



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



The Charlie Butler, Mortlake. See page 16.

Photo: Robert Preston

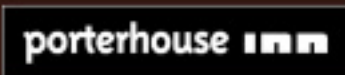
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EDITORIAL

YOUR SHOUT!

It is three years now since the current editor, publisher and printer took on *London Drinker*, and the London Branches of CAMRA thought it was about time to ask you, the readers, to tell us what you like and don't like about the magazine, and how you think we can improve it. We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to complete all or part of the survey questionnaire included in this issue and return it to Richard Larkin. We are grateful to him for suggesting it, and for preparing it in consultation with others.

The survey may also be completed on-line, via the new London CAMRA website now available at www.londondrinker.org.uk. You will find this issue of *London Drinker* there, and also the two previous issues, but don't be alarmed: there is no plot to discontinue the printed magazine!

All articles published in this magazine are contributed by volunteers, nor do the editor or the publisher receive any payment for putting it together. We hope that your answers to the survey will encourage us to continue with it, or indeed identify other volunteers who might care to take on the job - that is, if you agree that it is worthwhile.

At the outset, I identified the main purpose of *London Drinker* as to tell readers who brewed good beer in London and where they could find it.. This issue features the launch of a new microbrewery in Twickenham, but catalogues yet another long list of pub closures. CAMRA is encouraging drinkers to 'adopt a pub' for its third annual National Pubs Week (19-26 February). London still has some great pubs, and many have some exciting real ale to offer. Let's all go out and drink it.

Cheers!

Geoff Strawbridge

London Drinker is published by Mike Hammersley on behalf of the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and edited by Geoff Strawbridge.

Material for publication should preferably be sent by e-mail to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

Press releases and letters by post should be sent to

Tony Hedger, 7 The Square, Peabody Estate, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9PX

Changes to pubs or beers should be reported to Capital Pubcheck, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR or by e-mail to capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com.

For publication in April 2005, please send electronic documents to the Editor no later than Friday 11th March.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £3.00 for mailing of 6 editions should be sent to Stan Tompkins, 52 Rabbs Mill House, Chiltern View Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2PD (cheques payable to CAMRA London).

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London Drinker Magazine Survey



The London Branches would appreciate your views on *London Drinker*. Would you please take a few minutes to fill in this form and return it by 15th April 2005 to
Richard Larkin, 42 Mansfield Road, London NW3 2HT
As a thank you, we will enter everyone returning the survey by that date into a free draw for a copy of the new West London Pub Guide.

- Where do you get your copy of the magazine?
Pub ☐ Friend ☐ Other (please state): _____
- How many other people read your copy of *London Drinker*?
None ☐ 1 ☐ 2-3 ☐ More than 3 ☐
- How much of *London Drinker* do you enjoy reading?
Enjoy it all ☐ Enjoy most of it ☐ Enjoy quite a lot of it ☐ Find it okay ☐
Enjoy only parts of it ☐ Rarely enjoy it ☐
- How up to date do you think the information is in the magazine?
Very up to date ☐ Mostly up to date ☐ Little up to date ☐ Don't know ☐
- Do you think the magazine is good campaigning for CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐
- What do you think of the different parts of the magazine?

	Like to see more	About right	Like to see less	Should not include
Editorial (<i>article at front of magazine</i>)				
News round-up (<i>small pieces of news</i>)				
Articles on pub architecture				
Articles on food in pubs				
Articles on cider and perry				
Articles on CAMRA's campaigns				
Letters				
Branch diaries (<i>list of branch events</i>)				
Cask Marque award listings				
Capital Pubcheck (<i>new pub reviews, renamings, closures etc</i>)				
London pub crawls				
Other UK pub crawls				
Foreign pub crawls				
Idle Moments (quiz)				
Crossword				
Adverts				

7. Would you like to have articles on:
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Yes | No | Don't know |
| How beer is brewed | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Different beer styles | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Home brewing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. Are there any other subjects you would like covered in *London Drinker*?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

If yes, what? _____

9. As a result of reading an advert in *London Drinker*, have you ever:

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Attended an event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visited a pub	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brought a product	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state):			

10. How often do you:

a. Attend CAMRA beer festivals?

6+ times a year ☐ 3-5 times a year ☐ Twice a year ☐ Once a year ☐ Rarely ☐ Never ☐

b. Attend a pub festival?

6+ times a year ☐ 3-5 times a year ☐ Twice a year ☐ Once a year ☐ Rarely ☐ Never ☐

c. Visit a pub?

More than once a week ☐ Once a week ☐ 2-3 times a month ☐ Once a month ☐

Less than once a month ☐ Don't know ☐

d. Eat in a pub?

More than once a week ☐ Once a week ☐ 2-3 times a month ☐ Once a month ☐

Less than once a month ☐ Don't know ☐

11. Do you buy bottled beer to drink at home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, where do you buy it?

Pub ☐ Off licence ☐ Supermarket ☐ Other (please state): _____

12. If you have any ideas of new advertisers that *London Drinker* could approach, please list them below.

13. Should *London Drinker* have a classified column for small adverts?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

14. Are you: Male ☐ Female ☐

15. What is your age?

18-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ 31-35 ☐ 36-40 ☐ 41-45 ☐ 46-50 ☐ 51-55 ☐ 56-65 ☐ 66+ ☐

16. What is your occupation:

17. If you read national newspapers, which ones?

18. Are you interested in receiving *London Drinker* on subscription? The cost is £3.00 per annum. Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

If yes, please enclose a cheque payable to CAMRA London and enclose it with this survey form.

If you wish to be entered into the free prize draw and/or wish to subscribe to the magazine, please fill in your details below. This information will not be used for any other purpose and will not be disclosed to any third party.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Post code: _____

NEWS ROUND-UP

Happy New Year to you all. This column now has its own e-mail address: ldnews@btinternet.com so please feel free to use that if you wish to comment on anything that appears here or if you have anything that you think may be of interest.

◆ Fullers

John Cryne, our Brewery Liaison Officer for Fullers, has passed me their half-year results to 25/09/04. Despite a slower summer and increased costs, pre-tax profits increased slightly to £8.2 million on sales of £72.9 million (up from £71.3 million). There was a 3% increase in sales at the company's 23 City of London outlets. Michael Turner, Chief Executive, said that they are looking to double their current estate of over 200 pubs and that at least 8 new outlets would be confirmed by March. Mr Turner also saw little prospect of there being any damage done to the business by a smoking ban because by the time that it came into effect, everyone would have accepted it.

Fuller's Hock (mild) will be brewed as a guest ale/seasonal later this year. It is scheduled to be available 18th April until 6th May.

◆ Youngs

Youngs released interim figures for the same period. Again, they reflect steady progress.

Operating profit was up 6.8% to £7 million on a turnover that increased by 5.5% to £60.9 million. Total beer production in the first half was up 18.8% at 85,173 barrels and cask ale volumes increased by 5.8% in the period which is good news considering that this is supposed to be a declining market. Meanwhile John Young has celebrated 50 years as an employee of the company. Fellow directors, past and present, entertained him to lunch and presented him with a cruise holiday to honour the event. It is reported that Mr Young has no intention of retiring.

◆ Go with the Gottoms

Congratulations to Charles and Linda Gotto, who are Young's multiple tenants at the Alma, the Coopers, the Grove and the Ship. They recently won an award in Radio Four's Food Programme's Food and Farming Awards for supplying their pubs with top quality beef, lamb, pork and eggs from their own farm. The eggs are sometimes available from the pubs as take-aways. Charles Gotto made the point that their pubs are not gastropubs, they remain pubs selling good food.

◆ Shepherd Neame

Shepherd Neame have increased their presence in central London with the acquisition of the lease of the White Horse & Bower in Horseferry Road,



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NEWS ROUND-UP

Westminster. Although there has been a dispute between shareholding family members culminating in former vice-chairman Stuart Neame unsuccessfully taking the company to an industrial tribunal, the company continues to do well with an increase in pre-tax profits of £0.57 million to £9.3 million. Sales of Spitfire bitter, 90% of which is sold in the free trade, increased by 10.2%.

◆ Pubcos Inquiry: MPs' 'yellow card' a whitewash, says CAMRA

According to its chairman, Martin O'Neill MP, the House of Commons Trade & Industry Select Committee's report on pub companies, published on 21 December, places the industry on a 'yellow card', and serious action will be taken if changes are not made. However, CAMRA has criticized the Committee for failing to take a harder line to curb the power of pub chains and for not calling for the introduction of a guest beer for their pubs. Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive, said: "I think the outcome is a whitewash, which doesn't really call for action on anything. The report was a missed opportunity".

The Committee found that there were no competition issues as to market dominance by any one brewer or pubco that required immediate attention by the Office of Fair Trading, but it was concerned that national brewers retained a stranglehold on the distribution of beer owing to the distribution contracts pubcos have with national brewers' distribution arms. Launching the Report, Mr O'Neill said "A barrier to entry such as this could be avoided if the link between brand supply and distribution were severed. We hope that the OFT will kept (sic) this issue under close scrutiny".

The report concludes that in the distribution market for beer there is the strong possibility of anti-competitive consequences, but the Committee ruled out the introduction of a guest beer for pub chains, claiming that to allow tied tenants the option of a guest beer of a particular type would run contrary to EU competition law and could lead to the UK Government being challenged in the European Courts. That seems a feeble argument: word the option broadly enough and CAMRA would hardly object to a tenant choosing to serve Budvar or De Koninck on draught. The Committee did recommend that pubcos allow their tenants more flexibility in the choice of products they sell. CAMRA will be urging all pubcos to adopt this recommendation and pressing them to introduce a guest beer clause in their tenants' agreements.

The Committee also fought shy of imposing a statutory code of practice on pubcos but said that, if the industry did not show signs of accepting a voluntary code, then the Government should not hesitate to

impose a statutory code on it. Mr O'Neill highlighted the finding, "It would appear that the performance of the business development managers, employed by pubcos ostensibly to help their tenants, varies across the industry from excellent to dire."

Quoted in the Publican, Mike Bell, licensee at the Portobello Gold in London, looks on the bright side. "Well at least the pubcos must pull their socks up. It is now up to us to accelerate that process." Amen to that. But the report seems to accept that, as property companies, pubcos may have less regard for the welfare of their tenants and the satisfaction of their customers than for the profit they can make by selling the pubs or their sites for alternative uses. As headlined in the back of a recent issue of Private Eye, 'See you down the Bull (dozer)'.

◆ Full pint campaign

There appears to be renewed life in this which will make a change from smoking and binge drinking on the campaigning front. To quote from the press release: "A new campaign to put an end to the Great British beer rip off was launched at a reception last night in the House of Commons. A new cross party Parliamentary Motion is calling on the Government to protect consumers from short beer measures in forthcoming Weights and Measures legislation, by defining a pint of beer as 100 per cent. liquid. The current law fails to protect consumers from short beer measures, (and) as a result 9 in 10 pints are short measure, 1 in 4 pints are more than 5% short measure and short measure costs consumers £400 million a year, or over £1 million a day".

MPs also express concern at Government proposals to redefine a pint as "not less than 95% liquid". This would make the problem of short measure worse by giving dishonest licensees a green light to short change consumers. Mike Benner, CAMRA's Chief Executive stated that: "The Government has promised to protect consumers from short beer measures, but the proposal for a 95% pint will have the opposite effect. CAMRA members will be lobbying MPs to get behind the campaign for an Honest Pint Law."

I hate to sound cynical this early in the year but we have been through all this before and we all know the arguments. Let us hope that something actually happens this time.

◆ Binge drinking

The police and the medical profession are now coming out strongly against 24 hour drinking. Can I just make one point which they appear to be overlooking? Surely this is self-controlling; exactly how many of us could afford to spend all day in the pub these days? This is particularly relevant where price controls are applied to end 'happy hours' and other special offers. An experiment has started in

Nottingham whereby 100 city-centre licensees have voluntarily agreed not to charge less than £1.50 per drink.

◆ Around the pubcos

Lots of odd bits and pieces here, not least some big numbers. The Punch group have sold on more than half of the 1,064 pubs that it acquired from Innspired three months ago for £335 million. 545 pubs have gone to developers Goldtry for £162.5 million.

Wolverhampton & Dudley have acquired Burtonwood for £120 million. Burtonwood operates 460 pubs as well as a brewery in Warrington, Cheshire. Given W&D's closure of other breweries that they have acquired, I wonder what their plans for the brewery may be. Alongside Greene King, W&D now owns in excess of 2000 pubs, the ceiling above which the Beer Orders used to require the option for licensees of a guest beer.

Mitchell & Butlers, the O'Neills, Nicholsons and All Bar One operators, have reported strong sales in its London pubs, especially the Nicholsons pubs. However Tim Martin denied that there had been any talks about M & B taking over the JD Wetherspoon chain. He told the *Publican* newspaper: *"This is annual rumour but I am not known for having chats. The answer is we are not in talks with anyone."*

Spirit Group have sold 364 of their managed pubs to a property tycoon, Robert Tchenguiz for £345 million. The plan is to convert them to tenanted pubs, overseen by Scottish and Newcastle. The new company will be called the Globe Pub Company. Mr Tchenguiz had previously been involved with the Pubmaster chain and is reported to be looking for further acquisitions. Scottish & Newcastle's brewing arm, ScotCo, are looking to extend their Kronenbourg brand with a range of fruit beers. The beers will be based on some lambic-style beers that ScotCo apparently already own. Anyone know anything more about this?

Sales of Brakspear Bitter have increased by 25% since production was moved to the Wychwood site in Witney.

◆ On yer bus

Congratulations to our comrades to the North, the Hertfordshire Branches of CAMRA. They have produced an excellent booklet called 'Hertfordshire 2005 Good Beer Guide Pubs by Public Transport'. Not a snappy title perhaps but it says succinctly what it is; the bus and train routes to all of the County's current GBG entries. My favourite is the one that you can get a bus to the pub on a Thursday lunchtime but that is it... We may moan about transport in town but at least it is inefficient rather than non-existent.

