



UPDATE 6: MAY 2023

This is the latest cumulative update to the third edition of my book *London's Best Beer, Pubs and Bars*, published in November 2021 by CAMRA Books. Because of other commitments, I've been unable to visit any new venues, but I've included several new openings of interest. Sadly, there are more brewery closures to record since the last update in December 2022, though a little good news too. Other additional full entries have been carried over from previous updates. I plan further visits in time for the next update in August 2023.

The additional entries follow the book format, though I've had to use substitutes for some of the symbols. In the travel details, **NR** means a National Rail station, **TfL** a station with rail services managed by Transport for London (Elizabeth Line, Overground, Underground, DLR), **Cy** a cycling route and **Wk** a walking route.

Each issue includes all changes to date, including those previously published. Following a suggestion by a Patreon supporter, every entry is tagged with a month and year. New or substantially revised entries are tagged as *05/23*.

I'm making this update available to people buying copies of the book directly from me. If you got a free copy and want to receive subsequent issues, please support me by becoming a patron. You'll enjoy a range of other benefits too, such as substantial discounts on beer tours, occasional exclusive content and free admission to selected events. For more see patreon.com/ldnbestbeer.

CENTRAL LONDON

Bloomsbury to Angel

King Charles I

Traditional pub

55 Northdown Street N1 9BL

T (020) 7837 7758

☎ Sa-Th 12.00-23.00, Fr 12.00-24.00. Children until 20.00.

3 cask, 2 keg, 15 bottles/cans, 1 cider.

Outdoor A few tables on street.

Drag pub quiz, live Irish music and piano, reggae DJs, free jukebox, board games.

NR Kings Cross, St Pancras International **TfL** Kings Cross St Pancras **Wk** Link to Jubilee Greenway, Jubilee Walkway

It's hard to avoid the cliché 'hidden gem' about this little oasis just off Caledonian Road and a short walk from Kings Cross station. Community owned since 2015 and now an Asset of Community Value, it specialises in well-kept cask beer, good music and an unpretentiously friendly welcome. A smallish single drinking area is lined with what looks like 1930s wood panelling and decorated with a motley collection of stuffed animal heads, theatrical masks, brewery mirrors and other oddities. The small but immaculately kept selection of rotating casks favours Londoners like Hammerton, One Mile End and Park, or perhaps Kent Brewery. There's a dedicated keg line for Siren, plus more of that brewery's beers in cans alongside low alcohol options. The free jukebox is justifiably described as "cracking". Featured in the first edition, it somehow slipped through the cracks thereafter, and I'm delighted to have rediscovered it. *08/22*

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Brewhouse and Kitchen Islington. Closed for extensive refurbishment to the building in September 2022 with no reopening date announced, hopefully temporary but likely over a year. *12/22*

Calthorpe Arms (Try also). The longstanding leaseholder of this CAMRA favourite Young's pub moved on late in 2019 and the pub itself is now controlled by Punch. It was designated an Asset of Community Value (ACV) in January 2022, which partly protects its future as a pub, but recent reports suggest its beer interest is considerably reduced. *08/22*

Little Creatures Regents Canal. The bar and brewery were included in the package of Lion/Kirin properties sold to Oddysey Inns in August 2022: see Fourpure under Southeast London: Bermondsey. Brewing was suspended and in late

October the venue was renamed **Babel Beer House** with the web address changed accordingly to babelbeerhouse.com. Little Creatures is no longer on sale; instead, there's a wide range of Fourpure and Magic Rock beers. On-site brewing was revived in March 2023. 05/23

Three Johns (Try also). One of the former Barworks pubs sold to Urban Pubs who reduced the beer range: see Exmouth Arms under Clerkenwell and Farringdon below. 08/22

Borough and Southbank

BrewDog Waterloo

Brewpub, bar

Unit G Waterloo Station, 1 The Sidings SE1 7BH (Lambeth) brewdog.com

First sold beer: November 2022

⊕ *Su-Th* 07.30-23.30, *Fr* 07.30-00.30, *Sa* 09.00-00.30. Children until 20.00.

25+ keg, 50+ bottles/cans, specialist spirits.

Food Burgers, salads, pizzas, oak-fired chicken ££ Ⓜ.

Tastings, DJs, pingpong, duckpin bowling, functions, co-working space

NR TfL Waterloo **Boat** London Eye **Cy** NCN4, link to C10 **Wk** Link to Jubilee Greenway, Jubilee Walkway, Thames Path

Brewdog's biggest UK venue so far, in the former international facilities under platforms 20-24 at Waterloo station, opened in August 2022, with the onsite brewery online three months later. Not yet visited but expect the usual offer across two bars with lots of space and lots of people to fill it. 12/22

BEERS (not tasted) on keg are specials for sale at the bar.

Gladstone Arms

Contemporary pub

64 Lant Street SE1 1QN

T 7407 3529 thegladpub.co.uk

⊕ *Mo-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.30. Children until 20.00.

1-2 cask, 11 keg, 6+ bottles/cans.

Food Anglo-Indian, very good ££, **Outdoor** Small roof terrace.

Live music (Tu/Su), open mic, Cockney singalong, comedy, quiz, major big screen sport, darts, board games, functions.

TfL Borough **Cy** C10, links to CS7, C14

A smallish but lively pub just off Borough High Street, the Glad provides an appealing combination of interesting beer, Anglo-Indian food, a homely and relaxed atmosphere and a strong music focus. The L-shaped downstairs area is shaded pastel green with Indian murals and tables

decorated with barley sprigs in jars. Up a staircase lined with old records is a petite roof terrace and a second room with a mirrored fireplace and 60s furniture. Casks might be from Moor or Sambrook's while a good spectrum of kegs, including a gluten-free option, takes in Coalition, Gipsy Hill, Hackney, Howling Hops or Toast, with a few from bigger brewers. There's plenty here to match dishes served in varying sizes from small plates to mains, like avocado papri chaat, Manchurian cauliflower, karaage chicken, Bengali spiced prawns, or a variety of pies with Indian-inspired fillings like goat keema or vegan options, with interesting beer snacks too. 08/22

Visitor note. In a 1920s building on a site that's been a pub since the 1850s, the Glad was threatened with demolition to make way for flats in 2015 but was saved by a vigorous local campaign and an Asset of Community Value designation. It was reopened in 2017 by best friends Gaurav Khanna, Megha Khanna and Abhinav Saxena. The landmark mural depicting a slightly sinister character on a side wall is currently hidden by a thick curtain of ivy.

TRY ALSO

Jolly Gardeners 49 Black Prince Road SE11 6AB jollygardeners.co.uk. Featured in previous editions when it was German specialist Zeitgeist, this backstreet Lambeth boozier changed hands in 2021 and reverted to its traditional name. Still independently run and free of tie, it retains a decent German lager and wheat beer, plus six more kegs and around 15 bottles/cans mainly from south London brewers. One or two casks might appear on gravity on the bar itself in cooler weather. There's a decent food menu too, though at gastro prices. *Mo* closed. 08/22

Mondo Beer + Pizza 232 Bank End SE1 9FJ mondobeer.com. This arch-based venue in Borough Yards on the fringe of Borough Market opened in March 2023, offering 12 Mondo beers on keg in partnership with Joe Public pizzas. To be reviewed later. 05/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Beer Hawk. Closed December 2022. 05/23

St Felix Place changed its name to **Flat Iron Square** when it reopened in January 2022 with its outdoor space reconfigured, though remains under the same ownership and retains the link to Heineken. For a while the brewery produced **Hop Exchange IPA** (4.8%, not tasted) with the help of Brixton Brewing, though as of autumn 2022, brewing hasn't taken place for many months. It's a lively, noisy, party-minded venue in two cavernous arches. A choice of around 12 kegs comprises mainly Heineken-linked brands like Beavertown,

Brixton and Lagunitas but also independents like Pillars and Big Smoke, alongside cocktails. The extensive yard houses five food trucks, currently including barbecue, pizza and Lebanese food. There are regular DJs, big screen sport and weekly pub quizzes. 12/22

Understudy. Range reportedly reduced. 05/23

City and Aldgate

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Williams Ale and Cider House has reportedly substantially reduced its beer range. 12/22

Clerkenwell and Farringdon

Ninth Ward

Bar

99 Farringdon Road EC1R 3BN

T (020) 7833 2949 ninthwardlondon.com

Ⓟ Tu-We 12.00-01.00, Th-Fr 12.00-03.00, Sa 17.00-03.00, cash-free. Children until 20.00.

13 keg, 20+ bottles/cans, specialist spirits, cocktails.

Food Wings, burgers ££ ￼.

Functions, private hire.

NR TfL Farringdon

With its lush potted foliage, worn wood louvres and a massive back bar with stained glass and a paddle steamer figurehead, on a warm night this late night bar might just convince you you're beside the Mississippi and not the Fleet.

Cylindrical copper bar mounts dispense keg beers sourced from highly-regarded modern British brewers like Burning Sky, Lost & Grounded, North and Wiper & True, with a Scandinavian import or two. Except for the odd stout, the selection leans a bit too much towards the pale side, but there's a fridgeful of bottles from the Kernel, Partizan and St Bernardus to explore. Barbecue wings and burgers are served with veggie and vegan options. Under the same management as the George and Monkey (p79), this figured in an update to the second edition but missed the third due to late reopening after the lockdowns. 08/22

Pub trivia. *The name refers to a distinctive eastern administrative district of New Orleans known for its picturesque waterside settings, catastrophically flooded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.*

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Exmouth Arms. Barworks sold this pub, along with 12 other venues, to Urban Pubs and Bars in October 2021, and the beer range was soon reduced. When I checked in March 2022 it still had

a few decent cask and keg choices and a notable range of bottles, but I suspect this was old stock as I've been told the choice has since declined further. No longer a top recommendation, though may be worth a look if you're nearby. 08/22

Farringdon Tap (Try also). A recent visit revealed that, the interest of the building aside, this currently has a more limited range than typical for the chain: only one cask when I called (Five Points or Thornbridge are popular), plus 13 keg, nearly all pale ales and lagers from London and Germany, and a sprinkling of bottled imports. There's a small but comfy mezzanine up the precarious spiral staircase and lots more space in the cellar, including a karaoke booth. 03/22

Jerusalem Tavern. Following the failure to renew the lease, this delightful place, listed in every edition of the Guide so far, closed in late February. This was a disappointment for St Peter's Brewery, who created the pub and built its enviable reputation over more than 25 years. It reopened in March as the **Holy Tavern**, managed directly by the owners of the building, and I'm relieved to say that, for now at least, it remains a worthwhile call. There's still a decent range of St Peter's beers alongside newcomers from London brewers Anspach & Hobday, in a range of styles, with up to three on cask; the bottle range has been dropped except for a couple of low alcohol and GF options. The charming appearance remains intact, though with some improvements behind the scenes. The kitchen was still getting back to speed when I visited but lunches and early evening meals should be available too. 08/22

Smithfield Market Arms (Try also) was one of three London BrewDog outlets closed in September 2022 due to rising energy costs. 12/22

Holborn and Covent Garden

Moto

Bar

7 Maiden Lane WC2E 7NA motoldn.com

Ⓟ Tu-We 12.00-24.00, Th-Sa 12.00-00.30, Su 12.00-22.00, cash-free. Children until early evening.

2 bottles, 16 bottled sakes, cocktails, Japanese spirits, sochu.

Food Bento boxes, Japanese street food ££,

Outdoor A few tables on street.

Occasional tastings and food matching.

NR Charing Cross TfL Charing Cross, Leicester Square

An essential call for sake (or *nihonshu*) enthusiasts, this little bar in the heart of Covent Garden is evangelical in the nicest possible way. The ever-changing list, presented like a book of fabric swatches, explores the unexpected variety of the

drink, from light, easy drinking and sparkling versions to the most complex and funky *junmai*, from producers like Buyu, Dan Yamahai, Gunma Izumi and Rairaku. They're nearly all sold in 50 ml measures as well as bottles (also available to take away), with set flights to guide you, and tasty morsels like dumplings, fried pickles and more substantial bento boxes, including vegan and veggie options, for sustenance. It's a small, cozy place with a few tables and stools, so best visited at quieter times when patient staff will advise. But even when they're busy, every sake comes with a card giving tasting notes, suggested food matches and origin. There's also a couple of rotating bottled beers from Japanese craft brewer Baird, rare in London. It opened in November 2019, but I couldn't visit before the book was published. For why I'm listing it at all, see Kanpai p273. 08/22

TRY ALSO

Old Bank of England 194 Fleet Street EC4A 2LT oldbankofengland.com. Once a Fuller's pub, this is now a good option for sampling beers from Hertford's McMullens in central London, with cult AK light mild among up to three casks and a few kegs too. The Grade II-listed building did indeed once house a branch of the Bank of England and retains features like ornate ceilings and a gallery in a characterful interior, with a Routemaster bus marooned in the outdoor courtyard. 08/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Harp. Sorry to report that the much-admired sausage baps are now a thing of the past. 12/21

Temple Brew House (Essex Street Brewing). The pub remained closed for longer than expected after the lockdowns, prompting fears for its long-term future. But it eventually reopened in February 2022 and has been brewing again since May. Brewer Vanesa is now based at a sister brewpub in Cambridge but, as this has a smaller kit, she regularly visits London to brew longer runs. A good few own-brand beers once again number among four to six cask choices and around 11 kegs: they could be brewed here or at other sites, but staff can usually advise. The Essex Street brand is no longer used: all house beers now carry the pub name. 12/22

Shoreditch and Hoxton

Great Beyond Brewing Co

Brewpub, bar
417 Union Walk E2 8HP (Hackney)
greatbeyond.beer
First sold beer. November 2022

Ⓜ *Th-Fr* 16.00-23.00, *Sa* 12.00-23.00, cash-free.
Children until early evening.
6+ keg.

TfL Charing Cross, Leicester Square

This arch-based brewery under Hoxton station was founded by ex-Fourpure brewers John Driebergen (who has been brewing in London since 2011, initially with Meantime) and Ollie Parker, so expect polished and professional contemporary session beers in a friendly setting. Not yet visited. 12/22

BEERS (not tasted) include **Hoxton Fresh** (4%) hazy session IPA and Kellerbier-style **Hoxton Lager** (4.4%) in keg and can.

