

LONDON'S BEST BEER PUBS & BARS

UPDATE 9: MARCH 2024

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. As well as writing up several new openings based on recent visits, I'm expanding my coverage of heritage pubs, and several more of these appear below. There's also some brewery news, not all of it good, including the disappearance of two well-loved brands, BBNo and Brick, from London as new owners Keystone, formerly known as BREAL, consolidate their operations at Black Sheep in North Yorkshire. The next update is due in June or July.

How this update works. 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 *03/24*.

I'm making this update available to people buying copies of the book directly from me or at selected CAMRA events. 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.

Growlers and takeaway draught beer. New UK duty arrangements in force from 1 August 2023 provide a discount for beer served from bulk containers for drinking on the premises. This is almost entirely good news for pubs, bars, breweries and drinkers, except that outlets, including beer festivals, won't now be allowed to sell beer bought at the lower rate in takeaway containers. This is likely to result in a major reduction, if not complete extinction, of growlers and similar containers, as these can now only be filled legally with beer on which full duty has been paid, and most licensees are unlikely to keep a supply specifically for this purpose or forego the discount just so they can continue with draught takeaways which account for only a minority of sales. Pre-packed bottled and canned beers are unaffected as they don't attract the discount anyway, so pubs and bars can continue to sell them for drinking in or taking away. Though there's a chance that the government might be persuaded to address this unforeseen consequence of the new regulations in future, for the moment you'll simply have to enjoy more of your draught beer in the bar.

Green Link Walking Trail. The 24 km Green Link between Peckham and St Peter's church, Epping Forest launched in March 2024, linking 40 green spaces and passing by or close to numerous notable beer venues. See footways.london/the-green-link for an overview. The following places are conveniently placed for the trail: venues a little further away are marked *, 'TA' means 'try also' and 'UD' means the venue appears in updates.

Central: Bloomsbury to Angel. Brewhouse and Kitchen Islington (currently closed), Earl of Essex, George and Monkey, Island Queen (UD heritage).

Central: Borough and Southbank. Corner at Tate Modern (UD), Feed the Yak (UD), Mercato Metropolitan Elephant (German Kraft).

Central: Clerkenwell and Farringdon. BrewDog Clerkenwell (TA), Dovetail, Hand and Shears* (UD heritage), Holy Tavern (see UD), Mikkeller Brewpub London, Smithfield Tap (UD), St John (TA), Sutton Arms.

East: Hackney. All Good Beer*, Chesham Arms, Clapton Craft* (TA), Howling Hops: Cock Tavern, Hackney Church Brew Co, Five Points: Pembury Tavern*, Saint Monday (UD),

East: Stratford to Walthamstow. Clapton Craft Wood Street (UD), Eat17 (TA), Froth and Rind (TA), Pillars Brewery: Taproom and Untraditional Pub, Signature Brew: Collab, Trap Taproom (TA), True Craft Walthamstow (UD), Wild Card: Barrel Store.

North: Islington. Talbot (TA UD)

Southeast: Central South. Brick Tap Room*, Eko Brewery* (UD).

CENTRAL LONDON

Bloomsbury to Angel

Hicce Hart

Gastropub

58 Penton Street N1 9PZ T (020) 3848 8168

hiccehart.co.uk

⊕ Mo 17.00-22.30, Tu-We 12.00-23.00, Th-Sa 12.00-24.00, Su 12.00-22.00, cash-free.

Children welcome.

4 keg, 1 cider, wines, specialist spirits.

Food Small plates and lunches downstairs £-££, more formal gastro restaurant upstairs ££-£££

Outdoor tables on street ☂.

Drag pub quiz, live Irish music and piano, reggae DJs, new mums' lunch, functions.

TfL Angel Cy C38, link to C27 Wk Jubilee Greenway, link to New River Path

Four keg beers might not seem much by this guide's standards, but what's interesting and praiseworthy is that this cheerful place at the end of Chapel Market has chosen to foreground a single nearby independent brewer with a small but smart range: the Goodness supplies an exclusive IPA plus its regular lager, stout and low alcohol beer, dispensed from uniformly branded taps. There's no cask: the handpumps behind the bar dispense cider and wine, so don't get your hopes up. Reopened in November 2023 by small restaurant group Hicce, which also owns the pizza place opposite, it's occupies a site that's been rebranded many times but was originally the Salmon and Compasses. There's a single long bar downstairs, tastefully furnished in contemporary style with greenery and bookshelves, and an airy dining room with a stained glass door upstairs. Italian sausage with radicchio or fish and chips might be on the bar menu; upstairs, expect the likes of broccoli and chilli frittata, pigs head croustade or pork chops with peach and fennel salad. 08/23

Pub trivia. Hicce is Latin for 'of the moment': they pronounce it 'heetchay' here but classical scholars will prefer 'ee-kay'.

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, a two-star heritage pub 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 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

HERITAGE PUBS

Island Queen 87 Noel Road N1 8BD theislandqueenisington.co.uk. Close to the Regents Canal, round the corner from the Earl of Essex (p78) and just down the street from the Joe Orton plaque, this three-star Grade II-listed pub boasts plentiful remains of screens with brilliant etched and cut glass, internal porches with mosaic floors, high textured ceilings and an original central bar counter and stillion, all from an 1897 refit. Threatening to outdo these are several huge painted mirrors with aspidistra motifs in the left-hand drinking area, a 1970s addition but in keeping with the air of decadent Victoriana. An M&B Castle pub with a couple of well-known casks and a few more 'crafty' kegs. 03/24

Scottish Stores 2 Caledonian Road N1 9DU thescottishstores.co.uk. Slated as a Try also in the book but dropped due to lockdown uncertainty, this Grade II-listed independent pub with a three-star interior and upstairs hotel close to Kings Cross station is still worth a look. Four casks are often from interesting independents, and some decent kegs include beers from nearby Two Tribes. Built in 1901, it's one of the few pubs to retain its partitioned interior, dividing it into three rooms, with two more rooms to the north knocked through much more recently. Note the etched glass, the arched niches at the top of the original back bar now used to display whiskies, clocks, hunting paintings by Cecil Adlin embedded in aged wood panels, and the curious finial in the back room, once part of a staircase that's since been closed off. 03/24

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Alma. Now One Mile End founder Patrick Mulligan's one remaining pub, this charming place still offers a reasonable range of beer despite OME's demise, including Deya, Paulaner, Portobello, Tiny Rebel and Verdant on keg and some surprising cans, like Polly's. Cask, sadly, has been discontinued, though food has been restored. 08/23

⊕ *Mo-We* 09.30-23.00, *Th-Sa* 09.30-24.00, *Su* 09.30-22.00, cash-free. Children until 18.00. 12 keg, 10+ bottles/cans, gin, whisky.

Food Korean rice noodles ££ 🍷 🍻.

Quiz (We), monthly DJs, darts, big screen sport

Brewhouse and Kitchen Islington. 'Temporarily closed' for building work in September 2022 with no reopening date announced. As the building has since been all but demolished and is being rebuilt, it's unlikely to reopen until much later in 2024 at the earliest. 12/23

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 it's no longer of particular beer interest. 08/23

Little Creatures Regents Canal. The bar and brewery were included in the package of Lion/Kirin properties sold to Odyssey Inns/In Good Company in August 2022: see Fourpure under South-east London: Bermondsey. Brewing was suspended and in late October the venue was renamed **Babel Beer House** with the web address changed to **babelbeerhouse.com**. On-site brewing was revived in March 2023 with beer from the tank, plus 12 keg lines and around eight cans mainly from sister breweries Fourpure and Magic Rock. But it appears the brewhouse was mothballed again in December, and in March the venue was handed over to a new company, Perfect Hive. It remains to be seen whether brewing will resume and what the range will look like: I plan on revisiting once things have settled. 03/24

⊕ *Mo-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.00, cash-free, children very welcome.

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) though its beer offer is still better than most other pubs in this group, including occasional cask, the likes of Deya, Goodness and Verdant among 12 kegs, and some bottled Belgian and German classics. 08/23

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* 10.00-23.30, *Fr-Sa* 10.00-00.30.

Children very welcome.

24+ keg, 80 bottles/cans, specialist spirits.

Food Burgers, salads, pizzas, oak-fired chicken ££, **Outdoor** Side terrace 🍷.

Tastings, open brewdays, DJs, pingpong, duckpin bowling, board games, ice cream van, photo booth, functions, co-working space

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

The UK's biggest BrewDog bar really is big, a labyrinthine space on two levels at the back of The Sidings, the repurposed former international terminal beneath platforms 20-24 at Waterloo station. Besides various general seating areas patrolled by helpful and well-informed staff, there are quiet shared workspaces, a noisy duckpin bowling alley, a podcast studio, an actual working ice cream van parked on the upper floor and an outdoor street-level terrace beneath. Then, of course, there's the 5 hl brewhouse and four 10 hl fermenting vessels stationed alongside the main bar downstairs, where ex-Gipsy Hill brewer A J Robieson is given a free hand to innovate with interesting specials alongside a regular exclusive house pale ale. A smaller bar on the upper level offers a slightly different range: why not take the slide between them rather than the steps or lift? As is usual nowadays, the draught lists are mainly BrewDog plus a small handful of sour and mixed fermentation guests. Two well-stocked self-service fridges are appropriately labelled 'Train Beers', though their contents are available to drink in too. There are rather more guests here, including UK craft producers like Arbor, Beak, Dot and Northern Monk and a few big bottles of lambic and other mixed fermentation treats. BrewDog managers now see this as their flagship venue, and it's unarguably more interesting than the average station bar. But if you're looking for quiet sampling, you're probably better off at one of their more intimate outlets, particularly at busier times. 08/23

BEERS in keg include a relatively regular **Waterloo Gold** pale ale (4.5%), though I've not yet managed to catch it, and some wide-ranging specials, from hazy juicys to Festbier lagers and flavoured beers: **The Heat*** (5.8%) was likely the best ginger-flavoured beer I've tasted. Most is sold in-house but some goes to other BD bars.

In February 2024, BrewDog opened a second, much smaller, venue at the station, the **Waterloo**

Arms, replacing the long-closed Beer House on the main concourse opposite platforms 2-3. This is more of a quick-turnover commuter bar in a windowless downstairs space, with 14 keg taps, mainly house brands, and around a dozen cans, with a full pub grub and burger menu. 03/24

Corner at Tate Modern

Bar, café

53 Bankside SE1 9TG tate.org.uk

☎ *Su-Mo* 10.00-18.00, *Tu-Sa* 10.00-23.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

14 keg, c20 cans, quality bottled cider, some wines and specialist spirits.

Food Cakes, sandwiches, sharing plates, eclectic hot menu £-££, **Outdoor** Front terrace, riverside extension planned ☺.

Tastings, live music, DJs, films, talks, workshops, board games, functions.

NR TfL Blackfriars **Boat** Bankside **Cy** NCN4, link to C6, CS7 **Wk** Green Link, Jubilee Greenway, Jubilee Walkway, Thames Path

Previously a more modest café and a staff canteen, this prize corner space facing the river at the Turbine Hall end of the Tate Modern reopened in June 2023 with an impressive range of independent craft beer, including several exclusive collaborations. Drop Project is a favoured partner, alongside the likes of Anspach & Hobday, Burning Sky, Deya, Signature, Track, Verdant and Yonder, with darker and stronger options. It's a comfortable, light and voluminous modern interior with a vibe that's still more gallery café than beer bar, and a food menu that runs from pastries and sandwiches to sharing plates and hot dishes like buttermilk fried cauliflower, pies and dal. But it's regularly enlivened by a busy events programme, often tied to what's going on in the gallery, and a penchant for board games. The beer range makes sense, as everything else on offer is artisanal and independent, including the Tate's own coffee roasted at its Millbank site, but too few comparable institutions seem to get this point. 03/24

Visitor note. The Tate Modern is one of the world's biggest art galleries, in the vast former Bankside Power Station with its 99 m chimney, built between 1947 and 1963 to designs by Giles Gilbert Scott. It's strategically cited on the Thames Path at one end of the 'wobbly' Millennium footbridge, with Shakespeare's Globe close by. Admission to the permanent collection is free, but even if you don't have time to view the art, at least wonder at the gigantic Turbine Hall immediately adjacent to the bar.

Feed the Yak

Bar, shop

2 Sayer Street SE17 1PG feedtheyak.com

☎ *Su-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-23.30 (during football season, may shorten at other times), cash-free. Children until 20.00.

12-15 keg, 100+ bottles/cans, growlers.

Food Rotating popups, currently Tex-Mex £-££, **Outdoor** Benches on square ☺.

Mini beer festivals, beer scratchard games (Sa), bowling and bingo (Th), big screen sport, table football, board games.

NR TfL Elephant & Castle **Bus** Elephant Park **Cy** Link to C17, CS7

Upgraded from Try also. Between lockdowns and erratic opening hours, I didn't manage to appraise this place properly for the book under its original incarnation as Tap In. Following a reshuffle of ownership, it was rebranded in March 2023 and I'm glad I've finally had the opportunity to do it justice. It's a smallish craft beer and sports bar overlooking a green and pleasant public space amidst the major redevelopment of Elephant Park. Football is the focus, other sports get a look-in too, but even those resistant to the charms of competitive physical activity will find plenty of interest in an admirable beer offer expertly assembled by owner Seb. Kegs are a mix of contemporary stuff – pale ales, sours and a least one stout – from admired UK independents like Anspach & Hobday, Deya, Hackney, Pilot or Vault City, with some Belgian, German or Scandi imports. There's much more of the same, plus some Belgian classics, in the well-stocked fridges, available either to drink in or take away. The kitchen occasionally rotates but had interesting tacos and quesadillas when I called. An attractive round raised area lined with padded benches somehow converts into a bowling alley on Thursdays. 08/23

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 Desi 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 only in visible in winter when the greenery dies back.

Hole in the Wall

Traditional pub

5 Mepham Street SE1 8SQ T 020 7928 6196

⊕ Mo-Th 12.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-23.30, Su 12.00-22.30. Children until 20.00.

4-7 cask, 14 keg, ciders.

Outdoor Small beer garden.

Live Irish music, seasonal events, major big screen sport, jukebox, functions.

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

Half hidden in railway arches opposite Waterloo station's Victory Arch, this bolthole has been serving cask to informed commuters for decades, and duly appeared in the first edition of *London's Best Beer*, where I described it as 'frayed at the edges, like a rundown clubhouse'. It seemed to fray further in following years and I dropped it, but favourable recent reports and a return to the *Good Beer Guide* prompted a revisit. I'm pleased to say quality and range have improved and the two drinking spaces – a cavernous and often lively main bar occupying most of an arch and a cosier cabin-like front bar with a framed copy of ABBA's 'Waterloo' single – have been spruced up without losing their lived-in feel. Independently sourced casks change, though beers popular with customers stick around for longer: when I called, Brew York, By the Horns, Purity, Sambrook's, Southwark and Vocation were on offer, with some darker options. There are some decent kegs too including imported German lagers and beers from Forest Hill, Harbour, Signature and Siren. 03/24

Visitor note. Under the southeastern rail line to Charing Cross, the pub is arguably London's oldest railway arch beer bar. It's been run by the same family since 1957 when it was a managed house: they once lived next door and eventually bought out the lease. It appears in the film *Charlie Bubbles* (1968) and in books by Ben Elton and Frederick Forsyth.

Morocco Bound

Bar, shop

1a Morocco Street SE1 3HB

moroccobound.co.uk

⊕ Mo 10.00-18.00, Tu-We 10.00-22.00, Th-Fr 10.00-23.00, Sa 11.00-23.00, Su 11.00-19.00, cash-free, children welcome.

2 keg, 80+ bottles/cans, coffee and tea.

Outdoor Tables on street, ♿ toilet accessible but not adapted.

Book clubs and readings, poetry, comedy, films, live music, workshops, chess, board games, functions.

NR TfL London Bridge **Cy** C14, link to NCN4 **Wk** Link to Jubilee Greenway, Jubilee Walkway, Thames Path

'We'll only stock their beer if Jonathan [Dransfield, the owner] can cycle to them,' said a staff member, explaining the admirably local buying policy of this delightful under-the-radar beer emporium, book shop and events space on the ground floor of an old warehouse just off trendy Bermondsey Street. Practically every brewery with a presence within that radius seems to be represented, including Bianca Road, Brockley, Kernel, Small Beer, Villages and even a rare sight of Southwark bottles, in a wide range of styles too. It's a small but pleasant and friendly place with tables scattered among the shelves and some on the attractive street outside, yet they still manage to cram in a busy events programme, from poetry readings to live jazz. Originally Jonathan's architect's office, it began selling beer and books to the local community during the lockdowns and emerged in its current form in 2021. 08/23

Visitor note. The area was once a centre of both the tanning and printing industries, with the Leather Exchange just round the corner, thus Morocco Street, after a high-grade leather used to bind books. The bar name also nods to the 1942 musical comedy film *Road to Morocco*.

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 substantial food menu too, though at gastro prices. Mo closed. 08/22

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 three-star 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

Ring 72 Blackfriars Road SE1 8HA **theringbar-london.co.uk**. This smallish, pleasant, boxing-themed corner pub opposite Southwark station is under the same ownership as the excellent Kings Arms. It occasionally makes the *Good Beer Guide* thanks to up to four casks from breweries like Adnams, Purity, Southwark and Titanic, with a handful of local keg beers too. 03/24

Ship 171 Kennington Road SE11 6SF **frontierpubs.co.uk**. A Victorian corner pub with front terrace a short step from the Imperial War Museum, this was recently refurbished as a Frontier house, with up to two cask and nine decent kegs, including changing guests from London and other UK independents. If you can't find anything to suit, it's a short stroll along Kennington Road to Brew-Dog pub the Tankard and Fuller's crafty pub the Hercules (both Try also p89). 08/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Beer Hawk. Closed December 2022. 05/23

Fountain and Ink (Try also). One of the Barworks pubs sold to Urban, this is now of considerably less interest with largely multinational-backed beers and no cask though a couple of indies among the kegs. 08/23

Hop Locker. A recent visit confirmed this as a firm recommendation, especially considering its unusual site. Both the market and summer-only riverside bars are fully back in action. Both offer a good range of keg, both from UK independents and imported, usually with different beers on the different bars, and the market bar bottle selection stretches to sharers from the likes of Burning Sky, Jester King and Tilquin, all sold by well-informed and enthusiastic staff. 08/23

Hop Locker Market Bar

Bar, shop

Royal Festival Hall SE1 8XX (yard on east side at northeast end of market near Hayward Gallery)

twitter.com/thehoplocker

⊕ *Fr* 12.00-21.00 (winter 20.00), *Sa* 11.00-21.00 (winter 20.00), *Su* (also Bank Holiday Mo) 12.00-18.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

8-10 keg, 50+ bottles/cans

Food Wide choice from neighbouring traders,

Outdoor All outdoor, ☂ in hall

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

Hop Locker Riverside Bar

Bar

Royal Festival Hall SE1 8XX (west side on Thames Path under Golden Jubilee bridges)

twitter.com/thehoplocker

⊕ *Su-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 11.00-23.00, (summer only), cash-free. Children welcome.

11 keg

Food from neighbouring traders, **Outdoor** All outdoor, ☂ in hall.

NR TfL Boat Cy Wk As Market Bar.

