

**A DIRECTORY
OF
BERKSHIRE BREWERS**

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JBD SERVICES

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FOREWORD TO 2ND EDITION

1999 began with a great promise for the future of brewing in Berkshire. The Tudor Brewing Co. started brewing in Reading town centre a few yards from where Messrs Simonds brewed in days of old. At the other end of the historic county the future of Morlands seemed assured. The company had attracted some opprobrium by buying up and then closing down Ruddles of Rutland but with these beers added to their portfolio surely their future was assured. Within a few months the Tudor enterprise had turned into a disaster, perhaps one of the most badly bungled enterprises in the history of micro-brewing and Morlands had finally succumbed to its arch-enemy, Greene King, who made no secret of their intentions of ending many centuries of brewing in Abingdon. As if that were not bad enough, the pubco, Punch Taverns, acquired the Firkin pubs, along with the rest of Allied-Domecq, and, promptly closed down all the brewing plants at the brewpubs.

Quite a dramatic end to the 1990s – and don't forget – the 20th century and the 2nd Millennium AD do not end till 31 December 2000!

Note to 3rd Edition

Shortly after completing the 2nd Edition I was given a copy of Kenneth Goodley's list of Berkshire breweries, which proved a most useful source of additional material, even if at times conflicting with the existing text. Where possible this has been integrated into the existing text; in others it has been quoted in footnotes. The original name "A Brief History of Brewing in Berkshire" has been changed to one that more accurately describes the contents.

Note to 4th Edition

About the time of the 3rd Edition the Brewery History Society commissioned the late Colin Lanham to write a full-length book on the subject of brewing in Berkshire. Unhappily, the BHS objected to some comments in Colin's text and he was unable to accept their proposed alterations. His untimely death put an end to his ambitions to self-publish his work and meanwhile the BHS is believed to have a volume by another author in the pipeline. A request from a new brewery for information on the subject has led the author of this modest work to resurrect it after nearly ten years with a few sketchy additions. This period has seen a welcome increase in the number of new breweries in the county, although two with Berkshire connections are not actually in the county, whether defined by its current or traditional boundaries: Loddon Brewery, apparently named after a Berkshire river, widely available in the county and brewed by a Berkshire resident, is just over the boundary in Dunsden, Oxfordshire; and Ascot Ales are actually brewed in Camberley, just over the southern border of the county, in Surrey.

INTRODUCTION

Veterans of CAMRA's First Reading Beer Festival in September 1994 will perhaps recollect that at that time the county of Berkshire was in the unhappy position of having no breweries, unless of course the chemical factory adjacent to the motorway at Worton Grange be dignified as such. Whether or not the festival's theme of Beers around Berkshire, highlighting this grievous situation, had anything to do with it or not, it was certainly followed by an explosion of micro-brewing in the county, with Butts and Greenwoods starting up in the autumn of 1994, and Reading Lion Brewery and the West Berkshire Brewing Company following in 1995. To these we must I suppose add three "standard recipe" brew-pubs: two brewing "Firkins" in Reading and Windsor and the Original Brewing Co. in Bracknell.

The mashless state in which Berkshire found itself in 1994 had persisted since 1979 with the exception of an all too brief interlude in 1983/5 when two brewpubs flourished and died. By contrast when CAMRA came into being in 1971 the county had two substantial breweries, the former Simonds brewery in Reading, then run by Courage and supplying at a guess some two thousand pubs and the Morland Brewery at Abingdon, supplying 220 pubs. The latter was the first to go in 1974 when some ill-considered local government reforms handed over Berkshire's north-western "bump" to Oxfordshire, an aberration which the most recent tinkering with local boundaries regrettably has done nothing to correct. The former was closed in 1979 and remained derelict till 1997 when a new shopping and leisure complex called the Oracle began to appear in its place. One of the first big campaigns run by the local branches of CAMRA was designed to persuade Messrs. Courage to brew real ale at Worton Grange but this fell on largely deaf ears. A promise was, of course, given to match the matchless quality of Simonds beer at Bristol and for a while I truly believe they did try but any one who tasted the superb Best Bitter brewed at Reading in the 70s can scarcely bear to drink the current product. Speaking personally, having come up from the Strong Country in 1970, I found that it took me a long time to get used to the very distinctive taste of Courage Reading Best Bitter.

In 1997 with the tradition of brewing restored, permanently we hope, to Berkshire, it may be that readers will appreciate a brief potted history of brewing in the county. The first breweries in Berkshire are believed to have been at the two great abbeys of Reading and Abingdon and so it is not inappropriate that these two towns continued to be important centres of brewing during the modern era of the industry. The monks, of course, brewed mainly for themselves and it was not till the 17th century that brewing took off on a commercial scale. Berkshire was one of the major agricultural counties at that time (and, of course, still is, at any rate west of Reading) and barley one of the main products. The growth of river traffic on the Thames and Kennet encouraged the rise of malting and at the same time hastened the demise of Reading's traditional trade of clothmaking. The second edition of *Camden's Britannia*, published in 1722, states:

But of later years the convenience of the river giving great encouragement to the mault trade, they apply themselves especially to that, and find it turn to so good account that their employment about cloth is in great measure laid aside.

Daniel Defoe in his *Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain* (Vol. II, 1725), similarly testifies to the immense trade in malt at this time between Reading and London:

They send from hence to London by these barges, very great quantities of malt, and meal, and these are the two principal articles of their loadings, of which, so large are those barges, that some of them, as I was told, bring a thousand, or twelve hundred quarters of malt at a time, which, according to the ordinary computation of tonnage in the freight of other vessels, is from a hundred to an hundred and twenty ton, dead weight.

In 1908, at a time when brewing in the county was reaching its zenith, Berkshire had 20,595 acres devoted to barley production. This represented 21.4% of land devoted to grain production and 11.5% of all arable land.

The oldest named brewery was the Castle Brewery in Newbury which dated from 1608. The earliest in Reading was also coincidentally called the Castle Brewery and was located on the west side of Bridge Street, being eventually swallowed by its larger rival on the east side. This is understood to have been founded in 1698. Morlands originated in West Ilsley in modern Berkshire in 1711, not moving to its present site until the mid-19th century. Other early breweries in the county were Wallingford Brewery Ltd (1720), the Aldermaston Brewery which eventually became Strange's (1770) and, of course H & G Simonds Ltd (1785¹). Breweriana is much sought after and the finest collection locally on public view that I am aware of is in the Tap and Spile (or Monument for pub-name purists) in Newbury.

We shall now consider the histories, brief or otherwise, of the various breweries that have flourished in Berkshire during the past four centuries. The survey includes breweries in both historical and modern Berkshire. With the exception of Simonds, which is awarded pride of place, these are grouped by town or area.

¹Curiously a date of 1768 is given by Barber in *A Century of British Brewers*.

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The Bridge Street brewery was historically the most important of Berkshire's breweries and arguably its successor still is - in terms of total beer production, as opposed to real ale! The founder of the family, William Blackall Simonds, began his brewing enterprise at the age of 22 in Broad St in 1785². At this time there were already five rival concerns but Simonds, nevertheless, prospered sufficiently to move to a larger site in Bridge St after a few years.

Simonds was an astute businessman, who involved himself in banking as well as brewing - Barclays Bank in King St was originally J & C Simonds, Bank of Reading - and also a substantial landowner. This gave him strong connections with the gentry and it was evidently while hunting that he picked up the scent of far-reaching new legislation which would considerably extend the numbers of public houses. The Duke of Wellington's Beer Act, as it was generally known, encouraged the establishment of beer houses with a licence for the retail of beer only. Simonds, accompanied by his groom, whose knowledge of local habits was invaluable, identified suitable sites for fifty new pubs, while the legislation was still going through Parliament, and thus the Reading brewers were able to steal a march on their rivals.

Quite a number of these new houses were in the Aldershot area and this led to further trading opportunities when that town began to develop in the 1850s as the premier centre of the British Army. Before the institutionalised NAAFI, Simonds were supplying beer for army manoeuvres via canvas canteens, themselves employing vast armies of horses.

As the business grew, it continued to be a family-run concern. Chairman from 1910 to 1929 was George Blackall Simonds, one of William's grandsons, and best known as sculptor of the Maiwand Lion in the Forbury Gardens, the emblem of the former Reading Lion Brewery. Simonds had taken over Hewitt's Victoria Brewery in 1900 but its major expansionist phase began just after the 1st World War when it had around 300 to 350 houses. Over the next 30 to 40 years it grew to a total of 1,400 houses and four breweries in 1952. The principal acquisitions were as follows:

• Tamar Brewery, Devonport, 1919	150/ 200 houses
• South Berkshire Brewery, Newbury, 1920	150/ 200 houses
• Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd, 1930	200/ 300 houses
• W. J. Rogers Ltd, Bristol, 1935³	25 houses
• Cirencester Brewery Ltd, 1937	92 houses
• Lakeman's Brewery, Brixham, 1937	50 houses
• R H Stiles Ltd, Bridgend, 1938	37 houses
• J L Marsh & Sons Ltd, Blandford Forum, 1939⁴	9 houses
• Pool, Penzance, 195⁻⁵	n.k
• R B Bowly & Co. Ltd, Swindon, 1945	41 houses
• May, Basingstoke, 1947⁶	90/ 100 houses
• Philips & Sons Ltd, Newport, 1949	125 houses
• Grant, Torquay, 1950⁷	n.k
• South Devon Brewery Ltd, Plymouth, 1951	25 houses

² This is the traditional date and the one given in John Pudney's *Draught of Contentment*. Curiously, Norman Barber gives 1768 in *A Century of British Brewers*.

³ Rogers were also involved in supplying the army - so this take-over was perhaps designed to consolidate Simonds' position in this market.

⁴ Later sold on to Brutton, Mitchell & Toms Ltd of Yeovil.

⁵ Listed by Pudney, op. cit., but not by Barber.

⁶ See above note.

⁷ Ditto.

- **Octagon Brewery Ltd, Plymouth, 1954** 48 houses.

