

# BREWERY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



**No 99**  
**December 2022**

# BREWERY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter 99

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## Roger's twenty fourth

*Bannaghtyn* from the rock. The tourists have largely gone home, the clocks have gone back and so we batten down hatches awaiting the inevitable winter storms. Local brewer Okells commemorated the long reign of Queen Elizabeth by launching a special called Lord of Mann. Our Island is a self-governing Crown Dependency and our Head of State is the Lord of Mann and has been since 1504. The Stanleys provided the first ten Lords, the seventh having his head chopped off for being on the wrong side in the Civil War. In the early eighteenth century the title passed to the Dukes of Atholl. Presumably being a bit short of readies, the Island suzerainty was reverting in the British crown for £70,000 in 1765 and George III became Lord of Mann. The beer helped use up a large stock of Chinook hops bought by an earlier head brewer and was hugely popular probably because it was sold for £2.70 a pint!



The new Lord enjoys a glass of beer

The biggest bombshell to hit the brewery history world for a long time must be Molson Coors' announcement that it was to close the National Brewery Centre, formerly the Bass Museum of Brewing, at the end of October saying they needed the site to build some new HQ offices. It has sold the existing ones to the local authority which wants to develop a site beside the river surrounding the iconic 1866 Bass water tower. A big question hangs over the future of the artifacts and the archives. No government can tell a corporate body what to do unless it is breaking the law so the crux of this problem can be traced back to Bass founding the place back in 1977. The collection was always a corporate asset and not protected by any sort of Trust, perhaps it will be now. Even a trust is not a guarantee as the Wedgwood Museum in the Potteries found out a few years back when a pension fund made a claim which involved a bail out from the V&A and public subscription. Whichever way this goes, millions will be involved. There is more background to this story on P26. Watch this space.

We continue to work with the IBD using its 'flipping books' facility. The links to have a flip are in the Newsletter option on the BHS home page. The Chairman has emailed a password so that you can see the last four issues before they move into the public domain. Next job is to get the Journal up but have a play around and let us know what you think. I have also added the 107 breweries in the British Isles which I visited while I was working for the IBD. To respect the IBD's intellectual property rights, the pages are read only. The Bitly link is <http://www.bit.ly/BHSat50>

A recent study of 500 pubs suggested 35% of them will have difficulties surviving the winter with increasing energy, food and beer prices on top of higher labour costs and turnover. Some 75% say they have seen a downturn in the number of meals served as the public tightens its proverbial belt. People in London might not worry about a £7 pint but the rest of us will so the hospitality sector continues to plead for help in meeting costs.

Copy dates for 2023 are... NL100 - end January; NL101 - end of April; NL102 - end of July and NL103 - end of October 2023.

*Slaynt vie as tannee-shiu sauçhey*



**Front and back covers;** This month we feature the John Smith's Brewery at Tadcaster during 2008. Taken over by Courage in 1970, it passed to Scottish Courage and on to Heineken. To see more of Roger Putman's photos taken while he was Editor of the Brewer & Distiller magazine, go to the BHS Brewerypedia pages

## BHS Calendar

The Visits team is currently putting together a full program for 2023 which we hope to publish in the next issue.

### Fancy a trip to Antwerp?

Our Visits Secretary Steve Elliott has been liaising with our friends at Crookham Travel to plan an overseas visit to Antwerp. This will aim to take place in October 2023. There are a number of breweries that we could visit and the team at Crookham are looking at various options. However, much will depend on the numbers of members who are interested in this event.

If you would like to be included in a three day trip around some of the breweries of Antwerp please let Steve know on [visits@breweryhistory.com](mailto:visits@breweryhistory.com). The overall cost of the trip will not include travel to Antwerp. However, it will include accommodation if we have a sufficient numbers to be able to negotiate a better deal at one of the hotels in the city.

### Nice to be out and about again



Steve Elliott presents the BHS certificate to John Hatch and Duncan Sambrook. Photo by Mick Connors

AGMs aside, what a delightful way to get the trips back on the agenda again after the pandemic. We were kindly hosted by Duncan Sambrook and John Hatch at Sambrook's Brewery, Wandsworth, London.

We had an excellent tour with talk given by John Hatch around the adjacent Young's Heritage Centre. John gave the tour with great humour and wit and enthusiasm. All of the BHS said that the tour went by so quickly and that they could have listened to John for hours. Duncan Sambrook then showed us around the brewery and provided a great insight into the set up and how they moved in with the constraints of working around a listed building.

The BHS enjoyed some excellent Sambrook beers accompanied with food off of the pizza menu and all agreed that they had a fantastic afternoon.

*Steve Elliott, Visits Secretary*

### GGB meeting at Stralsund 2022

I went by train from Luxembourg to Stralsund and enjoyed the usual German railway experience of delays, missed connection, more delays, overcrowded trains and so on! The annual meeting of our German counterparts the GGB (Gesellschaft für Geschichte des Brauwesens), Society for Brewery History took place in Stralsund in September. It was hosted by the local Störtebeker Braumanufaktur (right). Stralsund is an old Hanseatic city in the far north-east of Germany, on the Baltic coast near the Polish border.

There were about 60 people present, including Michaela Knör, whom we met in St Austell and several from Luxembourg. We were shown round the brewery and heard about its history by the owner, Jürgen Nordmann. It was founded in the city centre in 1827 and moved to its present site in Greifswalder Chaussee on the edge of the town in the 1890s. It survived the two world wars and with great difficulty the DDR period, at the end of which production had dropped to almost nothing. The brewery was privatised and reinvented itself as a craft brewery under the Störtebeker name in the 1990s. Klaus Störtebeker was a legendary Baltic and North Sea pirate who was eventually beheaded in Hamburg in 1401.

The brewery produces 21 beers under the Störtebeker brand and others under the Stralsunder name. They include Atlantik-Ale, Bernstein Weizen, Schwarzbier, Kellerbier, Nordik-Porter, Nordisch Hell, Pazifik-Ale and Übersee-Pils. The brewery carries far too many products according to the consultants, but they are ignored. Non-alcoholic beers and fruit syrups are also produced. Double decoction mashing is used, except for infusion mashing in the Belgian Wit. 25 to 30 different malts are used, including peat-smoked malt for the Scotch Ale and about 25 varieties of hops.

We then heard a virtual talk by Bernd Birkenstock on changes in brewing science and technology during his career as a brewing scientist, notably in the Jhring-Melchior brewery in Lich. The AGM proper was followed by a buffet with plenty of beer, finishing up with a taste of a malt-whisky barrel aged version of Nordik-Porter of around 10% ABV. On the next day we had a guided tour of the old city with its three enormous Gothic brick churches, lunch in a historic restaurant, and a visit to Zur Fähre, which claims (on what evidence I know not) to be Europe's oldest harbour pub, dating from 1332. Next year's meeting will be in Berlin.



*Peter Dyer*

## From the Chairman

Hello everyone, welcome to the latest BHS Newsletter.

With the recent news of the closure of the National Brewery Centre in Burton at the end of October we are particularly grateful that we were able to have our recent AGM there in July. It's a very special place with a wonderful collection on display. We wish the NBHT (National Brewery Heritage Trust) every success in finding a new home to protect and display the collection. In the meantime the NBHT are protecting the archive and library material for posterity. We look forward to hearing of a successful way forward and wish them every success.

As life settles back towards normality after lockdown, albeit constrained by the current economic climate, we are busy trying to put a programme of visits, walks and meetings to enjoy in 2023.

After very many years of running the BHS Bookshop for us Paul Travis is having to call it a day. As a result we shall limit the scope of the operation to cover BHS publications and to clearing the few remaining items of other stock. Is there a member out there who is

interested in taking on this role and would like to discuss it further? Ideally you would have space to hold some stocks of books but as we move into 'print on demand' stock levels should diminish over time. Do please get in touch and discuss this with Paul and myself if it is of interest.



We are delighted that Paul is staying on the committee and we thank him for his hard work on our behalf over such a long time.

Do have a look at the top panel on the BHS home page to see the books still for sale, after all Christmas is coming.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to a busy and enjoyable year ahead.

Jeff Sechiari  
chairman@breweryhistory.com

## Membership Matters

Our new electronic membership category, which we thought may be of particular interest to our overseas members has already attracted a number. This has a reduced subscription of £15 and offers PDF copies of each Journal and Newsletter throughout the year.

### New members

We welcome the following new and rejoining members and hope that you all enjoy your membership of the Society. Please spread the word – we are always keen to have new members.

*Corporate members*  
BFBi

### Individual Members:

Peter Bassett, Oxfordshire  
Simon Fowler, Richmond, Surrey  
David Michael Harrison, Derby  
Brian Pipe,

James Weir, London

Interests: Brewery Tour Guide, Victorian  
brewery history and operation, social history

Steve Williams, London

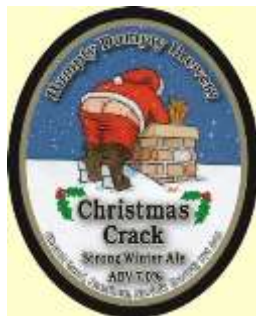
### BHS Bank details

Please use your surname and post code as reference  
Bank Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account: 7979 4180

2022	UK	Overseas
Individual - full	£33	£45
- retired	£30	£45
Electronic	£15	£15
Additional (at same address)	£5	£5
RCB Corporate	£60	£115
Corporate	£115	-

Jeff Sechiari, Membership Secretary  
membership@breweryhistory.com  
Address withheld

## Nollick Ghennal as Blein vie noa



## Ken Smith's London East End walk

Three breweries, three pubs and lots of East London lore



Mann's Albion Brewery

A perfect but very warm day at the end of the second August heatwave was perfect for the East End brewery walk. The mini talks were conducted in the shade of convenient trees. The only obstacles were a train strike leaving the Tube working but interrupted for bus transfer at Tower Hill due to engineering works. Not knowing London Transport too well I was about three quarters of an hour early and sought some breakfast.

Passing some distinctly dodgy cafes (burnt steak and chips is a microbiologists ideal meal) I discovered Spoons' Half Moon in a former synagogue just 100 yards from the meeting point at Stepney Green District Line station. Pints of Abbot at £2.95 were tempting but despite only being 10.15 several of the clientele were well into breakfast and on their second round. The coffee and bacon butty were sufficient for the occasion. I have always believed that Wetherspoons and MacDonaldis have their function in life and are



Blind Beggar pub

somewhat more present and practical than Michelin stars. Refreshed but still sober I linked up with Ken Smith our host for the day.

Mann's Albion brewery survives as a facade in a courtyard of buildings converted to flats – a roof water tank survives which cunningly collected rainwater from a series of roofs. We were privileged to be admitted by a resident to see the detail invisible

from the street and the war memorial in the foyer. Some natives were rather objectionable and we were reminded of the fate of Captain Cook whose house was the next point of interest.

I had noticed the Blind Beggar pub and somehow the name was familiar, We were told that was the location where the Krays shot a man but in the tight knit community nobody noticed anything of help to the police. In a more recent but similar incident in Dublin's equivalent a motorcyclist had an accident and a helpful bystander 'took care' of his backpack so that he would not have to take his drug consignment to hospital. I admire the homeliness of the designation close knit community.

Little remains of Charrington's except a facade and gateway to a soulless retail park. This may be a divine judgement because nearby William Booth founder of the Salvation Army is commemorated by a statue outside his premises. He was supported by Charrington who eschewed his beer fortune to pursue the Temperance movement. The parallel with Fr Matthew in Ireland is unmistakeable. The said priest administered temperance pledges to four million Irish people in 1828 and ruined 50 distilleries and another 50 breweries. His statue adorns both O'Connell Street in Dublin and Patrick Street in Cork. The pose is strikingly similar to Booth with his hand aloft pointing a finger which is easily adorned by students with a beer tankard.

Peter the Painter and the siege of Sidney Street were the next point of interest. Back in 1911 the police took up an observation post not in the brewery tower but in the bottling hall tower. I had heard most of the story involving Churchill but in Ireland during the 1920 troubles a Luger pistol was known as a Peter the Painter and often had a stock turning it into a sort of carbine.

Along the way we observed some dozen antique pattern telephone kiosks which seemed plentiful but apparently are a rarity. Scenes associated with Jack



The Truman brewery and lots of graffiti

the Ripper featured as of course this area is Whitechapel though well sanitised from its macabre past.

Well concealed in a side street the Pride of Spitalfields formerly the Romford was a perfect halt for a pint of Five Points Pale. A true community pub, it was the local of one of the party when he worked in the area. The pub burned down without insurance cover some years ago but the community had it back and running in no time.

Extensive remains of Truman's Brick Lane site remain repurposed as a vibrant food market. It is poignant to see the size of the site and the number of modern buildings which can only have been constructed shortly before closure in 1989 after 300 years brewing.

Furze Brewery on Commercial Road is now a student flats complex but has retained some structural features

of the old brewery and the buildings have been refitted.

The Ten Bells in Commercial Street was packed out. It must be trendy and mentioned on TripAdvisor. As an alternative we finished at the nearby Golden Heart – a former Truman's pub with signage from the era while the "S" was still attached. Somebody had to ascend the brewery chimney to (mostly) conceal the "S" on rebranding in the 1960s. The beer served was Truman's now made by Black Eagle Brewery. Dehydration must have set in because I swallowed four pints over a couple of hours without any diuretic effect before travelling to Heathrow for the return flight. A brewery walk was a perfect way to see hidden London in scintillating company

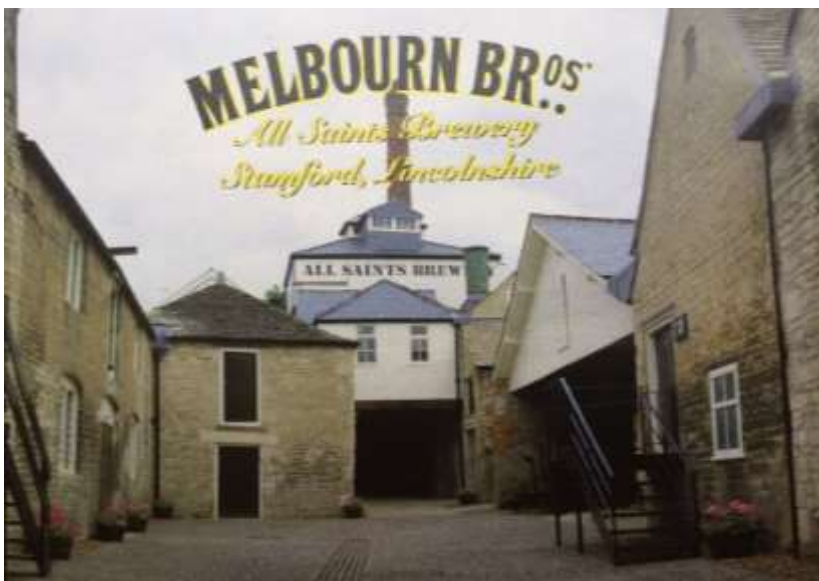
*Eddie Bourke with assistance from  
David Bunyan*

## 150 years of the Melbourn All Saints Brewery at Stamford – Part 1

The town of Stamford in South Lincolnshire has a brewing past which dates back to the middle ages, indeed up to the 1930s there were four breweries in the town plus several home brew pubs. All except the All Saints Brewery have now ceased to brew. The last to stop mashing was Phillips St Martins Brewery which was taken over by the Northampton brewery in 1952, before that was Lowe, Son and Cobbold at the St Michaels Brewery taken over by Holes of Newark in 1935 and G & H. R. Hunt of Water Street taken over by Mowbray of Grantham in 1927. There were also two others, a home brew pub, The Exeter Arms up to 1921 and Christopher Martin at 30 Foundry Street, also up to 1921.

