

9th SELDEN ARMS WINTERFEST

Friday 29th January
– Sunday 31st January 2010

Friday from 3pm, Saturday / Sunday from 12pm

Lunch served 12pm - 1.45pm,

Friday and Saturday



Twenty real ales served all weekend



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real ale pub!

The Quaffer

No.24

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A Free Independent Real Ale and Good Pub
Guide to the Sussex Scene

BRIGHTON HERITAGE PUBS

A 1983 CAMRA publication in conjunction with SAVE Britain's Heritage, *Time Gentlemen Please*, bemoaned how numerous pubs bore the scars of unsympathetic renovation with the destruction of many fine internal architectural fittings and fixtures. From there followed CAMRA's compilation of a 'National Inventory' of historic interiors; a formative list was included in the 1997 *Good Beer Guide* and two years later an updated version was published in booklet form. The second edition in 2003 estimated that less than four percent of the UK's, then, sixty thousand pubs had managed to avoid 'drastic alteration' and that fewer than 250 pubs in number remained with interiors of 'outstanding' heritage interest.

CAMRA has since begun to publish a series of Regional Inventory guides to pub interiors of 'special' historic interest. The emphasis, as with the National Inventory, is on fixed features and historic layout: these should be genuine, largely intact and little altered in at least the last forty years. This themed issue of *The Quaffer* is a companion to my Pub History Tour of Brighton on 23rd January 2010, which visits the existing National Inventory entry, those city centre pubs that could be considered for inclusion in a future South-East England Regional Inventory and others with brewery history connections.
Woodman, 49 Guildford Street, (closed 1949).

You cannot have a drink in this early-Victorian back street corner pub – no one has for over sixty years, since the days of last licensee Fred Sparshott. It presents, however, a perfect example of history literally etched on the exterior. Faded but visible high up on the corner is **THE WOODMAN**. Very distinctly on the architrave above the Doric capitals of the Guildford Street door appears C. BRIGGS. In the recess below, appended almost apologetically is T. RICHARDS. Charles Briggs was the first recorded licensee in 1854 (I like to think that his customers in their conviviality called him Charlie). F. Richards and a Mrs. Richards appear in records and directories of 1868. More difficult to discern is the scanty script on the stone wall to the right. Just traceable with some patience is:

VALLANCE & CATT'S
FINE ALES
LONDON STOUT

This is signage from the defunct West Street Brewery - almost certainly the only surviving example - established in 1767 at No. 8 West Street, Brighton, on the site of an old militia barracks, and demolished in the 1930s. Victorian owners William Catt and John Vallance traded under their joint name until the 1890s. Their seventy-four pubs including this one were bought in 1899 by local rival Tamplin's (of whom we will hear more in due course). Despite the decayed and dilapidated appearance, the plastic doorbell, clean net curtains and two modern replacement windows make it obvious that the premises are occupied.

Quadrant, 12-13 North Street Quadrant, tel. 01273 733238.

Occupying a landmark position opposite the clock tower, North Street Quadrant was built around 1854 but numbers 12 and 13 were for a while separate premises accommodating, at various times, a naturalist, wireworker, coal company office and a grocer and cheesemaker. They became conjoined as the Quadrant Hotel in 1864. Of four storeys with box-bay windows below a parapet and roughly wedge shaped, it closed for a period of time a few years back when under threat of demolition. After a popular campaign to save the pub, sanity prevailed and it reopened, Grade II listed with the interior thankfully unscathed. This is on split-levels, the lower section being the main attraction with moulded ceiling, panelled semi-circular chunky counter and adjacent fireplace. Across the central circular servery is a carved bar gantry with scrolled pediments, mirrors and tapering pillars. At the arched rear exit to Air

Street is a partition with pair of etched glass windows divided by pilasters with Doric capitals. The higher level of the pub is hard to date, perceivably post-war and plain, with the counter being a copy of that in the lower area. The first-floor, once called the Clock Tower Bar, and before that the Crystal Rooms, is modernised but wonderful black and white photographic views of old Brighton line the stairwell. Watch the vertiginous descent to the gents, hazardous enough when fully sober.