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

BrewDog Old Street (Try also) was one of three London BrewDog outlets closed in September 2022 due to rising energy costs. 12/22

Commercial Tavern (main listing), **Griffin, Singer Tavern, Well and Bucket** (Try also). All these former Barworks pub have been sold to Urban. I haven't had a chance to revisit them yet, but I'm reliably informed the beer choice has notably declined. For more see Exmouth Arms under Clerkenwell and Farringdon above. 08/22

Crown and Shuttle (Try also) has reportedly substantially reduced its beer range. 12/22

Goose Island Brewpub. Sold by AB InBev to Urban in September 2022 and renamed the Queens Head. Brewing has been suspended and the brewers made redundant, but the kit remains in place and the new owners are considering leasing it to a third party or parties as the cost of removal is high. Urban have substantially reduced the interest of the beer range in the various venues bought from Barworks in 2021 so I expect the same will happen here. 12/22

Old Fountain. The brewery has been inactive since November 2019, first due to lack of time then the disruption of Covid. There's a long-term aspiration to restore it, but this is unlikely to happen anytime soon. The pub remains an excellent beer destination nonetheless. 03/22

Pivo. Closed until further notice July 2022 with no indication of when or if, it will reopen. If permanent, a sad end for one of London's most interesting bars. 12/22

Soho and Fitzrovia

TRY ALSO

Lucky Saint 58 Devonshire Street W1W 5EA. Formerly the Masons Arms, this long-closed Fitzrovia corner pub was reopened in March 2023 by the company behind the much-admired unfiltered alcohol-free lager of the same name, which now also operates from the building. The pub also sells alcoholic drinks, including two casks, but I haven't yet had a chance to visit. 05/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Newman Arms. The owner and its beers have been rebranded Big Penny: see the update for Truman's under East London: Hackney. The pub was up for sale in autumn 2022 though is still open and trading as normal. 05/23

Westminster to Kensington

Cadogan Arms

Gastropub (JKS Restaurants)
298 Kings Road SW3 5UG

T (020) 3148 2630 thecadoganarms.london

⊕ *Mo-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-21.00, cash-free. Children until 17.00.

4 cask, 12 keg, bottle/can range to added, wines, whisky, agave, other spec spirits, some cocktails.

Food British gastro menu (very good) £££,

Outdoor Standing on street ☼.

Big screen sport, jazz (Su), functions.

TfL South Kensington Bus Carlyle Square Chelsea

The lavish refurbishment of this handsome Chelsea pub, reopened in July 2021, was backed with serious gastro credentials, with veterans of Michelin-starred establishments among the kitchen team. But pleasingly, it's remained a proper, if very posh, pub, with a decent-sized drinking area at the front and big screen sport downstairs. A range of well-kept cask leans perhaps overmuch to traditional bitters, though it was good to see Marlow Rebellion and Thornbridge Lord Marples on when I called. There's more variety on keg: the house pilsner is an exclusive collaboration with Harbour and there are sours and other unusual choices from the likes of Partizan, Verdant and Yonder. Typical dishes include oysters, mussels, pickled vegetables, pies filled with the likes of wild mushroom and barley or ham hock and chicken, lamb ribs, steaks, paneer makhana and even 70s staple prawn cocktail, all made with carefully sourced ingredients. As expected in this area, a sit-down meal will set you back, though a limited selection is available in the bar area at (slightly) lower prices. As things stand, the beer selection probably wouldn't quite merit a full listing in the

book, though enthusiastic bar staff tell me they're working on a bottle and can list, and it's always good to see food-led projects like this put some thought into the beer side. 03/22

Visitor note. With its ornate tiles, floor mosaics, patterned ceiling festooned with chandeliers and spectacular carved wood and stained glass back bar, this looks like a lovingly restored heritage pub. In fact, though some of the wood paneling is original, uncovered during the refurbishment, the rest is largely a recent artful pastiche. There's been a pub on the site, originally known as the Rose and Crown, since the 17th century; the current building is from 1836, though the ground floor façade with its red marble pilasters looks late Victorian.

TRY ALSO

Bear 27 Spring Street W2 1JA thecraft-beerco.com. Craft Beer Co outlet opened November 2022 almost opposite Paddington station. Unusually the chain has restored the old pub name to this former Cork & Bottle site. Six cask, 29 keg and plenty of bottles, not yet visited. 12/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Bolton/Proeflokaal Rembrandt. Closed in September 2022 when operator M&B's lease expired and the owners of the building opted not to renew it, a great shame for a landmark pub with a beer offer unique in London. 12/22

Mall Tavern (Try also). The Project 88 brand is no longer used (as reported elsewhere p327: I missed this correction when putting together the final text for the book). But the Mall and its related venues are likely sources of beer from Standard Brew Co, founded by a former Project 88 brewer: see Brewers without breweries below. 08/22

Royal Exchange (Try also). As of January 2022, the pub is no longer under the same management as the Priory Arms and Grosvenor. It's still a friendly traditional place with a couple of unexpected keg choices but no cask and no longer of particular interest to readers of this guide. 03/22

Thornbury Castle (Try also). Following the departure of the previous leaseholder, this reopened in February 2022 as a Stonegate managed pub with a consequent reduction in the selection of interesting casks from independents. 12/22

EAST LONDON

Hackney

Hackney Tap

Bar

354 Mare Street E8 1HR

hackneytap.com

⊕ *Su-Th* Mo-Th 16.00-23.00, Fr 14.00-24.00, Sa 12.00-24.00, Sun 12.00-20.00, may open earlier on summer weekdays, cash-free.. Children until early evening.

3-4 cask, 10-15 keg, 8+ bottles/cans.

Food Gyozas £, **Outdoor** Tables on adjacent green ☺.

Tap takeovers, fortnightly quiz, acoustic music (Su), DJs, major big screen sport, vintage arcade games.

TfL Hackney Central, Hackney Downs **Cy** Q2

Upgraded from Try also. Ideally located adjacent to the patio beside St John's church in central Hackney, just round the corner from several breweries, this is a new departure for the group behind the Euston Tap, previously focused on central London sites close to busy stations. But with an admirably varied range of cask and keg sourced either very locally (East London, Five Points, Hackney) or from more northerly independents (Hawkshead, Thornbridge, Twisted Wheel), it's a worthy addition. As indicated by the display of Germanic beer mugs, imported lagers feature, among them Oechsner Helles and unfiltered Budvar. An interior lit by arched windows offers high banquettes and tables and a few lower tables too. Freshly fried gyozas with both vegan and meaty fillings are a nice touch. 03/22

Visitor note. Built as a private house in 1802, the Grade II-listed building served as Hackney's first town hall in the mid-19th century. It was subsequently used as a branch of the Midland Bank and, more recently, a betting shop.

Lord Napier and Star

Contemporary pub

25 White Post Lane E9 5EN

lordnapierstar.co.uk

⊕ *Mo-Tu* 16.00-24.00, *We-Th* 12.00-24.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-01.30, *Su* 12.00-24.00. Children until 21.00.

1-2 cask, 11 keg, 20+ bottles/cans, occasional cider, some whiskies.

Food Thai street food ££, **Outdoor** Side garden, roof terrace ☺.

Quiz (Tu), DJs, major big screen sport, functions.

TfL Hackney Wick **Cy** Link to NCN1 **Wk** Link to Capital Ring, Jubilee Greenway, Lee Valley Path, Olympic Park paths

This big but long-unloved pub just round the corner from Hackney Wick station reopened in July

2021 as the most beer-friendly venue in the Electric Star chain, thanks to an enthusiastic manager. Cask, very well-kept when I've called, might be from Moor, while alongside the bigger 'craft' brands on the keg taps you should find locals like Boxcar, Brick and Pressure Drop, plus low alcohol Lucky Saint, with Exale, Gravity Well, Kernel, Lost and Grounded, Siren and others lurking in a slightly chaotic beer fridge. Spicy krapow chicken leads the current menu, with Thai burgers, noodles and 'son in law' eggs, including numerous veggie and vegan options. It's sufficiently funky to match its location: a contemporary interior includes traditional flourishes like a mirrored back bar, tiled bar surround and fireplace, with comfortable corners and a delightful roof terrace where you can drink beside the chimneypots. 08/22

Visitor note. The former Ind Coope pub had been closed since 1995, and become a crumbling, graffiti-encrusted local landmark. Squatted in the early 2000s, it was used as an illegal rave venue, and an attempt to turn it into an art complex foundered. The current owners have preserved most of the graffiti, considering the building itself a work of art.

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Brew Club. Closed March 2023. 05/23

Crate Brewery. I still don't have confirmation that brewing has restarted here, so am regarding it as suspended for the time being. The pub still has a good range of beer though. 12/21

Crown and Castle (Try also). One of numerous venues sold by Barworks to Urban Pubs in 2021 with beer range since reduced: see Exmouth Arms under Clerkenwell and Farringdon. 08/22

Five Points Brewing. The indoor taproom at the brewery finally opened in November 2021 when the popular tours (advance booking essential) were reintroduced, and a revamped outdoor space was added in April 2022, with the result that the site is even more deserving of its selection as a top London brewery experience as well as a great place to drink. The indoor bar opens directly off Mare Street: it's cheery, comfortable and decently sized, with a mix of high and low seating. A dedicated passageway equipped with picnic tables runs right through the brewhouse into a sizeable yard beneath the rail viaduct, with plenty of seating, including some in sheltered booths, and an additional container bar: it merits a 'very good garden' rosette for its size, facilities and atmosphere. You can also view the brewing equipment from an upstairs mezzanine bookable for private events. The main bar offers two Five Points beers from cask, five from 500 l horizontal tanks behind the bar, and seven keg lines which might include guests like Beak, Belleville, Brick, Duration or Orbit. The container bar usually has one or two extra small batch specials made on the pilot kit. A few

more house beers are sold in bottles and you can also pick up cases of the core brands. Ace Pizza does the food honours, operating from its own container in the yard: the menu includes vegan options and an intriguing list of 'crust dips'.

⊕ *Th* 17.00-23.00, *Fr* 17.00-24.00, *Sa* 12.00-24.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

Beer festivals, tap takeovers, food pairings, monthly comedy, occasional quizzes, DJs (Fr-Sa), functions. 08/22

London Fields Brewery. On 8 December 2021, owners the Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) unexpectedly announced that the brewery and taproom were closing with immediate effect and being placed on the market along with the brands. Contract brewing at Camerons will continue until the sale is complete. Hopefully the business will be sold to an independent owner with a sustainable interest in running it. *01/22*

Mammoth Beer. Deprived of taproom space at the brewery itself, Mammoth opened an off-site showcase by Leytonstone High Road station in April 2022: see Stratford to Walthamstow. *08/22*

BEERS in keg and can, now tasted, include **Prism** lager (4.4%), **Wax** hazy pale ale (4.8%) and a stronger, also hazy, IPA, **Echo*** (6.2%). Flavoured sours regularly change.

Mermaid. The pub never reopened following flood damage and is currently up for sale. *08/22*

People's Park Tavern (Laine's Brew Lab). The brewhouse was removed early in 2022 and the space converted to customer use, so all Laine beers on sale reverted to products from the main brewery in Sussex. I've heard reports the beer range has been reduced, with cask rarely available, so this may no longer be a worthwhile recommendation. Laine first said it planned to re-install the brewery in a standalone unit nearby, but in October expanded its brewing capacity elsewhere by buying Redchurch brewery in Harlow (itself with London origins) so whether this project will be pursued remains to be seen. The Laine brand has since inherited another pub brewery at the Ram Inn, Wandsworth: see Southwest London. *05/23*

Three Sods Brewery. Following a struggle to recover from the lockdowns, the brewery closed in August 2022. The head brewer moved on in 2021 and production was kept going with one of the founders, who has a full-time job, brewing at weekends, making it impossible to open the taproom. A sad loss of one of London's most charming breweries. *08/22*

Truman's Beer. The company underwent several complex changes in response to the knock-on effects of the lockdowns and problems with premises. It had to give up the former Crate brewery in Queens Yard, again due to redevelopment, with brewing ceasing in May 2022. Unfortunately, it was still not able to install a new brewery at Blackhorse Lane, so shifted to contract brewing, I believe at Redchurch in Harlow. To raise money, it sold the Truman brand in September to the owners of the Old Truman Brewery in Brick Lane, and has since rebranded itself as **Big Penny**, acknowledging a former copper mill close to the Blackhorse site which supplied materials for penny coins. Its three venues remain open, though two have been rebranded (see under Central London: Soho and Fitzrovia, East London: Stratford to Walthamstow and London City Airport). All beers are currently in keg, with no cask at least for the time being. It remains to be seen whether the new owners of the Truman brand will commission beers under that name. *12/22*

Stratford to Walthamstow

Leytonstone is developing into the latest London beer destination, with the **Filly Brook**, **Mammoth Tap Room**, **North Star** and **Stone Mini Market**, all listed below, within easy walking distance and **Gravity Well** (p146) a slightly longer walk or short bus or Overground ride away. *08/22*

Clapton Craft Wood Street

Bar, shop

Unit 1, 147-151 Wood Street E17 3LX

T (020) 8616 1718 claptoncraft.co.uk

⊕ *Su-Th* 12.00-21.00, *Fr-Sa* 11.00-23.00, cash-free. Children until early evening.

8 keg, 300 bottles/cans, growlers, natural wines, specialist spirits ☞.

Food Order-in pizzas/curries, in-house kitchen to be added **££**, **Outdoor** Tables on street ☞.

Tap takeovers, tastings.

TfL Wood Street Cy Link to C23 Wk Link to Epping Forest Centenary Walk

Upgraded from Try also. Opened in April 2021, this is now the biggest Clapton Craft, offering the widest range, in a building that includes the company's warehouse and offices. Much more than a shop, it's a decent-sized bar in a clean-lined Scandinavian-style space with a picture window, and even more inviting booth-style seating round the side. The house lager is a collaboration with Braybrooke; otherwise, the changing keg range includes local brewers and sour, darker and stronger options. Bottles and cans are all in fridges, some of them accessed US-style from a rear coldroom. Londoners are strongly represented by Affinity, Boxcar, Drop Project, East London, Exale, Gravity Well, Partizan, Pressure Drop

and Signature among others, alongside outliers like Baron, Burnt Mill, Overtone, Time and Tide, Unity and Unbarred. Imports are largely limited to Belgian and German classics, with only a small handful of *recherché* sharers. While the drinking space at the N4 branch (p179) has a little more charm, this one is unarguably now one of the capital's top beer destinations. 03/22

Filly Brook

Bar

392 Grove Green Road E11 4AP

T (020) 3940 8955 fillybrook.co.uk

Ⓢ We-Th 17.00-23.00, Fr 17.00-24.00, Sa 13.00-24.00, Su 13.00-22.30. Children until 20.00.