◆ Good news... Bad news...

Iam not sure what eventually happened here but before Christmas there was a possibility that lager drinkers could have had a bad Christmas because of a strike at Carlsberg's Northampton plant. Then again, the company said that they might have been able to maintain supplies by bringing in beer from Poland and Denmark. Perhaps it would not have been so bad after all...

◆ Here we go

For those of you who do not know (and possibly do not care) the next football World Cup finals will be in 2006 in Germany. The Germans had a nasty surprise recently when Anheuser-Busch (yes, them again) acquired the exclusive rights to sell beer at the 12 tournament venues at a cost of £27.8 million. Recognising the bad public reaction to this, A-B have struck a deal with Bitburger so that Bitburger beer will also be on sale. Bitburger will not be allowed to advertise however and as part of the deal, they have had to drop a long-running legal battle over A-B's alleged misleading advertising in Germany. Apparently, Bitburger thought that "Bit" and "Bud" were too similar. A spokesman for the 2006 Organising Committee, who obviously thought that there were more serious matters to worry about, said: *"They can all calm down now. There will be German beer in the stadiums after all."*

◆ In the picture

The GBG-listed Dartmouth Arms in York Rise, NW3 has diversified into an art gallery. After a fruitless search for suitable premises, independent art dealer Nigel King struck a deal with the landlord of his favourite pub to display and sell paintings from the pub's back room. The venture has proved very successful with many of the works coming from a collective of young artists in Wood Green.

◆ Down the toilet...

Ifully intend to get through this section without any crude jokes. Pub toilets have been given a category of their own in the British Toilet Association's 'Loo of the Year' awards. Anyone can nominate a toilet - owners or customers - and they will be inspected unannounced by the organisers and judged on criteria including décor, cleanliness and overall management. The award's website is: www.loo.co.uk should you wish to investigate further. In all seriousness, anything that improves the standard of pub toilets has to be a good idea. Although I think that the general standard has improved in recent years, you still come across some absolutely disgusting examples and I think that a pub's attitude to its toilets says a lot about its underlying attitude to its customers.

◆ Ale and hearty

The Neuzelle Kloster Brewery, a 400-year old firm in North-East Germany is now producing an 'Anti-Aging' beer that they say could make you feel healthier and look younger. In what to me appears to be a breach of the German Purity Law, they are adding hot spring mineral water for iron and vitamins, algae and anti-oxidants to the traditional ingredients. The result is a dark 4.8% 'malt beer' which the managing director describes as a 'healthy option' and is selling well at specialist outlets such as the spa at Bad Saarow. The key ingredient is the anti-oxidants which can restore elasticity in the skin which is lost as part of the aging process and reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers. Beer is in any event rich in anti-oxidants because they occur naturally in hops and barley. Nonetheless, the label carries a health warning: *"please take care of your health and do not drink too much"*. Across the border, the Czechs are more direct. As part of a recruitment drive in Prague organised by a beer magazine, blood donors are being offered two half-litres of beer per session. A litre - that's nearly an armful... *Tony Hedger*

In this spirit perhaps, Wigan-based pubco, Yesteryear, has invested in 105 fake spiders to glue to the urinals in its gents toilets. The idea is that users will aim at the spiders thus causing less 'spillage' and saving, in the company's estimation, some £6,000 per annum in cleaning costs. Apparently, the spiders are already used successfully at Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) and after returning from a fact-finding mission there, a company spokesman said: *"What we found on our visit to Schiphol was that there was a far higher standard of accuracy and a far lower level of splashage if a gentleman - including Frenchmen - had something to aim at in the urinal."* No, I don't understand the reference to Frenchmen either.

But there is more; the same company wants to improve the acoustics in its ladies loos as an aid to gossip. The very same spokesman said: *"ladies like nothing more than to go off to the loo and have a gossip about their blokes and their friends and we felt that if we could address that need then we would be creating a unique attraction about our bar."* Having failed with improved tiles and even speaking tubes, they resorted to the 'twobicle', in which two toilets are installed in the same trap. The mind boggles...



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ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

JAZZ AT THE BULL'S HEAD IN PERIL!

They've had music every night for 45 years and are one of the three top jazz venues in London. A new block of flats has been built next door, and now one resident does not like the noise. The result is that the local council is being lobbied to stop the jazz.

The performance of jazz at the Bull's Head in Barnes is under threat, after 45 years of live music seven nights a week. Following complaints from a local resident, Richmond Upon Thames Council has served a noise abatement order which will become effective on 15 February 2005 unless a scheme to soundproof the jazz room is in place. Young's have estimated that it would cost £175,000 to do what the Council requires.

The pub has no quarrel with its neighbour; the landlord's anger is directed at the Council. When the development next door to the Bull's Head was originally planned for residential housing, both the Brewery and the licensees explained that this very situation would arise unless the necessary precautions were taken by the developers. These concerns were ignored by the planners at Richmond Council, which has led to the current situation.

A BBC Radio 4 interview broadcast on Thursday 16 December 2004 put the pub's case forward: the Bull's Head is a very vital part of the British jazz community and indeed of the local community of Barnes. To lose what has been described as a 'temple of modern jazz' would be a travesty. The licensees are doing their utmost to prevent this happening but they do need support. If you too feel strongly about protecting part of the heritage of modern British jazz, please make your views known. Leave your name on the support list or/and send your views by email to jazz@thebullshead.com

Barry Tillbrook

STOP PRESS

Youngs have now had two separate meetings with officials from Richmond Council and Laing, the developers of the new property next to the Bull's Head. The talks have been constructive and helpful, and as at 17 January it is hoped to find a solution within the next week.



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LONDON REGIONAL INVENTORY UPDATE

Now that it is over eight months (at the time of writing) since the publication of the London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest, here is an update in the same order as the pubs appear in the booklet.

East London

E7: Old Spotted Dog, 212 Upton Lane, Forest Gate – currently closed; future uncertain

North London

N4: Salisbury, 1 Grand Parade, Green Lanes, Harringay – telephone number should be 020 8800 9617

North West London

NW8: Crocker's Folly, 24 Aberdeen Place, Maida Vale – currently closed; future uncertain

South East London

SE11: Old Red Lion, 42-44 Kennington Park Road, Kennington – now also on the National Inventory

SE24: Commercial, 210 - 212 Railton Road, Herne Hill – refurbished in October/November 2004; the only original fixtures and fittings that remain are the bar-back, bar counter and chequered gutter in the saloon, some of the exterior glazing, and the wall panelling in the saloon although this has been stained in an inappropriate shade

The Brewery Tap

John and Heather welcome you to the Brewery Tap.

Four rotating Real Ales (many from micro-breweries)

Adnams Bitter permanently
and now we often stock mild ale and
Aspall's Suffolk Cider.

New lunchtime menu.

Traditional Sunday Roasts 12 - 3.00pm

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Village, SW19

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South West London

SW14: Charlie Butler, 40 Mortlake High Street, Mortlake – has been added to the Regional Inventory (see the next article)

SW17: Little House (formerly Queen Victoria), 13 Tooting Grove, SW17 – has been added to the Regional Inventory

SW19: King's Head, 18 Merton High Street, Merton – despite objections from South West London branch and the London Pubs Group, planning permission for conversion to offices was granted in the early summer 2004 and it closed on 3 July 2004

West London

For all W1 and W2 pubs the local planning authority should be Westminster, not Wandsworth

West Central London

WC1: Duke of York, 7 Roger Street, Bloomsbury – now also on the National Inventory

Outer London

IG5: Doctor Johnson, Longwood Gardens, Barkingside – now statutorily listed grade II

KT1: Buckingham Arms, 104 Villiers Road, Kingston upon Thames – the name is incorrect; it should be Duke of Buckingham

KT8: King's Arms Hotel, Lion Gate, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey – refurbished in the summer of 2004; the stained glass panels have been removed but it remains on the Regional Inventory

Jane Jephcote

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1960S TIME-WARP UNDER THREAT

The Charlie Butler at 40 Mortlake High Street, London SW14, represents a rare breed of building - an unaltered pub from the 1950s and 1960s.

These decades saw the swan song of traditional pub-building in this country - that is to say ones with several rooms which always included a basic public bar and a better-class lounge or saloon. Older drinkers (like me) will remember how a pint in the more luxurious surroundings cost a copper or two more.

Since about 1970 pubs were subjected to an avalanche of change. Quite apart from opening up, there were other major changes. In the early 1960s supermarkets began to sell alcohol and, by the end of the decade, this had put paid to take home supplies from 'jug and bottle' departments in pubs.

Now, the Charlie Butler was built on this cusp of pub history. Opened in August 1968, it was built by Young's and named after their head horse-keeper who had joined the firm in 1923 and retired in 1966. On the left there is a public bar and, on the right, a pair of interconnected rooms which are named together as 'Saloon Lounge' on the outside door.

But as you go into this posher side of the pub there is another small, snug-like room which seems a bit out of place. It is said to have been intended for an off-sales compartment but this idea was dropped - this seems very plausible since off-sales from the pub were being consigned to history in 1968.

There are many features at the Charlie Butler which are characteristic of contemporary design - the zigzag planning of the windows, the bevelled tiles below them, the lapped bar counter, bare stone fire-surround on the saloon-lounge side, and the display cabinets between two halves of the posher side.

It is now hard for a traditional, community pub in this locality to perform to its full potential and it is expected the Charlie Butler will be going down the knacker's yard. It is expected to be demolished to



make way for a new (more food-orientated?) establishment with flats above.

So if you want to take a look at how pubs were being built in the 1960s, hurry along while you can. The pub is just a few minutes walk from Mortlake railway station (20 minutes from Waterloo) and I can vouch for the quality of the beer.

Geoff Brandwood

Photography: Robert Preston



FOND FAREWELL AT THE PRIORY ARMS

Gary and Nicky Morris, leaving the Priory Arms, Stockwell, at the end of November, are pictured here presented by Martin Butler, chairman of CAMRA SW London Branch, with a farewell gift marking 20 years of glorious beers and warm friendship.



A STROLL AROUND WC1

It is some two years since CAMRA published a Guide to Holborn and Bloomsbury, and so it seemed a good time to take stock. In part, this was prompted by a report in Capital Pubcheck 179 that there was a real ale outlet on New Oxford Street by the name of Nudge. Sadly, this proved to be false - it is now a bar and grill called the Daily; there were two handpumps but no longer used. To take comfort, we popped over the road into the Old Crown for an excellent drop of Adnams Broadside.

More bad news awaited us as we headed down Bloomsbury Way. The Bull & Mouth was totally boarded up with a 'for lease' sign displayed. Let's hope we don't lose this pub to some other commercial activity. Turning on to Southampton Row, the Ivy House beckoned - only one beer on, Fuller's Jack Frost but in good form.

If you leave by turning right down the side road, you cross over to Procter Street and the Square Pig. I know it was a Friday night but this place was packed to the gunnels. Although a young crowd, a fair amount of cask ale was being pulled - Adnams Broadside, Greene King IPA and Fuller's Pride seemed to be the regulars, with Young's Special as a guest, albeit not on at the time.

Turning north and back up Southampton Row, you pass the Bonington Hotel, which still has hand-pumped Tetley Bitter on sale. But we turned into Cosmo Place for an excellent Theakston's Old Peculier at the Swan, our first beer that might be con-

sidered a winter ale. Other beers on included Young's Bitter and Special.

Only a few doors away is the Queen's Larder, where Ringwood 49er was an unusual and welcome tipple. This is a great little pub where Adnams Bitter and London Pride can also be sampled. If you get hungry and don't fancy pub grub, pop into the excellent Cosmoba Italian restaurant, which sits between the two pubs.

Heading back north up to Russell Square, there is a new outlet to record - the Night and Day. This is a busy bar fronting the Imperial Hotel, with huge picture windows, split level seating, and a mix of light pine and black quarry tile flooring. Beers on sale at the time were Greene King IPA, Abbot and 1799 plus Shepherd Neame Spitfire, although this had just run out!

Turning right and going up Bedford Way, we came to the London Pub. This is part of the Royal National Hotel, in itself part of the same hotel chain as the Imperial - Imperial London Hotels Ltd. The bar was frequented by a number of Scunthorpe fans up for the cup match with Chelsea, imbibing Greene King IPA and Abbot. It was good to see a number of hotels, usually deserts for real ale, offering drops of the good stuff.

So a tour that started with a bit of disappointment turned out to find some good real ale alive and kicking around and about Southampton Row and Russell Square.

John Cryne

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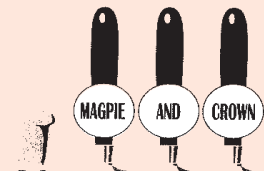
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- ◆ Cycle rack
- ◆ 2005 Good Beer Guide
- ◆ Beers from Grand Union and Twickenham Breweries

AT THE TIME OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT WE HAVE SERVED ~~1342~~ 1351 DIFFERENT BEERS

Steve and the staff look forward to seeing you soon



LIFE'S TOO SHORT TO DRINK BAD BEER

.....or so says the tag line of this new West London Brewery.

After a long gestation period, the first brews from a new brewing company, Twickenham Fine Ales, finally hit the trade during early November. Initially they are brewing two regular brews: Crane Sundancer, a 3.7% light coloured, hoppy session beer and Twickenham Original, a stronger, darker 4.2% traditional bitter ale. On my visit to the Crane Brewery at the end of November, Managing Director Steve Brown hinted at a possible stronger Xmas ale, but gave no further details. The two regular beers are being fine tuned and already later brews of the Twickenham Original have had darker malts added to give a darker colour and more rounded flavour.