These many acquisitions are reflected in some of the concentrations of Simonds/ Courage pubs in latter years, which we all remember! In 1960 Simonds was acquired by the recently united London brewery company, Courage, Barclay and Co. Ltd and its beers were renamed Courage. Brewing continued on the Reading site until 1979 when a new brewery, producing only brewery-conditioned beers and described by its detractors as a “mega-keggery”, opened at Worton Grange near the M4 at Reading. The redevelopment of the main brewery site as The Oracle Centre was completed 20 years later and incorporates the one building remaining from the old Simonds site, formerly known as Seven Bridges House and used as Courage’s hospitality suite. Contrary to some authorities, the handsomely restored dwelling was not that built for William Blackall Simonds by his friend, the great classical architect, Sir John Soane. That building was demolished ca. 1900. Following the closure of Simonds, Courage beer continued to be supplied to Reading from the former George’s brewery in Bristol but this eventually succumbed to brewery closure mania with the result that Courage Best and Directors is now brewed by Wells and Young brewery, Bedford, after a number of years being produced by John Smith’s in Tadcaster, Yorkshire.

In 1951, Mr E J Newman of the Railway Arms, Windsor, paid tribute to the brewery which doubtless supplied his beer:

As you travel thro’ the country
 In sunshine, hail or snow,
 You’ll always find the Hop Leaf sign,
 No matter where you go.
 That’s Simonds’ little emblem,
 From which they brew their beer;
 Call in, and take a pint or two,
 ‘Twill put you in good cheer.

With my old cigar a-glowing,
 I’m as happy as can be;
 I’ve just been in a Simonds pub,
 And had a large S.B.
 I like a pint of wallop!
 A Berry Brown as well;
 But none can beat THE TAVERN ALE
 And that’s the truth to tell.

There are people dying daily!
 With all this wretched flu;
 But if you stick to Simonds beer
 You’ll see the journey thro’;
 There’ll always be an England!
 Let’s hope that song is true,
 With Reading’s sparkling Ales and Stout –
 And Simonds Brewery, too!

In 2009 an information board commemorating the Simonds brewery was installed within the Oracle development, as the fulfilment of a project by the Reading Civic Society and surviving members of the brewery family.

OTHER READING BREWERS

Allied Arms. This inn on St Mary's Butts, which is still in business today, brewed its own beer between 1878 and 1890 with T. Jerome as brewer.

Amber Brewery. This was located at 62 Hosier St. in 1878 with Winchester and Flowers as proprietors.

Bear Brewery. The Bear was a feature of Reading's landscape until the mid-80s when it was demolished as part of the Simonds site redevelopment. It operated a brewery at Bear Yard, Bridge St, from 1828 to c. 1860 under John James Tagg (to 1856) and James Tagg. The Tagg family tombstones can be seen in the nearby St Giles' churchyard.

Berkshire Brewery was set up at 216 King's Road, Reading, in 1865 but went out of business in 1887. (See also Crown Brewery.)

Bonny and King. A brewery that flourished at 139-41 Oxford Road in the 19th century. In 1914 they were trading as grocers, wine, spirits and beer merchants and post office. The brewery buildings survived behind an undertaker's premises and adjacent to the Nag's Head pub until demolished in 2009.

Bradfield Brewery. Located at 42-44 Castle St, a long way from Bradfield, this brewery operated by Edward B. Moody (1878-86) and Mrs Elizabeth Moody (1887-8) was of brief duration. Was there any family connection with Charles Moody (see below)?

Britannia Brewery. This brewery was owned by Gosling & Co. in 1880 and by Walter Julian Pain when it was acquired by Ind Coope of Romford, Essex in 1896. The brewery was situated at 54/56 Caversham Rd and the Britannia Tap that was located on the corner of Caversham Rd and Station Approach until its demolition in the 1980s was presumably the brewery tap. Goodley list the following as brewers: Charles Warren, 1850-6; John Gosling, 1856-71; Thomas Mackrell, 1871-6; and Walter James Pain, 1876-96.

Byles Brewery. H M Byles brewed at 82-3 London St to 1828, followed briefly by Sarah Slaughter to c. 1830 when brewing ceased. She was later in trade as a corn merchants at the same premises.

Cannon Brewery. William Cox was in charge of this brewery, located in Kings Rd, in 1840, and was followed by Mrs. Charlotte Cox, from 1844-50; William Justins, 1850-6; and Mrs Anne Justins, 1856-65. The last recorded brewer is James Parker, 1865-71 – was this the same Parker who succeeded to Henry Portsmouth's brewery?.

Castle Brewery. Founded 1698, the Castle Brewery was located at 17 Castle St., opposite the Sun Inn. Robert Noake, a former mayor, was brewer in 1720, followed by the Deane family in the third quarter of the 18th century. At the turn of the 19th century it was owned by Mr Jonathan Tanner⁸ whose war against the urchins of the town earned him the sobriquet of Mr 'Bottle' Tanner. He used Kings Meadow by the River Thames as grazing for his dray horses and became impatient with the local lads who rolled themselves in his hay after bathing in the river. In order to discourage this practice he "caused several cart loads of broken bottles to be thrown into the deep water where the older boys bathed at the foot of the lock. This did not wholly prevent the bathing, but many persons were injured by having their feet cut, and ever afterwards this gentleman had the questionable honour of being dubbed Mr Bottle Tanner."⁹

Deeds of 1821 show Tanner as joint owner with Thomas Drewatt but by 1823, he was in partnership with Messrs Thomas Rickford and Adolphus William Hume, of whom Hume had dropped out by 1830. Jonathan Tanner himself retired to Bath around 1830 and by 1840 Rickford was in partnership with one Charles Curry Beckham at 138 Castle St. Charles Beckham is also listed separately at 101,

⁸ In a 1796 directory, Jonathan Tanner is listed as a draper. If the same person, he may perhaps have commenced brewing towards the end of the century.

⁹Quoted from Darter, *Reminiscences of Reading*.

Castle Street (see also under Edgar Antony Dell). In 1847, Beckham disappeared from the scene and Thomas Hawkins acquired an interest, while Rickford is unlisted after 1856. The site was later acquired by William Stephens & Co. (q.v.), later Willetts and Stephens who merged with William and Charles Blandy after 1856. Subsequently, the firm became known as Blandy, Hawkins & Co.

The Blandys were a notable Reading family who made their mark in banking and the law, as well as in brewing. Originally they emanated from Letcombe in Wiltshire and it has been suggested that Letcombe Street next to St Giles' Church commemorates this connection. Henry Bilson Blandy, brewer, was four times Mayor of Reading, and was made a Freeman of the Borough in 1895.

Thomas Hawkins, like Jonathan Tanner, before him was one of the trustees of St Mary's Chapel in Castle Street, and died in 1894. In 1910 the business was bought up by the Newbury-based South Berkshire Brewery Company Ltd which in turn succumbed to the expanding empire of H & G Simonds in 1920. The closure of Reading's oldest brewery followed, though the site continued in use by Simonds/Courage up until 1979.

Charles Martin operated the Bee Hive brewery at 169, Friar Street from 1856-70, following which (1871 but evidently briefly) he brewed at the County Brewery, 88 Watlington Street. The recently closed County Arms was built on the site of the County Tap¹⁰. Martin may also have been associated with the Martin who brewed in Broad St. (See Dowsett Brothers).

Charles Moody is listed in 1830 as a brewer, resident at 82/3 London St¹¹ but had ceased to brew by 1840. Other sources indicate that his brewery was located at 106 Castle St. where James Dymore Brown (q.v.) seems to have succeeded him in 1831¹².

Crown Brewery. This was situated at 16 Kings Road between the former Kings Rd Baptist Chapel (next to the present day library) and Abbey St. T. Lewis was brewer to 1837 and from 1837-42 the premises were known as W. G. Field and Co. Richard Goddard & Co. succeeded from 1842-50, followed by Goddard and Osmond, 1850-7, Elizabeth Goddard, 1857-63 and Thomas Cox, 1863-7. From 1867 it was associated with the Berkshire Brewery (which see above) and from 1871 brewing seems to have been concentrated at the 216 Kings Rd site.

Crown Street Brewery. This brewery was operated by John Lamb c. 1842, then as Lamb and Knight from that date until 1846, following which Henry Knight was sole proprietor until 1846. In 1850 it was in the hands of the Mattingleys, John, Thomas and Albert. The last brewer in 1856 was William Hughes, for in August of that year the business was subject to a bankrupt sale. The Crown Tap, later plain Crown, in Crown Street, was probably associated with this brewery.

Dowsett Brothers. This brewery was established by William Munt at 46/47 Broad St in 1850 and was subsequently operated by Ada Munt from 1854-6. In April of that year it was bought by Russell and Martin who occupied the premises until 1866 when it was acquired by Dowsett Brothers, Family Brewers. The business was auctioned in 1906, after which brewing ceased.¹³

Edgar Antony Dell was brewing at the Albion Brewery, 7 Alfred Street in 1840, evidently in succession to William Lewis, listed under the same address in 1830. Lewis also had premises at 30 Broad Street (Anchor Brewery – see Lewis & Knight), 80/81 Broad Street (see Henry Portsmouth). Goodley also lists the following brewers at this address: Richard Baker, 1837; James L. Farrow, 1844-7;

¹⁰ According to F. C. Padley, *A Village in the Town*, 1983, this name was in use at least until 1900.

¹¹ This conflicts with the description of this property in *London St Described*, 2007.

¹² Goodley describes this brewery as Castle Brewery with a location next to Vachell's Almshouses. He gives 1837-54 as the dates when Dymore Brown was active but at various times the brewery was sub-let to: Mr Tucky, 1844, T. P. Gestelow, 1847 and Thomas Nutley, 1854.

¹³ Information kindly supplied by Steve Lister.

and Charles Curry Beckham (formerly a partner in the Castle Brewery, which see), 1850-4, after which brewing ceased.

