



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Chester City Centre Real Ale Pubs

(last updated 17/9/2009)

Chester might not, as yet, be in the same league as real ale meccas such as Norwich, Derby and York but it's certainly upwardly mobile for cask. Twenty years ago you had to be grateful for the odd place selling a decent

drop of Burtonwood, Marstons and especially Greenalls but that's all changed thanks, in part, to the emergence of the likes of the Mill Hotel and Old Harkers Arms which bristle with hand pumps serving a myriad of micros. Elsewhere the city boasts tied houses belonging to Spitting Feathers, Sam Smith's, Lees and Okells. Throw in a few other pubs who have adopted an enlightened guest beer policy and basically, the visitor, with a modicum of research, shouldn't go wrong.

ALBION (1)

Park Street

Black Sheep Best Bitter, Taylor Landlord, Jennings

Cumberland Ale, Guest Beer

Multi award winner. Three roomed. Mature crowd. Great War artefacts. Conversation rules. Real fire. Grub. B&B.



ALEXANDERS (2)

Rufus Court

Guest Beer

Atmospheric music / comedy bar. Beware admission fee. Ale often from Wyehwood.

BEAR & BILLET (3)

Lower Bridge Street

Okells Range plus guests

Stunning 17thC former town house. Three storied. Multi windowed. Real fire. SKY sports. Food.



BOATHOUSE (4)

The Groves

Lees beers

Waterfront location. Comfortable lengthy bar. Beer garden. Food.



BOOT INN (5)

Eastgate Row

Samuel Smith Old Brewery Bitter

Narrow. Low roofed and wood panelled. Splendid rear parlour. Cheap ale attracts hardened drinkers.

BREWERY TAP (6)

Lower Bridge Street

Spitting Feathers ales plus guests

First floor level. Former banqueting hall. Stone floors. Candles.

Tapestries. Six ales plus stout. Cider. Food.



BRIDGEWATER ARMS (7)

Crewe Street

Shepherd Neame Spitfire

Backstreet terrace local. Pub sports. Games. Near station.

CANALSIDE INN (8)

Canal Side

Guest Beers

Hotel bar. Outside seating. Near station.

CHESTER BELLS (9)

Grosvenor Street

Boddingtons Bitter, Theakstons Bitter

Rock bands. Pool. TV. Near Chester races. Real ale sporadic. B&B.

CHICHESTER ARMS (10)

Garden Lane

Caledonian Deuchars IPA, Shepherd Neame Spitfire

Local pub in studentsville. Two roomed. Pool, darts, juke box. Football miscellania.



COACH HOUSE (11)

Town Hall Square

Thwaites beers plus guest

Smartly and comfortably

modernised. Uniformed staff. Food biased. Outside cafe-bar style seating.

CROSS KEYS (12)

Duke Street

Caledonian Deuchars IPA, Wells Bombardier

Red brick. Comfortable and open plan. Function room. Front verandah. Food inc Thai.

DUBLIN PACKET (13)

Market Square

Wells Bombardier

Bar and partitioned corridor style lounge. TV. Dixie Dean once ran the place.

DUTTONS (14)

Godstall Lane

Lees beers

Hidden down boutique alley.

Smart. Strongly food by day.

Lively music bar at night. Bouncers. Outside seating.



FALCON (15)

Lower Bridge Street

Samuel Smith Old Brewery Bitter

Half-timbered. Oak beamed. Wood panelled. Cosy. Undervalued underused upstairs room. Daytime food.



FAT CAT (16)

Lower Watergate Street

Theakstons Bitter, Guest Beer

Smart cellar-bar. Sofas and stools. Intimate and food-led to the rear. Guest often from Storm.

FOREST HOUSE (17)

Love Street

Guest Ales

Wetherspoons Lloyds No 1. Multi-roomed. Quieter downstairs bar. Music. Food.

