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SHORTLISTS



20 GREAT REAL ALE PUBS

Pull up a stool, old timer

At ShortList, we espouse the virtues of real ale, Britain's national drink and one of our finest traditions. To help you sample its delights, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) have helped us compile a list of 20 pubs in ShortList cities where you're guaranteed a great pint. Cheers...

LONDON

OLDE MITRE

1 Ely Court, Ely Place, EC1N 6SJ 11-11; closed Sat & Sun (020) 7405 4751

Ales: Adnams Broadside; Caledonian Deuchars IPA; Fuller's London Pride, seasonal beer; guest beer



THE BIG ASK



This Is England '86 concludes tonight. Your verdict?

Top viewing

Fair to middling

Bad, bad TV

SUBMIT



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The perfect cheese for wine
Because any old plonk simply won't do

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Jimi Hendrix uncovered
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This gem, sold to Fuller's by Punch in 2009, also has a gem of a landlord whose enthusiasm for his well kept beer runs to several mini beer festivals throughout the year. Easily missed by those not in the know, this ancient hostelry hides down a narrow alley between Hatton Garden and Ely Place, where a pub has existed since 1546. Constantly changing guest beer, reasonably priced snacks and the fascinating interior make this a must for visitors to London.

MUSEUM TAVERN

49 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3BA 11-11.30 (midnight Fri & Sat); 12-10 Sun (020) 7242 8987

Ales: Fuller's London Pride; Sharp's Doom Bar; Taylor Landlord; Theakston Old Peculier; guest beers

The British Museum provides a stream of tourists that mixes with the locals in this Regional Inventory-listed Punch pub. The long bar-back dating from 1889 sets the scene for an essential British experience. A mixture of tables and long benches provides ample space to appreciate the history, to sample a balanced range of beers and to try some traditional food. For hard-line continentals, pavement seating completes the scene

CITTIE OF YORKE

22 High Holborn, WC1V 6BS 11.30 (12 Sat)-11.30; closed Sun (020) 7242 7670

Ales: Samuel Smith

A pub has stood on this site since 1430. In 1695 it was rebuilt as Gray's Inn Coffee House. Now an extensive three-bar Sam Smith's pub and Grade II-listed building, the huge main bar includes small wooden drinking booths, a high beamed ceiling and large disused oak barrels over the bar. The front bar is more intimate, with wood paneling and an original chandelier, and the cellar bar is the former cellarge of the original 17th-century coffee house.

TRAFALGAR

23 High Path, SW19 2JY 3 (12 Fri & Sat)-11; 12-11 Sun (020) 8542 5342 w thetraf.com

Ales: Pilgrim Thru'ppenny Hop; guest beers

CAMRA Greater London Pub of the Year 2008, this homely, one-bar community corner pub, the smallest and oldest free house in the Borough of Merton, is a real

ale haven: six handpumps offer an ever-changing choice of micro-brewery beers, often milds, including at least one local ale. Nelson-related prints decorate the walls and a wooden spoked wheel from an old Thames barge divides the bar area. Curry night is Thursday, live music plays most Saturdays and some other evenings, plus traditional jazz on Sunday afternoon. An October beer festival is held around Trafalgar Day.

BRIGHTON

EVENING STAR

55-56 Surrey Street, BN1 3PB (200m S of station) 12-11 (midnight Fri); 11.30-midnight Sat (01273) 328931 - eveningstarbrighton.co.uk

Ales: Dark Star Hophead, seasonal beers; guest beers

The Evening Star is simply the most important real ale pub in Brighton. It is operated by the Dark Star brewery and up to four of its beers will be found alongside three guests, plus cider or perry. If these fail to meet your needs there are continental beers on tap and a large range of worldwide bottled ales. The pub holds regular beer festivals and is, needless to say, very popular and often crowded, particularly at weekends

MANCHESTER

CROWN & KETTLE

2 Oldham Road, Ancoats, M4 5FE (corner of Oldham St & Great Ancoats St) 11-11 (midnight Fri & Sat); 12-10.30 Sun (0161) 236 2923 - crownandkettle.com

Ale: Range varies

Historic Grade II-listed pub, reopened in 2005 after a closure of 16 years. Up to four handpumps serve real ales from an ever-updated list of six beers from All Gates, Bank Top, Ossett, Phoenix and Dunham Massey among other breweries. Crown & Kettle Ale from Greenfield micro-brewery is a regular. Note the fine restored ceiling in the separate vault and a yet-to-be-restored ceiling in the main room. A fair-sized modern snug doubles as a lounge. Good value food is served.

