brewing industry.

Issues today

Despite many successes, brewery closures persist, but luckily, there is continued growth in the number of new microbrewers. This has meant that the public still has a wealth of beer varieties to choose from, but availability remains a concern for many of these tiny breweries. Many pubs are owned by pub chains rather than breweries, and these chains often demand huge discounts, which many small breweries cannot match. CAMRA is continually campaigning for a fairer market.

And we are seeing a continuing decline in the number of pubs, particularly in areas where property prices are high. A good example in this guide is in St John's Wood, NW8. In 1995, there were 22 pubs, of which 19 sold real ale. Now there are only 10, with half selling real ale; of the others 11 are closed and one is now a restaurant. One of the closed pubs is Crocker's Folly, which is Grade II listed and a sumptuous example of an early 20th century pub. It even had a concert room. After a brief spell as a restaurant, it is now empty and deteriorating. As it is rumoured that the asking price is more than £4 million, optimism for the future is not high. It currently stands on the English Heritage London Buildings at Risk Register.

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate



Left: Like many pubs in the area covered by this Guide, the Sir Isaac Newton (1892) in St John's Wood has fallen victim to other commercial uses.

The good news is that there are still some fantastic pubs in London and a quick look at London's Regional Inventory shows what a wealth of great historical pubs we have – but we do have to work hard to keep them. Visit www.camra.org.uk for details.

Besides taking the time to support your local pub, you can help by joining CAMRA and adding your voice to ours. Surely, less than 43p a week is a small price to pay to help safeguard our heritage?

Real ale

So what makes real ale so special that thousands of people drink little else? Like all beers it uses yeast to feed on the malt (barley that is germinated and roasted) to produce alcohol and has added hops to give the bitterness. However, instead of filtering and pasteurising the beer to kill the yeast, real ale is put into casks where the yeast carries on working (secondary fermentation). It's this second stage that gives real ale its extra flavour and also produces a natural carbonation. Keg beer is dead and is carbonated by adding carbon dioxide in the pub to give it a fizz. Sometime nitrogen is added as well, and these beers are often called smooth flow as it gives a slightly softer characteristic.

In London, if you see a handpump you can usually be sure that the beer is real. The exception to this is Badger's pubs, where the brewery insists that the pub puts a layer of carbon dioxide on their beers. This is to stop oxidation but it does also impact on the maturation of the beer and can produce a slightly gassy, metallic flavour.

Real ale in a bottle

Most bottled beers are keg – that is, they are not living. However, there are a number where the beer undergoes secondary fermentation in the bottle. Look either for CAMRA's 'this is real ale' logo or read the label where it likely to make reference to the beer having a sediment. This is exactly what happens in a real ale cask so make sure the bottle isn't shaken before it's poured or else the beer will be cloudy!

Beer styles

Britain has been blessed with a great variety of beers styles and one of CAMRA's roles is to help promote and support this diversity. Start with a mild – light or dark – before trying other beers as the flavours are often more delicate. These beers are generally lightly hopped and usually light in alcohol. This is one beer style that is not easy to find in London but appears during festivals. Then we have bitters, best bitters and strong bitters, increasing in alcohol strength from usually around 3.5% to a mighty 6.5% abv (alcohol by volume). Generally, the increasing alcohol strength is due to more malt

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highbury

being present, which gives more food to the yeast, which then in turn produces more alcohol. It also means that many stronger beers are maltier.

Alternatively, you could try a stout or a porter, both dark beers and usually with a roasted malt character. In winter, look out for the old ales and barley wines, which really do have slight wine notes. They are ideal for warming you up but take care, as they are strong. Conversely, in summer the number of golden ales tends to increase; these are often served slightly chilled and are great for the warmer weather. But they vary enormously in alcohol content; light coloured does not mean light in alcohol, so ask before you buy.

Imported beers

CAMRA is a member of the European Beer Consumers Union (EBCU), which was founded in 1990. Its role is to promote traditional European beer and breweries, preserve the European Beer culture and represent European beer drinkers. But beware, despite bearing a foreign name, many of the lagers you will find in London pubs are brewed in the UK. Continental lagers – lager means ‘to store’ – are kept for six weeks or more before being released to the trade, but unfortunately most UK lagers do not undergo this long maturation and do not have the depth of taste of their foreign cousins.

Similarly, quite a lot of the fruit beer you come across is not of the best quality, having fruit flavour added rather than being brewed with fruit in the traditional way. Therefore, they will not taste the way you remembered them in Belgium. However, London is blessed with a number of pubs that sell some good imported beer. Look out for details in the pub description.

Cider

Real cider and perry – which is like cider but made from pears – are not prevalent in London but are faring better than milds, generally thanks to Wetherspoons. As with real ale, real cider is not filtered or pasteurised. It's not fizzy, unlike the keg variety. You will find real cider on handpump, in polypins or plastic tubs but not on keg fonts. Sometimes, the tubs are stored in a fridge so look out for them. CAMRA produces a national guide to pubs selling cider; see www.camra.org.uk for details.

CAMRA beer festivals

CAMRA has many beer festivals across London, starting with Battersea in February and ending with Hackney's Pig's Ear in December. The biggest of them all, the Great British Beer Festival, takes place at Earl's Court in August. The North London branch runs a festival in March in the Camden Centre near King's Cross, and a joint one with the Wenlock Arms in N1 in October. If there is an entrance fee, most CAMRA festivals will give some form of discount so if you are a regular beer festival attendee, joining CAMRA will save you pounds. See the inside back cover for more details on joining, or visit www.camra.org.uk.

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N6: Highgate

A Bronze flint dagger, from about 1900BC indicates a long heritage of settlement in this area. The name may come from a hill top tollgate set on the Great North Road by the Bishop of London in the 14th century. Later that century, it was here where Dick Whittington heard the Bow Bells and 'turned again' to become Lord Mayor of London four times. The spot at the bottom of the hill is marked by the Whittington Stone.

The prosperity of the area was fuelled by travellers, which led to an increasing number of inns and, being on a hill, Highgate became known as a healthy place to live. It consequently attracted a number of aristocrats who built some fine houses and Highgate Village still retains many buildings dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. Famous occupants included Charles II's mistress, Nell Gwynne, and the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who is buried in St Michael's Church in South Grove. During the 17th century, non conformists also made a home here, being banned from worshipping within five miles of the City of London.

The pressure of traffic led to the Archway Road being built and when it opened in 1813 – despite opposition from Highgate innkeepers – there was a decline in the coaching trade. As a result, Highgate became more sedate and the Victorian and Edwardian middle classes built a number of houses here.

Highgate is most famous for its cemetery. Covering 37 acres, it was opened in 1839 as an overflow for London and 167,000 people are buried here. Famous names include Charles Dickens, Michael Faraday, Ralph Richardson, C Crufts (founder of the dog show), William Foyle of bookshop fame, Karl Marx and the cricketer FW Lilywhite.

Lesser known are Highgate and Queens Woods, split by Muswell Hill Road, which are a remainder of the ancient woodlands that covered the area of the Great Forest of Middlesex. Look for the disused railway line that used to run from Finsbury Park to Highgate.

Angel Inn

37 Highgate High Street
N6 5JT

Phone 020 8341 5913

Open Mon-Sat 12.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-23.00

Beers Adnams Broadside; Greene King IPA; Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

One of the older pub sites in Highgate (1610). The present building dates from 1888, rebuilt in 1930 and refurbished in 1992, leaving it with a rather dark interior. Look out for the fish tank built into the wall behind the bar. Food served Mon-Thu 12.00-22.00, Fri and Sat 10.00- 23.00, Sun 12.00-21.30. Various board games are

available. Underground: Archway or Highgate. Buses: 143, 210; 214 and 271 terminate in Highgate Village nearby. **N6 map ref 2.**

Flask

77 Highgate West Hill
N6 6BU

Phone 020 8348 7346

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Broadside; Fuller's London Pride; Timothy Taylor's Landlord; guests (for example Caledonian Deuchars IPA or Black Sheep Best).

Ciders Weston's Old Rosie, Vintage

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Listed on CAMRA's Regional Inventory of historic pub interiors, originally two buildings now forming one pub, it was also known as the Upper Flask, the Lower Flask being the pub in Hampstead. There are legends of ghosts and Dick Turpin is said to have hidden in the cellars. More plausibly, the 18th century painter, engraver and satirist William Hogarth, and revolutionary thinker and philosopher Karl Marx are said to have been regulars. The Flask is one of the area pubs where the ceremony of the 'Swearing of the Horns' takes place. Can get very busy. Food served Mon-Fri 12.00-16.00 and 18.00-21.30; Sat 12.00-22.00; Sun 12.00-21.30. Underground: Archway or Highgate. Bus: 143 and 210; 214 and 271 terminate in Highgate Village nearby. Stop press - from 3 February this pub will be owned by Fuller's so some things will change. It will be their first tied house in the area covered by this guide. **N6** map ref 4.