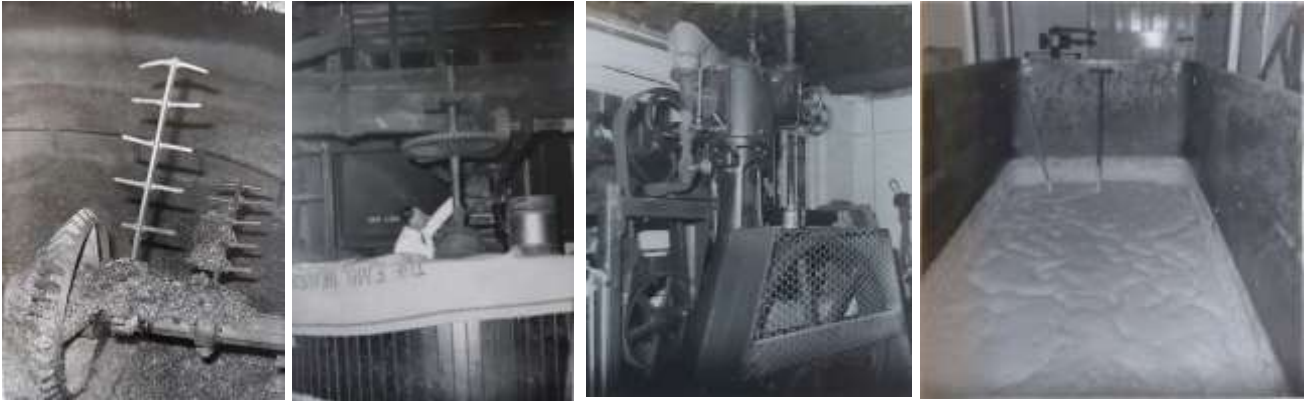
The site of the All Saints brewery is said to have had a brewery on it and a public house known as The Talbot dating from the seventeenth century. Surveys by a Cambridge Archaeological Society in the 1960s indicated the area of the offices started life as a medieval dining hall, open from floor to roof with a central fireplace and smoke blackened roof timbers. The brewery itself is a hotch potch of buildings huddled together around a central chimney, some parts being older than others. All are roofed and clad in local materials; brown stone with wavy brown Collyweston slate roofs in keeping with the other buildings in Stamford. The old beer cellar was once used as a maltings. It is thought that the basis for the modern brewery was established in about 1825 prior to the Melbourn Brothers taking over.

About 1865 two sons of a yeoman farmer named Melbourn, who farmed in the village of Ingham just north of Lincoln, decided they wanted to break away from farming and go into the brewing trade. Herbert the elder son decided to go to Germany for a few years to



learn more about the brewing trade. On his return he leased the current small brewery on the site and later purchased the business in 1869. In 1870 he was joined by his brother Stanley and the firm of Melbourn Brothers was established. Whilst in Germany, Herbert had been trained in wines and spirits and had made connections there which were useful in building up the wine business for which the brewery was famous. An invoice dated 7th November 1870 showed he purchased bottled wines from H.Sichel & Sohne Germany and two hogsheads of 1865 Claret, the latter he bottled at the brewery. In those days the tied house system was in its infancy and the brothers relied mainly upon private customers and farmers for their trade in the immediate area of the town.

However with the brewery previously being leased from the Marquess of Exeter there was an opportunity to supply and lease a handful of public houses also owned by the Marquess from the Burleigh estate which he



The brewery in 1974, the mashing arms, the steam engine drives the sparge, the steam engine and inside a fermenter.

owned. After acquiring the brewery, the Brothers set about an expansion and an update of the plant.

In 1873 a new open Pontifex copper was installed as well as three round fermentation vessels which were made of white cedar (later copper lined), they were made by three different companies namely Shuters, Chippingdale and Collyer giving a total capacity of 190 barrels. A hop back was also installed being supplied by Brindley and Biggs. The total brew length was 60 barrels and by 1970 they were still brewing two or three times a week with this equipment. The two brothers registered the private company in 1875 and the following year disaster struck when a fire broke out damaging some of the plant. This led to the mash tun being replaced with a new 12 qtr vessel.

By 1896 the Brothers had re-equipped the brewery which then had a new chimney, together with the new mash tun, copper, hop back and fermentation vessels all lined or made of copper. The only second hand plant was an old steam engine made by Marshalls of Gainsborough and a horizontal Cornish boiler. The engine drove a mill and the sparge arms in the mash tun. A new coal fired Cornish boiler was installed in 1902 which lasted for some 70 years before being condemned. By 1904, one of the peak years early in the C20th, brewing costs were as follows for the year;

Beer Duty	£2324
Malt	£2400
Hops	£1016
Cooper	£142/10/-
Beer bottles	£42/15/-

Interestingly it is noted that the company bottled beer which was unusual for such a small organisation at this time. For the rest of the trade, the company sold the beers in hogsheads, barrels, kilderkins and firkins, the latter two mainly for private customers and farmers. It was during this period when wines and spirits sales became a very important part in the company's business. The cellars under the offices were ideal for the storage of casks of clarets, ports, rum, gin, French brandy and whisky. They were bottled by hand and corked using a primitive corking machine before storage on racks. In 1904 the wage bill of the brewery

totalled £18 per week, whilst the men's beer allowance totalled just over £1 a week.

In 1910 Herbert purchased a second hand 1908 De Dion car costing £175 but spent £82/15/- on repairs over the next year. Also in that year the company purchased, second hand from a Biggleswade laundry, a 15 HP steam engine for well pumping, cask washing and drying. In February 1912 they replaced the car with another one costing £162 and for the Grantham depot purchased a motorcycle. In 1912 the office was equipped with a typewriter and the company was one of the first to have a telephone in Stamford.

In this period major depots were established and by 1912 they had depots at Grantham and Brayford Head in Lincoln with smaller ones at Leicester and Whittlesey. Herbert ran the business at Stamford and Stanley was based at Grantham as well as looking after Lincoln. In Stamford the railway station was nearby and the Brothers used the railways to supply the depots with onward deliveries being made by horse and cart within a 25 mile delivery area of each depot. With the Brothers' connections they were able to purchase four public houses in the Lincoln area where they were not represented. During this period most brewers were purchasing public houses and by 1923 they had bought or leased some 22 tied properties. It was about this time that the partnership was dissolved and the depots at Grantham and Lincoln were closed to save on costs. Herbert retired to Bournemouth and the brewery was run by a Brewer/Manager. Herbert died in January 1927 leaving the profits to his wife and the business in trust to the male descendants of his brothers as he had no children himself.

The brewery entered a period of little activity and cautious expansion with six houses purchased over four years. These were: in 1927 The Boot and Shoe at South Luffenham. The Brewery Inn home brew pub in Stamford in 1929 and in 1931 purchased four pubs; The Six Bells Witham, The Five Bells Morton, The Crown Inn and The Plough Inn both at Casterton. Later that year the Royal Oak Heckington was fully rebuilt. In 1936 as the company's assets increased it was decided to make the brewery into a private limited company. The 1930s were a difficult time for breweries but the company had during this time achieved a substantial

base in its wines and spirits trade, which helped offset any loss of trade in the pubs.

The Second World War brought a few problems with supplies limited and the introduction of zoning where the company supplied other brewers local pubs whilst their own distant ones were supplied by competitors. The war time also had a major influence on the trade in wines and spirits with supplies of wines particularly a problem. From about 1900 until the outbreak of the Second World War bulk deliveries of spirits in hogsheads were made to the company and they made their profit on 'marrying' that is watering down to the correct strength, bottling and selling.

On receipt, the spirits in the hogsheads were put into a large room some 25 feet high, behind the lower office. Around the room were four huge wooden vats of 500, 400 and two of 250 gallons capacity made of oak and about 2.5 inches thick. The vats were polished outside and bound by black hoops. The first process was to empty the hogsheads into two gallon copper cans.

These were counted on a tally card and handed up to a cellarman at the top of a ladder who kept another tally card as a check. The can was then emptied into a copper funnel in the head of the vat. During the operation the strength of the spirit was checked several times and entered in a register for Excise approval. The strength and quantity of the new spirit determined the amount of distilled water required and this was gradually added over a period of a week or so. The gradual dilution was necessary as too much water in one go made the final product cloudy and it was almost impossible to rectify. During the operations the mixture was stirred using a huge pole which was inserted in the top of the vat and turned like a dolly peg. After a period of rest the spirits were either bottled for individual sale or put into earthenware jars of a gallon or half gallon for pubs. This was a very labour and time-consuming process which continued until the mid 1950s when they were taken out of service.

*Geoff Dye (to be continued)*



*Tending the open copper, yeast filter, bottling and cask racking in 1974*

## The Breweries of Derbyshire

### *Shardlow and the Cavendish Bridge and Trent breweries*



*The Trent Brewery (upper left) and Cavendish Bridge Brewery (lower right) at Shardlow on opposite sides of the River Trent*

The rise and fall of both the Cavendish Bridge and Trent breweries, coincides very much with the fortunes of the township of Shardlow, with which they were both inextricably linked. Their lifespan was not dissimilar; both closing within the same decade in the 1920s. The Trent brewery, originally a malt house, was built around 1790 alongside the Grand Trunk (renamed 'Trent and Mersey') Canal. Downstream from the Trent brewery, its counterpart at Cavendish Bridge was built in 1815, alongside the river, at the Canal's southern terminus.

Built to link the Trent and Mersey, and therefore the major ports of Hull and Liverpool, the canal was the work of the Derbyshire - born engineer James Brindley - and part of his Grand Cross plan (linking the Mersey, Severn and Thames). It provided a new major inland water route and at 93 miles, was the earliest long distance English canal. Its completion in 1777 meant a transfer of traffic from the Trent river and brought in new industries including rope making, corn milling, boat building and brewing. It made Shardlow the third largest inland port in the UK.





Unloading barley at the Trent Brewery, the name on the sacks looks like 'Garner'

The Trent Brewery, established in 1865 as Statham & Co., was run by Isaac Statham in partnership with Zachary Smith. This was dissolved in 1867 becoming Z. Smith & Co. Zachary's brother John (later Sir John) was a brewery engineer who conveniently owned a group of pubs in nearby Derby (and a Derby brass foundry). Both died childless in the late 1890s. The company was registered in 1898 as Z. Smith & Co Ltd. and run then by the Herrod brothers; with George as Managing Director and John as Company Secretary. Both died in 1922 and the brewery, together with over 80 public houses, was bought by Marston, Thompson & Evershed Ltd., that same year. Brewing ceased in 1930, but Marston's continued to use the name to acquire further companies (eg *G. Pim & Co Ltd*, Stoke-on-Trent) and to build new public houses.

Although sited on the opposite bank of the river, just across the bridge boundary with Leicestershire, the hamlet of Cavendish Bridge is more readily associated with Shardlow and Derbyshire than with its more northerly neighbour, Castle Donington, in Leicestershire.

The earliest brewery in the hamlet was that of John Fletcher who founded the Cavendish Bridge Brewery in 1815. Fletcher, and his son Henry, retired from the brewery when the founder was in his late 50s and sold, sometime around 1841 to George Trussell Eaton and his brother John. They were then aged just 20 and 15 respectively and at that stage probably financed by their father William, a well-to-do farmer from Sutton-on-the Hill.



In the succeeding years George, principally, expanded the brewery, maltings and the whole business, trading as George Trussell Eaton's Cavendish Bridge Brewery. He grew the company from a small firm employing five men, to a 50 strong company owning licensed houses stretching across

Derbyshire and north Leicestershire. John, the younger brother, retired from the trade and entered the Church.

The Eaton family had a strong influence in the community; George acted as a small squire to his work people. He built stables and a kitchen garden to the south of the brewery and founded a school which he allowed the vicars of Shardlow and Castle Donington to use for services on Sunday afternoons. However, he died in 1879, aged 60, leaving his young widow Julia, to control the company, albeit with the help of a brewery manager. During this period the firm advertised itself as simply 'Eaton's Cavendish Bridge Brewery' (CBB).

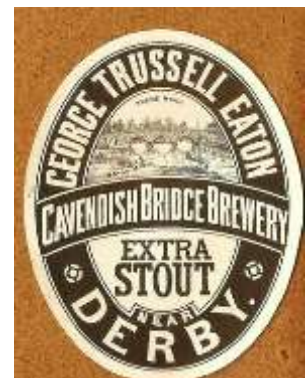
Julia remarried in 1884 becoming Mrs James Roney-Dougal. James originally had come to Cavendish Bridge to learn the brewing trade, but in 1890 he was ordained. Up to that point Julia had continued to control the company, albeit with the help of a Brewery Manager. None the less, holding down the dual responsibilities to the business, to the Church - as a vicar's wife and with a family of five children would have been testing.

In May 1896 the executors of the late Lord Donington, owner of the Donington Park Estate, offered to rent 36 licenced premises to Offilers' Brewery Ltd, of Derby for £1850 per annum. Lord Donington, the largest landowner in the area, was very influential. Many, perhaps most of his pubs would have purchased beer from CBB.

In the following weeks, Offilers with the agreement of their bank decided to double its share capital to £100,000, financed by the issue of £60,000 mortgage debentures and preference shares. On its part the bank agreed to raise Offilers' overdraft to £25,000 and to underwrite £40,000 of the debentures. Thus, Offilers was able to offer to buy the Cavendish Bridge business, for £67,500. For this sum they acquired a freehold brewery, 12 freehold houses, 14 short term leased houses, two residences, 20 cottages and a 100 quarter maltings. Completion was scheduled for Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 1896.

A factor in the sale would have been the influence of John Shields, agent to Lord Donington and the fact that John Shields ended up being appointed as a Director of Offilers suggests he had a financial stake in the Eaton business.

The capacity of CBB was just over half that of the cramped Derby site; so its acquisition was a good way of expanding in the face of rising sales. In their first ten years Offilers invested in new buildings and equipment, for instance by doubling the maltings capacity. Moreover, they gave the site more prominence by moving the Company Secretary to refitted offices at CBB and also



horse drawn transport distribution, especially to their Leicestershire outlets, was easier from Castle Donington. The site's output soared.