MARBLE ARCH

73 Rochdale Road, M4 4HY (on A664 200m from A665 jct) 12-11 (midnight Fri & Sat) (0161) 832 5914 marblebeers.co.uk

Ales: Marble Pint, Manchester Bitter, JP Best Bitter, Lagonda IPA, Ginger Marble, seasonal beers; guest beers

Spectacular heritage premier pub noted for its in-house micro-brewery and 11 handpumps with guest beers from all over the country and real cider. Ales can be found from Whim, Pictish, Dunham Massey, Phoenix and Hornbeam. An enthusiastic bar staff provides friendly service. The Marble brewery team can often be seen mixing with customers who come here from all walks of life and all over the world. Quality food is available from 12-9pm (8pm Sun).

LIVERPOOL

BALTIC FLEET

33 Wapping, L1 8DQ 12-11 (midnight Wed-Fri); 11-midnight Sat; 12-midnight Sun (0151) 709 3116 wappingbeers.co.uk

Ales: Wapping Baltic Gold, Bitter, Stout, Summer, seasonal beers

Located near the Albert Dock, Liverpool's only brew pub is based on a flat-iron shape resembling the bow of a ship. It is named after a 19th-century timber-importing fleet and the interior reflects this with displays of nautical memorabilia. Mysterious tunnels reaching out under the building add to the intrigue, but any link to smuggling and activities of press gangs is probably anecdotal. Food is available from a chalkboard menu but it is best to check ahead for serving times.

ROSCOE HEAD

24 Roscoe Street, L1 2SX 11.30-11 (midnight Fri & Sat); 12-11 Sun (0151) 709 4365

Ales: Jennings Bitter; Marston's Burton Bitter; Tetley Mild, Bitter; guest beers

Welcoming side-street local where conversation is king. One of only 10 pubs in the country to appear in every edition of the Guide, this traditional hostelry has been run by the same family for more than 20 years. The interior retains the original small rooms and snugs, with a sensitive redecoration. Guest beers may come from micros. Quiz night is Tuesday and cribbage night Wednesday.

NEWCASTLE

BACCHUS

42-48 High Bridge, NE1 6BX 11.30-11 (midnight Fri & Sat); 7-10.30 Sun (0191) 261 1008

Ales: Jarrow River Catcher; guest beers

A local CAMRA Pub of the Year, this smart, comfortable city-centre pub offers a wide range of rapidly changing guest beers. Regular brewery weekends are held when all eight handpumps are given over to ales from a single brewery and food is matched to individual beers. Photographs and posters showing the industries in which this region used to lead the world cover the walls. Ciders are served direct from the cellar.

NEWCASTLE ARMS

57 St Andrew's Street, NE1 5SE 11-11; 12-10.30 Sun (0191) 260 2490 - newcastlearms.co.uk

Ales: Caledonian Deuchars IPA; guest beers

Popular single-roomed pub near Newcastle United's football ground and the city's Chinese restaurants. A frequent winner of local CAMRA Pub of the Year, the staff are committed to giving the customer what they want. Beer festivals are held every few months when a portable bar brings the number of beers up to 13. Close to the Fish Quay where the fish and chips are renowned, there is a replica wooden doll outside

which gives the pub its 'Old Wooden Dolly' nickname.

BIRMINGHAM

OLD JOINT STOCK

4 Temple Row, B2 5NY (opp St Philip's Cathedral) 11-11; closed Sun (0121) 200 1892 - fullers.co.uk

Ales: Fuller's Chiswick, Discovery, London Pride, ESB, seasonal beers; guest beer

Fuller's most northern outpost is a Grade II-listed building, formerly the Old Joint Stock Bank. The striking interior is of neo-classic and Victorian design. There is a central island bar with a quieter Club Room at the rear and a balcony area for dining at lunchtimes. A theatre is located upstairs which hosts performances by local acts and comedy nights. A large function room is available for hire

WELLINGTON

37 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN 10-midnight (0121) 200 3115 - thewellingtonrealale.co.uk

Ales: Black Country BFG, Fireside, Pig On The Wall; Purity Mad Goose; Wye Valley HPA; guest beers

Birmingham CAMRA Pub of the Year for three of the past four years, this pub has 15 handpumps and three real ciders. Close to New Street and Snow Hill stations, it has built a reputation as a must-visit among real ale enthusiasts and thus can get busy, but this ensures a quick turnaround of ales. Quarterly beer festivals and regular cheese and quiz evenings are held. No food is provided but you can bring your own (cutlery provided).

