

Tour of the Characterful and Good Beer Guide 2003 Pubs of Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds & Ely

Saturday 17th May 2003

Meet at Peterborough Station at 8.00 and no later than 8.15

The tour will visit at least 7 pubs (*up to 14 if you prefer to spend about 20 minutes in a pub*) - you could visit up to 9 pubs in the 2003 Good Beer Guide - the pubs have a good choice of Real Ales.

Cost: Peterborough to Ely Cheap Day Returns (Central Trains) at £7.40 on Groupsave Scheme i.e. cost is £4 lowest, £6.00 highest. Also. Anglia Trains Plus One Day Pass at £9 each - allows unlimited travel on Anglia trains (but not as far as P'boro). Total Cost from £13.00 to £15.00

We have the use of a 15 seat minibus in Ipswich to be driven by Ipswich CAMRA Newsletter Editor, Jon Gibbs. (If more than 15 turn up you may have to walk or pay up to an extra £5.00 for taxis)

08.25	Peterborough
10.05	Ipswich
10.10	Ipswich
10.22	Ipswich Derby Road

Walk to

10.30 ish to 11.40 **Margaret Catchpole**, Cliff Lane, **Ipswich** (63) - A large pub, known locally as a 'Tolly Folly', built in 1929 and is the most complete 1930's pub remaining in the whole of the UK. **Listed Grade II*** it has wood panelling on every wall including the off sales room and it is on CAMRA's National Inventory of Outstanding Pub Interiors. It is named after a local heroine who appeared in a colourful novel by the Reverend Richard Cobbold and led to the area around Pin Mill to be known as Margaret Catchpole country. She was originally convicted for stealing a horse from the Cobbold family and eventually was twice sentenced to death and transported to Australia in 1801.

The large PUBLIC BAR is completely wood panelled with a parquet floor, original bar counter which curves at the end, original bar back and has a splendid polished stone fireplace with oblong bevelled mirror above and is the only one in the pub to have a coal fire in it. The impressive curved and leaded bay window with bell pushes has fixed bare bench seating and is so large that in front of the window there is a row of five tables !. There is one pool table (but room for four !), darts, machines and big screen T.V. The door on the left went to the outside toilets but now you walk across a flagstone-style passage and remain 'inside'. The gents' has some brown glazed brick on the wall, some new tiling and an old trough with a full run (no modesty partitions).

The completely wood panelled OFF-SALES room (currently used for storage) is as large as some snug bars with a bar counter, shelved bar back, 'Retail' in a stained and leaded glass window in the door. The completely square wood panelled and carpeted SALOON BAR has leaded lights, polished stone fireplace with wood surround and gas fire, parquet floor around bar. The window in the door has 'Saloon' in a stained and leaded panel. There are some bell pushes, lovely small quarter circle bar, leatherette original bench seating and some square pub tables. The gents here was originally 'outside' but now you walk across a small extension.

The cavernous parquet floored REAR BAR is completely square wood panelled to picture frame height, and has fixed seating in the splendid curved and leaded bay window. It has a polished stone fireplace with grand wood surround of square panelling and a narrow bevelled mirror above (used ?), curved bar with a (new) painting depicting Margaret Catchpole above the original bar back. There is 'Lounge' painted on one of the stained and leaded door windows and the room has a jukebox and darts. The room has two doors as one went to the former outside (now inside) gents' (Ladies always inside ?). The veranda / loggia with four brick pillars looks out onto a functioning Bowling Green which is leased to a local Bowling Club and has a new

clubhouse. Tenant: John & Carole Sexton - (Pubmaster) Open: 11-11 - 01473 252450 - *Greene King IPA*
NI/NS**

11.10 to 11.30 Brewery Tap, Tolly Cobbold Brewery, Cliff Rd - excellent conversion of the old
brewery offices which opened as a pub in 1992 - 11 to 11 - 01473 281508 -
Ridleys IPA, Prospect, Tolly Original

Minibus to

11.50 to 12.40 **Fat Cat**, 288 Spring Road, **Ipswich** - old fashioned Victorian-style ale house with
11.50 to 12.10 wooden and tiled floors, bench seating - Suffolk CAMRA Pub of the Year 1998 - only
snacks - 12 (11 Sat) to 11 - 01473 726524 - *up to 20 ales on offer, Banham Cider and*
Belgian bottled and draught ales **03**

Walk to

12.20 to 12.40 County, 29 St. Helens St, Ipswich (19) - 2 separate bars - Adnams pub with a bar on
the left - wooden floor, carpeted - lounge on right with old 'Bar' etched
windows, carpeted and with a pool table - quarry tiled passageway at rear - unusual building - about to
concentrate on food - *Adnams Bitter, Broadside, Marstons Pedigree*
NS*/Alma/LG

