

## FAMOUS LONDON PUBS

**The Dove** is a Grade II listed public house at 19 Upper Mall, Hammersmith, London W6 9TA. It dates from the early 18th century. A number of historical figures have been associated with the pub beside the River Thames. Among these are Graham Greene, Ernest Hemingway, Dylan Thomas, and William Morris who lived next door. James Thompson is said to have written the words for the 1740 song Rule, Britannia! there. The pub appears in the 1930 A. P. Herbert novel *The Water Gipsies*, loosely disguised as the fictitious *The Pigeons*.



The front bar of the pub is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the smallest public bar in the United Kingdom. The pub featured in 1963 promotional film *Song of London* which showed its name sign at the rear that, at the time, wrongly said *The Doves*.

**The French House Soho** - is a pub and dining room at 49 Dean Street, Soho, London. It was previously known as the York Minster but was informally called "the French pub" or "the French house" by its regulars. It sells more Ricard than anywhere else in Britain, and only serves beer in half-pints except on 1<sup>st</sup> April, when a recent custom has been that Suggs serves the first pint of the day.



The pub was opened by a German national named Christian Schmitt in 1891 and traded as "York Minster". Schmitt died in 1911. His wife, Bertha Margaretha Schmitt, continued to run the pub until 1914. With the outbreak of the First World War, Bertha Schmitt sold the pub to a Belgian, Victor Berlemont, who had moved to London in 1900. The bill of sale is posted on a wall at the French still today. He was succeeded by his son Gaston Berlemont, who was born in the pub in 1914, and worked there until his retirement in 1989.

After the fall of France during the Second World War, General Charles de Gaulle escaped to London where he formed the Free French Forces. His speech rallying the French people, "À tous les Français", is said to have been written in the pub.

The French House has always been popular with artists and writers. Brendan Behan wrote large portions of *The Quare Fellow* there, and Dylan Thomas once left the manuscript of *Under Milk Wood* under his chair. Other regulars over the years have included Francis Bacon, Tom Baker, Daniel Farson, Lucian Freud, Slim Gaillard, Augustus John, Malcolm Lowry, and John Mortimer.

Clive Jennings says of regular clientele such as Jeffrey Bernard that "the lethal triangle of The French, The Coach & Horses and The Colony were the staging points of the Dean Street shuffle, with occasional forays into other joints such as The Gargoyle or the Mandrake ... The Groucho or Blacks".

The name was changed to "The French House" after the fire at York Minster in 1984. Contributions toward the restoration fund started arriving at the pub. Upon forwarding them, Gaston Berlemont found that the cathedral had been receiving deliveries of claret intended for him.

**The Lamb and Flag – Covent Garden** - The Lamb and Flag is a Grade II listed public house at Rose Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2.

The building is erroneously said to date back to Tudor times, and to have been a licensed premises since 1623, but in fact dates from the early 18th century, or according to its official listing, perhaps from 1688. The building became a pub in 1772.

Situated in what was a violent area of Covent Garden, the pub's upstairs room once hosted bare-knuckle prize fights, leading to it being nicknamed "The Bucket of Blood". A plaque on the building commemorates an attack on John Dryden in a nearby alley in 1679, when Charles II sent men to assault Dryden in objection to a satirical verse against Louise de Kérouaille, Charles II's mistress.

Many of the internal fittings are Victorian woodwork or earlier, including a remaining partition, meriting the pub a maximum three-star rating as a Real Heritage Pub. The pub was refaced with brick in 1958. It has been operated by Fuller, Smith & Turner since 2011.



**The Spaniards Inn - Hampstead Heath** - The Spaniards

Inn is a historic pub on Spaniards Road between Hampstead and Highgate in London, England. It lies on the edge of Hampstead Heath near Kenwood House. It is a Grade II listed building, dating back to the 16th century.

The pub is believed to have been built in 1585 on the Finchley boundary, with the tavern forming the entrance to the Bishop of London's estate—an original boundary stone from 1755 can still be seen in the front garden. Opposite it there is a toll house built in around 1710. Today, the pub is in Barnet and the tollhouse is in Camden, both are now listed buildings and traffic is reduced to one lane between the two. A suggestion in 1966 to demolish the tollhouse was successfully resisted, partly on the grounds that it would lead to more and faster traffic.

Dick Turpin is thought to have been a regular at the Inn, as his father had been its landlord. What is certain is that highwaymen frequented this area and likely used the Inn to watch the road; at that time, the Inn was around two hours from London by coach and the area had its fair share of wealthy travellers. Records from the Old Bailey show that on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1751 Samuel Bacon was indicted for robbery on the King's Highway and was caught 200 yards from the Spaniards.