Gatehouse

1 North Road

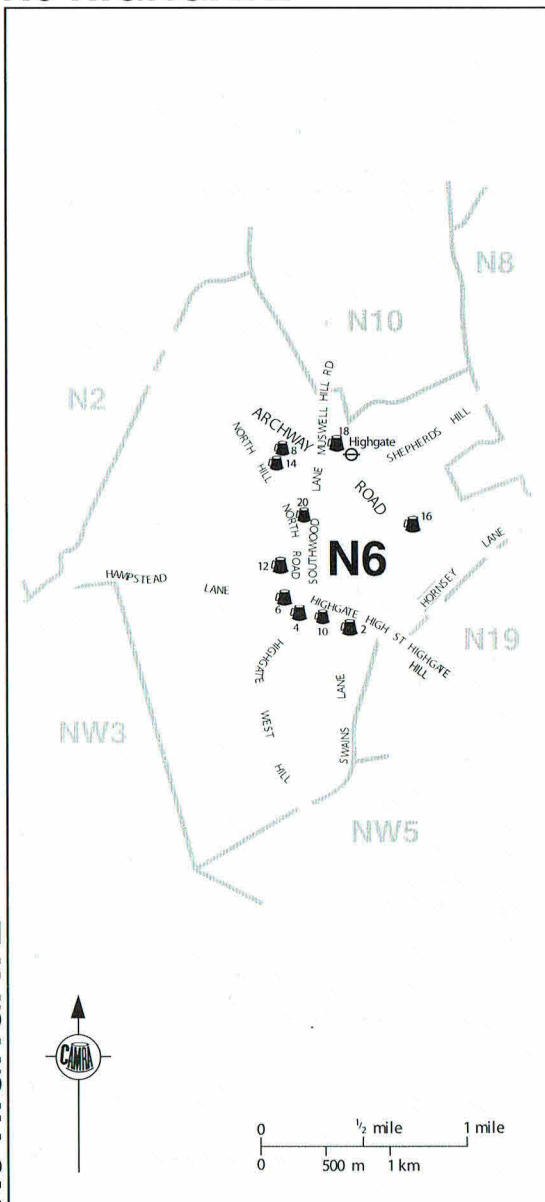
N6 4BD

Phone 020 8340 8054

Open Mon-Thu 09.00-23.30; Fri -Sat 09.00-00.00; Sun 09.00-22.30.

Beers Courage Best; Greene King Abbot; Marston's Pedigree; Shepherd Neame Spitfire; at least four guests

N6 HIGHGATE



N6 HIGHGATE

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Ciders Weston's Old Rosie; Vintage

Large rambling pub at the top of Highgate Hill, with two separate drinking areas and secluded outside drinking space. Good range of real ales. One of the better Wetherspoons pubs which, of course, is to be expected in Highgate Village. With a theatre upstairs, this Tudor style building, formerly a Watney's pub was refurbished in 1993, being the oldest of Highgate inns dating from about 1380. There are plenty of old photographs of the High Street with the building in the background of most of them. Food is served until one hour before closing. Underground: Archway or Highgate. Bus: 143, 210; 214 and 271 terminate in Highgate Village nearby. **N6 map ref 6.**

Highgate Inn

385 Archway Road
N6 4ER

Open Mon-Fri 16.00-01.00; Sat 12.00- 01.00;
Sun 12.00-00.30

Beers Black Sheep Best Bitter.

Small shop conversion, formerly Rose's Ale House and the Black Rose. Compact bar area at the front, with a longer room to the rear with tiled floor and very red décor. Lighting in this area subdued, but livened up with fairy lights. Mixture of sofas and soft chairs and stools in this area, which is overlooked by a full wall mural of the old Archway Bridge. Television screens in all areas showing sporting events. Attracts all age ranges, and has free internet access. An unusual arrangement is that the premises are shared with an Indian take-away kitchen, (Highgate Spice, phone 020 8348 4533), which can supply meals to eat in the pub between 18.00-00.00, Mondays excepted. A very large Asian menu is available, with the usual limited English options. Sunday roasts are served 12.00-17.00. Otherwise, snacks, in the form of cockles, mussels and roll-mops are

available at any time. Underground: Highgate. Bus: 43, 134, 263. **N6 map ref 8.**

Prince of Wales Ale House

53 Highgate High Street
N6 5JX

Phone 020 8430 0445

Open Mon, Wed, Thu and Sun 12.00-23.00;
Tue, Fri and Sat 12.00-00.00

Beers Butcombe Bitter; three guests.

Small traditional pub dating back to the 17th century. A single horseshoe bar serves a surprisingly spacious wood-panelled room with a number of prints of local dignitaries from the past. It has a cosy, welcoming feel. Can get crowded particularly on Tuesday quiz nights. The food is Thai, they even do takeaway. There is a small patio, favoured by smokers, at the back facing the open space of Pond Square. Guests are from the likes of Batemans, Bear-town, Brains, Courage, Fuller's, Holt, Nethergate, Orkney, Thwaites and Woodforde. Food served Mon-Fri 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-22.00; Sat 12.00-22.00; Sun 12.00-21.00. Underground: Archway or Highgate. Buses: 143 and 210 stop outside, 214 and 271 terminate in Highgate Village nearby. **N6 map ref 10.**

Red Lion and Sun

25 North Road
N6 4BE

Phone 020 8340 1780

www.theredlionandsun.com

Open Mon-Wed 12.00-00.00; Thu-Sat
12.00-02.00; Sun 12.00-01.00

Beers Greene King IPA, Abbot, Morland Original; one guest.

Under new management since May 2007. Pleasantly located building of 1928. Another of the pubs where the ceremony of the 'Swearing of the Horns' takes place twice a year. The

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interior is wood panelled, which has been painted light green. In the winter there is a log fire in one of the fireplaces. Outside seating areas, front and back, dogs allowed, wireless internet access, disabled toilet. Food served Mon-Sat 12.00-22.00; Sun 12.00-21.00. Underground: Archway, East Finchley. Buses: 143 stops outside, 210 stops nearby; 214 and 271 terminate in Highgate Village. **N6 map ref 12,**

Victoria

28 North Hill

N6 4QA

Phone 020 8340 6091

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30.

Beers Shepherd Neame Spitfire; Young's Bitter.

This pub originated as a grocers and beer shop in 1836. As a new manager arrived in September 2008 who says the beer range will change, so it is a case of watch this space. Food served Mon-Sat 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-22.00, Sun 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-21.00. Underground: Highgate and East Finchley. Buses: 143 passes the door. 210 stops nearby; 214 and 271 terminate in Highgate Village. **N6 map ref 14.**

Winchester Hotel

206 Archway Road

N6 5BA

Phone 020 8374 1690

www.winchester-hotel.com

Open Mon-Sat 13.00-01.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Fuller's London Pride.

The most striking feature of this pub is the very large glazed office occupying much of the area behind the bar. The main room is split by the vestigial remnant of a former wooden division. A smaller room at the rear, featuring a piano, leads via a door to the attractive, shrub-lined, heated outdoor drinking area in the former stable yard. Listed on CAMRA's London Re-

gional Inventory of historic pub interiors. Very much a community pub, sponsoring three local league football teams and a darts team, and attracting clientele of all age groups. Quiz night on Wednesdays. The knowledgeable tenants are very aware of the pub's features and history and changes made since their arrival have not damaged any of the surviving features. Food, ranging from steaks and traditional English fare to Mediterranean style nibbles, is available Mon-Fri from 17.00-21.00, Sat and Sun from opening until 21.00. Three-star hotel accommodation is also available, all rooms being en-suite. Underground: Highgate. Buses: 43, 134, 263, N20. **N6 map ref 16.**

Woodman

414 Archway Road

N6 5UA

Phone 020 8340 3016

www.thewoodman.co.uk

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Greene King IPA, Abbot, Old Speckled Hen; Wells Bombardier.

Upmarket food oriented pub in modern style, with very small 'snug' area at one end retaining old style feeling. The large outside drinking area on the Highgate Woods side is very popular in summer, and features waiter service. Can become very busy in the evenings. The interior walls are decorated with rather impressionistic modern art. There is a movie night each Sunday at 20.00. A function room is available at the rear of the pub. Food served Mon-Fri 12.00-14.30 and 18.00-22.00; Sat 12.00-22.00; Sun 12.00-20.00. The pub opens for brunch at 10.30, which is available until 12.30. Starters range from fish soup to chorizo or cheese and bread to salads and bowls of olives. Mains cover steaks, seafood and fish courses, stews, burgers and risotto, not forgetting the honest sausage and mash. Underground: Highgate. Buses: 43, 134, 263, N20. **N6 map ref 18.**

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Wrestlers

98 North Road

N6 4AA

Phone 020 8340 4297

Open Mon-Fri 16.30-00.00; Sat 12.00-01.00;
Sun 12.00-00.00

Beers Fuller's London Pride; Greene King IPA;
two guests.