Mercato Metropolitan Elephant (German Kraft)

The market site is threatened with redevelopment so the brewery will eventually have to find a new home, though the timescale is uncertain: two planning applications have already been turned down. Meanwhile it continues to function as the main provider of German Kraft beers, alongside the smaller installations in Dalston and Mayfair which concentrate on specials. There's now a non-brewing outlet in Brixton: see Try also under Southwest: Brixton, Clapham and Streatham. 08/23

Mondo Beer + Pizza, the collaboration between Mondo and pizza maker Joe Public in Borough Yards on Bankside, reviewed in a previous update, lasted no more than six months, closing at the end of December 2023. 03/24

Oaka (Mansion House) should have been included in this section rather than in Southeast: Central South London. See below. 08/23

Simon the Tanner (Try also). Changed hands in April 2023 and now operated by Disappearing Dining Club (also owners of the Dartmouth Arms: see North: Camden under Try also). Though the bottle list has been much reduced, it still serves a reasonable selection of up to four cask and nine keg in a friendly local atmosphere. New website at disappearingdiningclub.co.uk and now open daily. Cash-free. 03/24

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. The bar is now run by Kerb (**kerbfood.com**), a company that operates markets featuring independent businesses and startups. They also manage an adjoining space, Kerb at the Understudy, with street food from popup operators. Sadly, the beer range has reduced somewhat, with all but a very small handful of bottles and cans now vanished, though the draught choice is if anything more independently minded. The tank beer is now supplied by Gipsy Hill, a lager exclusive to Kerb outlets, with nine kegs from brewers like Anspach & Hobday, BBNo, Great Beyond, Lost and Grounded and Verdant. Probably now more a Try also but still worth knowing about, especially considering its Southbank location. 08/23

City and Aldgate

Aldgate Tap

Bar

Portsoken Pavilion, Aldgate Square EC3N 1AF

T (020) 3137 6437 twitter.com/aldgatetap

Ⓜ Mo 16.00-23.00, Tu-We 12.00-23.00, Th-Fr 12.00-24.00. Children until 20.30.

2 cask, 15 keg, 4 bottles/cans.

Food Noodles (not Mo) £-££, **Outdoor** Tables on very pleasant square ☺.

Beer events, film nights planned.

NR Fenchurch Street TfL Aldgate Cy C2

Much as its surroundings in attractive Aldgate Square provide a welcome green oasis in the eastern end of the City, this delightfully sited latest in the Tap series significantly enhances the local beer offer. Rotating casks are often from Redemption, or perhaps Adnams or Iron Pier, while the kegs include the usual range of quality imported lagers and wheat beers, like unfiltered Budvar, with US craft from Stone and solid UK choices like Deya, New Bristol and Siren, in a range of styles. Authentic Chinese wheat and glass noodles, including vegan options, provide extra sustenance. The interior of this landmark contemporary building has mainly high-table seating and a smart and

glossy veneer bar under a geometric ceiling, with further tables outside overlooking the water features. Weekend opening may be introduced in summer 2024, given the tourist population in the increasing number of City hotels. 08/23

Visitor note. Aldgate Square replaced a traffic-choked gyratory system in 2018, reclaiming much of the churchyard of adjoining St Botolph's Without Aldgate. The striking steel and glass Portsoken Pavilion was designed as a focus for the new and much-used public space. The toilets and kitchen in the basement occupy part of the former pedestrian subway.

Kill the Cat Spitalfields

Bar, shop

14 Market Street E1 6DT killthecat.co.uk

Ⓜ Mo 16.00-22.00, Tu 12.00-22.00, We-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 12.00-21.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

10 keg, 100+ bottles/cans.

Food Burgers, small plates (We-Sa only) ££,

Outdoor Tables on pedestrianised walkway ☺.

Meet the brewer, tastings, occasional live music.

NR TfL Liverpool Street

This reliable Brick Lane bottle shop-bar (p109) added a second branch not far away in July 2023, in the busy retail centre of Spitalfields Market: it's in the southern section, on the walkway parallel to Brushfield Street. Bigger and more of a bar than the original, it has a cheerful yellow and pine interior with plenty of high stools around drinking shelves. The house lager and pale ale are re-brands from Double Barrelled, with Anspach & Hobday London Black, a rotating Verdant line and guests in a variety of styles from brewers like Beak, Drop Project, Left Handed Giant and Vault City. The bottle and can shelves are helpfully divided into 'Crowd pleasers', 'A little bit different' and 'Pushing the boundaries', sourced mainly from the UK (Beowulf, Elusive, Mash Gang, Newbarns) with the occasional Belgian or German, and a decent range of wild and mixed fermentation stuff like Scatterlings. Food was originally tapas scrupulously paired to specific beers, and though this policy has subsequently relaxed for practical reasons, flavour remains a focus. 03/24

Visitor note. The market dates from 1638, though the current historic structure was built in 1885-93. In 1920 it became a wholesale fruit and veg market, which moved to Leyton in 1991, with the site redeveloped for retail in 2005. In medieval times the land was the cemetery of St Mary Spital priory, which operated a hospital, thus the name. Modern excavations have uncovered the remains of over 10,000 bodies, as well as parts of the chapel and charnel house which can be viewed under a glass canopy a short walk away.

TRY ALSO

Bolter Queen Street Place EC4R 1EB. Bloomsbury outlet opened October 2022, a smart but

Spartan after-work haunt close to Cannon Street station. No cask and around 10 kegs, mainly quality German and Czech imports and Adnams beers, dispensed from a striking fountain of taps behind a central bar. *Sa-Su* closed. 08/23

Kings Stores 14 Widegate Street E1 7HP kingstores.co.uk. Greene King-run City pub on a picturesque alley near Liverpool Street station, with locals and independents among five cask lines, and kegs that stretch to Paulaner and Signature. Open daily, unusually for the area. 08/23

HERITAGE PUB

Jamaica Wine House St Michaels Alley EC3V 9DS jamaicawinehouse.co.uk. Down one of those enticing City alleyways behind St Michael's church, the Jampot, as it's known, is on the site of London's first coffee house, opened some time prior to 1654, though the substantial sandstone building of which it's a part dates from 1885. Its three-star heritage interior has an unusual layout: a row of four compartments separated by chunky dark wood screens, providing plenty of corners where besuited wheeler dealers form confidential clusters. Nobody knows quite why the ceilings of two of these were finished in a different style to the other two, but both are striking. The bar counter is also original, and the numerous modern additions are in sympathetic style. Now a Shepherd Neame pub, it's something of a City showcase for the brewery, with five cask including seasonals and several keg options including limited edition experimental brews. *Sa-Su* closed. 03/24

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Bierschenke Beer House closed in July 2022 for redevelopment but has since opened a new site: see Try also under Central: Holborn and Covent Garden. 08/23

Williams Ale and Cider House no longer boasts the lengthy bottle list it once had, and there are a few more beers from owner Greene King than previously, but thanks to an enthusiastic manager it still manages guests from the likes of Lacons, Three Acre and Vocation among its seven casks, with Goodness and Signature on keg and a small handful of Belgian and German classics in the fridges. Perhaps now more a Try also. 03/24

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.*

TRY ALSO

Smithfield Tap 38 Charterhouse Street EC1M 6JH. The latest in the Bloomsbury 'Tap' chain of bars opened in December 2023 in the corner building that once housed Beer Hawk, retaining the slightly awkward format of that venue. No cask, 12 kegs and six bottles/cans of interest, including some admirable independents, though perhaps an excess of pale ales, lagers and beers from Asahi, Heineken and Molson Coors. *Su* closed. 03/24

HERITAGE PUB

Hand and Shears 1 Middle Street EC1A 7JA thehandandshears.com. As CAMRA's pub heritage group states, this little place close to Smithfield Market and Charterhouse 'looks as hundreds, if not thousands, of plainly furnished London pubs did a century ago'. Rebuilt in 1849, it comprises four rooms clad in full-height wood

panelling, some still with their separate doors, surrounding a central servery with a modest but elegant back bar enlivened with engraved mirrors. There's a public bar with unusual curved doors, a saloon bar, a back bar and a little 'private bar' now used as a sought-after snug, the vintage impression enhanced by the lived-in furniture. The name is a reference to the Bartholomew cloth fair which took place at Smithfield until the mid-19th century, and which was officially opened by the Lord Mayor cutting the first bolt of cloth with ceremonial shears. Up to four cask beers, generally well-known traditional brands, with the biggest range available early in the week as the pub is closed *Sa-Su. 03/24*

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Exmouth Arms. Barworks sold this pub, along with 12 other venues, to Urban Pubs and Bars in October 2021. The beer range is now much reduced and largely sourced from bigger brewers, so no longer of particular interest. *08/23*

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*

Look Mum No Hands (Try also) closed in February 2023 but may revive as a pop-up. *08/23*

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

Bierschenke 50 Earlham Street WC2H 9LJ bierschenke.co.uk. Having lost its City site in 2022, this Bavarian-style beer hall reopened in June 2023 in the former Belgo Centraal site in Covent Garden, largely a sprawling basement bar. Not yet visited but it appears that the special arrangement with Müllerbräu mentioned in the book (p95) is no more and the draught beer list sticks almost entirely to beers from Paulaner and its sub-brand Hacker-Pschorr, though covering a good range of Bavarian styles. *Mo* closed. *03/24*

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

HERITAGE PUB

Lamb and Flag 33 Rose Street WC2E 9EB lambandflagcoventgarden.co.uk. Half hidden down a dogleg Covent Garden alley, this Grade II-listed building is likely from around 1688 and became a pub in the 1770s, with a three-star largely late Victorian interior and a frontage refaced in 1958. But sitting in its dark and woody interior, you can understand why people like the US visitors I overheard on my last visit believe the fanciful guidebook claims of a Tudor origin. A now-doorless screen partitions off the rear room, and the disused exterior door on the left would once have been screened off too. Elsewhere are a Victorian bar counter, old mirrors and traditional pew seating. Violent associations explain its nickname the Bucket of Blood – bare knuckle prize fights were once held upstairs and poet John Dryden was beaten up nearby in 1679 – but it's now a peaceful, friendly Fuller's pub with at least six casks on offer, including guests. 03/24

Seven Stars 51 Carey Street WC2A 2JB thesevenstars1602.co.uk. Featured in the first (2011) edition of the book but subsequently dropped in flavour of places with a longer beer list, this nonetheless remains one of London's most charming pubs, with its three casks, usually Adnams Broadside and Ghost Ship plus a guest, reliably well-kept and some good keg lagers too, plus noted home-made food. Still independently run by chef Roxy Beaujolais, it's in a 1680s Grade II-listed building behind the Royal Courts of Justice, with a three-star interior likely dating from around 1878 when the right-hand room was added: the style of the advertising panels in the back bar confirm the period. Uniquely, the rooms are named on the doors as 'private counter' and 'public counter'; the third, small space on the left, known as the Wig Box, is more recent. Offsetting this is a jumble of prints and posters, some with legal themes, and cabinets of curiosities which, with the check tablecloths, remind me of an eccentric old backstreet Parisian bistro. 03/24

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). In November 2023, pub owners the City Pubs group sold this and all its other 53 sites in England and Wales to Young's pub company. The pub remains open and brewing continues at least for the time being. It reopened later than expected following

the lockdowns in February 2022, with brewing revived in 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 number among four to six cask choices and around 11 kegs, brewed here or at other sites: staff can usually advise. The pub name is now used on beers in preference to the Essex Street brand. 12/23

Shoreditch and Hoxton

Great Beyond Brewing Co

Brewery, taproom

417 Union Walk E2 8HP (Hackney)

greatbeyond.beer

First sold beer: 4 November 2022

Ⓢ *We-Fr* 16.00-23.00, *Sa* 12.00-23.00, *Su* 12.00-21.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

4 tank, 6-8 keg, 10 cans 🍷.

Food Order-in pizza **££**, **Outdoor** Tables at front (weekend only), 🍷.

Quiz, live music, board games.

TfL Hoxton **Cy** [Link to C13](#)

This highly professional setup close to Hoxton station, Brewhouse and Kitchen Hoxton and the Museum of the Home was founded by ex-Fourpure brewers John Driebergen (who has been brewing in London since 2011, initially with Meantime) and Ollie Parker. It occupies three adjacent arches under the Overground, one hosting a 10 hl brewhouse, another a spacious taproom with bench-style seating, its concrete floors softened by Turkish carpets and its friendliness extending to a permanent invitation to customers to suggest what they should brew next. All beers on sale are brewed in-house, with the most popular core brands dispensed from 500 l tanks at one end of the bar and more in keg, including lagers, pale ales, sours and porters, with a section of the blackboard dedicated to 'coming soon' beers. Pizzas are delivered by the ever-reliable Yard Sale, including vegan options. 08/23

BEERS in tank, keg and can include Kellerbier-style **Hoxton Lager*** (4.4%) and a tasty gluten-free West Coast pale ale, **Free Spirit** (4.9%), plus a variety of kettle sours in various flavours, some aged over wood chips. They're planning on adding a porter to the core range but still experimenting with recipes.

Griffin

Traditional pub

93 Leonard Street EC2A 4RD T (020) 3745 7496

the-griffin.com

⊕ *Mo-Fr* 12.00-24.00, *Sa* 12.00-01.00, *Su* 13.00-22.00, cash-free. Children until mid-evening.

1 cask, 14 keg, 35+ bottles/cans, whisky, gin.

Food Pies £, **Outdoor** Standing on street ☼,

Beer events planned.

NR TfL Old Street Cy C1, C13

Upgraded from Try also. When Urban bought out nearly all the Barworks venues in 2021, the beer range in most of them was disappointingly reduced, as recorded elsewhere in this update. The Griffin remains, though, as a proud exception thanks for enthusiastic staff, even retaining one cask line, usually Five Points, alongside a varied range of kegs, many from independents: Holy Ghost, New Bristol, Verdant, Wiper and True and Bavarian classics from Schneider were on when I last called. Then there's the bottle and can range, with a couple of decent lambics, Trappists, craft imports from Basqueland, Garage and Moa, British stuff from Burnt Mill and Overtone and even some sharers. All this is particularly pleasing as this is easily the best-looking outlet in the group, an atmospheric Victorian back street corner boozier with a one-star heritage listing, sympathetically restored to retain the imposing aged woodwork and sparkling mirrors. 08/23

Visitor note. *The Grade II-listed pub was originally two separate buildings, thus the long, narrow footprint. Note the long counter and impressive mirrored back bar divided by columns reaching to Corinthian capitals and an elaborate frieze picked out in gold leaf, likely from the 1890s. The Meux brewery refaced the exterior in corporate brown tiling in the 1920s.*

Pigeon (Yeastie Boys)

Bar, beer firm

26 Hanbury Street E1 6QR **yeastieboys.co.nz**

⊕ *Mo-Fr* 16.00-22.00, *Sa-Su* 12.00-20.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

4 keg, 6 cans.

Tastings, occasional live music, functions.

TfL Shoreditch High Street

Still a popup when I visited, but hopefully to become permanent, this opened in February 2024 as the first dedicated outlet for longstanding New Zealand-born cuckoo brewer Yeastie Boys, and you'll often find the directors working behind the bar. It was previously a coffee bar run by another New Zealand business, Nude, which has its main café and roastery opposite, but was closed and underutilised since the lockdowns until the Boys, who already brewed beer for Nude, proposed to take it on. The narrow retail unit still retains some

of its coffee bar feel, but is a cheerful place to enjoy the excellent beers of the current operator amid a fascinating display of prints of promotional artwork and reminiscence pieces by some of my fellow beer writers. YB was a pioneer of the now-flourishing New Zealand craft scene, founded in Wellington in 2008 by Stu McKinlay and Sam Possenniskie. It has always cuckoo brewed even in its home territory, and in 2015 Stu relocated to London to extend the brand. He once claimed to lead 'the world's smallest multinational' with a similar operation in Australia but this was wound up during the lockdowns. 03/24

BEERS in keg and can are brewed at various sites including Camerons in Hartlepool, Round Corner in Leicestershire and Utopian in Devon. They include a new Helles lager, **Superfresh*** (4.6%), flagship **Digital IPA** (5.7%), **Pot Kettle Black*** (6%) porter with New Zealand hops, **Gunnamatta*** (6.5%) IPA with Earl Grey tea and interesting specials.

Visitor note. *The buildings opposite are part of the site of Truman's brewery, once one of the biggest in the world as explained on pp114-115. Hanbury Street is named after Sampson Hanbury who led the brewery between 1788-1834. Several of the significant remaining buildings can be viewed around the corner along Brick Lane.*

Sake Collective

Shop, bar

144 Commercial Street E1 6NU

T 07455 735063 **sakecollective.co.uk**

⊕ *Tu-Th* 13.00-20.00, *Fr-Sa* 13.00-21.00, cash-free. Children until early evening.

140 bottles, 30-40 served by the glass, some Japanese gin and other spirits ☼.

Food Japanese snacks planned, ☼ no but arrangement with nearby venues.

Tastings, seasonal events.

TfL Shoreditch High Street

This latest addition to London's small but growing band of sake specialists opened in July 2022 with what they claim is the UK's biggest range, including exclusive imports at reasonable prices, thanks to the Japanese owner's personal connections with the breweries, with British-brewed sake too from Kanpai and Sparking Sake. A few simple tables among the well-organised shelves in this discreetly elegant shopfront site make for a pleasant tasting environment. The menu is particularly helpful and informative, organised into 'soft and mellow', 'fruity and aromatic', 'aged and rich' and so on, at the various serving temperatures of chilled, room and (occasionally) warm. Staff offer exemplary advice and guidance, and if somehow the by-the-glass menu doesn't provide enough choice, all bottles are available to drink in too.

Canned Monsuka Okinawa Dry is the only conventional beer on offer. 08/23

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

Crown and Shuttle (Try also) has reduced its range, focusing on lagers and pale ales, and the choices on its two remaining cask lines are uninspiring. It's still worth a look for Meantime tank lager and some good keg from smaller London local breweries among its 16 lines, with the odd bottle of Kernel or Partizan in the fridge. 08/23

Goose Island Brewpub. Sold by AB InBev to Urban in September 2022 and renamed the **Queens Head**. Brewing was suspended and the brewers made redundant: though the kit remained in place for a while with the possibility of a third party renting it, nearly all the equipment had been removed by November 2023. The beer interest when I visited in August was notably reduced but still included the likes of Deya and Vault City among around 10 kegs, plus some Belgian and German bottled classics. Now more a Try also. 03/24

Several former Barworks pubs originally listed in this section have been sold to Urban: see Exmouth Arms under Clerkenwell and Farringdon above. Of these, the **Griffin** is the only one that's really kept the faith with craft beer, and I've upgraded it from Try also to a new full entry above. The **Commercial Tavern** has become a try also at best, with one cask line, often Redemption, a few Belgian and German bottles and kegs largely from bigger producers. The **Singer Tavern** now has a disappointingly mainstream range; the **Well and Bucket** has two or three indie kegs and the odd Belgian bottle but no cask. Both were Try alsos and no longer merit a listing. 08/23

Kill the Cat has a second branch at Spitalfields: see under City and Aldgate above. 03/24

Howl at the Moon is still well worth a look: a borderline main entry as it's such an attractive pub with 12 keg lines largely from well-chosen independents and in a variety of styles, including nearby Great Divide. Bottles and cans have dwindled, except for a supply of VB for rugby-playing Antipodeans among the regulars. No cask. 08/23

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 and since reopened as a sister pub to the Duke of Wellington in Whitechapel with nearly all beers from multinational groups. 12/23

Wenlock Arms (Block Brewery). The nanobrewery here was last active in February 2023, and the equipment is now confirmed as removed. The pub is still well worth a visit for its beer and atmosphere, though. 12/23

Soho and Fitzrovia

Coach and Horses

Traditional pub

29 Greek Street W1D 5DH T 020 7437 5920

coachandhorsessoho.co.uk

Ⓜ Mo-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 12.00-20.00. Children until 19.00.

6 cask, 10 keg, 10+ bottles/cans, some whiskies.

Outdoor A few tables on street.

Occasional performances.