In 1780 rioters involved in the Gordon Riots, opposed to the relaxation of laws in England that restricted Catholicism, marched on Hampstead intent on attacking Kenwood House, the home of William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield. The landlord of the Spaniards at the time is reported to have given them free drinks, keeping the rioters occupied, until the local militia arrived, thus saving the house. In 1822 John Constable produced a landscape painting Road to the Spaniards, Hampstead.



Constable produced a landscape painting Road to the Spaniards, Hampstead.

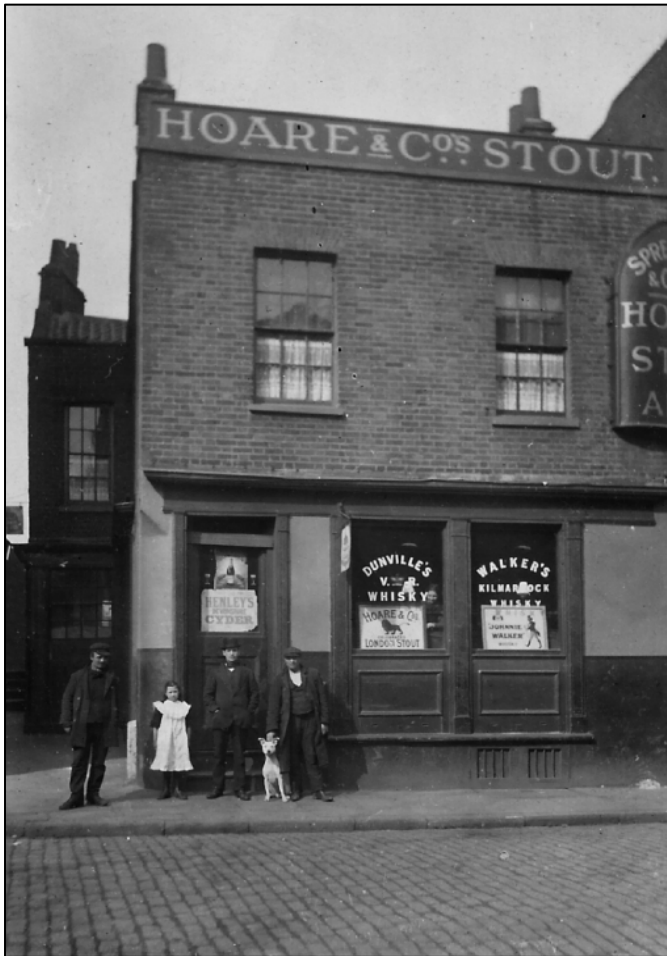
The pub is mentioned in Dickens's *The Pickwick Papers* and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and was frequented by the artist Joshua Reynolds and the poets Byron and Keats.

According to the pub, Keats wrote his *Ode to a Nightingale* in the gardens, and Stoker borrowed one of their resident ghost stories to furnish the plot of *Dracula*.

The Tollhouse is on the left in this picture.

The Inn features in *The Man of Property*, the first of *The Forsyte Saga* novels by John Galsworthy. Soames Forsyte takes the architect Philip Bosinny to dine at the Spaniards Inn to discuss the building of his house at Robin Hill.

### The Mayflower – Rotherhithe -



Originally, the pub was called the Spread Eagle and Crown, when it was built in the 1780s (on the site of an even older sixteenth-century pub).

The history started over 400 years ago in 1620; in July, The Mayflower ship took on board 65 passengers from its London homeport of Rotherhithe on the River Thames.

“Captain Christopher Jones used to part-own the pub,” adds Paul.

So, with Captain Jones at the helm, The Mayflower journeyed onwards to Southampton for supplies and to meet with the Speedwell ship. However, after many delays, false starts and a leak, the Speedwell’s journey with The Mayflower was abandoned.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 1620, Captain Jones, along with 102 passengers and approximately 30 crew members, set sail from Plymouth on what William Bradford described as “a prosperous wind”.

After sighting land on 11 November 1620, strong winter seas forced the Rotherhithe captain to anchor at Cape Cod, much further North than the original destination of Virginia.

To establish legal order in their new homeland, the settlers agreed while on board to write and sign “The Mayflower Compact;” the first written framework of government in what is now the United States.

Captain Jones later returned to London on The Mayflower, arriving at the home port of Rotherhithe on 6 May 1621. He died less than a year later and was buried at St. Mary’s church in Rotherhithe, close to the mooring point of The Mayflower where she lay to rest in the Thames, no longer useful as a ship.



A commemorative plaque to the voyage of The Mayflower now adorns the side of St Mary’s church and a memorial statue, dedicated to the memory of Captain Christopher Jones, sits in the churchyard.



The Mayflower has a Descendants Book, which is available upon request to those who can prove a family connection to the original Pilgrim Fathers from The Mayflower 1620 voyage.

**Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese** – Fleet Street - Is a Grade II listed public house at 145 Fleet Street, on Wine Office Court, City of London. Rebuilt shortly after the Great Fire of 1666, the pub is known for its literary associations, with its regular patrons having included Charles Dickens, G. K. Chesterton, and Mark Twain.

Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese is one of a number of pubs in London to have been rebuilt shortly after the Great Fire of 1666. There has been a pub at this location since 1538. While there are several older pubs which have survived because they were beyond the reach of the fire, or like The Tipperary on the opposite side of Fleet Street because they were made of stone, this pub continues to attract interest due to the lack of natural lighting inside.

Some of the interior wood panelling is nineteenth century, some older, perhaps original. The vaulted cellars are thought to belong to a 13th-century Carmelite monastery which once occupied the site. The entrance to this pub is situated in a narrow alleyway and is very unassuming, yet once inside visitors will realise that the pub occupies a lot of floor space and has numerous bars and gloomy rooms. In winter, open fireplaces are used to keep the interior warm. In the bar room are posted plaques showing famous people who were regulars.

Charles Dickens had been known to use the establishment frequently, and it is alluded to in his *A Tale of Two Cities*: following Charles Darnay's acquittal on charges of high treason, Sydney Carton invites him to dine, "drawing his arm through his own" Carton leads him to Fleet Street "up a covered way, into a tavern ... where Charles Darnay was soon recruiting his strength with a good plain dinner and good wine".



The Cheshire Cheese pub appears in Anthony Trollope's novel *Ralph the Heir*, where one of the characters, Ontario Moggs, is described as speaking "with vigor at the debating club at the Cheshire Cheese in support of unions and the rights of man..."

Wodehouse, though so many of his characters were members of posh London clubs, often preferred the homey intimacy of the pub. In a letter to a friend he wrote, "Yesterday, I looked in at the Garrick at lunchtime, took one glance of loathing at the mob, and went off to lunch by myself at the Cheshire Cheese." The pub is mentioned by name in some of his books as well.

The Rhymers' Club was a group of London-based poets, founded in 1890 by W. B. Yeats and Ernest Rhys. Originally not much more than a dining club, it produced anthologies of poetry in 1892 and 1894. They met at the Cheshire Cheese and in the 'Domino Room' of the Café Royal.

R. Austin Freeman in his 1913 novel *The Mystery of 31 New Inn* describes a luncheon at the pub in some detail, including mention of the beef-steak pudding and 'the friendly portrait of the "great lexicographer" [Johnson] that beamed down...from the wall'.

Agatha Christie wrote that her fictional detective Hercule Poirot dined with a new client at the Cheshire Cheese in her 1924 story *The Million Dollar Bond Robbery*, adding a description of "the excellent steak and kidney pudding of the establishment."

For around 40 years, Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese was associated with a grey parrot named Polly. On its death in 1926 around 200 newspapers across the world wrote obituaries.

**The Prospect of Whitby – Wapping.** Located in Wapping, the Prospect of Whitby is one of London's oldest pubs, and it is thought by some to be the oldest riverside pub on the River Thames.

There has been a pub on this site since the time of Henry VIII and the first pub was probably built in 1520. You can still see the original 400-year-old flagged stone floor in the building and more modern, but still historic, fixtures such as a bar topped with pewter and ships masts that are built into the structure of the building.

The first pub on the site was a not very reputable tavern. Its original name was The Pelican. Its proximity to the river made it a popular venue for smugglers, river thieves, pirates, and local criminals. Larger ships on the river used to have to berth in the middle of the Thames and have their goods transported to the banks by smaller boats manned by lightermen. The many small boats coming in and out of the banks made this an ideal location for criminals to steal from ships, many of whom used the pub as a base. The pub was known locally at this time as the "Devil's Tavern" as its reputation was so bad and calling it "The Pelican" did not really describe its clientele very accurately!

In the early 18th century, the pub got its current name for the first time when it was rebuilt after a fire that burned down the original building. It is thought that the landlord at the time named the pub after a collier that used to moor on the bank outside on a regular basis. The collier was registered out of the northern shipping port, Whitby, and was called "The Prospect." It moored at the spot so often that locals used to direct people to the pub by telling them to look for the pub next to "The Prospect of Whitby," and the name may have stuck.

Over the years, the pub has had some famous locals and visitors. The diarist, Samuel Pepys, used to drink here quite often. Samuel Johnson recommended that people come to the pub and to Wapping as the area had "such modes of life as few could imagine." It is thought that the notoriety of the pub and the surrounding area also attracted visits from Charles Dickens and the artists, Turner, and Whistler. Both artists sketched views from the pub during their visits.

and the pub's clientele has historically been rough and down to earth. The pub used to have a cock pit where locals could bet on cock-fighting games. At one point, it held a bare-knuckle boxing ring, and locals could bet on and watch bouts.