One of the long established pubs found in this area, first built 1547, last rebuilt in 1921, the L-

shaped bar has lots of wood panelling throughout. Another of the pubs where the ancient ceremony of 'Swearing on the Horns' which dates back to 1623 and takes place twice yearly in March and August. Details of the ceremony are shown above the fireplace. Food served Tue-Thu 17.00-23.00; Fri 12.00-21.30; Sat 13.00-21.00, Sun 12.00-17.00. Underground: Highgate and East Finchley. Buses: 143 passes the door; 210 stops nearby; 214 and 271 terminate in Highgate Village. **N6 map ref 20.**

NW3: Hampstead

One of the earliest written records regarding Hampstead dates from 986AD when Ethelred the Unready granted Hampstead to the monastery of St. Peter's at Westminster. Hampstead is said to be a modern transportation of "homestead" and it remained a rural community until the late 1600s, when part of Hampstead was rented by the Trustees of the Wells, who began promoting the medicinal value of the waters.

Because of its closeness to London, Hampstead Wells prospered. In 1720, Dr. William Gibbons of Burgh House in New End Square was the first physician to encourage the drinking of the foul tasting 'Chalybeate' waters (rich in iron) and is said to have drunk two or three glasses of it every morning. He enlarged Burgh House and added the present wrought-iron gate, which bear his initials. Burgh House now hosts Hampstead Museum.

Problems with rowdy behaviour caused the spa's popularity to decline by the end of the century, but the waters could still be drunk as the fittings were removed from the Pump Room and installed in a building next to the Wells Tavern. Hampstead was thought to be a healthy and attractive area and during this period there was substantial development. No doubt, its healthy reputation was the reason for the establishment of a fever hospital and tuberculosis hospital at the end of the 1800s.

New roads and railways continued the development of the area, removing the slums and alleys around central Hampstead. In 1860, the arrival of the North London Line increased the number of day trippers to the Heath. In 1888, Hampstead finally became part of London.

Nestling between Hampstead and Highgate, the famous Hampstead Heath covers 791 acres with a mixture of heathland, meadows and woods. It has tennis and bowls facilities, an open air swimming pool, animal enclosures and a children's playground. It also boasts one of the best areas for kite flying. Parliament Hill, with some stunning views across London; worth the strenuous walk to the top. It once was the garden of Lord Leverhulme, the Edwardian soap manufacturer. It also has the remains of a Bronze Age barrow.

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On the northern side of the Heath, with some fine gardens, is the neo classical Kenwood House, which was bequeathed to the nation by the Earl of Iveagh and is now run by English Heritage. It is known for its porcelain and paintings as well as its open air concerts in summer.

Hampstead has been the home of the writers, artists and thinkers that have lived there, including George Orwell, John Constable, Edward Elgar, Byron, HG Wells, Wilkie Collins and Peter Cook. Sigmund Freud's last home was in Maresfield Gardens and is now a museum. Keats too lived in Hampstead, in what is now Keats Grove, for two years from 1818, writing the Ode to a Nightingale here. The house is open to the public.

Adelaide

143 Adelaide Road

NW3 3NL

Phone 020 7722 3777

www.myspace.com/theadelaidenw3

Open Mon-Thu, Sun 11.00-23.00; Fri-Sat 11.00-00.00

Beers Greene King Old Speckled Hen, Young's Bitter.

Large corner pub between Swiss Cottage and Chalk Farm. After many years seemingly adrift, the Adelaide has found its way. The large island bar serves a broad clientele in comfortable surroundings, leather sofas compete with wooden chairs and candlelit scrubbed tables all in a bohemian setting. A rear conservatory leads to an extensive garden, which closes at 21.45. To top this off, it hosts regular live music and comedy upstairs. See their MySpace® web page for the latest information. Food served: Mon-Fri 17.00-22.00, Sat-Sun 12.30-22.00. Underground: Chalk Farm. Overground: Kentish Town West. Bus: 31. **NW3 map ref 2.**

Duke of Hamilton

23 New End

NW3 1DD

Phone 020 7794 0258

Open Mon-Sat 12.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Bitter; Fuller's London Pride, ESB; two guests

Ciders Weston's Old Rosie.

Known affectionately as Woodies, now being run by the second generation of the family. The first impression is of the large front terrace, elevated from the street, which leads to the main bar area where you are greeted by a mass of taps including Meantime Stout located on a semi-island bar which on one side leads to a dartboard and the other to a seated alcove. The walls are adorned with sporting memorabilia, original mirrors and photos and the television screen frequently features live sport, especially rugby. The cellar bar is used for festivals, which are becoming increasingly frequent and usually when you will find food being served. Underground: Hampstead. Bus: 268. **NW3 map ref 4.**

Enterprise

2 Haverstock Hill

NW3 2BL

Phone 020 7485 2659

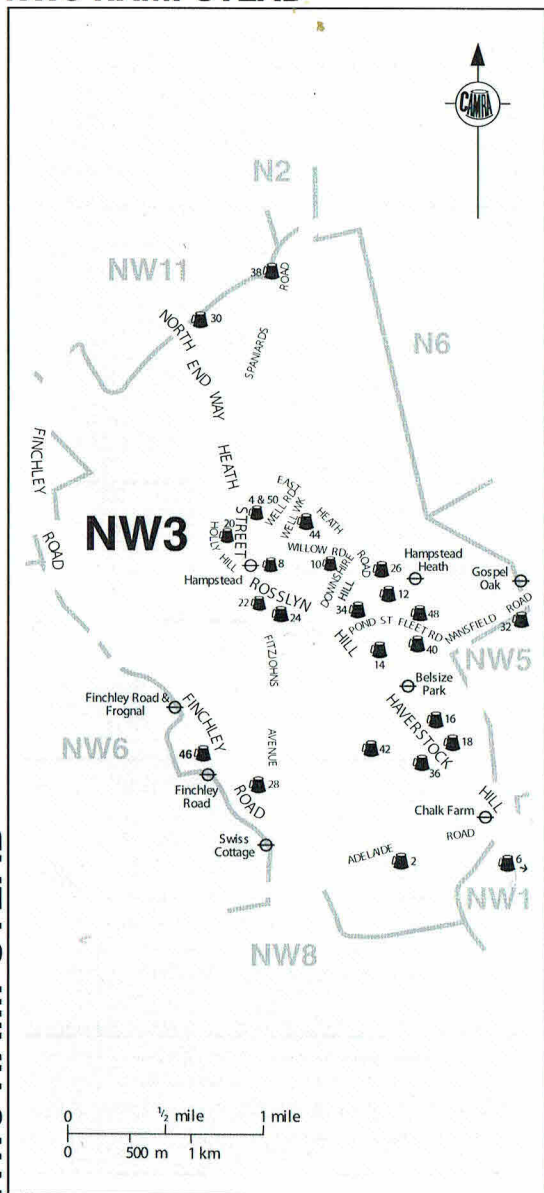
Open Mon-Thu 11.00-00.00; Fri and Sat 11.00-01.00; Sun 12.00-00.00

Beers Bass.

A modern day 'spit and sawdust' bar with a grunge/goth clientele. The walls are adorned with prints of long-gone authors. In addition, there is a large collection of old enamelled signs. Food is available 12.00-22.00, hot and cold selection. Underground: Belsize Park. Overground: Kentish Town West. **NW3 map ref 6.**

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NW3 HAMPSTEAD



Flask

14 Flask Walk

NW3 1HE

Phone 020 7435 4580

www.theflaskhampstead.co.uk

Open Mon-Thu 11.00-23.00;
Fri and Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun
11.00-22.30

Beers Courage Directors; Wells
Bombardier; Young's Bitter,
Special; one guest.

A veritable Hampstead institution, originally the Lower Flask, which recently underwent a sympathetic refurbishment by Young's, albeit one that was somewhat controversial with locals. The old public bar, with its separate entrance and dart-board, is very much as it was and, incidentally, this is the only part of the pub open from 11.00, the lounge opens at noon. As you enter the lounge, your eyes are immediately drawn to the fine tinted sepia photographs which adorn a screen separating this room from the public bar. This small, intimate area then leads into a larger back bar with a large table and banquette seating suitable for large groups dining. Finally you are led into a conservatory, very much for eating. Listed on the London Regional Inventory of historic pub interiors. Children permitted until 20.00. Underground: Hampstead. Bus: 46, 268. NW3 map ref 8.