16 keg, 12 bottles/cans, 25+ wines, some specialist spirits.

Food Rotating popups **£-££**, **Outdoor** Tables at front, sheltered rear yard, ♻️.

Tap takeovers, jazz/acoustic music, DJs, functions.

TfL Leytonstone

A former air cadet training hut in a residential Leytonstone street now provides one of London's more pleasingly quirky surroundings for serious beer sampling. The brainchild of Simon Purnell, who also campaigns locally on development issues, Filly Brook began as a popup in 2015 and finally opened in a permanent home in February 2020, just weeks before the lockdowns. Normal service has since been resumed and it's become a much-appreciated local resource. An attractive interior is done out in stripped pine, overlooked by two massive vintage Tannoy hi-fi speakers, with an amenable courtyard beyond. An inspired beer list covers a range of styles, including saisons, porters and stouts, wheat beers and even a barley wine when I called, from locals like Gravity Well, Solvay Society and Pretty Decent or other UK producers like Lost and Grounded or Polly's. Collabs with local brewers are a regular feature. Bottles and cans are mainly quality low alcohol options but there are a few strong and unusual sharers. The kitchen was occupied by a Malaysian street food outlet when I called, but this changes every few months. A delight. 08/22

Visitor note. Built in the late 1930s, the hut was used more recently as a children's nursery but had to close as the fabric was dangerously decayed, after which it was intermittently squatted. The council planned to sell it for demolition and re-development until Simon persuaded them otherwise. The Filly Brook, also spelt Fillebrook or Philly Brook, is one of London's lesser-known lost rivers which runs close by.

Mammoth Tap Room

Bar

Arch 1 Hitchcock Business Centre, Station Approach, High Road Leytonstone E11 4RE

mammothbeer.com

Ⓢ Th 16.00-22.00, Fr 16.00-23.00, Sa 13.00-23.00, Su 13.00-20.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

6 keg (expanding to 12), 30+ bottles/cans, 50 wines, some bottled ciders ♻️.

Food Food carts Fr-Sa, pizza delivery other days **£-££**, **Outdoor** Tables at front, ♻️ Flat access, adapted toilet to be installed.

Vinyl DJs, art exhibitions, occasional tastings.

TfL Leytonstone High Road

A little smarter than your average arch taproom, Mammoth's outlet under the Overground a few steps from the ticket barriers at Leytonstone High Road station boasts Scandinavian-style furnishings, striking photographic displays by a local artist and cool colour-changing light bulbs in Chinese lantern shades. The current tap range focuses on house brews but when the full complement of 12 is connected, there will be guests, some of whom are already represented in a particularly well-stocked fridge, with a range of styles mainly from Londoners like Drop Project, Howling Hops, Kernel, nearby Solvay Society and Villages. This is an off-site facility: the brewery remains based in Hackney Wick (see Hackney). 08/22

North Star

Traditional pub

24 Browning Road E11 3AR T (020) 8530 3197

Ⓢ Tu-Fr 14.00-23.00, Sa-Su 13.00-23.00.

Children until 20.00.

5-6 cask, 8 keg, 3 bottles/cans.

Food Pizzas, Thai **££**, **Outdoor** Tables at front, sheltered rear garden, vey good.

Seasonal events, major big screen sport, darts.

TfL Leytonstone **Bus** Green Man Roundabout **Wk** Link to Epping Forest Centenary Walk

This pretty pub in a quiet residential street just off Leytonstone High Road and a short walk from a patch of Epping Forest is now even prettier, with a little fenced-off patch of tables reclaimed from the road at the front. The beer range has improved too: a free house for 20 years, it's long been a local CAMRA favourite, but new manager Kieran (ex-Beavertown) has added some more contemporary flavours. Oakham JHB is the only regular on cask, joined by traditional bitters from Butcombe, Harvey's or Timothy Taylor and guests that might be from Five Points, Newbarns or Redemption. Newbarns also supplies a regular keg pils and stout, alongside the likes of Deya Steady Rolling Man or Senne Tara Boulba. The interior, noted of 'some regional importance', boasts an atmospheric narrow main bar furnished mainly with shelves and stools, and a bigger space with tables alongside it. There's a pizza stand in the garden as well as a Thai kitchen, both operated by third

party partners, with plenty of veggie and vegan options. *08/22*

Visitor note. The oldest pub in Leytonstone village was converted from two cottages in 1858. It's neither named after the celestial body nor the steam locomotive depicted on the sign, but the ship that took the first licensee to India. Vintage engraved glass on the front doors reveals the current main bar was originally the saloon.

Tavern on the Hill

Contemporary pub

318 Higham Hill Road E17 5RG

tavernonthehill.co.uk

⊕ *Su-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-24.00, cash-free. Children until 21.30.

2 cask, 10 keg, 12+ bottles/cans, ciders, some gin, rum, cocktails.

Food Mexican street food **££**, **Outdoor** Front terrace, extensive side and rear yards.

Quiz (Tu), live music (Fr), darts, board games, painting classes, big screen sport, functions.

TfL Blackhorse Road **Bus** Billet Road / Whittington Primary Academy

Upgraded from Try also. This solid neighbourhood pub was refurbished and reopened by the nearby Wild Card brewery as an outlier of the Blackhorse beer cluster in April 2021 and, though it's been left unbranded, it's a great showcase for their beers. Particularly welcome are the rarely spotted cask best bitter and pale ale, alongside varied keg options stretching to sours and darker beers, plus canned low alcohol brews from Lowtide in Brighton. Indoors is a friendly, comfortable single space punctuated with greenery and pillars, and there's extensive outdoor seating around three sides of the building. When I called, food from the popup kitchen was in substantial south Mexican style with tacos, burritos, quesadillas and burgers, including vegan jackfruit versions. *03/22*

Visitor note. Previously known as the Higham Hill Tavern and, more recently, the Warrant Officer, the pub has a historical connection with Wild Card: in its early days in 2013, the then-cuckoo brewery briefly used the cellar as a storage space. Solvay Society brewed on a small scale here the following year. Note the old Warrant Officer pub sign and, if you can, the unusual window painting in the men's toilets.

TRY ALSO

Beer + Burger Walthamstow 368 Hoe Street E17 9AL beerandburgerstore.com. Newest and currently smallest of the lively chain, mainly takeaway with a handful of stools and a couple of outdoor tables but expanding into an adjacent unit soon (check website for reopening details). Up to six kegs, 200 bottles/cans, some seriously special. Alesmith Speedway Stout with your veggie-burger, anyone? Cash-free. *03/22*

Birds (The) 692 High Road Leytonstone E11 3AA **thebirds.pub**. Deliberately distressed and stripped back Laines pub in Leytonstone town centre, preserving some stained glass. 12+ keg lines and a few cans, mainly Laines, Signature and occasional exotic guests. Cask unlikely. Originally the Crown, currently named after the film by local lad Alfred Hitchcock. *08/22*

Stone Mini Market 721 High Road E11 4RD instagram.com/stoneminimarket. Ethical food shop with large beer selection, keg lines and drink-in facilities including a garden, well-located close to other Leytonstone venues. Not yet visited, *Mo* closed. *12/22*

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Beerblefish. The brewery completed its move to Blackhorse Lane in October, and in November bought a bigger 25 hl brewhouse formerly at BBNo's Bermondsey site. *12/21*

Exale added a second outlet in March 2023 when it reopened the former Fugitive Motel in Bethnal Green as the Three Colts Tavern: see East London: Tower Hamlets. *05/23*

Gravity Well. The brewery relocated operations to Tottenham in March 2023 – see North London: Tottenham and Haringey below – though has retained its Leyton taproom at arch 155. *05/23*

Leyton Technical. Closed and repossessed by the landlord in October 2022 due to rent arrears accumulated during the lockdowns, though operators Antic are hopeful that it may reopen. *12/22*

Magic Spells. I've belatedly discovered that the company gave up its venue space, where it also brewed on a small scale, by July 2021. It's moved to a new site at an undisclosed location, likely outside London. *03/22*

Pretty Decent Brewing Co. Production was relocated in December 2022 to a bigger facility among the Blackhorse breweries at 10 Uplands Business Park, Blackhorse Lane E17 5QJ, just round the corner from Signature (p151). The old Wanstead arches have been retained as a bar. There's a taproom at the new site too, not yet visited, with a range of the brewery's keg and canned beer. ⊕ *Mo-Tu* 12.00-18.00, *We* 16.00-23.00, *Th-Sa* 12.00-23.00, *Su* 12.00-20.00. Transport details as for Signature. *12/22*

Red Lion. Sadly, following the lockdowns this is no longer the beer showcase it once was and merits no more than a Try also entry, though Antic tell me they're keen to improve things. Cask lines have been reduced to a maximum of four though

commendably they're locally sourced, from East London and Five Points as well as Volden and similarly across the four guest keg lines. Bottles and cans have been reduced to a handful. 03/22

Solvay Society. Following "struggles with the COVID hangover and rising costs", this gem of a brewery closed on 17 December 2022. All the recent brewery closures are unwelcome but I'm particularly sad to see this one go as it was producing beers that weren't only accomplished but particularly distinctive among their London peers. 12/22

Truman's Social Club. Rebranded **Big Penny Social**, following changes at the owning company, with house beers also rebranded: see the update for Truman's under East London: Hackney. Only one third party cask beer remains. 12/22

Tower Hamlets

Bethnal Green Tavern

Contemporary pub

456 Bethnal Green Road E2 0EA

bethnalgreentavern.co.uk

Ⓜ *Mo-We 15.00-24.00, Th 15.00-01.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-01.00, Su 12.00-23.00, cash-free.*
Children until 20.00.

3 cask, 15 keg, 55+ bottles/cans, some natural wines, gins and cocktails.

Food imaginative small and large plates £-££,

Outdoor Sheltered rear garden.

Tap takeovers, beer launches.

TfL Bethnal Green

Upgraded from Try also. Refurbished and reopened just before the 2020 lockdowns as the latest Graceland venue, this prominently located pub isn't quite as aesthetically charming as its sister the Kings Arms round the corner but offers a similarly wide beer range poured by well-informed staff. Locals like Boxcar, Five Points and Redemption figure on the handpumps, while the very varied keg list might include Exale and the Kernel, Newbarns or Wylam from further afield and imports like Westmalle Dubbel. A seriously interesting bottle and can selection stretches to wild and mixed fermentation sharers from international names like American Solera, Cantillon and Loverbeer alongside local barley wines. Enjoy while grazing on small plates like crispy pigs ears and Welsh rarebit or more substantial options like vegan Irish stew or smoked duck Caesar salad. Behind the sturdy late Victorian exterior of this former Charrington pub is a stripped-out, mildly distressed single space with stout wooden tables and dark green décor, and a cheerful terrace with wooden decking at the back. 03/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Boxcar Brewery. Sadly, this excellent brewery, one of the most noteworthy of more recent arrivals on the London scene, closed on 23 February 2023 'due to an unworkable situation with our landlords, partly due to the pandemic and overhanging debt'. The company was placed into administration but founder Sam Dickison was able to retain ownership of the brands. He's hoping to revive production initially as a cuckoo and eventually to open another physical site. 05/23

E5 Poplar Bakehouse. I understand brewing hadn't restarted by the end of 2022, though the company has recently collaborated several times with the Kernel, making kvass in Bermondsey using E5's waste bread. If/when onsite brewing re-starts, I'll report in more detail. 05/23

Fugitive Motel. This closed in July 2022, but was reopened in February 2023 by Walthamstow's acclaimed Exale brewery as the **Three Colts Tavern**, reviving the name of an earlier pub on the site, demolished in 1902 but still remembered in street names. 14 beer lines, including at least one cask, showcase the Exale range and the kitchen currently serves pizza. Full review planned. 05/23
threecoltstavern.co.uk

Ⓜ *Mo 16.00-22.00 Tu-Th 16.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-24.00, Su 12.00-22.00.*

Quiz, DJs, shuffleboard, functions

Old Street Taproom. This closed in November 2021 as the brewery was finding it uneconomic. The taproom at the main site in Hackney Wick (p138) remains open. 01/22

Outer East London

HERITAGE PUB

Boleyn Tavern 1 Barking Road E6 1PW boleyntavern.co.uk. Reopened in June 2021 following a lavish restoration, this 1899 gem is almost as jaw-dropping as the same owner's Salisbury (p193). The original seven room layout has been recreated with the surviving original carved wood and decorated glass screen put back where it should be and used as the model for several new reproductions. Don't miss the tiled lobby opening onto Barking Road, the tiny 'carriage bar' with a single table, and the stained-glass skylights, with the biggest in the rear restaurant, formerly with a billiard room and now with a charming little outdoor courtyard behind it. A corridor of West Ham United FC memorabilia reflects the location around the corner from the team's former Boleyn stadium, since demolished and redeveloped. Some decent beers too: four cask including guests from suppliers like Moor and Twickenham

and locals like Howling Hops, Pillars and Pretty Decent among the kegs. 03/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Brick Lane Brews (London City Airport). Re-branded **Big Penny Brews** following changes at the owning company, with house beers also re-branded: see the update for Truman's under East London: Hackney. 12/22

East Side Brewery. Although the brewery briefly added a taproom earlier this year, it struggled with rising costs, and closed in early October. 12/22

Husk Brewing. Due to a glitch with a planned move, brewing is currently suspended, though the taproom remains open. The business should relocate shortly to a new site near Canning Town bus station, where brewing will restart. 05/23

NORTH LONDON

Camden

3 Locks Brewing Company

Brewery, taproom

Arch N4 Dockray Place NW1 8QD (taproom/shop in arch S14) (Camden) **3locksbeer.com**

First sold beer: November 2022

⊕ *Fr* 14.00-22.00, *Sa-Su* 12.00-22.00, may extend to *Th*.