Fergusons Ltd. Fergusons' Angel Brewery was located in Broad St from 1871. The company was registered in 1899 but ceased to brew in 1914 when Morlands took an interest in the business, though they did not acquire full control until 1943, whereafter it was briefly combined with Dymore Brown. Many of the existing Morlands houses in Reading e.g. the Cambridge Arms in Southampton St (closed 1998) were originally Fergusons houses, and they also operated the much-lamented Caversham Bridge Hotel.

Flyer & Firkin. Formerly Reading's Athenaeum Club, this brewpub close to Reading Station opened under its new name in 1996. Brewing ceased five years later and the pub is now known as the Oakford Social Club. See also Firkin Brewery under East Berks section.

Garrard. Thomas Garrard is recorded as brewing in Friar Street in 1830, having possibly succeeded William of the same name, recorded as a brewer in 1796 and 1830. The brewery was still flourishing in 1840. Garrard Street, parallel with Friar Street perpetuates the name¹⁴.

George and Francis G. Evans were brewers at the Star Brewery, 1 London Street in 1840.

Henry Lawrence, was brewing at 103 Friar Street in 1830 but seems to have faded from the scene by 1840.

Henry Portsmouth was brewing at 80/81 Broad Street in 1840. According to Goodley this brewery originated with the somewhat ubiquitous William Lewis, along with John Knight, c. 1827, followed by Lewis alone from 1830-7. Portsmouth was brewer from 1837-44, followed by Job from the same clan in 1845, James Parker in 1856 and R. Saunders from 1867 until c. 1871 when brewing ceased. (See also Edgar Antony Dell and Lewis and Knight.)

Hope Brewery was located at 102-6 Friar Street and is said to have originated in the 18th Century. Henry Lawrence was brewer in 1830, W. Butler in 1837 and John Goodchild in 1842. Then in 18447 it became one of the several breweries in which J. Dymore Brown (see below) acquired an interest, although the premises were retained as an office and stores until 1871. J. D. Wetherspoon's new pub, the Hope Tap, is reputed to be built on the site.

J. Dymore Brown and Son. Dymore Brown's Royal Albert Brewery was situated at 16-18 Queens Road on the corner of East Street and was founded in 1864. Prior to that, however, James Dymore Brown the 1st (1803-75) had been brewing at 106 Castle Street, succeeding Charles Moody in occupation of these premises in 1831. The construction of the new brewery enabled Dymore Brown to double his output from around 1,500 barrels a year to 3,000. Under his son, James Dymore Brown the 2nd (1832-99) it reached 14,000. There is a memorial tablet to him in the Wesley Methodist Church in Queens Road, whereas interestingly his son, also James Dymore Brown, adhered to the Anglican church, joining the series of brewers who served as a Trustee of St Mary's Episcopal Chapel (from 1893-1902).

The company was registered as Dymore Brown and Sons Ltd. in 1902 and remained independent until 1927 when Morlands of Abingdon took over the business. Morlands had acquired an interest in the company in 1910, together with Hewitts of Waltham St. Lawrence. Dymore Brown, which only had only four pubs of

¹⁴ Goodley shows William Garrard as brewing solo until 1810, followed by Garrard & Son till 1823, William and Thomas Garrard till 1828 and thereafter Thomas solo till 1840. He also sites the brewery at 30 Friar's Street at the corner of Merchant's Place, leading down to Garrard St. The author's later researches on Reading pubs showed a link with the Board's Head: "In the 18th century when [the Boar's Head] had its own brewery it was owned by Thomas Florey, Mayor, 1749, died 1780. In 1785 was acquired by William Garrard, who also owned the Turks Head, Greyhound and Griffin and gives his name to Garrard Street behind. Garrard declined to become mayor on the grounds that it would cost him too much. His sons were less canny and the brewery and pubs were sold to Hewett's."

its own, brewed beer for Hewitts, merging with them in 1925. The company continued to trade under the Dymore Brown name until 1944. Although the site ceased to be employed as a brewery it remained in use as a bottling plant for Morlands until 1961 and continued as a distribution depot until 1970. Part of the site was subsequently used as a garage but following a severe fire in 1990 the buildings were razed to the ground to give way eventually to a new office development.

Dymore Brown was also noted for its celebrated Family Pale Ale which was supplied inter alia to the Royal Berkshire Hospital "to the entire approval of the Patrons, Governors etc.". They also supplied country houses with beer for consumption "downstairs" and even exported to Australia. Interestingly, a member of the family - James Dymore Brown the 5th - was head brewer and a member of the Morlands Board until his retirement c. 1990 - long after any Morlands had had any connection with the company!

John Allnutt was brewing at 112, London St between 1837 and 1865.

John Deane is referred to as a brewer in Reading in 1796 but seems to have disappeared by 1823.

Kings Road Brewery. Located near to the Wynford Arms and to Huntley and Palmers factory, this brewery was operated by James Walters in 1842 and by James Walters jr. in 1854. In between came A. Duncan, 1847-50 and Abraham Clarkson, 1853. Subsequently brewing ceased.

Lewis and Knight. William Lewis and John Knight were brewing at 30 Broad Street by 1830 and were still in business ten years later. Subsequently the following brewed at the site, also known as Anchor Brewery: M. Lewis, 1842-4; Mrs Sarah Lewis, 1847-53; Henry Lewis & Co., 1854-06, after which brewing ceased.

Lion Brewery. This was yet another brewery located in Castle St - the "Burton" of Reading, at No. 20 (12 prior to renumbering). The business was sold in 1877 by George Moore (or More) to Samuel Higgs and subsequently traded as S. H. Higgs Ltd. Wethereds took over the company in 1953, along with its eight tied houses, and brewing was transferred to Marlow. Many of the former Wethered houses in Reading belonged to the Higgs estate, including the Retreat where a collection of Higgs memorabilia is on display. From Goodley's list and a letter of Mr A. R. J. Cowell to the Reading Standard c. 1984, the following were brewers: William Adeane, to 1858-60; James More, 1860-71; George More, 1871-82; Samuel Higgs, 1882-87; Eliza Higgs, 1887-93; Samuel Henry Guttridge Higgs, from 1893. It remained in the Higgs family until Wethered's took it over; S. Harry Higgs was brewer in the 1930s.

London Street Brewery. This was based at 100 London Street in 1837, when J. Claydon was brewer. Ed. Rogers followed in 1842 and Thomas Justins, 1844-60. The brewery closed in the latter year, when Justins took over what later became the Truro Brewery (which see). It seems reasonable to assume that Thomas was related to William Justins who ran the Cannon Brewery in the 1850s.

Mitre Brewery. Located at 47 West St, this was evidently a small brewhouse operated in connection with the Mitre Hotel (now a Thai restaurant). Goodley gives William Newell as brewer from 1870-95, followed by Wells and Co. but other sources show Newell still in charge in 1900.

Oxford Street Brewery. James Neate brewed at 65 Oxford Street in 1847, followed by James Neate jr. in 1854. Brewing ceased c. 1857.

Patey, Cadey & Co. This brewing firm is referred to in a directory of 1796 but seems to have ceased by 1823.

Reading Lion Brewery. A brewhouse was founded at the Hop Leaf pub, Reading in 1995, as a "satellite" brewery to Hopback of Wiltshire. The brewer, Eddie Robinson, claimed to be the only brewer in the country of Maori descent. However, after 1996 brewing was only sporadic and ceased completely in 2002 when the pub became a tenanted house and the equipment was removed.

Robert Hewett & Son. This company's Victoria Brewery was located at 16, Chain St, possibly on the site now occupied in part by Boots. It is referred to in a trade directory of 1840 as Harris and Hewett and is stated by Goodley to have

become R. Hewett and Son in 1871. St Mary's Church House on the corner of Chain St and St Mary's Churchyard was the Hewett family's home. Robert Hewett who died in 1904 at the grand old age of 93 was a native of Barkham and a stalwart churchman, connected like Dymore Brown and Hawkins with St Mary's, Castle St. The brewery was sold to Simonds in 1900 and Robert's son, Thomas, became Chairman of Reading's gas company! The Robert Hewett Recreation Ground in Tilehurst Rd, near the Westside (formerly Jolly Brewers) pub, commemorates this former brewer. In spite of the different spelling there is believed to be a family connection with Hewitt's of White Waltham (q.v.).

Somers Town Brewery. This brewery flourished briefly in Tilehurst Road, with Stephen Evans, 1839-45 and William Cooper, 1845-50, as brewers.

Sowdons Brewery. This was located at 7 (later 25), Bridge Street¹⁵, and was absorbed by Simonds in 1850. The business was flourishing by 1823, when Thomas Sowdon was the brewer. Between 1830 and 1838 it is referred to as T and H Sowdon. Thereafter until 1847, Thomas, Frederick and Harry Sowdon were partners in the business with Harry as the sole proprietor thereafter.

Standard Brewery. This was located at 11 Broad Street from 1837 with William Oliver as the first recorded brewer. Thomas Ellson succeeded in 1842 and Charles Rufus in 1846 until 1851, whereafter brewing ceased. The Standard inn was also at this premises but seems to have closed later in the 19th century.

Stephen Flory was recorded as a brewer in Reading in 1796 but is not listed in 1823.

Thomas Harrison and **William Gandy**, brewers were members of Reading Corporation during the Civil War. Both were expelled in 1644, as supporters of the King. Gandy subsequently joined the royalist army and died in the King's service.

Truro Brewery. This seems to have had its origins in the brewing activities of John Adams who is first heard of in 1827, brewing at 12-14 Hosier St; in 1830 he also had premises at 28 and 29 Castle St. In 1842, Adams was succeeded by Nathaniel J. Hone; at this period the brewery was called the White Lion Brewery and the Castle Street site was used as stores. In addition Hone had an office and retail premises at 53 Minster Street. Thomas Justins (see also London Street) took over in 1860. Then in 1871 the brewery became known as Justins and Brinn's Truro Brewery, with an address at 29 Castle Street. Subsequently it seems to have absorbed the Bradfield Brewery (which see) and occupied Nos. 42-48 Castle Street. The business was acquired by Fergusons Ltd from William James Justins-Brinn in 1900, along with 30 public houses but the Truro public house continued in operation until 1973, when it succumbed to town centre redevelopment.