TFA are using a 10 barrel brewing plant purchased from the Springhead Brewery, Nottingham, who have recently expanded to a 50 barrel brew length themselves. They were fortunate to acquire a 1200 sq ft brewing site close to Twickenham Green in Edwin Road, Twickenham, adjacent to the River Crane - hence the Crane Brewery moniker. In addition to MD Steve Brown, TFA consists of drayman and assistant brewer Geoff Neat and head brewer Eddie Baines whose 10 years brewing experience includes stints at Firkin, Sweet William, Holt & Deakin, Hopdaemon and Pacific Oriental breweries. They also have advisor Jerry Scanlon - he of the Yiewsley, Middlesex 1990's venture Scanlon's Fine Ales - on board.

Owing to restrictions caused by an initial lack of regular outlets and a restrictive number of available casks, TFA have started by brewing three times a

fortnight but hope to increase that to at least twice a week in early 2005. The plant could realistically brew daily but is limited by the number of fermentation vessels and available casks. Their beers have already been made available in several local

Twickenham outlets as well as in venues further afield such as Croydon (Beer Circus), Godalming (Red Lion) and Windlesham (Half Moon). My own tastings of the first batch of Original at The Feather's, Laleham and the third brew of Sundancer at The Barley Mow, Shepperton, were very positive. After a well deserved sales push in the run-up to Christmas, various up and coming RFU fixtures at Twickenham, including the Six Nations tournament, should do TFA no harm!

Finally, for those CAMRA members with deep pockets, TFA are still looking for investors with a minimum outlay of £500. For further details, see their website www.twickenham-fine-ales.co.uk or contact the brewery.

Bob Inman



T.J. Duffy



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BOOK REVIEWS

LICENSED TO SELL

When occasion arises, drink a toast to Messrs Brandwood, Davison and Slaughter who, in the course of researching *Licensed to Sell*, visited many hundreds of pubs but, in the interests of scholarship, drank very little in them! The result is a highly attractive book with an accessible text, superb photographs and graphics. It is the best study of the historic pub in print, standing alongside Mark Girouard's classic on the Victorian pub but providing in-depth coverage of the English regions and, in a separate chapter, the distinctive drinking establishments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Girouard concentrated on London). The book has four great strengths that will commend it to all readers. First, it is solidly grounded in the history of the key trades (brewing and dispensing alcoholic drink) and the opposition to pubs (magistrates and the temperance movement), with much original research and an impressive command of the specialist literature. Second, it treats the physical evidence, the fabric and fittings of the pubs themselves, as primary, throwing much new light on how pubs functioned, and how publicans and punters behaved in them. Thirdly, the book is designed to be used as well as read, with very good geographical and general indexes. Above all, *Licensed to Sell* has the best photographic coverage of historic pubs available in a single publication - excellent modern and historic photographs, contemporary cartoons (the early Victorian lampoon on page 35 of a London Temperance Society meeting, chaired by Mr Drainerndry presenting a recently purchased quantity of Croydon Canal water, has never appeared in print before), together with excellent plans, newly drawn for the book by John Vallender. It provides much new information on London pubs and, hopefully, will entice London drinkers out of the metropolis (additionally armed with the CAMRA Good Beer Guide and the National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors). The publishers (English Heritage in association with CAMRA) are to be congratulated on producing an excellent book at a highly attractive price. If you

missed this one for Christmas, try the next appropriate festival - perhaps Lent will do!

Martin Cherry

Geoff Brandwood, Andrew Davison and Michael Slaughter (with a foreword by Bill Bryson), *Licensed to Sell. The history and heritage of the public house* (English Heritage, 2004). 192pp, c.300 illustrations (all colour except for historic photographs). £14.99.

THE BOOK OF BEER KNOWLEDGE

Essential wisdom for the discerning drinker

This new CAMRA book, compiled by Jeff Evans, was published in good time for Christmas; so many of you will have already found it in your stocking and will now be among the most informed drinkers on the planet.

For those of you who do not have such considerate friends and family, now is the time to spend some of your pocket money on this informative volume.

The next time you are in the pub, you will then be able to impress your drinking buddies with such pearls of wisdom such as 'did you know the Polish word for beer is Piwo?' or 'there is a town called Beer in Somalia'.

Compiled and presented in the style of other recent miscellany publications, this is a unique collection of entertaining trivia for beer lovers. There are over 200 entries covering everything from fictional landlords of soap pubs to the harsh facts detailing the world's biggest brewers; from bizarre beer names to the serious subject of fermentation; from the weighty associations of beer in literature to the populist world of Homer Simpson and his drinking companions.

Just about small enough for a coat pocket, armed with this book you will never again be lost for words in the pub.

Copies are available direct from CAMRA and cost £9.99 with the usual discount for CAMRA members. Copies are also likely to be available at forthcoming London beer festivals.

Steve Williams

SPBW LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

The Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood has voted the Dog & Bell in Deptford as its best London pub. It's the second time in 4 years that this fine back street free house has won the award. The judges also gave honourable mentions to the Oakdale Arms in Harringay and the Sekforde Arms, Clerkenwell.

The Dog & Bell should need no introduction to readers of London Drinker; and if you've not been there yet you are strongly recommended to rectify this omission at the earliest opportunity! You'll find Fuller's London Pride and ESB alongside

three guest beers from small breweries at competitive prices, all served in prime condition. You'll get a friendly welcome and efficient service; it's a quiet pub which encourages conversation, or you can look at the fish tank, play bar billiards or take part in the Sunday evening quiz.

Charlie and Eileen Gallagher, who have run the Dog & Bell for 16 years, were presented with their award on 24 January. If you want to find out more about this Pub of the Year competition, and the SPBW in general, check our website at www.spbw.com.



Fuller's Head Brewer John Keeling regularly visits our pubs opening the book on 160 years of brewing know-how.

Visit our website for full details of where John will be visiting next & a full listing of our great pubs.

www.fullers.co.uk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

THE GLOBE IN MORNING LANE

20 Morning Lane (opposite Tesco car-park entrance), Central Hackney, London E9.

The Globe in Morning Lane must be one of East London's best-kept secrets. Tucked away just around the corner from the Hackney Empire theatre on Mare Street, this unpretentious and very friendly little pub serves up some of the best home-cooked food, real ale and music that the capital has to offer.

Landlord Steve Powell, a former boxer, says the Globe has more variety than the Empire, and he's probably right! On Sunday afternoons people travel from as far afield as Bedford, Broadstairs and even Lewes to hear some of the best Trad and New Orleans jazz bands in the UK. It's always packed and the dance-floor is full. There's a different band every week, and the Globe certainly pulls in the best from all over the country.

There's more jazz and swing on Thursday evenings with Jimmy Gill and the Graham West Trio and on Saturday evenings the Graham West Trio are joined by Billy Andrews. Members of the audience often get up and join in (and for those who enjoy that sort of thing the Globe also hosts a karaoke evening every Friday). On Monday there's a blues jam hosted by the Billy Chong Blues Revue. All the music events are free to enter.

On Monday to Saturday lunch-times, when the Globe's stage is transformed into a restaurant area, Steve's wife Gill and her staff serve freshly-cooked food prepared while you wait. It's my favourite pub grub anywhere, and luckily I now work just around the corner so often eat there at lunch-time. Try it - you won't be disappointed! On Sundays the kitchen is closed but free bar-snacks (baked potatoes, sausages, chicken satay, cheese & biscuits, prawns etc) are provided during the jazz afternoons, which run from 12.30 until 3.30pm.

As for the beer, the Globe is owned by Enterprise Inns and the beer comes via Interbrew (the Belgian firm that does Stella Artois). There's currently a choice of Fuller's London Pride, Bass or Young's ordinary bitter. Until recently Greene King Abbot was on, but the Bass has just taken over. Young's is the official guest ale and is only £1.50 per pint. There's also the usual choice of bottled beers and wines. I must say the beer is always very well kept indeed.

Now that the secret's out, I'll look forward to seeing more London Drinkers at the Globe!

Katy Andrews

Dear Editor

THEN AND NOW

Being born and bred in Petersham, I was very pleased to see Al Ferrier's article 'Station to Station:

A Kingston to Richmond crawl' in the December/January edition. It certainly brought back memories of my formative drinking days of the late sixties/early seventies at two pubs in particular.

I can safely say that my first 'local' was the Dysart Arms (as it was in those days) when I was about 16. It was a friendly, ex-Hodgsons Kingston Brewery, mock-tudor pub with a basic public bar (with dart-board) to the left and a cosy saloon bar to the right. Keg John Courage and Tavern were the only 'draught' beers in those days at 2/9d a pint. It was run for many, many years by landlord Jim Tyrrell (I went to primary school with his son from 1960 to 1965, before he moved to Bexhill when his parents split up!). To the best of my knowledge, Jim continued running the Dysart well into the 1980s, by which time cask ale had been re-introduced in the shape of Courage Best and Directors.

After Jim retired, the bars were knocked into one and backwards into the erstwhile living areas and food became more important. The former car-park at the front was turned into a trendy 'bijou beer garden' area (although it still resembled a car-park with tables!), and the name was changed to 'Dysarts'.

More recently, it has had a further makeover and received the full 'Henry VIII' baronial hall treatment - and what an interior design monstrosity it is now! I wonder if Laurence Llewellyn Bowen was responsible for this one? I sadly made a visit for old times' sake while revisiting the area last summer and was shocked and disgusted at the changes that have been made. At that time they were selling lacklustre Young's Bitter and Fuller's London Pride at a mind-blowing £2-80 a pint. Sadly, I will not be returning to this old haunt!

In approx 1972 my drinking apprenticeship took a positive turn when I discovered the inner delights of The Tudor Close, below the Richmond Terrace. It would always have all three Brakspears ales on hand-pump: Ordinary, Special and either Mild or Old, depending on the time of year. In addition, I also experienced my first pint of Felinfoel Double Dragon (amongst others) here. It used to be heaving on a Friday or Saturday evening and possessed a bar-billiards table in the back bar and a wonderful, graffiti strewn gents. Does anybody remember the 'Lies' soap-powder box (the 'pack of Lies'), or the beer jug with a hole in it? Non-regulars would be served a pint in it (the barman keeping a strategically placed digit over the hole while pouring it). As it was placed on the bar, beer would start to pour out of it, to the amazement of the customer!

Sadly, this gem was bought by Yorkshire brewers Sam Smiths in the late seventies, closed for months of 'refurbishment' when they ripped out all the tudor panelling (and the pub's life and soul with it) and reopened it as The Rose of York. I was saddened to

hear that it is now 'all-keg.

Finally, as an aside, I had a part-time job in the New Inn on Ham Common in 1971 when it was an all-keg Watney house. I'm pleased to read that at least one pub in that area has seen changes for the better in the intervening 30 years! Question: is the old free-standing public convenience still in existence on the roadside between the New Inn and the Fox & Goose?

Bob Inman

Egham (North Surrey Branch)

Dear Editor

THE SHIP & SHOVEL(L)

Since it reopened (after lying derelict for a number of years) the Ship and Shovel has indeed been named for Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, as reported by Judith Black in London Drinker (Soane's Sweet Homes). However, back in the eighties the pub was called the Ship and Shovel, and had a framed note on a wall in the bar stating that it was so named because it stood on the site of a coal unloading wharf. I seem to recall that the pub sign also depicted this activity. So the 2004 GBG is correct about the derivation of the previous name, if not the current one.

Shovel, widely (though possibly wrongly) held responsible for the deaths of over 2,000 men under his command, seems an unlikely figure to commemorate. Although it's almost certain that the rededication of the pub was deliberate, it just may have been the result of sloppy research.

Ray Manchester

Lewisham

Dear Editor

While I agree with the December editorial that real ale's natural environment is the pub, there are some times when a visit to the pub is not a realistic possibility, the evening of Dec 25 for example. Even bottled versions of well known real ales tend not to be bottle conditioned and I always assume that bottled beer is not bottle conditioned unless the label specifically states that it is.

I was therefore most pleasantly surprised to discover that my local Asda supermarket stocked three bottle conditioned ales allowing me to have a decent beer on Christmas night. They were Coniston Bluebird (3 bottles for £4), Fuller's 1845 and a German wheat beer. A trip to my local Tesco's was less fruitful, although Duvel and a wheat beer were available.

Colin Price

Barking

Dear Editor

I have created a website where anybody can add pictures and words about the loss of pubs in London

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(and elsewhere in the UK). The address is: <http://www.dead-pubs-society.org.uk/>

The software in use is the same as 'Wikipedia'. Please register before you use the site, which will help you keep track of your contributions. Of particular interest are 'before and after' images.

I have used the information from the excellent guides (for City and East London pubs) by Keith Emmerson which are freely available on the web to make a start on this huge project.

Gordon Joly

gordon.joly@pobox.com

Dear Editor

Regarding Gerry Hayward's letter about the renaming of Interbrew and cunnilingus, the phrase, 'pussy in a glass', describing a superlative pint, springs immediately to mind. InBev, we salute you!

CAMRA West London Branch:

Alex Langford, Chairman

Bryan Smith, Treasurer

Kimberly Martin, Branch Secretary

Alasdair Boyd, Social Secretary

Hugh Armstrong, Brewery Liaison Officer

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BRANCH DIARIES

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA contacts and events. This is where branches can say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for February and March 2005 are listed below.

Branch meetings and socials are open to all - everyone is welcome to come along.

ALL LONDON EVENTS

February - Mon 14-Fri 18 (12-9 daily) Exhibition. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). In association with Southwark Local Studies Library and others, the London Pubs Group is staging a small exhibition the week before National Pubs Week, celebrating the British pub and the hop trade in Southwark. Even lager drinkers are welcome!

