

HOSTELRIES ALONG THE HOGSMILL: LONDON PUBS GROUP DAYTIME PUB TOUR OF KINGSTON AND NEW MALDEN ON SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2020

For pictures of the pubs on this crawl go to the London Pubs Group website www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk

This crawl is dedicated to the memory of Terry Casey (1944 to 2020) who for many years compiled wonderful maps for London Pubs Group crawls. Sadly Terry died on 20 January of injuries sustained when he was in collision with a car. He is much missed. Please raise a glass to Terry during the crawl whether you are doing it with the Group or independently.

- 1) 12 noon Duke of Buckingham, 104 Villiers Road, Kingston, KT1 3BB. Although this pub is not a listed building, it is on the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest and the description is as follows: "A suburban, red-brick pub built in the 1930s by Hodgsons' Kingston Brewery – named on a cast-iron plaque low down outside about rights of way (Hodgsons ceased brewing in 1949 but continued bottling until 1965). Over the entrance is a shield with the three salmon from the borough arms and a rebus with K and a tun. These features and the general architectural style reappear at the Hodgsons' contemporary, but larger, Manor pub in Malden Manor [now a supermarket]. As you enter you can't miss the attractive and most unusual curved doors – left to the public bar and, right, to a large room which is now an amalgamation of two original ones. The outside door to the rear portion has now been blocked off. Perhaps the most notable feature is the octagonal, leaded skylight over the servery. There is also some original work in the fireplace, panelling, counters, parts of the stillion in the centre of the servery, and curved cornices to the ceilings. The area beyond the arch in the rear room was once a kitchen.

History in a name: Villiers Road is named after Lord Francis Villiers who fought for King Charles I in the Civil War. He died while fighting in an orchard near Villiers Road. The Hogsmill River just to the north is the place where the great Victorian artist John Everett Millais painted his famous picture, *Ophelia*."

The next pub on the crawl, the Spring Grove is the official lunch stop but the Duke of Buckingham serves very reasonably priced food and the third pub on the crawl, the Cocoanut serves reasonably priced Thai food if you prefer.

Eagle IPA; and Marstons Pedigree are usually served here. Turn right and walk along Grove Lane to the junction with Bellevue Road. Turn right and walk along Bellevue Road until the end. Bear left and walk along Bloomfield Road to

- 2) 1.00 pm Spring Grove, 13 Bloomfield Road, Kingston, KT1 2SF. Although this pub is neither a listed building nor on any CAMRA inventory, it is an attractive late 19th-century building retaining stained glass windows (possibly inter-war) and although opened up, the pub has distinct areas, including a room labelled 'Tap Room' with a stained glass skylight. The original 1892 plan of the pub can be seen at the entrance to this area. Inside the 'Tap Room' there is also a good black-and-white photograph of the pub's exterior showing Young's livery. Gilt and etched mirrors have been incorporated into the modern tiled bar-back in the servery area. Cast iron and marble fireplaces can be seen in the main bar and 'Tap Room'. Note also the dentilled cornices in the main bar. The rear of the pub appears to be a modern extension with a skylight. This area leads to an attractive modern garden. A trip to the loos affords glimpses of old photographs including one of sheep in Kingston town centre, a portrait of the young Terence Conran and a picture of Boots in the Market Place.

As mentioned before, this pub is the official lunch stop but the first and third pubs on the crawl also serve reasonably priced food.

St Austell Proper Job; and Young's Original and Special are usually served here. On leaving the pub, cross over the road, turn right and walk along the road to the first turning on the left. Turn left and walk through a parking area to a footpath. Walk along the footpath to the junction with Portland Road. Cross over Portland Road to Three Bridges Path and continue along Three Bridges Path to a former Courage pub at the bottom of Mill Street. Turn left and walk along Mill Street to

