

Mennie's Speedwell Bar

Dundee, as a thriving industrial city, had many attractive Victorian and Edwardian commercial premises in the form of shops, offices, clubs and public houses, etc. carefully designed and executed by skilled craftsmen. Over the decades the majority of these have been lost, with changing ownerships and uses, deterioration and the commercial requirement for repeated modernisation programmes with the introduction of new materials and design styles.

The Speedwell Bar, on the main thoroughfare of the prosperous West End, is one Edwardian public house that has retained its original shopfront and fittings, perhaps due to their original exceptional craftsmanship.

In fact it is one of very few pubs in Scotland, and the only one in Dundee so far, which has been listed for the quality of its interior, and one of the few surviving pubs mentioned in the definitive 1983 book "People's Palaces, Victorian and Edwardian Pubs of Scotland". The Speedwell was built in 1903 for James Speed (hence its name) and designed by the architects John Bruce and Son.

As with many of the older Perth Road shops, the frontage is a lesson in good shopfront design. The traditional dark green, black and white colour scheme

is dignified, and compliments the very attractive Art Nouveau etched plate glass windows and lettering to the boards screening the seat backs inside.

The main public bar is entered through the mahogany and etched glass inner screen, with additional separate doors to the front part of the L-plan bar, to the side of the main bar are two small lounges, front and back, with a glazed screen between, now sensibly designated smoking and non smoking.

All the fittings are beautifully crafted of mahogany: bar, gantry, doors, drinks shelves, dado panelling and fireplaces. The bar is divided by glazed screens with urn finials, to allow customers chatting at the bar a little privacy from their neighbours. The internal doors and screens are all glazed with etched glass to the same design as the front windows. Even the toilets retain original Shanks fittings, crazed white tiled walls and mosaic floors.

It is encouraging that this genuine Edwardian pub interior, unlike so many stylised reproduction interiors, has not suffered the indignity of having its original cluttered by "period" nicknacks and functions as a modern pub with the necessary equipment of today.

100 years

28th October 1903 - 28th October 2003

Centenary Week Festivities

Wednesday 22nd - Tuesday 28th



Mennie's Speedwell Bar

Perth Road, Dundee

Mennie's Speedwell Bar, Perth Road, Dundee

Telephone 01382 667783/669300 Website www.mennies.co.uk

100 years

28th October 1903 - 28th October 2003

Centenary Week Festivities

Wednesday 22nd October - Tuesday 28th October



Thursday 16th October

Complimentary pre centenary week wine tasting with Waverley Vintners from 7.30pm.

Wednesday 22nd October

Rangers v Man United on wide screen and stereo surround sound, in smoking and non smoking areas. Pre match entertainment and free steak and gravy pies at half time.

Thursday 23rd October

Malt whisky tasting by Gordon & McPhail of Elgin with Harris FP Rugby Club Reunion from 7.30pm followed by Luke Brady on accordion throughout the evening. All welcome.

Friday 24th October 8-11pm

Live swing band with Stu Ivens, Big Al (Breitenbach) and Joy.

Friday 24th October - Tuesday 28th October SPEEDWELL OKTOBERFEST

German Beer Festival with 4 German imported draught beers (Bitburger, Weinstephan, Furstenberg, Erdinger served with Bratwurst and Bierwurst (recorded background oompah band music) and an appearance of the City of Discovery Brass Band.

100 years



- Exclusively brewed by Belhaven and Inveralmond breweries and on draught - Mennies own cask conditioned **Centenary Ale**.
- **Sunday morning** (26th October) - Charity Fun Run for Maggie's Centre sponsored by Budweiser. Route posted on Notice board.
Sunday afternoon - Jazz with Frances Carlin followed by the Gordon's perfect serve tasting, followed by Indian Snack Supper personally prepared and hosted by a legendary local Indian chef.

Monday 27th October

Fisherman's Fiddlers from 9pm and Tennents Lager tasting courtesy of Interbrew.

Tuesday 28th October

An Edwardian dress night, with tastings by Budweiser and entertainment by Barbershop Quartet "Four in a Bar" from 7.30pm - first drink FREE to those in Edwardian fancy dress.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Look out for visits by Ian Luke MP, Fred McAulay (broadcaster) and others.

- Limited edition Centenary Prints of Mennies by Steven French, available at the bar.
- Free morning coffee and biscuits for the week from our new BRASILIA espresso machine.