TfL [Tottenham Ct Rd](#) Cy [Link to C10](#) Wk [Link to Jubilee Walkway](#)

I'd been planning to include this Soho institution as a heritage pub, but the improvements in its beer offer since Fuller's, which bought the pub in 2012, took over direct management in 2019 merit further consideration, particularly given its central location. When I called, the options stretched to Duration, Siren and Turning Point on cask, interesting choices from Bohem, Hammerton and Pressure Drop on keg and Pastore sours and Belgian Tripel Karmaliet in the fridges. There's no longer any cooked food, but plenty of other options nearby. 03/24

Visitor note. *On the ground floor of a Grade II-listed 1840s building, this corner pub was given an impressive new frontage in 1889 with a neat parade of slender columns. The three-star interior with its extensive and very attractive light oak panelling and tapered art deco counters with lino surfaces and marble spittoon troughs dates from 1937, though the backlit Ind Coope branding on the back bar was likely retrofitted around 1962. It doubtless survived thanks to the legendarily curmudgeonly 'rudest landlord in London', Norman Balon: he inherited the lease from his father, who had presided since 1943, and finally retired in 2006, though still occasionally calls in. Past regulars include a roll call of Soho literary and arty types, like painters Francis Bacon and Lucien Freud, old soak Spectator columnist Jeffrey Barnard, actor Tom Baker and numerous editorial staff and contributors to Private Eye, who once met regularly upstairs.*

Good Company (Toast Ale)

Beer firm, bar, restaurant

17 Triton Street NW1 3BF

goodcompany.london, toastale.com

Active since: 2016

⊕ *Mo-We* 12.00-17.00, *Th* 12.00-22.00, *Fr* 12.00-17.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

Occasional cask, 7 keg, 5 cans, coffee, tea ☞.

Food Sandwiches, pies **£-££**, **Outdoor** Tables at front ☞.

Bookable music and performance events, shared workspace, functions.

TfL Great Portland Street

Longstanding cuckoo brewer and food waste campaigner Toast Ale has had a taproom since March 2023, in collaboration with fellow social enterprise, coffee seller Change Please. It's in the slightly unexpected but not unpleasant surrounds of the swanky Regents Square development, just off Euston Road on the north side near Great Portland Street, at the foot of a tower block overlooking a quiet contemporary-style garden square. Dependent on local offices for footfall, it's essentially a daytime café, a relatively large but friendly and cheerful space with bright colours, greenery and Scandi-style furniture, opening at 08.00 for coffee and pastries with the license kicking in at 12. But it offers comprehensive coverage of Toast's expanding range on keg, including regular pale ales, lager and stout, collaborations and guests from like-minded businesses like Tap Social. And on Thursdays, the peak after-work drinking slot in today's home working world, it metamorphoses into a bar, sometimes with special events and even the odd cask appearing, announced through social media. 08/23

Lore of the Land

Gastropub

4 Conway Street W1T 6BB T 3927 4480

gritchiepubs.com

⊕ *Mo* 15.00-23.00, *Tu-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr* 12.00-24.00, *Sa* 12.00-23.00, *Su* 12.00-19.00, cash-free. Children until 17.30.

2 cask, 5 keg, 2 cans, wines, some gins and cocktails.

Food Modern British **£££**, very good, **Outdoor** Benches at front.

TfL Great Portland Street, Warren Street

In Fitzrovia almost at the foot of the BT Tower, this wood-panelled pub in a late 18th century building, originally the Adam Arms, was reopened in 2019 as the London showcase of film director Guy Ritchie's Gritchie brewery near Shaftesbury. It's tempting to say that, with its sombre dark green décor, numerous paintings and prints, mix of wooden benches at the front, posher tables at the back and just a tad too much smartness, it's a

production designer's idea of a London pub. But it's comfortable enough and has a comprehensive range of house beers in both traditional and contemporary styles, along with affordable cooked bar snacks of the oysters and Scotch egg variety. Upstairs is a more upmarket restaurant offering dishes like celeriac gnocchi, spiced monkfish tail or lamb rack with Jerusalem artichokes, including produce from the owner's own estate. 03/24

Lucky Saint

Beer firm, traditional pub

58 Devonshire Street W1W 5EA lucksaint.co

Active since: 2018

⊕ *Mo-Sa* 11.00-23.00, *Su* 11.00-20.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

2 cask, 6 keg, 6 cans, some wines, spirits and cocktails, including non-alcoholic options ☞.

Food Barbecue **££**, **Outdoor** Benches and standing room on street.

Board games, darts, functions.

TfL Great Portland Street **Cy** C27

Founded by Luke Boase in 2018, this cuckoo brewer of a much-admired unfiltered alcohol-free lager is London based and should really have been listed as a brewer without a brewery in the book. It particularly caught my attention by unexpectedly, though pleasingly, reopening a long-closed Fitzrovia pub, the former Masons Arms, in March 2023. The company's offices are on the upper level of this small but imposing Victorian corner site, with a lovingly refurbished interior downstairs, including engraved glass, a vertical drinking area in front of the bar and a relaxed space with tables and a tiled fireplace off to the side. The single flagship brand features alongside several no- and low-alcohol choices, as you'd expect, but conventional beer and other drinks are on sale too. The range is relatively small but clearly well thought out: one of the managers was keen to explain the logic of it. Cask usually includes Taylor Landlord and a changing guest (from Tiny Rebel when I called), with keg lagers and pale ales, perhaps from Pillars or Northern Monk, and a sub-3% line, say Kernel Table Beer. Cans and bottles are all low-or-no. The barbecue menu hadn't quite been confirmed when I called. The house beer, incidentally, is made at a historic Bavarian brewery but the company is coy on the details. 08/23

HERITAGE PUB

Flying Horse 6 Oxford Street W1D 1AN nicholsonspubs.co.uk. The most impressive heritage treasures of the last pub standing on Oxford Street, rebuilt in 1893 in Flemish Renaissance style, are towards the back. A boldly coloured stained-glass skylight illuminates polished mahogany panels and pilasters framing elaborate painted mirrors, decorative tiled panels, illustrated

ceiling roundels and fanciful allegorical paintings of women representing three of the four seasons ('Winter' somehow got lost over the decades) by Belgian artist Felix de Jong, known for providing similar works to music halls. Beers are on the more varied side for Nicholson's too, often with a couple of unusual guests among the casks. 08/23

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

Barley Mow (Marylebone)

Traditional pub

8 Dorset Street W1U 6QW T (020) 7487 4773

barleymowlondon.co.uk

⊕ Mo-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su monthly for roast lunch. Children until 17.00.

6 cask, 6 keg.

Food Pie and mash, cooked bar snacks (lunchtime only, also Mo Tu Sa evening) ££,

Outdoor Tables on street.

Quiz, live music, open mic, darts.

TfL Baker Street, Bond Street Cy C27

On a quiet street in deepest Marylebone, this gem of a smallish traditional pub offers a warm welcome and a relatively small but well-sourced and impeccably kept beer selection in an attractive setting with considerable historical interest. Casks rotate regularly, with familiar brands like Fuller's and Sharp's in the minority in favour of trusted independents like East London, Portobello, Redemption, Wantsum or Windsor & Eton. Three guest keg lines rotate monthly, sourced from these and similar brewers, while the regular taps include notables like Lucky Saint and Salt. It's a three-star heritage pub, not a glitzy gin palace but a more modest and charming example with plenty of well-aged wood and several unique features, notably a large wooden box on one side of the bar that turns out to conceal a couple of tiny private booths. An atmospheric panelled room at the back harbours brass plaques showing outdated prices and a well-used dartboard. 08/23

Visitor note. *The Grade II listed building dates from 1791, though most of the historic interior features are late Victorian, with the door layout indicating there were once further subdivisions. Also note the brass tap in the rear bar labelled Old Tom, a sweeter type of gin that would once have been dispensed from a barrel stored above.*

Bear

Contemporary pub

27 Spring Street W2 1JA T (020) 7262 3907

thebearpaddington.com

⊕ Mo-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 12.00-22.30. Children welcome.

6 cask, 28 keg, 60+ bottles/cans **Food** Burgers ££, **Outdoor** Front terrace.

Beer launches, tap takeovers, functions.

NR TfL Paddington Cy C27 Wk Jubilee Greenway

In a welcome sign of post-lockdown confidence, the ever-excellent Craft Beer Co opened this latest outlet in November 2022, significantly improving the beer options in the relatively barren western side of central London. It's the group's first outlet near a major rail terminal, just a short walk from Paddington's new Elizabeth Line platforms and not much further from the rest of the station complex. And it's the first to have a proper pub name, the origin of which will be obvious to anyone familiar with British children's literature and film. The building wasn't originally a pub, though, but a bank and then a wine bar. The compact interior has been thoroughly refitted in the group's usual relaxed but contemporary style, in tasteful pale green and pink, with striking light fittings and a mix of booths and tables. Casks include the regular house pale from Kent brewery and rotating guests, from Redemption, Siren and Vibrant Forest when I called, in a range of styles. An eye-catching lengthy tap mount hosts a regiment of kegs, again covering numerous style bases, mainly from British brewers like Deya, Double Barrel, Mammoth, Moor and Wiper & True, with imports like Dugges, Grimm and St Bernardus. Fine Belgians largely occupy the bottle fridge, including reasonably priced lambics from the likes of 3 Fonteinen, Cantillon and Lambiek Fabriek, Trappists and gems like Poperings Hommelbier. An additional basement space is sometimes reserved for private groups; next to it is a surprisingly small glass-fronted cellar. 08/23

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.

Globe

Contemporary pub

47 Lisson Grove NW1 6UB T 07920 827391
theglobemarylebone.co.uk

⊕ Daily 12.00-23.00. Children until 17.30.
1 cask, 12 keg, 50+ bottles/cans.

Food Currently none but BYO, **Outdoor** High tables on street.

Tap takeovers, board games.

NR TfL Marylebone

Until now unnoticed, at least by me, this craft beer bar in the shell of a Victorian corner pub is a welcome option close to Marylebone station. There's only one rotating cask, though often from an unusual source (Docks in Grimsby when I called), and while the kegs feature several big brewery brands and a preponderance of pales and lagers, there's rarer stuff that might be from BBNo, Beak, Gritchie, Track or Two Flints, plus Chouffe and Duvel. Fridges widen the choice considerably, with cans from Deya, Fierce, Polly's, Verdant and Squawk, with darker, stronger and sour options plus a few more Belgians. Décor in the single bar

area is largely bare and painted brick, with a good mix of seating including a corner with an tempting collection of multicoloured cushions. It's understandably popular with staff from the large BNP Paribas office across the road. 08/23

TRY ALSO

Barley Mow (Mayfair) 82 Duke Street W1K 6JG cubitthouse.co.uk. Handsome smallish woody traditional pub off Grosvenor Square, now run by upmarket Cubitt House group. Small selection – two casks, six kegs – but almost all from interesting locals and independents. 08/23

Stablehand 4 Bathurst Street SW1P 2HA thestablehand.co.uk. It's 'a restaurant that thinks it's a pub', as a staff member described it, but you can still pop in for just a drink from the two cask lines (often Windsor & Eton), three keg and around 10 bottles/cans, including some well-chosen independents. That's admirably more than you'd usually expect given the tables neatly laid out for consumption of pricy takes on pub classics and the location in front of a working stables within whinnying distance of Hyde Park. 03/24

HERITAGE PUBS

Bunch of Grapes 207 Brompton Road SW3 1LA greeneking.co.uk. Conveniently placed between the Victoria and Albert Museum and Harrods, this big place gets plenty of footfall already, but pub buffs will consider it worth a trip for the impressive three-star interior behind the attractive bowed frontage. An 1890 refit of an 1844 building, it's in the classic style of multiple rooms separated by screens, some of which partly survive, around a central servery. The left-hand room is the most impressive, with massive back-painted mirrors depicting grapes and birds on one wall, a row of five rare snob screens opposite, and a wooden baffle portraying the pub's name at giant scale. The bar counter and back bar are largely original. Beers are standard Greene King casks and kegs, with occasional guests. 03/24

Red Lion 2 Duke of York Street SW1Y 6JP redlionmayfair.co.uk. One of London's prettiest pubs and mentioned as such in the 2015 edition, this friendly little place behind St James's church is like a Crystal Palace in miniature with its riot of giant elaborate etched and cut mirrors from the 1890s on two of the four walls that surround the modest but elegant central servery, which also boasts decorative glass. The building is from 1821; some of the fittings likely date from 1871 when the frontage was redone in loominglly elaborate style. Back then, amazingly, the pub was subdivided into even smaller spaces, as is evident from the remains of partitions and the door layout,

including the disused double doors facing the bar. Long a Fuller's pub, it offers up to six well-kept cask, mainly Fuller's brands with the occasional guest like Twickenham. *Su* closed. 03/24

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, though former manager Eric has since opened a new and very good specialist Dutch bar, **It ain't much, if it ain't Dutch**, in Bermondsey: see under Southeast below. 12/23

Mercato Metropolitan Mayfair (German Kraft). A recent visit to this impressive central London retail site in a converted church, now known simply as **Mercato Mayfair**, found German Kraft head brewer James Mozolewski hard at work with a smoked Bock on the little 2.5 hl kit at one end of the crypt. As this is the smallest of the group's three brewpubs, it concentrates on such specials, which have also included traditional Berliner Weissbier and a Dampfbier using wheat beer yeast with 100% barley malt. It's an atmospheric place to drink too, under the low vaulted brick ceiling, but note the downstairs bar by the brewhouse is often closed earlier in the week when brewing is in progress. The upstairs bar, right in front of the high altar and made from recycled bottle glass, is open throughout with a slightly wider range, and there's plenty of seating shared with the other traders. Note the dispense tanks are currently out of commission, so all beer is keg. 08/23

⊕ *Mo-We* 12.00-23.00, *Th-Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.00, cash-free. Children until mid-evening.

4-6 keg.

Food Various from neighbouring traders **££**, **Outdoor** Tables on street ₤.

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 and has largely lost its beer interest. 08/23

EAST LONDON

Hackney

Hackney Tap

Bar

354 Mare Street E8 1HR

hackneytap.com

⊕ *Mo-We* 16.00-23.00, *Th-Fr* 14.00-24.00, *Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Sun* 12.00-22.30, 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.

Saint Monday

Brewery, taproom

4 Warburton Road E8 3RR (Hackney)

T (020) 3011 1323

First sold beer: 26 August 2011 (as London Fields at original site), 5 August 2023 (as Saint Monday)

⊕ *Daily* 12.00-24.00, cash-free. Children until 20.00.

6 tank, 9 keg, 15 bottles/cans, some cocktails, whiskey and other specialist spirits.

Food Gourmet hotdogs £-££, **Outdoor** Small sheltered front terrace, ☂.

Beer events planned.

TfL London Fields Cy C13, C27 Wk Link to Jubilee Walkway

The new brewing arm of small and beer-friendly pub group Grace Land launched in August 2023 in two arches under the Overground and Lea Valley Lines close to London Fields. One arch houses the brewhouse and taproom, separated by a glass screen, the other the fermentation room and loos. The public area is a rather attractive, bar, with a glass front brightening the dark décor and beaten copper tables typical of the company's pubs, and an array of custom tap handles topped with miniature skulls and the like. At least half of these dispense house brews in a range of styles, leaving the others free, as bar staff explain, for adventurous guests, often imported: Schlenkerla Bock and an Oud Beersel geuze were on when I called. The bottle list also has a Belgian and German slant, stretching to quality low-alcohol choices and big bottles from Jester King. The

kitchen serves up imaginative riffs on meaty, veggie and vegan hot dogs, like nduja and dill crème fraiche or sesame slaw in a bao bun.

Old hands will recognise this as the latest incarnation of the former London Fields Brewery, which began nearby in Helmsley Place in 2011: Grace Land now uses that site as warehouses. Following a troubled history under its founder, Carlsberg bought it in 2017 only to close it and offer it for sale in 2021. New owners Grace Land have wisely junked the old brand, and it's good to see the high spec 15 hl German-built microbrewery, installed at considerable expense in 2019 in consultation with Brooklyn Brewery, back up and running in the capable hands of Mark Walewski (ex-Mikkeller, Beavertown). Another improvement is the creation of a much-needed outdoor space, a neat sheltered terrace on what was once an entrance lobby built out from the first arch. 12/23

BEERS, currently in keg and tank only, are in a range of contemporary styles and sold almost entirely in Grace Land outlets. Core brands include **Nitro Stout** (4.5%), **American Pale Ale** (APA, 4.9%) and **West Coast IPA*** (WCIPA, 6.9%), plus changing specials and various craft lagers, though they're still tinkering with a definitive recipe. Canning may be added in 2024.

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

BBNo Netil Market is now closed. There's still some craft beer on the market – a handful from keg and can at the Lucky Chip burger stall – but nothing worth a special trip. 08/23

Beer + Burger Dalston (Try also) closed in November 2023 as a drink-in venue, although beer and food are still available to take away or for local delivery close by at The Co-Kitchens, 584 Kingsland Road E8 4AH. 12/23

Brew Club. Closed March 2023. 05/23

Crate Brewery. The old kit had been removed by early 2023 with no news of brewing resuming. Cuckoo brewing continues and the pub still has a good range of beer. 08/23

Crown and Castle (Try also). One of the sites sold by Barworks to Urban Pubs in 2021 and now of little beer interest: see Exmouth Arms under Clerkenwell and Farringdon. 08/23

Deviant and Dandy. Sadly closed 4 November 2023: Hackney Church is now the sole survivor of what was once something a collection of beer venues in the arches of Bohemia Place. 12/23

Experiment. Closed July 2023 when its operators were unable to negotiate a new lease. 08/23

Five Points Brewing. The indoor taproom at the brewery finally opened in November 2021 when the popular tours (advance booking essential) were reintroduced, 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. In May 2023, the extensive yard stretching to rail arches at the back was refurbished as the Five Points Courtyard, with a variety of food traders. 08/23

⊕ *Th-Fr 17.00-24.00, Sa 12.00-24.00, Su 12.00-22.00, cash-free. Children welcome.*

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

Kraft Dalston. A recent visit confirmed this is an impressive set-up: a bright, stylishly contemporary space above, adjacent to the hotel reception, which is larger than it looks, with six cylindrical steel tanks commanding the central bar. The 5 hl German-style brewhouse is downstairs, all gleaming copper and steel behind glass, with an adjacent nanodistillery. There's a verdant roof garden and terrace, though open fewer hours than the main bar, which also serves breakfast and non-alcoholic drinks from 08.00. The food partner is now Nativo, providing the likes of oyster mushroom or pork belly wraps for lunch, tacos, steaks and miso chicken wings in the evening. Most beer on sale is from other Kraft breweries but options brewed on site are highlighted. 12/23

⊕ *Mo-Th 11.30-23.00, Fr-Sa 11.30-24.00, Su 11.30-22.30, cash-free. Children welcome until mid-evening. Brewery tours.*

5-6 keg, growlers, house-made gin and specialist spirits, cocktails.

Food Mexican-Japanese fusion, breakfasts, Outdoor Roof terrace, Accommodation, ♪. Functions.

London Fields Brewery closed unexpectedly on 8 December 2021 but has since reopened under new owners as **Saint Monday**: see above. 12/23

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. Due to flood damage, the pub never reopened following the lockdowns and was put up for sale. It's since reopened under the name the Black Hen but is essentially a wine bar with very little beer interest. 12/23

People's Park Tavern (Laine's Brew Lab). The brewhouse was removed early in 2022 and the space converted to an arcade games room, so all Laine beers on sale reverted to products from the main brewery in Sussex. The beer list has been substantially reduced, with cask pumps removed, bottles and cans no longer a feature and only six remaining 'craft' keg lines, all Laine, so this is no longer a particular recommendation. Laine first said it planned to re-install the brewery in a standalone unit nearby, but this was dropped following the company's acquisition of Redchurch brewery in Harlow (itself with London origins) in October. See also the update on the Ram Inn under Southwest London: Wandsworth. 03/24

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 becoming the latest London craft beer cluster, with details of key venues below. Head for Leytonstone Underground or Leytonstone High Road Overground to find the **Filly Brook**, **Mammoth Tap Room**, **North Star** and **Stone Mini Market**, all within a short walk. Leyton Midland Road is one stop away by Overground (or by bus from the Underground) for **Gravity Well's** taproom (see under Updates and Corrections) and **Libertalia**. It's only a 1.6 km walk from here to **Blondies**, or use buses. 12/23

Blondies Brewery

Brewpub, bar

Patchworks, 258 Church Road E10 7JQ (Waltham Forest)

blondiesbar.co.uk

First sold beer: expected February 2024. Brewery tours planned.