March - Wed 30 (8pm) London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

Jane Jephcote 020-7973 3102 (W)

February - Sat 19 National Pubs Week Daytime crawl of Chiswick and Brentford. Meet (12 noon) Tabard, 2 Bath Rd, W4, then to include (1pm) Devonshire House, 126 Devonshire Rd; (2pm) Duke of York, 107 Devonshire Rd; (3pm) Old Pack Horse, 434 Chiswick High Rd; (4.15) Pilot, 56 Wellesley Rd; (5pm) Waggon & Horses, 26 Kew Bridge Rd, TW8; (6.30) Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Rd.

March - Wed 16 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

BEXLEY

Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H), contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Terry Hewitt 020-8660 5931 (H), 020-7918 3242(W)

February - Wed 16 N. Croydon crawl: Fishermans Arms, 78 Windmill Rd (dep 9.15); then Lion, Pawsons Rd and Victoria Cross, 228 Bensham La. - **Tue 22** (8.30) Branch mtg, Dog & Bull (upstairs room), 24 Surrey St, Croydon.

March - Sat 5 Beer of the Festival presentation trip to Castle Rock Brewery, Nottingham. - **Wed 9** S. Croydon crawl: Croham Arms, 65 Croham Rd (dep 9.15); then Stag & Hounds, 26 Selsdon Rd and Sky Lark, 34 Southend. - **Thu 31** (8.30) AGM & Branch mtg, Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton. Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

Roy Jenner 020-7502 0984 (3pm-9pm only) Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Sandy Ward 020-8884 0075 (H), publicity@camra-enfield-and-barnet.org.uk

February - Wed 2 (9pm) Social. Whole Hog, Green La, Palmers Green N13. - **Tue 8** East Finchley N2 two pub social: (8.30) Five Bells; (9.45) Windsor Castle. - **Thu 17** Enfield EN1 two pub social: (8.30) Old Wheatsheaf; (9.45) Stag. - **Wed 23** Social. Hadley Hotel, Hadley Rd, Barnet EN5. - **Sat 26** Pub Survey Crawl. Start (12.30) Cock & Dragon, Cockfosters. Contact Branch for further information.

March - Tue 1 (9pm) GBG 2006 selection mtg. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - **Thu 10** (9pm) Catcher in the Rye, Regents Park Rd, Finchley N3. - **Wed 16** (9pm) London Drinker Beer Festival working social. The Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1. - **Wed 23** (9pm) Social. Enfield Conservative Club, Old Park Ave, Enfield EN2. - **Thu 31** (9pm) London Drinker pick up. Lord Nelson, 4 West End La, Barnet EN5

News Grp:

camraenfieldandbarnet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Website: camra-enfield-and-barnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H) 020-8540 1901 (W), kandl@camrasurrey.org.uk

February - Tue 1 (8pm) Mail-out social. Surrey County Staff Club, Penrhyn Rd, Kingston. - **Thu 3** Long Ditton pub crawl: (8pm) Plough & Harrow, Ditton Hill Rd; then New Inn, Angel, Ferry Tavern, City Arms and finishing at Lamb, Surbiton. - **Thu 10** (8pm) Social at Battersea Beer Festival. - **Thu 17** (8pm) Branch AGM, Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston. - **Thu 24** National Pubs Week tour of Kingston riverside pubs: (8pm) Old Kings Head, Hampton Court Rd, Hampton Wick, then crossing river to Bishop out of Residence, etc.

March - Tue 1 (8.15), Branch mtg. New Prince, Ewell Rd, Surbiton Royal. - **Thu 3** (8pm) GBG 2006 selection mtg. Albert Arms, Kingston Hill. - **Thu 17** (8pm) Social at London Drinker Beer Festival. - **Tue 22** (7.30) Pub meal. Spring Grove, Bloomfield Rd, Kingston. - **Thu 24** (8.30) Joint Social with Surrey/Hants Borders Branch. Plough, High Rd, Byfleet.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk/branches/kl.htm

NORTH LONDON

Social contact: Mike Rose 07986 458517, lynnmikeroose@aol.com; Branch contact: Mick Lewis 020-7935 1350 or 07952 244687 (M), orientmoron@yahoo.com

February - Tue 1 Harringay N4 Two pub social: (8pm) Salisbury, 1 Grand Parade, Green Lanes; then Oakdale Arms, 283 Hermitage Rd. - **Tue 8** (8pm) GBG 2006 selection mtg., Wenlock Arms, Wenlock Rd, N1. - **Tue 15** (8pm) London Drinker Beer Festival planning meeting. Wenlock Arms. - **Tue 22** National Pubs Week NW5 Social: (8pm) Junction Tavern, 101 Fortis Rd; then Lord Palmerston and Dartmouth Arms. - **Mon 28** (8pm) Islington Guide launch. Wenlock Arms.

March - Tue 8 N1 Two pub social: (8pm) Rosemary Branch, Shepperton Rd; then Northgate, Southgate Rd. - **Wed 16 - Fri 18** London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival (see page 43) - **Tue 22** (8pm) Social. Head of Steam, Euston Station Colonnade, NW1. - **Wed 30** (6pm) 15 year celebration party. Duke of Hamilton, New End, Hampstead, NW3.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUSLOW

Brian Kirtan 020-8384 7284 (H), sk014j4253@blueyonder.co.uk

February - Thu 3 (8.30) Social, final listing for GBG 2006 and issue of survey forms. Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Rd, Brentford. - **Thu 10** (8pm) Social at Battersea Beer Festival: meet near stage 8pm, 9pm and 10pm. - **Thu 17** (8.30) Mtg and return of GBG 2006 survey forms. Tide End Cottage, 8 Ferry Rd, Teddington. - **Sat 19** (8pm) First National Pubs Week event. Lion, 27 Wick Rd, Teddington. - **Sun 20** (12.30) Sunday lunch social and second NPW event. St Margarets Tavern, 107 St Margarets Rd, St Margarets. - **Tue 22** (7pm) Meet the brewer of Grand Union beers and sample three of them at the Teddington Arms, 38-40 High St, Teddington. - **Wed 23** (8pm) Winner of Cider of the Festival at Twickenham 2004, Hounslow Cider Co-operative, receives his certificate. Come along and sample some award winning cider at the Magpie & Crown, 128 High Stt, Brentford. - **Thu 24** (8pm) Curry night. Come and sample a good range of beers and curry at the Moon on the Square, 30 The Centre, High St, Feltham. - **Fri 25** (8pm) Joint social with West Middlesex Branch. Ealing Park Tavern, 222 South Ealing Rd, W5. - **Sat 26** (8pm) Party night at the Red Lion, our branch pub of the year, 92 Linkfield Rd, Isleworth.

March - Thu 10 (8.30) Branch mtg. Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd, Hampton Hill. - **Wed 16** Social at London Drinker Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1: meet by Products Stand 6pm, 7pm and 8pm. - **Tue 29** Second mtg for 2005 Twickenham Beer Festival: (8pm) Eel Pie, then on to the Fox, Church St, Twickenham.

Website: www.camra.org.uk/richmond

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Richard Martin 020-8402 0424

February - Mon 7 (8pm) Branch/cttee mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. - **Wed 16** Social. Founders Arms, Hopton St, SE1. - **Mon 21** (8pm) Catford Beer Festival planning mtg. Dog & Bell, Prince St, Deptford SE8. - **Sat 26** (7.30) Social to end National Pubs Week. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. You are invited to attend dressed in some way (a hat or even more adventurous) to represent the name of a pub. Should be good for a giggle. - **Mon 28** Lewisham SE13

BRANCH DIARIES

Two pub social: (8pm) Watch House, High St; then Jordan, High St (next to Lewisham Hospital).

March - Thu 10 (8pm) Branch/cttee mtg. Old Kings Head, Kings Head Yard, 45-49 Borough High St, SE1; then on to Charles Dickens, 160 Union St, SE1. - **Thu 17** Social at London Drinker Beer Festival, The Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1. - **Mon 21** (8pm) Catford Beer Festival planning mtg. Dog & Bell, 116 Prince St, SE8. - **Tue 29** (8pm) Social. Oakhill Tavern, 90 Bromley Rd, Beckenham BR3.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H), swessex@clara.co.uk

February - Wed 2 (8.30) Crib & Pub Games social, Brave Nelson, 138 Woodman Rd, Warley - **Wed 9** (8.30) Branch AGM. Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd (A104), Woodford Green. Nominations and motions/matters for discussion to Secretary: Andrew Clifton, 46 Havering Dr, Romford RM1 4BH or by e-mail by Wed 2 February. - **Tue 15** (8.30) Social. Theobald Arms, 141 Argent St/King's Walk, Grays. - **Mon 21** (8.30) Social. Golden Lion, 2 High St, Romford.

March - Tue 1 (8.30) GBG 2006 selection mtg (London Area), Britannia, 1 Church Rd, Barking - **Wed 9** Double East of Thurrock Social: (8.30) White Lion, Lion Hill (B1420), Fobbing; (9.45) Bell, High Rd, Horndon on the Hill. - **Mon 15** (8.30) GBG 2006 selection mtg (Essex Area), Foxhound, 18 High Rd (B188), Orsett - **Wed 23** Brentwood crawl. Start (8.30) Brewery Tap, 28 Primrose Hill/Kings Rd, proceeding via Gardeners Arms, 27 Hart St and ending up in Swan 123 High St (A128).

Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 2860 (W), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk

February - Wed 9-Fri 11 Fifteenth Battersea Beer Festival. See page 8. - **Thu 17** (7.30). Branch/cttee mtg. Windmill on the Common, Clapham Common South Side, SW4 - **Thu 24** National Pubs Week crawl of multi-roomed pubs. Meet (6.30-7pm) Spread Eagle, 71 Wandsworth High St, SW18. - **Sun 27** (12.15) GBG 2006 selection mtg, Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19 followed (approx 4pm) by post-festival social.

March - Wed 23 Two pub social: (6.30- pm) Hope, 1 Bellevue Rd, Wandsworth Common SW17; then (from 8pm) Nightingale, 97 Nightingale La, Balham SW12.

Website: www.swlcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan 01923 230104, branch@watfordcamra.org.uk

February - Sun 6 (8.30) Quiz night. Southern Cross, Watford. - **Tue 15** (8.30) Open Mic night. Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre, Local Board Rd, Watford. - 19-26 National Pubs Week: **Sat 19** (from 1pm) Social. Rose & Crown, Woodcock Hill, Rickmansworth; **Wed 23** (8.30) New Members' social. Southern Cross, Langley Rd, Watford. New members: turn up and we'll buy you a beer! **Fri 25** Pub of the Year presentation, venue to be announced. Contact branch for details. More NPW events may be added in due course. See the branch website or contact the branch for details. - **Mon 28** (8.15) Branch/cttee mtg. Estcourt Arms, Watford.

March - Thu 3 Bushey Social: (8pm) Three Crowns; (8.45) Lazy Fox; (9.30) Horse & Chains; (10pm) Swan. - **Tue 8** (8.30) International Women's' Day Social. Bar Bodega, The Parade, Watford. Women: turn up and we'll buy you a beer! - **Wed 16** (from 6pm) Social at London Drinker Beer Festival. Meet at Products Stand. - **Thu 24** Watford three pub social: (8.30) Essex Arms; (9.30) Southern Cross; (10.15) Nascot Arms. - **Mon 28** (8pm) Branch AGM, Estcourt Arms, Watford.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Alasdair Boyd (Social Secretary) 020 7930 9871 ext 143 (9am-2.45/6pm-9.30 Mon-Fri or leave message), banqueting@nlc.org.uk Fax: 020-7839 4768

February - Tue 1 Westminster tour: (8pm) Adam & Eve, 81 Petty France; (8.45) Buckingham Arms, 62 Petty France (9.30) Colonies, 25 Wilfred St; (10.15) Cask & Glass, 39 Palace St. - **Wed 2**

Horseferry Rd crawl: (8pm) White Horse & Bower, 86 Horseferry Rd; (8.45) Royal Oak, 2 Regency St; (9.30) Old Monk, junction of Strutton Ground and Victoria St. - **Fri 11** (8pm) Social at Battersea Beer Festival. Meet at Young's stillage. - **Mon 14** (8pm) Henry Holland, 39 Duke St W1. - **Thu 17** Pimlico two-pub social: (8pm) Rising Sun, 44 Ebury Bridge Rd; (9.30) Horse & Hounds, 29 Passmore St. - **Mon 21** National Pubs Week SW1 tour (Trafalgar Square to St James Park Tube): (7.30) Lord Moon of the Mall, 16 Whitehall; (8.15) Clarence, 53 Whitehall; (9.15) St Stephen's Tavern, 10 Bridge St; (9.45) Westminster Arms, 9 Storey's Gate; (10.30) Sanctuary House Hotel, 33 Tothill St. - **Tue 22** National Pubs Week SW1 tour (Hyde Park Corner to Sloane Square Tube): (7pm) Grenadier, 18 Wilton Row; (7.30) Wilton Arms, 71 Kinnerton St; (8pm) Nag's Head, 53 Kinnerton St; (8.45) Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews West; (9.30) Antelope, 22 Eaton Terrace; (10.30) Duke of Wellington, 63 Eaton Terr. - **Mon 28** Three-pubs in Chelsea, SW3: (8pm) Pig's Ear, 35 Old Church St; (9pm) Bosun's Locker, 138A King's Rd; (10pm) Cooper's Arms, 87 Flood St.

March - Tue 1 Branch/cttee mtg:(8pm) Uxbridge Arms, 13 Uxbridge St, W8; (9.30) Churchill Arms, 119 Kensington Church St, W8. - **Wed 9** (8pm) Knights Templar, 95 Chancery La, WC2. - **Mon 14** (8pm) George IV, 185 Chiswick High Rd, W4. - **Fri 18** (8 pm) Social at London Drinker Beer Festival. Meet at Cider Bar. - **Mon 21** (8pm) Seven Stars 53/4 Carey St WC2. - **Fri 29** Trip to Maida Vale W9: (9pm) Warrington Hotel, 95 Warrington Cresc; (9.30) Warwick Castle, 6 Warwick Pl.