Minibus to

1.00 to 2.00 **Milestone Beer House** (was Mulberry Tree), 5 Woodbridge Road, **Ipswich** - changed
Food Stop name due to the old milestone outside stating 'London 69' - mock-Tudor pub re-built
1938-9 by Cobbold behind the original and now slightly opened-up - the off-
sales was the current left side entrance - the rear room has retained its parquet floor, original brick fireplace
with panelling above and odd bell pushes - has stone mullioned windows, square panelling on the walls, a
new high backed settle, decorative ceiling, new bar and newish bar back - corner room on right still retains its
parquet floor, original brick fireplace, square panelling, a pew, decorative ceiling - a widish doorway into the
right side bar with carpet, new quarry tiling near the bar, stone mullioned windows, panelling to 3/4's height
added in the 70/80s, upholstered fixed seating, new bar and bar back - toilets were outside but an extension
built in the late 1960s brought them inside - has skittle alley at the rear - Pubmaster - 12 to 11 Fri to Sun -
01473 252245 - *Adnams Bitter, Greene King IPA and up to eight guest beers, mainly from small breweries*
03

Walk to

2.10 to 3.00 **Woolpack**, 1 Tuddenham Road, junction with Westerfield Road, **Ipswich** - (110) - A
16th century pub, the oldest brick built one in Ipswich with four rooms. A fine
creeper clad **Grade II Listed** building little altered for years. *At the front of the pub is a superb tiny snug bar*
only c10 ft x 3 ft with space for max 8 people surely one of the tiniest rooms in the country. It has lino
covering a quarry tiled floor, tongue'n'groove panelling painted red, a fixed bare bench painted green and four
stools.

On the right is a small bare floorboard smoke room with fixed seating, only three tables and has a door to the
bar with a hatch and tiny bar with no dispensers. This leads into a third games / back room which has been
extended back but is still small and now has half panelling, bare floorboards, a small new brick fireplace,
machine with a settle, darts and a T.V. Service is from a door to the back of the bar and there are darts.

On the left is the lounge with large brick fireplace with black metal hood and log fire, carpeted with a lino
area around the bar. It has some old tongue 'n' groove panelling, some newer with comfortable fixed seating,
a collection of water jugs hanging from the beams, a piano on a raised part at the rear and a juke box - Fri to
Sun 11.30-11- Food: 12-2 (2.30 Sun); 7-9 (not Sun) - 01473 253059 - *Real ales: Adnams Bitter, Broadside,*
Ridleys Mild, Old Bob **RI-1a/NS*/Alma/LG/(02)**

Walk to

2.40 to 3.00 Greyhound, 9 Henley Rd, Ipswich (43) - 2 bars - renovated by Adnams - traditional-style bar on right is small with quarry tiled floor - on the left is one long bar - 11 to 11 Sat, Sun - 01473 252105 - *Adnams Bitter, Regatta, Fishermans, Broadside, Fullers London Pride, guest beers* - (GPG-T/A)
NS*/LG/03

If time allows **Old Bell**, 1/3 Stoke St, **Ipswich** (70) - a passage runs from the front door to the rear and has a hatch on the left to the bar, a shelf i.e. a drinking corridor, half tongue 'n' groove panelling - half inner doors with one having 'Bar Parlour' etched and frosted panel - left door into main L-shaped bar with half tongue 'n' groove panelling painted light green, carpet, tiled (age ?) and wood surround fireplace with a gas fire, good bar front which curves around i.e two sides, some tongue 'n' groove panelling behind the bar up to the ceiling, TV-on, juke box, machine - note the unusual 'Glasses Only' etched and frosted windows in the former exterior door which is no longer used - on the right of the passage is a new door to a very small pool room with a carpet on floorboards painted black, new brick fireplace with gas fire - at the rear is a small lounge (used ?) which has been brought into use and has half tongue 'n' groove painted black, a new brick fireplace, a carpet, new bar - outside gents and ladies at rear - the old stables at the rear are now as garages - Pubmaster - 01473 602049 -
(keg)

Walk to Station

15.30 Ipswich
16.07 Bury St Edmunds

Walk to

4.30 to 5.20 **Nutshell**, 17 The Traverse, **Bury St Edmunds** - off Abbeygate St in the pedestrian area in the middle of the town - Superb genuine unspoilt traditional pub with one tiny room which is one of 3 claimants of Great Britains smallest pub (Guinness Book of Records). The building is 400 years old, was formerly a news agents shop which became a pub in 1860 and can be full with a dozen people in it ! The ground floor is 15ft 10in x 7ft 6 in and the record set in 1984 for the number of customers in the pub, with no one behind the bar or upstairs, and without anyone standing on shoulders is 102 and a dog ! This **Grade II Listed Building** is on **CAMRA's National Inventory of Outstanding Pub Interiors**. It has an attractive curved frontage with a large inn sign attached to the wall. Look for the hatch in the window which opens out onto the street and through which beer was sold to customers on market days. It sells only two real ales, Draught Guinness, one lager, white wine only, has one malt whisky, and no smooth beers.