After the Great War these advantages became less obvious. The post war slump in trade, encouraged by the reduction of licenced premises, reduced output and the availability of motorised transport, made it easier to supply its Leicestershire outlets directly from Derby. Furthermore, progressive purchases of land around the Derby brewery over the previous twenty years had allowed expansion of the Ambrose Street plant and its output.

1922 was a year of change at Offilers, with the December appointment to the Board firstly of Harry Cecil Offiler, or 'Cis' as he was commonly known, as Managing Director to replace his father who had died just a month earlier; and secondly of F.R. (Reg) Offiler, Cis's elder brother. Reg was also appointed in charge of motorised transport, appropriately given his engineering apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce, which he had chosen in preference to starting at Offilers.

## Give me Dare's – The Perfect Beer

### *The story of Dare's in Birmingham*

Dare's Brewery was originally established in 1885,



when William Dare is listed at 16 Highgate Street and the Grand Turk, Birmingham. Later in 1903, William Dare & Son moved to Belgrave Road, Balsall Heath and established their Southend Brewery. In August 1927, it was registered as a private company with assets of £75,000 and became Dares Brewery Ltd to acquire the brewery business, along with other land and buildings relating to the brewery.

Dares remained a private company, controlled by family members, including J.H. Dare as Chairman, W.H. & N.J. Dare as Joint Managing Directors and A.T. Dare as fellow Director. For many years, their Head Brewer was William Glew. The Dare family were keen fishermen and some of the pubs were located by rivers, canals or lakes, including the Boat near Solihull, Beckford Hotel near Evesham, Navigation Inn near Bromsgrove and

At the December 1922 board meeting 'Cis' brought in changes. The most significant of which was the decision to effect economies by concentrating all brewing at Derby by closing the CBB operation, except for the maltings. A few of the Castle Donington staff, were transferred to Derby, to cope with the increased production output; most were dispersed. The maltings were closed in 1923. Cis Offiler expressed the view in 1925 that he hoped to be able to reopen Cavendish Bridge, but the hoped-for upturn in trade did not happen. Offilers offered the site for sale and over the next seven years there were a variety of bids, until it was sold in 1931 to the *Trent Navigation Company*, later '*British Waterways*'.

For a period from 1993 parts of the site, firstly the kiln house, then from 1996 the old stables were used by the Shardlow Brewing Co. They closed in 2020 moving brewing to the brewery tap, a pub in Melbourne.

*John Arguile*

Reservoir Hotel at Earlswood Lakes. In the city, the All Saints Tavern, Hockley, was one of their typical pubs.

In the 1930s, they often advertised in Midland Red staff magazines, one of the local bus companies in the region. Over the years, they brewed a range of traditional beers, including Dare's Gold Medal Bitter and Nut Brown Ale, but by the early 1960s were promoting Dare's Drum Bitter in containers with "sparklets" beer taps – ideal for parties.

In 1961, the Southend Brewery was acquired by Birmingham's Davenports Brewery, along with its 40 pubs, 14 of which were in Birmingham, 25 elsewhere in the West Midlands, including Solihull, Bromsgrove and Halesowen, with six in South Wales. The late 1960s were profitable years for Davenports, reporting good profits. During this period, they introduced their own 'Drum Bitter', first pioneered by Dares. By 1985, Davenports owned 123 pubs and off-licences and supplied more than 200 free-trade outlets in the Birmingham, Black Country and wider area. They also employed over 1,200 people, including 300 at their Bath Row brewery site.





The Bristol Road in Selly Oak

However, by the 1980s, Davenports were seen to be ripe for take-over, firstly in 1983 by millionaire E J Thompson of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries (W&D), who offered £24m for the company, which was rejected. Over the next two years, W&D acquired a 38% stake in the company, but Whitbread's stepped in to ensure that they could not acquire the necessary 51% stake and later expressed an interest in the company themselves. By January 1986, W&D were on the point of acquiring a 45% stake in the company and made a £32m takeover bid, raised to £35.5m on 1 February of that year. This split the Board of Directors, but was eventually rejected. Relations were particularly soured when a secret listening device was discovered in Davenport's boardroom! However, on 12 February 1986, Davenports accepted a bid from Greenall Whitley for £38.3m, including its 106 tied houses. Although assurances were given to continue brewing at Davenport's Bath Row brewery, it closed in 1989, with the loss of 200 jobs. Brewing was transferred to Shipston's of Nottingham, which was closed later in 1990.

In 1987, the Davenports brand was acquired by Empire Star, which also owned the Highgate brand and its historic Highgate Brewery in Walsall. They continued to brew Davenports beers at Highgate Brewery until 2010. They now brew Davenports beers at a new 7.5 barrel artisan craft brewery in Smethwick, near Birmingham, using traditional 120-year recipes and modern brewing technology. The Davenports brand focuses on

traditional cask beers, such as Original Bitter, Gold Ale and Top Brew De-Luxe. However, the Dares name lives on in its range of contemporary, 'eclectic wickedly-brewed flavoursome' craft keg beers. They include Dares RIP, a red Indian Pale Ale, dry-hopped with Chinook hops; Dares Red Eye, a striking Red Amber ale, dry-hopped with

Cascade hops; and 6IX, a premium 6% craft lager combining the best of English and German hops.

So, the Dares name lives on. Long may it prosper!

Steve James

With acknowledgement to Joseph McKenna, Brewery History Society, CAMRA and Davenports Brewery



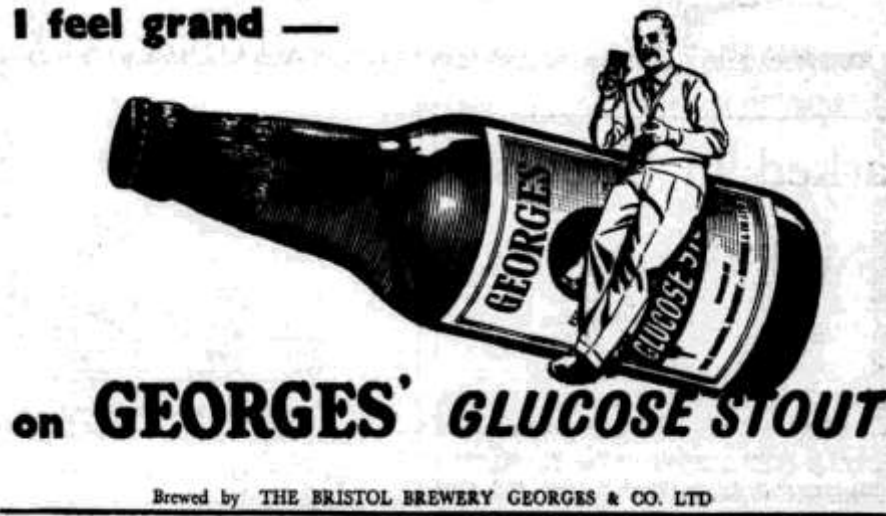
Typical Dare's pubs, (above) The Boat at Catherine de Barnes near Solihull and below the All Saints Tavern in Hockley, Birmingham.

The Dare's name lives on but is now brewed in Smethwick.



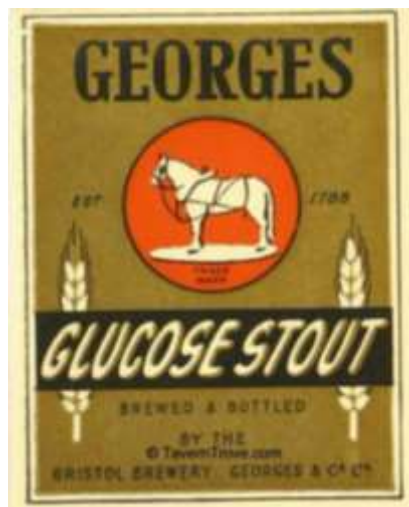
## The short-lived story of Glucose stout

**I feel grand —**



Long before Guinness fixed on the idea, stout had been marketed as 'good for you' since the 1860s, with the arrival of beers labelled as 'nourishing stout'. This was followed by stouts with special supposedly healthy ingredients, such as oatmeal stout and milk stout, and even meat stout. A combination of the markets for sweet stout and 'energy' stout, a beer supposedly drunk to rejuvenate rather than inebriate, resulted in the appearance soon after the Second World War of 'glucose stout'.

Britons had become familiar during the war with glucose tablets as a 'rapid energy' source carried by the likes of paratroopers and front-line soldiers so that glucose stout played on this. George's brewery in Bristol was one of the first manufacturers – perhaps THE first – of a glucose stout, producing it by 1953, when it had an OG of 1045.5, a %ABV of 3.6 and an apparent attenuation of 61 percent. The beer was advertised in 1954 as 'The Drink with the Tonic Effect, contains the valuable properties of stout plus the easily



assimilated energy-restoring benefits of Glucose. Georges Glucose Stout Will Buck You Up.' George's claimed its glucose stout was "The Original" by 1960, and was advertising it on television.

Other brewers of glucose stout in the mid-1950s

included Thornley's Radford Brewery in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire—motto: 'Builds You Up When You're Feeling Down'—the Ely Brewery Company in Ely, Cardiff, Tennant Brothers of Sheffield -'What better way of replenishing energy, finding vitality, nourishment, strength'- and, judging from surviving bottle labels, Hunt Edmunds of Banbury in Oxfordshire.

The claims of the brewers did not meet with the approval of local regulators. In Birmingham, the City Analyst,

Howard Bagnall, complained in 1956 that when he analysed a bottle of 'special glucose stout' made by a local brewer - undoubtedly Thornley's - he found that, if it contained any glucose at all, it was less than two per cent. 'Further the phrase *For energy* strengthened the impression that this particular beverage had properties far exceeding those of ordinary stout. However, in fact, both the glucose content and solid content compared unfavourably with other brands which made no special claim'.

Bagnall complained to the brewer, who expressed surprise and sorrow' at his findings, but agreed to drop the words 'special' and 'energy' from the label, and change the name of the beer to Glucostout. The Birmingham City Analyst remained unhappy, saying that it was 'still misleading' to make any reference to glucose and with other brewers making similar claims around the country, 'the whole matter has been referred to the Association of Public Analysts for an opinion on the labels'.

A magazine published in Birmingham by a teetotal Christian group picked up on the row, and, pointing out that 'You can, of course, buy glucose much more cheaply from a chemist' complained that 'Judging by the advertisements, stout is the A.1 product of the brewing industry. It has been boosted, without proof, as a body-builder, a food for expectant mothers, an aid to that schoolgirl complexion, a sustainer of old age and many things besides'.

Thornley's Glucostout in 1956 had an OG of 1042 and just 2.82 %ABV and an apparent attenuation of just under 50 percent, making it one of the sweetest stouts in Britain.

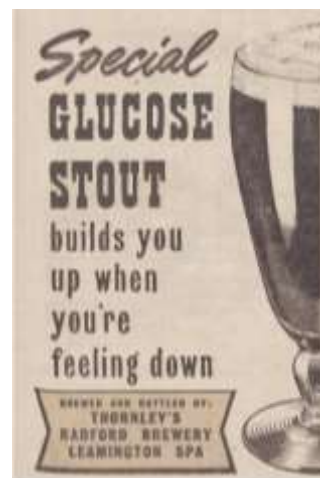
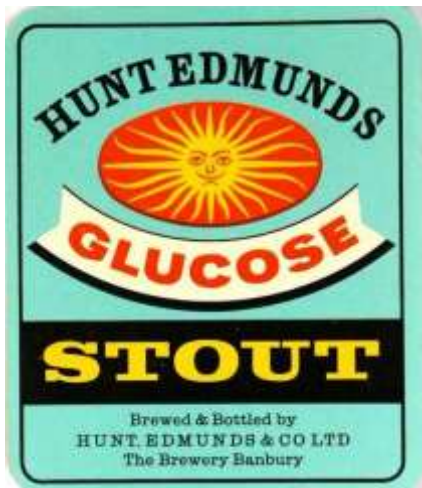


Tennant's Glucose Stout the same year had an OG of 1040, a %ABV of 2.78 and apparent attenuation of 52.5 percent. It was hopped just once to give an IBU reading of, probably, 29. The grain bill was 63% pale malt, 3.8% crystal malt, 1.5% black malt, 5.7% amber malt, 3% sugar, 11.5% caramel and the rest, another 11.5% glucose. Despite the low alcohol content, in 1959 it was being advertised as 'a strong distinctive drink'.

There were still at least three glucose stouts being brewed in 1960, from Tennant's, which advertised the beer as far away as local newspapers in London, Hall & Woodhouse in Blandford St Mary, Dorset and George's

brewery in Bristol. Tennant's fell into the rapacious arms of the expanding London brewer Whitbread in 1961, and Glucose Stout seems to have been replaced by Whitbread's Mackeson's stout. George's was acquired by another London brewer, Courage, the same year, but production of Glucose Stout in Bristol continued until at least 1968. However, the style vanishes soon after, having been around barely 15 years.

*Martyn Cornell*



## A snippet from North Devon

*From the Chittleham Village website  
Thursday 2 November 1905*

On Saturday last the malting and brewing business – which has for a great number of years carried on by Mr H. C. Watts – together with the whole of the licensed houses owned by him passed into the hands of Messrs. Petter and Son, Anchor Brewery, Barnstaple. The malting business was originally conducted by Mr Carder Watts, father of the past owner, whilst that of brewing was established by Mr Watts himself some twenty-five years since, and has been carried on by him with considerable success. He also has the dual business of seed and manure merchant, which he still retains. By the time this appears in print, Mr Watts will be on his way to New York, en route for Cannon City, Colorado, where he has gone to visit his two sons and daughter for the benefit of his health. The best wishes of a wide circle of friends will follow him, in the hope that he may return fully restored to health.

*Thursday 31 May 1906*

Chittlehampton, North Devon - Charming Freehold Residence for Sale  
Blackford and Son, favoured with instructions from Mr H. C. Watts (leaving England), will

offer for Sale by Public Auction at the Bell Hotel, Chittlehampton, on Wednesday, 6th June, 1906, at 1.30 p.m. prompt, All that Highly Desirable, Pleasantly Place Residence, Yards, Outbuildings and Garden, extending to an area of 40 Perches, known as 'The Brewery House', in the centre of the village, now and for many years in the occupation of the owner; also Two Long-Leasehold Cottages, at Townsend, Chittlehampton.



*Old Malt Cottage on the square at Chittleham*

## Ins and outs at the Eagle - Part 2

**FOREST HILL BREWERY,**  
**KENT.**

**MESSRS. MORGAN, BROTHERS,**  
*Late of the Eagle Brewery, Croydon.*

**DESIRE** to inform their Customers that, owing to their rapidly increasing business, both at Croydon and their London Stores, they have purchased the above Brewery, which, with the advantage of increased ton and an American Well of exceptional purity, will enable them to meet the growing demands of their trade with much improved Beers.