The TOM BOVEY, WINE & SPIRIT IMPORTER exterior signs date only from the reopening but it seems that someone at the owing company Drinkinbrighton has been doing their homework for this was the landlord of the **Quadrant** at the turn of the 20th century, probably the period when the lower bar was fitted. Thomas's wife, Carrie Bovey, carried on the license until 1938. Just visible on the right-side rounded window to the door facing Boots store is outlined:

The Quadrant
Saloon Lounge
Choice Wines and Spirits
BASS' PALE

The etched and cut glass below features a bird which could be a kingfisher. The presence of this motif usually coincides with a pub having once been owned by Tamplin's, but I can find no confirmation of it in this particular case. No Bass to be had here now but beers from Sussex breweries are available from £3.15 a pint across the four handpumps. Recently discovered in good condition have been **Arundel Autumn Old Ale** and **Old Scrooge**, while there is usually a changing beer from each of **Hepworth**, **Dark Star** and **King**. Ciders are **Thatchers Cheddar Valley** and **Heritage** on gravity and **Addlestons Premium Cloudy** on handpump. See www.drinkinbrighton.co.uk for more details.

Victory, 6 Duke Street, tel. 01273 326555.

In two-tone green tile with Tamplin's livery and a roundel over the front entrance depicting Nelson's ship, the ground floor of this two storey Dutch-gabled pub presents us with a most striking exterior. Strange to think such things were so little regarded during the 1970s as to have this façade then hidden under stucco. The premises date from 1854 but the remodelling we see today is most likely Edwardian. There are three clear room divisions but the only imposing interior fixture is in the front bar:

the elegant sloping bar counter with sunken panels and ornate, mirrored back fittings. After much scrutiny of the pediment, I now suspect the top section of the bar-back could be a replacement or a restoration; certainly the clock appears modern. A Victorian fireplace is in the far left wall. Near the doors at the opposite end was once the site of a Private Bar, while what is now the middle room was the Saloon Bar, as can be seen from the names on the etched, cut and painted door and window glass.

Spot the small pull-up section of wall for cellar deliveries and the disused doors along the Middle Street side. A third room accessed up a level at the rear was created by the amalgamation of an adjacent shop. The floor is old and boarded throughout; the embossed ceiling and frieze could be Victorian but there is clear evidence of an interwar refit in the toilets, matchwood dados, and the plain cream-tiled fireplace in the Saloon. The austerity of this latter feature appears incongruous with the ornate Victorian-style surround, the authenticity of which I am left to suspect. Upstairs in three rooms corresponding to those below is a couple of Victorian fireplaces, old boarded floors but little else and a modern bar. Four handpumps dispense a changing range of well-kept beers from Sussex breweries, typically **Dark Star**, **Hepworth**, **Arundel** and **King**, with prices just over the £3.00 a pint mark. Handpumped ciders are **Addlestons Premium Cloudy** and **Thatchers Cheddar Valley Traditional**. The pub is owned by the company Drinkinbrighton.

Cricketers, 15 Black Lion Street, tel. 01273 329472.

The present name it owes either to the cricket matches once played on the ground a mile to the north or, more specifically, to its 18th century landlord Thomas Jutten, a keen player of the game. The inn stood in close proximity to the old fishmarket and was before 1790 called the Laste and Fish Cart – a laste was a measure of ten-thousand fish. This house has a more genuine claim than most to being the oldest continuous licensed premises in the city but there is no evidence for the date of 1547 that is often cited, which stems from confusion with the original Black Lion Inn. Externally, what we have is a genuine Georgian building of three storeys, Grade II listed, double bow-fronted and attractively white-plastered. Abutting on the right and testimony to the Cricketers' days as a coaching inn, is the old stone and flint-fronted livery and stables, now converted to a drinking area with a modern bar counter installed at the rear. The yard beyond was the final site of the town's pound and as recently as 1887 a drunken drover had his flock of sheep impounded here.

