

Ealing U3A Beer Investigation Group

Trip to Paddington, Thursday 21 October 2021

For our third central London tour, 28 months after the last, we took the easy route of the Elizabeth Line to Paddington to two fine pubs with remarkably well-preserved Victorian interiors. Both are listed Grade II and on CAMRA's inventory of historic pub interiors.

From Paddington station, over Praed St, we dropped into Norfolk Square garden. On the site of a former reservoir serving the Grand Junction Canal, the gardens were run-down until acquired by Westminster council and re-landscaped, opening as a pleasant public garden in 1990.

The whole area down to Hyde Park was originally developed in the 1830s and 40s, on a particularly grand scale towards and facing the Park.

Walking towards Lancaster Gate, lunch was in The Theatre Bar, upstairs at **The Victoria** in Strathearn Place (Fullers). A lovely room decorated with fittings once in The Gaiety Theatre, we had a good choice of lunch and four beers from the Fuller's range. The pub was founded in 1838 and is notable for the survival of original fittings, which is unusual since in many pubs they were replaced in the late 19th C. The clock is dated 1864, there are very ornate mirrors and a Regency-style fireplace.

The second stop was **The Mitre** (Young's and St Austell's Proper Job) in Craven Terrace. Probably dating from the 1850s; many original fittings survive. Mosaic floor and ornate glasswork. The 'Ladies Bar' probably dates from the late 19th C. The pub appeared in the two Woody Allen films set in London.

Good company and beer, friendly service, and an enjoyable reintroduction to central London pubs for the group!

Kevin Newson