**LIST OF PRICES:**

Tonnage		Per 9 Gallon Cask		No. 7 Beers		Per 9 Gallon Cask	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105

D. Account on Nine Gallon Casks, for Cash on delivery only.

*Sydenham Times, 8th December 1874*

In 1867, Chamen formed a partnership with Edwin Pope at the Lansdowne Brewery in Lower Road, Richmond, Surrey. (*London Brewed*, p239) Pope was from Dorchester, so he and Chamen may have been previously acquainted; indeed, their respective fathers were both guardians of the Dorchester Poor Law Union. The partnership ran the brewery in Richmond until 1871, when Edwin Pope returned to Dorchester, his nephew, George Pope, taking his place in the Richmond partnership. In the same year, Chamen formed another partnership, this time with Robert Finnis Jennings, to brew at the Steam Brewery, on Bromley Common, Kent, as Messrs. Chamen and Jennings. The latter gentleman was actually a farmer and dairyman from the Dover area, so may have already have been involved with Chamen at Maxton.

Presumably Edwin, and later George Pope ran the Richmond operation, while Chamen ran the breweries in Bromley and then Croydon, Whatever the arrangement, it did not last for long as regards the Eagle Brewery. By 1878 Chamen & Co. had moved their operations and were brewing their 'Celebrated Stout & Porter' at the South Croydon Brewery, in Aberdeen Road, which was but a stone's throw from the Eagle Brewery on the opposite (eastern) side of South End. (*Croydon Guardian*, 26<sup>th</sup> October 1878) The partnership of George Chamen and George Pope in Richmond was dissolved in December 1879. In the 1881 census however, Chamen was living and presumably brewing, in Lower Road, Richmond, Surrey, the last advertisement for the South Croydon Brewery appearing in August 1880. He was on the Richmond electoral register throughout the 1870s as well as the Croydon electoral register by virtue of his property there.

**THE LANSDOWNE BREWERY,**  
**RICHMOND.**  
**CHAMEN AND POPE'S PRICE LIST.**  
MARCH BREWINGS NOW READY.

9 Gallon Cask		12 Gallon Cask		15 Gallon Cask	
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51
52	53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69
70	71	72	73	74	75
76	77	78	79	80	81
82	83	84	85	86	87
88	89	90	91	92	93
94	95	96	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	104	105

DELIVERIES - SATURDAY, Monday and Friday, KINGSTON, Tuesday.  
RICHMOND and its neighbourhood daily.

Address:- Lower Road, Richmond.  
Kingston Office:- 1 Kingston Hill, Richmond Park-road.

*Surrey Comet, August 16th 1873*

It is not clear whether Chamen moved from the Eagle Brewery because the Morgan brothers wanted it back, or whether they moved back in because Chamen had gone. For whichever reason, they were back in possession by 1878 and offering it to let for purposes other than brewing. 'FACTORY TO LET. - Steam power fitted; stabling for three horses and office, (the Eagle Brewery, South-end, Croydon). - Apply to Messrs. Morgan Brothers., Forest Hill Brewery, S.E.'

(*Sydenham Times*, 29<sup>th</sup> October 1878) One must assume that this plan came to nought as in March 1879 they were advertising that they had taken the Eagle Brewery 'for the purpose of giving more prompt attention to the requirements of their customers in Croydon and the surrounding districts.' (*Croydon Chronicle*, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1879) Further, by February 1880 they were seeking to increase their local trade by advertising for sales representatives, or what were known at that time as commission agents. 'Commission travellers wanted, by Morgan Bros., Eagle Brewery, South-end, Croydon. Gentlemen travelling, or shop keepers can add to their income, by applying by letter in the first instance. (*Croydon Chronicle*, 7<sup>th</sup> February 1880).

A week after the above appeared, another Croydon newspaper carried the following report. 'PC Stanford, 345W, on duty in Windmill Road saw Henry Merrington, labourer, and James Ewell, acting suspiciously and later apprehended them in possession of 4½ gallons of beer, the property of Messrs. Morgan Bros., brewers of Forest Hill. Edwin Beckwith, drayman to Messrs. Morgan Bros., said he had to deliver some casks to the stores in Southbridge Road. He stopped at the 'Gloucester Arms' to water his horse, but he did not see the prisoner(s). He did not unload his cart until the morning and then found that one of the casks was missing. Mr William Little, manager of the Eagle Brewery, deposed to missing one of the casks.' (*Croydon Guardian* 14<sup>th</sup> February 1880) Merrington and Ewell were found guilty and each sentenced to 14 days gaol. This seems to indicate that Messrs. Morgan Brothers were probably not brewing at the Eagle Brewery at that time, unless of course some Morgan beers were only brewed at Forest Hill.

Croydon being this writer's home town, I know that the granite water trough where Mr. Beckwith watered his horse, with its incised lettering reading 'Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association', was still in situ in the 1950s at the junction of Whitehorse, Northcote and Windmill Roads. If I might be permitted a further short aside - the Gloucester Arms was destroyed by enemy action during the second world war and during my childhood it was a bombsite used for car parking. Then, in the 1960s, a smart modern pub of the same name arose on the site, a Young's house and within its walls I discovered the joys of Young's Winter Warmer. Sadly, the site is now a Tesco Express.

**CHAMEN & CO.,**  
**SOUTH CROYDON BREWERY,**  
**ABERDEEN ROAD.**

Brand on Cask.	Description.	18 Gals.	9 Gals.	4½ gals.
XXX	ALE, Stock	27s...	13s. 6d...	6s. 9d.
XX	ALE	18s...	9s. 0d...	4s. 6d.
KKK	ALE, Bitter	24s...	12s. 0d...	6s. 0d.
H.H.	Bitter ALE	21s...	10s. 6d...	5s. 6d.
*A.K.	Sparkling Dinner ALE	18s...	9s. 0d...	4s. 6d.
D.S.T.	Double Stout	27s...	13s. 6d...	6s. 9d.
S.R.	Single Stout	24s...	12s. 0d...	6s. 0d.
P.	PORTER	15s...	9s. 0d...	4s. 6d.

Regular deliveries—In casks of 4½, 9, 18, and 36 gals.

ORDERS BY POST HAVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

\* The A.K., a pale Bitter Ale, at One Shilling per Gallon, strongly recommended.

*Croydon Guardian, August 14th 1880*

Brewing was certainly taking place at the Eagle Brewery early in 1881 however; a Mr. Cole, of Dingwall Lodge, Croydon, was offering a house on the Isle of Wight to let or for sale freehold, interested parties were asked to apply at the Eagle Brewery. (*Croydon Chronicle*, 22nd January 1881) Henry Dennett Cole (aged sixty years, born at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight) appears in the 1881 census as a 'Publican & Brewer', living at Falkirk House, Heathfield Road, Croydon. 'Messrs. Cole & Son, Eagle Brewery, South End, Croydon, are now sending out their Ales in 4½ gallon casks, in addition to the other size casks as previously advertised. (*Croydon Guardian*, 7<sup>th</sup> January 1882) The son referred to in this advertisement was Clarence Cooke Cole (born in 1853 at Church Knowle, Dorset), who was living at the Eagle Brewery and described in the census as an 'ale brewer.'

The Cole's business does not seem to have fared any better than their predecessors. In the following advertisement we have, for the first time, an idea of the scale of the operation. 'Eagle Brewery, Croydon. To be let, with immediate possession, this compact and complete little brewery, situate in the High-street, Croydon; three quarter, steam engine and boiler, malt mill, mash tun, refrigerator, twelve-barrel open copper with furnace; all the driving gear in working order; dwelling house, good yard, and three-stall stable, cask washing shed fitted with Pontifex's steam cleanser, counting-house, malt and hop rooms, tap fitted with counter and seats. (*Croydon Chronicle*, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1883).

The story of the Eagle Brewery appeared to reach its conclusion early in 1884, when the premises were offered to let on lease, but potentially without the brewing plant. 'Large business premises to be let on lease, the property known as the Eagle Brewery, having a good frontage to the main street and very extensive accommodation in the rear, including coach-house and stabling, with entrance from the Southbridge-road. The premises were used for many years as a brewery, which will either be let for a brewery or dismantled to make the property available for any other trade or business. (*Croydon Chronicle*, 12<sup>th</sup> January 1884) The use of the past tense (my italics above) indicate that

brewing was not taking place at this time. A similar advertisement appeared in the *Brewing Trade Gazette* on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1884, but without mention of the removal of the kit. However, it would seem that brewing may have continued for a while longer; Messrs. Dyke's, 'late of Church Street, Croydon' offered their 'Pale ales, stout & porter in all sizes of casks' from the Eagle Brewery & Mineral Water Works. (*Croydon Guardian*, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1885). The end came two years later when the premises were sold at auction, the notice of sale stating that 'Possession will be given on completion of the purchase, before which the brewing plant will be removed, and will not be included in the sale.' (*Croydon Guardian*, 9<sup>th</sup> April 1887) I have found no record of what use the premises were put to thereafter. They were apparently in a derelict condition by 1900, and were demolished to make way for shops and residential accommodation.

So, the Albion/Eagle Brewery was a very small operation in a town which boasted much bigger breweries, the likes of Messrs. Page & Overton and Crowleys. Although its roots may have been deep, its heyday was just thirty or so years, during which time it was operated by a miscellany of brewers, each trying to earn a living from malt and hops.

**POSTSCRIPTS.** In which the subsequent stories of persons and breweries are briefly described.

*John Babbage Petter*

Petter may have returned to brewing; in 1881 he was in Longfleet, Poole, Dorset, and describing himself as 'formerly a brewer'. He died at Ilfracombe on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1882. (*North Devon Journal*, 19<sup>th</sup> May 1932)

*Napoleon Belcher*

That Napoleon Belcher's father was also a brewer is borne out by an entry on page 57 of Mike Brown's *London Brewed*, to the effect that Henry Belcher, brewer, and Richard Wynyett, farmer, had, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1846, dissolved their partnership at the Hercules Brewery, Holloway Road, Upper Holloway. The *Post Office Directory* of 1848 lists Napoleon Belcher as a brewer in Upper Holloway. In the 1871 census Belcher was at the Oak Brewery, 1 & 2 Charles Street, Bethnal Green, then trading in 1872 as Messrs. Belcher and Stagg. The *Brewers Journal* reported in November 1873 that the business had been liquidated. Thereafter, Belcher seems to have forsaken the brewing trade for drapery, being a draper in Wimbledon until his death in 1909.

*William Jackson*

May have been the Wm Jackson the elder who brewed in Mitcham and then Brixton (*London Brewed*, p73)

*Henry Athawes*

Frustratingly, this litigious gentleman has proved elusive; despite his unusual surname, I have been unable to find any further information about him.

*George Chamen*

Chamen, who had not married, appears to have emigrated to the United States, where records show

that he married a Nannie Smith Hurt in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1883. The *Taunton Courier* reported the death, in 'Cifex (sic), Virginia' of 'George Chamen, formerly of Charminster, aged 64' in its issue of 19<sup>th</sup> September 1894. 'Cifex' should probably be Carfax, although US death records show his place of death as Bedford, between Lynchburg and Roanoke.

#### *Maxton Brewery*

George Chamen had leased the brewery at Maxton, near Dover, previously operated by members of the Worthington (no relation) family in 1863. After he left, it was run by various operators, becoming known as the Diamond Brewery in the process. Towards the end of the nineteenth-century it came into the hands of Thomas Phillips & Co., of West Malling, then Alfred Leney & Co., of the Dolphin Brewery, Dover, and thence to Fremlins. Brewing ceased in 1916 and the brewhouse was sold off, although Fremlins used the maltings as a depot after the closure of the Dolphin Brewery in 1963.

#### *Bromley Steam Brewery*

Robert Finnis Jennings was listed as a brewer in a directory in 1874 although he was a dairy farmer at River, near Dover. The Bromley Steam Brewery Co. was listed by 1878, and was later acquired by its manager, John Archibald Stoakes Jones. He was succeeded by his son Leslie Stoakes Jones, who took a partner, Richard E. Veness, to form Jones & Co., which concern was acquired by Whitbread & Co. in October 1901 when brewing ceased. The premises were converted into a laundry and then a factory for the production of highly flammable cellulose nitrate film stock; it burned to the ground in 1915.

#### *Morgan Brothers*

Their new brewery at Perry Vale was acquired consequent upon the bankruptcy of its previous occupant, William Ray Brown. His business, but not the brewery itself, was acquired by S. G. Mason & Co., of the Battersea Park Brewery, South Lambeth, and its trade transferred there. The Forest Hill Brewery went on to great things, becoming the Forest Hill Brewery Co. Ltd. in 1885. This company was taken over by Whitbread in 1924, ostensibly for its expertise in bottling bright beer and brewing ceased. The premises were sold to United Dairies in 1927. Walter Morgan had bought a brewery at Nepicar, near Wrotham, Kent, eventually dissolving the partnership with his brother in 1887. The Nepicar Brewery was acquired in 1905 by Golding & Co., of Sevenoaks, and brewing ceased.

#### *Edwin Pope*

Pope returned to Dorchester because he had acquired a one third share in the Green Dragon Brewery of Eldridge, Mason & Co., upon the retirement of Samuel Mason. Edwin's older brother, Alfred Pope, was a solicitor in Dorchester; he handled the purchase and shrewdly wrote into the sale agreement that Edwin would have the option to acquire his partner's share upon the death of John Tizard, who was the son-in-law of the founder, Charles Eldridge. Tizard did indeed die,

just a year later, and Eldridge, Pope & Co. came into the sole ownership of the Pope family.

#### *Lansdowne Brewery, Richmond*

After the dissolution of his partnership with Chamen, George Pope continued the business with a new partner, one James Watney, as Messrs. Watney and Pope, until their partnership was dissolved and both the Lansdowne Brewery and the South Croydon Brewery came under the control of Daniel Watney. Daniel Watney & Son Ltd. was registered in April 1895 and was acquired by Brandon's (Putney) Brewery Ltd. in 1915. Brewing appears to have ceased on the site about 1916; some of the premises survive in use as a British Legion poppy factory. (*London Brewed*, p240)

George Pope bought the Poole Brewery of Messrs. Styryng & Co. in 1879 in partnership with a Robert Edward Walmesley (born in 1858 at Hornchurch, Essex). Walmesley retired from the partnership in October 1896 due to his ill-health; he died at the Hans Crescent Hotel, Chelsea in December 1897, aged just forty years. George Pope sold the Poole brewery, together with its 34 licensed houses, to Messrs. Eldridge Pope & Co. in 1900, to become a Director of the family firm. The purchase price was £81,200 and brewing ceased at Poole in 1905.

#### *Henry D. Cole*

It would seem that Cole was affluent, having been a 'Retired Wine Merchant (fundholder)' in 1851, at the age of just thirty years. Ten years later he was still a fundholder, but also a 'brewer and Lieutenant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hants Rifles' in Millbrook, Southampton. Brewing was in his blood; in the 1841 census he had been a brewer in Carisbrooke with his father, also named Henry (born c 1797). By 1891, Henry Jnr was 'Living on own means' in Winchester. He died in Southsea the summer of 1905.



