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EDITORIAL

BUILDING A YOUNGER IMAGE FOR REAL ALE

Trying to draw a link between most youngsters and the appreciation of ale seems a tough task. It's something people in either their late teens or twenties on the whole just don't drink. However as the pubcos and global breweries are now coming under increasing political, cultural and medical criticisms of their policies and the dubious quality and functions of their products it may be time for a new generation to forgo the twin terrors of lager and alcopops, the horrors of the chain bars and 'pubs' and start to appreciate the true British drinking heritage. Drinking can and should be both a pleasurable and enlightening experience and it certainly shouldn't be a health hazard. It must also be noted that young people can also play an important part in the growing awareness and support of ale and the ale brewing industry. The future could be bright, but where to start?

Firstly we must return to the eternal enemies of the concerned drinker, the pubco and global brewery. Their impact upon our drinking heritage is well documented, however little focus has been afforded to how this has affected the younger generation's attitudes to drinking. For many, their first experience of alcohol and a drinking environment is at the hands of such 'vertical drinking establishments'. Their presence and impact lies on a basic premise, essentially a Catch 22 scenario: if something tastes unpleasant the inclination is to drink it rather quickly. And again if it's at half the price. And again and even quicker if the music is so loud you can't make conversation, or find anywhere to sit. Encouraging unhurried drinking to taste and saviour not only the beverage, but also the environment, is a concept most directors and execs would deem offensive, not to mention financial suicide. So, whilst the kids may be all right what they've got and where they've got to go sure 'aint.

Can Real Ale and CAMRA be part of a solution to this? This may be an unconventional argument to make, but evidence suggests that both are intrinsic to just the kind of more refined 'drinking culture' Westminster is calling for. Hard to believe? Take a look around at the next CAMRA festival or when visiting a proper local; striking up genial conversation with total strangers, selecting, tasting, taking time over, enjoying, even talking about the goods on offer, mutual relationship between young and old, novice and pro... It could only happen with Beer! And why shouldn't young people have access to a more tasteful and refined experience? With this experience comes appreciation and understanding, and that's when habits slowly change. However whilst this awareness is slowly trickling down to younger drinkers it is admittedly not enough and the potential benefits that independent brewers could accrue from a broader change in attitudes are still much untapped. One fundamental obstacle remains, and it is all to do with image.

Whilst Young's have quite successfully incorporated a range of bars within their portfolio, and many of the gastro pubs springing up (particularly in South West London around leafy greens it seems) are ensuring that young

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trendies walk past the hand pumps, encouraging people to taste something which they might perceive as quirky at best is a struggle. Brown stuff drunk from a sturdy glass? No chance. Image is undoubtedly a big problem. Encouraging pals to forgo lager for the night may be rewarding especially if you catch them drinking ale on the sly, but it's exhausting, repetitive and you tend to start being regarded as a bit of a bore after a while. However things might be a changing...Whilst CAMRA has rightly criticised celebrity, the power of the brand and image in favour of taste and substance, it is a celebrity who is ensuring that ale is being recognised outside its traditional consumer base. Whilst the genuineness of Madonna's deference to bitter might be dubious, she has at least ensured its cultural legitimisation whilst not as the drink of choice, but an acceptable snifter, for a new generation. So too has the newly crowned Sports Personality of the Year. Ale's image and acceptance can only benefit from this. However to maintain the momentum that such endorsements inevitably ensure, a more

substantive and authoritative figure must be engaged. Could Jamie Oliver do for beer drinking what he did for cooking? His success in changing perceptions of something perceived by many as dull and unworthy to an exciting hobby could be applied to real ale. If the Naked Chef is encouraged to cook a recipe on national TV with a decent bitter, or suggests an IPA to accompany a recipe, then the ball will be rolled that extra bit further. Ale is gaining a credible reputation as an alternative to wine. All it takes is one celebrity chef to suggest a nice little Yorkshire brown to accompany.....

We need good beer, because young 'uns will never slow down and appreciate their lagers or alcopops. And with good beer comes a change in attitudes to drinking. The young 'uns are also important to those who brew, and those who take up the banner for real ale.

Tim Tennant

A degree student with a passion for real ale.