Tudor Brewing Co. This new enterprise commenced operations in March 1999 at the Brewery Tap public house, Castle St, Reading, which was formerly the Courage Social Club. The equipment was formerly used by Shepherd Neame of Faversham, Kent, as a pilot plant and the Kent brewers provided some of the expertise. The pub was part of the Kent-based Tudor Inns and Taverns chain and it was understood that the beers would be sold in other outlets within the chain as well as at the Brewery Tap itself. However, this failed to happen, and after a number of misbrews and at least two changes of brewer, the company decided to cease brewing after six months, evidently on the grounds that it was not economic. There were suggestions in 2000 that brewing might recommence at some future date but these sadly proved to be pipe dreams and the equipment is believed to have been repossessed by Shepherd Neame. Eventually the Brewery Tap was acquired by the Punch Taverns group.

Two Bridges Brewery. This new brewery began brewing in Caversham in 2009.

Watlington Brewery. This was located at 20 Watlington Street between 1870 and 1885 with the following brewers: Francis Henry Smith, 1871; Frederick Leeds, 1775; George Westall, 1879.

¹⁵ John Sharman considers that the former Seven Bridges House (see under Simonds above) was Sowdon's house.

Weldale Brewery. This brewery was located at 17 Caversham Rd, Reading. William Alloway was brewer in 1852 to c. 1874, followed in 1876 by Henry Bird. The brewery tap survived until the early part of the 21st Century on the corner of Weldale St. Latterly known as the Thorn Walk Tavern, it was called the Brewery Tavern until 1991. The brewery was acquired by Wethered of Marlow in 1913, along with its nine tied houses. Presumably, as with S. H. Higgs Ltd, some of the former Wethered houses in Reading were in this number.

William Beak was brewing at 11 Silver Street from 1840-2.

William Sims & Son. Like Higgs, this rather more short-lived brewery was known as Lion Brewery, and situated at 26 Hosier St. Founded in 1864, the brewery, along with sixteen tied houses, was auctioned in 1890. Sims is spelt "Simms" in Goodley's list. Previously, from 1850 through to 1871, according to Goodley, Sims or Simms operated a nearby brewery at 6 Upper Hosier Street, opposite the Queen's Arms. Latterly the brewery was called after this hostelry but was previously referred to as the Wiltshire Brewery. Earlier brewers at this site are said to have been: W. Chamberlin, 1837 and R. Fielding, 1841-50.

William Stephens & Co. Otherwise known as Mill Lane Brewery from its location at 4/7 Mill Lane, this was founded in 1750. James Stephens was brewing in 1796, while up to 1820 John and William Stephens were in charge. This company name, as given above, is listed in 1823. Pigot's 1830 directory indicates that Stephens was also brewing in Aldermaston but evidently sold out to Strange in 1833 (see West Berkshire section.) Stephens appears also to have disposed of his Mill Lane site in the 1830s since by 1840 Willats, Blandy and Co. are listed as brewing there. Goodley gives as brewers: Willets & Blandy, 1831-50; William & Charles Blandy, 1850-6. (See also Castle Brewery.)

William Tiley, junior is recorded in 1823 as brewing at Hill Hall (located according to later records in Minster Street) and according to Goodley carried on till 1838 when he joined forces with Richard Bacon until 1844. Tiley then carried on solo until 1847. Goodley identifies the site as Yield Hall Lane and names the brewery as the Yield Hall Brewery.

Zerodegrees. A new brewpub, part of a small chain, brewing German style beers, opened in 2007, in Bridge Street.

ABINGDON

Abbey Brewery. This brewery is recorded in trade directories of 1823, 1830 and 1840 under the proprietorship of John F. Spenlove. See also under Morland.

Abingdon. In the early 18th century Benjamin Tompkins, who interestingly was also a founder of the Baptist Chapel in Ock Street, was a leading brewer in the town. Other early Abingdon brewers, listed in 1796 but evidently ceased by 1823 were: Edward Child; John Shury; and James Smallbone. Brewing in Boar St in 1823 but not thereafter was Richard Butler. In addition, George Wood brewed in Ock St in 1887 and Henry Mulcock brewed at the Plumbers Arms (date unknown).

Belcher & Habgood Ltd. This firm operated the Tower Brewery in Ock Street, which was the principal rival to Morland's until it was taken over by the latter in 1928. The brewery was founded in 1815 and was operated by Thomas and John Townsend who sold out to Belcher and Habgood in 1898¹⁶. Interestingly, the Morlands brewery site was previously owned by a Mr William Belcher. After the Morlands take-over brewing continued until 1943. (See also Faringdon.)

Eagle Brewery. This appears to have been established by Thomas Cheer - a splendid name for a brewer! he is listed as brewer in 1796, when another member of the family, Edward, was victualler at the Cock and Bottle. By 1823, the brewery had become Edward Cheer and Son of Ock Street and in 1830 the proprietors are listed as Edward and Samuel Cheer. According to Goodley, the operations passed into the hands of William Doe Belcher in 1835 and was renamed W. D. Belcher & Son in 1844 and W. D. Belcher and co. six years later. William Belcher jr took over in 1856 until 1861 when Morland's acquired the business.

Isaac Rowles is listed as a brewer in Ock Street in a trade directory of 1840.

Morland & Co. Ltd. Although lost to Berkshire in 1974, Morlands was originally founded by father and son, John and Benjamin Morland, at West Ilsley in the present county in 1711. They purchased a maltings in that year and shortly afterwards commenced brewing. Traces of the original brewhouse are said to remain and West Ilsley's village pub, the Harrow, was a Morland's house. George Morland, the late 18th century artist, was a distant relation and inspired the artist logo as well as such brand names as the Artist's Fare pub/ restaurant chain. In 1830, William Morland was senior brewer and maltster at West Ilsley.

It was not until the mid-19th century that the company moved to Abingdon. The old brewery had been inherited in 1854 by Edward Morland who acquired the Eagle Brewery, formerly operated by William Belcher, in 1861. This appears to have been a distress sale as a notice of auction in February of that year indicates that the sale is "for the benefit of the Creditors of Mr. William Belcher, Brewer."¹⁷ It is interesting, too, that the solicitors involved in the affair included Messrs. Morland and Godfrey - was this an early example of insider dealing? In 1866¹⁸ Morland also acquired the Abbey Brewery, likewise in Ock Street, unusually by inheritance from their relatives, the Spenloves, and for a while up to 1887 the site was known as United Breweries.

As well as the various Reading and Berkshire breweries noted elsewhere, Morlands also acquired in 1890 Field and Sons of Shillingford in historic Oxfordshire¹⁹. Under the direction of Thomas Skurray (1868-1938) the company expanded into Reading and East Berkshire with the absorption of Fergusons,

¹⁶ Goodley states that the brewery was in the hands of Thomas Townsend in 1860, Elizabeth Townsend from 1853-63 and Thomas Townsend jr. from the latter date until 1893 when Morland's acquired it. Goodley also, however, shows Belcher & Habgood as successors to William Belcher jr.

¹⁷Information kindly supplied by Mark Mercer.

¹⁸ 1868 according to Goodley.

¹⁹ According to Goodley, this operated as Payne & Field from 1853-83.

Dymore Brown and Hewitt of Waltham St. Lawrence. It became a public company in 1944.

In later years, it came under the shade of the “Whitbread umbrella” and its future appeared threatened in 1992 when Whitbread decided to dispose of its shares. However, Morlands survived a hostile take-over bid from Greene King and grew into an important regional brewing company with houses throughout the South-east particularly through the purchase of large numbers of former Courage houses. In 1997 it purchased the Ruddles Brewery in Rutland from the Dutch brewing giant, Grolsch, ostensibly to enable the firm to undertake more contract brewing from Courage and others. However, it was unable to fully utilise the extra capacity, leading to the closure of the Oakham plant in the following year. This and other factors severely dented Morlands’ profits and it would appear that the institutional shareholders that saved its bacon in 1992 instructed the board to sell up. In August 1999, Greene King emerged victorious from a take-over battle with Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries. The brewery closed in February 2000 with the transfer of selected Morland and Ruddles brands to Greene King’s Bury St Edmunds brewery. The latter regarded Morland’s Old Speckled Hen and Ruddles County as “core products”, whereas Morland Original Bitter would only be brewed as long as there was sufficient local demand. It can occasionally be found but is undoubtedly a threatened species.

In 1987 the writer penned the following lines, part of a poem celebrating the campaign to bring Abingdon and the Vale of White Horse back into Berkshire. They are quoted here as an epitaph for this fine brewery.

In **Abingdon**, they brew fine ale
 Which men of Berkshire drink with glee.
 Let Morland’s Mild and Best and Pale
 Be Berkshire brews for Berkshire men.
 His strength will be the strength of ten
 With the horsepower of an old M.G.
 Who sups on Morland’s Speckled Hen.

Saxby and Company. George Saxby’s brewery was located in Stert St. in Abingdon, but was taken over by Morlands in 1889.

Walter Harry Tustin. Situated, like Abingdon’s other breweries in Ock Street (no 14), this firm was the subject of a receiving order in 1891.

FARINGDON

Bryan and Thomas R Reynolds were brewing in Southampton St, Faringdon in 1823, with only Thomas remaining seven years later. By 1840, T. Rich had become the Southampton Street brewer. Goodley states that this traded as the White Horse Brewery and gives Richard Terry as the brewer in 1840, followed by Chas. Medley, 1842, H. St John Medley, 1844-7 and Medley & Co, 1850-4.

Fairthorne & Co. Ltd. This company ran the Eagle Brewery which was founded ca 1813 and taken over by W. G. Phillips & Sons of Oxford in 1899. The Phillips family had had an interest in the brewery since at least the early 1860s and from 1863-68 it had been named Fairthorne and Phillips.

Faringdon. Early brewers in Faringdon listed in 1796 but gone by 1823 were Thomas Mattingly, John Stephenson and Joseph Whitefield. In 1840, John H. Gandall was brewing at Sudbury House. There is also a record of Belcher and Habgood (see Abingdon) brewing at Brewery Court, Brewery Passage, Faringdon, next to the Red Lion, Marlborough St, in 1900-1906.