FROG & NIGHTINGALE (18)

(off) Frodsham Street

Wells Bombardier, Greene King Old Speckled Hen

Spacious. Live music. TV sport. Polish nights. Canalside seating. Food.

GEORGE & DRAGON (19)

Liverpool Road

Greene King Range

Big. Open plan. Games. TV sport. Students. B&B.

MARLBOROUGH ARMS (20)

St John Street

Stonehouse beers

Small and narrow. Spartan decor. Wood / tiled floors. Green walls.

MILL HOTEL (21)

Milton Street

Coach House Mill Bitter, Weetwood Bitter. Guest Ales

Occasionally hectic hotel bar. Over ten ales (inc mild and cider). Inescapable TV sport. Jazz night Monday. Canalside seating. Food. B&B.



ODDFELLOWS ARMS (22)

Frodsham Street

John Smiths Bitter, Tetley Mild
Corner pub. Locals. Back patio. Weekend karaoke popular. Ale sporadic.

OLD COTTAGE (23)

Brook Street

Cains Bitter, Guest Beer

Local flavour. Pool, darts, real fire. 1960s prints of Brook Street.



OLDE CUSTOM HOUSE (24)

Watergate Street

Marstons Pedigree, Jennings Cumberland Ale, Guest Ale

Modernised 17thC townhouse. Central bar. Verdant patio garden. Food. Guests from Marstons list.

OLDE KINGS HEAD (25)

Lower Bridge Street

Wells Bombardier, Greene King Old Speckled Hen

17C. Mock tudor facade. Open plan bar. Log fire. Upstairs restaurant. B&B.

OLD HARKERS ARMS (26)

Russell Street

Thwaites Original, Weetwood Cheshire Cat, guest ales

Exemplary upmarket converted canalside warehouse. Friendly service. Diverse range of micro-ales. Cider. Not cheap.



PIED BULL (27)

Northgate Street

Guest Beers

Old historic coaching inn. Jazz on Sundays. Food. B&B.

PLUMBERS ARMS (28)

Newgate Street

Thwaites beers

Tucked away. Small and bright. Movie icons on walls. Beer garden. Bar snacks.

QUEEN HOTEL (29)

City Road

Weetwood Cheshire Cat

Opulent bar opposite station. Interesting artwork and pictures. B&B.

SHIP VICTORY (30)

George Street

Tetley Bitter, Guest Beer

Small. Community focused and charity raising. Microbrewery guest. Singalong and karaoke nights.



SHROPSHIRE ARMS (31)

Northgate Street

Wells Bombardier

Open plan. Tidy upstairs seating. TV football. Live bands.

SQUARE BOTTLE (32)

Foregate Street

Guest beers

Stereotypic Wetherspoons. House ale from Spitting Feathers.

STANLEY ARMS (33)

Brook Street

Shepherd Neame Spitfire, Wells Bombardier

Two roomed. Modernised and functional. Largely locals. Food.

TELFORD'S WAREHOUSE (34)

Tower Wharf

Taylor Landlord, Thwaites

Original, Weetwood Cheshire Cat, Guest Beers

Spacious. Big windows. Canal views. Cargo crane. Live music. Upstairs seating / restaurant. Beware of entrance fee.



TEMPLE BAR (35)

Frodsham Street

Spitting Feathers Beer

Lively front bar. Attractive rear restaurant. Daytime food. Bands and karaoke. Boisterous at weekends

TOWN CRIER (36)

Station Road

Guest beers

Opposite station. Large lounge. Separate bar. Pool. Food. Garden.

UNION VAULTS (37)

Egerton Street

Everards Tiger, Guest beers

Split-level. Characterful earthy locals. Bagatelle table.

VICTORIA (38)

Watergate Row North

Wells Bombardier, Theakstons Bitter, Guest Ale

Low ceiling. Central bar. Rear patio. Loud music. Food. Weekend party atmosphere. Not cheap.

WATERGATE INN (39)

Watergate Square

Plassey Welsh Fusilier

By racecourse. Local crowd. Real ale occasional.