Robert William Pitt was the landlord here from the 1880s until he died aged 93 in 1945 and the late-Victorian interior features survive from his heyday. His name lives on indented in the old brass plates of the main doors – R W PITT BRANDY MERCHANT. Push these open to face an isolated pair of, now free-standing, internal doors from an old vestibule. Its counterpart, complete but now disused gave access to the alley on the left – kingfishers appear in the glass door panels: Tamplin & Sons, once Brighton's biggest brewer, owned the pub from 1929-1964. The walls on this side hide blocked-up windows. There is a good, moulded ceiling and buttoned, upholstered seating. The counter front is of matchwood panels divided by thick pilasters but the top appears to be a replacement. Splendid back shelves with etched glass have spirit advertising panels in thin strips along the top. The cupboard at the right with the panel bearing the pub name is a post-1960s addition, but an old carved cross-gantry with etched glass and small projecting counter screen have regrettably disappeared from this end of the bar in the same time span.

A rectangular opening at the rear of the servery functions as bar counter to a lobby where an old pair of timbered archways separate side-by-side snugs. That on the right has an interwar fireplace while the older, red tiled fire in the larger left side has a sturdy flecked and fluted marble surround. The red flock wallpaper, faded portraiture on the ceiling and copious pseudo-antique clutter contrast sharply with the restrained elegance of the three modernised first-floor function rooms at the top of the curved staircase. These include the Greene Room, with a set of exhibits dedicated to Graham Greene, author of *Brighton Rock*. Other material on view relates to Jack the Ripper, with whom the pub claims a tenuous connection. Also up here survives a sturdily segmented Victorian bar counter with raised and fielded panels but with brand new back cabinets. This busy, touristy pub has Cask Marque accreditation but premium prices at £3.30 a pint. Handpumped **Harveys Best Bitter**, **Fuller's London Pride** and **Sharp's Doom Bar** are all very decently kept in this current *Good Pub Guide* 'lucky dip' entry. For more info see the owing company web site www.goldenliongroup.co.uk/ **Colonnade Bar, 10 New Road, tel. 01273 328728.**

By 1854 a John Edwin had turned these premises, previously occupied by a boot maker, into the Colonnade Stores Refreshment Rooms and two years later, Wine and Supper Rooms. A hotel designation first appears in directories in 1859. This has been for many years the ground-floor bar to

the (Georgian) Theatre Royal and is today owned by the Golden Lion Group. The green-painted elegant Edwardian façade is recessed under a flattened archway with decorative spandrels and pilasters topped with Corinthian capitals. Looking out from a central projecting bay is 'Willie' an antique automated mannequin dressed for the theatre in top hat and tails, carrying a cane. On the narrow strips of far wall are tiled panels painted and signed by Webb & Co., 294 Euston Road, London, N. W. Each carries a thistle design in turquoise and rust on cream with the centrepiece advertising THE COLONNADE HOTEL. The disused left-hand door and those skylights above are inset with deep etched glass.

The single room interior has depth but is narrowed by the Edwardian servery down the left hand side, the decorative features of which match the exterior façade. The carved three-bay bar back has arched framed mirrors and a small glass panel at the centre painted with Britannia figure trade mark. Brass rails line both top and bottom of the carved counter. Along the wall opposite runs a row of lamp-illuminated timber framed mirrors, having the desired effect of making the room appear larger than it is. Above is a red decorative plaster ceiling with moulded cornice at the rear and a short partition with etched-glass by the entrance door. At the front and back is upholstered bench seating, probably contemporaneous (1950s or 1960s) with the padded panels covering the counter front. It is easy to feel so cosily cocooned within these soft-lit surroundings of autographed photographs of actors, ancient playbills, sumptuous curtain swags and red plush décor. **Fuller's London Pride** and **Harveys Best Bitter** are £3.15 a pint, there is a Cask Marque certificate and the beer quality is very good in this current *Good Pub Guide* 'lucky dip' entry.