3+ keg.

Big screen sport.

TfL Camden Town **Cy** Regents Canal towpath, Link to C6 **Wk** Jubilee Greenway

Founded by Marinos Alexandrou of the 56 Isle brewery in Paros, Greece, this enterprise occupies several arches under two branches of the Overground: the three locks of the name are on the nearby Regents Canal. Not yet visited. 12/22

BEERS (not yet tasted) include a **Pale Ale** (5%) on keg.

Bull and Last

Gastropub

168 Highgate Road NW5 1QS

T (020) 7267 8955 **thebullandlast.co.uk**

⊕ *Mo-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.30, cash-free. Children welcome.

2 cask, 5 keg, 10 bottles/cans, 1 cider, 50 wines, cocktails, specialist spirits

Food Daily changing gastro menu **££-£££**, very good, **Outdoor** Benches on street ☺.

Functions, accommodation.

TfL Gospel Oak **Bus** William Ellis School **Cy Wk** Hampstead Heath paths

Upgraded from Try also. A staff member once explained to me why this celebrated gastropub at the southeast corner of Hampstead Heath decided to evolve its beer range: "We're proud of the care we put into our food and wine, and we realised our beer simply wasn't standing up." In truth there's a little way to go to match the impressive fine wine list, but it's great to see a well-chosen range sourced entirely from independents, including an exclusive keg house pale from Five Points. There's always a traditional cask bitter and a more unusual cask choice, perhaps from Redemption or Thornbridge, kegs that might be from 40FT, Bohem or Duration and some jewels among the bottles like Five Points Old Greg barley wine in sharers. You're welcome to call in for a pint, with bar stools kept unreserved, but top flight food is the main focus, with dishes like classic steaks, stuffed courgette flowers, confit chicken rilette, gourmet Scotch eggs and fine cheese, changing to reflect seasonal availability. It's an airy, woody space with plenty of natural light through Venetian blinds and a veritable herd of stuffed bull's heads glaring from the walls. It had a full listing in the second edition, but I didn't manage to revisit for the latest book due to a prolonged closure for refurbishment in 2019 and the subsequent lockdowns. I'm pleased to renew our acquaintance. Reservation recommended. 08/22

Magdala

Contemporary pub

2A South Hill Park NW3 2SB

T (020) 7433 8322 **themagdala.co.uk**

⊕ *Mo-Th* 11.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 11.00-24.00, *Su* 11.00-22.30.

7 cask, 17 keg, 20+ bottles/cans, ciders, wines, specialist spirits

Food Gastroish menu **££**, **Outdoor** Small side patio.

Irish music (Th).

TfL Hampstead Heath **Cy Wk** Hampstead Heath paths

Upgraded from Try also. London almost lost this charming and perfectly proportioned former Charington heritage pub almost opposite Hampstead Heath station: it was closed in 2014 for redevelopment but a local campaign resulted in its listing as an Asset of Community Value, preserving the ground floor as a pub. A reopening in June 2015 proved a false dawn lasting a mere seven months but it reopened in May 2021 in the capable hands of the Big Smoke team. The beer range exceeds their usual standard, particularly welcome in a curiously underperforming part of London: aside from the Big Smoke cans, most beer is from guests, with a varied selection of casks from breweries like Arbor, Bristol, Burnt Mill, Five Points, Hammerton and Fyne, kegs from Kernel, Lost and Grounded and Pressure Drop among

others, a few bottled Belgians and Germans and several low alcohol and gluten-free options. One bar is informal drinking space; the other is largely set out for diners. This is Hampstead so you won't be surprised to see Fowey mussels and tempura crab on the menu, alongside schnitzels, burgers, aubergine parmigiana and roast squash and pear salad, but prices aren't astronomical. The pub's only flaw is its limited outdoor space, but then Parliament Hill is only a short walk away. *03/22*

Visitor note. Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged in the UK, shot her lover outside the pub in 1955. Local legend holds the plaster damage on the outside wall was caused by bullet holes, but this is likely spurious. Look out for wood panelling, stained glass, a pink marble fireplace and an art deco frieze that date from a 1930s refit. The name refers to a place now known as Amba Mariam in Ethiopia where the British army won a battle in 1868.

TRY ALSO

Colonel Fawcett 1 Randolph Street NW1 0SS thecolonelfawcett.co.uk. Big, friendly backstreet pub relaunched in 2011 with fashionably distressed interior and verdant outdoor areas both sides. 13 keg and up to three cask mainly from independents (for example Cloudwater, Fyne, Hamerton, Kernel, Two Tribes) though some through Heineken, plus lots of gin. Formerly the Camden Arms, it now bears the name of the victim of one of the last fatal duels in England, which happened here in 1873. Cash-free. *03/22*

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Caps and Taps. Moved late 2021 to a bigger site at 141 Fortress Road NW5 2HR, with more space for drinking in. ☎ *Tu-We* 12.00-20.00, *Th* 12.00-21.00, *Fr-Sa* 11.00-21.00, *Su* 11.00-17.00. **TfL** Tufnell Park. *08/22*

Oxford Tavern. West Berkshire Brewery changed ownership early in 2022 and withdrew its involvement in the pub, which continued for a while as a free house but closed in November. It's due to re-open under new ownership as the Parakeet early in 2023 but the beer range is no longer likely to be of interest. *05/23*

St Mary's Brewery. I finally caught up with current brewer Roddy Monroe earlier this year and tasted some of the beers from one of London's more elusive producers, but then heard that brewing was suspended for the foreseeable future in early July 2022 due to refurbishment work on the church. Hopefully it will eventually resume and their tasty **Holy Smoke Porter** (6%) will once again be available. *08/22*

Werewolf Beer. Following several delays, the taproom opened for a test run at Hallowe'en 2021, brewing commenced at the end of February 2022 and full service began on 1 April. The arch, at the dead end of an alley off Randolph Street with a gravelly yard outside, is a simple taproom setup but packed with characterful paraphernalia, notably around 30 pieces from the Nightmare ghost train ride formerly at Rainbow Park, Hunstanton, including several cars. Seasonal events nod to brewer Rich's US origins, marking occasions like July 4, Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving as well as Bruce Springsteen's birthday – the Boss's childhood home, coincidentally, was at 87 Randolph Street, though in Freehold NJ. The 8 hl brewhouse was formerly at the Prince (p191). Currently there are four keg lines, all dedicated to house beers, with plans to extend to 10 and perhaps include a few guests. At least 10 canned beers, likely to include rare US imports (DC Brau and TailGate when I called). Food is currently BYO but a partnership with a local pizza and hot dog purveyor is planned. ☎ *Fr* 16.00-21.00, *Sa* 12.00-21.00, cash-free. Children welcome. *08/22*

BEERS are currently keg only but a canning line is imminent. Don't expect front-loaded hop-heavy hazy pales: these are balanced, drinkable beers often with a decent hit of bitterness in a more old-school US craft style, appropriately for a brewer who grew up in Utica NY, home of FX Matt. Well worth trying are rye IPA **Horrorshow*** (6.1%); **Moonstomp** (4.5%), a US rice lager ("like Budweiser only good"); and **Psychobilly** APA (4.5%). Other regulars, not tasted, are brown ale **Creepster** (5.1%) and **Stray Cat** session pale with added citrus peel (3.4%).

Islington to Stoke Newington

Archway Tavern

Contemporary pub

1 Navigator Square N19 3TD

T (020) 7263 7521 thearchwaytavern.co.uk

☎ *Su-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-24.00, cash-free. Children until 19.00.

11+ keg, 6+ bottles/cans, organic and natural wines, some local spirits.

Food Rotating food trucks We-Su **£-££**, **Outdoor** Benches on large square at front.

Quiz (We), acoustic music (Mo), art exhibitions, major big screen sport, functions.

TfL Archway

This landmark pub, built for Watney in 1886, was once cut off by the traffic of the busy Archway junction but since 2019 has towered over a much-improved pedestrianised piazza. The main bar is agreeably clean and woody, used as a shared working space during the day, with a rather larger and still evolving functions and events space at

the rear. Since 2020 it's been operated by the team behind online radio station Islington Radio, and two beers brewed for them by Gorgeous feature in a range that is relatively limited but gains points by being sourced largely locally: you may also see Bohem, Hammerton, Signature, Two Tribes and others in a range of styles. 03/22

Highbury Library

Bar, shop

66A Drayton Park N5 1ND

T 07455 961375 highburylibrary.co.uk

Ⓧ Mo-Th 16.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 13.00-23.00, Su 13.00-20.00, cash-free. Children until early evening.

5 keg, 60 bottles/cans, 100+ organic/natural wines, some specialist spirits 🍷.

Food BYO, **Outdoor** Rear terrace.

Monthly quiz, wine club with music matching, book club, vinyl collection.

NR Drayton Park Cy C38

This pleasant neighbourhood bar with a bottle shop sideline has been filling the gap left by the derelict pub next door since 2016. The narrow interior is more a wine bar in style, with brightly coloured tables and chairs and a tempting sofa, and natural and skin-contact wine is clearly the main interest, with an unusual by-the-glass selection and corkage on bottles to drink in, but beer is certainly not forgotten. Villages and the very small Mackintosh crop up on keg, while bottles and cans encompass lots of Deya, plus Newbarns, Pressure Drop, a few unusual mixed fermentation options and some sturdy Germans. Any pretentiousness is leavened by the collection of Arsenal FC memorabilia on the walls, understandably as it's opposite the main entrance to the Emirates Stadium and tends to adopt a quite different vibe on match days. Expansion of the takeaway side is planned in a refurbished cellar space. 03/22

Visitor note. No, this isn't a former library. It borrows the nickname for Arsenal's now largely demolished former ground at Highbury, which refers in turn to fans' supposed reputation for unusual quietness during matches.

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Brave Sir Robin. Closed February 2023. 05/23

BrewDog Dalston (Try also) was one of three London BrewDog outlets closed in September 2022 due to rising energy costs. 12/22

Duke of York (Try also). One of numerous venues sold by Barworks to Urban Pubs in 2021 with beer range since reduced: see Exmouth Arms under Clerkenwell and Farringdon. 08/22

Mother Kelly's N16 (Try also) closed in September 2022. Other branches remain open. 12/22

Tottenham and Haringey

Beavertown Brewery

In September 2022, Heineken bought the remaining 51% of Beavertown it didn't already own, so the brewery is now an outright subsidiary of the Dutch multinational. Logan Plant has stepped down as chief executive but is continuing as an "adviser". I'm not aware of any imminent changes to products or outlets yet. 12/22

Corner Pin

Contemporary pub

732 High Road N17 0AG

beavertownbrewery.co.uk

Ⓧ Mo-Th 12.00-23.00, Fr 12.00-24.00, Sa 11.00-24.00, Su 11.00-23.00, ticket holders only on match days, cash-free. Children until 21.00, though unsuitable on match days.

Occasional cask, 12 keg, 20 bottles/cans.

Food Burgers, wings, sandwiches ££, **Outdoor**

Large sheltered yard, tables on street, ♿

Big screen sport, pinball, retro video games, functions

TfL White Hart Lane Bus Tottenham Sports Centre Cy CS1

Beneath the pastel corporate colours, the skull wallpaper and the fun bespoke bar mounts, Beavertown's latest outlet retains the appearance of the old pub it is, with half-panelling lining the walls of the single ground floor. A spacious and comfortable beer garden at the back is decorated with murals in the house style, while there's a dining area upstairs and a private hire space above that. There's more outdoor seating on the street, looking directly across to the recently rebuilt Tottenham Hotspur stadium. Friendly staff pour a comprehensive range of beers exclusively from the brewery, with core brands and a few specials and seasonals on keg, some rarer options among the cans (good to see Black Betty and Smog Rocket) and a small handful of Tempus Project bottles, though for some reason these are kept in the cellar with no public evidence of their existence, so you have to ask for them. The single handpump is rarely used: "Our customers usually aren't looking for cask," a staff member told me. Fried pickles, stout-battered fish and chips, vegan beetroot and katsu chicken burgers are on the menu, though with no matching suggestions. It's clearly all designed to make Beavertown products popular and accessible to a wider audience, which is no bad thing, and credit too for rescuing a pub disused between 2010 and its reopening in late August 2021. But the geekier among us may miss the old days of unearthing unexpected treasures at the Tottenham Hale taproom. 08/22

Speaking of which, the **taproom** was finally restored in February 2022 at a new location across the yard, with more space and longer hours: ☎
Sa-Su 12.00-21.00. 03/22

Gravity Well Brewing Co

Brewery, no visitors please

1 Compass West Estate, 33 West Road N17 0XL
T 07833 226373 gravitywellbrewing.co.uk

Originally in an arch under Leyton Midland Road station, Gravity Well moved its brewing operations to Tottenham in March 2023, at the same time expanding capacity. It's on the same industrial estate as Bohem and Redemption, in the unit next door to the former OME brewery. There are no public facilities here, but the Leyton taproom is still open as covered on p143. 05/23

TRY ALSO

Palm 197 Phillip Lane N15 4HQ
thepalmpub.co.uk. Substantial 1920s Truman pub redeveloped with stylish but relaxed single bar on ground floor. 10+ keg likely to include Beavertown and other locals, plus up to two cask at weekends only, often One Mile End. Mo closed, cash-free.

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Bull (Gorgeous Brewery). The pub has been sold to Greene King and brewing ceased by February 2022: the kit has been removed and is now in storage pending relocation to a standalone site later in 2022. Meanwhile the Gorgeous brands are being cuckoo-brewed. The pub's interest to guide readers is likely reduced. 03/22

Carboys, previously included in the August 2022 update, closed in spring 2023. 08/23

Earth Ale. The brewery had to give up its Wood Green site in November due to redevelopment and moved out of London to a vineyard near Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Sadly, it's also had to give up the Earth Tap bus in Blue House Yard, so London has lost not only one of its more interesting breweries but one of its quirkiest beer venues. 12/21

One Mile End. Following the sale of its birthplace pub in Whitechapel to McMullen in September 2022, the brewery rebranded as **OME BEER**. Sadly this didn't last long and the business closed early in January 2023, soon after I'd included the rebrand in the last update. 05/23

Outer North London

Old Wheatsheaf

Contemporary pub

3 Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2 6SE

T (020) 8367 4167 oldwheatsheaf.co.uk

☎ Su-Fr 11.00-23.00, Sa 11.00-24.00. Children until 21.00.

