

## THE PORTER TUN ROOM



When Whitbread & Company re-planned their extensive Brewery site in Chiswell Street, it was decided to retain the historic buildings and convert them for a new role as private and public function rooms.

This brochure describes briefly the range of facilities offered in the re-designed buildings, where great care has been taken during their restoration and conversion to preserve a notable history. They form part of a development covering nearly seven acres, in which careful attention has been paid to the needs and wishes of local people.

We feel that the services outlined in these pages will provide an attractive amenity in an area of London where Whitbread have been part of the neighbourhood for over two centuries. We hope that you will get in touch with us and make use of our various facilities.

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## BRANTER AROHIVES COUNCIL

STORY OF THE BREWERY

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Samuel Whitbread, son of a Bedfordshire farmer, came to London in 1734 to be apprenticed to a brewer. Eight years later he set up his own brewing business at the corner of Old Street and Whitecross Street, and in 1749 he moved to premises in Chiswell Street a few hundred yards down the road. The Company have been here ever since.

The business prospered, and when Samuel Whitbread died in 1796 his Company had become the leading brewery in London as well as the oldest in the City. He built his success on the quality of his beer and on improved methods of production, which he had the foresight to develop and introduce. Whitbread & Company continued to brew in the Chiswell Street Brewery right up until 1976. The area suffered badly during the Blitz in the Second World War, but, fortunately, the best of the historic buildings survived to be redesigned in the present development.

> Although no beer is currently brewed in Chiswell Street, it remains the Headquarters of Whitbread & Company. In addition, the famous Whitbread Shire Horses have their home here, and deliver beer to local customers in addition to their ceremonial duties – providing teams to pull the coaches of the Lord Mayor of London and the Speaker of the House of Commons on ceremonial occasions. The Speaker's Coach is on public display at the

> > Brewery.

HE OVERLORD ROOM

This unique room provides a public viewing gallery for the Overlord Embroidery during the day, and a splendid setting for private parties in the evening. Some 300 people can be accommodated.

The Overlord Embroidery, which is 272 ft. in length, depicts the Allied invasion of Normandy of the 6th June, 1944, which marked the start of the liberation of Europe. It consists of 34 panels, each 8 ft. long and 3 ft. high, which are illuminated, and hung along the walls of the room. The work is the largest of its kind in the world, and is 41 ft. longer than the celebrated Bayeux Tapestry commemorating William the Conqueror's invasion of England of 1066.

The Overlord Room is situated at ground floor level within the walls of the famous Porter Tun Room, described on the next page, and is approached through an impressive foyer, known as the Octagon. A staircase links it to the upper level of the Porter Tun Room, and the two areas can therefore be used independently, or jointly for major functions. The Overlord Room itself provides a magnificent area for receptions or cocktail parties.



This room completed in 1784 was originally used for the fermentation of Porter, a malt liquor which was for years the nation's favourite drink. The massive unsupported King Post timber roof is the second largest of its kind in Europe and the room provides a superb setting for the important occasion.

HE PORTER TUN ROOM

It has a split level floor which can accommodate 850 people for a reception, 500 for a formal banquet and 450 for a dinner/dance.

Alternatively the space can be reduced to accommodate smaller parties.



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Whitbread – the City of London's oldest brewers and The Porter Tun Room offer you the most up-to-date reception and catering facilities in a unique historical setting for:-

> Sales meetings. Product launches. Conferences. Seminars. Receptions. Banquets. Dinner/dances. Fashion shows. Exhibitions. Sporting events. Private functions.



For reservations or further information please contact John Fox or David Bradshaw on 01-606 4455 at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London, EC1Y 4SD



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