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Freemasons Arms

32 Downshire Hill

NW3 1NT

Phone 020 7433 6811

www.freemasonsarms.co.uk

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 11.00-22.30

Beers Fuller's London Pride, Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

Roomy gastropub, trendified with a sophisticated menu, offering starters, salads, pizzas, pastas, mains and desserts, and an extensive wine list. Very popular with young professionals, it seems. Interior still retains some nice features, such as fireplaces, but mainly dominated by track lighting, soft music, upholstered banquettes, wooden tables and chairs, along with recent extension to dining area, which sacrificed garden space in a less than aesthetic manner. The still-large garden was allegedly the site of 17th century games of Pell-Mell (a Dutch ball game which gave its name to Pall Mall), though the pub is first recorded in 1820. There is the Hampstead Room below, which can be rented for private use, and the pub also retains one of London's last skittles alleys in its basement. This is also prone to flooding from time to time, as the pub sits above a tributary of the River Fleet. More of a dining than a drinking destination – food served from 12.00 until around 22.00 daily. Overground: Hampstead Heath. Buses: at South End Green C11, 24, 46, 168. **NW3 map ref 10.**

Garden Gate

14 South End Road

NW3 2QE

Phone 020 7435 4938

www.thegardengatehampstead.co.uk

Open Mon-Sat 12.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Broadside, Fuller's London Pride, Okell's Castletown, Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

Large, comfortable, multi-roomed venue, furnished with wooden and upholstered tables and chairs, soft lighting, soft music, stained glass, non-working fireplace. Plenty of room around front bar, with another room at the back. Vast garden, which offers a barbecue on weekends in good weather. Some interesting other beers such as Franziskaner Weissbier and Paulaner. Menu of starters and mains, such as sausage, burgers, steak, chicken, pies, fish and chips, available for lunch and dinner. Food served 12.00-22.00. Decent wine list. Overground: Hampstead Heath. Buses: C11, 24, 46, 168. **NW3 map ref 12.**

George

250 Haverstock Hill

NW3 2AE

Phone 020 7431 0889

Open Mon-Wed 11.00-23.00; Thu-Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Fuller's London Pride, Greene King IPA, Wells Bombardier, guest rotated weekly.

A pub has been on this site since the 1600s, the present building dating from the 1920s. There is a large single, open plan bar with folding front panels to give a welcome airy lightness to what could otherwise be a gloomy experience. The bar is built for high traffic with wood and flagstone flooring, perfect for the many football fans locally. Little remains of its former guises save for some wood panelling and a mounted stag's head glaring down. There is a small patio to the rear, largely given over to smokers. Hot and cold meals are available daily from 12.00-21.00, a standard menu offers main courses between £6 and £8. Underground: Belsize Park. Bus: C11, 46, 168, 268. **NW3 map ref 14.**

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Havers

154 Haverstock Hill

NW3 2AY

Phone 020 7586 9476

www.thchaverstockarms.com

Open Mon-Thu 11.00-23.00; Fri and Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Bitter, Fuller's London Pride

Down to earth corner pub, formerly the Haverstock Arms, very much a community local. Bare boarded with upholstered settles and a large collection of photos of thespians. See if you can find the 'T Heath improved beer engines and cellar fittings' prints. Food is served seven days a week from 11.00-21.00 (19.00 Sun). For those with overseas tastes in beers, there's a good selection. Live music most Fridays and Saturdays, excluding the summer months. In addition the pub also features a roof garden and bed and breakfast accommodation, nine rooms all en-suite with television. Underground: Belsize Park. Bus: C11, 168. **NW3 map ref 16.**

Hill

94 Haverstock Hill

NW3 2BD

Phone 020 7267 0033

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun 11.00-23.00

Beers Fuller's London Pride.

Difficult to know what to make of this bar. Clearly food (Michelin recommended) is the main draw, however many are happy to sit and chat in an interior that can only be described as Liberace meets Versace. A single bar, the walls, decorated in a French powder blue, the furnishings definitely Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen not forgetting the chandeliers! Great for animal lovers, definitely pet friendly. Inviting 'tub style' chairs in the front of the bar great for chatting all night. Separate dining area. Best of

all, background music is just that. Decked garden to rear. Food available lunchtime and evenings.

Underground: Belsize Park. Overground: Ken-tish Town West. Bus: 24. **NW3 map ref 18.**

Holly Bush

22 Holly Mount

NW3 6SG

Phone 020 7435 2892

www.hollybushpub.com

Open Mon-Sat 12.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Broadside, Brakspear's Bitter, Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, Hook Norton Old Hooky, two guests

A marvellous multi-roomed pub at the top of some steep steps leading from Heath Street, there is a less steep incline if you approach from the tube via Holly Mount. A sensitive refurbishment opened up the rooms at the back and there is an upstairs dining room, serving good meals. However, for many, the jewels of this pub are the rooms containing the main bar and that off to the left as you enter, with its traditional open fire. Full of atmosphere and character, we can only be thankful they were not swept away by several tasteless schemes mooted in the past. On seeing them you will appreciate the Grade II listing and why it is



Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

listed on CAMRA's London Regional Inventory of historic pub interiors. Food served daily from 12.00-22.00 (21.00 Sun) but the dining room only opens Thu-Fri 18.30-23.00, Sat 12.00-23.00 (Sun 22.30). Small seating area at front mostly for the benefit of smokers. Underground: Hampstead. Bus: 268. **NW3 map ref 20.**

Horseshoe

28 Heath Street

NW3 6TE

Phone 020 7431 7206

www.thehorseshoehampstead.com

Open Mon-Thu 10.00-23.00; Fri and Sat 10.00-00.00; Sun 10.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Bitter, McLaughlin's house brewed beers, Purity Gold

A former Wetherspoon's pub which, after an uncertain post-JDW future, moved distinctly up-market with the introduction of an extensive gastro menu, open kitchen and all, and the installation of its own microbrewery down in the basement. With white walls, wooden floors, long bench tables and large arched windows, there is an airy, open feel to the place. Good selection of bottled beers including Coopers Sparkling Ale, Sierra Nevada and Celis White. There is seating outside for smokers in the side alley leading to High Street. Food served: Mon-Fri 12.00-15.30 and 18.30-22.00, Sat 10.00-17.00 and Sun 12.00-16.30. Underground: Hampstead. Bus: 46, 268. **NW3 map ref 22.**

King William IV

77 High Street

NW3 1RE

Phone 020 7435 5747

Open Mon-Thu 11.00-23.00; Fri-Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Courage Best, Fuller's London Pride.

This old coaching inn with a large central bar has been a stalwart of the gay scene for many years which has earned it the local nickname of the 'Pink Willy'. Be warned that real ale is not always available weekdays. The entertainment is geared to the target audience and there is seating outside plus a crepe stall. Underground: Hampstead. Bus: 46, 268. **NW3 map ref 24.**

Magdala

2a South Hill Park

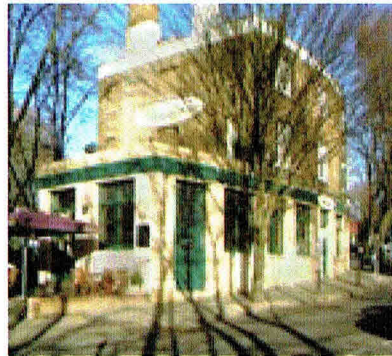
NW3 2SB

Phone 020 7435 2503

www.the-magdala.com

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 11.00-22.30

Beers Fuller's London Pride, Greene King IPA, one guest.



Welcoming, clean, bright pub, recently purchased by new proprietor. Dates back to 1885. Famous historic association with Ruth Ellis, last woman hanged in England, for shooting her lover to death outside the pub on Easter Sunday, 1955, though the alleged bullet marks on the façade are probably not authentic. Furnished inside with wooden tables and chairs in both saloon bar and dining area, although there is quite a contrast between the two, the saloon being heavily wood-panelled. Additional dining

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

room (to let) upstairs. Friendly, efficient staff serve a variety of tasty starters and mains – sausage and mash, burgers, artichoke ravioli, charcuterie, chocolate mousse, as well as desserts. Food served 12.00-22.00. Reasonably soft music, with the emphasis on Rat Pack standards when reviewed. Comedy nights occasionally sponsored. Overground: Hampstead Heath. Underground: Belsize Park. Buses: C11, 24, 46, 168. **NW3 map ref 26.**

North Star

104 Finchley Road

NW3 5JJ

Phone 020 7435 6287

Open Mon-Thu 11.00-23.30; Fri-Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Three or four guest beers, some are on regular rotation.