5-8 cask, 13 keg, 12+ bottles/cans, some specialist spirits.

Food Enhanced pub grub, pizzas, burgers **££-£££**, **Outdoor** Large sheltered yard.

Quiz (We), Irish music (Su), beer launches, seasonal events, major big screen sport, functions.

NR Enfield Chase Cy C20 Wk New River Path

Upgraded from Try also. Refurbished and reopened as part of the Big Smoke-Punch partnership in June 2021, this handsome pub almost opposite Enfield Chase station and close to Enfield Town Park is now something of a beer beacon in an otherwise unpromising suburban area. Expect to find a good range of styles on draught from Big Smoke and elsewhere, including darker, more traditional and stronger beers: guest casks might be from Arbor, Siren, Thornbridge or Tiny Rebel, and lots more on keg from the likes of Burning Sky, Deya and Verdant. The menu encompasses small plates (mackerel paté, cauliflower bhajis), upmarket pies, ribs, sausage and mash, sourdough pizzas and veggie options like sweet potato and pumpkin curry. The pub preserves its traditional two-bar layout, with separate doors, and the vintage tiled fireplaces and engraved bay windows now look splendid. 03/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Beavertown Brewery. See the update under Tottenham and Haringey above. 12/22

Black Horse (Barnet Brewery). Oak Taverns gave up the lease of the pub in November. Management reverted to freeholders Heineken who promptly closed the in-house brewery, so sadly this is no longer a venue of interest. 12/21

Greywood Brewery. Production appears to have been suspended at least from end 2021. 12/22

Enfeld. After a period contract brewing for others during 2021, brewing ceased by February 2022 with the equipment up for sale. 03/22

Urban Alchemy Brewing Co. The brewery added an offsite taproom in central Barnet in July 2022: the site is temporary as it's due to be redeveloped but not for at least a year. Brewing was suspended as of March 2023 due to building work

but the taproom remains open. 98 High Street, Barnet EN5 5XQ, ☎ *Th-Fr* 18.00-24.00, *Sa* 16.00-24.00, *Su* 14.00-24.00, 6-8 keg including some guests plus own bottles, yard at rear with street food stalls, TfL High Barnet, Bus Barnet High Street. Online website sales now available. 05/23

SOUTHEAST LONDON

Bermondsey

Billy Franks Craft Beer and Snack Shack

Bar, shop

104 Druid Street SE1 2HQ

T 07920 516928 billyfranks.co.uk

☎ *Bar/shop: Fr* 17.00-22.30, *Sa* 12.00-22.30, *Su* 12.00-18.00, also *Th* 17.00-22.30 in summer.

Shop only: Tu-Th 12.00-18.00, cash-free.

Children until early evening.

4 keg, 100 bottles/cans.

Food Gourmet jerky £, **Outdoor** Tables at front.

TfL Bermondsey Bus Maltby Street Cy Link to NCN4, C4, C14 Wk Link to Jubilee Greenway, Jubilee Walkway, Thames Path

Upgraded from Try also. A renowned artisanal jerky maker run by beer enthusiasts which began above a brewery, Billy Franks had been a presence on the 'Bermondsey mile' since moving here in 2016. It became a full-on beer stop during the lockdowns, reopening in May 2021 with well-stocked shelves and fridges, keg lines, high stools and tables indoors and plenty of space outside. The selection sidesteps very local breweries, preferring quality producers from the wider UK, like Deya, Harbour, Overtone, Vault City and Brew York, a few more distant Londoners like Hammer-ton and Weird Beard and the occasional Belgian, German or Baltic import. Jerky (dried meat snacks) made in-house includes recipes with beer and vegan versions, and they're also proud of their Boozy Bacon Jam. 03/22

Pitcher and Craft

Shop, bar

262 Southwark Park Road SE16 3RN

T (020) 8617 1087 pitcherandcraft.com

☎ *Tu-Sa* 11.00-20.00, *Su* 11.00-18.00. Children welcome.

3+ keg, 150 bottles/cans, growlers, natural and organic wines.

Food Cold tapas, cheese and charcuterie boards ££, **Outdoor** A few tables on street.

Tastings

TfL Bermondsey Bus Anchor Street Cy Link to NCN425, C10

Owner and wine merchant Benno reworked this old off license in the Bermondsey Blue into a rather smarter beer and wine outlet in January 2022, at first not realising it was right on the 'mile'.

It's a bright, well-arranged and friendly shop with a bit of seating on high stools and shelves and on the street for drinking in, and there are plans to turn a space at the back into a more expansive drinking zone. You can stock up on several Bermondsey brewers in one place – BBNo, Kernel and Partizan are well-represented – but there are also names from not too far away but off the main drag, like Forest Road and Small Beer, as well as breweries like Cloudwater, Duration, Canopy, Orbit and Two Tribes and a few Belgian and German options. An imaginative tapas menu including stuffed courgette flower, cheeseboards and salads should be added soon. 08/22

TRY ALSO

Dean Swift 10 Gainsford Street SE1 2NE thedeanswift.com. Once a top choice, this rather charming pub on the corner of the old Courage brewery site near Butlers Wharf has recently recovered some of its appeal under the same management as Firefly (Try also p275). Three decent cask on automatic pump dispense plus 12 keg and a few bottles and cans, though a preponderance of pale ales and lagers. Cash-free. 08/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Visiting Bermondsey. A useful, lively, independently minded and regularly updated unofficial guide to the Bermondsey "mile" is at bermondsey-beer-mile.co.uk. 12/22

Barrel Project. Still open, but London Beer Factory beers are now made outside London: see Central South London. 12/22

BBNo. As anticipated, now that the company has its much larger site in Greenwich (see Greenwich and Lewisham), it's given up arch 74 in Enid Street, with the main taproom now in arch 79. In April 2022 a 1.5 hl pilot kit was installed here brewing specials for the site, including some revivals of old favourites. This was removed in March 2023 and the venue is now just a taproom for beer brewed in Greenwich, although there's an aspiration to resume small-scale brewing here. 05/23

Fourpure Brewing. Continuing the trend of multi-national brewers shedding their 'craft' purchases, Kirin subsidiary Lion Little World announced in February 2022 that, following a review of its investment priorities, it was likely to sell both Fourpure and its other UK brand, Magic Rock in Huddersfield, acquired in 2019. In August, both breweries and the Little Creatures Regents Canal brewpub (Central London: Angel to Bloomsbury) were bought by Oddysey Inns, a new company led by Stephen Cox, co-founder of the successful Utopian brewery in Devon. All the businesses

have continued to trade and Oddysey says it's keen to develop the brands further. Brewers John Driebergen and Ollie Parker had already left before the sale to set up Great Beyond (Central: Shoreditch and Hoxton above). 12/22

Mash Paddle Brewery. Following various delays, the project secured a site in Bermondsey early in 2022 at 92 Enid Street SE16 4AW, a few arches southeast of Craft Beer Junction and close to BBNo, Bianca Road and the Kernel. 'Soft opening' began in June, initially only with a bar stocking other people's beer, but a few small-scale trial brews began to appear soon afterwards. Full brewing facilities have been in place since autumn 2022 with at least two own brands regularly on sale in keg plus numerous guests, with regular beginner classes so you can brew (and can) your own beer in 20 l batches. A more detailed writeup will follow in a future update. 05/23

⊕ Su-We 12.00-19.00, Th 12.00-22.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 14.00-23.00.

Partizan Brewing. Perhaps the most significant post-lockdown loss, this excellent and significant brewery closed its taproom at short notice in March 2023 and relocated operations outside the capital. Partizan was the second modern Bermondsey brewery when it opened in 2012, but eye-watering rent increases for its railway arch, coupled with a post-lockdown decline in taproom trade, decided the issue. Coupled with Anspach & Hobday and BBNo relocating production elsewhere, this reduces the Bermondsey brewery total to seven, undoubtedly reflecting the more aggressive approach of new landlords the Arch Co. Meanwhile Partizan's assets have been sold to Langton Brewing in Market Harborough where Andy will continue to brew the brands, so at least they won't disappear completely. 05/23

Small Beer. The taproom is once again open on a regular basis and even boasts a cask line, as well as four keg and 5+ bottles, with regular quizzes and live music. 12/22

⊕ We-Fr 16.00-22.00, Sa 12.00-22.00, Su 12.00-17.30, cash-free, children until early evening.

Central South London

Dulwich Beer Dispensary

Bar

418 Lordship Lane SE22 8JY

T (020) 7018 8586 southeybrewing.co.uk

⊕ We-Fr 16.00-23.00, Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 12.00-22.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

2-3 cask, 7 keg, 40+ bottles/cans, growlers, wines, specialist spirits.

Food Pizzas ££, **Outdoor** Large front terrace. *Live music, quiz, bingo, board games.*

NR TfL Forest Hill Bus Grove Tavern Wk Link to Green Chain Walk

Upgraded from Try also. Despite still giving its name to the bus stop, the landmark Grove Tavern is currently closed and boarded, so locals as well as beer lovers were grateful when this characterful alternative across the road reopened between the lockdowns in 2020. Previously a tapas restaurant, it's an interesting mix of sunny conservatory and woody old pub, with a massive set of shelves and tiny drawers at the back recalling a former life as an apothecary, and a stepped terrace cascading down to the street. It's a Southey venue with a good choice of its owner's beers in cask, keg and can, alongside guests from brewers like Belleville, Better World, Brockley, Mad Squirrel and Moor. Packaged choices are widened by the fridges in the adjoining bottle shop, their contents sold to drink in at a higher price and including an impressive range of low and no-alcohol choices. Pizza toppings lean to the vegetarian – "green garden" with broccolini, kale and baby spinach or wild mushroom and vegan cheese – with a sprinkling of pepperoni and chicken wings for carnivores. Dulwich Park is just around the corner. 03/22

Lowline Tap (Better World)

Beer firm, bar

18 Angel Lane, Manor Place Depot SE17 3FR
betterworldbeer.com

⊕ Th-Fr 17.00-22.00, Sa 14.00-22.00, may expand to We, cash-free. Well-behaved children welcome until early evening. 8-12 keg, 25+ bottles/cans ♻️.

Food BYO, **Outdoor** Tables at front ☺️.

Tastings, quiz, comedy, music, vinyl, darts, books.

NR TfL Elephant & Castle Bus Penrose Street/Walworth Road, East Street Cy Link to C17

Better World is listed as a brewer without a brewery in the book (p321): it's still without a brewery, with no current intention of adding one, but finally opened its long-planned taproom in Walworth in March 2022. It's in an arch beneath the Thameslink railway facing a recently redeveloped former waste site close to East Street Market and Orbit (p225). Large plants and designer glass lampshades offset no-nonsense black cladding in a stylish but welcoming space designed by creative director Russell Miller, who was pouring pints behind the bar when I called. Keg lines are dedicated to the excellent house beers, with additional guests from like-minded breweries like Drop Bear, Farmyard and Overtone in the fridges. The company continues its "planet-positive" policies, raising money to plant trees, protect Indonesian forests and collect plastic from beaches. 08/22

BEERS in keg and can are currently brewed at Pretty Decent (p150) and Glen Affric in Merseyside. They include **Polar** Citra pale ale (4.6%),

Wolf* helles lager (4.7%), **Pallas*** stout (5%), **Hog*** hazy IPA (6%) and **Lynx** double IPA (7.6%).

TRY ALSO

Old Red Lion 42 Kennington Park Road SE11 4RS theoldredlion.co.uk. A former Antic that's now a Portobello, with a cask-focused manager maintaining four lines in good condition alongside nine keg, around half from the owning brewery, the rest from London and other UK independents. It's also an architecturally delightful regional heritage pub preserving unashamed Brewer's Tudor features from a 1930s refit: fake beams, heavy timbers, stained glass and gothic styling. One to watch, next door to Oaka (p224). 08/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Affinity Brewing Co Shop hours have changed:
⊕ *We-Th* 16.00-20.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-20.00. 08/22

Beer Shop London. Sadly, this marvellous venue is closing in December 2022 as the lease expires and the landlord is not renewing, planning instead to redevelop the building. 12/22

Bullfinch Brewery / Bull and Finch. Commissioning the brewery at the Bull and Finch took longer than expected, but it was in action by February 2022 and the beers were on sale by April. Brewer and manager Jon Griffiths divides 150 l batches of wort between several fermenters with different yeasts, mixed cultures and dry hops to create limited edition sour, mixed fermentation and kveik beers for sale in the pub under the **So What** name. Revivals of Bullfinch cask beers under the name **Bull and Finch** will follow, while the bar has expanded its range of Belgian and German imports. Brewing continues at the Herne Hill site on a small scale, with core brands currently cuckoo brewed. 08/22

Canopy Beer Co. This distinctive and well-loved brewery announced its closure in November 2022. "The current economic situation makes our position untenable," said founders Estelle and Matt Theobalds in a statement. "We are choosing to close in order that we have control over the process... We have tried, without being afraid of failing." The site and much of the equipment has since been acquired by Bird House London, a small bar group led by Frazer Timmerman (ex-London Fields and Truman's) and William Fuller which operates three venues including Peckham Arches and the Hawks Nest in Shepherds Bush. The initial plan is to brew mainly for the company's own outlets, possibly including some cask beer, and to refurbish and reopen the taproom. The name is yet to be confirmed they're hoping to start brewing in May 2023. 05/23

London Beer Factory. The Warehouse Taproom proved short-lived and was closed in October 2021. In summer 2022 the brewery gave up its site and relocated brewing outside London to Norfolk, though the Barrel Project in Bermondsey continues as a brewery outlet. 12/22

Pigeon. Anspach & Hobday's Camberwell bar closed in August 2022. 12/22

Greenwich and Lewisham

Green Goddess (Common Rioters Beer)

Brewpub, micropub

43A Vanburgh Park SE3 7AB

thegreengoddess.pub

⊕ *We-Th* 16.00-22.30, *Fr-Sa* 14.00-22.30, *Su* 14.00-21.30, cash-free. Children until 21.00.