WEST MIDDLESEX

Paul Dabrowski (Social Secretary) 020-8571-9146 (H),

0118-923-7445 (W), paul.dabrowski@thameswater.co.uk

February - Thu 3 (8pm) Joint social with Reading & Mid-Berks and Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Branches. Conservative Club, Fairlawn, off High St, Southall, then curry in The Broadway. - **Wed 9** (8.30) Branch mtg. Duke of York, Steyne Rd, Acton. - **Wed 16** (8.30) Social. Botwell Inn, Coldharbour La, Hayes. - **Tue 22** (8.30) Joint NPW 'Meet the Brewer' social with Richmond & Hounslow Branch. Teddington Arms, High St, Teddington. - **Fri 25** (8.30) Joint NPW Social with Richmond & Hounslow Branch. Ealing Park Tavern, South Ealing Rd, New Brentford.

March - Wed 2 (8pm) GBG 2006 final selection. Conservative & Unionist Club, Fairlawn, Southall. - **Wed 9** (8.30) Branch mtg. Jolly Gardeners, High St, Cranford. - **Tue 15** (8.30) Social. West London Trades Union Club, High St, Acton. - **Thu 24** Uxbridge two-pub social: (8pm) Baroosh, High St; then Queen's Head, Windsor St.

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May 2005 edition: 11th March 2005. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

LAGRAD LONDON GROUP

LAGRAD (Lesbian and Gay Real Ale Drinkers) is a group of CAMRA members extending the Campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. The London group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month from 7pm onwards in the upstairs bar of the King's Arms, 23 Poland St, London W1; the Surrey & Sussex group on the last Friday of every month from 9.30 onwards in the back bar of the Bedford Tavern, Western St, Brighton, and the Scottish Group in the Regent, 2 Montrose Terrace, Edinburgh on the first Monday of every month from 8.30 onwards. All welcome to all events. Contact the group convenor on LAGRAD@ukgateway.net, or visit www.goldings.demon.co.uk/quereale/

February - Wed 2 (7pm). New members' social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St, W1, (020-7734 5907). - **Wed 9** (6pm) Visit to Battersea Beer Festival. - **Thu 24** Two pub crawl: (6pm) Comptons, Old Compton St. London Pride; (7.30) Half Way to Heaven, 7 Duncannon St, WC2, (020-7930 8312). Usually has Draught Bass and Fuller's London Pride.

March - Wed 2 (7pm) Social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St - **Wed 23** (7pm) Queens Head, 25-27 Tryon St, SW3, (020-7589 0262). Courage Directors plus a guest, food (sometimes) available.

CASK MARQUE AWARDS

Formed in 1997, Cask Marque is an independent accreditation scheme jointly funded by participating brewers and retailers, which recognises excellence in the service of cask ale. The award is made not to the pub but to the licensee, who has to

pass two unannounced inspections with assessors sampling up to six beers checking temperature, appearance, aroma and taste. Further inspections are made twice a year, with additional random inspections triggered by customer comment.

ADDITIONS

New Cask Marque awards to licensees of pubs in Greater London notified since November are listed below.

CENTRAL

EC2, LORD ABERCONWAY, 73 Old Bond St. M&B. (E33, U88, U151, U181)

EC2, WHITE HART, 24 Crown Place. M&B. (E36, U66, U181)

EC2, WOODINS SHADES, 212 Bishopsgate. M&B. (E36, U181)

EC3, CRUTCHED FRIAR, 39-41 Crutched Friars. M&B. (U135, U181)

EC4, OLDE WATLING (YE), 29 Watling St. M&B. (E55, U181)

W1(Mar), PONTEFRAC CASTLE, 71 Wigmore St. M&B. (W35, U89, U100, U181)

W1(May), DUKE OF ALBEMARLE, 6 Stafford St. M&B. (W38, U75, U92, U181)

W1(S), THREE GREYHOUNDS, 25 Greek St. M&B. (W44, U80, U151, U153, U166)

WC2, BEAR & STAFF, 11/12 Bear St. M&B. (W52, U93, U151, U168, U181)

WC2, PORCUPINE, 48 Charing Cross Rd. M&B. (W56, U58, U151, U181)

WC2, PRINCESS OF WALES, 27 Villiers St. M&B. (W56, U73, U108, U119, U160, U181)

WC2, WHITE LION, 24 St James St. M&B. (W57, U74, U181)

EAST

HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER, ORANGE TREE, Orange Tree Hill. M&B. (X68, U151, U171)

WOODFORD BRIDGE, CROWN & CROOKED BILLET, 13 Cross Rd. M&B. (X131, U175, U181)

SOUTH EAST

SE11, DUCHY ARMS, 63 Sandcroft St. Enterprise. (SE106, U181)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), JOINERS ARMS, 44 Elizabeth St. S&N, formerly VINO VERITAS. (SW40, U167)

SW1(SJ), BLUE POSTS, 6 Bennet St. S&N. (SW45, U181)

SW1(SJ), GOLDEN LION, 25 King St. M&B. (SW45, U151, U181)

SW1(W), FEATHERS, 18/20 Broadway. M&B. (SW48, U181)

SW7, SOUTHSIDE BAR, Prince's Gdns. Free House. (U160)

KEW, GREYHOUND, 82 Kew Green. Enterprise. (SW138, U181)

RICHMOND, ALL BAR ONE, 9/11 Hill St. M&B. (SW154)

DELETION

The following outlet no longer holds the Cask Marque award.

NORTH WEST

ALPERTON, PLOUGH

Over 3,150 licensees have the Cask Marque award. The beer in their outlets has been independently inspected for beer quality.

Visit the Cask Marque Website www.cask-marque.co.uk and download a regional guide.

Why not visit a brewery? www.visitabrewery.co.uk

Cask Marque - for the licensee who serves the 'perfect pint' of cask beer.



The Cask Marque Trust, Seedbed Centre, Severalls Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 9HT
Tel: 01206 752212

The 'All New' Narrowboat

St Peter Street, London N1



...a unique canal-side pub introducing real ales to the heart of Islington

Serving Fuller's London Pride, Adnams Best & Broadside

The new Towpath Bar now open

Function Room/Bar available

For more information telephone:

020 7288 0572

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 181

The aim of 'Capital Pubcheck' is to share information about the latest happenings on the London pub scene including new pub and bar openings, name changes, acquisitions, closures, notable changes to beer ranges etc.

Information is gathered from a variety of sources including London Drinker readers, individual CAMRA members and branch contacts, breweries, pub operators, landlords etc. If you would like to contribute to 'Pubcheck' please send your news to the address below.

Newly acquired pubs by Fuller's, Shepherd Neame and Young's are reported in Harrow, SW1 Westminster and Bromley respectively. This is offset by the disposal of pubs from the same brewers in SW10 Fulham Road, E3 Bow and WC2 Aldwych. Wetherspoon has transferred its Bromley pub to the Lloyds No 1 Bar chain, but guest beers have been retained. More closures, demolitions and conversions of pubs to other uses across London are

reported, with a notable increase in conversions to restaurants.

Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are provided to enable easy updating. The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to the page numbers in the following guides: E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; H - Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale, 2000 edition; HB - Holborn & Bloomsbury Pub Guide; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; KT - Kingston Pub Guide; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - Real Beer in West London; X - Essex Beer Guide, 9th edition.

If you would like to report changes to pubs or beers, please write to: Capital Pubcheck, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR or e-mail: capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

W1(F), JERUSALEM, 33/34 Rathbone Place. No real ale. Freehouse/basement bar operated by small 'Breakfast Group' pub chain.

W1(Mar), TURNERS, 26 Crawford St. Reopened and renamed **TWO POINT**, H unused. Now renovated as 'bar and kitchen'. (W36, U44, U74, U98, U138, U151, U163, U177, U179)

W1(S), POP, 14 Soho St. No real ale. Freehouse/basement bar operated by small 'Breakfast Group' pub chain.

EAST

E14, GUN, 27 Coldharbour. Adnams: Bitter; Young: Bitter. Reopened and now a Free House, ex-Taylor Walker. (E145, U167)

BARKING, WHITE HORSE, London Rd. Greene King: Morlands Original. (X12, U153, U159, U172, U175, U179)

NORTH WEST

HARROW WEALD, LAURELS, 337 High Rd. No real ale. Free House in former restaurant premises, opened December 2004.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, AUBERGE, 35 Tooley St. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in new mixed use development opened c. early 2003 but not previously reported.

CROYDON, BARELLES, 66 London Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar/restaurant and pizzeria in former shop unit.

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), PAGES BAR, 75 Page St. Renamed

WESTMINSTER. Fuller: London Pride. Refurbished with polished floorboards, mix of seating, etc. Now Free, ex-Bass. Open 12-11 Mon-Fri, closed weekends. Originally WESTMINSTER ARMS until 1988. (SW49)

SW10, BLAH BLAH BAR, 246 Fulham Rd. Reopened and renamed **AD LIB**, still a Free House and no real ale. Formerly 246, MODENSA and FRONT ROOM. (U156, U157, U162, U166, U168).

SW15, IDLE HOUR, 22 Putney High St. Adnams: Bitter. Formerly BIERREX. (SW100, U179)

SW19, COMMON ROOM, 18 High St, Wimbledon. No real ale. Bar/restaurant opened early 2004 in former restaurant premises.

WEST

W4, BIRDCAGE, 122 Chiswick High Rd. Wells: Bombardier. Large single bar layout with bird cages over the front servery and plasma screen. Open 12-11, 12-10.30 Sun. Formerly **RAT & PARROT**, **CHISWICK EYOT** and originally **ROEBUCK**. (W68, U61, U85, U94, U107, U163)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, SIDNEY ARMS, ex-Watney, demolished and planning permission granted for residential development on the site. (E24)

EC1, SPORTSMAN, ex-Whitbread, now being demolished. (E24, U171)

W1(F), STANLEYS, Free, closed, future uncertain. Formerly **R K STANLEYS**. (U134, U166)

W1(May), NELLIS, Free, converted to 'Caprice' pizza restaurant. Formerly **PITCHER & PIANO**. (U161, U171)

WC1, BULL & MOUTH, Spirit, ex-S&N (T&J Bernard), closed and boarded up. Formerly **FALKLAND ARMS** for

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 181

some years. (W46, N22, U106, U141, HB5)

WC1, NUDGE, Free (Lewis & Clarke), renamed **DAILY (THE)**, now a 'bar & grill', H unused. (U179)

WC1, RECESSION, now absorbed into shopping centre as a vacant unit; delete from database. Formerly **BLITZ** and **RUSSELLS**, originally **CAPTAIN CORAM**. (W45, U88, U171)

WC2, COLUMBIA BAR, Free, ex-Young's, converted into 'LSE Garrick' private dining facility for LSE students and staff; delete from database. (U134, U178)

WC2, LONG ISLAND ICED TEA SHOP, S&N, now sells cocktails and bottled beers only; delete from database. (W55, U106)

EAST

E1, BRITANNIA, Ascot, converted to fast food shop. (E62, U99)

E1, CHINA SHIP, ex-Bass, demolished and replaced by office block. (E63, U75)

E1, FUNKY MUNKY, Free, converted to shop. Formerly **LOUNGE**, originally **LORD RODNEYS HEAD** and once a **Banks & Taylor** pub. (E69, U141, U155)

E1, LORD NELSON, ex-Bass, now converted to a shop. (E69, U73, U159)

E1, NORFOLK VILLAGE, ex-Bass, now demolished. (E70, U163)

E1, PRINCE REGENT, ex-Truman, closed. (E71)

E2, BEEHIVE, ex-Watney, now converted to residential

use. (E77, U136)

E2, DOVER CASTLE, Ascot, closed. (E80, U70, U99)

E2, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, ex-Watney, closed and for sale. (E80)

E2, WEAVERS ARMS, ex-Taylor Walker. Is now in use as offices rather than shops as previously reported. (E35, U79, U108, U117)

E3, BROMLEY ARMS, ex-Shepherd Neame, now converted to flats. (E89, U73, U121)

E3, IMPERIAL CROWN, Sycamore Taverns, confirmed now converted to flats. (E90, U89, U159, U174)

E3, RANELAGH ARMS, ex-Courage, now converted to shop and flats. (E92, U159)

E9, LEA TAVERN, Free, H removed. (E121, U79)

E9, VICTORIA, ex-Whitbread, now converted to flats named **Victoria Apartments**. (E122, U152)

E12, EARL OF ESSEX, ex-Courage, H removed. (E133, U162, U165)

E13, EARL DERBY, Free, ex-Taylor Walker, H now removed. (E136, U165, U168)

E14, SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, ex-Watney, closed and boarded up. (E148)

BARKING, WESTBURY ARMS, ex-Inntrepreneur, still closed and now for sale as an 'ex-pub'. (X12, U160)

DAGENHAM, CHURCH ELM, ex-Allied (Ind Coope/Romford), closed and boarded up. (X45)

ILFORD, PLOUGH, ex-Bass, closed and for sale as an 'ex-pub'. (X73)

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership.