NEW JOURNEYS ON OUR WEBSITE

Paul Kirsten's account of the SW London Branch's September 2005 weekend on the Isle of Man and Ken Brewster's report of the CAMAL Research Team's explorations in Belgium that month have now been added to the Travel Pages at www.londondrinker.org.uk

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THE AGE OF CONSENT

Are you reading this in a pub? Chances are that you will have at least skimmed through at least some of it in the place you found this edition in. Now look around you – how many of the pub’s current clientele within the 16-30 age range can you see supping the real stuff? Come to that, how often do you regularly see this section of our brethren in our key ale pubs? Only occasionally?

Yet we tend to get a good turnout at our various beer festivals. Ever wonder why this is? I do. Obviously we have our own criteria regarding our venue of choice – music (or not), clientele, location, prices, beers on offer etc. An awareness of what we have available to us in the capital is another factor (you’d be surprised at just how many London based ale heads of long standing don’t know where the Wenlock is – shame on them!).

With a few of the ‘faces’ now retiring from festival work we hear “younger blood is needed”, which it is. Yet you may be surprised at how much of this younger blood is about. Around a year ago Toby Dalton formed the Imperial College Real Ale Society, operating out of the Southside Bar (now located in present guise very nearby). This

enthusiastic, friendly and intelligent bunch is involved in the planning of West London CAMRAs’ forthcoming beer festival and is keen to help spread the gospel. They know their beer too! Other uni’s and colleges have their ale lovers also, indeed a uni student bar manager is keen to re-commence the odd festival on his premises if all goes well. But it isn’t only students in this age group.

I know folk in their early to mid twenties who have been enjoying real ale from a far earlier age than I and these wouldn’t dream of spending money on fizz. If only liaisons were made at branch level and active involvement sought. Most branches have at some stage made attempts to encourage a younger audience to social events and it is by no means an easy task, but I say let’s not give up on trying. If Dave Hallows up in Manchester can see his way to organising ‘young’ socials on a weekly basis, then I’m sure that us shandy drinkers down south can do at least monthly ones. Can’t we?

Aside from Toby and company, Owain Roberts from Enfield & Barnet acts as a co-ordinator for younger members and has previously organised brewery visits. Alan in South East London is also

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WHAT'LL IT BE THEN?

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ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

OPINION

keen on this idea. Virtually all branches have a membership secretary and now there are a few of us really beginning to look into this with a long term view to having regular socials for those who may not be keen on meeting up with an older crowd (or ZZ TOPS' fan club!). If you wish to know what your local branch of CAMRA has organised for their younger members then contact the branch membership secretary or branch contact (see Branch diaries) or the main website – www.camra.org.uk

In the next edition of the Drinker you will see published on the Branch Diary page a date for an All-London young members social event. A few of us membership bods will meanwhile decide the date and venue. If this sounds interesting to you then watch out for it and come and join us – tell your mates. And I wouldn't worry too much about what age you should be to qualify as a "young" member. This is I dare say one of the many areas where this thirty-four year old consumer campaign can still not agree and there are no hard and fast rules. I say if you feel young then you are!

Cheers and Happy New Year.

Paul Johnson

North London CAMRA

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NEWS ROUND-UP

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◆ Welcome to 2006

Firstly, Happy New Year to you all. As far as I can see, the coming of the new licensing laws has not brought about the end of civilisation as we know it. That said, CAMRA's newspaper 'What's Brewing' chose to illustrate this with a picture of Luton town centre and according to my friends in CAMRA's Watford Branch, Luton cannot be used as a yardstick for civilisation...

Meanwhile, the grim medical reports are still being trotted out with more or less relevance. I heard on the radio news that alcohol-related medical incidents increased by 51,000 in 2005. The report carefully omitted to say the base figure and the inference was that with the new hours, this could only get worse. Who knows? Perhaps with more relaxed consumption, it might get better...

Whilst smoking and binge drinking were the predominant social-related issues last year, I think the great debate this year will be on the advertising of alcohol as previewed in Brian Sheridan's article in the last issue but with the pressure not coming from the same angle as Brian wants or for the same reasons. As I understand it, the tobacco lobby are

pressing the point that alcohol abuse is just as big a public health risk as smoking, which is true enough. Given that some sort of smoking ban is definitely coming and there is now a proposal to increase the age for buying cigarettes from 16 to 18, the Government may try to "improve" the balance between the two by introducing some restrictions on the advertising of alcohol. The campaign may have started. It was reported in the Guardian on 3 January that a University of Connecticut survey of 4,000 people in the 15 to 26 age range found that those who reported seeing more adverts for alcohol consequently consumed more alcohol and each additional advert viewed per month led to a 1% increase in consumption. I am not sure quite what this says about alcohol, advertising or the youth of America but look out for more in the same vein.