One less gory tale about the pub is that it may have been the site that first saw the fuchsia plant come into the country. It is said that a local gardener met a sailor in the pub who had shipped over some plants. The gardener bought a cutting of one of the fuchsias from the sailor for a tot of rum and started growing fuchsias in his market garden.

If you visit the Prospect of Whitby, you will see a noose hanging outside the pub. Some say that this was placed to commemorate Judge Jeffreys, a notorious judge in the 17th century who sentenced many river criminals to death. His nickname was “The Hanging Judge” as he showed little mercy to criminals.

**The Star Tavern - Belgravia.** Like the Nag’s Head and the Punchbowl, The Star catered for 19th century servants who worked in the posh Belgravia houses nearby. But it wasn’t until the 1960s that this quiet mews tavern became a pub where history really happened.



The Star is infamous for being the place where the Great Train Robbery was planned. Masterminded by Bruce Reynolds and carried out in 1963, this daring heist was one of the most audacious robberies of our time. And weirdly, we British have developed a soft spot for its perpetrators and prefer to think of them as cheeky chappies with their eye on the main chance rather than the violent criminals they actually were.

Members of the gang thrashed out the finer details of their plot upstairs at the Star in groups of no more than four to avoid arousing suspicion. And they probably felt quite at home at the pub, whose other customers were an eclectic mix of wrong-doers and celebrities all co-existing happily on the edge.

The Star’s celebrity line-up included Bing Crosby, Princess Margaret, Peter O’Toole and Diana Dors and the wrong-doers – like the Great Train Robbers – all held a curiously retro glamour. Instead of being branded as felons, rogues, and vagabonds they tended to be described more romantically as art thieves, safe-crackers, and cat burglars. And come to think of it, whatever happened to the cat burglar? Why do we no longer hear about light-footed men dressed in black turtlenecks leaping from roof to roof, breaking into buildings and leaving behind the odd box of chocolates?

In fact not one, but two cat burglars used to drink at the Star. George “Taters” Chatham (don’t ask) and Peter Scott worked both individually and as a team, each with their own *modus operandi*. During his 60-year career George Chatham stole furs, artwork, jewellery and on one occasion, the Duke of Wellington’s ceremonial swords. He also spent six weeks in hospital after falling four floors from the future Raine Spencer’s roof in a bungled burglary. And in 1982 he attempted to rob the Victoria and Albert museum via the roof – aged 70 – but had to abandon the operation due to a blizzard.

It was Chatham who taught Peter Scott the craft of cat burglary after meeting him in prison. Scott specialised in stealing from high-profile celebrities including Lauren Bacall, Judy Garland, Zsa-Zsa Gabor, Vivien Leigh, and Elizabeth Taylor. He famously popped into the Star after stealing a £200,000 necklace from Italian film star Sophia Loren, announcing to fellow patrons: “I hear poor Sophia has been robbed” before extracting a huge roll of banknotes from his pocket. Scott liked to bamboozle the people he robbed with his nerve and style: when disturbed at work he would call out to his victim: “It’s only me” – and astonishingly would then be left in peace to carry on with the job.

### **The Ten Bells – Spitalfields.**

The Ten Bells is a public house at the corner of Commercial Street and Fournier Street in Spitalfields in the East End of London. It is sometimes noted for its supposed association with at least two victims of Jack the Ripper: Annie Chapman and Mary Jane Kelly.

The Ten Bells pub has existed in one guise or another since at least the middle of the 18th century. It originally stood on a site known as 12 Red Lion Street, just a few metres away. However, when this

building was pulled down as part of the cutting of Commercial Street in 1851, the owners of the Ten Bells (Truman Hanbury Buxton & Co) were able to move the public house to its current position at 84 Commercial Street (at one time known as 33 Church Street).

The name of the pub has changed over time, but those names have generally derived from the number of bells in the "peal" housed in the Nicholas Hawksmoor-designed Christ Church, Spitalfields next door.

In 1755 it was known as the "Eight Bells Alehouse". The name is likely to have changed in 1788 when the church installed a new set of chimes, this time with ten bells; certainly, there are insurance records to show that the pub was registered as "the Ten Bells, Church Street, Spitalfields" from 1794. The number of bells in the church increased to twelve at one point and were subsequently reduced to its current number of eight after a fire in the steeple in 1836. However, save for a brief deviation from the theme (see below), the "Ten Bells" name has stuck.

Some accounts of the Jack the Ripper story link two of his victims, Annie Chapman, and Mary Jane Kelly, to the pub: Annie Chapman may have drunk at the pub shortly before she was murdered; and it has been suggested that the pavement outside of the pub was where Mary Kelly picked up clients as a prostitute.