⊕ *Mo-Tu* 08.00-15.00, *We-Su* 08.00-23.00, cash-free. Children very welcome until 20.00.

7-9 keg, 2-3 cans, some wines, specialist spirits and cocktails, coffee.

Food Street food, daytime sandwiches and cakes **£-££**, **Outdoor** Benches at front and in yard, ☼. *Live music, DJs, markets, exhibitions, films, pool, darts, arcade and board games.*

NR Lea Bridge **Bus** Gloucester Road **Cy** C23, link to C26

Sisters Charmaine and Verity Cox, owners of Clapton dive bar Blondies, planned a brewery before the lockdowns but the site fell through. Then on 18 August 2023 they opened this second site just off Lea Bridge Road, with a 10 hl brewhouse formerly at BritHop. Paperwork and commissioning took longer than expected, but commercial brewing should start shortly with help from friends at Mammoth in Hackney Wick. It's a sprawling multi-purpose space in a former furniture factory: they retained an existing coffee bar at the front, popular with locals and users of the adjacent gym, and added keg lines to create a cosy post-industrial fusion of a café and taproom. Behind this is a yard with a street food counter and a much larger industrial shed, part-occupied by artists' studios, part by a funky beer hall and events space with the brewery in between. Sensitive types should not be deterred by the rock 'n' roll branding: 'we're quieter than we look', confides Charmaine. 12/23

BEERS, a **Lager** and a **Session IPA** (both 4.5%, not tasted), are currently only in keg, sold at both bar and taproom: they've been brewed at Mammoth, but should transfer in-house shortly. Expansion is already planned, with production raised sufficiently to sell more widely, including in cans.

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 Phiilly Brook, is one of London's lesser-known lost rivers which runs close by.

Libertalia Brewing Company

Brewery, taproom

142 Tilbury Road E10 6RE (Waltham Forest)

[instagram.com/libertaliabrewingco](https://www.instagram.com/libertaliabrewingco)

T 07398 653394

First sold beer: November 2023

⊕ *Th-Fr* 16.00-21.00, *Sa-Su* 12.00-21.00, also irregular weekday daytimes for off-sales, cash-free. Children welcome, ♿.

1 cask (from early 2024), 4 keg, 4-5 bottles/cans

Food BYO or order in, **Outdoor** Tables at front

Live music planned, board games.

NR Leyton Midland Road

Christos Daskalopoulos and Matt Dean met when they were both working at an Athens brewpub. Matt later went to Meantime but ended up working alongside Christos again when Greek brewery 56 Isles set up 3 Locks as a London offshoot (North: Camden). In 2023 the pair got the chance to create their own venture, taking on the former Gravity Well arch under the Overground at Leyton Midland Road. This initially reopened in August as a bar but began producing beer again in November on a venerable 8 hl kit that Matt believes was originally made for a first-generation 1970s microbrewery. The taproom is basic but pleasant,

with a small bar and beer hall tables among pallets of malt and within full view of the kit, spilling onto the alleyway outside. Besides house beers, including cask dispensed on gravity, you might find guests from locals like Bohem, with perhaps more of a slant to balanced traditional styles than many breweries of this age. 11./23

BEERS haven't yet settled into a core range, but the intention is always to offer a lager, a dark beer (they've already brewed a good porter, **Knuckle-dust**, 5.3%, in collaboration with the like-named hardcore band), a pale ale and a wheat-based beer, plus a cask in a traditional style and bottled strong specials.

Visitor note. The name is borrowed from a legendary 17th century utopian colony founded by pirates, which practised equality for all irrespective of colour and creed.

Mammoth Tap Room

Bar

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

[mammothbeer.com](https://www.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 one-star heritage 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 Taras Boulba. The one-star heritage interior 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.

Stone Mini Market

Bar, shop

721 High Road E11 4RD T 07843 872359

[instagram.com/stoneminimarket](https://www.instagram.com/stoneminimarket)

⊕ *Tu-Sa 11.00-21.00, Su 12.00-18.00, cash-free.*

Children until 20.00

3-6 keg, 200-250 bottles/cans, organic and ethical wines, some specialist spirits.

Food US street food, unusual snacks **£-££**,

Outdoor Rear garden. ♿ being installed.

Tastings, art displays, board games, sewing, workshops, functions.

TfL Leytonstone High Road

Adrienne began selling craft beer at the Leytonstone corner off-license she ran with her husband in 2015, because customers asked for it. Their interest grew to the extent that in August 2020 they

took on two neighbouring shop units by the Overground station: one as a well-stocked bottle shop with drink-in seating, the other as an ethical food store, plus a labyrinth of additional rooms that stretch back to a small sheltered garden, including a civilised drinking space with elegant tables and the work of local artists on display and a sewing room and library. They tend to stock comprehensive ranges from favoured brewers: neighbours like Gravity Well and Pretty Decent, but also Beak, Exale, First Chop, Howling Hops, Kernel, Polly's, Shindigger, Sureshot and many more, including Belgians like Kasteel and St Bernardus. Run with obvious passion, it's yet another must-stop in a beer-friendly area. 08/23

Tavern on the Hill

Contemporary pub

318 Higham Hill Road E17 5RG

[tavernonthehill.co.uk](https://www.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, mentioned in a previous update, has been confirmed permanently closed. 03/24

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

Nags Head 9 Orford Road E17 9LP **thenagshede17.com**. This much-loved community local in pretty Walthamstow village, round the corner from Pillars and several other places of interest, fell through the cracks of the last edition thanks to the lockdowns. Still overseen by veteran cat-loving landlady Flossie, it now stocks well-kept Taylor Landlord plus two usually local guests on cask, some big brand 'craft' kegs and a bottle and can selection that includes Magic Spells and local low alcohol specialist Nirvana. 08/23

True Craft Walthamstow 18 St James Street E17 7PF **truecraftlondon.co.uk**. Five years after opening in Tottenham (p192), this attractive craft beer and pizza bar added a second outlet late in 2023, not yet visited. 03/24

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. In January 2024 it announced that to ensure sustainability it would concentrate in future on selling only through its taproom, pub and a third site currently planned rather than supplying third parties. 03/24

Gravity Well. The brewery relocated operations to Tottenham in March 2023 – see North London: Tottenham and Haringey below – though has retained its attractive Leyton taproom in a shallow arch a few paces from Leyton Midland Road station, now with expanded hours and a small but pleasant outdoor terrace. Up to 10 keg lines and around the same number of cans are now almost entirely own-brewed except for a lager and a low alcohol option. There's no food but they're happy for you to order in meat-free deliveries, with supplier recommendations provided. Meanwhile the former arch has reopened under new ownership as **Libertalia**: see above. 12/23

⊕ *Mo-Th* 16.00-22.00, *Fr* 16.00-23.00, *Sa* 12.00-23.00, *Su* 14.00-21.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

Leyton Technical. The pub was closed and repossessed by the landlord in October 2022 due to rent arrears accumulated during the lockdowns. It's since been relet to Remarkable with plans to reopen in spring 2023 as the **Leyton Engineer**. Pending a reassessment, expect at least some decent beer. 03/24

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

Neckstamper Brewing has extended its taproom hours, at least for the warmer months. ⊕ *Fr* 14.30-18.00, *Sa* 14.00-19.00. 08/23

Pretty Decent Beer Co. Production was relocated in December 2022 to a bigger facility among the Blackhorse breweries, just round the corner from Signature (p151) and Big Penny and next door to Pinter/Greater Good. It's a cheerful space in front of the new 15 hl brewhouse, with a preponderance of pink, a mirrored bar and some fun murals. Nearly all the beers are produced in-house, including a low alcohol option, with a gluten-free beer to follow. One of the old Wanstead arches has been retained as a bar, a small but well-organised space with the same cheerful colour scheme and a mix of tables, booths and stools, much-valued by locals. 08/23

Pretty Decent Blackhorse

10 Uplands Business Park, Blackhorse Lane E17 5QJ **prettydecentbeer.co** Brewery tours.
⊕ *Mo-Tu* 12.00-18.00, *We-Th* 16.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-23.00, *Su* 12.00-22.00, children until 22.00, cash-free.

19 keg, 10+ cans, some wines 🍷.

Food Pizza (from We) £-££, **Outdoor** Tables at front, 🚶 no but level access.

Seasonal events.

TfL Blackhorse Road Bus Priestley Way

Pretty Decent Wanstead

340 Sheridan Road E7 9EF **prettydecentbeer.co**
⊕ *We* 14.00-22.00, *Th-Fr* 16.00-23.00, *Sa* 12.00-23.00, *Su* 12.00-20.00, cash-free. Children until mid-evening.

10-12 keg, 15+ cans, some wines.

Food Japanese street food (Fr-su) £-££, **Outdoor** High tables on front terrace 🚶.

Running club, board games club, wines by candlelight, occasional live music and DJs, functions.

TfL Forest Gate, Wanstead Park Bus Wanstead Flats Cy Link to Q6, Redbridge Greenway Wk Link to Epping Forest Centenary Walk

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

Signature Brew Blackhorse Road. The main taproom bar is now a dinky self-contained unit in the yard outside, made of recycled containers with a diner-like vibe and a roof garden. At busier times they open the original 'brewers' bar' and add more outdoor tables opposite. Beers are nearly always made here, plus collabs. 08/23

⊕ *Su-Th 12.00-24.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-01.00, children until 20.00, cash-free.*

Occasional cask, 2 tank, 10 keg, 6+ cans ☞.

Food Gourmet burgers, wings, loaded fries (from Tu) ££, **Outdoor** Tables at front, roof terrace ☞.

Tastings, live music, DJs, film club, quiz, board games, pétanque planned.

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 Lover-beer 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

Hopewell Brewery (Lockdown Room)

Brewpub, bar

Hopewell Square E14 0SY (Tower Hamlets)

thelockdownroom.com

First sold beer: March 2024

⊕ *Mo 16.00-22.30, Tu-Th 12.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-24.00, Su 12.00-22.30, cash-free.*

Children welcome.

8 keg, 50 cans, some wines and cocktails.

Food Malaysian and Korean street food ££,

Outdoor Tables on square at front ☞.

Beer festivals and tastings, Tu quiz, live music, karaoke, seasonal events, functions.

TfL Canning Town Cy Link to C3

Wk Link to Lea Valley Walk/Leaway

As its name suggests, this smart but relaxed space evolved from an initiative to supply the community during the lockdowns. Local resident and beer expert Alan was asked to advise on the craft beer side and focused on nearby suppliers, with regular appearances by 40FT, Deviant & Dandy, Exale, Gravity Well, Hackney Church, Pillars and Signature on the keg taps and in a well-stocked fridge. Beer interest increased in early 2024 when Allan added a 1.5 hl nanobrewery for house beers. Food includes blue rice bowls with satay chicken or grilled aubergine, or kolo mee pork belly. Contemporary décor and a strategic mezzanine, where the brewery is sited, make the best of a slightly awkward shape on the corner of a new block: it's light, draped with greenery and surprisingly spacious. The extensive outdoor seating overlooks a pedestrianised square in the curiously isolated surrounds of City Island, a recent development within a tight horseshoe meander of the river Lea just before it joins the Thames. 03/24

BEERS, not yet tasted, are currently keg only for sale in-house.

Three Colts Tavern

Contemporary pub

199 Cambridge Heath Road E2 0EL

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, cash-free.

Children until 20.00.

1-2 cask, 12 keg, 525+ bottles/cans, some specialist spirits.

Food Pizzas £-££, **Outdoor** Tables on street ☼. Quiz, sing songs, shuffleboard, board games.

TfL Bethnal Green **Cy** Link to C3

Listed in the book as the Fugitive Motel, which closed in July 2022, this unit at the foot of a new block opposite Bethnal Green Gardens was reopened by Walthamstow's acclaimed Exale brewery in February 2023, pleasingly reclaiming the name of an earlier pub on the site, demolished in 1902 but still remembered in street names. The new owners have pleasingly inclined the obviously modern space towards a more pubby feel, with old-school wooden banquettes and armchairs among the concrete pillars and cacti, a retro nameboard above the bar and a portrait of Karl Marx, who is also commemorated in the nearby library, gazing down on the proceedings. Besides the owner's beers, it stocks numerous guests from breweries like By the Horns, Gravity Well, Pressure Drop or Redemption, a few Belgian and German bottled classics, big bottles from the likes of Burning Sky and exotica like Hitachino Nest. Pizza is by Dough Hands and includes vegan options. Exale plan further sites. 08/23

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 since revived production as a cuckoo at locations like Fierce and Drop Project, so the iconic dark mild is still available, and hopes eventually to open another physical site. 08/23

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 restarts, I'll report in more detail. 05/23

Fugitive Motel. Now operated by Exale as the **Three Colts Tavern**: see full review above. 08/23

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

TRY ALSO

BrewDog Upminster 18 Station Road, Upminster RM14 2UD brewdog.com. Unusually suburban for BrewDog but a major widening of choice in the area, this friendly bar opened in November 2022 in a converted bank just a short walk from Upminster station. 28 keg, 35+ bottles/cans, nearly all house brands but a wide range, some unusual guests and a great roof terrace. 08/23

Mother Kellys Barking/IG11 3 Barking Wharf Square, Barking IG11 7HZ motherkellys.co.uk. No date has yet been announced for this latest addition to the MK family, promising a similar experience to the Tottenham outlet, on an attractive site beside the river Roding near the ruins of Barking Abbey. Very welcome in an area where other beer options are limited. 08/23

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 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. Three-star heritage rating. 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. Brewing was suspended early in 2023 due to a glitch with a planned move. The company found a new production site not far away, using a 10 hl kit formerly at Three Sods, but as this wasn't suitable for a taproom, in July it opened an additional off-site facility conveniently sited right next to Canning Town station (and an easy walk from the Lockdown Room), a bright and modern corner unit on the ground floor of a new residential block. There's a neat little bar and an open kitchen dispensing gourmet dry-aged beef and bone marrow burgers plus hot dogs and loaded fries, including meat-free options. Unfortunately, brewing has still not resumed due to power supply issues, with no date yet for a resolution, so for the moment the taproom stocks a well-chosen range mainly from other locals like Mammoth and Signature. Currently there's much construction in the area but once this is completed there'll be a pretty front garden too. 12/23

Brewery (no visitors please, currently suspended)
F-5 The Factory Project, Factory Road E16 2HB
(Newham)

Taproom

1A Brunel Street Works, 5 Silvertown Way E16
1EA huskbrewing.com

⊕ We-Fr 17.00-23.00, Sa 13.00-23.00, Su 13.00-22.00, cash-free, children welcome.

10 keg, 12 cans.

Food Gourmet burgers, loaded fries, **Outdoor**

Tables at front, garden under construction, ♿ being installed.

Comedy, board games.

TfL Canning Town **Cy** Link to C3 **Wk** Link to Lea Valley Walk / Leaway

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: December 2022. Brewery tours planned.

⊕ Daily 12.00-21.00 (later if busy), children until early evening, cash-free.

Up to 10 tank and keg, 4 cans ♿.

Outdoor Canalside terrace, tables at side ♿.

Su quiz, weekend buskers, big screen sport, seasonal events, functions.

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

Founded by Marinos Alexandrou of the 56 Isles brewery on the Greek island of Paros with the help of Matt Dean, who now has his own Libertalia brewery (East: Stratford to Walthamstow), this unashamedly contemporary operation is well located at Hawley Wharf, a recently redeveloped area of Camden which effectively extends the popular market across the High Street, bringing much passing trade and supporting longer-than-usual opening hours. It occupies a cluster of railway arches at a triangular junction where the North London Line connects to the West Coast Main Line, with a smart, clean contemporary taproom fronting onto the Regents Canal between two of the three locks from which it takes its name. The 20 hl brewhouse is visible through a picture window behind it, and an adjoining arch round the corner is used as an events space and overspill on busy days. Most beer is dispensed from integrally cooled, polythene-lined lager-style horizontal tanks: the lack of a cold room means cask is unlikely. They're already looking to expand their fermentation capacity. There's no food, but with 30 food traders in the surrounding space you won't go hungry. Other adjacent attractions include an arthouse cinema and an underground alien-themed play park. 08/23

BEERS in tank, keg and can include a regular **Lager** (4.7%) which currently accounts for 75% of production. Most other beers rotate through contemporary-slanted styles including pale ale, porter and various kettle sours.

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 one-star 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, Hammerton, 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*

Dartmouth Arms 35 York Rise NW5 1SP disappearingdiningclub.co.uk/dartmouth-arms. This backstreet pub in the Dartmouth Park area of Tufnell Park has had mixed fortunes, but seems to have done well since 2018 in the hands of former catering popup the Disappearing Dining Club. Only one cask, often from By the Horns, but some others of interest including keg Lost & Grounded, Orbit and Two Tribes and a couple of bottled Belgian classics. A friendly, pleasant little place with an imaginative menu and a penchant for retro vinyl and hi-fi. Simon the Tanner (Central: Borough) became a sister pub in April 2023. Cash-free. *08/23*

Haverstock Tavern 94 Haverstock Hill NW3 2BD thehaverstocktavern.co.uk. After several changes of name and ownership, this roadside pub just up the hill from the Roundhouse seems to have found stability since reopening in 2019 as the first London site of the Northern Union group, originally linked to Leeds Brewery (which has since closed with the brands transferred to Kirkstall). It's a lively, friendly local with a few good beers: three casks with guests that might be from Harvey's, Redemption or Thornbridge, and names like Deya, Mondo, Northern Monk and Two Tribes among a dozen keg options. The group has since rescued two other long-closed pubs in Camden borough, both even more attractive overall though with a little less beer interest: the smart and airy **Albert** near Primrose Hill (11 Princess Road NW1 8JR) and the villagey **Old White Bear** (1 Well Road NW3 1LJ) which despite its swanky Hampstead location was shuttered for six years until December 2021. Two outlets in Highgate, the **Crown** and the **Winchester**, not yet visited, opened more recently. *08/23*

Wolfpack West Hampstead 291 West End Lane NW6 1RD [wolfpacklager.shop](#). Similar in style to Wolfpack's other venues (see West: Hammer-smith and Fulham) though more of a bar, with an inviting front terrace. No cask, but 10+ kegs including Wolfpack and guests that might come from Gipsy Hill, Northern Monk, Halve Maan in Bruges or KCBC in NYC. Cash-free. 08/23

HERITAGE PUB

Black Lion 274 Kilburn High Road NW6 2BY [blacklionkilburn.co.uk](#). This large and gob-smackingly magnificent corner pub on the Camden side of Kilburn High Road, backing onto Kilburn Grange Park, was reopened in spring 2022 by London Village Inns, the group behind Brixton's Crown and Anchor (p259) and several other sites. The elaborately decorated interior of the Grade II*-listed 1898 building features copper panels depicting fanciful 18th century scenes, a back bar surmounted by carved friezes, a plasterwork ceiling and some surviving etched glass and wooden screens, including one marking off the music room, now a restaurant serving Indian-style street food. Look out too for the black lions on the red brick and pink marble exterior. Beer options merit a Try also: three cask, often from Five Points and London Brewing, nine keg from the likes of Boon, Brick and Wiper & True. B&B rooms upstairs will follow shortly. Three-star heritage rating. 08/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Bohemia House. Following the link with Bohem this charming place has become even more beer-friendly: currently there are six keg lines, including up to three Bohem plus Pilsner Urquell and Radegast. The ice hockey heroes have been replaced by tasteful prints and a book collection, while the menu has been streamlined but remains authentically Czech and Slovak. 08/23

Caps and Taps. This excellent bottle shop-bar moved north to Tufnell Park in November 2021: though still in a shop unit, there's more room for drinking in at tables and benches among the pot plants and fridges. The keg lines have expanded but growlers are discontinued. The can and bottle selection remains extensive, with a rich seam of lambics and wild and mixed fermentation beers in big bottles and some aged beers: ask about the special stuff that isn't on the shelves. 08/23

141 Fortress Road NW5 2HR

⊕ Tu-We 14.00-20.00, Th 14.00-21.00, Fr-Sa 11.00-21.00, Su 11.00-17.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

5 keg, 400 bottles/cans, 1 cider, bottled/canned cider, natural wines ☺.