	Individual Annual		Joint Annual		Individual Life		Joint Life	
UK and EEC	£18	<input type="checkbox"/>	£21	<input type="checkbox"/>	£325	<input type="checkbox"/>	£378	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£22	<input type="checkbox"/>	£25	<input type="checkbox"/>	£396	<input type="checkbox"/>	£450	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under age 26	£10	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Unemployed/Disabled	£10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date of birth _____					
OAP	£10	<input type="checkbox"/>	£13	<input type="checkbox"/>	£180	<input type="checkbox"/>	£234	<input type="checkbox"/>

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:
Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

NORTH

N1, ADMIRAL KEPPEL, United, vacant unit now in office use. (N37, U109, U152)
N1, ARTFUL DODGER, ex-Whitbread, demolished. Formerly LORD RAGLAN. (N38)
N1, BACKPACKER, Free, now operated as a night club. (N38)
N1, BAR & DINING HOUSE (ISLINGTON), S&N, H removed. Formerly FW'S, FINNEGANS WAKE and MARKET TAVERN. (N51, U109, U152, U157)
N1, DIVAS, Free, converted to offices. (U109)
N1, ECLIPSE, ex-Bass, converted to residential use. (N42)
N1, INDEPENDENT, ex-Whitbread, demolished. (N48)
N1, JACK BEARDS, Free, closed, upper floor in residential use. Formerly VICTORY. (N61, U112, U149)
N1, JAYS, ex-Belhaven, now converted to residential use. Retains pub sign. (N48, U156)
N1, KESTON LODGE, Free, closed and boarded up. Formerly ALL BAR ONE. (U159, U177)
N1, MADISONS, Free, converted to flats. Formerly PRINCE OF WALES. (N55, U136)
N1, MARQUEE, Free, demolished. Formerly NEVADA BAR and GILES. (N51)
N1, MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, ex-Belhaven, still closed. (N51, U147)
N1, OFFORD ARMS, ex-Courage, converted to commercial use. (N53)

N1, OLD IVY HOUSE, Phoenix, closed again. (N54, U112, U152)
N1, PITCHER & PIANO, W&D, H removed. (U121)
N1, PRINCE ALBERT, ex-Courage, converted to flats. (U109, omitted in error from N Guide)
N1, PRINCE ALFRED, ex-Whitbread, closed. (N55)
N1, PURPLE TURTLE BAR, Free, converted to restaurant. (N55)
N1, RED EYE, Free, converted to flats. Formerly LORD NELSON. (N50, U112, U142)
N1, RUSHTONS, Free, converted to residential use. Formerly CARPENTERS ARMS. (N57, U132)
N1, SHADE, ex-Whitbread, converted to Brazilian restaurant named 'Rodizio Rico'. Formerly HOGSHEAD. (U113, U180)
N1, SHAFTESBURY ARMS, ex-Taylor Walker, demolished and replaced by flats. (N57)
N1, SIR ROBERT PEEL, ex-Bass, now ground floor shuttered with residential use above. (N57)
N1, TIBBERTON ARMS, ex-Watney, now converted to residential use. (N60, U147)
N1, WATERSIDE INN, ex-Whitbread, closed, future uncertain. The sad loss of an attractively located modern pub overlooking the Battlesbridge canal basin, originally opened by Hoskins Brewery of Leicester. (N161)
N9, TUDOR INN, S&N, closed and boarded up, reputedly for flats. (N99, U109)
N12, AUTUMN HOUSE, Wizard Inns, H unused. Formerly BELGRAVE, O'NEILLS and PAGES BAR. (N111, U110, U160, U163, U168)



N13, O'CONNORS, Free, converted to shop, (U161)
BARNET (EN5), BLACK HORSE, ex-Benskins, closed (N250, H19)
NEW BARNET (EN4), ALEXANDRA, ex-Bass, H unused. (N245, H83)
NEW BARNET (EN4), BOLT, Free, converted to restaurant. Formerly DEN. (N246, H84)

NORTH WEST

KENTON, KENTON ARMS, Free (SFI), closed, boarded up and for sale. Formerly LITTEN TREE. (U141, U175)
KENTON, PLOUGH, Punch, converted to 'Blue Ginger' Indian restaurant. (W132, U178)
WEALDSTONE, CASE IS ALTERED, M&B, ex-Bass, converted to 'Three Dimensions' Chinese restaurant. (W156, U151)
WEALDSTONE, SAM MAGUIRE, Free, ex-Taylor Walker, closed, future uncertain. Formerly KILKENNY CASTLE, originally QUEENS ARMS. (W156, U175)

SOUTH EAST

SE13, MARLOWES BAR, Wizard Inns, H unused. Formerly BROADWAY and originally QUAGGY DUCK. (U110, U160, U168, U178)
COULSDON, RED LION, S&N, demolished for supermarket development. (3SE229, U48, U98, U107)
CROYDON, BAR MONACO, Wizard Inns, converted to shop. (U131, U168)
CROYDON, BLACK HORSE, ex-Taylor Walker, closed and boarded up. (3SE236, U43, U55)
CROYDON, CUNNINGHAM, Spirit, closed and boarded up, despite campaign by locals to retain it. (3SE239, U176)
CROYDON, HALF MOON, ex-Taylor Walker, closed and boarded up. (3SE243)
CROYDON, MITRE, ex-Bass, closed and boarded up. (3SE245)
CROYDON, YATES'S WINE LODGE, now simply YATES'S, H removed. (U99)
ORPINGTON, WHITE HART. Now part of Spirit's 'Q' chain, H removed. (3SE267, U53, 8K131)
SOUTH CROYDON, STAG, closed, boarded up and for sale. (3SE278, U107)

SOUTH WEST

SW4, LARKHALL TAVERN, ex-Bass, now converted to flats. (SW60, U156)
SW10, FINE LINE, Fuller, sold and converted to Italian café/restaurant named 'Carluccio's Caffè'. Originally STARGAZEY and one of Fuller's early bank conversions. (SW86, U137)
SW10, FULHAM TUP, sold to Massive Pub Co and renamed BRASSERIE DE L'AUBERGE, H removed. Now a Free House/bar and French restaurant. (SW85)
SW10, WATER RAT, ex-Inntrepreneur, now converted to 'Osteria dell' Arancio' restaurant. (SW86, U159, U174)
SW15, MALTESE CAT, Young, closed in October 2004 and due for demolition and replacement by yet more flats. (SW102, U177)
SW15, QUILL, ex-Bass. Already reported as demolished; now flats under construction on site. (SW102, U177)

SW17, SURREY TAVERN, Free, ground floor converted to restaurant and upper floors to flats. (SW110, U142, U151, U157, U164, U165)
SW18, SPOTTED DOG, Woolwich Taverns, H unused. (SW114, U138, U146, U167, U178)
SW19, HORSE & GROOM, ex-Whitbread, H removed. (SW117)
SW19, MARQUIS OF LORNE, H now removed. (SW118, U134)
BEDDINGTON, RED LION. S&N, closed and boarded up. (SW126)
MITCHAM, SKINNERS ARMS, Greene King, closed and boarded up. Formerly HUNGRY HORSE for a while. (SW146, U137)
MITCHAM, THREE KINGS, S&N, closed. (SW147, U157)

WEST

W3, REJ'S, Unique, closed and boarded up. Formerly BONDI BAR and originally PRINCE OF WALES. (W65, U92, U148, U178, U180)
W12, SPRINGBOK BAR, Free (Old Monk), now converted to 'Mimouza' Moroccan restaurant. (U131, U176)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC2, LORD ABERCONWAY. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (E33, U88, U151)
EC2, WHITE HART, 24 Crown Place. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. Note amended address. (E36, U66)
EC2, WOODINS SHADES. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (E36)
EC3, CRUTCHED FRIAR, 39-41 Crutched Friars. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. Note correct address. (U135)
EC4, OLDE WATLING (YE), 29 Watling St. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. Note amended address. (E55)
W1(Mar), PONTEFRACCT CASTLE. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (W35, U89, U100)
W1(May), DUKE OF ALBEMARLE. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (W38, U75, U92)
WC1, WATER RATS. Full name displayed outside is WATER RATS THEATRE BAR. (W51, U67, N32, HB15)
WC2, BEAR & STAFF, 11/12 Bear St. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. Note amended address. (W52, U93, U151, U168)
WC2, HARP, -beers listed except Harvey: Best Bitter; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +Taylor: Landlord; +Guest beers. Formerly WELSH HARP. (W57, U74, U106, U167)
WC2, PORCUPINE. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (W56, U58, U151)
WC2, PRINCESS OF WALES. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (W56, U73, U108, U119, U160)
WC2, WHITE LION. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (W57, U74)



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CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 181

EAST

E3, BLUE ANCHOR, -Guest beers; +Brakspear: Bitter. (E89, U77, U141)

E14, RESOLUTE, -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree. Formerly RESOLUTE TAVERN. (E148, U168)

E18, HOGSHEAD. Now **HOG'S HEAD**, -Boddington: Bitter; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA, +Fuller: London Pride. (U147, U163)

HORNCHURCH, RAILWAY HOTEL. Now simply **RAILWAY**, -beers listed; +Fuller: ESB; +Marston: Pedigree; +Brains: Reverend James. Beers may vary from range of 12-15 available in M&B's Ember Inns pubs. (X71, U122, U151, U163)

ILFORD, RED COW, -Tetley: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA, Morland Old Speckled Hen; +Guest beer. Refurbished. (X73)

WOODFORD BRIDGE, CROWN & CROOKED BILLET. Now part of M&B's Ember Inns chain. (X131, U175)

NORTH

N1, LINCOLN ARMS. Now **LINCOLN LOUNGE**, still no real ale. (N50)

N1, MITRE. Now operated by 'Finn Inns'. (N52)

N1, NIC'S. Renamed **GREEN (THE)**, still no real ale. Formerly **OVERDRAFT**. (U140, U180)

N1, PRINCE ALBERT, -beers listed; +Draught Bass; +2 or 3 Guest beers. (N55)

N1, STEAM PASSAGE, no longer subtitled **FORTY FOUR**, -beers listed; +Adnams:Bitter. (N58, U152)

N2, FIVE BELLS. Refurbished and badged by Spirit as part of its John Barras estate. (N66, U106, U174).

N2, OLD WHITE LION, -Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride; +Oakham: JHB; +Young: Special. Refurbished by M&B. (N66, U153)

N3, OLIVERS. Renamed **WINTERS**. (N70, U144)

N9, RAT & CARROT (ROSIES). Now reverted to **ROSIES**. (N100, U117, U158)

N9, STEPS (KELLYS BAR). Renamed **STEPS (MURRAYS BAR)**. (N101, U160)

N11, BANKERS DRAFT. Renamed **BANK** after a refurbishment as a 'Smith & Jones' pub, a division of Barracuda. -beers listed except Greene King: Abbot; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. (N107, U110, U145, U166)

NORTH WEST

HARROW, RAYNERS HOTEL. Now simply **RAYNERS**. (W113, U106, U152)

HARROW, WHITE HORSE, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Fuller: ESB, Seasonal beer. Former Free House, acquired by Fuller's in October 2004. (W114, U151)

HARROW WEALD, EGANS COSY BAR. Now simply **COSY BAR**. Formerly **PINO BAR**. (U86, U178)

KENTON, SHABEEN. Renamed **CHANDI BARS LTD**, still no real ale. (U137)

SOUTH EAST

SE11, DUCHY ARMS. Now Enterprise, ex-Whitbread. (SE106)

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 181

SE18, DOCKERS BAR. Renamed **PITCH & PINT**, still no real ale. Formerly **MANHATTAN CAFE** and **MILLION HARE**, originally **LORD HOWICK**. (SE169, U102, U159, U166)

BROMLEY, ANGLESEY ARMS, -Shepherd Neame: Best Bitter; +Bishops Finger; +Seasonal beer. Recently extended in sympathy with original. (3SE216, U116, U122)

BROMLEY, RICHMAL CROMPTON, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride and guests; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Marston: Best Bitter, Pedigree. Now badged by Wetherspoons as part of Lloyds No 1 Bar chain. Formerly **WETHERSPOONS**. (U149, U170)

BROMLEY COMMON, TWO DOVES, -beers listed except Young: Bitter; +Young: Special, Seasonal beer; +Smiles: IPA. Free House acquired by Young's in November 2004. Friendly local with large garden. (3SE224, U159).

CROYDON, RISING SUN. Now simply **SUN**. (3SE249, U87)

LOCKSBOTTOM, BLACK HORSE. Now part of M&B's 'Ember Inns' chain. (3SE265, 8K115)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ), BLUE POSTS TAVERN. Now simply **BLUE POSTS**. (SW45)

SW1(SJ), GOLDEN LION. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (SW45, U151)

SW1(P), MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER, -beers listed; +Greene King: Abbot. (SW41)

SW1(P), SPREAD EAGLE, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. (SW44)

SW1(W), FEATHERS. Now part of M&B's 'Nicholson' chain. (SW48)

SW1(W), OLD MONK EXCHANGE, -Theakston: Best Bitter; +Adnams: Broadside; +Fuller: London Pride. Reopened and refurbished after a two year period of unreported closure. Currently open 12-11 Mon-Fri only although may open Sat experimentally. Still operated as a Free House by Gerry Martin, founder of the erstwhile Old Monk chain. (U130)

SW1(W), PAGE, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Hogs Back: TEA; +Wells: Bombardier. Formerly **SLUG & LETTUCE**. (SW44, U163)

SW1(W), VICTORIA TAVERN. Renamed **MASH TUN**, -Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. (SW50)

SW1 (W), WHITE HORSE & BOWER, -beers listed; +Shepherd Neame: Bitter, Spitfire, Bishops Finger, Seasonal beer. Former Bass pub acquired and refurbished by Shepherd Neame in October 2004. A welcome addition to beer choice in the area. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, 12-6 Sat, closed Sun. Meals available 12-3 Mon-Sat. (SW50)

SW10, BLACK BULL. Renamed **CAMEL**, still no real ale. Formerly **BULL BAR** for a while. (SW84, U136)

SW10, HOLLYWOOD ARMS, -Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Now an independently run Free House, ex-Fitzgerald. (SW85, U136, U167, U172)

SW17, QUEEN VICTORIA. Renamed **LITTLE HOUSE**, still no real ale. (SW110)

SW19, BAR MED. Renamed **SLUG & LETTUCE** in early 2004, still no real ale. (U148)

SW19, HOGSHEAD. Renamed **HAND & RACQUET** in December 2004, -beers listed except Greene King: Morland Old Speckled Hen; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot and changing guest beers from stillage behind bar. Now Greene King, ex-Laurel, originally Whitbread. Originally named **HAND & RACKET**, clearly a different racket! (SW117, U149)

KEW, GREYHOUND. Now Enterprise, ex-Unique, formerly **Inntrepreneur**. (SW138)

WEST

TWICKENHAM, ALL BAR ONE. Renamed **BEAR**, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Morland Old Speckled Hen; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Wells: Bombardier. Refurbished by M&B and no longer part of All Bar One chain. (U151)

See page 40 for corrections of earlier updates

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LONDON FOR FREE - MORE POUNDS TO SPEND ON BEER

CITY STREETS

Two famous free destinations are located close to each other, but be aware that one of them is free only on Fridays and after 3:30 on other days. Therefore, go to the Museum of London first, then take some refreshment afterwards and subsequently set out to the Guildhall Art Gallery, followed by a trip to a truly unique pub.