The pub was purpose built in 1850, shortly after the Finchley Road was driven through. The style is high Victorian, with a wrought iron balcony across the frontage. The Jubilee Line is three feet below the cellar floor. The building is on a steep slope, so drinking spaces are at different heights, and the large patio at the back, which can be covered and heated and has television is on three levels. The interior has only a few original features left: there are two marble fire surrounds. It is a football and television sports-orientated locals' bar: there is a dartboard in the back corner. Food includes bar snacks and daily specials, popular with local workers coming in for lunch. Food served 12.00-20.00 (15.00 Fri). Extended to 22.00 on match nights. Underground: Finchley Road. Bus: C11, 13, 82, 113, 187, 268. **NW3 map ref 28.**

Old Bull and Bush

North End Way

NW3 7HE

Phone 020 8905 5456

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

Just up the road from the sadly closed Jack Straw's Castle and somewhat closer to Golders Green, this is handy if you are visiting the less well-known northern extension of Hampstead Heath or the West Heath and Golders Hill Park. Made famous by Florie Ford's music hall song, 'Down at the Old Bull and Bush' where people were invited to come and make eyes at her, and perhaps they did. It's an old coaching inn set back from the road with seating out front. The interior has been much modernised and, unfortunately, real ale is not always guaranteed available. Food served, Bus: 210, 268. **NW3 map ref 30.**

Old Oak

1 Mansfield Road

NW3 2JD

Phone 020 7485 6832

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 11.00-22.30

Beers Jennings Cumberland Ale.

Cheerful, sport-oriented pub, on the corner with Oak Village, with plasma screens dominating the proceedings, friendly staff, cheap and cheerful interior, bar snacks available during the day. Darts, large tables, unused fireplace. Tables outside in front for use in nice weather. The locale of Gospel Oak where it is situated, refers back to a tree under which parishioners gathered to hear an annual gospel reading – a continuation of a pre-Christian practice. Gospel oaks also acted as boundary markers with clergy giving Bible readings as part of the traditional annual ceremony of the Beating of the Bounds. There used to be an eel/shellfish stall in front of this pub. Overground: Gospel Oak. Underground: Belsize Park or Kentish Town. Bus: C11. **NW3 map ref 32.**

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Olde White Bear

1 Well Road

NW3 1LJ

Phone 020 7435 3758

Open Mon-Wed 11.30-23.00; Thu-Sat 11.30-23.30; Sun 12.00-23.00

Beers Up to six beers constantly rotating from the Punch list

A lovely old pub down the bottom of New End leading to the Heath, as much of this part of Hampstead does! There are three rooms with an outside terrace at the front and courtyard at the back. Adorned with prints, wood-panelled throughout, the rooms are open to each other around a central bar. With settle seating, a bay window in the middle room, extensive bric-a-brac around the place and complemented by a polar bear in shades behind the bar, there's a nice ambience. In one of the rooms a settee sits framed within a tanelus and there is a fine fireplace. Children and dogs welcome. Food served daily 12.00-21.00. Underground: Hampstead. Bus: 268 (Heath St). **NW3 map ref 50.**

Roebuck

15 Pond Street

NW3 2PN

Phone 020 7433 6871

Open Sun-Thu 11.30-23.00; Fri-Sat 12.00-00.00

Beers Young's Bitter

Cosy pub, acquired by Young's in 2008, dating from 1860 as the Roebuck Hotel, furnished internally with wooden tables and chairs, some upholstered, and sofas, low lighting, soft music. Conservatory and garden at the back, lower room available to let (when finished – the entire pub was undergoing a refurbishment during production of this guide. We are assured it will not lose its cosy pub atmosphere. The cellar is to be refurbished as a cocktail bar). Food

served at lunch and dinner – Mediterranean-style starters and mains, fish and chips, burgers, sausage and mash. Tables outside in front. Underground: Belsize Park. Overground: Hampstead Heath. Buses: C11, 24, 46, 168. **NW3 map ref 34.**

Sir Richard Steele

97 Haverstock Hill

NW3 4RL

Phone 020 7483 1261

www.sirrichardsteele.com

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-00.00, Sun 12.00-23.30

Beers Adnams Bitter, Eden Green; Bass; Flowers IPA

Extremely popular, multi-roomed corner pub, brimming with bric-a-brac and paraphernalia sometimes calling itself just Steeles (is this the name of the food franchise?). With a patio garden to one side it is hard to miss the huge corner sign advertising the defunct Wests Brewery. Owned by the same people as the Pineapple in Kentish Town, they hold a cask beer of the month promotion and intend to host beer festivals. Sir Richard (1672-1729) hailed from Ireland and was a literary man founding in his time both *Tatler* and the *Spectator*. Thai menu daily, lunch and evenings weekdays, all day weekends. Underground: Belsize Park. Overground: Kentish Town West. Bus: 24.

Spaniards Inn

Spaniards Road

NW3 7JJ

Phone 020 8731 8406

Open Daily 11.00-23.00

Beers Adnams Broadside, Fuller's London Pride plus guests

Ciders Weston's Vintage Cider, Country Perry

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

The building dates back to about 1585, though possibly not originally a pub, it is soaked in history, housed in a charming Grade II listed, white weatherboard clad exterior. The pub's interior is divided into separate rooms with areas featuring wooden beams and low ceilings, lending the place a cosy atmosphere. There is a large garden out back alongside the large car park. The inn is mentioned in Dickens' 'Pickwick Papers' and Bram Stoker's 'Dracula', Keats is said to have written 'Ode to a Nightingale' in the garden. But references to the highwayman Dick Turpin being born here are false – he was born in Essex. Good selection of imported beers and close to the Heath and Kenwood House. It can get very busy at the weekends so don't be surprised with a long queue just to get a drink on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Food served 12.00-22.00. Bus: 210; 603 runs four times a day Mon-Fri. **NW3 map ref 38.**

Stag

67 Fleet Road

NW3 2QU

Phone 020 7722 2646

www.thestaghampstead.com

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 11.00-22.30

Beers Flower's Original, Timothy Taylor's Landlord

This roomy Victorian pub (c1855) was once a reliable back street boozer. It changed hands recently and reopened in September 2008 as a trendy food pub, cutting down the selection of real ales. The new owners painted the entire vast Victorian frontage black, pared down the interior to minimalist, with wooden tables and chairs, darkness punctuated by candlelight, voluble music, and revamped the huge garden behind. The pub is dog-friendly. Menu features some pub specials, gourmet burgers and different kinds of cheeses. They seem to be catering for the younger, trendy set, of which there

might be a few in the neighbourhood, but it's hard to see this concept lasting. The former clientele has probably decamped to the White Horse down the road, which has so far largely resisted the trendy allure. Not what you would call a real ale hot-bed. Underground: Belsize Park. Overground: Hampstead Heath. Buses: C11, 24, 46, 168. **NW3 map ref 40.**

Washington

50 England's Lane

NW3 4UE

Phone 020 7722 8842

Open Mon-Thu 12.00-23.00; Fri-Sat 12.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Regatta, Fuller's London Pride, Timothy Taylor's Landlord



Popular and imposing Victorian corner pub. Extensively retained period woodwork together with lots of cut and etched glass complement the stucco ceiling and island bar. Listed on CAMRA's London Regional Inventory of historic pub interiors, despite its opening up. Features to admire include the entrance floor mosaic proclaiming 'Washington Hotel and Billiards', the wall tiling and the lovely painted mirrors towards the rear with their pictures of flora and fauna. No mention of this pub would be complete without the commendable full price list clearly displayed on the wall. There is a

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

separate meeting room for 60. Hot and cold food is available. Underground: Belsize Park, Chalk Farm, Swiss Cottage. **NW3 map ref 42.**

Wells

30 Well Walk
NW3 1BX

Phone 020 7794 3785

www.thewellshampstead.co.uk

Open Mon-Sat 12.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Broadside, Black Sheep Bitter.

Possibly the most gastro of all gastropubs in NW3, some 80% of the custom is diners which could be explained by the hearty portions. Food served daily 12.00-15.00 (Sun 16.00) and 18.00 (Sun 19.00)-22.00. Not easy to find as it bears a passing resemblance to one of the many fine houses you find around here. The interior has been furnished and finished in a modern style, black tiles adorn the walls and there is a lounge area at the back with a television. Underground: Hampstead. Overground: Hampstead Heath. **NW3 map ref 44.**

Wetherspoons

First Floor, O2 Centre, 255 Finchley Road
NW3 6LU

Phone 020 7433 0920

Open Mon-Thu 09.00-23.30; Fri-Sat 09.00-00.00; Sun 09.00-22.30

Beers Greene King IPA, Abbot; Marston's Pedigree; Shepherd Neame Spitfire; four rotating guests.