♿ no but one very shallow step and flat access
Tastings, meet the brewer, bottle shares.

TfL Tufnell Park

Oxford Tavern. West Berkshire changed ownership early in 2022 and withdrew its involvement. The pub continued as a free house but closed in November. It reopened as a more food-focused pub called the **Parakeet** in March 2023 and the beer selection is no longer of interest. 08/23

St Mary's Brewery. I finally caught up with current brewer Roddy Monroe early in 2022 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 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.

Macintosh Alehouse

Beer firm, taproom

1 Bouverie Road N16 0AH macintoshales.com

⊕ *Fr* 16.00-21.30, *Sa* 12.00-21.30, *Su* 12.00-20.30, cash-free.

1 cask, 1 keg, 2 bottles 🍷.

TfL Stoke Newington **Bus** Abney Park **Cy** C1 **Wk** Capital Ring, link to New River Path

Less is more. The bar counter in this charming little place in a secluded yard off Stoke Newington High Street, by Abney Park Cemetery, currently sports only one handpump and one keg tap. The former dispenses Best Bitter, for several years the only beer Charlie Macintosh made after first turning commercial in 2019. The latter is for the recently added keg conditioned Pale Ale. It's one of the narrowest choices featured here, but both are immaculate and very well kept, and this one-roomed bar, reminiscent of a micropub with its traditional pub furniture and old signs, is the perfect spot to drink them. Originally working on a 2.5 hl kit in a domestic garage (p302), since the start of July 2023 Charlie has cuckoo brewed at Orbit and conditioned and warehoused the beers in the space next to the taproom. The site is slated for redevelopment, but not for some years yet. *08/23*

BEERS made to simple recipes with Maris Otter malt and English hops and naturally conditioned are cask **Best Bitter*** (4.6%) and keg **Pale Ale*** (4.6%), both also available in bottle. The cautious expansion of the range is likely to continue with a porter later in the 2023. *08/23*

Robin

Contemporary pub

29 Crouch Hill N4 4AP therobinn4.co.uk

⊕ *Mo-Th* 12.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 13.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.30. Children until 19.00.

6 cask, 12 keg, 4 ciders

Food Burgers, toasties £-££, **Outdoor** A few tables and benches on street.

Tap takeovers, meet the brewer, We Su live music, vinyl collection, board games.

NR Crouch Hill **Cy** Link to Parkland Walk **Wk** Link to Capital Ring

Following the closure of the Brave Sir Robin early in 2023, the latest iteration of this Crouch Hill cor-

ner bar in a former motorbike shop launched under a simplified name in September. Current owner Nick Bailey has an impressive track record as the former manager of the revered Southampton Arms (p175), and though he's now entirely his own boss, the influence shows in the emphasis on quality draught beer and cider, including immaculate cask, and the friendliness and comfortable, unfussy aesthetic that deftly fuses traditional and contemporary. Only keg Signature lager and Howling Hops pale are permanent, but there's always an example of Nick's favourite style, cask mild, alongside cask bitter, stout and session pale, keg sours and porters, stronger options, a rotating Kernel line and usually something from Deya and Verdant, plus perhaps Duration, Glasshouse, New Bristol, Pressure Drop or Thornbridge. The current kitchen residency, offering a simple menu of unusual meat and veggie burgers, chips and Welsh rarebit, is semi-permanent. The layout is largely as it was but more cosily appointed, with upholstered booths, armchairs, a piano and striking paintings of pub interiors by an artist friend. Overall, it's now a very strong recommendation. 12/23

TRY ALSO

Landseer Arms 37 Landseer Road N19 4JU landseerarms.com. This impressively large and handsome independent pub on a side street off Holloway Road is noted for its changing Mediterranean menu, but also stocks 3-4 well kept cask and four or more kegs from very local suppliers like Goodness, Hammerton and Muswell Hillbil-lies. The side bar boasts a handsome skylight with decorated surrounds. 08/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Brave Sir Robin. Closed February 2023, but since reopened as the **Robin**: see above. 12/23

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. 12/22

Two Tribes Brewing (Campfire). I finally got a chance to sample the current taproom setup, a container bar and sheltered outdoor space with benches and tables across from the brewery site. It's quite a funky and jolly setting in which to enjoy a range which now focuses almost entirely on a wide range of own brews. Food from the firepit

kitchen might include smoked pork belly or miso mushroom charcoal buns. 08/23

Ⓢ *Tu-We* 16.00-23.00, *Th* 15.00-23.00, *Fr* 15.00-24.00, *Sa* 13.00-24.00, cash-free, children until 20.00.

14 keg, 10 bottles/cans 🍷.

Food Barbecue (not Tu when food can be ordered in), **Outdoor** All outdoor 🍷. DJs, occasional live music.

Tottenham and Haringey

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

Mother Kelly's Tottenham/N17

Bar, planned blendery

16 Ashely Road N17 9ST motherkellys.co.uk

Ⓢ *Tu-We* 16.00-22.00, *Th* 12.00-22.30, *Fr* 12.00-23.00, *Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.00, cash-free. Children welcome.

19 keg, 2 ciders.

Food Mezze and meat platters ££, **Outdoor** Tables at front, 🍷.

Mini-festivals, tap takeovers, quiz.

NR TfL Tottenham Hale **Cy** Link to NCN1, C24 **Wk** Link to Lea Valley Path

The latest Mother Kelly's opened on 21 July 2023 on the ground floor of a new housing block in an estate still under construction right by Tottenham Hale station. MK boss Nigel Owen previously told me that new branches would be more focused on drinking in, and this one is draught-only, without the bottle and can fridges customary in other branches. But it boasts a strong list, with the top two thirds headed 'fresh/clean' and the remainder 'wild/sour'. There are regulars from Anspach & Hobday, Bohem, Burning Sky, Exale, Kernel and Siren and stronger and darker options too. The funky stuff digs much deeper than everyday kettle sours, with a changing range of well-crafted proper wild and mixed fermentation brews from the likes of Crossover and Holy Goat. The selection should get even more interesting when the promised barrel ageing and blending facility is installed and commissioned in the reserved area at one end of the room during 2024. A big open

space simply furnished with tables and recycled wooden barrels, it's not London's cosiest bar, though they've made the most of the high ceiling with some impressively massive murals. 12/23

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. 03/22

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Beavertown Brewery. In December, both Tottenham pub the Corner Pin and the taproom at the Tottenham Hale brewery were closed 'temporarily' for improvements, but with no reopening dates advised (and at the height of the hospitality industry's busiest season). This follows a previous report that brewing at Tottenham Hotspur stadium has been suspended. I've left the text about both venues as it is in the hope that they will reopen, but **please check before setting out**. 12/23

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'.

Beneath the pastel corporate colours, the skull wallpaper and the fun bespoke bar mounts, the Corner Pin 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. 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

Following a lengthy lockdown closure, the taproom reopened in February 2022, now with more space at the Tempus Project site across the road, including a partially sheltered outside yard with lots of beer garden tables. You can drink among the barrel ageing collection indoors, although curiously the beers that emerge from them seem no longer on sale, with cask and keg mainly limited to commonly available Beavertown brands. 08/23

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 11.00, though unsuitable on match days. **Note temporarily closed as of 12/23.**

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

Beavertown Tottenham

Brewery, taproom
17 Lockwood Industrial Estate, Mill Mead Road
N17 9QP **beavertownbrewery.co.uk**

Ⓜ *Fr* 17.00-22.00, *Sa-Su* 12.00-21.00, cash-free. Children until 21.00. **Note temporarily closed as of 12/23.**

10 keg, 10-12 cans
Food Order-in pizza **££**, **Outdoor** Benches at front, ☂.
DJs (Fr), live music (Sa).

NR TfL Tottenham Hale **Cy** NCN1, link to C24 **Wk** Lea Valley Path

Bull (Gorgeous Brewery). The pub was sold to Greene King and brewing ceased by February 2022 with the kit removed. The previous owners, Samantha and Rob Laub, originally said they planned on restarting at another location, and meanwhile cuckoo brewed at Church Farm, just outside Warwick. In August 2023, though, both parties confirmed that Church Farm had formally acquired Gorgeous and would continue to brew the brands, so it seems brewing in London is unlikely to resume. The Bull now mainly stocks well-known national brands and is no longer of particular interest, though has occasional locals. 12/23

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

Greywood Brewery. The lockdowns proved too much of a challenge for this very small brewery and its owner Adam Armstrong has given up his brewing license, with no activity since 2021. He plans to continue homebrewing and may revive the commercial side if conditions improve. 08/23

One Mile End. Following the sale of its birthplace pub in Whitechapel to McMullen in September 2022, the brewery rebranded as **OMEBEER**. Sadly this didn't last long and the business closed on 11 January 2023. 08/23

Outer North London

Old W heatsheaf

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

TRY ALSO

Olde Mitre 58 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ greeneking-pubs.co.uk. This lovely Grade II-listed part-17th century timber-framed coaching inn and one-star heritage pub on the Great North Road has long been on local cask lovers' radar. But I left it out of the last print edition as in July 2021 the longstanding landlord, who had bought out the tie, moved on and it became a Greene King managed house. I'm happy to report that the legacy remains thanks to cellar manager Eleanor. Expect up to nine casks including Taylor Landlord and guests in varied styles from smaller breweries, often Hertfordshire ones like Mad Squirrel and Tring, but London and Kent beers are also spotted among GK standards and seasonals. There are one or two beers of interest among the kegs and bottles too. Recommending managed chain pubs is always hazardous as staff turnover is often high, but this is likely to return to a full entry in a later guide if standards are maintained. 08/23

Windsor Castle The Walks N2 8DL windsorcastlen2.com. McMullen fans should seek out this friendly, cottagey little pub tucked down an East Finchley backstreet. Refurbished and under new management in October 2022, it had some wonderfully fresh cask AK when I called, plus three other cask and three 'craft' keg, all from Macs. Closed Mo, cash-free. 08/23

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 in November 2021 and freeholders Heineken closed the in-house brewery, but the pub has since been taken on by small group Masterson Leisure Holdings (MLH) and continues to stock a decent range of cask beer, with six lines including XT IPA and rotating guests from breweries like Adnams and Portobello. Probably now more a Try also. 08/23

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. An offsite taproom opened in central Barnet in July 2022 but this had to close in March 2023, with brewing also suspended due to building work. The team has been working with a partner to establish a new craft beer outlet in Barnet, due during 2024, with an aspiration to resume brewing eventually. 03/24

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 producers from the wider UK, like Deya, Harbour, Overtone, Vault City and Brew York, a few more distant Londoners like Hammerton 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

It ain't much, if it ain't Dutch

Bar, shop

67 Enid Street SE16 3RA pr-dutchdrinks.co.uk

⊕ *Th 17.00-22.00, Fr 15.00-22.00, Sa 12.00-22.00, Su 12.00-21.00, cash-free. Children until early evening.*

25-30 keg, 35+ bottles/cans (but see below), Dutch spirits 🍷.

Food Corn dogs, Dutch street food £-££, **Outdoor** Front terrace 🍷.

Meet the brewer, tap takeovers, Dutch seasonal events, live music, big screen sport.

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

Following the demise of the Bolton and Rembrandt Proeflokaal in Earls Court (p120), Dutch craft beer ambassador and importer Eric Bestebreuer has resurfaced with this ambitious new venture, opened in October 2023 in two Bermondsey arches close to Moor and Cloudwater. Still something of a work in progress, it already boasts an impressive 30 taps sprouting from a custom-designed integral back bar with the kegs in a chilled

tunnel immediately beneath. There's provision to double that number during 2024, also adding a wall of fridges with the target of increasing the can and bottle range to around 250. All are and will be Dutch craft imports from breweries like Emelisse, Frontaal, 't IJ, Jopen, De Molen, Poesiat & Kater, La Trappe and Uiltje, in a wide range of styles that encompass US-influenced pale ales, more traditional fare like pils, bokbier and stout (including the revival of classic Van Vollenhoven) and the Belgian-inspired products that got the country's microbrewers started in the 1980s. Expect plenty of strong stuff too, like barley wines, imperial stouts and big IPAs. Wall panels and beer enamels create something of a pubby feel, while a food counter dispenses authentic street food like bitterballen (including vegan options), kroketten and chips with mayo, and that essential Dutch pub standby, the portion of cheese. A mezzanine for further seating is also planned. Proost! 12/23

Kanpai London Craft Sake

Brewery, taproom

48 Druid Street SE1 2EZ (Southwark)

kanpai.london

First sold beer: June 2017 (at original site)

⊕ *We-Th 17.00-22.00, Fr 17.00-22.30, Sa 12.00-22.30, Su 12.00-19.00, cash-free. Children until mid-evening. Brewery tours.*

10 keg, 12 bottles/cans, Japanese spirits, umeshu, shochu 🍷.

Food Izakaya-style plates, wings £-££, **Outdoor** Tables at front, 🍷.

Tastings, public brewdays, live music.

NR TfL London Bridge Bus Druid Street Cy Link to NCN4, C4, C14

London's only sake brewer moved from Peckham (p223) to a Bermondsey arch in September 2023. The new site is bigger and more approachable: the taproom at the front is clean, bright and woody, with table seating both downstairs and on a mezzanine which has a panoramic view of the brewery through a glass partition. Well-informed staff will take you through an expanded range of eight unpasteurised keykeg sakes, including sparkling and flavoured options, and several more bottled ones, plus a couple of draught Western-style beers including a collab with By the Horns. Nearly all the sake on sale is now brewed in-house, with occasional guest imports. Food is a tasty assemblage of small plates including both chicken and cauliflower wings, meaty or tofu katsu in rolls from nearby Ong Ong bakery, and handmade gyoza. Next door to Southwark Brewing, this is an interesting and welcome addition to the 'mile'. Eko has since moved into the old site: see under Central South London. 03/24

BEERS have evolved further since the book was published: Fizu has been dropped though there are other sparkling sakes and a traditional method

(Champagne-style) variant is planned for 2024. I particularly enjoyed the fruity and elegant premium **Tori*** ('Bird', 14%) junmai daigingo.

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 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

Old Justice 94 Bermondsey Wall East SE16 4TY linktr.ee/theoldjustice. Set just a few steps back from the river on the Thames Path near Cherry Garden Pier, this pretty Brewer's Tudor Grade II-listed pub, built by Hoare's brewery (later Charrington) in 1934, was almost lost in 2017 when developers unlawfully ripped out its two-star heritage interior. Thankfully Southwark council forced the culprits to salvage and restore as much as possible and the pub finally reopened in February 2023 after much work by new independent owners Paul McAleer and Will Nikhwai. The beer offer is shading into main entry territory with four well-kept casks, including some locals (though the house

ale is a rebadged Greene King) and eight kegs with interesting choices from Gipsy Hill and Lost and Grounded, plus a couple of German bottles, though this is more a friendly locals' pub than a beer venue. As well as the extensive original panelling and sought-after snug in the rear bar, note the disguised toilet doors and the original nautical paintings above two of the fireplaces. 12/23

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. Following its move to its much larger site in Greenwich, BBNo gave up arch 74 in Enid Street, with the taproom continuing 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 in May the entire arch closed in response to continuing financial pressure, with the main brewery following in March 2024: see under Greenwich and Lewisham. 03/24

Bianca Road Brew Co added a second venue in May 2023 just a couple of arches down from the brewery and next door to Craft Beer Junction. Originally known as the **Dog House** but renamed in November as the **Enid Street Tavern**, it aims to showcase a wider range of third party beers. You might find Little Monster, Orbit, Track or Wiper & True, though there quite a few Bianca Road brands when I called, plus house beers brewed by the parent. It's a pleasant arch lined with unvarnished wood, draped in hops and equipped with solid furniture upcycled from cable reels and scaffolding and more space upstairs. Transport details as Bianca Road. 12/23

Enid Street Tavern

Bar

87 Enid Street SE16 3EH

⊕ We-Th 16.00-22.00, Fr 16.00-23.00, Sa 13.00-23.00, Su 13.00-18.00, cash-free, children welcome.

10 keg, 12 cans.

Food Food truck (Sa only), **Outdoor** Tables at front, ☺.

Tap takeovers, mini beer festivals, seasonal events.

EeBria Taproom. EeBria is another beer business wrestling with financial challenges. It went into administration on 19 March 2024 and within a

few days was bought out as a going concern by major mail order beer box supplier Beer52, marking that company's expansion into distribution. I've been reassured that the taproom will continue as normal, open Sa 13.00-19.00. 03/24

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 Odyssey Inns, also known as In Good Company, a new venture led by Stephen Cox, co-founder of the successful Utopian brewery in Devon. All the businesses have continued to trade and the new owner says it's keen to develop the brands further. Brewers John Dribergen and Ollie Parker had already left to set up Great Beyond (Central: Shoreditch and Hoxton above). Big Drop beer is also brewed at Fourpure: see Brewers without breweries. 08/23

⊕ Th 16.00-22.00, Fr 16.00-22.00, Sa 12.00-22.00, card only.

The Kernel Brewery. The taproom is due to move a short distance from its current location to a retail unit in the adjacent recently built flat block. No date has yet been confirmed, but it may be early in 2024. The brewery will remain at its current site. 12/23

Mash Paddle Brewery. Following various delays, the project secured a site in Enid Street early in 2022, a few arches southeast of Craft Beer Junction and close to 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. The brewing side launched in August 2022: there are two 40 l SS Tech kits with separate vessels, and two 30 l 'all-in-one' Grainfathers, plus various miniature cylindroconical fermentation vessels and a hand canning machine. The focus is on brewing classes and brewdays, including for absolute beginners who are guided through the process of brewing and canning 20 l batches. Demand for house beers has been so high that Nick has resorted to cuckoo brewing at Bianca Road and Distortion and is in the process of adding a kit of more commercial proportions. Besides this, the excellent bar stocks two own brands plus a fine selection of other people's beer, including unfiltered Budvar from Czech-style side pour taps, guest kegs from the likes of Arbor, Bristol Beer Factory and Lost and Grounded, plus a good Belgian and German selection alongside UK rarities

in the fridge. The brightly coloured interior has tables that get you close to the brewing action, and there's space on the mezzanine. Transport details as Bianca Road. 03/24

BEERS in keg are now largely cuckoo-brewed elsewhere due to volumes: the two regulars are West Coast-style dry-hopped IPA **Mashed Out*** (5.3%, brewed at Distortion) and apricot and mango kettle sour **Smash Up** (4.5%, brewed at near-neighbours Bianca Road).

Brewery for hire, taproom

92 Enid Street SE16 4AW

mashpaddlebrewery.com

⊕ Th 12.00-22.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 13.00-19.00, cash-free, children welcome.

9 keg, 25+ bottles/cans

Food Pizza from partner in yard **££**, **Outdoor** Tables at front, Ⓜ No but flat access including toilets.

Brewing courses, beer and food events, shuffleboard, table football, functions.

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

Secret Goldmine Yeastie Boys Taproom (Try also). The café closed in May 2023 and with it the popup taproom, though Yeastie Boys opened a new taproom, the Pigeon, in February 2024. See under Central: Shoreditch and Hoxton. 03/24

Small Beer. The taproom is once again open on a regular basis, a sizable but lively space with beer garden tables among the brewing vessels, and a slightly posher area upstairs. There's even a cask line: **Session Pale*** (2.5%) is the new regularly available cask beer and is highly recommendable at its modest strength, while a decent new **Stout** (also 2.5%) is due to launch soon. The brewery is phasing out its distinctive stubby bottles and moving over to cans, though with some regret. 12/23

⊕ *We-Fr* 16.00-22.00, *Sa* 12.00-22.00, cash-free, children welcome.