Last word on licensing hours; whilst most pub operators were looking to extend evening opening, Greene King are looking to open their pubs earlier on Sunday mornings to catch the "brunch crowd". I think that that gives some idea of their "direction of travel", to use the latest management buzz-phrase. Greene King must be doing something right however; in the 24 weeks ending 16 October, sales

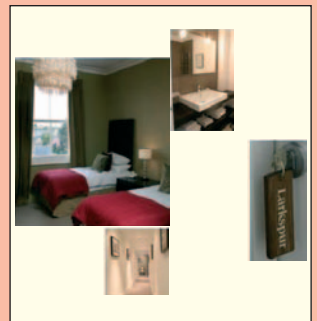
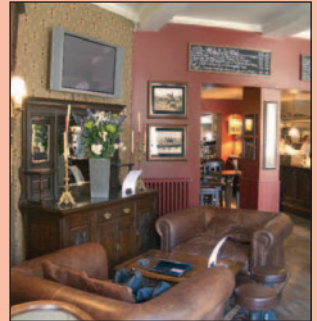
The Inn at Kew Garden (Kew Gardens Hotel)

292 Sandycombe Road, Kew, Surrey TW9 3NG

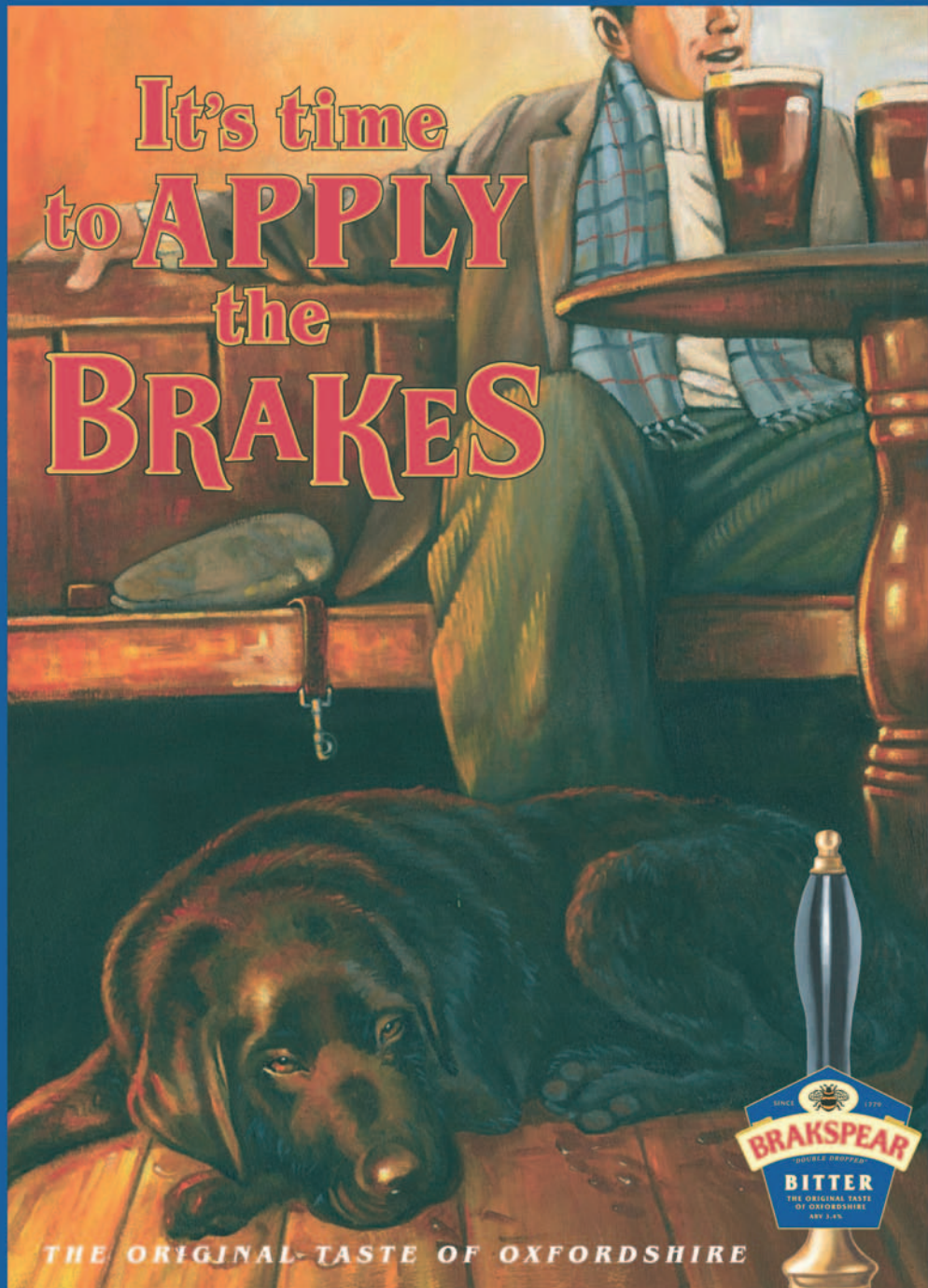
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The Inn at Kew Gardens, recently restored to its original splendour - and then some! This beautiful pub boasts at least six traditional ales plus superb wine and reserve spirit list. With a wonderful garden, dining room and stunning mezzanine available for private hire, not to mention 19 bespoke hotel rooms, The Inn at Kew Gardens is no ordinary free house and too good to miss! Oh, and did we mention the food? Outstanding!