- 3) 2.45 pm Cocoanut, 16 Mill Street, Kingston, KT1 2RF. Like the Duke of Buckingham, although this pub is not a listed building, it is on CAMRA's London Regional Inventory and the description is as follows: "There has been a pub on this site since at least the nineteenth century. The area, close to the Hogsmill River, had a number of mills processing

coconut fibre into matting and other goods, hence the name. The current building dates from the early 1950s. Plans to demolish the original building and construct a new pub were approved in July 1939, but building was interrupted by the World War II. Charrington's Brewery (Architect S J Fennell) began a rebuilding in Spring 1940 but it stopped in August 1940 due to a shortage of steel. Work was completed by 1954 – it seems to have been constructed in the popular way of behind the original pub, which was then knocked down leaving parking space at the front of the new pub. The pub is a two-storey building constructed of brick, with a tile roof, and two bow-fronted windows on the ground floor, with original leaded window panes with left-hand door having colourful leaded symbols including a coconut. There are separate entrance lobbies on either side of the building; a third entrance in the centre of the façade, leading to the original off-sales area which has been bricked up. There is a single, U-shaped bar in the centre of the pub, with 1950s panelling in pale wood, although the bar was shortened and new glass panelling installed at the rear after 1987. The back-of-bar shelving may also date from the 1950s and has the wording 'Wines', '(blank – possibly 'Charrington's' originally)', 'Spirits' along the top on both sides, although modern refrigeration equipment has been installed at ground level. The pub now consists of a single drinking and dining area (the establishment operates a Thai restaurant), although when originally constructed there were three distinct rooms – a saloon bar, a public bar, and a games room – plus and off-sales area. The public and saloon bars were knocked into a single space in the late 1980s, and a food servery constructed in the former games room. This was subsequently removed at an unknown date, when this smaller room seems to have been opened up and joined to the main drinking area. The 1950s configuration of the bars is still apparent from the remains of the partition between the former saloon and public bars, which is interrupted by a U-shaped arch. Similarly, a glazed half-partition also denotes the division between the main pub and the former games room. Former wooden doorways at the rear right-hand side of the pub remain, although the doors themselves have been sealed. The doorways in the two surviving entrance lobbies appear to date from the 1950s rebuild, but the left-hand lobby has been considerably reduced in size. Much original woodwork and glass survive."

Fuller's London Pride is usually served here. Turn left out of the pub and continue along Mill Street to the junction with Fairfield South. Turn left and walk along Fairfield South to bus stop W (called Fairfield South). Catch a K1 or K4 bus to stop K (called Guildhall/Rose Theatre). Alight from the bus, continue to the Market Place and walk into

- 4) 3.45 pm Druids Head, 3 Market Place, Kingston, KT1 1JT. Although this pub is not on any CAMRA inventory, it is a grade II* listed building and the listing description is as follows: "C17 and C18. 3 storey, 5 bay early to mid C18 front. The ground floor has a late C19 pilastered pub front and, on the right, a carriageway through to the rear. The upper floors are faced with red brick with blue brick headers, stucco bands at each floor and yellow flat gauged brick arches to the first floor windows. Flush-framed barred sash window. Tiled roof behind a parapet. 2 dormers. The back wall is later C17. Red brick with a band at 2nd floor level and 2 mullioned and transomed timber windows on the 2nd floor. Good surviving circa early C18 features to interior, including turned baluster open well staircase, heavily moulded plaster ceilings over staircase, and to first floor front room timber panelling, (some moulded) cornices, fireplaces and doors, etc."

The pub is in CAMRA's 2020 Good Beer Guide. Greene King Abbot and IPA; Timothy Taylor Landlord; and four changing guest ales are usually served here. On leaving the pub, cross over the Market Place, turn left and continue along the Market Place to the junction with Church Street. Turn right and walk along Church Street then turn left into Fife Road (opposite Hema). At the end of the pedestrian area, bear right. At the end of Fife Road, turn right and immediately cross Wood Street via the pelican crossing opposite Kingston railway station. Continue across the second crossing and turn left into Richmond Road. Continue along Richmond Road to the junction with Canbury Park Road. Cross over Canbury Park Road to

- 5) 4.30 pm Canbury Arms, 49 Canbury Park Road, Kingston, KT2 6LQ. Like the Spring Grove, although this pub is neither a listed building nor on any CAMRA inventory, it is included on the crawl for two reasons: it serves interesting and good quality real ales; and it has recently undergone a refurbishment of very high quality. It also has two real fires – what a rarity in pubs these days!