The brewery at Carisbrooke had been in the hands of Henry D. Cole Snr by November 1819. (*Wightpedia*) Standing adjacent to the brook, the brewery was well-established at this time and was being offered for sale in April of 1819. Cole conveyed and assigned all his estate and effects to three trustees, comprising a local banker, a corn merchant and his son, for the benefit of themselves and his creditors, in May 1850. (*London Gazette*, 1850, p1520) The 10qtr Carisbrooke Brewery, together with six public houses, was subsequently offered for sale by auction. Henry Snr died in 1854. Now demolished, a row of terraced houses stands on the brewery site.

#### *Peter Moynihan*

*Acknowledgement: The writer would like to extend thanks to Richard Symonds, whose knowledge of the brewers of Surrey far exceeds my own, for generously sharing that knowledge.*



## Looking for the Wottons – Part 1

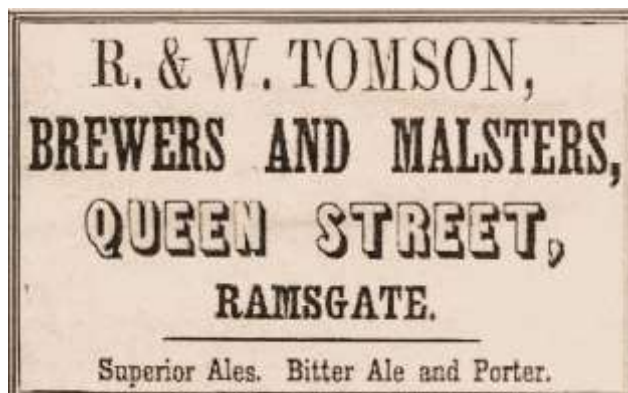
Having received a request for information regarding Thomas Wotton, one half of the eponymous Tomson & Wotton, Brewers, of Ramsgate. I realised that I did not know much, certainly compared with the Tomson side... so I have been doing a bit of digging, resulting in the following article.



*The Tomson & Wotton Ramsgate brewery in the 1950s*

Thomas Wotton was born in Fordwich, Kent, in 1832, the son of John Wotton, a farmer and grazier, and his wife Elizabeth Ann (née Prior). In 1851, Thomas was an eighteen-year-old brewer's pupil, living in Devonshire Place, Brighton, Sussex, in the home of a local brewer whose name may have been Walter S. Charlton; the name is very difficult to make out in the census enumerator's book. While learning his trade in Brighton, Thomas met local girl Lucy Elizabeth Lewis and they were married in the village of Keymer, some eight miles north of Brighton, on 23rd October 1853. Conventional wisdom has it that Thomas returned to Thanet and joined Tomson's brewery in Queen Street, Ramsgate, in 1854 as a practical brewer. However, if this is correct then he did so later in that year as his first child, Elizabeth Ann, was born in Brighton on 23rd April. The family were certainly in Ramsgate by October 1856, when their son John was born there.

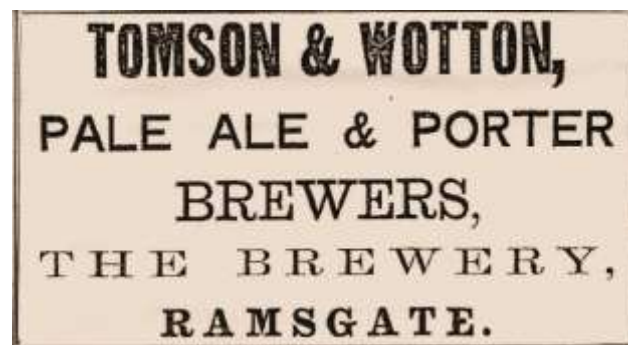
Curiously, in the 1861 census Thomas was described as a 'Landed Proprietor' rather than as a brewer. He was living at 24 Effingham Street, in Ramsgate, with his wife, their three children, and his sister Elizabeth Wotton, together with two servants. My statement on page 261 of *Kentish Brewers and the Brewers of Kent* to the effect that Thomas came into an inheritance in 1867 would now appear to be incorrect; Thomas' father died on 6th March 1868, leaving effects sworn at under £2,000. His Will was proved at Canterbury on 15th April, Thomas being an Executor together with Thomas Pilcher, a farmer of Petham, Kent. Presumably this was the money which enabled Thomas to buy into the Tomson's business and become a partner. Certainly, by the time of the 1871 census, he was describing himself as a 'Brewer and Landowner'. Whether he actually ceased to brew practically at this time is not known.



However, what is known is that the Head Brewer at Queens Street in the 1870s, until 1881, when he left to take up a position with the Highbury Brewery, in North London, was Thomas Sankey.

Sankey was a Kent man, having been born at Hastingleigh, near Ashford, in 1847. He had been educated in Battersea, and learned his brewing in London before moving to Ramsgate. Subsequent to his stint in Highbury, he moved to Emsworth in Hampshire around 1890, presumably brewing at Messrs. Hipkin & Co's Emsworth Brewery (Kinnell & Hartley Ltd post 1899) in South Street. He may also have brewed in Lichfield, Staffordshire, where he died in 1897.

Returning to the Wottons, Thomas' son John (1856-1917) was also a brewer. In 1881 he was working at Messrs. Farnell & Watson's brewery (later the Isleworth Brewery Company Ltd) in St Johns Road, Isleworth, where he was living at Brewery Cottage with his uncle, Nicholas Wotton (1846-1918), who was the brewery's cashier. John had returned to Ramsgate by the late 1880s, when the partners in the brewery business were Thomas Wotton, now residing at Claremont, The Vale, in the Parish of Ramsgate, Martin John Read Tomson, now residing at Brooklands, South-Eastern Road, in the Parish of Ramsgate aforesaid, and Eliza Laura Tomson, now residing at Effingham, Effingham Street, in the Parish of Ramsgate aforesaid, widow, being co-partners in the trades or businesses of Brewers and Maltsters, and carrying on the same at Ramsgate aforesaid under the style or firm of 'Tomson and Wotton'. (*East Kent Times and Mail*, 6th September 1888).



When Tomson & Wotton Ltd was formed in 1892, John Wotton became a partner together with Martin John Read Tomson, with Thomas Wotton as the chairman and managing director. Eliza L. Tomson had retired from the company; she passed away in Newhaven in 1919. The purchase price from the previous company was £144,100, which included the two breweries (Queen Street and the Cannon Brewery) and fifty freehold and twelve leasehold hotels and public houses. All of the 10,000 £10 Ordinary Shares in the new company were taken by the Directors, while a subscription for debenture shares was issued, with the proceeds being used to finance the redevelopment of the Queen Street brewery.

John Wotton died in 1917, but there was a third generation waiting in the wings. John's son Thomas Wotton (1891-1961), who was listed in the 1939 Register (A sort of 'census-lite', taken in the run-up to the impending war) as being the 'Managing Director of



Brewery & Group of Companies'. He had married Marjorie Dagmar Bailey in 1916, but there was no issue of the marriage to carry on the brewing line. However, there was William Alexander (Bill) Wotton.

Another of Thomas Wotton (1832-1923)'s sons was Edward Wotton (1859-1940); educated at King's School, Canterbury, he was admitted a solicitor in 1881 in partnership with Mr T. H. Grove Snowden, and upon the death of the latter gentleman, Edward assumed his responsibilities as Registrar of the County Court. Edward acted professionally for both his brother Thomas Wotton personally, and for the brewery company. Edward's son, also Edward (1886-1960) was also a solicitor and was the father of Bill, who was born in Lincolnshire on 8th September 1916. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Bill Wotton was serving with the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) but by July 1940 he was a prisoner of war. In November, the *Thanet Advertiser* contained a report that '2nd Lieut. William Wotton, The Buffs, formerly of 7 Nelson Crescent, son of Mr Edward Wotton' was a prisoner of war and that his parents had received a postcard from him. He survived the war and returned to the brewery where he remained until the sale to Whitbread in 1968. Bill retained a family interest in the law, serving for many years as a J.P. and Magistrate, living at Upper Court, St Lawrence. However, died at a hotel in Folkestone, on 15th November 1988, leaving an estate valued at £398,924.

*Peter Moynihan (to be continued)*

## J. R. Page & Son's Malthouse at Baldock in Hertfordshire



In 1991 I was driving to East Anglia via Baldock and intending to look at the malthouse in Ashwell on the northern side of the railway line. On the southern side was this malthouse. On my return journey I made sure I took a look. Access was gained by permission of the company undertaking demolition. Limited time and safety precautions meant not all parts of the building were investigated. It is something I would not be able to do now. Additional information was obtained from a report in the *Brewers' Journal*.

The malthouse was built in 1895-6 and was operational by March 1896. It was aligned more or less north to south with its north elevation fronting the railway line. It is shown on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map revision of 1897, with a siding from the main line (GNR) Cambridge Branch from Hitchin and Cambridge. By the 1921 25 inch map revision there was a small additional building the western side of the malthouse which was not as long southwards as the original building and appeared to be fitted into an extended kiln section.

The *Brewers' Journal* gave a report on the construction of the maltings in its March issue of 1896<sup>1</sup>. The malthouse was designed by the well-known malting firm of Arthur Kinder and Son. The contractor for the building was a Mr Foster of Hitchin. The cast iron columns, hopper bottomed steeps and kiln ironwork had been supplied by Messrs Gimson & Co of Leicester who were also responsible for all the services and pumps. The screening, carrying and hoisting machinery was supplied and fixed by the Ceres Ironworks, Kingston-on-Thames. All the machinery was driven by a 9 hp Otto gas engine. The report gave considerable detail on the working of the maltings and its use of elevators and conveyors. One point of particular note is the reference to barley sweating kilns. The barley and malt chambers had a storage capacity of about 10,000 quarters. (It is not clear whether this was the total storage capacity or for barley and malt individually) Of

note is the reference to the steeps having Kinder's improved valve for emptying them. The kilns were fitted with patent regulators and it is here that there is reference to the kilns being used for both sweating the barley and kilning the malt. Unfortunately, the kilns are not described other than that they were on the 'most modern and approved principle and are of the special designs of Messrs Arthur Kinder & Son'. They used little coal (coke/anthracite) and the temperature could be easily controlled.

The reference to heat regulators implies H. J. H. King regulators and this is confirmed by the 1906 and 1918 catalogues which also included an illustration of the kilns. They are described as 2-shaft kilns of 35 quarter capacity each. The illustration is particularly useful because it not only shows how the heat regulators worked but the position of the kiln drying floor and other features. The furnace was a vertical shaft one and the stoke hole was on the ground floor and above was the heat regulator, which was referred to as a ventilator. This was linked by a rod going up the side of the furnace shaft to a thermometer under the kiln drying floor. Above the ground floor furnace room was a malt storage floor which appears to have been supported on steel I beams. Above this was the spark chamber, also supported on steel I beams. This had a central dome over the top of the shaft and arms extending out almost to the outside wall. Above this was the kiln drying floor. It is relevant to note that there was only one floor. Unfortunately, there is no indication as to whether it was of wedge wire or perforated ceramic tiles<sup>2</sup>. A later H. J. H. King catalogue of 1934 shows that Pages had had their fans installed in their kilns, presumably at Baldock as this was a repeat order. By 1969-70 they had Suxé anthracite furnaces<sup>3</sup>.

In 1920 the *Brewers' Journal* records that 'Messrs J. R. Page & Son, The Maltings, Baldock Have disposed of their business which in future will be carried on as a



private limited company with regular offices at St Neots ...' (Messrs Paine & Co Ltd)<sup>4</sup>. However, Kelly's Trade Directory for Hertfordshire of 1922 still records J. R. Page as Maltsters in Baldock. By 1969 they had become a wholly owned subsidiary of Paine & Co<sup>5</sup>. They were still listed as Maltsters in the 1990 *Brewery Manual* with their address still given as c/o Paine & Co. It therefore seems likely that malting ceased not long before demolition.

### The Buildings - Exterior

There were two blocks to the maltings, the main and original one was the larger, eastern one. The whole was brick built and all had slate roofs. The kilns were at the northern end, adjacent to the railway line. The later and smaller block was on the western side of the original building. It had a low and shallow pyramidal kiln roof. The construction of both was the same with regard to the brick work and the panel and pier construction.



They were of yellow brick with red brick segmental heads of two rows of header bricks to the windows, the lower part of the piers up to the sills of the first floor windows and two rows of red bricks at their tops which were at second floor lintel level and to the corners of the buildings. In the south elevations of both blocks, the piers rose to roof level. Apart from the red brickwork to the piers and the windows there was no decoration to the buildings.

The eastern malthouse was seen to be 14 bays in length and five in width. It had five storeys with three to the roof level, a fourth fully in the roof, and the fifth was a loft walkway. In all visible elevations there were windows in every bay to the ground and first floors and every other bay in the second floor. The windows had vertical metal bars. In the south elevation there was a hoist door in the centre bay of the third floor and windows in the bays on either side.

There were dormer windows with hipped slate covered roofs and on the eastern side there was a sort of hoist dormer with timber sides and a gable slate covered roof. Adjacent to the kiln was the elevator tower and what may have been the engine house tower to the west of it. The later western block was smaller of two storeys, nine bays in length and



three in width with a window in every bay to both floors of the western elevation.

### Interior

In the eastern block the germination floors were the bottom two and were concrete screed. There were two hopper bottomed cast iron steeps with their discharge sections onto both the ground and first floors. Thus each floor was served by one steep. There was not a maker's name on them but they were probably the original ones installed by Gimson. The upper floors were supported by robust cast iron columns supporting the steel beams. The floors had 14 columns along the length of the building and three across. There were wooden shutters for the windows.

The second floor was a storage floor with timber boxes. There was a narrow walkway down to the steep end of the building. The third floor also had storage boxes with a vertical ladder up to the walkway in the apex of the roof. This walkway gave access to the storage bins and the engine house at the kiln end of the building. The underside of the main roofs were lined with timber tongue and groove boarding.

### The Kilns

There *From King's 1918 catalogue* were two kilns at the northern end of the main malting block. They had steep pyramidal roofs. The kiln of the western block had a much shallower pyramidal roof. No cowl survived.



The

interiors were completely gutted, but there was evidence of alterations, notably the kiln ceiling which was lower than would be expected from the exterior. It was lined, perhaps in association with the installation of the fans. Access to the kiln drying floor was from the second floor. The additional squat kiln which might have been a barley kiln had lost its furnace and drying floor but appeared to have a similar ceiling lining as the main kilns.

*Amber Patrick*

<sup>1</sup> *The Brewers' Journal* volume 32 for 1896 pages 156 et seq and illustration.