2 cask, 10-16 keg, 30 bottles/cans, some wines and gins.

Food Cheese and charcuterie plates to be added
££, Outdoor Small front terrace ☼

Tutored tastings, music planned, bookshelf, board games

NR Westcombe Park Bus Blackheath Royal Standard

Upgraded from Try also. Longstanding cuckoo brewers Common Rioters' long-awaited conversion of a former bank overlooking the little patch of green at the Blackheath Standard finally opened in July 2022, although on-site brewing in a small room visible from the main bar is unlikely to follow until 2023. But it's already a delight, a cheerfully bright space lit by picture windows and finished in pale green and natural wood, with keg taps sprouting from a tiled back bar. Top marks for showing the beer styles first, written above the taps, and for an adventurous range, including wheat beers, stouts and good lagers as well as pales and IPAs. Currently beers are sourced from the likes of Brick, Burnt Mill, Duration, Kernel and Meraki: guests will continue once brewing has commenced, with a 50:50 split. There's some gems in the fridges too, like rarities from Campervan and Track, and 3 Fonteinen lambic. Plans include converting the bank vault below into a tasting room. 08/22

SALT London

Brewery, no visitors please (Ossett Brewery)

Unit 9, 35 White Hart Avenue SE28 0GU

T (020) 3247 4118 saltbeerfactory.co.uk

First sold beer: August 2018 (as Hop Stuff), March 2022 (as SALT)

NR TfL Plumstead Bus Purland Road Cy Wk Ridgeway

SALT Deptford

Restaurant, bar

2 St Paul's House, 3 Market Yard SE8 4BX

T (020) 8469 1622 saltbeerfactory.co.uk

⊕ Mo-Th 16.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 12.00-22.00, cash-free.

15 keg, 20+ bottles/cans, cask may be added, some specialist spirits.

Food Gourmet pizzas **££**, **Outdoor** Tables on yard, ☼.

NR Deptford Cy C10, link to NCN21 Wk Link to Waterlink Way

SALT Woolwich

Bar

15 Major Draper Street SE18 6GD

T (020) 8316 4413 saltbeerfactory.co.uk

⊕ Mo-Th 16.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-24.00, Su 12.00-22.00, cash-free. Children until 21.00.

2 cask, 12 keg, 25 bottles/cans, some specialist spirits.

Food Gourmet pizzas **£-££**, **Outdoor** Tables at front, ☼.

NR TfL Boat Woolwich/Woolwich Arsenal Cy Link to NCN1, C33 Wk Link to Capital Ring, Thames Path

London regained one of its larger craft brewers in December 2021 when new owner SALT Beer Factory reinstated production at the former Hop Stuff brewery in Thamesmead. By early December the old Hop Stuff bars in Deptford and Woolwich had already been rebranded and test brewing and flavour matching were in process, with commercial production resuming a few months later. Hop Stuff originally opened in 2013 in a unit at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. After a dramatic expansion to the current site, on former Arsenal land near Belmarsh Prison, in 2018, it ran into difficulties and was bought by Coors in a prepack administration deal in 2019. Brewing restarted in December that year, but after around 25 brews, the 2020 lockdown struck, so the facility was mothballed and later put up for sale (see p325 for more background).

SALT is a contemporary craft-slanted offshoot of Ossett Brewery, which began on a very small scale in 1998 in the West Yorkshire town of the same name and expanded substantially in June 2005. The original SALT Beer Factory opened in 2018 as a brewpub in one of the historic buildings on the World Heritage Site at Saltaire near Bradford, and quickly established a good reputation. The brewery had long planned to expand its London business and with capacity running short at home, the Hop Stuff facility, with its automated five-vessel 70 hl brewhouse and plenty of space for expansion, was a good fit. The new owners have already commissioned the steam heating plant, installed but never used under previous regimes, and are introducing further improvements.

SALT haven't made many changes to the two bars, which are well-liked locally for pizzas as well as beer: they're made to order in red, white and green variants, with plenty of vegan and veggie options among the toppings and weekly changing specials with seasonal ingredients. The beer range now includes a good choice of SALT beers alongside guests from local and other UK independents in a range of styles: on recent visits I spotted Exale, Hammerton, Lost & Grounded, Siren and Villages among others. The Woolwich venue also has cask from Ossett, to enjoy in a pleasant downstairs space with high tables and woody finishes or in a more expansive upstairs mezzanine, with intriguing lines of empty bottles and cans visible from the stairs. It's just round the corner from the new Elizabeth Line station and handy for other attractions on the Royal Arsenal site. Its Deptford sister, with similar décor in recycled wood, has more of a restaurant feel, a wider choice of SALT specials and collabs in can and no cask, though this might be added. It's close to Hop Burns and Black's Deptford branch and the Villages brewery. A taproom might eventually be added at the brewery itself, though may only open for special events. 08/22

BEERS from the London site are currently keg only, though the canning line should be recommissioned later in 2022, and there are plans for cask. SALT are using the extra capacity to brew their most popular core brands, **Jute** session IPA (4.2%) and **Huckabuck** NEIPA (5.5%), while continuing smaller runs and specials in Saltaire. The Hop Stuff brand wasn't part of the deal: Coors has retained it so may brew the recipes elsewhere.

Visitor note. Both taprooms are in handsome heritage settings. The Royal Arsenal was developed from the 1650s on a site adjacent to a Tudor-era naval dockyard: at its peak during World War I it occupied 520 ha and employed 80,000 people, but was closed in 1994 and subsequently redeveloped. Deptford station, opened in 1836, is now the oldest operational rail station in London, noted for its rare 1856 carriage ramp, restored as part of a new public space in 2016.

Shirkers Rest

Micropub

9 Lewisham Way SE14 6PP

theshirkersrest.co.uk

⊕ We 17.00-22.30, Th 15.00-22.30, Fr 15.00-23.30, Sa 13.00-23.30, Su 14.00-18.30, cash-free. Children until 21.00.

3-4 cask, 7 keg, 20+ bottles/cans, ciders.

Food Order-in pizza **££**, **Outdoor** A few tables on street.

Meet the brewer, tap takeovers, comedy, quiz, acoustic music, major big screen sport, board games.

NR TfL New Cross, New Cross Gate

Opened in June 2022, this quirky but very amenable micropub-cum-craft beer bar emerged out of an abortive plan for a micropub called the Camberwell Shark, with additional input from the people behind the Deserter podcast. Opposite Goldsmith's College on the busy New Cross gyratory, it manages a charming combination of homely, retro-funky and beer hall decor, set off by the rocking chair and 60s ashtray stand on the tiny terrace. The owners are big on well-kept cask, with a house bitter from Anspach & Hobday and guests from the likes of Elusive. Elsewhere there's a range of styles from ultra-locals like Brick, Orbit and Villages, including dark and sour options. Even the wide range of packet snacks is artfully chosen. 08/22

TRY ALSO

Jars Bar Notified as a possible Try also in August 2022 but since closed. 05/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

BBNo (Brew by Numbers). I've since visited BBNo's splendid new site, opened as planned in September 2021. A rectangle of handsome Victorian warehouse has been turned into an atmospheric taproom right next to the spacious production facilities, with 'numbers' banners hanging from the high ceiling. The 'Greenwich beach' part of the address may sound overly hopeful, but this stretch of riverside really does have sandy beaches at low tide. Only eight taps were in action when I called, mixing guests from the likes of Rock Leopard with BBNo beers dispensed direct from an array of six steel tanks behind the bar, plus a good selection of cans. Food is currently a pizza concession in a container on the terrace. If arriving by boat, best alight at Greenwich Pier rather than North Greenwich, as it's then a straightforward 25 minute walk along the Thames Path.

⊕ We 17.00-22.00, Th-Fr 15.00-22.00, Sa 12.00-22.00, Su 12.00.-22.00, cash-free. Children until mid-evening. 08/22

Beer + Burger O2 (Try also). Closed by mid-2022. 08/22

Forest Road Brewing. Onsite brewing did indeed commence in September, with the canning line commissioned in November. The beer has even been sighted in cask occasionally. 12/21

Ignition Brewery. The brewery is one of four participating in the Local Brewery Loop initiative: see under Outer Southeast London below. In March 2023, founder Nick O'Shea announced he was planning to move on, and the brewery is currently

seeking expressions of interest in taking over its management and ownership. 05/23

Meantime Brewing. Asahi announced in early December that it was closing the Dark Star brewery at Partridge Green, West Sussex, which it acquired with its purchase of Fuller's in 2018, and shifting production of the brands to another of its UK breweries, Meantime, by the end of 2022. Dark Star has London roots: it was co-founded in 1994 in the cellar of the Evening Star pub in Brighton by Rob Jones, who began his brewing career by co-founding a pioneering London microbrewery, Pitfield, in Hoxton in 1981. The Sussex brewery took its name from one of Pitfield's beers, a porter named Dark Star, the first microbrewed beer to win Champion Beer of Britain in 1987 (for more see desdemoor.co.uk/pitfield-brewery). Dark Star itself was a major influence on the development of the UK craft brewing scene with its most successful brand, Hophead, an early example of a golden session cask ale showcasing US hops. Hophead has been brewed by Fuller's at Chiswick for some time, but Dark Star has several other cask brands, including Original, successor to the 1980s beer, and it's not yet clear how these will fit in at Meantime, a facility which has so far never brewed cask. 12/22

Old Kent Road Brewery. The brewery ceased operations in January 2022 with a farewell party at Beer Shop London. 01/22

Plum Tree. There are no longer plans to add a brewery, though the venue continues to sell a great range of other people's beer. 12/21

Villages Brewery. Founders Archie and Louis Village moved on in July 2022 in the interests of "a change of pace, lifestyle, and some new experiences". They sold the business as a going concern to new directors Simon Baldwin and Malcolm Elliot, who are also involved in two breweries outside London: Backyard in Walsall and Grasshopper in Nottingham. It seems activities will continue largely as normal for the moment. 12/22

Volden Brewing. Though some of the brewing kit is in place at the new site, it's not yet been commissioned, with further delays including for the installation of utilities. Brewing is now scheduled to start early in 2023; meanwhile Volden brands continue to be cuckoo brewed at Portobello and Wimbledon. 12/22

Wrong Side of the Tracks. Brewing was suspended by the end of 2021 but the brands made a comeback in October 2022, now cuckoo brewed at Dogs Grandad. It's hoped production on site will ultimately be revived too. 12/22

Outer Southeast London

Long Haul

Micropub

149 Long Lane, Bexleyheath DA7 5AE

thelonghaul.co.uk

⊕ *Tu-We* 15.00-22.00, *Th* 13.00-22.00, *Fr-Sa* 13.00-23.00, *Su* 13.00-19.00. Children until 21.00.

3-4 cask, 4 keg, up to 20 bottles/cans, minikegs, 6 ciders/perries, some Kent wines and spirits.

Food Sausage rolls, Scotch eggs (at busier times), special food events, Sunday cheeseboards, **Outdoor** Tables at front.

Occasional live music, rock'n'roll bingo, food nights, quizzes, raffles.

NR Bamehurst **Bus** Heversham Road, Long Lane Woolwich Road

Upgraded from Try also. A small and friendly micropub in a repurposed tattoo parlour in a parade of local shops between Bexleyheath and Bamehurst, this won local CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2022. As often with micropubs in the area, there's a Kent theme, with casks (poured from cold room stillages) and kegs from brewers like Gadds, Iron Pier, Kent, Pig and Porter and Westerham, and interlopers like Manchester Brewing Co and Park. There's usually a dark option and a stronger and more experimental brew, and a beer fridge should shortly widen the choice. A mix of high and low seating on smartly varnished tables looks out on a reasonably sized outdoor space under a canopy at the front. 03/22

Real Ale Way West Wickham

Micropub

75 Station Way, West Wickham BR4 0PX

facebook.com/therealalewaywestwickham

⊕ *Su-Mo* 13.00-20.00, *Tu-We* 13.00-22.00, *Th-Sa* 13.00-23.00. Children until 21.00.

7 cask, 6+ bottles/cans, minikegs, 12+ ciders/perries, Kent wines and spirits.

Outdoor Tables at front in summer.

Occasional quiz and live music, cheeseboard (Su), art displays.

NR West Wickham **Bus** High Street/Wickham Court Road

This worthy offshoot of the original Real Ale Way in Hayes (p250) occupies a distinctive corner building, formerly an upholsterer, in West Wickham town centre opposite Sainsbury's (a little way from the station despite the address). Big windows allow plenty of light into a clean, bright and reasonably sized space equipped with both high and low seating and its own bar, though cask beer in top condition is fetched from stillages in a cold room in classic micropub style by friendly staff. The focus is on Kent and southeast London brewers, like Bexley, Larkins, Mad Cat, Nelson and Tonbridge, the last of whom supplies the house

pale, and there's nearly always a darker option. A third branch has opened just outside London in Westerham, and a fourth is planned near Bromley South station during 2022. 03/22

TRY ALSO

Craft Beer Rooms 6 Bourne Way, Hayes BR2 7EY craftbeerrooms.com. Micropub-proportioned but specialising in 'craft keg' beers, with 10 varied choices, this is just around the corner from Hayes station and very close to the Real Ale Way. Not in the main guide as it hadn't reopened by the deadline but has since sprung back to life. 12/22

Dog House 14 The Broadway, Croydon CR0 4QR thedoghouse-beddington.co.uk. Micropub offering up to six cask beers in former dog-grooming salon opened summer 2022. Despite the address it's in Beddington, 700 m from Waddon station. Closed *Mo*, not yet visited. 12/22

LOCAL BREWERY LOOP

Four small breweries on the boundaries of Bromley and Lewisham are collaborating on this simple but ingenious promotional initiative, built around a three-mile (5 km) walking route linking them all, with a loyalty card and a badge for participants who buy a drink in all four. The breweries are Br3wery (p244), Ignition (p232), Southey (p251) and Three Hounds (p252): for more, ask in the participating venues or visit localbreweryloop.co.uk. 03/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Anspach and Hobday. Though the taproom at the main site originally opened every Saturday, this proved hard to sustain in the winter. It's currently open for special events only, though these tend to take place at least monthly. Regular opening may be restored over the summer. The brewery has launched a new and very tasty nitro stout, **London Black** (4.4%), which it's currently promoting heavily as a London-brewed independent alternative to big commercial brands, and is crowd-funding again to expand production further. 12/21

Bexley Brewery. Hours at the Bird and Barrel have been amended to *Th* 17.00-22.00, *Fr* 16.00-22.00, *Sa* 14.00-22.00, *Su* 14.00-18.00. 12/21

Cronx Brewery. The Cronx Bar at Croydon Boxpark has closed following the expiry of the lease: the renewal terms offered sadly weren't sufficiently attractive. The brewery is currently considering options for another outlet which it hopes to open by the end of 2022. 01/22

Lock and Barrel (Try also). Closed March 2023. 05/23

SOUTHWEST LONDON

Brixton, Clapham and Streatham

Craft Metropolis Arch Taphouse

Bar, bottle shop

Arch 263, 241 Coldharbour Lane SW9 8RR

craftmetropolis.co.uk

⊕ Th 16.30-22.30, Fr 16.30-23.30, Sa 14.30-23.30, cash-free. Children until early evening.