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BRAKES



THE ORIGINAL TASTE OF OXFORDSHIRE

were up by 1.4% in managed pubs and 2.2% in the tenanted estate, with a consequent rise of 23% in profits to £56 million and in dividend by 11%.

◆ Fuller's

The predominant commercial-related topic for 2006 is not likely to be much different from 2005 – brewery takeovers. Greene King and Wolverhampton & Dudley still have lots of spare cash. Meanwhile, I was down on the Hampshire coast for New Year and the battle for Gales continues. The News, the local paper for the South Hampshire area, had almost a full page of their 31 December issue dedicated to their “Save Our Pint” campaign and petition, which is running alongside the one organised by CAMRA. The local MP, Mike Hancock, is raising an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons and Horndean Councillor Ken Graham commented: “this is a campaign to save Horndean as much as it is to save Gales. Without the brewery, Horndean would be lost”. The article did rather concentrate on HSB however, which is the Gales beer most likely to survive in some form. My spies in Brighton have reported that in one GBG-listed pub at least, the Butser Bitter has already been replaced by London Pride. This may well be how it will pan out. The former Gales pubs will retain some sort of local identity for a while at least (“Gallers”?) with them selling as many Fullers beers as they can manage except that they have HSB instead of ESB. That is of course speculation; I will let you know what happens.

◆ Young's

On the subject of speculation – or maybe it was just a slow-news-week – there was an article in the Times on 27 December which I found extremely disappointing. Although headlined “Young's considers outsourcing ales”, it simply re-hashed everything that had been said months ago. The only new item in it that I spotted was a reference to Multiplex being the firm to carry out the Wandsworth centre redevelopment. Given the losses that they have incurred with the Wembley Stadium project, this hardly makes the story any more credible.

Geoff Strawbridge, as CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer, has been in touch with Youngs and they confirm that absolutely nothing has changed. There are currently no development plans and if and when there are, they will consider all options, as they must do as a PLC. Also, again because they are a PLC, they must make an announcement on the Stock Exchange first, and they cannot do anything without first informing the Stock Exchange.

I have to say also that I am deeply disappointed with the reaction of (some) CAMRA members here. This

article was taken as Gospel and was around various internet mail and ‘chat’ groups in no time. You would almost think that some people want Young's to sell out just so that they can have the satisfaction of whinging about it. Personally, I prefer to carry on drinking the beer and I do not see that coming to an end in the foreseeable future. Young's stuck with traditional cask beer in the bad times so why can't we stick with them – or at least trust them – now?. That said, I do wish they would show a bit more respect to their traditions when they refurbish their pubs...