The tiny bar has a wooden floor, fixed uncovered bench seating all around, one tiny table which was a sewing machine, tiny bar area and wood panelling all around. The fire place has been covered up. The mumified cat hanging above the bar was found behind the fireplace in 1935 and was a local way of warding off evil spirits from houses. There is only one toilet which is through a curtain and upstairs on the first floor. There are various knick nacks around the walls including items which are considered the smallest of their type including a miniature copy of The Times, the smallest dart board and snooker table, a mini-loo. The impressive display of curio's also includes an elephant's tooth, a three-legged chicken, a disused left leg, and a mumified mouse. Many of the items came from the Pawnbroker's shop which was next door at the turn of the century.

A frame advertising the Nutshell states 'coach parties welcome, function room and dining area for parties of 2 or less !! There are a number of 'Smallest Pub' souvenirs on sale including T Shirts, wall plaques, postcards, boxes of matches. Landlord warns that you must be prepared to talk to anyone due to the size of the pub !. Only food is crisps and nuts - Mon-Sat 11-3; 6-11 (11-11 summer & Wed & Sat): Sun Closed - Tenant: Martin (Greene King) - Tel: 01284 764867 / 705387 - *Greene King IPA and Abbot Ale*
[MS03]/NI/NS**/_PP/(RWC)/500/BHowes/CC/Alma/(00)

5.00 to 5.20 Queens Head, 39 Churchgate St - a former 18th century coaching inn modernised and extended - has a games room with pool, a conservatory - 11 to 11 - 01284

761554 - *Adnams Broadside, Nethergate IPA, guest beers*

03

Walk to

5.40 to 6.30

Old Cannon Brewery, 86 Cannon St, Bury St. Edmunds - a pub / brewery opened Dec 1999 on the same site as the original Cannon Brewery (established in 1847) - quite a bit opened-up - has a bare wood floor, two gleaming large polished copper

brewing kettles by the bar on a new quarry tiled floor - piano, no piped music - at rear is a good marble (effect) and decorative cast fireplace with log fire, lots of tables set for diners - a separate small room off the rear has a door but also a hole in the wall 'for supervision', quarry tiled floor, lovely range fireplace and three tables set for diners- closed Mon lunch - 12 to 3; 5 to 11 - 01284 768769 - *Old Cannon range and two guest beers*

03

5.40 to 6.00

King's Arms, 23 Brentgoval St - one bar pub - 11 to 11 - 01284 761874 - *Greene King IPA, Abbot, Speckled Hen, guest beers*

03

Walk to Station

18.47

Bury St Edmunds

19.16

Ely

19.54

Peterborough

Walk to

7.20 to 8.20

Fountain, 1 Silver St, Ely - has wood floor and real fire - 12 to 2; 6 to 11 Sat - 01353 663122 - *Adnams Bitter, Regatta or Broadside, Fulers London Pride, guest beer*

8.00 to 8.20

03

Walk to

7.30 to 7.50

West End House, 16 West End, Ely - a white painted drinkers pub with quarry tiled passage and four rooms. Room on the left has brick archway, carpet, tiled & wood surround fireplace with coal fire and is no-smoking room on Fri. & Sat P.M. There is a small bar at rear with one table, fixed seating, brick walls and carpet. The bar front middle has beams. Room on the right was 2 rooms with carpet. The front part has cast and wood surround fireplace no longer used, second half near bar has brick fireplace with real fire and lots of beams. low ceilings - 11.30 to 2.30; 6 to 11 - 01353 662907 - *Adnams Bitter, Courage Directors, Greene King IPA, Marstons Pedigree, Websters Yorkshire Bitter*

03

If time allows

Prince Albert, 62 Silver St, Ely - good locals pub - open plan but with distinctive areas - open fires - lunchtime food (not Sun) - quiet pub - old-fashioned boozer

says Protz - 01353 663494 - Greene King XX Mild, IPA, Abbot

Alma/Q00/500/03

Walk to Station

20.33

Ely

21.05

Peterborough