The Museum of London (London Wall; recorded information 0870 444 3851; St. Paul's Tube; www.museumoflondon.org.uk) explores the growth of the city from prehistoric times to the present. One section, 'London Before London', charts prehistoric times before the Roman invasion. This museum could occupy your entire day if you let it. Among some of its fascinating holdings are the first taxi cab; teaching accessories for Guy's Hospital, which consisted of lurid wax heads and hands 'suffering' from various complaints; Admiral Nelson's honour sword; information on water and sanitation; a re-enactment of Pepys's diary entry of the Great Fire of London; the Lord Mayor's carriage (which you'll see in a painting at the second venue); Queen Victoria's formal robes, with red velvet and ermine; a Victorian daily life exhibit of a London street, complete with toyshop, pub, tobacconist, milliner, apothecary, baker, engraver, a post office, which let its customers set up savings accounts with as little as a penny; a model of the Crystal Palace; Ellen Terry's costume for a play; Roman artefacts and weapons; Sir Christopher Wren's wrought iron gates; information about that famous institution, the music hall, and so much more about London that you need to see to believe. Edward Rutherfurd spent long hours researching his massive novel *London* here; he says, 'The Museum of London has been for me, throughout this book's long gestation, a source of constant inspiration'. Read it before you go for a fuller experience. The museum is housed in a modern building along the remains of the London Wall, near the Barbican. You'll exit with a richer knowledge of the city in which you live.

After taking in so much history, you need a beer, so go to Liverpool Street Station to a Wetherspoon's pub, Hamilton Hall (Unit 32, The Concourse; 020-7247 3579; Liverpool Street Tube). This is a typical Wetherspoon's pub, offering reasonably priced guest beers and a wide range of food. Its prices are lower than in many central London pubs. A restored Edwardian ballroom with high ceilings, chandeliers, and non-smoking area upstairs, the pub can hold many people and is always busy with passengers from the train and tube stations.

Now fortified, head for the Corporation of London's Guildhall Art Gallery (Guildhall Yard, EC2P; 020-7332 3700; www.guildhall-art-gallery.org.uk; Bank/St. Paul's/Mansion House (Bow Lane exit)/ Moorgate

Tube). Located on the east side of Guildhall Yard next to the Guildhall, the gallery is open from 10am to 5pm Monday-Saturday; 12 to 4pm on Sunday. However, note that all day Friday is free admission; between 3.30 and closing on the other days is also free, so make plans accordingly. In addition, if you live or work in the City, you can download an application form for free admission or ask at the admissions desk when you arrive.

Originally opened in 1886, the current building was begun in the 1980s after the old building was destroyed in a 1941 air raid. The gallery houses 4,000 paintings, displaying works by such famous Victorian painters as JJJ Tissot (Too Early); Holman Hunt (The Eve of St. Agnes); William Shakespeare Burton (The Wounded Cavalier); JE Millais (My First Sermon; My Second Sermon); DG Rossetti (La Ghirlandata); Frederic, Lord Leighton (The Music Lesson). The massive painting by John Singleton Copley, The Defeat of the Floating Batteries at Gibraltar, 1782, arrests the viewer's attention; according to the gallery's brochure, it is 'one of the country's largest oil paintings'. Because you've just viewed the Lord Mayor's carriage at the Museum of London, be sure to pay attention to William Logdail's painting, The Ninth of November, which depicts the procession of the Lord Mayor of London. Using actual footmen as models, Logdail also portrayed his friends in the crowd, including artists John William Waterhouse, who is seen at left wearing a bowler hat. The choice of paintings is subject to change, as not all of the holdings can be displayed at one time.

Before you leave, visit the Roman Amphitheatre below, an eerie experience punctuated with sounds of cheering Romans. This is a suitable complement to the exhibits at the Museum of London which you saw earlier. When the building was damaged in the air raid, archaeologists found the amphitheatre, forcing a new design for the building, which was completed in 1999.

After a day of immersing yourself in history and art, head for your final beer. You have a special treat in store, as you arrive at Jerusalem Tavern (55 Britton St, Clerkenwell EC1; 020-7490 4281; Farringdon Tube). The street map of Farringdon available at the tube station will show you the easy walk there. It is the only pub in London affiliated with St. Peter's Brewery from Suffolk, and you can be sure to find a beer to suit your taste, as there are usually six or seven of the brewery's offerings available. Peruse the brochure 'The St. Peter's Range of Beers and Ales' for information on their bottled beers as well. This pub is well worth the visit for those who enjoy beer; on a recent visit, the 'Old-Style Porter' was taste-tested and approved. This is a no-frills pub and, if you like good beer, it's the place to go.

© 2004 Judith Black

A PLACE BY THE RIVER

Regular readers of London Drinker may recall my earlier crawls of Hampton Wick, Middlesex neighbour of the sprawling hub that is Kingston-upon-Thames. In the couple of years since I last crawled 'the Wick' for LD, a few notable changes have taken place. The village has been a big part of my social life for over eight years and this will be the last time I write about it for the 'Drinker'.

The commercial heart of the village itself is mainly based around the High Street, although our first stop, the Old King's Head, is located officially at 1, Hampton Court Road, close to the roundabout at



the foot of Kingston bridge. The pub has recently re-opened after an estimated seven years as initially an art gallery, and then seemingly a storeroom. Gone are most of the trappings of its previous pub life such as carpets and the ornate over-bar and in their place are click flooring, a smaller actual bar and a comfortable seating area. Natalie and Lee are mine host and hostess here and they are seeking to make the pub a house of distinction in all areas. They are most open to beer recommendations from any LD readers visiting, and as the OKH is a genuine free house, they are free to buy ale from anywhere. Fuller's London Pride, 'Morland' Old Speckled Hen alternating with Tim Taylor Landlord (rare for the area) were apparent in good form on my visit. Look out for the retro video-gaming table; it's a relic from the pub's past.



Straight across from the Old King's Head and right beside the roundabout is the White Hart. Originally a substantial traditional pub with a mock-Tudor frontage, owners Fuller's demolished and rebuilt most of it as one of their developing 'English Hotels' chain so that it now features a smallish bar area with a large hotel on the back. There's a comfortable patio area in front and a large (barrier controlled) car park behind and it's a popular place on the whole. London Pride, ESB and Fuller's seasonal range are in evidence here and are in great form: easily some of the finest Pride to be found anywhere in the metropolis. It's an upmarket gaff and the food is far away from your burger-and-

chips pub grub. It's Cask Marque accredited and they even stock London Drinker!



Turning left outside the White Hart, the next stop is across the High Street on your right. The Swan is now a Shepherd Neame house, again mock-Tudor in design, and a former Courage house. I knew it briefly in its former existence and it was not a fun place, fielding poor ale and attracting a less than desirable clientele. Under its new owners, the Swan went through a few identity changes, including a brief flirtation with nouvelle cuisine, but the combination of a rocket focaccia lemon chicken open sandwich with a pint of Spitfire strangely didn't work too well! It has a perfunctory dining/imbibing area in front and the bar area is roughly in two sections. There's ample room for the regular live music that is a feature and a function room upstairs. Spitfire and Shep's Best Bitter, as well as Hoegaarden, are the cask chaps on sale in moderate form here.



Across the road lies the Foresters. During some recent renovation work, its earlier signage was uncovered, revealing its original name as The Forester's Arms. Taken over as a going concern by licensees Tala and Jamal a few years ago, it is now has a more Mediterranean atmosphere; cool jazz and chanson filtering across the speakers most days. Ale-wise London Pride, Adnams Southwold or Regatta plus Charles Wells' Bombardier are the mainstays here, all in moderate form. It's a slightly unusual shape: I reckon it was at least two separate bars once so there are three doors, two of which are used, but it never feels packed, even when it's busy. Live music features regularly and the pub even boasts a unique performer in Janie Price, a very popular and talented singing cellist! It too stocks this esteemed periodical.

Turning left outside and moving further along the High Street, we next pass the site of a long-established Hampton Wick hostelry, the Rose & Crown. It may be a sign of the changing times but 'the Rose' closed down in 2004 and became the new premises of local noodle bar Sanho.

Finally, we reach the final stop on the route, the

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A PLACE BY THE RIVER



Railway. Formerly the Railway Tavern and then (infamously) Stryker's Railway, this Unique Pub Company-leased house is thought to be the oldest building in Hampton Wick. I've had some great times here and put more across the bar than I care to remember. Two of its former

landlords, Mick Jordan and John Stryker, are friends of mine and I have a special fondness for the pub. Current landlady Rachel Brisland was drafted in from Essex on the hurry-up in the aftermath of a scandal which rocked the quiet village to its foundations...

John Stryker, who'd been landlord for four years, needed to renew his British passport. This he attempted to do at the Passport Office. For reasons I won't go into here, he was arrested last November, convicted and served time here. It then appeared that he was someone else and was wanted by the FBI! He was extradited in the spring and is now in jail in the US. The story went from the local rag to the nationals and even the TV news.

Calm has been restored to the Railway since then. Rachel and the pub are Cask Marque-accredited and she features a slowly changing line up including London Pride, Wadworth 6X, Young's Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire, John Smith's Cask, 'Ruddles' Best and Greene King Abbot amongst others. Despite what has been said, the 'Stryker's' part of the main exterior signage was not covered up as a result of John's departure: indeed, John and former head barman Luke placed a Guinness advertisement banner there just before the Rugby Union World Cup last autumn. I trust that settles a long-standing misapprehension.

Live music of varying descriptions and qualities makes a regular appearance and there are two TVs showing mainly sport, a pool table, a dartboard and a jukebox. When the mood is right, a really fun time can be had here and I am present most Friday or Saturday nights if that doesn't put you off! The men's loos are in a state of gradual disintegration and could soon be listed by the National Trust as a relic! Beyond the Railway lies the Lion (also Unique) in nearby Wick Road, but that's another story.

Hampton Wick is close to bus and train links and can easily be crawled in an evening. Go and enjoy it for yourself.

Al Ferrier

Photography: Colette Keogh

SIX GO TO ROCHDALE

Whilst a good dozen SW London CAMRA bods made the 2003 presentation to St Peter's Brewery, only six hardy souls braved Virgin Trains' diversions for the 2/3 October weekend trip to Manchester to present the 2004 Battersea Beer of the Festival certificate for Pictish Brewers Gold.

Rochdale used to be a mill town and has very visibly seen better times. Happily, on a small industrial site by the local canal is Pictish Brewery. Richard Sutton, the brewer and drayman welcomed us and very quickly we were quaffing very welcome pints of the 4.8% Aztec Gold as heavy rain briefly descended outside.

In a previous life Richard was a brewer for the Firkin chain in the north of England and, ironically, all his kit is ex-Firkin! He has brewed on the Rochdale site for 41/2 years and devised recipes for over 20 different beers, whose pump clips adorn a wall alongside just some of the certificates won at various beer festivals. He brews on Monday mornings (with his wife completing the process), Thursdays and Fridays, with deliveries taking up the rest of the week. Two beers are produced solely for the Crown Inn at Bacup, with pump clips featuring stylised naked human rear views. I also noticed a Pictish clip for a Honey Ale made with Mexican Wildflower honey. Richard explained that Mexico was now supplying the Chinese after major failures with the Chinese honey harvest.

Leaving the brewery we had a decent walk to the Merry Monk in College Road. Most of the group settled for Hydes' mild but I decided on a pint of Copper Dragon Scotts 1816 (4.1%) which fully lived up to its GBG tasting notes. We then meandered to the McGuinness Brewery tied house, the Cask & Feather. The decor may be a little 'tired' in places but the beer was certainly not. Pints of Best Bitter (3.8%) and Junction Bitter (4.2%) at £1.34 and £1.54 respectively were easily downed.

We then travelled by train to Newton to visit both the GBG pubs in Hyde, to the south-east of Manchester. The Sportsman Inn has three immaculate rooms, tiling (and I love a pub with tiling), various plaques and posters advertising beers and transport - including one for a trolleybus service to Kingston, changing at Wimbledon! The choice of beers was mouth-watering: five of the six listed in the GBG were on, the Plassey representative being We Put the Ale in Wales, plus Greene King Abbot and Blackwater White Snake.

Next up was the Cheshire Ring, owned by the Beartown Brewery based in Congleton, Cheshire, again another fantastic pub with an appreciative crowd for the brown liquid and live music. I enjoyed a pint of Bearly Literate (4.5%) and a bite to eat.

I'm all for paying a little extra on trips for en-suite accommodation but, when that entails paying £50 for

a double bed for single use, I aim to claw back some of that cost. At the Ibis Hotel £4.25 buys you an all-you-can-eat continental breakfast. I can assure readers that the owners did not make a profit out of me on this occasion. On a Sunday there was no rush to catch the tram to Eccles and two more GBG pubs, both of them multi-roomed, Edwardian, Grade II listed buildings, sumptuous in their decoration and retaining bell-pushes, though these are sadly no longer in use.