Francis Heath was brewing in Gloucester St, Faringdon in 1823 and 1830, with James Heath having succeeded by 1840. Goodley states that the operating name was the Barleycorn Brewery and gives James' dates as 1831-47, when George Franks took over until 1854.

London Street Brewery. Operated by William Carter from 1847-53.

Steam Brewery, Buckland. Brewing at the village of Buckland near Faringdon was thriving at least as early as 1763 when William Wheeler insured a brewhouse, malthouse and dwelling for £400. By 1809 the business had passed to his son George, who is listed in an 1830 directory as a retail brewer. On George's death in 1839²⁰ his nephew, Edwin, succeeded. In 1855 he was forced to sell out and the business was acquired by Sir George Throckmorton, the local squire. J. J. Walters and from 1883 his widow, Hannah, operated the brewery. In 1886 the brewery was let to Sidney and Thomas Phillips, thought to be sons of the Oxford brewer, William George Phillips, with Ernest Phillips taking over in 1891. In 1899, the firm was acquired by William George Phillips, along with the neighbouring associated business of Fairthorne in Faringdon. Brewing continued until 1910 when Phillips themselves succumbed to the expansive Oxford brewery of Halls. The premises continued to be used as an off-licence until 1968.

Vale of White Horse Brewery. This was sold for auction in 1862, together with a tied estate comprising 16 inns and public houses (including Two Beer Shops)²¹. The accompanying documentation to the sale refers to an "Indenture of feoffment" in respect of the brewery, dating from 1798. The estate comprised houses across the border in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, as well as three in Faringdon itself and others in nearby Berkshire villages.

²⁰ Goodley gives 1847 as the date.

²¹Information kindly supplied by Mark Mercer.

HUNGERFORD

Crown Brewery. This was located in High Street, Hungerford and was offered for auction by one Elisha Love in 1900. Other reports, however, indicate that the building was destroyed by fire in 1893. According to Goodley, earlier brewers were Benjamin Keen (1850-54) and Thomas Frankland (1867-8). Elisha Love flourished from 1883-95, followed by Thomas E. Crook in 1897. The latter is presumably to be identified with the Thomas Crook, who owned the Crown public house on the corner of Bath Rd and Charnham St. and appears to have been still trading as a brewer in High Street, Hungerford, in 1920.

Manor Brewery. One of three breweries flourishing in High Street, Hungerford, it was owned by John Platt & Son when it fell into the hands of the acquisitive South Berkshire Brewing Co. in 1910. The brewery was in the hands of John Platt sr. from 1847-82 and John Platt jr. from 1883. Earlier Hungerford brewers included William Ward (listed in 1823) and Toms and Matthews (listed in 1840).

MAIDENHEAD & COOKHAM

Bell Brewery, was owned by Fuller, Story & Co. Ltd who sold out to fellow Maidenhead brewers, Nicholsons, in 1921. The brewery was located in King Street near Maidenhead Station and its maltings in Bell Street survived into the 1980s before being redeveloped along with much of what had survived of Victorian Maidenhead. However, it had its origins in a smaller brewery that came into being on Ray Mill Island in the Thames around 1840. Known as Thames Brewery, this was founded by Joseph Thomas Bell who had come to Maidenhead from London to look after the mill on behalf of his recently orphaned nephews, Joseph and John Fuller, who were both minors, born in 1826 and 1830 respectively.

By 1851 it was large enough to employ ten men. Around the mid 1850s John Fuller, who was an accountant (yes, they were sniffing around even in those days!) took over the brewery while Joseph ran the mill. The brewing side evidently flourished since John Fuller eventually around 1870²² moved to the larger premises in the town centre, known as Bell Street. Was this named after his uncle, as Mike Connelly speculates, or was there some connection with the Bell Inn which remains to this day?²³

A Mr Story was taken on as a partner in the late 19th century and subsequently became Managing Director. He was involved in a major fracas in 1914 when he sued the company for wrongful dismissal after he had been sacked by the board and won his case. Before the Nicholson take-over Fuller Story absorbed A Terry and Co. of Burnham (Bucks) and A. L. S. Sellon and Co. of Bracknell in 1905 and 1906 respectively.

Cookham Brewery. The first known brewery in Cookham dated from the mid-17th century when Thomas Gibbons established a malthouse in the land between the churchyard and the road leading to the bridge. Accounts differ as to whether brewing was also part of the activity at this early stage. It was later occupied in the latter part of the century by John Benwell of Cookham, Maltster and subsequently by the Ray family. Under their proprietorship, the business was moved to a new site on the south side of the High Street, adjacent to School Lane. Richard Ray is accredited with enlarging these premises in 1770, at which stage brewing was certainly in evidence.

In 1785 the business was acquired by Abraham Darby, initially with Zachary Allnut as partner. Allnut soon dropped out and Darby then ran the firm until his death in 1801, following which two of his sons, James and Stephen, carried on brewing until 1837, when they sold out to Nevile Reid of Windsor. The main attraction to Reid appears to have been the malthouse which was enlarged with the closure of the brewery. The malthouse continued to supply Nevile Reid until they acquired new maltings nearer to home at Upton (Slough) in 1906, when malting in Cookham also ceased. The buildings, however, remain to this day. It is interesting to note that the White Horse in Maidenhead, one of the closest pubs to the Nicholson's Brewery, was a Nevile Reid house.

East Berkshire Brewery. The origins of this brewery are somewhat obscure since one local historian²⁴ gives its date of foundation as 1833 while another²⁵ states that it was founded by George Braxton who had been a cooper at Nicholsons

²² Goodley locates the Thames Brewery in Bridge St. and associates this with James Mickley. He also dates the move to Bell Street earlier, in 1854 and gives the following dates for successive changes of proprietorship: James Thomas Bell, 1842-63; John and James Fuller, 1863-8 or later; John Fuller & Co. 1883 onwards.

²³ See *Brewing in Maidenhead*, The Thames and Bell Breweries in *Thames Valley Drinker* 16, August 1982.

²⁴ Luke Over in *Maidenhead, A Pictorial History*.

²⁵ Tom Middleton in *Yesterday's Town - Maidenhead*.

which did not exist in 1833! There is certainly no reference to it in the 1840 Trade Directory.

Although the smallest of Maidenhead's breweries it was in fact the last to be demolished, its distinctive chimney being visible to passengers passing through the town's station until the mid-80s. It was situated behind King St and had a shop window in that thoroughfare in the shape of an off licence that was operated as such by Courage, again till the 1980s redevelopment. Mike Connelly²⁶ considers that this was probably the limit of its tied estate. The brewery specialised in private sales to the gentry and even enjoyed a royal warrant in 1883 and 1884.

In the former year it was in the hands of James Blumson and then in 1886, it was acquired by Arthur Ernest Keyes who became the first Maidenhead brewer to apply for trade mark registration and also increased the number of cask beers to 14. Nicholsons later acquired the business and retained the brewery for a number of years as a spare plant used only at times of peak demand. A photograph taken during the Diamond Jubilee of 1897 shows the off-licence with the sign "Family Pale Ale Brewery", together with a gigantic archway of beer barrels stretched across King Street in honour of the Queen and Empress.

It appears that from 1883 the legal ownership of the property remained with the Braxton family, who leased the brewery initially to Blumson, then to Thomas Hooton Wenn who in 1886 assigned the lease to Keyes, who in turn assigned it to Nicholson's in 1891. This led to a long and complex legal suit between the Braxtons and Nicholson's, which was not resolved until 1905²⁷.

James Mickley. There is reference in 1840 to an unnamed brewery, by then disused, which was located on the site later occupied by Moores, Outfitters, in between the entrance to St Mary's Church and the Bear Hotel. Michael Connelly suggests that this may have been an enterprise that was founded in the wake of the Beer Act but subsequently foundered. This theory is strengthened by the appearance for the first time in the 1830 Directory as a brewer in Bridge St. of James Mickley, who is not listed in 1840. (See also footnote to Bell Brewery.)

Joseph Poulton & Co. were brewing in Maidenhead in 1796 but do not appear in the 1823 Directory.

Nicholson and Sons Ltd. Having taken over most of its rivals, Nicholsons was Maidenhead's only brewery for nearly forty years. It was taken over by Courage, Barclay and Co. Ltd in 1959, together with around 200 pubs, and shortly afterwards was closed down and demolished to build a shopping centre, the name being commemorated in Nicholson's Walk. The brewery was founded in 1840 by the young son, William, of a local grocer, Robert Nicholson, and originally traded as the Pineapple Brewery. The Nicholsons had come to Maidenhead from Lincoln in 1826 and William was apprenticed as a chemist in his native city before taking up brewing. By 1851 the brewery was employing four men and a boy and by 1862 the numbers employed had risen to 14.

William Nicholson (1820-1916) was a major figure in Victorian Maidenhead, as an Alderman and promoter of good causes. He was a notable cricketer, taking part in the famous victory of 1853 when a Maidenhead XVIII beat an All-England XI by eleven runs. He was influential in the establishment of the first regular Fire Brigade in the town in 1867 and in 1903 provided Maidenhead with the site for its first public library. Nicholson, unlike rival Langton, was a noted Churchman (i.e. C of E) and after his death a memorial stained-glass window was placed at the East End of St Mary's church by his widow, Elizabeth.

Under Nicholson, the brewery provided a soup kitchen every winter for the "deserving poor" who "lined up with jugs and vessels of all kinds to scoop the soup from the beer vat"²⁸. It is also curious to note that in June 1896 the tea for the St Mary's Sunday School treat was brewed up by Messrs. Nicholson and Sons and

²⁶M Connelly, *Brewing in Maidenhead*, East Berks Brewery, *Thames Valley Drinker* 15, July 1982.

²⁷ See Colin Lanham, *The East Berks Brewery*, BHS Journal No 108, 2002, pp 50-55.

²⁸ T Middleton, *Yesterday's Town: Maidenhead*, 1980, p. 96.

kept hot in wooden casks, no doubt normally used for quite a different beverage!