10 keg, 350+ bottles/cans, growlers, some organic/natural wines and specialist spirits.

Food Order-in pizzas **££**, **Outdoor** Bench at front ☺.

Meet the brewer, tastings, live music, films, major big screen sport.

NR Loughborough Junction

This arch under the Overground was once just the Craft Metropolis warehouse, but someone realised the potential of the site in what's now something of a beery cluster at Loughborough Junction, and in May 2022 it became a bar and shop too. Unsurprisingly, it has a similarly diverse and well-picked beer selection as the existing Penge venue (p246): keg taps on a back bar dispensing a range of styles from admired London and UK breweries, and numerous fridges with beer to take away or drink in with a corkage charge, helpfully divided into categories like local (Brick, Gravity Well, London Beer Lab, Three Hills), "Best of British" (Elusive, Frontal, Unbarred, Whiplash) and imports (Basqueland, Moersleutel, Nerdbrewing, Tilquin), including some special stuff in big bottles. The difference is it's in the larger, more atmospheric surrounds of a railway arch, with walls partially clad in container-style black corrugated steel. The downstairs space is relatively small but manages an incongruously cosy corner with a standard lamp; there's a more expansive mezzanine equipped with black-painted beer hall tables. Yardsale is the pizza partner. 08/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

BrewDog Brixton (Try also). Closed March 2023. 05/23

Taproom by Brixton Village (Try also) closed by June 2022. 08/22

Wandsworth

TRY ALSO

Clapton Craft 31 St Johns Hill SW11 1TT claptoncraft.co.uk. Small but conveniently situated

branch, opened December 2021 almost opposite the Brighton Yard (southwest) entrance of Clapham Junction station. Up to six kegs with growler fills, 250+ bottles/cans mainly from London and the UK and one of the biggest selections of wine in the chain. Takeaway only. 03/22

No Boring Beer. Notified as a possible Try also in August 2022 but since closed. 05/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

BrewDog Clapham Junction. Closed March 2023. 05/23

By the Horns. In December 2021, the brewery took on the operation of the Phoenix bar, part of the newly redeveloped AFC Wimbledon Cherry Red Records Stadium site across the road though also open to the public. This builds on an existing relationship with a special collab modern pale ale for the stadium, **Crazy Gang Pale Ale** (4.2%). As reported in the guide, most brewing had already been relocated outside London to Redhill, and as the stadium bar is now effectively the taproom, the old arches, which housed a pilot brewery, have been vacated. This means there's currently no brewing in London. Also known simply as **By the Horns @ Plough Lane**, the venue has an ultra-modern sports bar feel, with concrete floor, exposed piping, neon signs and big screens, but it's friendly and has a comprehensive range of BtH beers plus the occasional unusual guest. A staircase gives access to the stands on match days. It's tricky to find so look out for signs. Follow Copper Mill Lane, which branches off Plough Lane by Topps Tiles, to find the main stadium entrance right with two flights of steps flanking the team shop. Take the path through the open gate just to the left of these and the bar is on the right. 08/22
Cherry Red Records Stadium, Plough Lane SW17 0NR (020) 3417 7338 bythehorns.co.uk

⊕ Mo-Th 16.00-23.00, Fr 16.00-23.30, Sa 12.00-23.30, Su 14.00-22.00, cash-free. Children until early evening.

2-3 cask, 8 keg, 15-20 cans ☺.

Food Weekend food carts, BYO **£-££**. **Outdoor** Sheltered side terrace.

Quiz (We), live music, big screen sport, pool, darts, table football, functions, football in adjoining stadium.

NR Earlsfield Bus Waterside Way, Wimbledon Road

Mondo opened a Borough Market bar in partnership with a pizza kitchen in March 2023: see Central London: Borough and Southbank. 05/23

Ram Inn (SlyBeast Brewing). This was one of the leasehold pubs sold by Young's to Punch and, disappointingly, the new owner decided to take back the lease. In-house brewing ceased in early

May 2022, though with a hope the brand may be revived elsewhere. In autumn, cuckoo brewer **Coalition Brewing** (p321) began using the kit on a regular basis, though on the assumption that this was temporary as the equipment was due for removal. In January 2023 the venue was remodelled into a **Laine** pub, now also owned by Punch, and the kit was retained: it may also be used to produce Laine-branded beer. I'm currently attempting to confirm future plans. 05/23

Outer Southwest London

Abercorn Arms

Contemporary pub

76 Church Lane, Teddington TW11 8EY

T (020) 3730 6602 theaberncornarms.co.uk

⊕ Mo 12.00-23.00, Tu-Th 11.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 11.00-24.00, Su 11.00-23.00. Children until 20.00.

5 cask, 11 keg, 15+ bottles/cans, cider, specialist spirits, some wines.

Food Barbecue, enhanced pub grub **££**, **Outdoor** Sheltered rear garden.

Irish music (We), occasional other live music, quiz (Su), major big screen sport, board games, seasonal events, functions

NR Teddington Bus Broad Street Teddington Cy Link to NCN4 Wk Link to Thames Path

This ex-Young's two-bar corner pub a few steps from central Teddington was reopened in November 2021 as part of Big Smoke's developing partnership with Punch. Smartly fitted out with leather banquettes, substantial chairs and an eclectic collection of wall decorations, it offers several comfortable corners to enjoy well-kept cask and an informed choice of kegs from the parent brewery and elsewhere. Harvey's Best is near-permanent; BBNo, By the Horns, Deya, Moor, Northern Monk and Siren recur; dark beers and sours feature and there's a regular offer on takeaway cans. Besides barbecue ribs and chicken, food choices could include harissa cauliflower steak, sourdough pizzas, various pies and sharing plates, with a discount on weekday lunches. A worthwhile addition to an area that also boasts the Mason's Arms. 03/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

CTZN Brew (formerly Kew Brewery). Sadly, the brewery ceased operations by the end of 2021 and its Twickenham taproom (above) is also closed. The owners initially told me they were hoping to resume trading at some point but the company has since gone into liquidation. 08/22

Drop Project. Following disappointing footfall, the brewery has decided to end regular taproom opening at least for the quieter months, though will continue to open for special events. 01/22

Jeffersons Brewery. Due to Covid-19 and the energy crisis, the last brew was in early September 2022 and activities are currently suspended "until market conditions improve", though brewing may resume for events in summer 2023. 12/22

Watermans Arms (Try also). Closed unexpectedly in June 2022 following a rent increase. 08/22

WEST LONDON

Ealing and Chiswick

Roundwood Project

Brewery, open for prearranged pickup only

24 Excelsior Studios, Sunbeam Road NW10 6JP (Ealing)

T 07815 784704 theroundwoodproject.com

First sold beer: June 2022

TfL North Acton Bus Gorst Road Cy Link to C34

Founded by longstanding homebrewer Shem Wallis-Jones, this is a small brewery in a community of creative businesses in Park Royal. 08/22

BEERS (not tasted) are currently largely bottled.

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Ealing Brewing. Following the taproom closure in June 2022 came the news that the brewery was closing entirely in December. In January 2023 the owners announced that they weren't in fact stopping brewing. The beer is still available in their excellent micropub the Owl and Pusycat in Northfields and at other local outlets though the Brentford taproom remains closed. 05/23

George and Dragon. I've had reports that management has changed here and the beer range has been reduced, so it's now only a cautious recommendation. 08/22

Parakeet City Brewing. This very small operation apparently ceased activity early in 2022. 12/22

Weird Beard. The brewery was put up for sale in February 2022 with all brewing suspended. The brand has since been bought by Doghouse Brewery in Darwen, Lancashire, and founder Bryan Spooner has moved to join its staff. This at least means Weird Beard's excellent beers will still be around, despite the considerable loss to the London brewing scene. The brewery has long been a very welcome presence in a part of the city where decent beer is relatively sparse, though perhaps this also contributed to the challenges of keeping it going. We wish Bryan the best of luck. 08/22

Northumberland Arms (Try also). Closed for major refurbishment for almost a year but reopened in October 2022. 12/22

Hammersmith and Fulham

Hammersmith Craft Brewery

Brewery, taproom

Lower ground floor, 106 Fulham Palace Road W6 9PL (Hammersmith & Fulham)

hammersmithbrewery.co.uk

First sold beer: December 2019

⊕ *Th-Sa* Check times as likely to change.

Children until early evening.

Occasional cask, 6-8 keg, bottles may follow ☹️.

Food BYO though pies planned, **Outdoor** Bench on street.

Tastings, beer-themed events.

TfL Hammersmith **Cy** Link to C9 **Wk** Link to Thames Path

This brewery in a Hammersmith basement previously passed under my radar due to lockdown disruptions and the softest of soft launches and currently feels like a best-kept secret, but brewer Jo plans to ramp up publicity substantially in autumn 2022. It's easy to miss: look for a picnic bench on the street, step inside the Kenta restaurant and immediately turn right down the steps to find an intimate taproom with a tiny bar in a cubby hole at the side, added in July 2022. Beyond the public area is a series of rooms with more space than you might expect, with an 8 hl mash tun and copper nested inside each other to save space, plus a pilot kit. The premises were briefly occupied by Hoppy Collie brewery in 2013 but there's no connection between the two businesses.

BEERS are naturally fermented in keg, with a plan to resume bottling, as well as adding cask once turnover justifies it. Unusually for London, they're predominantly in modestly hopped, balanced session styles. The range hasn't quite stabilised but is likely to include changing **Gold** summer ales (around 4%), ambers, stouts and **HPAs** (Hoppy Pale Ales, around 4.5%).

Prairie Fire

Restaurant, bar

88 Wood Lane Archways, Wood Lane W12 7LH

T (020) 8740 5349 prairiefirebbq.com

⊕ *Su-Th* 12.00-22.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-23.00.

Children welcome.

15 keg, 12+ bottles/cans, 1 cider, specialist spirits.

Food Barbecue, burgers, hot dogs (very good)

££, Outdoor Tables at front, rear terrace ☹️.

Tap takeovers, table football, major big screen sport, venue hire.

TfL Wood Lane **Cy** Link to C34

Upgraded from Try also. When chef Michael Gratz started a street food business in 2013, he naturally drew on his heritage as a native of Kansas City, Missouri, the US capital of smoked meat. Also a keen craft beer fan who collaborated with brewers, he brought these two highly compatible bedfellows together at this permanent site. Lock-down struck just months after opening in December 2019, but the venue has kept going. It should soon be joined by other hospitality businesses in a run of well-located Central Line arches opposite the northwest corner of the giant Westfield mall and close to the former BBC Television Centre. The funky US-inspired bar with high stools and tables, also open to non-diners, occupies one arch, offering a very varied all-independent keg range drawn from London (Goodness, Mondo, Kernel, Old Street) and elsewhere in the UK (Lost and Grounded, North, Seven Bro7ers, Wild), with tasting paddles available. The arch next door has more traditional restaurant tables at which to enjoy exemplary renditions of oak-smoked brisket sandwiches, pulled pork and smoked wings, with sides including tater tots and mac and cheese. Given the carnivorous slant, the veggie burgers are pretty good too, and staff can make matching recommendations. 03/22

Prince of Wales Townhouse

Contemporary pub

73 Dalling Road W6 0JD

T (020) 8563 1713

princeofwales-townhouse.co.uk

⊕ *Su-Th* 09.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 09.00-24.00.

Children welcome.

5 cask, 18 keg, 15+ bottles/cans, specialist spirits, some wines.

Food Breakfast/brunch, barbecue, enhanced pub grub **££, Outdoor** Sheltered side yard ☹️ ↗️.

DJs, shuffleboard, major big screen sport.

TfL Ravenscourt Park

Upgraded from Try also. The Guinness mosaics that dot the floor of this big Brewer's Tudor place round the corner from Ravenscourt Park Tube reveal its previous life as an Irish pub. More recently a Laine's known as the Rooks Nest, it was refurbished and reopened in September 2020 under the Big Smoke-Young's partnership. It still stocks Laine's alongside Big Smoke and well-chosen guests likely to be from Londoners like Two Tribes, and reliable producers from elsewhere like Deya, Harvey's and Mad Squirrel. As with other pubs in the chain, the furnishings are smart but comfortable and unpretentious, mixing banquettes, stools and table seating. Food encompasses hot sandwiches (fish finger, halloumi), sausage and mash, barbecue pork ribs, sharers like loaded fries and nachos, and, thanks to the upstairs rooms, breakfast and brunch. 03/22

Maida Vale to Dollis Hill

Carlton Tavern

Traditional pub

33 Carlton Vale NW6 5EU

T (020) 7625 4760 carlontavern.co.uk

⊕ *Mo-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.30. Children until early evening.

4-6 cask, 10 keg, 6+ bottles/cans, occasional cider, wine.

Food Eclectic enhanced pub grub **££**, **Outdoor** Sheltered side terrace ☂.

Live music (fortnightly), comedy (Mo), quiz (Tu), tasting events, board games, functions.