The Lamb Hotel, opposite the tram terminus, was extremely busy (Manchester United were playing at home that afternoon) whilst the Royal Oak, visited as soon as it opened, was much calmer. Regulars included a very large black dog. Bitter went down well. (*So did mild - Ed.*)

We returned to a now rather damp central Manchester with the first call at the Marble Brewery-owned Knott Bar underneath Deansgate Station. Designed in a fairly basic café-bar style, it has posters advertising drinks, holiday destinations ('Come to bracing Skegness') and bands overlaid on the walls. Several foreign draught and bottled beers are available, with four handpumps serving British beers. No Marble beers were on as the brewery was undergoing refurbishment, and so we had to make do (!) with Deuchars IPA, Dent Windy Wether ('I'll have half a Dent' - for all you Hitchhiker fans), Phoenix Navy and Oakham Tsunami. Between us we sampled all four and pronounced them very good indeed. The lads tucked into roasts whilst I had a superb Greek platter.

As the Britons Protection was closed (good to see that place again and also Peveril of the Peak - more superb tiling), we entered Lees' Rain Bar. Formerly an umbrella factory, it opened as a pub 5 years ago with dark wood, of which I am not a fan, in abundance. Lees Mild, Bitter, Moonraker and seasonal ale Ruddy Glow (suitably reddish in colour but I found it lacking in taste) were on tap at more upmarket prices than we had come to expect.

Our final stop was the wonderful Circus Tavern, the smallest pub in Manchester. If a had a cat was in attendance, there would be some difficulty swinging it (and before anybody starts complaining I have a beautiful cat and regularly donate to Cats Protection). Fine pints of Tetley Bitter were enjoyed by all and sundry (with mine as usual, by request, lacking the creamy head).

Signalling problems in the Birmingham area extended our return journey to more than four hours, but we were at least seated, unlike some of the passengers.

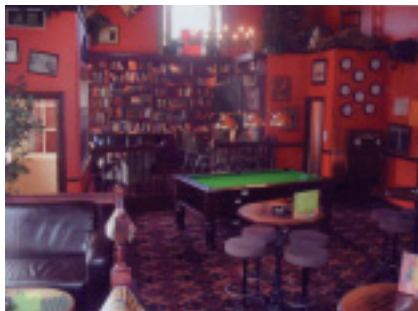
My thanks go to Andy Robinson and Phil Blanchard for organising the escapade, to Richard Sutton for being a splendid 'mine host' and to all the breweries and pub staff for the obvious.

Paul Kirsten

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Many thanks to all of you who
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What am I going to do this
Christmas?

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This Easter Bank Holiday, 25th-27th
March our festival beers will be from
breweries West of Exeter. Plus a bit of
entertainment and our annual
'Easter Egg' race.

Visit our Oddfellows bar; was the public
bar, but is now a comfortable library bar.

CAMRA Good Beer Guide
1994/5/6/7/8/9/2000/1/2/3/4/5

Email: bestpubbloke@aol.com

THE WORD

*In the beginning was the Recipe and the Market
Niche, and the Recipe was without form and the
Market Niche was void; and darkness was on the
face of the Brewers.*

And they spake unto their Duty Brewer, saying:

'It is a crock of shit, and it stinketh!'

*And the Duty Brewer went unto the Head
Brewer;*

And he spake unto him, saying:

*'It is a crock of excrement, and none may abide
the odour thereof.'*

*And the Head Brewer went unto the Product
Manager; And spake unto him, saying:*

*'It is a container of excrement, and it is very
strong, so that none may abide before it.'*

*And the Product Manager went unto the
Marketing Manager; And spake unto him, say-
ing:*

*'It is a vessel of fertilizer, and none may abide
by its strength.'*

*And the Marketing Manager went unto the
Manager of National Brands; And spake unto
him, saying:*

*'It contains that which aids plant growth, and
it is very strong.'*

*And the Manager of National Brands went unto
the Managing Director; And spake unto him,
saying:*

'It promoteth growth, and it is very powerful.'

*And the Managing Director went unto the
Board of Directors; And spake unto them, say-
ing:*

*'This powerful new Product will promote the
growth of the brewery.'*

*And the Board of Directors looked upon the
Product, and saw that it was good! Even unto
being a National Brand was it good.*

Richard Larkin

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follows:**

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on 020 8300 7693

IDLE MOMENTS

It may be a little late but let me start by wishing
you a happy New Year. And having got the
niceties (well, nicety anyway) out of the way, I
thought we might have another little dip into the
Cynics Dictionary – unsurprisingly perhaps, it
contains several definitions of Middle Age; I have
picked this one from Dan Bennett:

*Having a choice of two temptations and choosing the
one that will get you home earlier.*

So now let's get on with the usual misery starting as
ever with the ever present number puzzles:

1. 4 F in a B
2. 77 SS
3. 2 GM of KH
4. 28 P for a FCS
5. 1 S on a S
6. 12 O in a P (TW)
7. 160 FO in a G
8. 3 LP
9. 1001 T of the AN
10. 8 TL in the QF

And before we start enjoying ourselves let's move
straight on to the brewery anagrams:

1. OLD WASHER
2. TAR SELF
3. FLAY MOWER
4. STRAINS PEET
5. FLINCH BLADE
6. LORRA GLAND
7. DIRE FLOW
8. REVEAL COD
9. WESTON
10. GROUND NINA

It's funny you know but when I was casting round
for a subject for this month's 5BY4, the first subject
that came to mind went something along the lines
of Sad Songs For a Winter Month. See if you can
match the artists in the second list with their hits in
the first:

1. Tears on my Pillow
 2. Tears in Heaven
 3. The Crying Game
 4. Cryin'
 5. Sad Songs (Say So Much)
 6. Still I'm Sad
 7. The Tears I Cried
 8. Cryin' in the Rain
 9. Cry Me a River
 10. The Tears of a Clown
- A. Julie London
 - B. Roy Orbison
 - C. Glitter Band
 - D. Johnny Nash
 - E. Yardbirds
 - F. Everly Brothers
 - G. Dave Berry

- H. Elton John
- I. Eric Clapton
- J. Miracles

I didn't deliberately search around for the first
General Knowledge question – it just sort of
happened. Still, they're not all miserable (well, the
last one isn't):

1. Lake Wobegon is a town (most would claim to
be fictitious) written about by Garrison Keillor,
located in the middle of which US state?
2. What organisation was founded in 1953 by the
Rev. Chad Varah?
3. Which English novelist had the forenames
Charles John Huffham?
4. What establishment is now housed in the
building formerly known as "Bedlam" (or more
properly the Hospital of St. Mary of
Bethlehem)?
5. And where is the Bethlem Royal Hospital (as it
is now known) now located?
6. Rick Blaine is the lead male character in which
film (released in 1942)?
7. What was the title of the first novel by
H.G.Wells?
8. Still on the subject of H.G.Wells, what
happened at Horsell Common, near Woking?
9. In the Book of Revelations what are signified
by the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?
10. What was founded in 1919 by Charlie Chaplin,
Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and
D.W.Griffith?

It's funny you know; I didn't deliberately start out to
include that much misery – it just seemed to happen
(Must be my age).

Anyway; answers next time and perhaps I shall see
you at Battersea.

Toodle-oo!
Andy Pirson

DECEMBER'S ANSWERS

As promised last time, here are the solutions to the
puzzles set in December Idle Moments column.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 7 Stars in the Plough
2. 169 is Thirteen Squared
3. 1 Foot in Each Camp
4. 10 Drummers Drumming
5. 753 BC Foundation of Rome
6. 40 Fluid Ounces in a Quart
7. 2 Violins in a String Quartet
8. 5 Toes on a Foot
9. 27 Cubic Feet in a Cubic Yard
10. 13 Stripes on the American Flag

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8th of February 2005

Adnams ex-Head Brewer, David Waller
with a glass bottom firkin.

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Greene King IPA plus ever continuing
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- ◆ Function Room available Friday nights

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 181 CONTINUED

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 179

NEW PUBS ETC

W3, HEMISPHERES. Should read: HEMISPHERE.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 180

PUBS CLOSED ETC

EC1, FARRINGDON ARMS. Should read:
FARRINGDON BARS.

NW1, DUKE OF YORK. Should read: N1.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

E17, NAGS HEAD. Should read: -Shepherd Neame:
Spitfire.

STANMORE, VINTRY (now RED LEOPARD). Refs
should read: (U137, U178).

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Phone Peter Tonge now on 020 8300 7693

IDLE MOMENTS

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. LONG TAN - LANGTON
2. DRY WHITE BILGE - WHITLEY BRIDGE
3. TED'S 'ROO BAN - BROADSTONE
4. BE HANDIER - HEBRIDEAN
5. O TASTY DIP! - TIPSY TOAD
6. BE A LORD - OLD BEAR
7. BALD? FINE! - BANFIELD
8. BEN'S HOD - HOB DEN'S
9. PETER'S TORCH - PORTCHESTER
10. WED TERN - DERWENT

5BY4:

(Not for the phobophobes)

1. Haphephobia - Being touched
2. Astraphobia - Thunder & lightning (How many
of you assumed this one would be the fear of
stars?)
3. Trichopathophobia - Excessive facial hair
4. Ailurophobia - Cats
5. Thalassophobia - The sea
6. Catotrophobia - Mirrors
7. Siderophobia - Stars
8. Chrometophobia - Money
9. Enissophobia - Criticism
10. Ergophobia - Work

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. And finally on phobias, triskaidekaphobia is an
irrational fear of the number 13.
2. Former racing driver, Raymond Mays started
two companies building racing cars, both of
which were known by their initials. They were
ERA and BRM.
3. The tragedy which specifically links the
American millionaires John Jacob Astor,
Benjamin Guggenheim, and Isidor Straus is that
they all died in the sinking of the Titanic.
4. On a seasonal theme, we all know that Bing
Crosby sang White Christmas - but did you
know that he did so in the 1942 film, Holiday
Inn?
5. And on the same subject, the writer of White
Christmas was Irving Berlin.
6. Of the four blood groups, donors of Group O
(the "universal donor") can donate to all groups
but the group (known as the "universal
receiver") which can receive blood from any
group is AB.
7. How many pairs of chromosomes does each
human cell contain? - 23 (of course!)
8. The area which the Vikings called Vineland
(Wineland) is the eastern coastal area of Canada.
9. The make of motorcycle which is also Frank
Zappa's middle name is the Vincent.
10. Returning to motor racing, we all knew that the
first British Formula One world champion was
Mike Hawthorn in 1959 - but the make of car
he was driving was a Ferrari.

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LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Through loud speech it can be torn. [11]
8. Core of volcano blew up high. [5]
9. Captain's first salt fish . . . [7]
10. . . . with a drink or joint. [4]
11. Objects when claret is spilt. [8]
13. Returns to go wrong and catch game. [6]
14. Speaks for America [6]
17. He adores brewing live beer. [8]
19. Attend bash? [4]
22. Worships with back slightly bent. [7]
23. Have beer with doctor in stroll. [5]
24. Suggestive skirts in the near past. [11]

DOWN

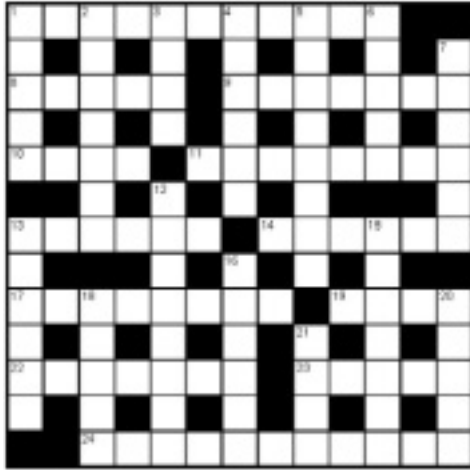
1. Hit the drink. [5]
2. Polish picture – a flower. [7]
3. Finished deliveries. [4]
4. Make certain animal goes over river. [6]
5. Found one lousy egg I consumed. [8]
6. Plane crashed in country. [5]
7. Half crew on course for trouble. [6]
12. Instrument took part of drink. [4,4]
13. Thanks to Shakespeare for the costume. [6]
15. Choirboy taking Mass? Be afraid! [7]
16. Time for boy to go under water. [6]
18. Don Juan makes bird lose head. [5]
20. Look after present. [5]
21. Go by gap in mountain. [4]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:

Billy Sollocks, Walworth, SE7

Other correct entries were received from:

The Andover Bore, Pat Andrews, Hilary Ayling, Geoff B, Jeremy Bankworth, Steve Block, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Richard Conway, Arthur Copping, Charles Creasey, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Paul Curson, Nicholas Dale, Mike Farrelly, Arthur Fox-Ache, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, Tarnya Haigh, J. Harber, Alf Hard, John Heath, John Heaton, Kevin Henriques, Graham Hill, William Hill, Gary Holman, Sheerluck Holmes, David Hughes, Tom Kemp, Gill Lewis, Gerald Lopatis, S. McQuaide, K.I. May, Terry Mellor, M.J. Moran, Stewart Moulton, Al Mountain, Melville Neill, Lee Newton & Scriven Davis, Mick Norman, Barrie Powell, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Richard Rogers, Geoff S, Bryan Smith, Lesley Smith, Richard Stephenson, Stockport & South Manchester Interbrew Fan Club, Eileen Stone, Nick Stone, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Thamesmead, Linda Theaker, Paul Tiffany, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Ian Whiteman, John Witts, Janet Wight, Sue Wilson, Peter Wright.



Name

Address

.....

.....

All correct entries received by first post on 30th March will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the June 2005 London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the April edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER'S CROSSWORD



16th, 17th, 18th MARCH

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