Although better known for its Camel labels, Nicholsons also used a white triangle as a trade-mark and were taken to court by Bass who argued that this infringed their rights as proprietors of the red triangle! Eventually, the smaller brewer won the case. The Nicholson camel with its legend, "Best in the Long Run", is an anatomical curiosity since the beast appears to run like a horse whereas a normal camel "runs front and rear legs on one side at a time".²⁹ Nicholsons built a number of new pubs in Maidenhead in the immediate post-war period to a very similar design so that, if you are drinking, for instance, in the Jolly Farmer or the Crooked Billet, you know you are on former Nicholsons territory. Nicholsons took over fellow-Maidonian brewers, Langtons in 1906 and Fuller Story in 1921. In the mid-30s employment at the brewery was 150.

Philip Sidney Langton. Until its closure in 1906 this brewery, located in Market Street, more or less opposite the Vine public house, was Maidenhead's oldest brewery. It is believed to have been founded in the 18th Century, though some local folk lore suggests an even earlier date in the 1600s. The Langtons were strong adherents of the nearby Congregational (now United Reformed) Chapel in West Street and used to supply cakes and ale to the Sunday School scholars on Good Friday.

A new and enlarged brewery was built in 1852 and was the subject of a spectacular fire in 1875. "Gigantic tongues of flame leapt high into the night sky. The intense red colour on the horizon at Slough caused the Slough [fire] brigade to hurry westward without being summoned."³⁰ Apparently much of the beer was rescued with casks trundled down Market Street and stored in the town hall. The brewery finally closed after being taken over by its rivals, Nicholsons, but part of the building remained until 1980, used as a furniture shop.

Richard Partlo. Partlo was brewing in North Town, Maidenhead circa 1830 and up to 1842. No other details are known.

²⁹M. Connelly, *Brewing in Maidenhead*, Nicholson's Brewery, *Thames Valley Drinker* 20, March 1984

³⁰M. Connelly, *Brewing in Maidenhead*, Langton's Brewery, *Thames Valley Drinker* 17, November 1982.

NEWBURY

Albion Brewery. This was located in back Lane and appears to have been of short duration. Wyatt Tarver, 1847, and Benjamin Smith, 1850-4, are listed as brewers by Goodley.

Atlas Brewery. Located at 16-17 Bartholomew St., this was in the hands of a Mr. Cotteral in 1847, followed by Theodore Verney Turner in 1853. In 1863 Turner was in partnership with Whistbridge but by 1867-8 was back on his own. By 1883 Edmund Parfitt was in charge. (See also South Berkshire Brewery Co. Ltd.)

Daniel B. Isemonger was brewing in Market Place, Newbury in 1823. In 1840, Samuel Skinner is recorded as brewing in the same location.

Diamond Brewery. This was situated at 29 Cheap St, Newbury. John Flint was brewer from 1840-63, Samuel Flint from 1863-8 and Mrs Ellen Flint up to 1895. Latterly its proprietor was J. Emery. Like many another, it fell prey to its highly acquisitive fellow Newbury brewer, the South Berkshire Brewery Co., in 1900.

Ernest Edward Palmer, Donnington. In 1877, Alfred Ernest Kidd was brewing in Donnington, near Newbury and ten years later the business of Fanstone and Palmer was flourishing in the village. The latter is assumed to be the same brewery, then known as Ernest Edward Palmer, that was acquired by Ushers of Trowbridge in 1922.

Greenham. Charles Moss was brewing at Greenham from 1827-37, followed by Mark White from 1837-43.

Herbert John Finn & Co. Finn's Phoenix Brewery was founded in 1842 and located at 49/51 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, where the voracious South Berkshire Brewery was also based. However, it retained its independence longer than the latter, eventually being taken over by Ushers in 1925 along with 21 pubs. Previously, until 1895, it was owned by Nutley's, with William Nutley (1842-68) and Charles Nutley (1868-95) as brewers. One of Usher's houses in Newbury was the Globe in Bartholomew Street - was this perhaps a Phoenix Brewery house?

J Adnams & Son, Speenhamland. Otherwise known as Eagle Brewery, this was located in Broadway, Speenhamland. Founded in 1809, it lasted until it was acquired by Simonds in 1936 when its tied estate still comprised only three houses. Edmund E. W. Gale is listed in trade directories as brewing at Speenhamland in 1830 and 1840 and is named by Goodley as the Eagle brewer. Whitchurch & Co. were in command in 1847, followed by Wells & Adnams in 1850-3, James Adnams 1854-68 and James Adnams & Sons from 1883. It is a curious coincidence that his enterprise should have been run by three brewers synonymous with three independent breweries surviving to (or in the case of Gale's almost to) the present day.

John Lewis junior was brewing in Bartholomew Street, Newbury in 1823. He had disappeared by 1830 when in addition to others recorded elsewhere Richard Whittingham, retail brewer and dealer in malt and hops was trading in the street. He was no longer brewing by 1840 but Richard Deller³¹⁻⁵² and William Nutley are listed as Bartholomew Street brewers in that year. Nutley is also listed in 1830 (See also Herbert John Finn & Co.).

John Townsend was brewing in Newbury in 1796 but had evidently disappeared by 1823.

Newbury Brewery Co. Ltd. Also known as Castle Brewery and situated at 25/27 Northbrook St, this was founded in 1608. Its trading name was registered in 1890 in order to acquire F. F. Somerset & Co. It remained independent until 1930 when Simonds stepped in. Earlier brewers listed as practising their arts in Northbrook Street were: Richard Compton (mentioned 1823); Satchell and Rowell (1830) and John Satchell on his own (1840). Goodley also attaches John

³¹ Goodley associates Whittingham and Deller with the Bartholomew Brewery at No. 61, with Thomas Deller taking over from Richard in 1847 until 1868 when brewing ceased.

Townsend (see above) to this brewery and indicates that it trades as Satchell & Somerset between 1853 and 1868. From 1870 the proprietor was Francis Flowers Somerset.

Slocock. Samuel Slocock is first listed as a brewer in Newbury in 1796 and in 1823 and 1830 he reappears as Samuel Slocock & Son, with the location given as West Mills. In 1840, however, Edmund Slocock, presumably the son, is recorded as brewing in Bartholomew St. Goodley also associates the Slococks with the West Mills Brewery and gives Edmund's era as 1830-47. He was followed by Hawkins and Canning, 1850-68; William & T E Hawkins and E B Black, 1883; and T E Hawkins & Co. from 1887.

South Berkshire Brewery Co. Ltd, Newbury. This came into being in 1897 when two local brewers, Edmund Parfitt of the Atlas Brewery (which see), Bartholomew St, and Thomas Edward Hawkins of the West Mills Brewery (see above) amalgamated as Hawkins and Parfitt, South Berkshire Brewery Co. Ltd, the shorter name being adopted in 1913. The new company absorbed several more local breweries, namely J Emery's Diamond Brewery in 1900, Westcombe and Son in 1902, both in Newbury, and Manor Brewery, Hungerford and Blandy, Hawkins & Co., Reading, both in 1910. This gave the group a total of 150 to 200 houses, probably making them second in the county at that time to Simonds who had around 300/ 350. The latter, however, began its expansion wave after the 1st World War and bought up its rival in 1920. The Atlas Brewery closed immediately but the West Mills site continued until 1930.

Thomas King was brewing in Bridge Street, Newbury in 1823 and was still active in 1840.

Thomas Pocock was brewing at the Bacon Arms, Speenhamland from 1868-95.

West Mills Brewery. Founded 1698. See also Slocock and South Berkshire Brewery Co. Ltd.

Westcombe & Son. From 1853 this company operated the St Nicholas Brewery at 11a Bartholomew St, named after Newbury's historic parish church. It was acquired by the South Berkshire Brewery in 1902. John Brown, who is listed as a brewer in Bartholomew St, Newbury in 1823, 1830 and 1840, is associated with this brewery by Goodley, who also cites a listing in 1850.

William F. Flowers was brewing in London Road from 1887-91.

WALLINGFORD

Anchor Brewery. This was founded in Goldsmith Lane in 1830 but later moved to St Martins Street. Brewers includes John Coles (1830), William Spencer (1840-58) and Benjamin William and John Hilliard (1863-83). Benjamin William Hilliard seems to have been in sole charge when the brewery was acquired in 1891 by Hanley & Co. of Oxford, seven years before the latter succumbed to fellow-Oxford brewer, Halls. The premises were subsequently in use as a laundry.

Wallingford Brewery Ltd. This was one of the oldest breweries in the northern part of the county, founded in 1720 by Edward Wells, and located in the High Street. The brewery lasted for over 200 years until acquisition by Ushers in 1928 with 77 houses. However, in 1930 eight of these were acquired by Brakspears, which still owns two pubs in the town.

John Child was brewing in Wallingford in 1823, with the location of his premises shown in 1830 as Market Place. He is not listed in 1840³².

³² Goodley states that this brewery later became part of Field & Sons, Shillingford, Brewing seems to have continued at least until 1883; Fields' brewing activities were acquired by Morlands in 1890.

WANTAGE

Adkin Brewery commenced brewing at 52 Adkin Way, Wantage in 2007, supplying local pubs and beer festivals.

Frederick Henry Bennett. This gentleman was brewing in Grove Street in 1921. No other details are known but it may not be coincidental that another Bennett, Richard, was brewing at the Falcon Brewery in Grove Street almost a century earlier (1840).

Lewis's Rockwell Brewery Co. Ltd. This company acquired the business of Lewis, Collard and Lewis in 1902, and the brewery was thereafter known as Rockwell Brewery. It went into receivership in 1909 when Belcher and Habgood of Abingdon acquired it. According to Goodley it was established in the 18th century, proprietors during the following century including: Thomas Ansell (to 1847); James Rodbourne (1847-67); Clement and Liddeard 1867-83); James Walford Ryland (1883-7); Edward Green (1887-90); and Ingold and Lewis ((1890-98). Goodley also has the name Lewis' Rockwell Brewery in use from 1899.

