

Ashley Cherrett (trade quality) Fullers - interview on 18/3/19

Born - Brent 1971

Father - local cab driver

Mother - home maker

No family connection to Fullers but Dad heard about a job going at Fullers when he was taking a customer.

Ashley's first job for the first year was adding up the stock books of the 70 wine outlets that Fullers had.

He was 17 at the time and looked forward to getting his overtime tokens from the machine when he reached 18 but alas this perk was removed just before he reached his eighteenth birthday!

Ashley moved around the brewery in various jobs at first, working on the "brew" milling, mashing and tipping 50 kg bags of malt.

He learnt all about brewing which gave him a good grounding for the quality control role he took on later.

A typical day in the trade quality role would be checking on the "ullage" that is the beer that had been sent back and ascertaining whether it was the pub's fault or the brewers.

He would visit 4 or 5 pubs to check quality.

A good throughput of the product was essential as was tasting the beer.

There was a drinking culture in the workplace but this ceased along with the introduction of health and safety laws - high vis jackets, various other changes and a raised awareness of the dangers in the workplace made an impact on previous ways of working.

Fullers was a good place to work Ashley recalls, with excellent pensions and holidays. The pay was average but other perks such as the £520 earned reward that could be spent on beer and the company shares made up for it.

There was a good community spirit with friendly rivalry and interaction between the breweries within the London Brewers Sport Association.

Whereas now the area has become too expensive for locals, in the past most workers lived locally and could spend more time on out of hours activities.

The cultural mix is greater now although Ashley says it was always fairly diverse. Some of the characters had nicknames - Big Mick and Alan the Gallon!

Practical jokes abounded such as filling workers shoes and pockets with hop pellets.

Ashley doesn't have any bad recollections of working at Fullers and can't recall any long-standing disputes.

He is looking to the future with the new owners Asahi.