King and Queen, 13-18 Marlborough Place, tel. 01273 607207.

Praised in the (1974) *Alka-Seltzer guide to the Pubs of Sussex* as being a "well preserved Tudor inn", it is nothing of the kind, but a lavishly remarkable exercise in interwar Brewers' Tudor. This Grade II listed National Inventory Part Two pub presents a stylised showcase of fanciful features that, while not parody is certainly pastiche and is best captured in its description at the time as 'a gorgeous flight of architectural imagination', although some locals accused the owners of architectural vandalism, thereby confirming the timelessness of complaint. The asymmetrical frontage of black and white half-timbering is an arresting arrangement of carved oak beams, polymorphous decorative panelling, stained-glass, latticework, stone dressing and mullions. Statues of King

Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn overlook the pavement from pedestals outside the central first floor window. The Royal pair is also featured on plasterwork moulding under the gable of the left bay and on a painted stone panel in the ashlar projection to the right. In the high pitched red tile roof are three smaller half-timbered gables, while the right bay of the main building has a double-gable, the lower with shield decoration projecting from the battlemented wall of the upper.

The site was formerly occupied by a two-storey, bow-fronted neo-Georgian hotel, which had started life as a farmhouse in 1723 and was first licensed in 1779 (coins of the Hanoverian era were unearthed during the 1930s renovation). It witnessed bare-knuckle boxing (1807) and Brighton's first pillorying (1811), housed an Excise Office from 1848-54 and held corn and horse markets until the town's Corn Exchange was built in 1868. Local firm Edlins Ltd. acquired the hotel in 1909 after which it incorporated their company office, family-run garage and a separate dance academy. Work began in 1931 to designs by local architects Clayton and Black resulting in the façade we now see. A second phase from 1935-6 saw the demolition of the shops to the right. Erected in their place was a lengthy gatehouse supported on brick pillars, with a lower roof line than the main pub. Half-timbered with herringbone brickwork and portcullis, this provided a stagy entrance into an open air galleried courtyard with fountain and pond. The latter have since been paved over but original decorative elements survive. The grape and vine motif in bold purple, orange and green running along the frieze usually indicates the defunct Brighton Kemp Town Brewery: did they contract-brew for Edlins? The white tiling on the walls under the covered seating depicts a range of medieval characters while a delightful scenic panel shows a Victorian boating party sailing down the Thames past Windsor Castle.

Interior design was the responsibility of Ashley Tabb, of Heaton, Tabb and Co. Ltd., who created a large left-side saloon that replicated a Tudor dining hall, and a public bar on the right that was intended to represent a soldiers and retainers dining hall and kitchens. A diving screen originally ran from the foot of the central staircase but was removed c. 1967. Also gone is the Ladies' Parlour with its corner fireplace and chimney funnel carving of Henry and his wives. An old photograph suggests its position to have been at the front-left of the pub. A small panelled room with red tiled floor and decoratively tiled fireplace remains at the rear left. On the back wall here is an ancient hatchway through which ale was once

passed through to the soldiers stationed at the barracks behind the inn. Three stairways lead to 'Prinny's Bar', an upper-level minstrels' gallery, open on the right side, enclosed to the left. On the landing wall is the foundation stone laid by Mrs Emily Edlin in 1931, just two years before her death at the age of 91. Overlooking the courtyard is the first-floor Tudor Room with its barrel vaulted ceiling. Now used for functions this was originally designated as a family room for parents with children, an indication of the more civilized approach to pub-going that such an 'improved' house as this was intended to promote.