If I don't think much of their interior decorators then the Advertising Standards Authority don't think much of their publicity people either. The ASA have instructed Young's to withdraw their “It's a Ram's World” posters because they associate alcohol with sexual attraction and improved lifestyle and have suggested that they rethink the direction of their advertising. I can't say that I am surprised; I know that a number of CAMRA members thought that they were simply crass, female members especially. How's this for a radical concept? Advertise the beer!

◆ Pitfield shop to close

Just as we go to press, it has been announced that the Beer Shop in Pitfield Street is to close on 28 January. The business will however continue on a mail-order basis. This sad news sees the end of one of London's great beer institutions. Production of Pitfield Brewery beers will not however be affected. Hopefully, we will be able to give you the full story next issue.

◆ Changes at Inbev

Faced with flagging sales in Europe, mega-international brewers Inbev have appointed a new Chief Executive. The makers of Stella Artois, Brahma and these days, Becks, have given the job to Carlos Brito, a Brazilian with 15 years experience in the beer business. Mr Brito was Chief Executive for AmBev who last year merged with InterBrew to form InBev, who also produce Leffe, Staropramen and Hoegaarden. The company's chairman, Pierre-Jean Everaert said: “There is going to be a change. Brito is young and aggressive and he knows how to develop markets. This will be a new way of doing business in coming years”. This must be very reassuring to those who lost their jobs in Manchester, Belfast and in Breda, Holland last year.

The first step in this resurgence is to close the Hoegaarden brewery with the loss of 232 jobs. Production of Hoegaarden Grand Cru and other beers will move to InBev's Jupille brewery in the south of Belgium, although the storage and bottling facilities will remain open. Staff at the Hoegaarden

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THE RED CAR PUB COMPANY

NEWS ROUND-UP

brewery reportedly walked off the job after hearing the news.

◆ Punch squares the Spirit circle

More curious goings-on in the pub chain world. In April 2002 the Punch Group split in two with Punch keeping the tenanted pubs and the others going to a new company called Spirit Group, most of whose pubs were in London and the South-East. In the course of various transactions, including acquiring 1,400 'Chef & Brewer' outlets from Scottish and Newcastle, Spirit built up a portfolio of 1,832 pubs and £400 million of debt. They have now been acquired by Punch for £2.7 billion.

Curiously, because Punch's houses were all tenanted, the acquisition of Spirit has increased its workforce from about 400 to 38,000, mostly bar staff. Punch announced immediately that 750 Spirit houses would be changed from managed to tenancy and a number are believed to have been identified for sale, partly to satisfy competition regulations. Punch is thought to be likely to end up with some 9,500 pubs.

◆ British Guild of Beer Writers Awards

Alastair Gilmour was awarded the title of Beer Writer of the Year at the Guild's annual dinner.

The winner is chosen from one of the five category winners which set out to find the very best of beer writing and journalism. According to Chairman of the Judges Richard Morrice, Alastair Gilmour's submissions were numerous, witty and covered an enormous amount of new ground across many subject areas. Mr Morrice commented: "The good people of the North East are very lucky indeed to have him writing for them."

The Artois Bock Award for National Journalism was won by Jonathan Ray of the Daily Telegraph and Carol Midgley of the Times was named runner up. Amongst the other prizes awarded was the Budvar Travel Bursary for the best article or book published in English on overseas beer matters which went to Tim Webb, author of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide to Belgium & Holland. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Michael Jackson and the Beer and Brewing Award went to Fuller's head brewer John Keeling, with particular reference to his work on making Discovery such an excellent beer.

◆ New beer magazine

I have been sent – thank you – a review copy of a new magazine called Beers of the World. This is a glossy 80-page bi-monthly costing £3.00. It is very much in the style of many 'foodie' magazines but



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NEWS ROUND-UP

none the worse for that. The content is well varied and should have something for everyone. The first issue includes articles about Fullers, Theakstons, Czech brewing and Cantillion Brewery as well as a profile of all of the breweries in East Anglia. It is not London Drinker, then it is not meant to be. Take a look.

◆ Xanthohumol anyone?

More research from America, although more to my liking. Apparently the above chemical is contained in hops and, according to Dr Fred Stevens of Oregon State University, it helps fight breast, colon, ovarian and prostate cancer. It is even an equal opportunities remedy, equally helping both men and women. The only problem is that the article gave no indication of how much beer you have to consume to get these benefits and whether, in doing so, you might give yourself other problems.