1 cask, 4 keg, 6 bottles/cans, some specialist spirits.

Food Pasties, sausage rolls or order in, **Outdoor** Small smokers' yard, ☼.

Live music, DJs, ceilidh, comedy, darts, functions.

Spartan Brewery closed on 17 June 2023 with the lease and kit sold to **Battersea Brewery**, which reopened the taproom on 17 August under the name **Substation** (a nod to the parent's location next to the famous and now-repurposed power station) and restarted brewing the following week. Brewing continues at the original brewpub (p267) as well as in Bermondsey, where the overall comfy look and feel of the taproom has been retained, though a vinyl deck, expanded hours and keg lines, and exclusively Battersea beers on offer, including Brodies brands. Meanwhile Spartan founders Colin and Mike have retained the brand and currently cuckoo brewing, though may return with their own kit. 12/23

Battersea Brewery Substation

Brewery, taproom

8 Almond Road SE16 3LR batterseabrew.co.uk

⊕ *Th-Fr* 16.00-22.30, *Sa* 12.00-22.30, *Su* 12.00-18.00, cash-free, children welcome.

2 cask, 4-6 keg, 6 bottles/cans.

Food Planned, **Outdoor** Tables at front, ☼.

NR South Bermondsey TfL Surrey Quays Bus Anchor Street Cy Link to NCN425, C10

Three Hills. The kit was moved to the company's other site in Northamptonshire in spring 2023 and all production is now centred there. The Bermondsey arch remains open as a bar, with a little barrel ageing in progress. 08/23

Central South London

Eko Brewery

Beer firm, planned brewery, taproom

2A-2, 133 Copeland Park, Copeland Road SE15 3SN ekobrewery.com

⊕ *Th-Fr* 17.00-22.30, *Sa* 14.00-22.30, also irregular weekday daytimes for off-sales, may expand, cash-free. Children welcome downstairs until mid-evening. Brewery tours planned.

2 keg, soon to expand to 8, 6+ bottles/cans ☼.

Food Street food popups £-££, **Outdoor** tables in yard at front, ☼ at neighbouring trader.

Beer tastings planned, seasonal events, functions.

NR TfL Peckham Rye Cy Link to C35 Wk Link to Surrey Canal path

Anthony and Helena Adedipe's project, borrowing the Yoruba name for Lagos, gives an African twist to contemporary style brews, using ingredients like palm sugar and South African hops. They've

been cuckoo brewing since 2018 at a variety of sites in London and elsewhere, including Cloudwater, Hambleton and Wildcard, and in 2023 had an unexpected opportunity to create their own space, opened on 28 October in the former Kanpai unit (see under Bermondsey above) amid the cluster of arty and artisanal businesses in Peckham's post-industrial Copeland Park. Downstairs is a small front bar with beer garden benches: the main bar is on the upstairs mezzanine, split into two spaces with larger and smaller tables overlooked by art displays, currently the striking work of Caroline Chinakwe. There's no brewhouse yet, but this should follow in 2024 in a space reserved at the back. Changing food popups occupy the shed across the yard. It's a friendly and distinctive little bolthole in an interesting area. 12/23

BEERS in can, keg and bottle, some made with coconut palm sugar and South African hops, include two core brands, premium lager **Gold** (4.9%) and smoked porter **Black** (5%).

TRY ALSO

Bottle House 79 Lordship Lane SE22 8EP. This long-established East Dulwich wine shop stocks 250+ beers too, with wide representation from most of the usual suspect contemporary London and UK craft brewers plus a smattering of Belgian and German classics, though no great surprises by today's standards and staff don't seem particularly well-informed. Despite a couple of tables outside, it's more a takeaway place. 12/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Section boundaries. I should have noticed that Kennington station was moved in 2021 from Zone 2 to the Zone 1-2 boundary. Venues close to it, therefore, more correctly belong in Central: Borough and Southbank than here. This affects only Oaka in the book, though I've since listed neighbour the Old Red Lion as a Try also. Tap In, listed as a Try also and since renamed Feed the Yak, has also been moved to Borough and Southbank as it's so close to Elephant & Castle. 08/23

Affinity Brewing Co Shop was closed during summer 2023. 08/23

Beer Shop London. Sadly, this marvellous venue closed in December 2022 when the landlord chose not to renew the lease, planning instead to redevelop the building. 12/22

Brick Tap Room. Still open but see Brick Brewery under Greenwich and Lewisham below. 03/24

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 refurbished taproom should reopen in late March 2024 (*Mo-We* closed). Heriot-Watt-trained head brewer William Hiscocks initially plans to brew for the company's own outlets, with a keg pale ale and lager as inaugural brands and specials, including cask beers, to follow. More information in a future update: meanwhile check birdhouselondon.com. 03/24

Dulwich Beer Dispensary (Try also). Despite being upgraded to a full listing in a previous update, this site was closed in May 2023. 08/23

Kanpai relocated both brewery and taproom to an arch in the Bermondsey beer 'mile' in September 2023: see under Bermondsey. Its Peckham site is now occupied by **Eko** (see above). 08/23

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

Lowline Tap (Better World). Previously reviewed but closed on 26 May 2023 due to economic pressures. The owning company has since closed: see *Brewers without breweries*. 03/24

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

Tap In (Try also) has rebranded as **Feed the Yak** but retains a good beer offer, so I've upgraded it to a main entry, now moved to Central: Borough and Southbank given its proximity to Elephant & Castle station. 08/23

Westow House had a rather depleted beer range when I last called: two Portobello casks, eight kegs, a mix of Portobello and guests though nothing out of the ordinary, and a handful of bottles including a couple of decent Belgians. Now more of a Try also though still notable as a comfortable and attractive place with accommodation. 12/23

Greenwich and Lewisham

Fox and Firkin (Firkin Brewery)

Brewpub, contemporary pub

316 Lewisham High Street SE13 6JZ

Brewery (*no visitors please*): 15 Whitburn Road SE13 7UQ (Lewisham)

First sold beer: October 2023

T (020) 8690 0969 foxfirkin.com

⊕ *Mo-Th* 15.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-03.00, *Su* 12.00-24.00, cash-free. Children until 20.00.

4 tank, 3-4 keg, 1-2 bottles/cans, some specialist spirits.

Food Pizzas (not daily), **Outdoor** large sheltered beer garden, ♻️.

Live music, DJs, craft markets, functions.

NR Ladywell **Cy** [Link to NCN21](#) **Wk** [Link to Waterlink Way](#)

This large and popular Lewisham pub and music venue began proudly selling its own beer in late October 2023, with a 10 hl kit in a former Sainsbury's depot at the back under the command of a former BBN Brewer. Longstanding pub owner Didier Autard, who drew up the plans with brewing consultant and former AB InBev brewer Hugo Anderson, says sales are strong after numerous frustrating delays. Note that the pub will close for several weeks for extension and refurbishment in January 2024, including the installation of four 1,000 litre serving tanks and the relocation of the stage to create a more intimate space for live music, which stretches from acoustic acts and big bands to rock, reggae and funk. But they're keeping the attractively lived-in feel with quirky wallpaper and deconstructed pianos, and the huge garden with its heated booths and repurposed railway coach. A further extension into a neighbouring unit is likely later in 2024, with the addition of a food court: meanwhile there's pizzas from a trailer in the garden. Besides house brews, expect Gipsy Hill Bandit and a smattering of 'craft' brands from bigger brewers in a lively setting. 12/23

BEERS in tank and keg include contemporary pale ale **Ladywell Pale** (4.2%), a Festbier-style lager and a West Coast IPA, though the range is still developing and may change.

Visitor note. 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 Firkin chain 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.

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

Park Tavern

Contemporary pub

45 Passey Place SE9 5DA

T (020) 8850 3216 **parktaverneltham.co.uk**

⊕ *Daily* 12.00-24.00. Over-11s until 19.30.

6 cask, 5 keg, 5 bottles, growlers, 3 ciders, some wines and specialist spirits.

Food Sandwiches, pub grub, Mo-Sa lunchtimes only **£-££**, **Outdoor** Front terrace, rear garden. *Occasional beer festivals, board games.*

NR Eltham **Bus** Eltham High Street/Passey Place **Wk** Capital Ring, Green Chain Walk

Upgraded from Try also. This longstanding cask champion, along a pedestrianised street just off Eltham High Street, has been entirely independently owned since 2021 and the range has widened further. Old favourites like Adnams and Harvey's regularly recur alongside guests from breweries like Iron Pier, Oakham, Otter, Rudgate or Titanic, and I even spotted a dark old ale in midsummer. Hofmeister and a couple of bigger 'craft' brands are on keg, alongside occasional Belgian bottles and a stock of Young's Light Ale for some regulars to mix with their bitter.

Lunchtime food stretches to Malaysian curry, pork belly and pie and mash. It's an immaculately pretty place that preserves its external Truman's branding and tiling, while the indoor décor (decorative ceramics and pot plants) and civilised atmosphere create a pleasing cross between a pub and a slightly chintzy tea room. 08/23

Visitor note. Nearby Eltham Palace, now open to the public, was the childhood home of Henry VIII, but was lavishly rebuilt by the Cortauld family in the 1930s as one of the most important art deco buildings in England.

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 Tf1 **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). It was bought by SALT, a contemporary craft-slanted offshoot of Ossett Brewery, opened in 2018 as a brewpub in one of the historic buildings on the World Heritage Site at Saltaire near Bradford. 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. But the venture was short-lived: in May 2023 brewing ceased again following failure to agree a new lease. SALT continue to produce beer in Yorkshire and the two London bars remain open, with plans to turn one into a brewpub.

The bars are admired 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, 12/23

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

Bat and Ball 275 Court Road SE9 4TH. Mottingham micropub opened late November 2023 with four changing cask and craft lagers, not yet visited. Closed *Mo-Tu*. 12/23

Catford Constitutional Club 108 Rushey Green SE6 4HW catfordconstitutionalclub.com. Huge but appealing Antic in former Argos store, with impressive roof garden above. Five enthusiastically kept cask, including regulars' requests, plus 8-9 keg, some familiar brands 12/23.

Duke of Greenwich 91 Colomb Street SE10 9EZ dukeofgreenwich.com. This old-established pub near Maze Hill station, formerly the Vanburgh, is now run by the company behind the Priors Arms (p##) so offers at least some interesting beer. Not yet visited. 03/24

Guildford Arms 55 Guildford Grove SE10 8JY theguildfordarms.co.uk. Refurbished as a gastroish but friendly local in late 2019, this strikingly handsome, biggish residential corner pub on the edge of Blackheath, Deptford and Greenwich has a praiseworthy penchant for very local suppliers: two casks, usually from Brick and By the Horns,

with more Brick among five kegs alongside Brockley and Villages. 08/23

HERITAGE PUB

Fellowship Inn Randlesdown Road SE6 3BT fellowshipinn.co.uk. I'm including an entry for this huge two-star 1924 Brewer's Tudor 'improved' pub next to Bellingham station with my fingers firmly crossed. Built as part of the surrounding London County Council housing estate, it was rescued from a state of near-dereliction and reopened in 2019 after a lavish refurbishment restoring numerous long-closed spaces to incorporate a café, cinema and events space. It has much attractive woodwork, floor tiles, leaded windows and fireplaces. Initial operators Electric Star gave it up during the lockdowns, but in September 2022 it was reopened by Homegrown Pubs, who also have the Carlton Tavern (West: Maida Vale to Dollis Hill). Then on 1 October 2023 it shut again as it hadn't proved financially viable, and new leaseholders are being sought. 03/24

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

BBNo (Brew by Numbers). BBNo's new site opened as planned in September 2021. The brewery continued production in Bermondsey for a while (see above) but in May 2023 finally closed the last of its two arches there to centre activities in Greenwich. With financial challenges intensifying, BBNo entered administration in June as a going concern, in the expectation that it would be bought out by friendly investors, but on 24 August was acquired by private equity firm the BREAL group, which had also recently bought Brick (see below). Brewery and taproom initially continued as normal but on 5 November the taproom closed with immediate effect 'for the winter months'. Following the subsequent closure of Brick, production of both BBNo and Brick brands continued at Greenwich under a Brick brewer, but only to build up stock. A news report in February 2024 confirmed the site was slated to close in March, with the kit moved to a new facility being created for both London brands at the group's Black Sheep brewery in Masham, North Yorkshire. Since late February, BREAL has renamed itself the Keystone Brewing Group. 03/24

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

Brick Brewery. In the face of rising rents and energy costs, the cost-of-living crisis and other challenges, the company went into administration on 2 June 2023. Its brands and assets were subsequently bought out by investment company the BREAL group, which a few weeks previously had

acquired the equally troubled (and rather older established) Black Sheep brewery in Masham, North Yorkshire. Early announcements said production would continue as normal under the leadership of founders Ian and Sally Stewart but brewing ceased in November with the equipment subsequently removed to Black Sheep. Production of some brands continued for a while under a Brick brewer at BBNo in Greenwich, which BREAL had also acquired, but this facility is also due to close in March 2024, with both brands shifted to a new brewhouse at Masham. The Peckham taproom remains open for the time being. In late February, BREAL renamed itself the Keystone Brewing Group. 03/24

Bottle Cave. Sister store Bottle House in East Dulwich (Central South London under Try also above) is bigger, this one is smaller, with around 200+ beers from similar sources, but slightly better-informed. Takeaway only. 12/23

Brockley Brewery. Taproom hours have changed and are as below. I've finally visited the Hither Green site, which, with its unusually configured brewhouse formerly at Purity and Fourpure, is much more spacious, with a lively taproom at the end of an unpromising stretch of DIY warehouses, plentiful outdoor space popular with local families and a cosy mezzanine. 12/23

Brockley: ☺ We 17.00-21.00, Th-Fr 17.00-22.30, Sa 13.00-22.30, Su 13.00-19.00, cash-free.
Hither Green: ☺ Th 17.00-21.00, Fr 16.00-23.00, Sa 13.00-23.00, Su 13.00-19.00, cash-free.
Children very welcome.
2 cask, 4 keg, 6+ cans, brewery tours planned ☺.
Food Changing food trucks (summer only, not Th), **Outdoor** Tables at front ☺.

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, and the brewery now has a pub, the Quiet Night Inn (West: Maida Vale to Dollis Hill). 08/23

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 by November the business had been transferred to charity Brighter Horizons. Brewing has continued throughout and the new owners confirm they plan on keeping it that way, with an improved food offer and more bottled beer planned for 2024. 12/23

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

Meantime Brewing. Asahi announced in March that it plans to close Meantime and integrate production of all its UK brands at Fuller's in Chiswick, signalling the demise of what is currently London's second oldest brewery, in its glory days a trail-blazer of contemporary brewing in the capital. No closure date has yet been confirmed, and there's a suggestion that brewing may continue on a small scale as part of a 'new standalone consumer retail experience' with which Asahi plans to retain its presence in the area. Based on previous experience of brewpubs managed by giant brewing concerns, I'm cynical about how long this might last, if it ever happens, particularly given the location on a relatively inhospitable stretch of busy road south of the Blackwall Tunnel, but we'll wait and see. 03/24

The news follows just over a year after the announcement that, following the closure of the Dark Star brewery at Partridge Green, West Sussex, which Asahi acquired with its purchase of Fuller's, Meantime would become the new home of the Dark Star brands, though the flagship cask beer, Hophead, had long been brewed at Fuller's in Chiswick and two other cask beers, American Pale Ale and Revelation, are currently produced there too. The Greenwich brewery was duly equipped to brew and package cask for what was almost certainly the first time in its history. 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). With the US-accented Hophead, Dark Star itself became a major influence on the development of the UK craft brewing scene. 08/23

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

Royal Albert. Since Portobello took over, the range has dwindled slightly, with only a small handful of largely low/no alcohol cans and bottles, but this is still noteworthy for the quality and interest of its four casks (plus two ciders) and 10+ kegs, from Portobello and high calibre independents including locals: Partizan, Signature, Two Tribes and Wild were all recently spotted. Note shortened hours: ☎ *Mo-Th* 16.00-23.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-01.00, *Su* 12.00-24.00. 08/23

Up the Creek. The bar is currently only open to ticket holders for events. The brewery is also now offering one-day brewing courses. 08/23

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, work on commissioning it has stalled, with no launch date yet available. The cask brands are currently cuckoo brewed at Wimbledon. 03/24

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

Craft Beer Rooms

Bar

6 Bourne Way, Hayes BR2 7EY

T (020) 8115 3789 craftbeerrooms.com

☎ *Mo-Th* 16.00-22.00, *Fr-Sa* 12.00-23.00, *Su* 12.00-21.00. Children until mid-evening.

10-11 keg, 5+ bottles/cans, growlers, specialist spirits, cocktails.

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

Karaoke, DJs, DIY vinyl nights, films, popup stalls, seasonal events, cocktail and children's mocktail classes, functions.

NR Hayes Wk Bromley Circular Walks, London Loop

This little community-minded craft beer and cocktail bar round the corner from Hayes station provides a contemporary complement to the more traditionally styled, and also recommended, Real Ale Way micropub nearby (p250). Cheerful owner Lou, who resurrected it in July 2021 after the previous owner gave up during the lockdowns, focuses on a variety of pale ales and lagers with darker options kept for the cooler months, regularly featuring Londoners like Belleville, Brixton, Signature and Southwark alongside the likes of New Bristol, Northdown or Tiny Rebel. There's a 'pizza and beer' deal with a neighbouring pizzeria, including some unusual options. A bright, clean space at the front boasts steel café tables and bar stools, and there's a sought-after booth at the back. Activities include mocktail mixing sessions for kids, which sounds great fun. 08/23

Dog House

Micropub

14 The Broadway, Croydon CR0 4QR

T 07982 619119

thedoghouse-beddington.co.uk

⊕ *Tu-Th* 16.00-21.30, *Fr* 16.00-22.30, *Sa* 14.00-22.30, *Su* 14.00-20.30. Children welcome.

4-7 cask, ciders

Outdoor Tables on street, ♿ No but flat access throughout.

Live music, quiz (We), molly dancing, occasional big screen sport, board games.

NR Waddon Bus Croydon Road/Plough Lane

Opened in a former dog grooming salon in August 2022, thus the name, this small but bright and pleasant micropub with its boxing prints and beer mat collection sources more widely than some, following the tastes of owner Phil. Wantsum Hurricane is a recurring favourite; otherwise expect everything from traditional bitters to modern hoppy golden beers and porters from brewers like Crouch Vale, Little Monster, Marble, Stardust or Titsey, dispensed on gravity in a cold room. A male voice choir and molly dancers visit every few months. On a suburban shopping parade close to a bus stop, it's actually in Sutton borough, in Beddington, despite the Croydon address. 12/23

Hit or Miss

Bar

6 Chatterton Road, Bromley BR2 9QN

T 07960 394449

⊕ *Su-Th* 11.00-22.30, *Fr-Sa* 11.00-23.30 (open earlier for coffee). Children until 19.00.

4-6 cask, 6 keg, 15-20 bottles/cans, coffee.

Food Cakes and biscuits, **Outdoor** A few tables on street, ♿.

Tastings, quiz, open mic, art displays.

NR Bickley Bus Southlands Road

Coffee bar by morning, craft beer and wine bar later in the day and informal art gallery throughout, this pleasantly and creatively decorated shop-front site has shades of a micropub, though the owner, garrulous ex-bookie Giles, insists it's a bar. Whatever, since October 2022 it's done a good job of serving the residents of 'highly desirable' and mildly arty Chatterton Village, off Bromley Common, and beer lovers from further afield. Dark Star Hophead is permanent on cask; others, in a range of styles, may be from locals like Anspach & Hobday, Bexley or Iron Pier, or drawn more widely from breweries like Beer York, Marble, Oakham or Thornbridge. Kegs, cans and bottles widen the repertoire to Beak, Signature, Yonder and a few Belgian classics. They're also proud of the homemade cupcakes. 08/23

Visitor note. The unusual name is from a now-vanished local pub and may have been a reference to the use of Bromley Common as a duelling ground. The distinctive David Bowie mural commemorates the musician's local links.