There are modern accoutrements in the form of pool tables, gaming machines and big screen televisions, while two significant changes to the fittings and fixtures have been the unfortunate addition of an ugly balcony ("The Royal Box") over the original long, raked matchwood bar counter, and the recent redecoration of the toilets, which are accessed downstairs through the Tudor arches marked 'cloakrooms' and still run, quite astonishingly, from virtually one end of the pub to the other. Nonetheless, with stout oak doorways, castellated brick supporting column, flat-arched open fireplaces and the whole decorative panoply of royal portraits, armoury, tapestry, heraldic shields and flags of St. George, the Tudor fantasy lives on virtually undiminished over seven decades after its creation. The effect of the, now, open-plan interior with its vast high ceiling at the rear is not unlike that of a medieval baron's hall on a Hollywood stage set. Expect to see at any moment Errol Flynn as Robin Hood battling it out with the Sheriff of Nottingham in a swordfight down the sweeping central staircase.

Appearing recently on the three handpumps have been **Fuller's London Pride**, **Wells and Young's Courage Directors**, **Harveys Best Bitter** and **Thatchers Heritage Cider**. Prices are around the £3.05 mark and the quality if not overly distinguished is perfectly decent. For photographs and further info see www.thekingandqueen.co.uk/

Dorset, 28 North Road, tel. 01273 605423.

This three-storey Georgian building had acquired its license by at least 1822. Having dropped the 'Arms' from its name it is now a continental-style café bar with window blinds. It does nonetheless contain a fine raked bar counter with pilasters, possibly Edwardian. A pity the stillage has been stripped out and the bar top replaced. There is also an in-situ screen, attractive Art-Nouveau plasterwork dados and an interwar fireplace. Along the Upper Gardner Street side, what is now the

restaurant room was once a separate property; note the old, oddly positioned internal door. The corner site was previously partitioned into a Private Bar, Public Bar and a central Bottle & Jug Dept., as can be deduced from the arrangement of the roof beams and the names in the splendidly decorative set of etched glass doors and windows. Tamplin & Sons who held the pub from 1872-1963 were responsible for these features: there is a kingfisher in the window centrepiece. **No real ale** to be had at this former Froth Blower's Vat but there is a range of **bottled beers: Adnams Broadside, Shepherd Neame Whistable Bay, Bateman's XXXB and Combined Harvest**, plus **Schneider Weisse, Hoegaarden and Leffe**. For more info visit www.thedorset.co.uk/

Heart and Hand, 75 North Road, tel. 01273 683320.

Built around 1854 in what was then called North Lane, this three-storey pub was known as the Hand and Heart until 1884 when its name was for some reason reversed. It is notable for the distinctive ground-floor green glazed tiling denoting the now-defunct Portsmouth and Brighton United Breweries. Based in Southsea, Hants, the company added 'Brighton' to its name in February 1928 after acquisition of the Rock brewery here at 61 St. James Street. United livery is not uncommon but surviving signage for the Rock brewery is rare: the nearest example is over a mile away at the Montreal Arms, 62 Albion Hill. United brewery frontages usually feature a fine set of named, leaded doors and windows. This particular example is not one of the best but does bear the name and initials of the pub and indicates the old division between Bar and Saloon.

United brewery pubs locally with significant surviving interwar interior features are the Crown, 24 Grafton Street (top of St. James Street) and the Long Man of Wilmington, 2-10 Wilmington Way (towards Patcham). The **Heart and Hand** has a compact but opened-up interior with matchwood panelling of indeterminate age and a replacement bar counter and servery, but at night it affords the best view of the lit, leaded windows. There is decent handpumped **Harveys Best Bitter** and **Sharp's Doom Bar** and the pub is famed for its jukebox: note the record-label exterior sign.

Brighton Tavern, 99-100 Gloucester Road, tel. 01273 680365.