Between 1976 and 1988, the public house was named "The Jack the Ripper", and memorabilia relating to the case were displayed in the bars.



### **Ye Olde Mitre Tavern – Holborn.**



Often touted as the hardest pub in London to find, the Mitre can only be reached via a near invisible passage.

Built in 1546 for the servants of the Bishops of Ely, The Ye Olde Mitre is famous for having a cherry tree, (now supporting the front) that Queen Elizabeth once danced around with Sir Christopher Hatton.

Christopher Hatton was tall, well-proportioned, good at dancing and a commoner. But Queen Elizabeth I liked him, so she appointed him yeomen of the guard and Lord Chancellor, and later had him knighted. And since he needed a London base, she asked the bishops to budge over a bit and lease him some land – threatening to defrock them if they didn't.

So Hatton moved in and began swanning around the palace and enjoying its glorious garden. And although the palace was demolished in 1772, the area has become known as Hatton Garden ever since.

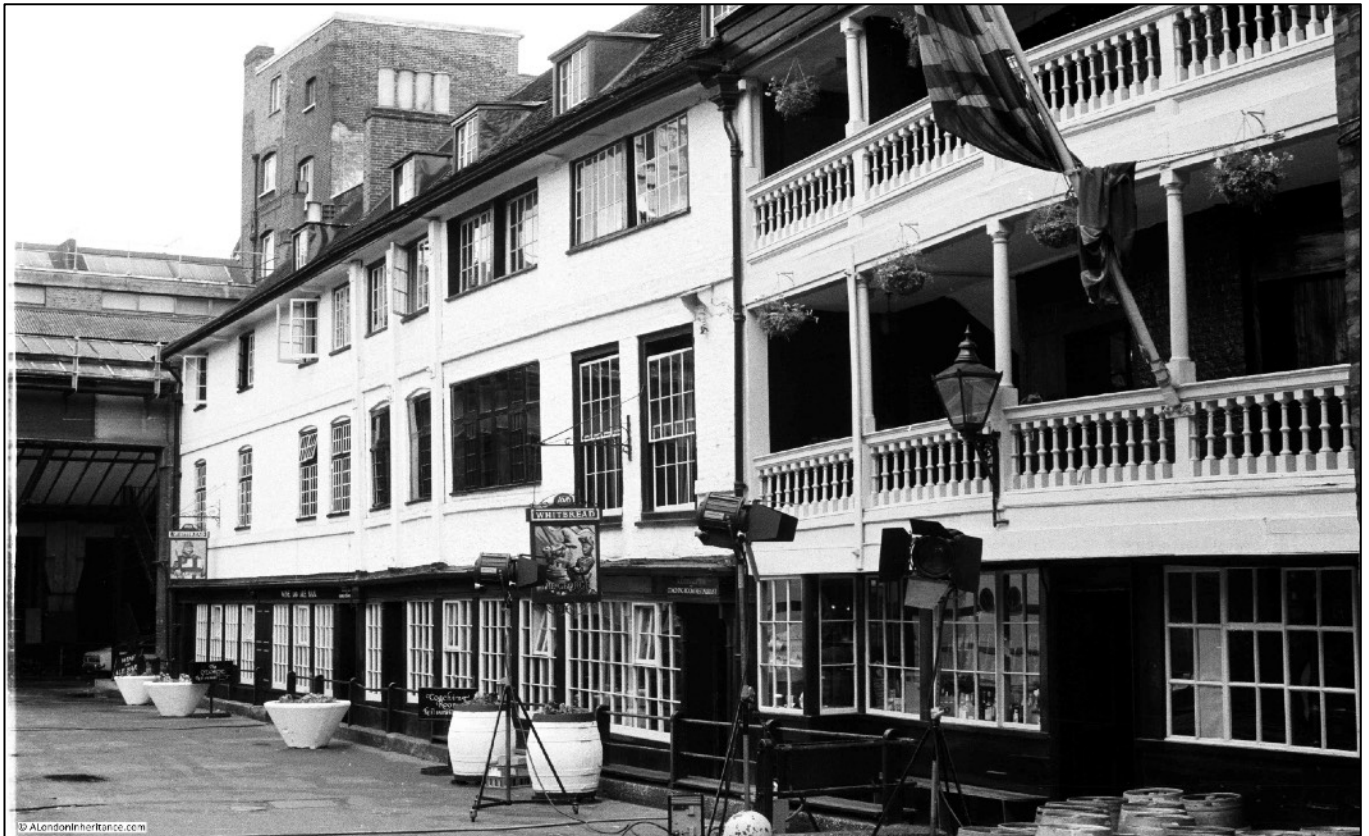
The pub was actually a part of Cambridge (Ely being in Cambridge) and the licensees used to have to go there for their licence. Set in a part of London steeped in history, it's near where William Wallace was hung, drawn, and quartered at Smithfield, along with martyrs and traitors who were also killed nearby.