Occupies the front right hand side of this curving modern shopping centre, with a cinema and numerous eating places. Views of Finchley Road from the main bar, about a third of which is partitioned off as a family room (weekdays

until 21.00, Sundays 20.00). There are more intimate spaces in the interior of the building, including a conference room available for hire. You can sit on the balcony overlooking the shops, but there is no outside smoking area. Standard JDW fittings, with 'industrial' ceiling. Operates as a Lloyds No 1, to attract a younger clientele, with background music and large screen televisions in the evening. There is a disabled toilet and access to the main bar. Traditional cider only sold during festivals. Food available until 30 minutes before closing. Underground: Finchley Road. Buses 13, 82, 113, 187, 268, C11. **NW3 map ref 46.**

White Horse

154 Fleet Road
NW3 2QX

Phone 020 7485 2112

Open Mon-Thu 11.00-23.00; later on weekends

Beers Caledonian Deuchar's IPA, Hook Norton Old Hooky, Sharp's Doom Bar, Shepherd Neame Master Brew.

Convivial and attractive triangular corner pub, with long pedigree, dating back to 1827, and including customers such as George Orwell, who worked at a bookshop opposite, and Joe Orton. Formerly GE Aldwinkle's. Interior decoration is listed, including fine oak bar panelling, decorative ceiling, stained glass and floor tiles. Decorative fireplaces, sconces, old prints, Victorian-style lampshades, chandeliers and rococo mirrors lend an elegant ambience to the wooden tables and chairs, interspersed with upholstered furniture. There is a small garden, or outside area with tables and chairs, with toilets in the basement. Generally soft music and interesting Thai menu, also offering traditional English desserts. Good wine list. A neighbourhood gem. Overground: Hampstead Heath. Underground: Belsize Park. Buses: C11, 24, 46, 168. **NW3 map ref 48.**

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

NW6: West Hampstead

Originally known in the 13th century as le Rudyng, a name which indicates a woodland clearing. By 1534 it became West End. The name relates to a freehold estate, later called Thorplands, belonging to Kilburn priory. It was renamed West Hampstead in the 1800s to avoid confusion with central London's West End. The arrival of the railway in the 1850s resulted in its growth and much of the building dates from that time. This included a number of Mansion Blocks, built by Edward Cave, the first to appear in London. For a bit of greenery, visit West End Green. It contains a 1897 stone drinking fountain and an oak tree planted to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII.

Alliance

40-42 Mill Lane

NW6 1NR

Phone 020 7794 2860

Open Mon-Wed 11.00-23.30; Thu 11.00-00.00; Fri-Sat 11.00-01.00; Sun 12.00-23.00

Beers Greene King IPA

Much modernised corner pub in the back streets of West Hampstead, essentially two rooms, the left hand one being the brighter, through having windows along the side with a small partitioned area at the rear. The longer right hand room has a panelled ceiling and a pool table and dart-board at the rear. Uplighting is applied to the light pastel coloured walls, to give a comfortable ambience. Television screens are present in all areas of the bar for sporting events. A disabled access ramp is available from the road. Very limited pavement space for smokers. The pub also presents periodically changing exhibitions of high class photography and paintings by local artists. Thursday night is quiz night, while Saturday nights feature a wide range of music styles. Food served 18.00-21.00 Mon-Fri, 12.00-18.00 Sat-Sun. Meals include all-day breakfast, fish and chips, sausage and mash, burgers and stuffed jalapenos, plus sandwiches. Underground: Kilburn. Bus: C11 (Westbere Road). **NW6 map ref 2.**

Lion

295 West End Lane

NW6 1RD

Phone 020 7435 4389

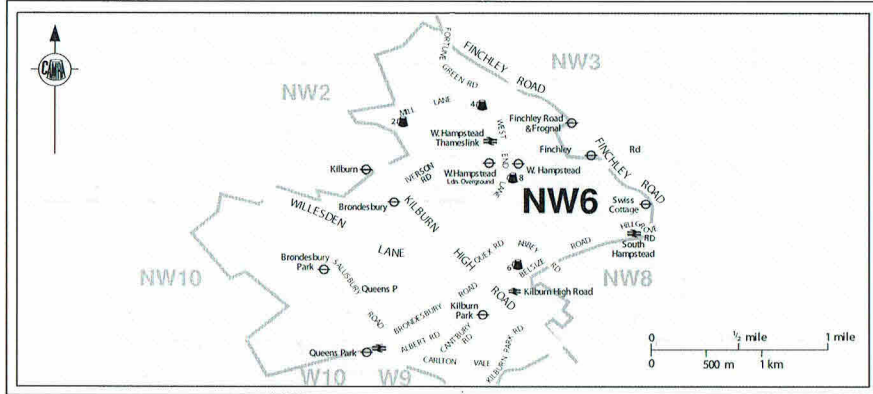
Open Mon-Thu 12.00-23.00; Fri-Sat 12.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Greene King IPA, Old Speckled Hen.

Large main road pub at West Hampstead Green, with split room. The left side, leading to the bar, caters mainly for the quick pint and read the papers clientele, while the right hand side suits a more leisurely audience. A mixture of high and low seating is provided to suit all requirements. An eclectic selection of wall mounted lighting throughout is supplemented in the main room with chandeliers. Fairly large outdoor drinking areas are provided at both back and front. Note that the handpumps are hidden away on the end of the bar, and not readily evident from the street. The pub is predominantly occupied by the younger set; despite the television screens football is never shown! However, the music can be a bit loud at times. Food is served from opening until 22.00 Mon-Sat, 21.00 Sun. The menu is wide ranging, from steaks through English favourites, curries and salads to modern deli-style foods, and featuring an impressive selection of burgers. Vegetarian options are available. Underground/overground: West Hampstead. Buses: C11, 139, 328 (West End Green). **NW6 map ref 4.**

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

NW6 WEST HAMPSTEAD



NW6 WEST HAMPSTEAD

Priory Tavern

250 Belsize Road

NW6 4BT

Phone 020 7209 0898

Open Sun-Thu 11.00-23.00; Fri-Sat 11.00-00.00

Beers Courage Best Bitter.

Classic Victorian corner pub with high ceilings, original features and good old fashioned central island bar. Bright and sunny bar rooms with lots of olde worlde paraphernalia and sports pictures all around the walls and shelves. Now a typical sports bar with big screens and Sky Sports complemented in the main with cold run of the mill lagers. No food on offer, only bar snacks. Overground: Kilburn High Rd. Bus: 28, 31. **NW6 map ref 6.**

Railway

100 West End Lane

NW6 2LU

Phone 020 7624 7611

Open Mon-Thu 11.00-23.00; Fri-Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Fuller's London Pride, Greene King IPA, two guest ales.

Large mid-Victorian pub on a corner close to the stations, in the style of the North London railway. Comfortable leather covered bench seating in several drinking areas opposite a long bar. Television screens in most areas for sporting events. The pub features several varieties of entertainment, Quiz night Sunday, Poker Club Thursday night, and live music Saturday night. Student Night is on Tuesdays. Being on the group's 'Cellarman's Reserve' listing, the pub has a choice of 20 guest beers from Regional brewers to choose from each month, and customers are encouraged to suggest preferred options. Food is served everyday between 11.00 and 22.00, and covers sharing platters, steaks, burgers, jacket potatoes, pasta dishes and the tried and tested fish and chips, sausage and mash and shepherds pie. Nibbles available include olives, nuts and so on. Underground/overground: West Hampstead. Buses: C11, 139, 328. **NW6 map ref 8.**

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

NW8: St John's Wood

This area was once part of the Great Forest of Middlesex. Its present name comes from the Augustinian order of the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, who took over the land in 1323 from the Knights Templar. The land passed to Henry VIII after the dissolution of the monasteries and was Crown land until 1688. The area remained agricultural until the landowners put together a plan in the late 1700s for residential building. The initial building was quite unique being semi detached villas rather than terraced houses and had large gardens and tree lined streets, which attracted many artists, authors and philosophers. Although many of the buildings and gardens are no longer there, English Heritage designated much of St John's Wood a conservation area in the 1960s.

Lord's Cricket Ground has been in St John's Wood Road since 1814 and is home to the Middlesex County Cricket Club. It was named after Thomas Lord, a bowler, who established the original ground in Islington in 1787. The wicket was originally prepared by allowing sheep to graze it until Lord's invested in a mowing machine and a groundsman in 1864. The oldest building on the current site is the terracotta pavilion built in 1890. Tours are available but check first.

In direct contrast, St John's Wood is also known for Abbey Road Studios, set in an 1830s house. It became an EMI recording studio in 1931, and the Beatles started recording here in 1962. The famous zebra crossing that appears on their final album is nearby. The studios are still active, with more recent projects including Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Shrek and the Golden Compass. They are not open to the public.

Clifton

96 Clifton Hill

NW8 0JT

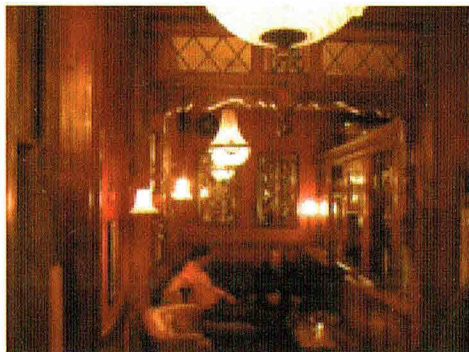
Phone 020 7372 3427

www.cliftonstjohnswood.com

Open Daily 12.00-22.30

Beers Adnams Bitter, Fuller's London Pride, one beer from Sharps and one guest.