This property existed in 1848 when home to beer retailer John Brown in what was then called Gloucester Lane. The pub name does not appear in directories until 1879 when W. Pelling was beer retailer. Its owners from 1921, the local Kemp Town Brewery, became evangelists for the cause of

'public house improvement' and in 1937 the **Brighton Tavern** acquired the confectioners next door, a new interior and the austere art-*moderne* /neo-Georgian brickwork frontage that we see today. A before and after photographic comparison can be seen on p. 293 of Peter Haydon's (1994), *The English Pub: A History*, London: Robert Hale. At some point in the intervening several decades the pub has lost its stepped parapet. The (2001) local CAMRA guide *Real Ale Over Brighton & Hove* noted the pub to have been "recently refurbished" although the internal layout and fabric do not appear much altered. A recessed entrance with a pair of double doors, but only one working door each side, leads into a two-room interior around a central servery, linked by a rear corridor.

It is possible that the left-side front area was partly screened off from the rest of that room. Mid-way down the left wall is an interwar fireplace. The compact rectangular bar-back is tiered and mirrored with fluted edges. The curved bar counter in the right-side room has a replacement top which, like some of the basic back shelving, could be of the 1950s or 60s. Throughout the pub runs an original boarded floor and sunken panelled dados that match the counter fronts. The raised area at the front right is clearly a contemporary cosmetic addition. The gents at the rear left remain in their original position but have been retiled at some point since I keeled over in them on a Tuesday night nearly a quarter of a century ago after a pre-pub homebrew tasting. In those days (GBG-listed in 1982) the pub sold Bass and Charrington IPA but we can now enjoy **Harveys Best Bitter**, in good condition at £3.00 a pint. Additionally available in November was the guest ale, **Hop Back Summer Lightning**. The **Brighton Tavern** is a gay-friendly, socially-inclusive establishment displaying CAMRA LAGRAD publicity. The atmosphere is intimate, the barmaid welcoming, while those camp aspects to the décor do serve to combat the excesses of the Spartan and functional KTB interior.

Lord Nelson, 36 Trafalgar Street, tel. 01273 695872.

The premises were built in 1848 and occupied by beer retailer Thomas Edelston who bestowed the name Lord Nelson in 1854. Of two storeys with a parapet, the first floor is in white stucco, the ground is in blue and black tile. The attractive etched windows - 'Smoking Room', 'Wines, Spirits' - each feature a pair of dolphins, the one-time brand and motif of the Kemp Town brewery, taken over by Charrington in 1954. The **Lord Nelson** today is a flagship **Harveys** house under the care of long-serving licensees Graham and Ros Boyd. Along with the brewery's **Armada**, **Mild** and **Best Bitter** are seasonal ales, most recently **Old Ale** and

Christmas Ale. The quality is excellent as befits a pub that is a regular on the local CAMRA Ale Trail and a GBG entry since 2001. Very much the traditional back street pub with a clientele of office workers and locals, it retains a multi-area layout with two separate but linked front bars.

That on the right is accessed by a vestibule and the central double doors may likewise have once been internally compartmented. A juxtaposition of roof beam and door frame at this point could suggest the former site of a jug and bottle. It is difficult to date the curved indented panelled counter but it is comfortably worn, while the tiered bar back shelving could conceivably be pre-war. There are a couple of Victorian fireplaces, rebuffered old floorboards and some aged half-height dados and plain panelling. Through an archway on the right is a lower-level back-bar area. Beyond is a conservatory, used as art gallery and function room, where the pub's beer festivals are held. Accessed from here is a heated patio smoking area. The compartmentalised interior comfortably accommodates Sky Sports big screen soccer, weekly quiz nights and a monthly folk club. For more info see www.thelordnelsoninn.co.uk

STOP PRESS: There is a possibility that the interior of the **Pump House**, (46 Market Street, tel. 01273 326864), of three distinct areas with decoratively carved panel work, is reasonably intact from a 1954 refit. This **Nicholsons/Classic Pubs** outlet serves four real ales in very good condition, including a changing guest beer. If time allows and a consensus emerges, we may include this on the tour as a place to visit.

<p>This issue is dedicated to Tom Bovey, Robert William Pitt and Tubby Edlin. <i>Quaffer</i> No. 25 will be coming to you, hopefully from Burwash, winter weather permitting, by the end of March. E-mail thequaffer@fsmail.net</p>
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