### **The George Inn - Borough.**

The George Inn, along Borough High Street, Southwark is the only remaining galleried coaching inn in London of the many that once serviced the numerous coaches that connected the city with the rest of the country.

The George Inn stands behind Borough High Street. It was built after the Southwark fire of 1676. The original inn dated back at least to the 16th century. The George was a coaching inn and part of it was used as offices for the Great Eastern Railway Company. The railway eventually bought the entire site from Guy's Hospital. A large part of the inn was pulled down by the railway company in 1874. In 1937 it was given to its present owner, the National Trust. It still retains part of its gallery.

In medieval times inns were used as theatres by groups of travelling players. Early theatre design was based on this tradition.



It was originally called the St. George, but because of changes in sentiment towards religious iconography, Popery and saints, the inn became the George in the mid-16th century.

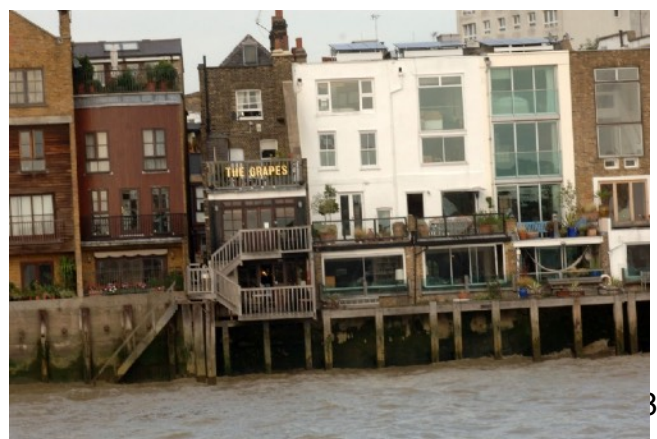
In 1622 the inn is described as being built of “brick and timber”. In 1670 a Mark and Mary Wayland were running the George for an annual rent of £150. That year the pub was damaged by fire. Wayland rebuilt and had his rent reduced to £80 and a sugar loaf.

A much larger fire in 1676 that burnt through much of the surrounding area, totally destroyed the George, but again it was rebuilt by the tenant who had the rent further reduced to £50 and a sugar loaf, along with an extension of the lease.

### **The Grapes - Limehouse.**

The Grapes – originally The Bunch of Grapes – has stood on the pebbled Limehouse Reach, for nearly 500 years. Its official address is 76, Narrow Street, London E14 8BP.

Limehouse was first settled as one of the few healthy areas of dry land among the riverside marshes. By Queen Elizabeth I's time, it was at the centre of world trade and her explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert lived



there. From directly below The Grapes, Sir Walter Raleigh set sail on his third voyage to the New World.

In 1661, Samuel Pepys' diary records his trip to lime kilns at the jetty just along from The Grapes.

In 1820 the young Charles Dickens visited his godfather in Limehouse and knew the district well for 40 years. The Grapes appears, scarcely disguised, in the opening chapter of his novel "Our Mutual Friend":

A tavern of dropsical appearance... long settled down into a state of hale infirmity. It had outlasted many a sprucer public house, indeed the whole house impended over the water but seemed to have got into the condition of a faint-hearted diver, who has paused so long on the brink that he will never go in at all."

Other popular writers have been fascinated by Limehouse: Oscar Wilde in "Dorian Gray," Arthur Conan Doyle, who sent Sherlock Holmes in search of opium provided by the local Chinese immigrants; more recently Peter Ackroyd in "Dan Leno and the Limehouse Golem."

### **The "Grapes", Limehouse - E.W. Haslehurst**

Narrow Street is also associated with many distinguished painters. Francis Bacon lived and worked at no 80, Edward Wolfe at no 96. Whistler painted a "nocturne" of Limehouse.

On The Grapes' walls are an oil painting seen from the Thames by the marine artist Napier Hemy, watercolours of Limehouse Reach by Louise Hardy and "Dickens at The Grapes" by the New Zealand artist Nick Cuthell.

The Grapes survived the Blitz bombing of the Second World War and retains the friendly atmosphere of a "local" for Limehouse residents, where visitors are always welcome in the bars and upstairs room.



### **Doctor Butlers Head – Guildhall Yard City of London.**



The Old Doctor Butler's Head is tucked away down a narrow alleyway behind Guildhall Yard in the City of London.

The current building is 19th century but there has been a pub here since 1610 and is named after, unsurprisingly, Dr William Butler, portrayed on the pub sign. Butler was a physician in the court of King James I and was known for some pretty bizarre treatments.