Originally a hunting lodge, this nook and cranny pub is around 200 years old. Used by Edward VII to meet Lilly Langtry, it reportedly changed its name to 'Hotel' as royalty could not visit 'pubs'. The ambience is created by multiple areas based around an ornate bar with carving and bronze insets. Enter the pub through a porch with seating, into the small, comfy front bar with settees. The side bar has a small fireplace and bar stalls. Walk through, noting the large Assirati's Temperance Bar mirror, into a stand-up drinking section that leads to two



sunken seating areas. The left hand area has more comfortable settees around a fireplace, with a television in the corner. In the right hand area, there are games available such as Scrabble to Trivial Pursuit. More steps down lead into a wooden seating area and the conservatory dining room; which is open 12.00-15.00 and 18.30-21.15 Mon-Sat; 12.00-16.00 and

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

18.30-21.00 Sun. Bar snacks are available at similar times. There is an outside patio area for summer drinking and smokers. Underground: St John's Wood. Buses: 139, 189. **NW8 map ref 2.**

Lord's Tavern Bar and Brasserie

St John's Wood Road

NW8 8QP

Phone 020 7616 8687

www.lords.org/lords-ground/lords-tavern

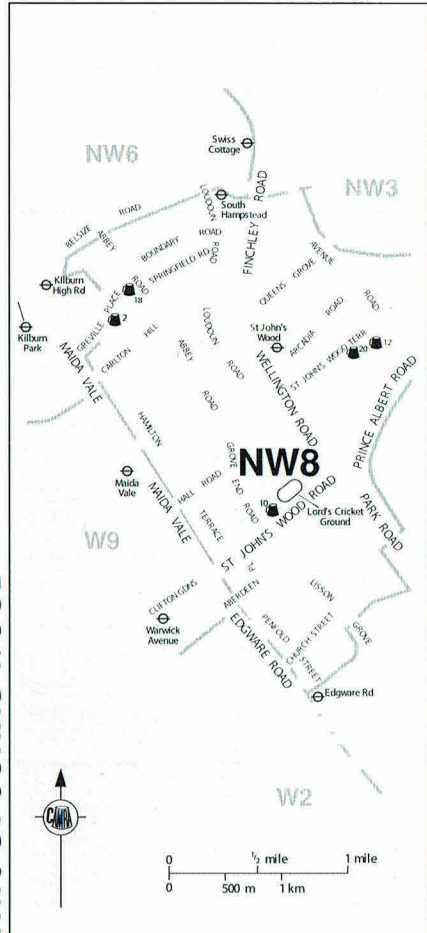
Open Mon-Fri 11.00-21.00; Sat-Sun 11.00-16.00 (unless hired for a function)

Beers Marston's Burton Bitter, Pedigree.

There has been a hostelry on this site since 1868 when the architect Edward Paraire, who specialised in pubs and chapels, designed a building, located within the ground, with a graceful wrought iron balcony. His building was controversially demolished almost a century later, when the south-west corner of Lord's was redeveloped and the current building was built, next to the Grace Gate, in 1967. Antiseptically clean venue, with one single room including a restaurant area. Good for viewing cricket, obviously, and there is seating at the front heated terrace to view St John's Wood Road as well! Sports television on but with sound down. Music pumping through and this is extra loud in the (very nice) toilets. Expensive bar snacks are available – baguettes start at £7. Restaurant prices start at £6.50 for starters and £11.50 for mains. The whole venue can be hired out for events. As part of Lord's cricket ground complex, the Tavern is closed to the public on 'major matchdays'. Underground: St John's Wood, Maida Vale. Bus: 13, 82, 113. **NW8 map ref 10.**

NW8 ST JOHNS WOOD

NW8 ST JOHNS WOOD



Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

New Inn

2 Allitsen Road

NW8 6LA

Phone 020 7722 0726

www.newinnlondon.co.uk

Open Mon-Fri 11.00-23.00; Sat 11.00-23.30;
Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Greene King IPA, Abbot.

On the corner with Townshend Road, originally built in 1810, this one-bar pub with a small raised area set aside for dining sits in a quiet, tree-lined residential area with Regent's Park, London Zoo, Primrose Hill and Lord's cricket ground all within a short walking distance. Tables are placed on the pavement outside and on Saturday night a live band might be found playing. The pub has five bedrooms, three double and two twin, all with en-suite showers, television and tea/coffee making facilities. The accommodation includes breakfast and, for the area, represents good value for money. Free wireless internet access. Food is served from a Thai/English menu Mon-Sat 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-22.00, Sun 12.00-16.00. The Sunday menu also includes traditional roasts. Underground: St John's Wood. **NW8 map ref 12.**

Salthouse

63 Abbey Road

NW8 0AE

Phone 020 7328 6626

www.thesalthouse.co.uk

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-00.00; Sun 12.00-23.00

Beers Greene King Abbot.

Bistro-style corner pub with a wooden floor and large distressed wooden windows letting in natural light during the day but in the evening the lighting is subdued. The light coloured walls sport blackboards advertising cocktails and the hire of the upstairs private dining room. The

seating is mixed, varying from settees snuggled in the corner by the bar, to large wooden tables with benches and an eclectic mix of chairs. In the evening, the pub has a welcoming appearance brightened by the carriage lights on the outside, which lights up the outside seating/smoking area warmed by patio heaters. This is separated from the pavement by potted bushes. Food is served 12.00-22.30 daily and there is a separate restaurant, which has an attractive outside eating deck area. Menu is fairly standard bistro fayre and note that the service charge can be added to food ordered in the bar but it is discretionary. Underground: St John's Wood. Buses: 139, 189. **NW8 map ref 18.**

Star

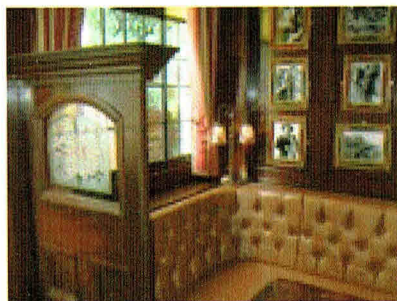
St John's Wood Terrace

NW8 6LS

Phone 020 7722 1051

Open Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun 12.00-22.30

Beers Flower's IPA, Fuller's London Pride.



A central dark wooden bar creating various separate drinking areas adds to the intimacy of this traditional corner pub. The long right side of the pub is comfortably seated with coffee coloured walls and rather strange grey pillars; note the tiled fireplace. The front bar is predominantly standing but look to the top left to see the small clock: 'Grand Central Terminal

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

New York' on the grill work that dominates the bar. Leading to the left, is a small lounge with a grand fireplace with gilt candlesticks and the hideaway back snug. There are two silent televisions and a big screen for major events. Some muzak. On sunny days, the light streams in through coloured Toby and Charrington branded glass in the windows. When warm, you can sit

outside in the patio area admiring the white former church in this quiet part of St Johns Wood. Underground: St John's Wood. **NW8**
map ref 20.

Other nearby pubs

The pubs described in this section are drawn from three areas of London, all within a reasonable distance of Highgate by public transport. These are as follows. For specific pub locations, please visit the CAMRA North London website at www.camranorthlondon.org.uk.

N8 Crouch End

Lying to the north east of Highgate and Hampstead, Crouch End was a sleepy rural backwater until the 19th century. Its name, which is believed to date back more than 600 years, is derived from a cross marking the boundary between two local estates. The expansion of London's suburbs, together with the opening of a number of railway stations in the vicinity, put Crouch End on the map. The area's most famous monument, the Clock Tower in Crouch End Broadway, was built in 1895 as the activity continued. Today, Crouch End is home to Hornsey Town Hall; Hornsey itself, just to the north of Crouch End, shares the same postcode and its pubs include the regular Good Beer Guide entry The Three Compasses. Famous residents of Crouch End include several actors and journalists, reflecting the make-up of the area, while local urban mythology had both Madonna and Bob Dylan looking for houses in recent years. Despite the domination of the local football scene by Arsenal and Tottenham, the unusually named amateur club Crouch End Vampires celebrated their 125th anniversary in 2008.