Harvey's Sussex Best; Oakham Citra; Park Brewery Isabella; and Surrey Hills Shere Drop are usually served here. Cross over Canbury Park Road, turn left and walk along Canbury Park Road to the junction with Queen Elizabeth Road. Turn right and walk along Queen Elizabeth Road and under the railway bridge to the junction with Cromwell Road. Turn right

and walk along Cromwell Road to stop A1 in Cromwell Road bus station. Catch a 213 bus to the stop called Cambridge Avenue. Alight from the bus, turn left and walk along Coombe Road to the zebra crossing. Cross over Coombe Road, turn right and walk along Coombe Road to

- 6) 5.45 pm Royal Oak, 90 Coombe Road, New Malden, KT3 4RD. Not only is this pub a grade II listed building, it is also recognised by CAMRA as having a historic interior of local importance. The listing description is as follows: "Hotel and public house. Later 1880's-mid 1890's, minor additions and alterations c1900 and later C20. Corner site with Sycamore Grove. Red brick ground floor and dressings, stock brick returns, rendered upper storeys, applied timber dressings, tile roofs. Asymmetrical plan of two, two and a half and three storeys. Public bar to left with corner entrance. Former hotel to right bay. Cantled corner bay, with pair of gabled wings to right, that to far right set forward with deep eaves. Tall gabled left hand return with further entrance under porch. Public bar entrance has segmental canopy with modillion cornice on paired shafts on red brick and rendered base. Pair of part glazed doors with fielded lower panels. Main front ground floor of finely jointed soft red brick framing pairs of windows under wide segmental arches. Public bar windows of etched plate glass under scrolled heads with small paned overlights. Upper cantled bay with small paned sashes at first floor, in flush red brick surrounds rising as quoins to upper storey, the window arches in soft red brick. Upper floor paired small paned casements between shafts at the angles. Modillion cornice supports conical roof with flagpole. Gabled bay to right has pair of small paned sashes with slender glazing bars at first floor, behind terracotta balustrade. Central small paned cantled oriel possibly added, on bracket beneath gable with applied timber. Right hand gabled wing, set forward, with flush red brick quoins, contains hotel entrance similar to bar but with flat canopy beneath three light overlight in eared architrave. Pair of ground floor windows similar proportion to bar, but with triple small paned lights, also with finely jointed soft red brick dressings. First floor oriel, in manner of Norman Shaw, with moulded architraves and small leaded lights some coloured, with curved rendered soffit. Flanked by oculi in red brick architraves, each with tall keystone. Applied timber gable over moulded bressumer supported on carved brackets enriched with flowers. Deep oversailing eaves again with carved brackets enriched with flowers. Left return in three storeys under tall, wide asymmetrical gable with applied timber to forward gable. Ground floor in stock brick. Pair of wide segmental headed windows similar to those to front bar, with soft red brick dressings. Pair of sashes, the upper sash small paned, in red brick dressings the arches of soft red brick. Pair of first floor sashes with glazing bars with red brick dressings. Moulded plaster cartouche inscribed The Royal Oak Hotel. Second floor triple casement set under gable, possibly added, and oculus in red brick architrave with tall keystone rising to soffit of gable. Deep eaves with moulded brackets similar to hotel bay. Brick stacks have moulded collars and wide moulded caps. Rear two storey service wing terminating in similar stack. Gabled porch possibly c 1900, in timber on brick base, with elaborate shafts and dentil cornice. Ground and first floor sashes with glazing bars. Right return has similar ground floor windows to front elevation, first floor timber casements in large red brick architraves.

Interior

Public bar subdivided by panelled partition with small door. Large horseshoe shaped bar. Fireplace with cast iron grate to left of lobby entrance. Doorcase with shallow canopy and modillion cornice. Screen with coloured glass panels. Lounge has panelled alcove behind round arched architrave, the left side a panel with glazed leaded lights some coloured, beneath fine fanlight with painted flowers to each segment. Panelled dividers between perimeter seating with coloured glass panels. Altered chimneypiece with copper hood. Open well stair with heavy moulded square timber newels, moulded rail and iron balustrade rises to function room. Five bay upper hall with oriel window. Shallow vaulted ceiling with curved, possibly laminated beams, supported on flat kingposts rising from splayed struts, possibly later strengthening. Pair of chimneypieces with timber architraves with shaped heads and beaten copper panels. Iron grates, possibly added, within replaced green glazed tile slips. Gallery at west end, reached by stairs from upper lobby. Splat balustraded balustrade boarded over. Panelled doors, those to centre with heavy brass plates, those to side with thin beaten copper plates. Panelled linings and shutter boxes to oriel window. Adjacent room includes corner cantled bay, retains doors, door furniture and cornice. Ground and first floor panelled doors with brass plates some with curved handles."

Three handpumps dispense seasonal real ales from microbreweries.



Terry Casey 14 April 1944 to 20 January 2020