He developed Dr Butler's Ale: a purgative drink for curing gastric problems: a pint of ale infused with various ingredients. Instead of being sold in an apothecary it was sold in pubs who often displayed an image of his head.

### **The Seven Stars – Holborn**

The Seven Stars was established in 1602, fourteen years before Shakespeare died. It is possible that some interior features such as beams survive from that original construction today.

The Seven Stars does not necessarily have any wild stories to tell but it has been quietly playing its trade here on a quiet backstreet in Holborn for over 400 years. It has a cosy, almost country-side ambience and has a distinct, 'forgotten by time' feel to it.



Shakespeare was of course living in London at the time. He may have completed *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Troilus and Cressida* in the year 1602, which is why the pub's exterior bears the evocatively suitable quotation from Act II Scene iv of *All's Well*: "...to make the coming hour o'erflow with joy, / And pleasure drown the brim."

Between 1608 and 1612, the year that Shakespeare retired from London, he spent his working time at the Blackfriars Theatre on Ludgate Hill, half a mile from The Seven Stars. He might have been an early customer while making his way through the medieval streets, or after traversing the Thames on a wherry.

The Thames spread widely then, with many disembarkable embankments, and even sailing barges from foreign countries could moor within easy reach of The Seven Stars. That may be why the pub's name was originally The League of Seven Stars, as Seven Stars was a historical sobriquet for the seven provinces of the Netherlands. In 1602 the first Anglo-Dutch war was still 50 years in the future, so it is plausible that the alehouse was given that name to attract custom from Dutch merchant shipmen. Until highly successful Netherlands mercantilism turned Britain hostile, many Dutch settlers also came to London in the early part of the 17th century.

This tranquil little pub now faces the back of the Royal Courts of Justice, the esteemed Gothic Revival building opened by Queen Victoria in 1882. Within The Seven Stars' ancient charm of three narrow rooms that make up its public area, drinking in Queer Street (as Carey Street has often been called because of the bankruptcy courts) is contrarily pleasant.

### **Dirty Dick's – Bishopsgate.**



Nathaniel Bentley (c. 1735–1809), commonly known as Dirty Dick, was an 18th and 19th-century merchant who owned a hardware shop and warehouse in London. He was possibly an inspiration for Miss Havisham in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, after he refused to wash following the death of his fiancée on their wedding day. Dirty Dick's pub on Bishopsgate has existed for over 200 years.

Bentley had been quite a dandy in his youth, earning the nickname the Beau of Leadenhall Street, but following the death of his fiancée on their wedding day he refused to wash or clean and for the rest of his life lived in squalor.

His house and warehouse shop became so filthy that he became a celebrity of dirt.

Any letter addressed to "The dirty Warehouse, London" was delivered to him. He stopped trading in 1804. He died at Haddington about 1809 and was buried in Aubourn parish church. The warehouse was later demolished.

A pub on the east side of the road Bishopsgate, in the Bishopsgate Without area and is in the historic East End of London, which Bentley had once owned, changed its name from The Old Jerusalem to Dirty Dick's, and recreated the look of Bentley's warehouse shop.



The contents, including cobwebs and dead cats from the original warehouse, were originally a part of the cellar bar, but have now been tidied to a glass display case. Successive owners of the Bishopsgate distillery and its tap capitalized on the legend. By the end of the nineteenth century, its owner, a public house company called William Barker's (D.D.) Ltd., was producing commemorative booklets and promotional material to advertise the pub. The pub had to undergo a degree of deep cleansing in the 1980s in order to comply with health and safety legislation.

**Dirty Dicks Pub , Bishopsgate, London before it was sanitised . 1969.**

### **The Jamaica Winehouse St. Michaels Alley**



London's first-ever coffee house - The Jamaica Wine House, often called "The Jampot", is a historic pub located in the heart of London's financial district, the City of London. It's tucked away in a small courtyard off Cornhill, near Bank Station. The pub holds a significant place in London's history for several reasons.

Origins as a Coffee House - The Jamaica Wine House is on the site of London's first-ever coffee house, which opened in 1652. Coffee was introduced to England through the trade routes, and this coffee house was one of the earliest places where Londoners could experience it.

The coffee house was established by Pasqua Rosée, who had brought coffee from the Ottoman Empire. Coffeehouses became key places for businessmen, politicians, and intellectuals to meet and discuss matters of the day, laying

the groundwork for what would become London's vibrant pub culture.

Transformation into a Pub - Over time, the coffee house evolved into a tavern and eventually into the Jamaica Wine House as we know it today.

It began serving not just coffee, but also wines, ales, and beers, as was common for establishments catering to workers and merchants in the City of London.