N10 Muswell Hill

North of Highgate and north east of Hampstead, Muswell Hill is recorded as far back as the 12th century. The 'well' is the important part of its name as the area quickly acquired a reputation for restorative drinking water. The 'hill' is self-explanatory, as all approaches to the centre of Muswell Hill involve negotiating an incline of some sort. In common with Crouch End, the railways brought 19th century expansion, but Muswell Hill now functions without a mainline or tube station, which possibly explains the large number of bus routes that serve it. It still has a cinema, however - the Odeon, built before the Second World War. Alexandra Palace, former home of the BBC, is within easy walking distance. More recently, Muswell Hill has been able to claim two famous musical associations. The Kinks, formed by brothers Ray and Dave Davies, enjoyed numerous hits in the sixties and seventies and immortalised the area in the song 'Muswell Hillbillies', while the less commercially successful but more enduring folk-rock outfit Fairport Convention notched up 40 years of recording and touring with a sell-out performance in August 2007. In pub terms, if you have enough time on a visit to Muswell Hill, check out the Maid of Muswell in Alexandra Park Road.

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

N19 Archway

Situated at the foot of Highgate Hill, south east of Highgate and north east of Hampstead, Archway's history is closely linked to its neighbour up the slope. The historical section on Highgate describes the impact on N6 innkeepers when the first Archway Road Bridge opened in the 19th century. Nearly 100 years later, when the local tube station opened, it operated under the name of Highgate for the first three decades of its existence until the Northern Line extension created the Highgate station we know today. The area known as Archway has its centre at a crossroads that includes Holloway Road – which takes you towards Islington and, not surprisingly, Holloway – and Junction Road, which goes off to Camden and Kentish Town. The Archway Road itself is part of the A1 to all points north. The area's most famous historical association is with Dick Whittington. There is a statue of his famous cat on Highgate Hill and the local hospital and two pubs bear his name. For real ale drinkers, the area was the site of one of the first Wetherspoon outlets – The Dog, in Archway Road, which opened in 1986. Sold on in the nineties, it is now much refurbished and renamed after votes for women campaigner Charlotte Despard.

Harringay Arms

153 Crouch Hill

N8 9QH

Phone 020 8340 4243

Open Sun–Thu 12.00–23.30; Fri–Sat 12.00–00.00

Beers Adnams Broadside, Courage Best Bitter plus up to two other beers.

Easily Crouch End's most traditional real ale pub – small from the outside, cosy on the inside – and a regular Good Beer Guide entry into the bargain. One wall features historical maps of Crouch End, another has old photos of Irish authors, playwrights and poets. Two televisions offer Sky sports to a discerning audience without dominating the pub. In contrast to the modern trend, the pub still has its dartboard; if you would rather stay seated chess boards are available on request. There is a small outdoor area for smokers at the back of the pub. Like many N8 pubs it hosts a quiz night, the Harringay's offering takes place on Tuesdays. Overground: Crouch Hill. Buses: W5, W7.

Kings Head

2 Crouch End Hill

N8 8AA

Phone 020 8340 1028

Open Sun–Wed 12.00–00.00; Thu–Sat 12.00–01.00

Beers Fuller's London Pride, guest beers
Ciders Weston's Old Rosie.

The first thing you notice about the Kings Head is the lack of an apostrophe in its name, either on the frontage or the pub sign, which depicts the King of Hearts from the traditional deck of cards. The second is the inside of the pub, which the large windows make easily visible from the street. The pub is renowned for live entertainment, with comedy downstairs three times a week, live music on Fridays and jazz on Sunday afternoons. There is also a quiz on Wednesday nights. The walls are adorned with photos of comedians, and there is plenty of comfortable seating to study them from. As well as real ale and cider, foreign brews such as Hoegaarden, Franziskaner, Leffe and Fruli are on sale. There is an extensive menu; food is served Mon–Sat 12.00–22.00 (Sun 20.30). Underground: Archway. Buses: 41, 91.

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Maynard

70 Park Road

N8 8SX

Phone 020 8340 6283

Open Sun–Thu 12.00–23.00; Fri–Sat 12.00–00.00

Beers Greene King IPA, Abbot; guest beer from Greene King portfolio

Ciders Weston's Old Rosie.

Formerly the Maynard Arms, the pub's name downsized in a gastro conversion a few years ago. The pub sign, which ditched its heraldic design for a hollowed out 'm' on a black background, emphasises the change. For a single bar pub, it is on the large side and in warm weather the doors open straight onto the courtyard. Food served Mon–Thu 12.00–14.30 and 18.00–21.00, Fri–Sun 12.00–20.00. The extensive menu surely has the definitive list of burgers, with up to 18 options available. Main courses, which include Wiltshire trout, Shropshire Blue cheese salad and Suffolk sausages, are almost a tour of Britain in themselves. The pub hosts an acoustic music evening on Wednesdays. The outdoor drinking area has an attractive mural of the nearby Alexandra Palace. Underground: Archway. Buses: W5, W7.

Railway Tavern

23 Crouch End Hill

N8 8DH

Phone 020 8348 3396

www.the-railwaytavern.co.uk

Open Sun–Wed 12.00–23.00; Thu 12.00–00.00; Fri–Sat 12.00–01.00

Beers Black Sheep Best Bitter, Hook Norton Old Hooky, Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

Of all the Crouch End pubs to have gone gastro, the Railway's makeover is arguably the most extreme. Under new management since early

2008, the satellite televisions and pool tables that were the mainstay of the old pub have gone and the interior has been extensively refurbished, making the area around the single bar look much more open plan. The furnishings are leather and dark wood, with tasteful floral displays and theatrical memorabilia. Food served Mon–Fri 12.00–15.00 and 17.00–21.30, Sat–Sun 12.00–21.30. Menu includes the pub's 'pie of the day' and an eclectic range of sandwiches, including the wittily named 'Railway Club'. Roasts are available on Sundays, and there is also a children's menu. Despite the changes, the pub's range of real ales has doubled in the process. Outdoor seating at both front and rear of pub. Underground: Archway. Buses: 41, 91.

Victoria Stakes

1 Muswell Hill

N10 3TH

Phone 020 8815 1793

www.victoriastakes.co.uk

Open Mon–Wed 17.00–23.00; Thu 17.00–00.00; Fri–Sat 12.00–00.00; Sun 12.00–22.30

Beers Two rotating beers (e.g. Cottage Southern Bitter, Hop Back Summer Lightning).

Single-bar pub nestling in the foothills of Alexandra Palace, on the main Finsbury Park to Muswell Hill bus route. Its name comes from a horse race and the theme is reinforced throughout the pub. Like several real ale outlets in the area, it describes itself as a 'bar and dining rooms'. Furnishings are a mix of leather sofas and old style wooden chairs; there is a wooden floor throughout. As well as two real ales at any one time, the pub also offers draught Leffe and Hoegaarden. Food is served, either in the pub or the upstairs restaurant, Mon–Thu 18.00–22.30, Fri–Sat 12.00–16.00 and 18.00–22.30, Sun 12.30–21.00. The menu takes in everything from Thai fish cakes to Barnsley lamb chop.

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate

Outdoor seating is available at both front and rear of the pub. Overground: Alexandra Palace. Bus: W7.

St John's

91 Junction Road

N19 5QU

Phone 020 7772 1587

Open Mon-Thu 17.00-23.00; Fri-Sat 12.00-23.00; Sun/bank hols 12.00-22.30

Beers Brakspear Oxford Gold, Hop Back Summer Lightning, Sharp's Cornish Coaster

Welcome and relatively recent addition to the real ale renaissance taking place in this part of London. Although the emphasis is undeniably on food, this gastro pub has three real ales on at any one time. It is also big enough for those who just want a drink to enjoy one without feeling uncomfortable. The whole impression is one of space, helped by a large bar area and high ceilings. A range of newspapers is available and the large square tables offer broadsheet readers plenty of room to spread out. There is an equally large restaurant area to the rear of the pub, and an outdoor drinking/smoking space to the side. Food served Mon-Thu 18.00-22.30, Fri 12.00-15.30 (Sun 16.00) and 18.30-23.00 (Sun 21.30). But please note the menu says a 'discretionary' 12.5% service charge will be added to all bills. Underground: Archway. Overground: Upper Holloway. Buses: 134, 390.

Star

47 Chester Road

N19 5DF

Phone 020 7263 9067

www.thestar-n19.co.uk

Open Mon-Thu 17.00-23.30; Fri-Sat 12.00-01.00; Sun 12.00-23.30

Beers Ringwood Best Bitter, Timothy Taylor's Landlord, guest beer

Formerly the Totnes Castle, the Star is reaping the rewards of reinventing itself as a gastropub. The emphasis is not just on food though; there is an acoustic music night on Thursdays and the 'Anything Goes' club on the first Sunday of the month lives up to its name with everything from comedy to poetry. The growing number of pump clips behind the bar shows the pub's commitment to a changing range of real ale – even the pub's reading material includes the Timothy Taylor Times. Food served from 18.30-22.30, includes trout, pigeon and onglet steak. But don't give any leftovers to the pub dog. Signs advise you not to feed it under any circumstances! Underground: Tufnell Park. Bus: C11.

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