<sup>2</sup> *H. J. H. King catalogue* 1906, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition page 8 and 1918, 5<sup>th</sup> edition page 8.

<sup>3</sup> *Branch Johnson, W. (1970) The Industrial Archaeology of Hertfordshire, Newton Abbot, David & Charles, page 158.*

<sup>4</sup> *The Brewers' Journal* volume 54 for 1920 pages 389

<sup>5</sup> *Brewery Manual* for 1969 page 164.

## Out and about

### Aitkens of Falkirk

The Falkirk Herald published a piece by local lad Ian Scott about Aitkens, the famous local brewery. Ian wrote earlier of his experiences working there as a student in the 1960s and now turned to a potted history. Founded by James or possibly John Aitken in 1740 on Newmarket Street, it is probably apocryphal that Bonnie Prince Charlie's troops preferred an eleven day binge in the brewery rather than pillaging the town. Fortunes grew and the beer was exported to all corners of the Empire by the late 1800s amassing



numerous awards on the way. Apparently one hiccup involved complaints about the stout which were traced to the water supply draining down through the local cemetery!

The brewery was rebuilt in 1900 complete with a 180 foot stack and was connected to the nearby railway. By 1910 a 518 foot deep bore was drilled followed in 1927 by a 700 foot one which yielded 240 gallons of water every minute. In 1960 Aitken's became part of Caledonian United Breweries and then Tennent Caledonian. Brewing continued until 1968 and the site was sold to Falkirk Town Council for £141,000. The site was cleared in 1970 and is now occupied by Asda.



### Bass Ireland history project appeal



14 years on from the Bass Ireland's official closure in 2008, John Shanks, a former Senior Manager at the brewery along with Joe Morrissey and Liam Kelly, two former Senior Trade Union representatives, are spearheading a history project about the brewery in collaboration with National Museums NI. The trio want to capture any stories about the brewery and are also looking for photographs, artefacts or memorabilia.

Bass Ireland traded at the 17-acre site from 1960 but the roots of the company can be traced back to 1810, when a Clotworthy Dobbin operated a Brewery in Hercules Street, Belfast, now Royal Avenue. In 1814,

the operation moved to Smithfield before moving on to the Glen Road due to the spring water and in 1901 it was trading as Caffrey & Sons.

In 1950, the Ulster Brewery purchased the site and in 1960, it was sold to Charrington United Breweries. That merged with Lyle and Kinahan to become Charrington Kinahan, then Bass Charrington and later Bass Ireland. Latterly it joined Interbrew which morphed into Inbev. The brewery ceased production in 2004 with the loss of 85 jobs however it did not officially close until 2008. It was demolished in 2009 and new housing built on the site.

### Tennent's Foden wagon restored

Tennent's accountant Arthur Ramage has a hobby of restoring and exhibiting commercial vehicles. He persuaded C&C Plc GB CEO Andrea Pozzi to fund a £30,000 recreation of a 1950s Tennent's Foden wagon in the then company colours of battleship grey and red T. Happily it has returned to Scotland.



### Hermann Goering loved a Beamish

Corklive shared some trivia about the city including the fact that the Luftwaffe chief and Hitler's No2 had a direct connection to Cork and to Beamish stout. Cork historians Donal and Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil discovered that Miss Carin Beamish, the great-great-granddaughter of brewery founder William Beamish, met and married Nazi Hermann Goering in the early 1920s. Carin, who had spent much of her youth in Sweden (where she met Goring) died in 1931 of tuberculosis. Her husband would marry again but he called his country home Carinhall, in memory of his first wife. We also learned that Sir Walter Raleigh planted the first potato in Ireland at his home in Youghal around 1588.

## Singapore has a beer truck

The Pink Blossom Brewery's beer truck is pouring craft beers in the downtown area of Singapore this autumn. Its black beer truck with pink neon lights is bringing its beers direct to thirsty crowds in the city from 4pm during the week and midday at weekends. Pink Blossoms' founder and brewer Teo Hong Han said that the move is part of the Brewery's fourth anniversary celebrations.



## News from Jersey

Liberation's Head Brewer Pat Dean has recently joined BHS and tells us that the brewery's little display area has a photo of the euphonious Inverness John Bathe mentioned in Peter Moynihan's piece about the East Kent Brewery in NL98. They also have his No1 share certificate from 1905.

## Labologists on Facebook

The Labologists have launched a new Facebook page where it has 63 members. Steve Marlow posted a query about this 1940's Clinch's label for a beer style called Beeswing. The comments did not shed any light so do any of our readers know? My Manx expert says 'glen as lajer' would mean 'pure and strong' and thinks 'troor duirn' is 'three fists'.



## Alfred moves

The BHS visited Alfred's Brewery in Winchester back in 2014. It has now celebrated its tenth anniversary with a move a quarter of a mile down the road to larger premises. During that time, proprietor Steve Haigh reckons he has brewed over 7,000hL of beer.

## Gales Prize Old Ale to return at last



Martyn Cornell has been researching Gale's Prize Old Ale following Asahi's announcement that the beer was making a come-back. Gale's Brewery in Horndean was taken over by Fullers in 2006 and subsequently closed.

Rewind back to 2006 when Fuller's Head Brewer John Keeling shipped the last vat full to Fuller's brewery in Chiswick to be kept safe. Fuller's acquired Dark Star in 2018 where its Head Brewer Henry Kirk persuaded HQ to ship some down to the brewery at Partridge Green in West Sussex. He brewed another batch and in time honoured fashion (at least back to the 1920s) mixed it with the matured brew for a further spell of tank conditioning. Initially 10hL was filled into 33cL bottles and crown sealed rather than corked. More could be packaged if the first batch is popular but

they must remember to hold back some to blend with the 2023 brew...hopefully. Trouble is that Asahi has announced that all Dark star brands will move to Meantime at the end of the year and the brewery will close.

Martyn adds that Gale's Prize Old Ale would probably not exist if it had not been for the suicide of Gale's head brewer, William Sydney Steel, aged 54, four days before Christmas 1922. Steel had steered the firm through the tough years of the First World War but he had apparently just bought a large quantity of malt at too high a price, and, burdened with worry, drowned himself in fermenting vessel number five.

William Barton Mears junior, aged 31, who was then working for Hepworth's brewery in Ripon, Yorkshire was hired to take over. Restrictions imposed during the First World War on brewing strong beers had finally been removed in June 1921 and Mears took advantage of this to add a strong, dark, well-aged old ale with an original gravity of 1095° and 9%ABV. It quickly won plaudits and was known as Prize Old Ale by 1928.

## If you are ever in the States....

The United States still has its National Brewery Museum at the old lead mining town of Potosi in Wisconsin. It is situated alongside the Potosi Brewing Co so visitors can get a lot of hands on experience. A museum and brewery ticket costs \$13. The Company started back in 1852, survived Prohibition but closed in 1972. A non-profit



foundation restarted operations in 2008 after a \$7.5 million revamp. The Museum is a JV between the Potosi Foundation and the American Breweriana Association.

Sam Adams brewery in Cincinnati has a new mural (right)

## Mike meanders in Lincolnshire

### Kirtons for us?

Looking first at the Kirton near Boston, many if not most, of the pubs brewed. In the case of the Kings Arms in the High Street, presumably in the building at the rear:

Now a restaurant, the listed building is thought to be



16<sup>th</sup> century with major alterations in 1661. There was mention of home brewed ale in 1814 and various brewers listed throughout the C19<sup>th</sup>, including Henry Wileman around 1871/84. On 14<sup>th</sup> November 1898 a W Wileman was selling the plant. However, there was also a larger common brewery. Using the National Library of Scotland map database; this locates the brewery on Station Road, further down from Harvey House, on the opposite side. A recent foray made me wonder if this fitted with the buildings in commercial use at No40: Having looked more closely at the map, my thought



now is that the site would be where the Co-op stands. As ever, any info would be most welcome. The history of the business is as follows-  
*Vessey & Brother*, trading from at least 1850. In 1856 Erastus Vessey listed, but in August selling the 3qtr brewery. The Stamford Mercury Jan 1857:  
Although Billyard was listed in 1871, in November 1865

**KIRTON BREWERY, near BOSTON.**  
**HENRY BILLYARD** begs to inform his friends and the public generally that he has taken to the above old-established Brewery lately carried on by Mr. ERASTUS VESSEY; and will, by personal attention and experienced assistance in the Brewery, continue to supply his friends with Beer of the same fine quality for which the above old establishment is so celebrated.  
*Kirton, Jan. 13, 1857.*

the business was for sale and then the plant on 6<sup>th</sup> Apr 1866. Henry moved to the Magpies in Lincoln and was advertising home brew. He was in liquidation in 1875 and died around 1884.

By 1872 it seems Edward Coupland was running the concern. July 1876 he held the Red Cow, Kirton End. However, in June 1881 letting the "5½ hogshead" brewery + 2 pubs and on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1882 selling the 2½ qtr plant, the pubs having been sold. Despite these advertisements on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1894 there was a sale of plant near the station.

### Kirton Lindsey

#### Taylor Joseph & Co

The Stamford Mercury 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 1853...

In August 1805 Matthews & Co of the Newington Brewery, near Bawtry, had advertised they could supply

**ASHWELL BREWERY, KIRTON in LINDSEY.**  
**JOSEPH TAYLOR & CO. (of NEWINGTON),**  
beg to inform their Friends and the Public generally that they have succeeded to the above old-established ALE and PORTER BREWERY, and hope by strict attention and supplying a good article to merit a continuance of that support so long and kindly bestowed on their predecessor, Mr. SMEDLEY.  
*Kirton in Lindsey, Feb. 26, 1853.*

Lincolnshire, by water carriage. By 1828 Mr Taylor was at the brewery there, 1837 identified as Joseph Taylor. He died 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1852, aged 71 and the business was then run by John and James Taylor, until for sale May 1866, John Taylor bankrupt. In the November it was to let by James. In 1868 Richard Brown at the brewery 'Misson', when his infant child died and in the November sale of 9 stone storage vats. In February 1876 William Burton, many years brewer here, died aged 85. On the 1887 map the brewery, near the wharf, is marked as disused.

In 1854 J Taylor & co advertising for a wagoner. In 1856 they were listed at the Ashwell Brewery and in October 1857 letting the George in the market place. . In January 1862 Joseph was bankrupt as a brewer and maltster. For sale 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1862, described as in the centre of town and on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1862 sale of the nearly new 6 qtr plant on account of alterations west of Ash Well Lane/ Traingate. Joseph aged 37, died 17<sup>th</sup> April 1865 at Westfield Cottage Misson, previously of Ashwell House. In September 1863 the Ashwell malt kilns were to let. They were also listed at Summer Hill, Gainsborough, but that may have been a depot. Whilst we have photos of maltings at Kirton, there is no sign of the Ashwell brewery.

### A family wrangle

In April 1854 Messrs Horton were letting the Ram at Boston. In 1857 George Goe Horton and Samuel Horton were owners of the Black Bull Wrangle, which was for sale 8th April. On 11<sup>th</sup> April maltster George sued brother Samuel for assault! Family disagreements were mentioned in court and as a result:  
*Partnership lately subsisting between us the undersigned, George Goe Horton and Samuel Horton, as Brewers, Maltsters, Brick, and Tile Makers, and Dealers in Sand, carried on by us at Leake and Wrangle, in the county of Lincoln, under the firm of George and Samuel Morton, was on the 20th day of*

March last, dissolved by mutual consent. 29th April, 1857.

George Goe Horton senior, aged 83 father of brewers George and Samuel, died 6<sup>th</sup> October 1861. He was described as originally a brickmaker. The property was said to be a 14 qtr plant and in 1869 included the Bricklayers Arms, Old Leake. George jun seems to have taken over the family concern. In 1878 a John George Horton was fined for the use of salt. In 1889 the Windmill in Leake was run by George's son William Henry Horton.

It was for sale 14<sup>th</sup> August 1897; however, a sale on 7<sup>th</sup> September mentioned the Firsby brewery and manager here GJ Heron.

**TO BREWERS, HOTEL KEEPERS, WINE and SPIRIT MERCHANTS, and other HOLDERS of LICENSED PROPERTIES.**  
**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.**  
**FIRSBY, LEAKE, WRANGLE, LEVERTON, and IRBY, in the county of Lincoln.**  
**MESSRS. J. G. KILLINGWORTH and SON,** Auctioneers, Boston, are instructed to Offer for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Red Lion Hotel, in Boston, on 7th September next (if not previously disposed of), the above valuable BREWERY CONCERN, with Nine Licensed HOUSES and about 25 Acres of LAND, and known as the "Firsby and Leake Breweries," situate at the respective place above-mentioned.  
This Property is brought into the market in consequence of the owner going to reside in the South of England, and it forms a very compact concern, the houses being within easy reach of each other, and complete railway accommodation is afforded at the Brewery at Firsby.—Further and detailed particulars in future advertisements.  
**S. B. CARNLEY, Solicitor,**  
Alford, Spilsby, and Burgh-le-Marsh.  
Alford, 11th August, 1897.

A court case of the time vs George Christopher Fordham of the Firsby brewery, suggests that there had been problems with the merger of the two concerns. There was then a sale by private contract of the 5 qtr plant with the Bricklayers and 5 other pubs. These were bought by Soulby, Sons & Winch Ltd in 1899. George Horton died 1904 in his 91st year

### Gomarthonge

Meanwhile, after the family tiff, Samuel seems to have set up on his own, further up the road as shown on the map extract. In 1873 he held the Sailors Home in Leake and in 1876 applied for an off licence for the brewery. In 1878 Mrs Horton was living at Gomarthonge Villa, in



front of the brewery. On 24<sup>th</sup> January 1882, Samuel aged 57 or 67 (reports vary), died at Matlock Bath. It was for sale 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1883, described as new 4½ qtr plant and occupied by Samuel for 26 years.

In April it was taken by local farmer Thomas Drury. However, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1884 he was declared bankrupt as a brewer and coal merchant with unsecured liabilities of £2948, secured liabilities £4,000 and assets of £956.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1890 it was for sale, a 4½ qtr recently fitted up. In November held by John Robert Collins, previously a farmer. However, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1896 there was a sale of the 16 barrel copper etc Collins having sold the business to Ind Coope. He became their local agent, in 1905 with branches at Willoughby and New Leake and one at Kirton, run by his son Ernest Herbert.

Collins died November 1914, aged 62, and there was a sale of property the following February and the agency may have ceased around then. In 1944 the house was for sale, Mrs E Collins deceased. I have no idea of the origin of the house name. The property is now used by Agrovista UK Limited:



### Freiston Shore

This forlorn building was originally the Anchor (1816 to let), later the Marine Hotel, Shore Road. Brewing took



place in the C19th. It seems there is a 1920s photograph of the hotel on the Parish Council website. It is a Grade II listed building, closed 1959 and partly demolished! The remains are near the RSPB site and some of the demolition may have been earlier as part of the coastal defences.