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 Barnehurst, 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](https://www.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

Robin Hood and Little John

Traditional pub

78 Lion Road, Bexleyheath DA6 8PF

T (020) 8303 1128 robinhoodbexleyheath.co.uk

Ⓢ Tu-Fr 11.00-15.00, 17.30-23.00, Sa 11.00-15.00, 19.00-23.00, Su 12.00-16.00, 19.00-22.30. Children until 21.00.

5-6 cask, 1 keg, 1-2 bottles

Food Sandwiches and homecooked Italian and English dishes, lunchtime only £-££. **Outdoor** Tables at front, rear very good garden.

Annual fundraising conker competition and quiz.

NR Bexleyheath Bus Iris Avenue

Upgraded from Try also. The beer range may be limited and leaning on the traditional bitter side – regulars like Adnams, Bexleyheath BOB and Harvey's, with guests from these breweries and others like Canterbury Ales and Westerham, plus decent Hofmeister lager – but this classic traditional pub in a cottagey 1850s building incongruously set among Bexleyheath suburbia is a multiple local CAMRA award winner for its well-maintained cask and friendly welcome. Three distinct spaces surround a central bar with traditional banquettes and tables, with the award and tankard collection off left. The leafy rear garden is scattered with statuary, complementing an unexpected Italian flavour to the lunchtime food. A former Courage pub, it's been in the same family management since 1980 and is now entirely independent. 08/23

Tankleys Brewery

Brewery, no visitors please

Sicup DA15 (Bexley) tankleysbrewery.com

First sold beer: due by May 2024

The Tankleys brand, an obscure family pun, has been around since 2015 when Australian-born homebrewer Glenn Heinzl first brewed commercially at the since-defunct UBREW in Bermondsey. A year later, fellow UBREW users Beerblefish began brewing on a larger scale at their own site in Enfield, and Glenn was brought in full time to run the operation. But he's continued Tankleys on and off as a side project ever since, developing recipes on a Grainfather homebrew kit and cuckoo brewing at Beerblefish and elsewhere. In 2023 he revived his brewing license and began brewing commercially on a domestic site in spring 2024. Activities should expand when a larger 1.6 hl kit is online later in 2024. 03/24

BEERS are mainly in cask, with some small scale bottling, sold locally and at festivals. The best-known is **Hawaiian Pizza Beer** (5.5%) which based on cuckoo-brewed examples is more serious than it sounds, smoky rather than sweet.

TRY ALSO

Riff Ruffs 28 George Street, Croydon CR0 1PB. Central Croydon coffee and beer stop right opposite George Street tram stop, run by beer veteran Claire: currently limited independently sourced range of four easy-drinking kegs, a handful of bottles, cider and occasional cask but may expand. Record shop downstairs. Closed Su-Mo. 12/23

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. In 2021 the brewery launched a new and very tasty nitro stout, **London Black*** (4.4%), which has rapidly become its best-selling beer, a London-brewed independent alternative to big commercial brands. 12/23

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

Bolthole. The beer range here has become even more restricted: two Harvey's casks when I called and a few multinational 'craft' brands. Perhaps no longer a recommendation. 08/23

Br3wery. In November 2023 the brewery relocated the kit to a dedicated production site just round the corner in Birkbeck Road (no visitors please), retaining the shopfront site as a taproom, now with rather more drinking space. 12/23

Cronx Brewery. The Cronx Bar at Croydon Boxpark closed when the lease expired in late 2020 but a new, and hopefully permanent, **Cronx Tap** subsequently opened in May 2023 in central

Croydon, a short step from Art & Craft and the Green Dragon. It's a contemporary bar-like space stretching a long way back from the street, with additional space at the back and a glass-walled quiet room above, ideal for working alongside a beer or two. You might well be able to compare Kotchin on both cask and keg, with lots of other keg choices dispensed from a smartly tiled back bar, about half from Cronx, the rest from the likes of Arbor, Drop Project, Glen Affric, Iron Pier or Tempest, including stronger, hoppier, sour and dark options. Kitchen popups have included Venezuelan street food. 12/23

Bar

71 High Street, Croydon CR0 1QE

[facebook.com/thecronxtap](https://www.facebook.com/thecronxtap)

⊕ Mo-Th 15.00-23.00, Fr 15.00-24.00, Sa 12.00-24.00, Su 12.00-20.00.

1 cask, 12+ keg, cans to be added, ciders.

Food Rotating popups, weekend evenings only £-££ ☺.

Tastings, quiz, film club, quiet room.

NR East Croydon, West Croydon TfL West Croydon Tram George Street Wk Links to Vanguard Way, Wandle Trail

Door Hinge. Under new ownership since 2019, this pioneering little micropub is much as before, retaining its look of a traditional pub in miniature, though now brightened up and with an extra room at the back with a dartboard and books. Still only three casks, but from independent, often London or Kent breweries, and usually including a traditional bitter, a more modern pale and a dark option, plus bag-in-box and bottled ciders. 08/23

Hackney Carriage has revised its hours and is no longer open on Mondays. ⊕ Tu-Th 15.00-22.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 12.00-22.00. 03/24

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

Next Door (Try also). Closed by early 2023. 08/23

Red Lion (Try also). A call in summer 2023 confirmed a relatively restrained bitter-only selection of cask choices, though flawlessly kept. Greene King Abbot and IPA and Harvey's Sussex Best are the regulars; the two guests are likely from bigger breweries or GK seasonals. 08/23

Southey Brewing Co is now open daily. ⊕ Mo-Th 17.00-22.00, Fr-Sa 12.00-23.00, Su 12.00-21.00. 08/23

Three Hounds should be expanding into the neighbouring unit soon, which should finally pave the way for the long-promised brewery. Meanwhile cuckoo brewing continues. 03/24

SOUTHWEST LONDON

Brixton, Clapham and Streatham

Craft Metropolis Arch Taphouse

Bar, bottle shop

Arch 263, 241 Coldharbour Lane SW9 8RR

[craftmetropolis.co.uk](https://www.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" (Elysive, 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

TRY ALSO

Kraft Brixton 43 Granville Arcade SW9 8PS [kraftbrixton.com](https://www.kraftbrixton.com). The former Taproom by Brixton Village in Brixton Village Market has reopened as a non-brewing outlet for German Kraft, selling beers brewed mainly at its Elephant site. Not yet visited, though see also Mercato Mayfair under Central: Westminster to Kensington. 08/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

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

Dogs Grandad. The brewery and taproom sadly closed in November 2023, though some cuckoo-brewed beers have since appeared. *03/24*

Earl Ferrers (Try also). The cask remains well-kept but be aware only one or two lines are likely to be on earlier in the week, up to four at weekends. The range is also less local due to sourcing difficulties through the pubco, an unfortunate example of good intentions stymied by an inflexible pub ownership model. *12/23*

Friendship Adventure opened an additional, offsite, taproom in a former fishmonger on Market Row in Brixton market in September 2023, though announced in February 2024 that it 'will temporarily close for the foreseeable future'. The taproom at the brewery remains open. *03/24*

Inkspot Brewery. The Art and Craft branch at 308 Streatham High Road is now closed; the branch at 2A remains open. *08/23*

Railway (Try also). A recent visit confirmed this as worth a look close to Streatham Common station: currently stocks four cask from London brewers and other reliable independents, plus around 15 bottles/cans of interest and eight kegs, most bigger brands but also the likes of Purity and Tiny Rebel. Big but community focused. *12/23*

Sympathetic Ear. With the unfortunate closure of Canopy reported above, this linked bar closed too in December 2022. *08/23*

Taproom by Brixton Village (Try also) closed by June 2022 but replaced in July 2023 by **Kraft Brixton**: see Try also above. *08/23*

Wandsworth

TRY ALSO

BrewDog Wandsworth 10 Southside Shopping Centre, Garratt Lane SW18 4TF **brewdog.com**. A BrewDog in a mall, opened in January 2023, although don't be misled by Google Maps into searching indoors, as the bar has street access at the corner of Garratt Lane, just opposite the Ram brewery site and Sambrook's. A typically brash space on two floors, with the usual mainly own-brand offer across 26 keg lines, although a few from former locals By the Horns and a richer seam of bottles and cans than normal, including good lambics, other mixed fermentation brews and aged strong stouts. *08/23*

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*

Masons Arms 169 Battersea Park Road SW8 4BT **masons-arms-battersea.co.uk**. Right by Battersea Park station, this reopened as one of Fuller's 'crafty' pubs in 2019, refurbished in the sort of stripped-back, distressed style more often deployed by certain other pub companies. Three casks include Dark Star brands, while 15 keg taps and 20+ bottles and cans encompass a range of styles from London and other British craft producers: expect BBNo, Brew Toon, Drop Project, Siren and Wiper & True among others, poured by knowledgeable staff. *08/23*

Telegraph Telegraph Road SW15 3TU **brunningandprice.co.uk/telegraph**. Upmarket chain Brunning & Price reopened this substantial Putney Heath landmark in 2020, adding a typically decent selection of up to eight cask lines, with locals like Sambrook's and Twickenham alongside Adnams and XT, plus Two Tribes on keg. Amazingly rustic and secluded given its proximity to busy Tibbets Corner interchange. *08/23*

HERITAGE PUB

Spread Eagle 71 Wandsworth High Street SW18 2PT **spreadeaglewandsworth.co.uk**. A substantial Grade II-listed three-star heritage pub-hotel built by Young's in 1898 almost opposite what was then its brewery site, this sports a decorative iron and stained glass canopy outside and seemingly acres of sparkling engraved glass within, backing an imposing bar and marking off three separate rooms. The left-hand bar would once have been divided further, but the extensive main bar with skylight was likely always a single space. There's a snug just inside the 'dining room and lounge' if you can snag it. Sympathetically refurbished and reopened in March 2022, it once again has hotel bedrooms upstairs. Standard Young's cask and keg beers but only a few steps from Sambrook's and BrewDog. *08/23*

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Battersea Brewery now has a second brewery and taproom, having taken over the former Spartan site. See Southeast: Bermondsey. *12/23*

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*

No Boring Beer. Notified as a possible Try also in August 2022 but since closed. *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, with Coalition beer sold in the pub. This arrangement ended at short notice in early January 2024, with Coalition returning to cuckoo brewing. The kit is currently inoperable with no plans to revive its use: all house-branded beer sold in the pub is now from Laine's main West Sussex site. *03/24*

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; BBN0, 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*

See also note on restructuring of Big Smoke pubs under Chains, pubcos and brewery pubs. *08/23*

Trafalgar

Traditional pub

23 High Path SW19 2JY T 07872 957662

thetrafsw19.co.uk

⊕ *Mo-Th* 16.00-23.00, *Fr-Su* 12.00-23.00. Over-14s only.

5 cask, 10 keg, 15-20 bottles/cans, 3-4 ciders/perries, some specialist spirits.

Outdoor Standing at front, garden to be added.

Mini beer festivals, live acoustic music.

TfL South Wimbledon **Cy** Link to NCN20, C7 **Wk** Link to Wandle Trail

This little hidden gem, a surviving Victorian pub tucked between housing and industrial estates, long stood as a shining example of how to sustain an old-fashioned community local as a beer champion in a challenging location, featuring in both previous editions. It survived one closure

threat in 2014 but was feared gone for good following the lockdowns as the freeholder had other plans for the site in what was now a redevelopment area. But these failed and, to the delight of local pubgoers, former operator Rodger Molyneux (of Hope Carshalton fame: p282) and business partner Oli Carter-Esdale bought it back. It reopened in September 2023, largely unchanged except for a lick of paint. Surrey Hills Shere Drop is the only cask regular, with rotating guests that might be from Burning Sky, Downton, Iron Pier, Kernel, Macintosh or Wimbledon, regularly featuring darker beers and milds. There's usually something fruity and/or sour, a hazy juicy and a stronger option on keg besides quality German lagers and local nitro stouts, with Belgian and German classics and cans from Cloudwater or Goodness in the fridge. Amazingly, they still manage to squeeze in live bands. 12/23

Visitor note. *The 2014 refurb integrated two previously separate structures: the original pub, built as a cottage in the 1870s, and an adjacent 1930s single storey building.*

TRY ALSO

Shinner and Sudtone 67 High Street, Sutton SM1 1DT shinnerandsudtone.co.uk. Another ex-Antic reassigned to Portobello, this town centre venue is worth knowing about in an area otherwise devoid of beery recommendations, with two cask lines, often Portobello or Big Smoke, and around 15 cans, largely from admired Londoners, Cloudwater and the like. Bigger than it looks, it stretches back a long way and preserves now-distressed remnants of pretty tiling. 08/23

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Albion and Antelope (Try also). Potentially affected by the restructuring of Big Smoke pubs: see Chains, pubcos and brewery pubs. 08/23

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 brewery suspended production early in September 2022 "until market conditions improve", but then was then formally dissolved in January 2023. 08/23

Watermans Arms (Try also). Closed unexpectedly in June 2022 following a rent increase; has since reopened but as a gastropub with little beer interest. 12/23

WEST LONDON

Ealing and Chiswick

Forester

Traditional pub

2 Leighton Road W13 9EP T 020 8567 1654

Ⓜ Mo-Th 11.00-23.00, Fr-Sa 11.00-24.00, Su 11.00-22.30. Children until mid-evening.

5 cask, 5 keg, 10+ bottles, 1 cider, specialist spirits, some wines.

Food Thai **££**, **Outdoor** Large beer garden.

Quiz (we), live music, functions.

TfL Northfields Bus Hessel Road

This big Grade II-listed corner pub with a three-star heritage interior is currently looking as good as ever following a spruce-up early in 2024. A recent return to direct Fuller's management has seen it up its beer game, without going full-on crafty. Fuller's flagship brands, seasonals and guests from the likes of Wiper & True provide the well-cellaried casks, with a smattering of modern craft and Belgian classics among the kegs and bottles, all enjoyed in one of the most beautiful pub interiors in London. The longstanding Thai restaurant franchise at the back endures, serving up Weeping Tiger steak, Bangkok fish and various veggie and meaty curry and noodle dishes, only a step from the Owl and Pussycat (update on Ealing Brewing below). 03/24

Visitor note. *This is one of the surviving masterpieces of renowned pub architect T H Nowell Parr, who designed it in 1909 for the Royal Brewery, Brentford. The exterior is an imposing but harmonious assemblage of projecting gables and pillared porticos. Four rooms surround a generously proportioned serverly with most of its original rich wood fittings and a central block that was once a manager's office, elegantly unified by Parr's trademark Tudor arches. Arguably the loveliest room is the old saloon on the left, with its bay window surmounted by stained glass, green tiled fireplace and the only known surviving examples in London of buttons intended for calling staff to your table. Just don't expect them to work!*

Northumberland Arms

Contemporary pub

11 London Road, Brentford TW8 8JB

T 020 8560 0506

⊕ *Mo-Th 17.00-24.00, Fr 17.00-01.00, Sa 12.00-01.00, Su 12.00-22.00. Children welcome.*

2-3 cask, 7 keg, 15+ bottles/cans, some whisky .

Outdoor Small rear balcony ☼.

Live music, beer events planned.

NR Brentford **Bus** Commerce Road Brentford Lock, Brent Lea **Wk** Brent River Park Walk, Capital Ring, Grand Union Canal Walk, Thames Path

Upgraded from Try also. Just on the Mortlake side of Brentford Bridge and right by the lock and the Grand Union Canal, this smallish pub functions as a beer oasis, a community local, a music venue and the taproom for the petite Tiny Vessel brewery (p313 and updated under Outer West London below). Run by brewery founder Ivailo, it stocks his beers in bottle, keg and occasional cask, alongside Oakham Citra and another cask choice, as well as several other beers of interest including Belgian classics (Achoffe, Duchesse de Bourgogne, Orval, Rochefort), Tynt Meadow and draught Budvar. Closed for over a year for refurbishment, it reopened in October 2022 with a bright, clean interior that's a bit more community coffee bar than pub but attractive enough with its Mondrian and Pollock-inspired murals. 08/23

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.

TRY ALSO

Brook 38 New Road, Brentford TW8 0NU thebrookfreehouse.co.uk. Formerly the Red Lion, this exceptionally friendly ex-Courage backstreet community pub reopened in its current independent guise in June 2019. One well-kept cask, often from Long Man, and nine interesting kegs (perhaps Jawbone, Mondo or Polly's), in a pretty Brewer's Tudor building given a contemporary but quirky makeover. Closed Mo-Tu. 08/23

HERITAGE PUB

Greenwood Hotel 674 Whitton Avenue West, Northolt UB5 4LA jdwetherspoon.com. 'The assembly room reminds me of the Great Gatsby and the lounge is like it's off the Titanic', a staff member told me at this vast and well-preserved late 1930s 'improved' pub. These are just two of the rooms now used as eating and drinking space: the former still has its stage with musical instruments found during the 2016 restoration, while the latter boasts a leaded glass skylight, original art deco woodwork on the bar counter and back bar and a painting of the building in its heyday. Also check the jug and bottle, now a snug; the beautifully light Green Room which retains its separate bar, though disused; the tiled Courage branding in one of the entrances; and the lengthy main bar, also with an original counter and panelling, just a little spoiled by games machines. We have Wetherspoon to thank for the restoration and it's also one of the chain's more beer-friendly venues, often *Good Beer Guide* listed, with up to 10 casks and a newly added range of craft cans. Accommodation is available too. 03/24

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Black Dog (Fearless Nomad). Brewing was suspended by June 2023, with the brewers currently considering its future. The pub remains fully open, however. 08/23

BrewDog Ealing. On a recent visit I noted a wider than typical selection of 100+ bottles/cans, with Belgian classics, Londoners and big wild and mixed fermentation bottles from 3 Fonteinen, Funk Factory (US) and others, as well as some BrewDog rarities. Around 25 keg lines are now mainly house beers, as in other branches, though with a local line (Gipsy Hill when I looked) and imports. Knowledgeable staff as always. 08/23

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, but by June the Brentford site had been sold and production has reverted to where it started, on the small kit at the **Owl and Pussycat** brewpub under the original brand name **Marko Paulo**. The brewpub is still an attractive call, serving exclusively house-brewed beers, with up to six cask, usually a rotating range of traditional styles including regular milds, stouts and stronger pale ales; six keg, always including a lager plus modern IPAs, wheat beers, sours and Belgian styles; plus the ciders and perries. ⊕ now *Mo-Sa 16.00-22.00, Su 13.00-17.00, children welcome.* 03/24

Fox (Try also). This classic pub now has a one-star heritage rating and an impressively extended sheltered garden. Five well-kept casks include changing guests that might be from Park or Twickenham, plus Five Points, Gipsy Hill and Pillars among five kegs of note. Built in 1909 for the Royal brewery, Brentford, and likely designed by renowned pub architect T H Nowell Parr, it retains a partly mirrored back bar and counter, fireplace at the rear, bench seating and some signing though has lost its dividing screens. 08/23

Fuller's Griffin Brewery. Although Meantime is now officially the home of the Dark Star brands (see Southeast: Greenwich and Lewisham), some are still being produced here, and there are no plans to move production of the best-selling Hophead to Greenwich. 08/23

George and Dragon. Though the brewhouse is still in place, it remains unused, and the beer range is reduced too, with the bottle and can fridge gone. The two cask lines and eight or so kegs that remain are mainly well-known big brands, although the likes of Siren might pop up. No longer a recommendation. 08/23

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

Tabard. Though the pub is as pretty as ever, the beer range has reduced substantially since it was rebadged as Greene King and it's no longer a top recommendation. 12/23

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

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. 08/22

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%).

