

1 January 2008

Good English ale can be found in most pubs. Unfortunately most London pubs have a selection of two or three. The pubs shown here are well know for having an exciting line-up of beers from across Britain. Be aware that I may have missed a few good pubs, which is why I am always searching. The list is in alphabetical order so plan out your crawl by checking your bus map

Bree Louise Euston

69 Cogbough St NW1 2HH, at Euston St

Phone 0207 681 4930

Euston, Euston or Warren Street stations, any bus to Euston Station

This is an active pub in the shadow of Euston Rail station. It also has two active bars dispensing ale. The bar on the left has a nice selection of draught ales but I head for the right bar. There you can find six firkins of cask ale served via gravity. Timothy Taylor and Adnams are regulars. The bar staff is very nice and so is the landlady. Take you CAMRA membership card as you will get a discount.

Doric Arch Somers Town (Fuller's, www.fullers.co.uk)

1 Eversholt Street NW1 at Euston Square

Euston Station, Bus stop out front of the pub

Most Fuller's pubs tend to stay tied to the brewery's own but this place is special. It was formerly the Head of Steam, which was well known to serve just shy of a dozen ales from around England. Fuller's has not eliminated this but the selection has been cut back a bit. They also serve real cask cider.

To use the loo in the basement you need to get the entry code from the bartender. They lock the rest room door as it is open to transients. The pub is on the first floor. That is one floor above the ground floor.

Market Porter Southwark/Borough

9 Stoney Street SE1 off Clink Street (Across from Borough Market)

Phone 020 7407-2495

London Bridge Station

Bar open M-Sat 6-8:30 AM (Drinks only) then 11-11. Sun at noon-10:30

Very good selection of cask-ale and they change often. Look at the badges on the wall to see what you missed. Hey usually have six hand pumps going and the beers come from breweries far a field. They always get a group of husbands at the door before opening so queue early. The wives know where they are.

Quinn's Camden Town

65 Kentish Town Rd NW1 8NY, at Hawley Rd

Do not confuse Hawley Road wit nearby Hawley Court

Phone 0207 267 8240

This is a real Irish bar with a great German & Belgian beer selection. Yes, they do serve cask English ale and that Dublin beer. This is truly an everyday beer festival, well

worth the trip to north London. When taking the bus up Kentish Town Rd hit the stop bus button you go over the canal. Then walk in the same direction as the bus.

The Rake (Southwark)

14a Winchester Walk SE1 9AG, between Stoney St and Cathedral St.

The pub is on the north side of Borough Market.

Phone 0207 407 0557

London Bridge Station

This very tiny pub is a tied house, but not to a brewery, to an off-license. The owners of Utobeer (www.utobeer.co.uk) in nearby Borough Market opened the smallest pub in London in 2008.

An off-license is shop to buy beer to take home. Utobeer is in the Market and a must stop if you want something interesting for the hotel. Take your own bag. They charge £10 for a bag.

Wenlock Arms Hoxton/Shoreditch

26 Wenlock Rd N1 at Stuart, off City Rd via Windsor Terrace

Phone 020 7608-3406, Web www.wenlock-arms.co.uk

Old Street (exit 1) or Angle Stations, Bus 43, 205, 214 or 394

If you stop in London's pubs looking for unique ale from around the county you can save quite a bit of walking time by coming here. The Wenlock Arms has quite a few beer engines dispensing some of the finer English Ales not found elsewhere in London. The North London branch of CAMRA has functions here often, which should be an endorsement of some sort. No pub tour of London is complete without stopping here.

This can be a bit hard to find as it is tucked off the beaten path. No problems if going by car but you need to stay alert is taking the bus. Take any bus that runs on City Road and ask the driver to call out Windsor Terrace. The bus stop going in the opposite direction is right across the street. Watch out for traffic.

Cheers,

Ed Vidunas