TfL Kilburn Park

Following a dramatic tale of demolition and restoration (see below), this handsome place on the northern edge of Paddington Recreation Ground reopened in April 2021 and is now a flourishing independently run community local. The spacious interior still distinguishes the public bar on the right with wooden seating and saloon bar on the left with leather-padded banquettes. A rear dining area abuts a terrace that backs directly onto the park, and framed prints and old books give a homely feel. Beers are nearly all from London brewers, including an exclusive cask bitter from Anspach & Hobday, with Five Points, Goodness, London Brewing and Southwark also likely to pop up. Food mixes cooked bar snacks, lunchtime sandwiches and small plates (creamy wild mushrooms, tempura cod cheeks) with mains like steaks, jerk chicken burgers and unusual salads. A welcome bolthole in a part of London where decent beer is relatively scarce, it deservedly won local CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2022 and not just for its backstory. 08/22

Visitor note. Despite appearances, this is a recent reconstruction. In 2015, developers intent on building flats on the site began unlawfully demolishing the original pub, built in 1921 and recognised for its heritage features, days before it was due a Grade II listing. Westminster council, supported by a vociferous local campaign, took legal action, forcing an unprecedented brick-by-brick rebuild. The appearance and layout have been retained, with some subtle practical tweaks to the latter. As much as possible was rescued from the rubble and reinstated, including the bar, fireplaces, tiling, brickwork and parts of ceilings. The exterior ceramic signs promoting original owner Charringtons are particularly attractive: note the one at the side labelling the dining area as 'Luncheon and Tea Room'. Paddington Recreation Ground opened in 1888 as the first park of its kind in London: Roger Bannister trained for his four-minute mile here in the early 1950s.

TRY ALSO

Quiet Night Inn 60 Great Western Road W11 1AB quietnightinn.com. This pub just a few

paces from Westbourne Park Tube reopened as a Forest Road outlet on 4 November 2022. 12/22

HERITAGE PUBS

Warrington Hotel 93 Warrington Crescent W9 1EH thewarringtonhotel.co.uk. This lavish pub in well-heeled Maida Vale, built in 1857 and reworked in the 1890s, changed owners several times recently and was closed and for sale again when I was compiling the book. Happily, it reopened at the end of July 2021. Beyond the imposing stucco exterior with its bespoke lamp standards and elaborately tiled and pillared porch is an astonishing lounge bar on the right with an arcade of wood and marble, sparkling stained and engraved glass and mildly erotic art nouveau decorations added to the moulded canopy above the bar in 1965. Pioneering pub chronicler Maurice Gorham named it "the finest flower of lounges" in 1949. A few beers of interest from Adnams and Portobello, including the odd cask, and boutique B&B rooms upstairs. It's a short walk from another heritage pub, the Prince Alfred (p306). 08/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Real Drinks Notting Hill closed by June 2022. The Little Venice branch is still open but the original shop in Twickenham (p312) is also now closed. 12/22

Outer West London

LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT

Big Smoke opened two additional airport bars in June 2022, both before security. The **Oceanic** is named after Terminal 3's original name: it's around the corner from security on level 1. The **Globe** is on Level 3 of Terminal 5, behind the Zone G check-in desks. Both have a similar offer to the Taphouse at Terminal 2. 12/22

The **Flying Chariot** closed during the 2020 lockdowns and Wetherspoon later confirmed they wouldn't be reopening it. In July 2022, it reopened as a second Fuller's airport outlet, the **Queens Arms**, recalling Terminal 2's original name the Queen's Terminal, so it's once again worth a look for a decent beer if you're at the airport. The other airport Wetherspoon mentioned, the Crown Rivers on airside Terminal 5, remains open. 12/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

CTZN Brewhouse. Both brewery and venue are now closed: see under Southwest London: Outer Southwest London. 01/22

Mad Yank Brewery. Sadly, the company submitted a voluntary application to wind itself up in March 2023. *05/23*

Real Drinks. The original shop, a pioneer when it opened in 2005, closed in late July 2022. Only the Little Venice branch (p306) remains open. *12/22*

Tiny Vessel Brewing Co. Brewing was suspended during 2021 as the main outlet, the Northumberland Arms, closed for refurbishment. It resumed on a small scale in March. *03/22*

THE REST

Breweries outside London

Thameside Brewery. The brewery had to move twice since the book was published, but as of 8 December 2022 has what is hopefully a more permanent home at the Two Rivers shopping centre: 1 Hale Street, Staines upon Thames TW18 4UW. The taproom is normally open daily but check for times (thamesidebrewery.co.uk). *05/23*

Brewers without breweries

Allsopp's (Samuel Allsopp and Sons) is an historic brewing name from Burton upon Trent revived in Autumn 2021 by a London-based business with family credentials. The history dates from around 1730 when Benjamin Wilson brewed in his pub. His great nephew Samuel Allsopp bought the business in 1807 and helped build it into one of Burton's biggest, noted as the first in the town to export India Pale Ale, from 1823. In 1935 it merged with Ind Coope, later Allied Breweries and, from 1992, Carlsberg, which sold its Burton site to what's now Molson Coors in 1997, by which time most of the original Allsopp buildings had been demolished. Former city financier Jamie Allsopp, seven times great grandson of Samuel, bought the brand back from Carlsberg, acquired the historic red hand trademark, which had been sold to BrewDog, retrieved the yeast from the National Yeast Archives and developed revived versions of some of the beers with the help of National Brewery Centre brewer Jim Appelbee. The hope is eventually to open a new brewery in Burton but meanwhile beers in cask and bottle are contracted, currently I believe at Curious Brew in Kent and Otter in Devon. They're available in several London pubs including some former Allsopp houses. Current brews are **Pale Ale** (4.4%) and **India Pale Ale*** (5.6%); a lager is imminent and one of the brewery's most famous brands, Arctic Ale barley wine, may yet be revived. Thanks to Roger Warhurst for some of the background allsopps.com *08/22*

Better World now has a railway arch bar called the Lowline Tap. See Southeast London: Central South London. *08/22*

BritHop now has its own brewery, but not in London: it's taken on the former Franklins site in Bexhill, East Sussex, after its former owners expanded to a site near Brighton. *03/22*

Coalition Brewing has been using the former SlyBeast brewery at the Ram Inn in Wandsworth: see under Southwest London.

Common Rioters has finally opened the Green Goddess pub and is shortly to commence brewing there: see Southeast London: Greenwich and Lewisham. *08/22*

Lucky Saint. Founded by Luke Boase in 2016, this cuckoo brewer of a much-admired unfiltered alcohol-free lager is London based and should really have been listed before: since it's recently opened a central London pub which also functions as its headquarters (see Try also under Central London: Marylebone), it can no longer be ignored. The beer is made at a historic Bavarian brewery but the company is coy on the details. *05/23*

Mellor's. Originally a home-based small batch brewery founded by Josh Mellor in 2021 in the Haringey ladder, this moved to Suffolk just before press date and consequently appeared in the Been and Gone section (p327). But the new location didn't work out, and by early 2022 Josh was back in London, this time in Deptford, and working for BBNo (see Southeast London: Bermondsey). He's still cuckoo brewing his own beers as a side project using various hosts. mellorsbrewing.co.uk *08/22*

More Lash (4.5%, not tasted) is a contract-brewed canned lager claiming to originate from Clapham which first appeared in spring 2022. The brand is fronted by comedy podcaster Archie Curzon, known for his parodies of southwest London 'rugby lads', though he's not listed among the registered company directors. For every can sold, 10p is donated to rugby players' charity Restart Rugby. morelashbrewery.com *08/22*

Rock Leopard Brewing Co. Following a successful crowdfunding round in May 2022, the company has found a unit at the new development of Cygnet Square, Thamesmead. A hoped-for 2022 opening was delayed and the taproom and onsite 15 hl brewery are now planned for spring or early summer 2023. The community-focused facility will work with nearby Shooters Hill College to provide NVQ training facilities. *12/22*

So What Brewing Co. See under Bullfinch above.

Standard Brew Co. Milo Oddi worked for Beer + Burger (p304) and related nanobrewery Project 88 (p327). He launched his own cuckoo project in July 2021, brewing at One Mile End, a previous partner of Project 88. The company focuses on IPAs but pursues variety within the broad style. Besides a recurring core table IPA ideal for serving alongside food, a new recipe is sent out every month as a six-pack to subscribers, a model which helps build a community of customers in the absence of a taproom. There's still a link to B+B as the owners of that company are investors in Standard and their venues sometimes stock its beer in keg form. Milo has no immediate plans to add his own kit as he's happy working as a cuckoo brewer and collaborator: a brew at 40FT is planned for the autumn. standardbrew.co. 08/22

Tankleys Brewery. I finally tasted the Hawaiian Pizza Beer and can confirm it's fully worthy of a mention, more smoked than sweet. 12/21

Truman's Beer. Following the closure of its Hackney Wick site in May 2022, Truman's is contracting, I believe at Redchurch. It's also planning on rebranding from September 2022 following the sale of the Truman's brand, which may result in another brewer without a brewery: see under East London: Hackney. 08/22

Young & Co's Brewery. Young's beers are still being brewed by Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) at the Eagle Brewery in Bedford, sold by Charles Wells to Marston's in 2017 along with its core brands like Bombardier. Wells now operates separately as a pub company, with its own new microbrewery and taproom in Bedford, Brewpoint, opened in 2020. 12/21

Been, gone and standing by

BritHop no longer plans to brew in London: see Brewers without breweries. 03/22

Common Rioters has finally opened the Green Goddess pub and is shortly to commence brewing there: see Southeast London: Greenwich and Lewisham. 08/22

Plans for **Earth Station HQ** have been kicked into the long grass as the redoubtable Jenn Merrick was appointed as managing director of Big Smoke Brewery in Esher (listed under Breweries outside London) in January 2022. I'm sure she'll do great things there. 01/22

Busy music venue the **Fox and Firkin** (316 Lewisham High Street SE13 6JZ) is due to become a brewpub early in 2023 with a facility known as the

Firkin brewery added in a former Sainsbury's depot on Whitburn Road at the back. This is the second time the pub, formerly the Black Bull, has operated as a brewpub. In 1980 it became the second in David Bruce's chain of Firkin brewpubs following the Goose and Firkin (see Southwark Ale p91) and continued to serve its own beer until new owners Punch discontinued brewing across the chain in 1999. It's one of the few to retain its Firkin-era name. 12/22

Guinness looks set to start brewing in London again in 2023, though on a much smaller scale than at its former Park Royal site, briefly the world's biggest brewery when it opened in 1937 but closed in 2005 and subsequently demolished (p307). The new site has an even older brewing history: the Woodyard Brewery, later known as Combe & Co, on Shelton Street near Seven Dials in Covent Garden WC2, was likely founded in the 1640s. It became a major porter producer and was at one point London's fifth biggest brewery. It closed in 1905 after merging with two other breweries to form Watney Combe Reid, but several historic buildings still stand along Shelton and Earham Streets. Appropriately enough, the Watney group ended up in the hands of Grand Metropolitan, later a co-founder of Guinness owner Diageo. The company announced on 31 January that it's investing £75 million to create a microbrewery, bar-restaurant, shop, training centre, events space and "culture hub" called **Guinness at Old Brewers Yard**, opening autumn 2023. 02/22

Hop Stuff has been bought and reopened as **SALT London**: see under Southeast London: Greenwich and Lewisham above. 03/22

Having started in London in 2021, then moved out just before press date, **Mellor's** is now back as a cuckoo. See Brewers without Breweries. 08/22

Plum Tree no longer plans to add a brewery. 03/22

Rock Leopard has moved a major step closer to opening its own facility. See Brewers without Breweries. 08/22

As reported above, **Barnet, CTZN, East Side, Enefeld, Mad Yank, Old Kent Road, OMEBEER** (formerly One Mile End), **Parakeet City, Solvay Society** and **Three Sods** have closed; **Earth Ales, London Beer Factory, Partizan, Weird Beard** and, likely, **Magic Spells** have moved out of London; and brewing at **BBNo** Bermondsey, **Big Penny** (formerly Truman's), **Boxcar, Brewhouse and Kitchen Islington, By the Horns, Canopy, Crate, E5 Bakehouse, Gorgeous, Greywood, Husk, Jeffersons, Laine's Brew Lab, London Fields, Old Fountain, Queens Head** (formerly Goose Island Brewpub),

SlyBeast, St Mary's, Urban Alchemy, Volden and **Wrong Side of the Tracks** is currently suspended. With **SALT London** reviving the former Hop Stuff, the previously unnoticed **Hammer-smith**, the revived **Babel** (formerly Little Creatures), **Ealing** continuing to brew after all, Coalition cuckoo brewing at **Laine's** Ram Inn (formerly SlyBeast) and new arrivals **3 Locks, BrewDog Waterloo, Great Beyond** and **Roundwood Project**, this brings London's current total of operating commercial breweries to **116**, suggesting a continued decline from the high point at the end of 2021 when 133 breweries were operating. *05/23*

Chains, pubcos and brewery pubs

Barworks. As recorded above, the company sold 13 of its sites to Urban Pubs and Bars in October. The sites it has retained largely focus on spirits and cocktails, so it's no longer of great interest from a beer point of view. *12/21*

Big Smoke/Twickenham Green Taverns. The brewery continues to expand its pub portfolio, boosted by an 'expert partnership' with Punch. All so far stock a good to great range of own-brewed and guest beer, almost always including well-kept cask: several more are reviewed above. *03/22*

Laine's London estate no longer includes a brew-pub so all its own-brand beer is now from the main brewery in Sussex: see People's Park Tavern above under East London: Hackney. The

group was included as part of the deal when Fortress bought Punch in December 2021. *03/22*

Punch's owner Vine was bought out by US-based private equity investor Fortress, already owner of Majestic Wine, in December 2021. The deal included all the Young's pubs recently bought by Punch, plus the Laine group (above). There have been signs of consolidation, with for example Laine beers appearing in former Young's and other Punch pubs. *03/22*

Mail order and subscription boxes

Bier Company. Monthly subscription box with eight different beers, plus various gift boxes themed by style, brewery or occasion, with bonus own-brand crisps and nuts. Founded in 2020 and based in Enfield, they support some London breweries plus others in the UK and elsewhere. biercompany.co.uk *08/22*

Other recommendations

London Beer City. My London beer-writing colleague Will Hawkes has revived the name of an event he used to run for a new free monthly email newsletter about London beer and pubs, which began publication in November 2022. Highly recommended: subscribe at willhawkes.net/london-beer-city-newsletter . *12/22*

Des de Moor, 27 April 2023
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