Robert Palmer. Palmer is listed in 1830 as a wholesale and retail brewer in Wantage. Other reports, confirmed by Goodley, indicate that the brewery was located in Tanner Street. Goodley records Robert Palmer as brewing from 1800-37, followed by Richard Palmer to 1842 and Robert Palmer Jr. to 1853, whereupon brewing ceased.

Robert Sansum was brewing at the Black Swan, Church St, in 1877.

Thomas Thorpe is recorded by Goodley as brewing at Letcombe Bassett near Wantage in 1867-8.

Wantage Brewery Ltd. Located in Back St, this firm was registered in 1865 but seems to have continued the brewing activity of John Tatchell who was brewing in Back St in 1840. This theory is corroborated by the fact that the brewery was originally located in a public house called Thatchell's. According to Goodley George Curtis succeeded Tatchell in 1857 and the business acquired the name, Wantage Brewery Co. Ltd in 1868. Although the original business was wound up voluntarily in 1901 a new company was registered which was acquired by Morland in 1920. Brewing continued until 1939 but the premises were later demolished to provide a site for the police station.

William George is listed in the 1796 directory as a Wantage brewer but does not appear thereafter.

WINDSOR

Burge & Co. Ltd., Burge's Victoria Brewery was located at 49/51 Victoria St. It was founded pre-1840 when the business was known as Burge and Burn and registered under its final name in 1920. From 1842 onwards the business was run by William Henry Burge. In 1931, the London brewers, Meux, acquired the business, with the brewery being closed the following year. (Friary) Meux finally became part of Ind Coope in 1969 and those with long memories will recall that before the pub swaps of the 70s the Windsor area had the highest concentration of Ind Coope (Allied) pubs in the county. The brewery buildings were in use as a laundry till the mid-70s when they gave way to a multi-storey car park.

Firkin Brewery Company. The Firkin brewpub, originally fathered by David Bruce, was bastardised in the 1990s through its acquisition by Allied-Domecq (the retail side of what used to be Allied Breweries). This involved a mix of genuine brew-pubs and others which did not brew on site, with the difference carefully disguised. Berkshire acquired two "genuine Firkin brewpubs" during the Allied-Domecq era: the Fort and Firkin, Thames St, Windsor and the Flyer and Firkin, Reading (which see). The Windsor pub was formerly the Thames Hotel and known as the Old Trout before becoming a Firkin in 1995. However, in 1999, Punch Taverns took over the entire Allied-Domecq estate and promptly ceased brewing at the brewpubs. The reason for this was allegedly that the purchase gave Punch an estate well in excess of that permitted to brewing companies under the current legislation, with the result that they could have been obliged to sell off a large number of pubs, had they continued brewing. Pull the other one!

Greenwood Brewery. Located in Clarence Rd, this was owned by John Lovibond in 1884.

John Canning & Sons. Canning's Royal brewery was located in Peascod St, which is now the town's premier shopping street. Founded by 1850, it was bought up in 1921 by Noakes of Bermondsey, who had already acquired the larger firm of Nevile Reid (q.v.). Canning's "Royal" title reflected the company's position as "Brewer and Spirit Merchant to H.M. the Queen/ King", which it achieved in 1901. The product range including 4X Stock Ale, India Pale Ale and Stout was supplied to the Royal Household at Windsor Castle.

John & Frederick Twinch were brewing in 1823 and were still active in 1840. Their premises were in Peascod St³³.

John, Richard and Thomas Jennings were brewing in Windsor by 1823 at Thames St. By 1830, the business was known as J. Jennings & Co., and by 1840 had evidently passed to the next generation as William and James Jennings. They acquired Ramsbottom & Leigh and were subsequently themselves taken over by Nevile Reid. Goodley states that Alexander Leslie Melville (a Scots brewer far from home?) was the last proprietor (1852-4) prior to the take-over by Nevile Reid.

Nevile Reid & Co. Ltd. The Windsor Brewery in Thames St was founded around 1810³⁴ by Nevile Reid who was a member of the Reid family of Meux, Reid and Co. fame. It was acquired by Noakes & Co. Ltd, owners of the Black Eagle Brewery, Bermondsey, in 1918, along with 140 houses³⁵. When Noakes also swallowed up the rival Windsor brewery of John Canning three year later, they transferred their brewing to Windsor, presumably at the Thames St site. However,

³³ At No 90 according to Mike Brown and probably at the site later occupied by John Canning. In confirmation, Goodley shows the succession as follows: John & Fred. Twinch, to 1850; J & P Twinch, 1850-63; Twinch Bros., 1863-60; John Canning, from 1870.

³⁴ Norman Barber gives this date but I find it striking that there are no references to Nevile Reid in the trade directories consulted prior to 1840. All other evidence suggests it was not until the 1840s that Reid arrived on the scene by buying up John Jennings & Co.

³⁵ William Noakes, Chairman of Noakes & Co at the time had learnt his trade at Nevile Reid, according to Pudney in *Draught of Contentment*, p. 38.

Noakes were themselves taken over by Courage in 1930 and with that and the closure of Burge and Co. brewing in Windsor ceased. (See also Cookham Brewery.) The site, close to the castle walls, was later occupied in part by a memorial to King George V, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Ramsbottoms & Baverstock were brewing in the town in 1796. By 1823, when the premises are shown to be located in Thames St, the firm was known as John Ramsbottom & Co. They were large enough at this time also to have a London address at Paul's Wharf, Upper Thames St. In 1830, the company was known as Ramsbottom and Legh but had disappeared by 1840, having been acquired by John Jennings & Co.³⁶ Intriguingly James Baverstock (1741-1815) has earned himself a place in the new Dictionary of National Biography, not so much on account of brewing prowess but "because he played a significant rôle in radical politics, especially during the early Regency years when he was involved with a group of radical freethinkers in London, including the radical brewer, Timothy Brown, who peddled, financed and distributed mostly deistic works."³⁷ Clearly a contrast to most brewers who tended to be rather conservative in both politics and religion!

Thomas Moore was brewing in Windsor in 1796 but does not appear in the 1823 Directory.

Windsor. In addition to those separately listed, the following were brewing in the town in 1840: Thomas Ellson, Church St; and John Hall, 26 Datchet Lane.

Windsor and Eton Brewery began brewing in Duke St. in 2010. Beers include the very appropriately named Guardsman Bitter.

³⁶ The following further information has come to light since the first edition. This brewery, also known as the Windsor Brewery, had its origins in the Crown Inn, which is believed to have been brewing commercially as early as the 16th c. under John Aldem and his son, Thomas. Richard Nash was brewer during the Commonwealth. By 1751, the brewery, then owned by Henry Isherwood MP and William Reddington, was located in Datchet Rd. and was supplying 23 hostelryes in the town. Richard Rowbottom acquired the business in 1786 for £70,000, in partnership with James Baverstock and William Legh. When Legh died in 1786, his nephew, John, took over his interest. Nevile Reid acquired the business in 1837. Jennings' Thameside brewery did not pass into Reid hands until 1853. (Judith Hunter, Windsor Express, Nov. 1998.)

³⁷ Information supplied by Dr Michael T. Davis of Queensland, Australia.

WOKINGHAM

Baker, Powell & Co. Located in Wokingham's Broad Street, at No. 13, this was taken over by Brakspears of Henley in 1913 with nine pubs and closed down shortly afterwards. Latterly it was known as the Wokingham Brewery. Francis John Baker was brewing in Broad St in 1840 and may have succeeded Thomas Lock who is listed as a retail brewer in Broad St in 1830. When Francis died in 1876, his widow, Rosalind, carried on the business until 1905 when it was acquired by a local politician, Henry Powell.

Greenwood's Brewery. This new brewery in Bell Foundry Lane commenced brewing in 1994 but sadly went into receivership three years later in spite of winning a high reputation for its beers.

James Webb Sr. acquired the Beaches Manor estate in Wokingham in about 1760 and became the first common brewer of substance in the town, having acquired an estate of five pubs by his death in 1791. His son, another James, was brewing in Wokingham in 1796 and continued to expand the estate so that by his death in 1821 he owned 12 out of 19 pubs in the district.

Shortly before his death he sold his business to his eldest daughter's father-in-law, William Hayward of Watlington³⁸. William's son, James, is listed as the brewer in the 1823 Directory. In 1830 his premises are shown as Shute End where he was still active in 1840. After his death in 1846, the business was inherited by his elder son, also James, but ran into difficulties with the result that it was auctioned in 1856 and acquired by his younger brother, Edward, who promptly closed the brewery and disposed of the pubs. Four of these were acquired by Brakspears, of which two, the Red Lion and Duke's Head, continue to be part of the former Henley brewer's estate to this day.

Wellington Brewery, Wokingham. This began operating as a result of the collapse of Hayward's (see James Webb) in 1856. Robert Dunning acquired the Chair in Denmark St in the Hayward sale and built the brewery on land behind the pub. His son, Thomas, was largely responsible for the brewing until he decided to retire in 1877 at the age of 41. This may have been as a result of a religious conversion to the teetotal position, similar to that experienced by the more famous Frederick Charrington. The business was acquired by cousins, Frank Headington and Richard Webster, and later (1891) became known as Headington & Son. It was taken over by Ashby of Staines (later absorbed by Simonds) in 1920, along with fifteen houses³⁹. This brought brewing in Wokingham to an end until the all-too-brief renaissance under Andrew Greenwood in 1994.

Wokingham. Other Wokingham brewers included: Robert and John Hawes, who died in 1660 and 1679 respectively; William Talmadge who brewed on the Beaches Manor Estate near the Reading Rd around 1740, where James Webb later operated; Joseph Croft, brewing in 1835; the Rose Street brewery operated by the Lewis family from around 1820 until 1863; and Greys Brewery in Peach Street which flourished from 1868 and was a branch of the Henley Brewery, taken over by Brakspears in the 1890s.

³⁸ The Haywards also ran the main brewery in Watlington from 1770 to around 1850.