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

See also note on restructuring of Big Smoke pubs under Chains, pubcos and brewery pubs. 08/23

Wolfpack Fulham

Contemporary pub

17 Vanston Place SW6 1AY wolfpacklager.shop

Ⓢ *Mo-Th* 16.00-23.30, *Fr-Sa* 11.00-01.00, *Su* 11.00-23.00, cash-free, children until 21.00.

14 keg, some specialist spirits 🍷.

Food Burgers, wings, pizza **££**, **Outdoor** Beer garden, tables at front 🍴 ↻.

Quiz (Mo), DJs (Fr), big screen sport, pool, functions.

TfL Fulham Broadway

Cuckoo brewer Wolfpack's (see Brewers without breweries) newest venue, opened in summer 2021 as a refurb of the former Jolly Maltster, offers the biggest beer range of the three in the most pubby venue, with remnants of engraved screens and half-panelling. Besides three or four Wolfpack brands there's an interesting range of other kegs, including Deya, Gipsy Hill and Belgians De Halve Maan and Delirium Tremens when I called. Self-proclaimed 'luxury junk food' includes burgers and wings, with veggie options. All the Wolfpack venues are sporty, lively and youthful, and this one is no exception, but has an attractive side garden and a great location overlooking a picturesque little square a short step from Fulham Broadway and Chelsea FC. 08/23

TRY ALSO

Fulham Arms 135 Stephendale Road SW6 2PR butcombe.com. This is one of five London pubs bought in autumn 2023 by Butcombe Brewery. Founded in 1978 and based just outside Bristol, Butcombe is a veteran first generation microbrewer, though since 2015 it's been part of the Jersey-based Liberation brewing group. It has approaching 40 pubs, mostly in its southwest England heartland, and brews some great beer, particularly traditional cask like its flagship bitter Original. The London pubs, though, are largely food led and none is a particular showcase for the

beer. The Fulham, in a well-heeled area near Chelsea Harbour, is smart and welcoming, with an impressive food offer, though the Original and another house cask I tried were also in good nick and several of the company's other core brands were on sale in keg and bottle. I'm told the **Brown Cow**, another in the group not far away at 676 Fulham Road SW6 5SA, is worth a look too. 03/24

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Macintosh Ales has now become a cuckoo brewer, with a workspace and taproom in N16. See North: Islington to Stoke Newington. 08/23

Prairie Fire, mentioned in the book as a Try also and upgraded to a full entry in a previous update, sadly closed in February 2024. 03/24

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.

Quiet Night Inn

Contemporary pub

60 Great Western Road W11 1AB

T (020) 3220 0099 forestroad.co.uk

⊕ *Mo-Th* 15.00-23.00, *Fr* 13.00-24.00, *Sa* 12.00-24.00, *Su* 12.00-22.30, cash-free. Children welcome.

1 cask, 6 keg, 6 cans, some cocktails and specialist spirits.

Food Enhanced pub grub **££**, **Outdoor** Garden at side.

Tu quiz, live music, seasonal events, pool, retro video and board games.

TfL Westbourne Park **Cy** Q16 **Wk** Link to Grand Union Canal Walk

Next door to Westbourne Park Tube, this old pub reopened in November 2023 as Forest Hill's first proper pub venue, stocking all their regular beers and specials in keg and can, with a rare opportunity to sample some of them from cask, alongside food options that might include jerk chicken, black and white quinoa salad or a variety of burgers. It's a stripped back space about a central bar with comfortable tables and a lively but friendly vibe that belies the somewhat ironic name. *08/23*

Visitor note. Built in 1875, the same year as the original Westbourne Park station, the pub was originally named the Metropolitan after the railway company that founded what became the London Underground.

HERITAGE PUBS

Elgin 96 Ladbroke Grove W11 1PY theelginnottinghill.co.uk. This sizable landmark a few steps from Ladbroke Grove station describes itself as a 'gin palace' though the popularity of gin had long declined by the time palatial boozers like this appeared in late Victorian times. It's one of the finest surviving examples in London, an 1898 refit of an 1867 building, now three-star and Grade II-listed, particularly noted for a unique and exquisite carved oak and etched glass screen that still separates the main bar from the left-hand room, a harmonious composition based on Romanesque arches and dotted with jewel-like faceted coloured glass inlays. The screen leads

into the richest room, where painted mirrors display hops among other flora and fauna, and an elaborate back bar is surmounted by a bas-relief frieze of apples. The large rear lounge boasts a skylight and original fireplace. Now a Young's pub with two regular casks and Deya among the keg taps. Not to be confused with its namesake in Maida Vale, listed in the book as a Try also. *03/24*

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 in 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. A short walk from another heritage pub, the Prince Alfred (p306). Three-star heritage rating. *08/22*

William 786 Harrow Road NW10 5JX **locipubs.com/william**. This large and discreetly handsome three-star pub opposite Kensal Green Cemetery, likely rebuilt for Truman's in the 1920s, was sympathetically refurbished and reopened by small operator Loci in November 2023. It has original stained glass, smart panelling, a long wooden panelled bar with cupboards that would once have been used to service handpumps, and a particularly attractive corner space, the Nelson Room, to the right, with its own curved bar. The vintage décor perfectly suits the current upmarket vibe. Purity is usually on cask, with a handful of better-known London craft kegs and imported bottles. With accommodation upstairs, the pub is open daily from breakfast onwards. *03/24*

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

See also note on restructuring of Big Smoke pubs under Chains, pubcos and brewery pubs. 08/23

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

Queens Head. The last time I looked, this Uxbridge pub had only Greene King and well-known national cask brands. 08/23

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 on the 3 hl kit was suspended during 2021 as the main outlet, the Northumberland Arms, closed for refurbishment. Activity resumed in March 2022 and the pub reopened six months later: see under Ealing and Chiswick above. 08/23

BEERS in bottle and keg are available from the pub and online ☞. Core brands are flagship **Summit Else** (5.2%) lightly spiced English IPA; **London Fog*** (6.9%), a New England IPA but on the less fruity, soupy side; and **Double Date** (7.4%) Belgian-style brown ale with dates. A cask-only chocolate porter, **Dark Matter** (4.5%, not tasted) appears in winter.

HERITAGE PUB

Queens Head 123 High Street, Cranford TW5 9PB queens-head-cranford.co.uk. Rebuilt for Fuller's in 1931 in quaintly cottagey Brewer's Tudor style, this pub among the residential sprawl surrounding Heathrow Airport now boasts one of the best-preserved interiors of its age. Two cosy rooms surround a horseshoe bar, much of it clad in original aged wood. The

striking arched exposed brick fireplaces are still in situ and even the imposing toilet doors in the left bar have survived. Don't leave without a look at the restaurant area off to the side, a big mock-Baronial hall with exposed timbers high above. It's still a Fuller's pub with two cask lines and the usual kegs and bottles, worth knowing about in an otherwise unpromising area. 03/24

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

Titsey Brewing Co has a new taproom with fine views on the North Downs Way at Clarkes Lane Farm, Tatsfield TN16 2JU. There's also a new online shop. ☺ *Th* 12.00-22.00, *Fr* 10.00-23.00, *Sa* 09.00-23.00, *Su* 09.00-22.00. 08/23

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, initially I believe at Curious Brew in Kent and Otter in Devon but more recently at Kirkstall in Leeds. 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 (11%), has been revived

as a special. Thanks to Roger Warhurst for some of the background. allsopps.com 03/24

Better World's Lowline Tap in Walworth closed on 26 May 2023 due to economic pressures and in October the company itself went into liquidation so is no longer cuckoo brewing. 03/24

Big Drop. Another low alcohol specialist that should have been in the book, this was founded by Rob Fink and James Kindred at now-closed shared Bermondsey brewery UBREW in October 2016 to brew 0.5% ABV beers after Rob gave up drinking and spotted a gap in the market. Former Wild Beer brewer Johnny Clayton was later appointed head of production. Though the business is currently based in Ipswich, UK production has been largely at Fourpure in Bermondsey for some time, and in May 2023 brewery owner In Good Company strengthened its relationship with the brand through a licensing deal. Beers in can and keg cover a variety of styles from lager to stout and brown ale, including changing specials, and are also brewed in Australia and the USA for local markets. bigdropbrew.com 08/23

Boxcar, as reported under East: Tower Hamlets, is currently a cuckoo, working at sites including Fierce in Aberdeen, with the dark mild made at Drop Project. boxcarbrewery.co.uk 08/23

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 used the former SlyBeast brewery at the Ram Inn in Wandsworth between autumn 2022 and early January 2024 but has since returned to cuckoo brewing: see under Southwest London. 03/24

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

Eko Brewery now have a taproom and plan a production brewery: see Southeast: Central. 12/23

Lucky Saint. I overlooked this low-alcohol lager specialist in the book, but it's recently opened a pub of the same name: see Central: Soho and Fitzrovia. 08/23

Macintosh Ales is now a cuckoo brewer: see North: Islington to Stoke Newington. 08/23

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. He continued cuckoo brewing but wound up the company early in 2024. 03/24

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

Mothership Beer. The expansion plans never came to fruition and the company had ceased trading by early 2023. 12/23

Roaring Four appears to have been inactive since the start of the pandemic. 03/24

Rock Leopard Brewing Co. As the company is close to opening its own site, I've moved updates to Been, gone and standing by below. 03/24

So What Brewing Co. See under Bullfinch above.

Spartan is now a brewer without a brewery: Battersea Brewery now owns and operates the Bermondsey site (see Southeast: Bermondsey) but the Spartan brands are still owned by the founders and may resurface as cuckoo brews. 12/23

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 is now active on its own kit: see under Outer Southeast London. 03/24

Toast Ale now has a taproom, Good Company – see Central London: Soho and Fitzrovia – but as it plans to launch its own brewery in Milton Keynes during 2024, I'm no longer regarding it as a London-based beer firm. 03/24

Truman's Beer. Following the closure of its Hackney Wick site in May 2022, Truman's became a cuckoo brewer. In September 2022 it was re-named **Big Penny** following the sale of the Truman brand, which may yet result in another brewer without a brewery: see under East London: Hackney. bigpenny.co.uk 08/23

Young & Co's Brewery. As stated in the book, when Young's quit the Ram brewery in Wandsworth in 2006, its beer brands transferred to Charles Wells' Eagle brewery in Bedford. In 2017, Wells sold the Eagle, its core brands and its interest in Young's to Marston's. Wells continued as a pub company but returned to brewing on a small scale in 2020 with a brewpub, Brewpoint, on a new site in Bedford, though with a new portfolio of beers. The same year, Marston's sold its brewing side, including the Eagle, to Carlsberg, creating the Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC). In late 2022, CMBC in turn sold the Eagle to Barcelona-based brewer Estrella Damm, whose brands it had long produced and distributed under license. The Young's beers were transferred to Wychwood in Witney, Oxfordshire, but Carlsberg has now closed that too, so production is now likely at Marston's Albion brewery in Burton upon Trent, which has long done all the bottling. 12/23

Wolfpack now offers several other branded beers besides its flagship lager, including a pilsner and a session IPA. Besides Greene King, some is brewed by GK subsidiary Belhaven in Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland, but the company remains independent and uses other, undisclosed, brewing partners too. See under West: Hammersmith and Fulham for a full review of the Fulham bar. 08/23

Yeastie Boys has a new taproom, the Pigeon: see Central: Shoreditch and Hoxton. 03/24

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 should commence brewing there at some point: 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

The brewhouse at the **Florence**, which previously operated as Florence, Head in a Hat and Craft

Academy but had been mothballed since 2018, was finally removed during a refurbishment in April 2023. 08/23

The **Firkin Brewery** is now operational: see Southeast: Greenwich and Lewisham. 12/23

Guinness is set to start brewing in London again, 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 Earlham 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 2022 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**. Plans were delayed by planning issues but permission has now been granted and the site should open in 2024. 08/23

Hop Stuff was bought and reopened as **SALT London** but has since closed again, though SALT are considering adding brewing facilities to one of their two bars: see under Southeast London: Greenwich and Lewisham above. 12/23

Mellor's went back to being a cuckoo before closing: see Brewers without Breweries. 08/22

Mothership Beer has ceased trading so is no longer a planned brewery. 12/23

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

Rock Leopard Brewing Co. Following a successful crowdfunding round in May 2022, the company found a unit at 13 Wagtail Walk SE2 9FE, in the new development of Cygnet Square, Thamesmead, close to Abbey Wood station. Owner Stacey Ayeh plans a community-focused 15 hl brewery and taproom which will work with nearby Shooters Hill College to provide NVQ training facilities. Following numerous delays, the taproom was finally granted a license in February 2024, though Bexley Council made a mistake in the hours, which didn't cover evenings or Sundays. This should soon be put right, hopefully paving the way for a spring opening. 03/24

As reported above, **Barnet**, both **BBNo** sites, **Block**, **Brick**, **CTZN**, **Deviant and Dandy**, **East Side**, **Enefeld**, **Goose Island Brewpub/Queens Head**, **Greywood**, **Jeffersons**, **Laine's Brew Lab**, **Mad Yank**, **Old Kent Road**, **OMEBEER** (formerly One Mile End), **Parakeet City**, **Solvay Society** and **Three Sods** have closed; **Earth Ales**, **Gorgeous**, **London Beer Factory**, **Magic Spells**, **Partizan**, **Three Hills** and **Weird Beard** have moved out of London; **Crate** has removed its brewhouse and committed to cuckoo brewing; and brewing at **Babel Beerhouse** (formerly Little Creatures), **Beavertown Tottenham Hotspur**, **Big Penny** (formerly Truman's), **Boxcar**, **Brewhouse and Kitchen Islington**, **By the Horns**, **Canopy**, **Dogs Grandad**, **E5 Bakehouse**, **Fearless Nomad**, **Husk**, **Macintosh Ales**, **Old Fountain**, **Ram Inn** (Laine, formerly SlyBeast, Coalition), **SALT London** (formerly Hop Stuff), **St Mary's**, **Urban Alchemy**, **Volden** and **Wrong Side of the Tracks** is currently suspended, with cuckoo production continuing in some cases.

With the previously unnoticed **Hammersmith**, the revived **Saint Monday** (formerly London Fields), **Ealing** returning to brewing at its original site as **Marko Paulo**, former cuckoo **Tankleys** now brewing in its own right and new arrivals **3 Locks**, **BrewDog Waterloo**, **Firkin**, **Great Beyond**, **Hopewell**, **Libertalia** and **Roundwood Project**, this brings London's current total of operating commercial breweries to **109**, suggesting a continued decline from the high point at the end of 2021 when 133 breweries were operating. The numbers could increase modestly shortly as the revival of **Canopy** as **Bird House** is imminent. 12/23

Chains, pubcos and brewery pubs

Barworks. As recorded above, the company sold 13 of its sites to Urban Pubs and Bars in October 2021. 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 Taverns. The Big Smoke Pub Co confirmed on 25 July 2023 that it was placed into administration then bought out by undisclosed new owners. All the pubs remain open and no staff have been laid off, at least for the moment, which is good news. But the development inevitably raises concerns for a potential narrowing of the beer range, and questions about the future of the Big Smoke brewery, now based just outside London in Esher under the leadership of star brewer Jenn Merrick and a major supplier to the pubs. The brewery is a separate company, unaffected by the sale, so it's possible new owners would be less inclined to support it. Co-founder Richard Craig insists, though, that "the pubs will continue to trade in exactly the same

way" and that the brewery "will continue to supply the pub company as well as our other customers", and it's rumoured that there are family connections between both old and new owners, so perhaps we'll see little change. The deal doesn't affect the Twickenham Taverns pubs, which are owned by a different but associated company and have been rebranded **Morgan Pub Collective**. It's unclear how it will impact on the company's 'expert partnership' with Punch, which has yielded several new outlets covered in these updates. I've flagged up the pubs potentially affected in the Updates and corrections entries above and will continue to monitor the situation. 08/23

Grace Land has begun brewing for its own outlets under the name Saint Monday following its acquisition of London Fields Brewery (see East London: Hackney). 12/23

Laine's no longer directly operates a brewpub in London so all its own-brand beer is now from the main brewery in Sussex: see People's Park Tavern above under East London: Hackney. However, it does now own a pub with a brewery again, the Ram Inn in Wandsworth, where Coalition beers are currently brewed by a third party (Southwest: Wandsworth). The group was included as part of the deal when Fortress bought Punch in December 2021. 12/23

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

Heritage pubs

The Pub Heritage Group changed its classification method for heritage pubs in April 2023. Rather than the confusing separate registers for pub interiors of national and regional importance and 'some regional interest', there's now a single national inventory with entries graded using a star system. There are three grades:

- *** Exceptional national historic importance, staying largely intact for the last 50 years or retaining features that are truly rare.
- ** Outstanding national historic interest, of somewhat lower intactness or rarity.
- * Special national historic interest, retaining historic layouts or exceptional features but with significant changes.

Though the new gradings are roughly equivalent to the old classifications, all the pubs have been reassessed and some have moved bands. Current grades for venues listed in the book and subsequent updates are as follows:

Argyll Arms W1	***
Barley Mow (Dorset St) W1 (updates)	***
Black Lion NW6 (updates)	***
Blackfriar EC4	***
Blythe Hill Tavern SE6	***
Boleyn Tavern E6 (updates)	***
Bricklayers Arms SW15	*
Churchill Arms W8	**
Cittie of Yorke WC1	***
Dog and Duck W1	**
Dove W6	***
Express TW8	***
Fellowship Inn SE6 (updates)	**
Forester W13 (updates)	***
Fox W7	*
George SE1	***
Great Northern Railway Tavern N8	**
Greenwood Hotel UB5 (updates)	***
Ivy House SE15	**
Jolly Coopers TW12	*
King Charles I N1 (updates)	**
Kings Arms SE1	**
Kings Arms W7	*
Lamb WC1	*
Magdala NW3 (updates)	*
Mayflower SE16	**
North Star E11 (updates)	*
Old Justice SE16 (updates)	**
Old Pack Horse W4	*
Old Red Lion SE11	***
Olde Cheshire Cheese EC4	***
Olde Mitre EC1	***
Olde Mitre EN5 (updates)	*
Pineapple NW5	**
Prince Alfred W9	***
Princess Louise WC1	***
Queens N8	***
Queens Head TW5 (updates)	***
Salisbury WC2	***
Salisbury Hotel N4	***
Shaftesbury Tavern N19	*
Spread Eagle SW18	***
Star Tavern SW1	*
Sultan SW19	**
Sussex Arms TW2	*
Tabard W4	**
Viaduct Tavern EC1	***
Victoria W2	***
Warrington Hotel W9 (updates)	***
Wenlock Arms N1	*
William NW10 (updates)	***
Windsor Castle W8	***

Mail order and subscription boxes

Bier Company, included in previous updates as a good source of London subscription boxes, has been absorbed by one of the major players in the market, Beer52, so is no longer particularly of note. 03/24

Festivals and events

The **Great British Beer Festival** is taking an unexpected break in 2024 thanks to rebuilding work at its regular venue, Olympia, and the difficulties of finding an alternative venue for an event like this, particularly at short notice. No venue has yet been confirmed for 2025. 03/24

2023's **London Craft Beer Festival** expanded with a series of fringe events under the banner of **We Are Beer Week**, with tap takeovers, tastings, meet the brewer sessions and the like at various pubs and other venues. Whether the exercise will be repeated in subsequent years remains to be seen: check londoncraftbeerfestival.co.uk nearer the time. 08/23

Other recommendations

A London Beer and Pub Guide. I was very sorry to hear of the unexpected death of beer expert Fred Waltman in June 2023. Fred was the California-based tech brains behind this online London guide and app and numerous others covering key beer cities in Europe and North America. He was also a well-known and much-loved personality on the international beer scene, a keen homebrewer, writer and tour organiser. Jezza and Steve, who provided nearly all the content for the London guide, are hopeful they can continue, but Fred will be sorely missed. 08/23

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

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