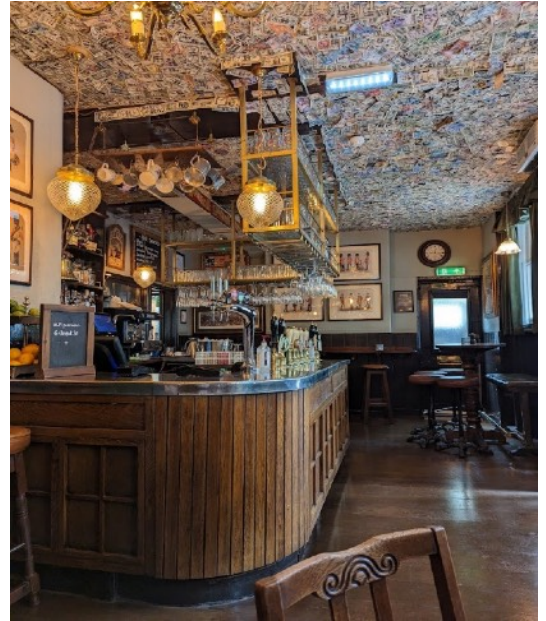
## The Grenadier Belgravia

The Grenadier is a public house in Belgravia, London. It was originally built in 1720 as the officers' mess for the senior infantry regiment of the British army, the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, and located in a courtyard of their barracks. It was opened to the public in 1818 as The Guardsman, and subsequently renamed in honour of the Grenadier Guards' actions in the Battle of Waterloo.



Being secluded in a wealthy district of London, it was frequented in the past by the Duke of Wellington and King George IV. More recent customers have included Madonna and Prince William.

Legend has it that Grenadier is named after young Cedric, a soldier who was caught cheating at cards and punished by being beaten to death.



## Ye Olde Watling Bow Lane (St. Pauls).

It is also a stone's throw away from St Paul's Cathedral and is said to have been built by Sir Christopher Wren himself. Apparently, brine-sodden timbers gleaned from old ships were sold cheaply to builders in the 17th century and these were used in the construction of the building. The reason why Wren broke off from the far more important task of building St Paul's to throw up a quick pub was apparently to provide accommodation for the men working on the cathedral project, with the inn's upstairs rooms being used as the drawing offices. This is not Sir Christopher's only hostelry, it appears – he is also said to have built the Old Bell Tavern in nearby Fleet Street to house the masons rebuilding St Bride's Church after the 1666 fire.

In fact, the Great Fire of London turned out to be exceedingly good for business for Sir Christopher. However, he had actually been involved in repairing St Paul's since 1661 – five years before the fire occurred. He came up with his first design for a dome in the spring of 1666 and it was accepted just a week before fire had turned two-thirds of the City into ash, St Paul's included. So it was back to the drawing board for Sir Christopher who worked on the project for years – 36 of them to be precise. A job of that scale would be enough to drive any self-respecting architect to build their own pub.



## The Anchor Bankside



The Anchor is a pub in the London Borough of Southwark. It is in the Bankside locality on the south bank of the River Thames, close to Southwark Cathedral and London Bridge station. A tavern establishment (under various names) has been at the pub's location for over 800 years. Behind the pub are buildings that were operated by the Anchor Brewery.

The Anchor started life as the "brewery tap room" for the Anchor Brewery, first established in 1616.

Michelin's travel guide incorrectly states that the Anchor was rebuilt in 1676 after the Great Fire of London in 1666 destroyed it. This was impossible as the

fire never reached the southern side of the Thames outside of the limits of the City of London. The book *The Rough Guide to London* states that the establishment was first built in 1770. The establishment was also rebuilt again in the 19th century.

The establishment has been described as "Bankside's oldest surviving tavern" in the book *Secret Bankside: Walks in the Outlaw Borough*.

This pub is the sole survivor of the riverside inns that existed here in Shakespeare's time when this district was at the heart of theatreland, and the Thames was London's principal highway. It was frequented by many actors from the neighbouring playhouses, including the Globe, the Swan and the Rose. It is where diarist Samuel Pepys observed the Great Fire of London in 1666. He wrote that he took refuge in "a little alehouse on bankside ... and there watched the fire grow". Another fire devastated the pub, whose interior was mainly constructed of oak. It was rebuilt in 1676 and has since had additions over the centuries. The Anchor tavern became a favourite place for river pirates and smugglers; during the course of repairs carried out in the early 19th century the removal of a massive oak beam revealed ingeniously contrived hiding places, which were probably used for the storage of stolen goods and contraband.

There are a number of other Pubs which also have a claim to be included in our presentation...perhaps for another time.

**Cittie of Yorke, Holborn.**  
**Princess Louise in Holborn**  
**The Old Bank of England in Fleet Street.**

Basildon Borough Heritage Society  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – updated December 2024.