³⁹ The figure of 5 is given by Norman Barber. The author of *Some Interesting Facts about Berkshire Beer in the Past*, given in the *CAMRA Berks Guide* of 1981, says 12 to 14, while Ayres and Hunter indicate fifteen! Barber's five probably refers to the five houses actually in Wokingham, none of which survive as pubs today.

REST OF BERKSHIRE

West Berkshire

Benjamin Bryant, Pangbourne. Brewing between 1847 and 1854.

Birch Brewery, Mortimer. This was operated by Mary Taylor in 1854, Edwin Taylor in 1868 and Edwin James Bone c. 1871-6. ,Subsequently, **Moydell & Payze** were brewing in Mortimer from 1897.

Blatch's Theale Brewery Ltd. This brewery, located in what is now Theale High Street was in existence by 1830 when it was in the hands of Jasper Draper, whose family are known to have been landowners in the area for the best part of a century⁴⁰. After his death in 1840 it continued to be operated by his widow, Sophia and their son, James Hugh, who assumed sole control in 1850. In 1851 he employed four men at the brewery, as well as two men and a boy on his 40-acre farm. In 1854 the business was acquired by William Henry Blatch, then aged 33, who ran it until his death in 1887, along with his younger brother Frank.

The brewery closed in 1959 but the business continued to operate with 26 tied houses until the death of Harold Blatch in 1965, at which point Ind Coope stepped in, acquiring the company, along with its tied estate. The deal excluded the redundant brewery buildings which remain to the present day, partly in use by Wadworths as their Theale pub, the Bull. There is a little irony in this in that Wadworth had a close trading relationship with Blatch's and at least a gentleman's agreement that in the event of the latter closing, the Devizes brewery would take them over. Report has it that they were somewhat incensed at being out-maneuvred by Ind Coope, but at least they are still brewing and have a presence in Theale, whereas the victors have ceased to brew.

Blatch's beer seems to have enjoyed a poor reputation in its latter days but the author has been informed that, rather like Messrs Courage, the Blatches brewed a special beer purely for the delectation of the company's directors and occasional visitors to the site and that was worth drinking, if you were fortunate to have the opportunity. (Information supplied by Vic Wilson).

Butts Brewery Ltd, Great Shefford. This was the first of the new Berkshire breweries, founded in 1994 by Chris Butt. The company supplies around 60 outlets with its beers, which have been brewed using organic ingredients since 2002.

Charles Spanswick is listed by Goodley as brewing at Eastbury in 1847. As Eastbury is quite close to Great Shefford, it could be argued that Chris Butt is following on the tradition in this part of West Berkshire.

Charlwood & Marchant, Sulhampstead Abbot. No further details known.

Cooper's Hall Brewery, Stratfield Mortimer. This brewery was operated by Henry Barnard between 1883 and 1895 and Headington and Sons in 1898 but was acquired by Watlington Brewery Co. Ltd in 1900. The new owners themselves succumbed to Halls of Oxford in 1910.

Frederick Kidgell. Listed by Goodley as brewing in Bradfield in 1868.

George Butler, Lambourn was brewing in the High Street in 1830. Subsequently **Joseph Child** is listed as a brewer, auctioneer and estate agent in Lambourn between 1842 and 1844.

George Mayhew, Thatcham. George Mayhew was the last proprietor of the Thatcham brewery from 1868-91. Previous incumbents listed by Goodley were: Mr White, to 1843; Richard Laws, 1843-c.1865; and Alfred Billing, 1867.

Hind's Head, Aldermaston. This inn brewed its own beer in the mid-19th century.

⁴⁰See *The History of the Old Brewery Theale* by Penelope Olsen, in *The Journal of the Brewery History Society*, No 77, 1994.

Horner's Ilsley Brewery, West Ilsley. A rival to Morland's (see Abingdon) between 1800 and 1830. There were three Horners, John, Charles and Robert.

Joseph Winter is listed by Goodley as brewing in Chieveley in 1867-8.

Kintbury Brewery. This was operated successively by two gentlemen with a famous brewing name, Josiah (1850-57) and Joshua (1857-65) Truman.

West Berkshire Brewery Company, Yattendon. A new brewery founded in 1995. Initially, it was closely associated with the Pot Kiln pub in Frilsham, in whose grounds it was situated, although the businesses were separate. The beers achieved a wide following, as a result of which a separate larger 25-barrel plant was opened in nearby Yattendon, commencing April 2000, with a further capacity increase in 2006. The original brewhouse was for a time used for one-off beers but this has now been discontinued. The brewery now has a tied house at Stockcross outside Newbury and is believed to be seeking additions to its estate.

William Hopkins was brewing at Inkpen, near Hungerford c. 1853-7.

William Jeffreys Strange & Sons Ltd, Aldermaston. Aldermaston's brewery was founded in 1770 and prior to 1830 was operated by William and John Stephens, who also brewed at Mill Lane, Reading. (See under Reading.) It came into the hands of Thomas Strange in 1833. It controlled a tied estate of 50 pubs in 1945 when it was swallowed up by Strong & Co. of Romsey. When the latter also acquired Thomas Wethered in 1949, Strange's assets were transferred to the of Marlow brewery.

East Berkshire

A. L. S. Sellon & Co., Bracknell. This brewery, located in Station Rd, is first mentioned under the ownership of Henry Moore Vincent in 1877. In 1880 Bickerton Brothers acquired it, followed in 1899 or 1900 by Sellon and Co. It was acquired by Fuller, Story of Maidenhead in 1906 who continued to use the premises. Remains of the brewery could be seen behind the Market Inn, opposite Bracknell Station, until the 1970s. A brewery is also recorded by Goodley as existing in Warfield Rd, the last named owners being Vincent & Co. in 1883, which would suggest a link with the Station Rd. enterprise. Previous brewers at Warfield Rd. were James Boxendale (1854) and Daniel Brown (1883).

Binghams Brewery, Ruscombe. This is a new brewery, which came on stream during 2010.

Ernest G. Ford, Twyford. This brewery was founded at Whistley Court in 1845 and still flourishing in 1898 but no other details are known.

H. Hewitt & Co. Ltd, Waltham St Lawrence. This brewery originated at Hill House with John Knight as brewer in 1842, followed by Henry Hewitt in 1850. Hewitt moved the brewery to Southlake St and was still in command in 1887 when the business became known as Hy. Hewitt & Co. It was registered in 1900. Its premises were somewhat curtailed and when the tied estate had grown to 60 pubs the brewery apparently had some difficulty coping with demand. In 1910 Morlands acquired an interest and, as noted in the Reading section, some of the beer was then supplied by the Dymore Brown brewery in Reading. Hewitt's was finally taken over by Dymore Brown in 1925 but the brewhouse remained in existence as a private dwelling, Great Martins. Perhaps surprisingly for a village brewery Hewitt's estate covered a wide area including Maidenhead, Twyford, Wokingham and Camberley. The (Old) Cricketers, until recently a Morland pub in Maidenhead, was one of Hewitt's houses. **The Bell** at Waltham St Lawrence also brewed its own beer at one time.

J. G. Clark was brewing in Twyford in 1847 and 1854.

Original Brewing Co., Bracknell. One of a chain of brewpubs attached to 10-pin bowling alleys and a constituent of Bass plc, this opened in 1997. It ceased brewing, along with the rest of the chain in 2000.

Woodman's Brewery, Winkfield. The Old Hatchet Inn operated as a brew pub briefly from 1983 to 1984 when Mr Terry Wing was landlord. The beer was called Woodman's Bitter.

North Berkshire (Berks in Oxon)

Appleford Brewery. This new brewery is located not at Appleford but at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, just outside Wallingford. Brewing commenced in 2006 with an eight-barrel plant accommodated at Highlands Farm.

Ashbury. The following brewed at this village near the Wiltshire border: William Dike (1887) and Thomas James Carter (1910), possibly at the Red Lion.

Best Mates Brewery. This new brewery is located at Ardington near Wantage. Brewing commenced in 2007 with a five-barrel plant at Sheephouse Farm.

George Day, Harwell. This brewery flourished in 1930 but there is no other information.⁴¹

George Lane, Sutton Courtenay. Lane is listed as brewing in the village between 1827 and 1835.

J Stanley G Greenwood, Harwell. No details known except that the business closed in 1939. The building known as The Old Brewery, opposite the White Hart in Harwell High Street may have been the location of Greenwood's brewing activities.

Joseph Herbert was brewing in Marcham ca. 1830.

Pitstop Brewery was established at Bellringers off-licence at Grove near Wantage. Brewing began in 2008 with one-barrel plant to serve the off-licence but demand justified a five-fold expansion the following year,

W. H. Beesley, Harwell. Brewing in Harwell in the 18th century.

White Horse Brewery. This new brewery came into being in 2004, using a 7.5 barrel plant from Belgium. Located at Stanford-in-the-Vale near Faringdon the brewery supplies its own pub in Oxford, as well as many other local pubs.

⁴¹ Mike Brown suggest Day may have brewed at the Malt House, Townsend.

Bucks in Berks (Slough)

Albion Brewery. An advertisement by one J. Cotterell, addressed to “the inhabitants of Windsor, Slough and their vicinities,” “begs to state that he can supply them with a pure article of home-brewed-Beer, London Stout and Porter, from the Albion Brewery, near the Great Western Railway Station, Slough.”

Eagle Brewery. This was operated by Louise Tatner prior to 1888, when it was acquired by the Windsor brewer, Canning. Louisa was the widow of Charles Tatner and together or alone they ran the brewery from 1851 onwards. Previously, Richard Abbey was listed as a brewer in Slough in 1847, though with no defined location. The Eagle Brewery seems to have been located between the High Street and William Street on or near the site of the original library, adjacent to Slough RC church.

Stallion Ales, Cippenham. The only positive benefit from a brewing point of view to come from the inclusion of Slough and its environs in Berkshire from 1974 was the excellent beer produced by this brewery between March 1983 and August 1985. The plant was adjacent to a 15th century barn, which had been converted into a pub called the Long Barn but was under separate management. Unfortunately, the brewers fell out with the owners of the pub and moved the plant to Helland, Cornwall, where Stallion Ales survived for two more years before their final demise in 1987.

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