Mike Brown



## New Brews News

This information is kindly supplied by Ian Mackey. It is sorted into 1974 county order so that readers may more readily see activity in their own area. Ian writes "I make every effort to keep up to date with brewery openings and as much as possible closures. But if you spot something not here, or hear of a closure in your area please e-mail me so the society records are up to date - **Address withheld.**"

### ABERDEENSHIRE

**Braemar Brewing Co**, Airlie House, Chapel Brae, Braemar AB35 5YT

W: [www.brewbraemar.uk](http://www.brewbraemar.uk)

Dave Evans commenced brewing in Summer 2021.

### CO ANTRIM

**Our Brewery**, Get Er Brewed Home Brew & Microbrewery Supply Stores, 86 Clonkeen Road, Randalstown, Antrim BT41 3JJ

W: [www.ourbrewery.geb.com](http://www.ourbrewery.geb.com)

A home brew supply store commenced brewing and canning their beers in spring 2022.

### CO ARMAGH

**Spadetown Brewery**, 25 Silverwood Industrial Are, Silverwood Road, Lurgan, Armagh, BT66 6LN

W: [www.spade.town](http://www.spade.town)

Started As Spade Town, in late 2021 then simplified to Spadetown later.

### CORNWALL

**Bluntrock Brewery**, Unit 8, Pityme Industrial Estate, Pityme, Rock, Cornwall PL27 6NS

W: [www.bluntrockbrewery.co.uk](http://www.bluntrockbrewery.co.uk)

A site was acquired in early 2021 and brewing commenced December 2021.



### DERBYSHIRE

**Temper Brewing Co Ltd**, The Dronfield Arms, 91 Chesterfield Road, Dronfield S18 2XE

W: [www.temperbrewery.com](http://www.temperbrewery.com)

Brewing under this name started in December 2021 using an old five barrel plant that lay dormant in the Dronfield Arms.

### DYFED

**Electro Brewing**, No19, Parc Teifi, Cardigan, SA43 1EW

W: [www.electrobrewing.com](http://www.electrobrewing.com)

Established in early 2021

### EAST SUSSEX

**Only With Love Brewery**, Little Goldsmiths Farm, Beechy Road, Uckfield East Sussex TN22 5JG

W: [www.onlywithlove.co](http://www.onlywithlove.co)



Established by Steve, ex Hollers Brewery and Roger, ex Holler drinker in late 2020.

They produce beers and kombucha.

### ESSEX

**Black Box Brewery**, 18-19 Aviation Way, Southend-on-Sea. Essex SS2 6UN

W: [www.blackboxbrewery.co.uk](http://www.blackboxbrewery.co.uk)

Brewery near Southend airport with appropriate themed names and beers. Brewing commenced early 2022.

### GREATER MANCHESTER

**Wakey Wakey Brewery Co Ltd**, 100 Brotherod Hall Road, Rochdale, OL12 7ED

Nano brewery commenced July 2022.

Run by Anthony Jones a home brewer who went commercial.

**Big Trip Brewing**, Unit 5, City Court Trading Estate, Poland Street, Manchester M4 6AL

Brewing commenced in July 2022.

**Green Arches Brewery**, 11 Red Bank, Green Quarter, Manchester M4 4HF

Established in autumn 2022 by two ex-owners of the Beatnik Brewery, in a unit near the old site but a new smaller plant. Beers will be keg and only available in their own tap room.

**Ventile Brew Co**, Unit 4, Spur Mill, Broadstone Hall Road South, Stockport SK5 7BX

W: [www.ventilebrew.co](http://www.ventilebrew.co)

Established in spring 2021.

### GWENT

**Hive Mind Brewery**, Wye Valley Meadery, Unit 5F, Castleway Industrial Estate, Caldicot NP26 5PR

W: [www.wyevallymeadery.co.uk](http://www.wyevallymeadery.co.uk)

Kit and Matt established Wye Valley Meadery in 2018 and started experimenting with beers using honey. Commercial brews started in spring 2021.

### MERSEYSIDE

**Big Bang Brewery**, 131 Victoria Street, New Brighton, Wallasey, Wirral, Merseyside.

W: [www.bigbangbrewery.co.uk](http://www.bigbangbrewery.co.uk)

Brewery and distillery established in 2021 by Ant Ryan and David Maloney. However, they closed in October 2022 citing rising costs.

**Azvex Brewery & Taproom**, Unit 16, King Edward Street, Gibraltar Row, Liverpool L3 7HJ

W: [www.avzvbrewing.com](http://www.avzvbrewing.com)

Brewing commenced in October 2021

### NORTHUMBERLAND

**Monkey House Cider**, Unit 1, Windmill Way West, Ramparts Business Park, Berwick-Upon-Tweed TD15 1UN

W: [www.monkeyhousecider.co.uk](http://www.monkeyhousecider.co.uk)

A cider maker who started producing packaged beers in summer 2021.

### NORTH YORKSHIRE

**Elvington Brewery**, Station Yard, York Road, Elvington, York YO41 4EL

W: [www.elvingtonbrewery.co.uk](http://www.elvingtonbrewery.co.uk)

Beer distributor Pivovar started brewing their own lager on a 180L test plant in 2021. A full size plant is being built with a start date of autumn 2022 planned.

**Another Beer Company Brewery**, Unit H3, Elvington Industrial Estate, York Road, Elvington, York YO41 4AE

W: [www.anotherbeer.co.uk](http://www.anotherbeer.co.uk)

Cuckoo brewed at Ice Cream Factory initially. In early 2022 they commenced brewing on the site vacated by Hop Studio.



## SOMERSET

**Gert Lush Brewing Co Ltd**, Hurn Farm Buildings, Ashmoor Drove, Wookey, Wells BA5 1NS  
 W: [www.gertlushbeer.co.uk](http://www.gertlushbeer.co.uk)  
 Established in spring 2021.

## STRATHCLYDE

**Mosaik Brewing Co**, The Fintry Inn, 23 Main Street, Fintry, Glasgow G63 0XA  
 W: [www.mosaikbrewing.co.uk](http://www.mosaikbrewing.co.uk)  
 The Fintry Inn brewed as Fintry until Covid forced a closure. In summer 2022 new owners started brewing under the Mosaik Brewing name.

## WEST MIDLANDS

**Cult of Oak Brewery**, Unit 15 Central Park, Halesowen Road, Netherton, Dudley DY2 9NW  
 Established in mid 2020 focussing on barrel aged, bottled beers.



## WILTSHIRE

**True Story Brewing Co.**, Unit 7, Curtis Centre, Kingdom Avenue, Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury, Wiltshire. BA13 4EW  
 W: [www.truestorybrewing.com](http://www.truestorybrewing.com)  
 Established in spring 2022. Beers are canned.

## National Brewery Centre has closed

*A tangled tale from the banks of the River Trent.*

The East Staffordshire Borough Council has obtained £23m of government money to make Burton on Trent a more pleasant place. This involves creating a strip of housing and a tourist destination facing out across the Trent Washlands and incorporating the 1866 Bass Brewery water tower. There would be a heritage centre in William Bass' old house and the Bass archives would be accommodated there. Trouble was that Molson Coors UK HQ at Carling House stood in the way. M-C said they would look for alternative office accommodation for 500 staff and a sale was agreed. In September it was revealed that the proposed new offices would be installed at the National Brewery Centre – the old Bass Museum. All the low rise non listed buildings on the site would be razed.

Rewind back to 1977 when Bass founded the Museum to celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Supported by a hefty marketing budget, it never paid its own way. Coors acquired the rump of Bass' English assets from Interbrew in 2002 and continued to support the Coors Visitor Centre. Coors joined Molson in 2005 and three years later the facility was closed citing ongoing £1m annual costs which it thought was not core to its international beverage business. After protest marches and a lot of local pressure, organisation of the museum activities passed to Planning Solutions Ltd which already ran the Conkers adventure site nearby. PSL was the operating tenant which had a profitable bar/restaurant and held events in a large marquee thus subsidising the visitors which were latterly around 25,000 a year. The 37hL William Worthington brewery installed by M-C in 2010 in the ground floor of the Joiners Shop recently passed to PSL and sales were apparently doing well. The Shop

also houses the collection relocated from the old town museum which closed in 1981, but that is another story.

Despite a petition and a protest march around the town, closure has led to redundancies and prebooked weddings have



had to find new venues. The extensive archive from the old Bass empire will need relocating. A question mark hangs over a huge Robey steam engine, a 100bri union set, 200bri copper, No.9 saddle tank and the directors coach and a host of historic vehicles which all need to find new homes. The shire horses, no longer actually owned by the brewery, are already stabled elsewhere.

M-C has offered Old Bass House, an unused and decaying office space on the High Street as an alternate location for a museum which it expects the Council to buy and someone else to run it. In the meantime artifacts will require safe storage and funding found to install them in their new home. M-C promise to appoint a Collections Officer and plan to store everything in the Joiners Shop for the time being.



So the council pay M-C £5.3m for Carling House and pay to demolish it. M-C will have to pay for careful stripping of the artifacts and archives followed by safe storage. M-C pays millions to convert the museum site for office use. The council will pay an estimated £7m to convert Old Bass House. All this will take years even if public money can be found to carry out the currently unfunded move. In the meantime, there is a perfectly adequate museum conserving the town's brewing heritage, we just need someone to run it and M-C find somewhere else to house staff most of whom seem to work from home these days. It does not even have to be in the same town as its biggest brewery.

Daft isn't it? Watch this space, the tale continues.....



# Gleanings – tomorrow's history today!

## CMBC slims down

Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Co. closed Jennings Brewery in Cockermouth in early October citing



volumes way below capacity. All tours and hospitality failed to reopen after the Covid so there were only five staff affected. The beers will move to Burton on Trent and the 1.73 acre site in the Cockermouth Conservation Area is up for sale asking for offers over £750,000 which seems cheap considering two floors of the five storey maltings building are already kitted out as office space. The brewing equipment is apparently still operable.

CMBC bought Jennings in 2005 with its 127 pubs. The brewery was founded by maltster John Jennings at nearby Lorton in 1828 and moved to the current site in 1874.

Taking advantage of strong local feelings, Crooked River Brewing has been launched in the town and is seeking crowdfunded to set up a brewery to continue a long tradition of Cumbrian brewing. I fear the 30,000bpa Jennings plant might be a tad too large for them!

As we go to press CMBC has sold its Eagle Brewery in Bedford to Barcelona based S A Damm which has 17 breweries in Iberia. Estrella Damm is already packaged at Bedford. This old Charles Wells plant passed to Marstons in 2017 for £55m.

## Site developers' plans

Guinness is partnering with property developer Ballymore on plans to open 336 apartments inside its St James's



Gate Brewery site. The 5ha 'Guinness Quarter' will include both apartments and hotel accommodation, a flexible-use 300 seat performance space, landscaped gardens, a food hall, a marketplace, a 2,000-space bicycle park and commercial workspaces. Billed as Dublin's 'first net zero operational carbon district', the development is expected to take up to 15 years to complete.

The Golden Hill brewery in Wiveliscombe could be turned into 25 low-cost apartments and a 93m<sup>2</sup> community enterprise hub by the Somerset Co-operative Community Land Trust. The brewery was founded in 1807 by William Hancock, it merged with 36 pubs with S. W. Arnold of Taunton in 1927 and was acquired by Usher's of Trowbridge in 1955 ceasing production in 1960. Parts of the site were subsequently used by Exmoor Ales, until it moved to larger premises nearby in 2015.

The former Federation Brewery site in Gateshead is set to be transformed into a new leisure attraction after being bought by the Metrocentre



Partnership. The 5.4ha site was flattened soon after closure in 2010 when Intu bought it. They were a casualty of the Covid in 2020. We are promised 46 EV charging points.

A new microbrewery has been included in plans for a 262 home development at the former St Helier site of the Ann Street Brewery. There will also be new basement parking for 65 vehicles and storage for 224 bicycles. Two of the seven listed buildings on the site will be knocked down.

After both Versant and Blakeley Estates went into administration, Weymouth's Brewers Quay site has passed to an undisclosed buyer. Banners have tidied up the unsightly barriers round the site but apartments are still planned. Brewers Quay was previously an indoor shopping complex with around 20 speciality shops together with heritage and

science exhibits, until it closed in 2010.

29 apartments over the seven floors of the 1880 Eldridge Pope Brewery building in Dorchester's Brewery Square development is nearing completion. Prices start at £425,000.

Capital & Centric is set to buy the former William Stones Cannon Brewery in the trendy Neepsend area of Sheffield. The site has been abandoned to graffiti artists since 1999. The £200m proposed spend includes flats, a live music venue, workspaces, recording and artist studios, a mini cinema, café bars and a microbrewery.

The three storey 1875 vintage Crown Maltings on Anglesey Road in Burton on Trent could be turned into 64 apartments with four retail units and nine offices. With planning permission, the site is on sale for £3m. Originally owned by L C Meakin, the



site passed to Worthington in 1910.

Heineken had no takers to purchase its Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh so it looks like being turned into student accommodation.

## Walking on beer

Heineken has collaborated with shoe designer, Dominic Ciambone and came up with these sneakers called



'Heinekicks'. In shades of green, silver and red, it matches corporate colours and the soles are said to be filled with beer and there is a built-in bottle opener fitted into the tongue.

## Ma Pardoe's at risk



The Old Swan in Netherton near Dudley aka Ma Pardoe's, one of Britain's most celebrated institutions being one of only four brewpubs still surviving when CAMRA was formed in 1971. It is facing closure due to rising costs and reduced footfall. Sales are said to be half those before the Covid. The licensee cites issues with unresolved business rates, paying back the bounce back loan and not a lot of help with the rent due to owners Star Pubs and Bars. You can add Leeds Brewery, Frisky Bear, Nomadic, Old Dairy, Beatnikz and Skinners to the list.

## Distiller to sell brewery

Irish Distillers, owned by Pernod Ricard is seeking to offload its craft beer business Eight Degrees Brewing which was acquired in 2018. It would work with the new owner on distribution deals and buying wash.

## Odyssey buys from Lion

Kirin's Lion has sold its UK craft business to newly formed Odyssey Inns. Fourpure and Magic Rock breweries are involved as well as taprooms in Huddersfield, Holmfirth and the Little Creatures venue at Kings Cross in London. No price was released and meanwhile Lion will concentrate on the apparently more lucrative craft market in the USA with Bells and New Belgium.

## Oktoberfest returns



After a forced break due to the Covid for two years, the 2022 Oktoberfest event disappointed the organisers as only 56,000hL of beer were drunk, 23% less than in 2019.

The number of visitors was also disappointing as it fell 10% short of 2019 at 5.7 million. Apparently the weather was the worst for twenty years. The price of beer went up by 15% as well. That consumption is less than a litre for each visitor!

