

east london newsletter



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burton revives bitter

Within recent months Ind Coope have been increasingly installing handpumps in their pubs. Having initially introduced their Burton Ale into a large number of their licensed premises, they are now supplying more and more with bitter brewed at Romford.

A fine example of Ind Coope's new policy is the Beckton Arms in Beckton Road, E.16, a new pub, which has been selling Burton and bitter on handpump since it opened on November 4th, 1976. It replaces the old Beckton Arms, which was demolished during the building of the Canning Town flyover in 1973.

The pub has managed to combine the clean, comfortable surroundings of a new hostelry with a friendly and cheerful atmosphere. This is as much due to the staff as it is to the clientele. The manager and his wife, Les and Mary Tredgett, are from East London and have managed several pubs in the area over the past few years.

If you are around at lunchtimes, the food served is good, so pay a visit, have a good pint, something to eat and maybe a game of darts.

With the recent announcement of their proposed financial ventures, it is to be hoped that Ind Coope will at least carry on, at the present rate, with their policy regarding real ale. This possibility looks even more promising since we have heard that 2000 more handpumps have been ordered to supply the special bitter in more pubs.

Ind Coope have also been participating in the 'Make May a Mild Month' campaign, by supplying their dark mild, brewed in Burton, to six of their London pubs.

LOCAL INFO.

Trumans Tap Bitter has been selling well in about 20 East London pubs. However we are still awaiting a National Executive decision as to whether its air pressure method of dispensation meets with their approval.

FREE

RECENT ADDITIONS & AMENDMENTS

Sugar Loaf, Cannon St., EC4 Bass (G)
Globe, Moorgate, EC2 Bass (H)
Railway Buffet, Liverpool St. Station Bass (H)
City Grill, Lawrence Lane, EC2 Youngs Ordinary
Bricklayers Arms, Charlotte Rd., EC2
...Special beer every Monday night.
Kings Head, Church St., E15 Bass (H)
Queens Head, Blackfriars La., EC4 Bass (H)

Secretary

Peter Roberts,
34, Meadow Way,
Upminster,
Essex.
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Next meeting - Tues., 19th July, Black Lion, 59, High St., E13 8.00 p.m.

Draught Ramble - Marlow-Henley - June 25th. Details from secretary.

the ascent of manns

PART ONE

Manns Brewery was founded relatively late for one which was to become so important in the South East in general and East London in particular. Unfortunately, the Manns trade mark has now all but disappeared, apart from signs on a few pubs awaiting repainting and the famous Manns Brown, well known throughout the country. In this article, the first of a series on East London breweries, past and present, the origins of the Albion Brewery are described and its growth traced until its eventual absorption into the Watney empire.

'THE BLIND BEGGAR'

Legend has it that Henry de Montfort, wounded in the Battle of Evesham and left for dead, was nursed back to life by a baron's daughter who then married him. In order to preserve his life, they disguised themselves as beggars and Edward became, in the words of the street ballad, "The seely blind beggar of Bethnal Green". At one time there were several pubs in Bethnal Green called the "Blind Beggar", but only one survives, now notorious throughout the country.

In 1808 the owner of this same Blind Beggar - at Mile End Turnpike, the southernmost part of Bethnal Green parish - built the Albion Brewery on ground adjacent to the public house. His attempts to sell it were unsuccessful, so he leased it to John Hoffman. By 1815, Hoffman was bankrupt, and the brewery was sold to Philip Betts Blake.

BLAKE AND MANN

Blake was the owner of the Standbridge Brewery in Wapping, which he dropped in 1821 and which burnt down in 1829. His junior partner, James Mann, was from a large family with brewing connections from Bristol to Wapping. Blake and Mann transformed the Albion Brewery, raising barrelage in the first year from 1,730 to 7,103.

After Blake's retirement in 1826, James Mann took on the running of the Albion Brewery single-



handed, taking advantage of the public house rush of the 1830s, when no licence was required, to increase his output. In 1843, he formed a partnership with his two eldest sons, James and Edward, but Edward died soon afterwards, to be followed by James the Elder himself.

MANN, CROSSMAN AND PAULIN

James the Younger was reluctant to run the brewery by himself, so he entered into a partnership with Robert Crossman, manager to the Border Brewery in Berwick-on-Tweed. Crossman brought with him his school friend, Thomas Paulin, at that time working for the Isleworth Brewery (later taken over by Watneys), where Crossman himself had worked earlier. Crossman became senior partner, with James Mann, his younger brother Thomas, and Paulin, but James, who was not really interested in brewing, dropped out in 1847. Thus the title of Mann, Crossman & Paulin became familiar to thousands of Londoners.

(To be continued)