LEEDS

GROVE INN

Back Row, LS11 5PL 12-11 (midnight Fri & Sat); 12-10.30 Sun (0113) 243 9254

Ales: Caledonian Deuchars IPA; Daleside Blonde; Moorhouses Black Cat, Pride of Pendle; guest beers

Surrounded by office blocks and situated next to the tallest building in Yorkshire, the inn is an oasis of history in a sea of modernity. A rare surviving example of a traditional West Riding corridor pub, first mentioned in a survey of Leeds in 1850, its four rooms include a concert room and a tap room. A wide variety of live music is played here and there is a dedicated mild handpump. Local CAMRA Pub of the Year 2007-08, the Grove is celebrating its 10th consecutive entry in this Guide.

MR FOLEY'S CASK ALE HOUSE

159 The Headrow, LS1 5RG (opp town hall) 11-11 (midnight Fri & Sat) (0113) 242 9674 yorkbrew.demon.co.uk/Mr_fowleys.html

Ales: range varies

Occupying the ground floor of the impressive Pearl Assurance Building, this multi-layered pub offers something for everyone, particularly the discerning real ale fan. A fine array of handpumps – which always dispense a beer from York and Elland breweries – adorns the bar, which is backed by a splendid cabinet and fridges full of bottles of world beers. Sporty TV is popular here, but it is possible to find a quieter corner among the eclectic furniture and squashy chairs. Local CAMRA Pub of the Year

EDINBURGH

OXFORD BAR

8 Young Street, EH2 4JB (New Town, off Charlotte Sq) 11-midnight (1am Thu-Sat); 12.30-11 Sun (0131) 539 7119 w oxfordbar.com

Ales: Caledonian Deuchars IPA; guest beers

Small, basic, vibrant New Town drinking shop unchanged since the late 19th century. It is renowned as one of the favourite pubs of Rebus and his creator Ian Rankin, and a haunt of many other famous and infamous characters over the years, so you never know who you might bump into. Guest beers are normally from Scottish micro-breweries. A real taste of New Town past, and listed on CAMRA's National Pub Inventory. Pies and sausage rolls are available. Dogs are welcome was converted into a vast pub in 1997 by JD Wetherspoon. The main bar has a superb high ceiling and polished granite pillars. Smaller rooms lead off, one containing the old Chubb vault door. Despite its size it can be very busy at times. Meals are served all day. Disabled access is via the Rose Street entrance. Children are welcome until 8pm. Free Wi-Fi access.

GLASGOW

BON ACCORD

153 North Street, G3 7DA (between Mitchell Library and Argyle St) 11-midnight; 12.30-11 Sun (0141) 248 4427 w thebonaccord.freeseerve.co.uk

Ales: Caledonian Deuchars IPA; Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted; Marston's Pedigree; guest beers

The pub that introduced real ale to Glasgow when CAMRA was young. Still going strong, it draws enthusiasts from near and far to sample 10 ales from local, Scottish and English breweries plus real cider. A long counter divides the large split-level room, with comfy sofas accompanying benches and stools, and a dining area to the rear. Good home-made meals are served until 7.30pm. Outside, there is seating under an awning at the front and sun-catching tables at the back.

THREE JUDGES

141 Dumbarton Road, G11 6PR 11-11 (midnight Thu-Sat); 12.30-11 Sun (0141) 337 3055

Ales: range varies

The pub's name derives from the boxing fraternity rather than the legal profession. A

fine example of a corner tenement pub, it is well worth seeking out to discover why it was awarded Glasgow CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2008. Nine beers are displayed on a chalk board along with the current real cider. Guest ales are sourced from a range of small breweries from Scotland and England.

Picture: Rex Features

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