## Mexico wants to ban brewing in the north

Mexico's President López Obrador proposes a ban on brewing in the north towards the US border as drought intensifies. He says the industry is using dwindling water resources while local people suffer. The region is home to large breweries owned by Constellation Brands, AB InBev and Heineken which he wants to move south. We do not suppose *El Presidente* would be too pleased if the Yanks started brewing Mexican brands at home.

## West Ham hammered over beer prices

According to the Mirror, West Ham boasts the dubious honour of having the most expensive pint at any Premier League stadium in 2022. Its bars are currently charging £7.60 for either Heineken or Birra Moretti, with a more 'budget' option coming in the form of Amstel at £7.30 which is still more expensive than any other Premier League stadium. The cheapest beer can be found at Old Trafford (£3).

Racegoers at Cheltenham are not happy paying £7.50 for Guinness in paper cups either.

## 4400yo brewery found

Archaeologists excavating at the so-called German Stonehenge have found a 4400 year old brewery in Saxony-Anhalt. The remains were discovered at the Ring Sanctuary of Poemelte located in the Salzland district in August. Some sort of drying oven still containing grain residues suggests malt was being produced.

Closer to home, archaeologists believe they may have found the remains of a medieval alehouse in the unploughed abandoned village of High Hunsley, near Beverley in East Yorkshire. The clincher was loads of jug handles.

## Beer at the World Cup

Qatar is allowing restricted beer sales at the World Cup. Drinking is forbidden during the games but it will be allowed in a ticketed arena outside the stadium for a limited time before (3hr) and after (1hr) each match. The choice of beer is restricted to Budweiser, which has exclusive rights to sell beer at the tournament. The official 'Fan Festival' which takes place in a downtown Doha Park from 6:30 pm

to 1:00 am has beer. Price is around £13 for a pint and an American one at that!

## Heineken buys rest of Beavertown

Heineken, which took a £40m minority stake in Beavertown in 2018, will now buy the remaining shares. Founder Logan Plant will step down after using the investment to triple sales and increase capacity including a new brewery at Enfield.

## Beer is good for you

Experts in Australia studying the drinking habits and dementia rates among 25,000 over 60s have found that drinking two pints a day slashed the risk of the memory-robbing condition by a third. Non-drinkers are a fifth more likely to get the condition.

## Japanese beery hotel

West Coast Brewing in Shizuoka City has opened a five room hotel and is offering guests 10L of beer a night as well as a beer tap in each room and access to its tap room on the first floor.

## More help for cask beer

The Drink Fresh Beer initiative from CAMRA and the SIBA recognises that cask beer is in 'steep and sustained decline' and is 'struggling to shake its male, pale and stale image'. A new campaign aims to attract younger drinkers. Stats show 93% of loyal cask drinkers are men and 71% of those are aged 50 or over. We are promised an augmented reality scannable pump clip which will tell drinkers more about the beer, how far it has travelled and when the cask was freshly tapped.

## Beer in the ass!

A curious drinking custom has emerged in Brazil – *Cerveja na bundinha* literally means drinking in the ass. You flip the can upside down and give it a good wipe. Using a knife or a nail, poke a few holes in the middle of the base. Poke one more larger hole on the raised bottom ring and fill the indent with coarse salt. Squeeze a quarter of a lime over the salt. Then, place your lips to the hole on the rim and drink. You can even buy gadgets which drill the holes for you. *Cu de burro* is similar; the end of a donkey; here you mix salt and lime in a separate glass and take alternate sips with your beer. Not sure it will catch on over here.

## Questions and occasionally the odd answer

### Andrew Pring asks about 'flips'



Andrew saw this old price list decorating the walls of a country club in Sevenoaks. Google says flips were composed of rum or brandy, eggs, molasses or sugar and beer all mixed together and frothed up with a hot poker. Can anyone add anything further?

### Mystery object from Notts CAMRA

CAMRA's Nick Molyneux has a mystery object with a makers plate 'H Hallam & Son, Bar Fitters Ltd, 73 Mansfield Road, Nottingham'.



*This is a cellar tun dish which rested on top of a barrel used to filter beer back into a cask. There would have been a long tube attached to the hole in the bottom. Filtering bar slops, line drainings and cask ullage back into casks, usually of mild ale, was once a widespread practice. Happily it no*

*longer takes place.....or does it?*

### Swallow Brewery in Billingshurst

Paul Ripplingham is seeking information about the Swallow Brewery and Maltings in Billingshurst, West Sussex. The brewery and maltings reputedly stood on the site of what is now a Truffles bakers shop and previously Malaya Garage. It apparently used to have a distinctive oast house roof. Constable's Swallow Breweries at Arundel and Littlehampton merged in the early 1920s with Henty's of Chichester. However, the Billingshurst brewery of the same name, Swallow, is not mentioned anywhere.

*Our archivist replies...I couldn't find any mention in Graham Holter's Sussex Breweries, nor in our notes. There is mention in 1889 of the Friary Brewery Co acquiring a Kings Arms brewhouse. This may be the same as the Kings Head in the High Street, operated by the Mitchell family in the 1870s. Thomas Mercer had brewed in the town, but was bankrupt in 1825. However, Long Life - History of Allied Breweries, seems to provide the most likely answer....in 1871 Alex Dennet was malting in the town and it seems that by 1887 George S Constable had acquired a malthouse to supplement production for their Swallow Brewery in Arundel. This was still operating in 1918 as 'The Maltings', thus giving rise to the name on the map.*

### Old brewers from Gloucester

Martyn Cornell observes that many Italian craft beer sites say that Agricola the Roman governor of Britain took three British brewers from Glevum (Gloucester)

back to Rome in AD 83 to teach the locals how to brew ale. No British beer historian has ever mentioned this, any idea about the source?

### Sambrooks has found a bottle

John Hatch at Sambrooks received an old bottle with 'SB' on the vulcanite screw stopper. The sender wrongly assumed that it belonged to the new brewers on the Ram Brewery site! The bottle base is embossed as well. Any ideas?



### Another mystery object

David Cooper has this coopered drum with a shoulder strap which was awarded to Eric Langton Butler of Springfield Brewery in Wolverhampton presumably on his retirement in 1977. The brewery and the surname Butler share a blood line of 118 years since William Butler established the brewery in 1873. Eric Butler was his grandson and son of Samuel, who retired from his directorship in 1950. Eric joined the family business in 1938. The question is why is it in the form of a drum rather than the ubiquitous cask shape



### Looking for J E B Tetley

Geoff Dye is putting the finishing touches to his 180 page history of The Guernsey Brewery and we hope to publish it as a special Journal. John Edmund Bedwell Tetley was from the Tetley brewery family and moved to Guernsey in 1931 when he was aged 26/27 and eventually joined The Guernsey brewery as a brewer. He was interned in Germany during the War. But he never returned to the island and died in Dorset in 1973. So where was he from 1946?

### Searching for Cresseys

Paul Browning tells us he is related to the Cressey's Hundred Street Brewery at Romsey in Hampshire. *Our archivist details our records: 1855-64 Mrs Sarah Jesser, may have bought George Lawes Lansdown Arms and Church Street brewery around then. She died in 1864 with the brewery in the hands of Alfred Pitt Jesser and Francis Cressey. Alfred Pitt died a year later. On 2nd Nov 1870 Wm Joseph Jesser married Frances Mary daughter of Mr Cressey; however, William aged 22 died 10th May 1871. Mr Francis Cressey to 1872. Then 1873 Mrs Emily Cressey, 1879 mention of Mr W Allen at the brewery and 1880 F Gregory and C Dacre, presumably all employees. Emily Maria Cressey widow died 2nd Feb 1878, when her executor was Francis Jesser Cressey. In 1881*

*there was a court case about her estate, when Frederick Ayton was manager of the brewery. By 1884 they had built up a reasonable estate: but was sold to Strongs in 1886. Strongs may have continued brewing there up to 1894 although the boilers were not sold until 1919.*

### **Murphy's plant NL97**

Terry Hanstock has some further information about 1876 William Henry Hutchinson (Bulwell 1839 - 1897 Old Basford). Census returns list him as a brewer and maltster living with his family and servants at 10 Church Street, Old Basford from 1871 until his death. (The maltings were on Cobden Street, Old Radford.) His father, William, was a farmer so it seems likely that the Henry Hutchinson listed as a brewer of Church Street in 1874 is actually William Henry Hutchinson. Described as the managing director of W H Hutchinson & Sons Ltd on his death, he left an estate valued at £163,000. Probate was granted to his sons, William Marshall Hutchinson and George Percy Hutchinson, both brewers.

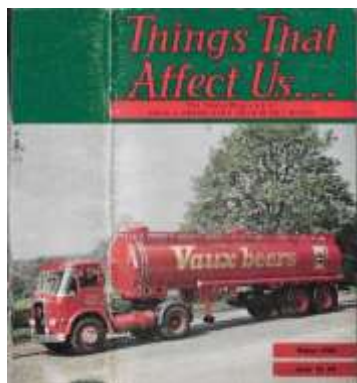
### **Caley history NL98**

Frank Nicholson has written to say that our potted history of the about-to-be-closed Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh is not quite correct.

The Vaux staff magazine, 'Things that Affect Us' of October 1949 details the origins of Lorimer & Clark. Funnily enough Vaux had started selling Lorimer's Scotch during the First World War in an endeavour to overcome the severe production restrictions imposed by the various Defence of the Realm Acts. This led to my Grandfather, Sir Frank Nicholson, agreeing to buy the Brewery in 1919, but, because the Vaux family, who owned the Sunderland company, weren't prepared to spend the money, he bought it on his own account and only persuaded the Vaux's to buy it in 1920 when they saw how popular Lorimer's Scotch was. It became a wholly-owned subsidiary at that time and continued to trade as such until the 1940s when it was fully integrated into what was then called Vaux & Associated Breweries Ltd. For many years the beer was transported from Edinburgh to Sunderland in hogsheads before the introduction of bulk tankers in the 1960s. My father, Douglas Nicholson, often told the tale of his time training there in 1927 when, one night, he

discovered the Head Brewer, the unfortunate Mr White, floating in one of the fermenting vats having been overcome by the gas!

Vaux's post war investment in Scottish brewing started with the acquisition of Steel Coulson & Co's Croft-an-Righ Brewery in Edinburgh in 1954



(not 1959 as recorded in the 'Century of British Brewers') and then Thomas Usher & Son in 1959. The photo (below left) shows the 115 barrel tanker for carrying beer from Caley to Sunderland.

### **Allsopp's rounds NL98**

Hugh Smith writes....I remember working in the Allsopp's round room in 1959 in which all worts were collected before transfer to unions and squares. Three brews a day with as many as four gyles in a single brew kept everyone busy including the excise officers. The biggest brew was a pale mild (most un-Burtonian) which was sent to the old Parker estate in Burslem, it was collected in 22 vessels. The room was very big and airy but only half was rounds, the other half being union sets, altogether it was very impressive. As to the fate of these vessels I have no idea.

### **Thomas Pooley NL98**

This guy will just not lie down!

Sandra Bates has found him in the 1841 census: Thomas Pooley age 48 of independent means, not born in Surrey resident at Claremont Crescent, New Town, part of Kingston. Also in the household was Jane Pooley age 46 not born in Surrey. Probably Thomas's wife but relationships were not stated in 1841 census. In 1837 Alexander Gopsell Pooley a Brewer aged over 21 married Jane Wadbrook in Middlesex. Alexander's father was Thomas Pooley a Maltster. In 1841 Alexander Pooley, 28, of independent means was living at Victoria Terrace, New Town, part of Kingston. With him Jane Pooley age 27, and 18-month-old William. At his baptism in Kingston, William's father Alexander Pooley was recorded as a Maltster.

The Tithe apportionment for Kingston dated 1842 lists 'Thomas Pooley and others' as landowners of a large area south of Kingston. Properties were primarily 'house and garden' and 'site for houses'. Neither Thomas nor Alexander was listed as the owner or occupier of any malthouse in the town.

All the above was confirmed by Terry Hanstock who pointed out Thos Pooley has a Wikipedia entry. Margaret Bird has lived in the area for 52 years confirms that Thomas Pooley was a hugely significant figure in the history of Kingston and Surbiton. He was in effect the creator of Surbiton, a rural area known in his time (the first half of the 19th century) as Town End or Town's End. As well as owning malthouses he was a property developer who laid out the future leafy suburb - which he wished to be known by the name of Kingston-on-Railway. The name did not catch on. He was instrumental in causing the main south-western line of the London and Southampton Railway to pass through Town End rather than Kingston itself, which found itself bypassed in 1839.

Local historian June Sampson has nine pages on Pooley and his achievements and records that the Kingston ratebooks of 1838 show Thomas Pooley to be running three malthouses and his son Alexander a fourth, situated near the Kingston riverside.

## BREWERS OF THE BRITISH ISLES – 1890 to 2021

380 A4 Black & White pages with colour cover

Town Index covering 3,766 locations

Index covering 10,692 individuals and companies brewing in this period.

The BHS Publications Team relaunched its flagship publication at The Oxford Brookes Brewing Library 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations last month. 'A Century of British Brewers' has been revamped, reviewed and restructured into a new volume called 'The Brewers of the British Isles'.

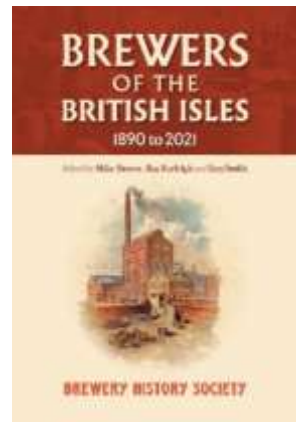
The content of the previous edition has been extensively reviewed in the light of recent and extensive research and combined into the new version. The opportunity to update the stories of the modern microbreweries has been taken as well as a consolidation of many of the numerous home brew pubs recorded in early versions of the book.

This edition is a massive research document that can springboard members and the general public into further research. A route into uncovering the detailed individual histories of the brewers both old and new that made the British brewing industry the formidable force it once was as well as the important development it still is today.

The Publications team are using the power and flexibility of Amazon's Kindle Print on Demand system to reduce capital spend and removed complex storage problems.

The base statistics detailed above speak for themselves as far as the length and breadth of this work is concerned. If you wish to buy a copy there are two methods to get your hand on this key resource in the search for brewing history information.

1. Go to Amazon and enter the full title of 'Brewers of the British Isles 1890 to 2021'. The cost is £19.95 plus £3.99 delivery if you are not on Prime. Currently we are exploring the option to have a Kindle version available for you to load into your reader.
2. Send a request to [publications@breweryhistory.com](mailto:publications@breweryhistory.com) and we will arrange a payment method and send you a copy the old fashioned way. Here the cost will be £19.95 and postage will be £3.35.



## More vintage brewery vehicles BHS Corporate Members



Photos from Facebook and the Beautiful World of Classic Transport.

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Wimbledon Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Windsor & Eton Brewery  
Wye Valley Brewery Ltd.

Heineken's John Smith's plant at Tadcaster during September 2008