◆ Credit where it is due

The life of another American biochemist was celebrated recently in an informative obituary in the Daily Telegraph. Back in the 1960s he had discovered an enzyme that could break down the

starch in the beer mixture, so removing excess carbohydrates and creating a marketable diet beer. Miller Brewing, taken over by Philip Morris in the '70s, bought the rights to his process and Miller Lite was born. Meanwhile, he had embarked on a lengthy retirement career, helping new brewers wanting to achieve more robust and distinctive flavours: as the Telegraph heads the piece,

Joe Owades

Created 'lite' beer but redeemed himself by advising microbreweries

Tony Hedger

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BATTERSEA BREWERY

The countless thousands of daily rail commuters into London that thunder overhead every day will likely be unaware that at a point roughly halfway between Clapham Junction and their destination of either Waterloo or Victoria they are passing over one of the most innovative and uncompromisingly artisan microbreweries in Britain. Situated just yards from the Battersea Dogs (and now Cats) Home and under the gaunt shadow of the disused and derelict Battersea Power Station, South-West London CAMRA member Stephen Nockolds has since 2001 quietly been building-up a respectable local market for his superb authentic beers, which are made without additives of any sort and from hops and malt sourced as close to the brewery as possible.

Battersea Bitter (OG 1040, ABV 4.0%) is the flagship ale, a full bodied amber-coloured bitter with a big and complex hop flavour (four different varieties are used) balanced by a sweet malt character and soft fruit notes. This author's favourite (and indeed the brewer's) is the *Power Station Porter* (OG 1049, ABV 4.9%), a traditional old-style brown London porter that balances classic roast coffee and chocolate flavours with an interesting hop mix finish. This beer has already impressed the drinking public at local CAMRA festivals, winning overall bronze at the 2004 Twickenham Beer Festival and overall silver at the 2005 Battersea Beer Festival. It is also now available in bottles and should soon be seen in the local branches of the major supermarket chains as they (hopefully) respond to the growing demand for fresh, locally-produced fare. The range is completed by a new beer called *Pagoda* (OG 1038, ABV 3.7%) after the prominent Buddhist shrine in nearby Battersea Park. This is a pale amber ale with the good English hop flavour characteristic of all Steve's beers. There is a citric fruit and sweet malt taste complemented by a crisp, dry and fresh fruit finish.

Local is the operative work. These beers are professionally made in a modern albeit small brewery with a consistent emphasis on quality, but the aim is not to calculate every element of the brewing process with algorithmic precision so as to produce some generic Courage type of ale, which never varies from the bland even when in good condition. Breweries in bygone eras didn't use gypsum salts or Irish moss to "standardise" their

beers so neither does Steve. In his previous life as an accountant, Steve was all too familiar with conformity and has made a conscious and to my mind successful attempt be adventurous in his approach to making beer. Indeed, how otherwise is one's product going to improve?

Steve is very passionate about the role of CAMRA, which he sees as perhaps a little too preoccupied with national campaigns and issues. Whilst admitting that the campaign for variable beer duty was a national campaign that helped all small brewers, the key as he sees it is to get the grass-roots working by supporting small local breweries in small ways, for example by fully engaging the foot-soldiers of CAMRA, its ordinary membership.

Readers of this article may well be doing so in a London pub devoid of London beers, so simply asking landlords why this is and suggesting alternative beers could help enormously. Consumers in aggregate can move mountains as the history of CAMRA so ably demonstrates. Even monster pub chains such as 'Enterprise Inns' now realise that they need to stand out from the crowd to succeed, so

we may be pushing at an open door by pushing our local beers more vigorously.

Outlets for Battersea beers change all the time. A large number of pubs in London and the South-East take a delivery once a month or even more infrequently but regular outlets are thinner on the ground. Wetherspoon's did recently make contact wishing to stock Battersea beers but, in Steve's words, their accounts department "treat small breweries as if they were charities" and he was not prepared to give his beer away. Bravo! Eight pubs that do take Steve's beers on a fairly regular basis are the Prince Albert just south of Albert Bridge in Battersea, the Hole in the Wall at Waterloo, the Dove in Broadway Market, Bethnal Green, the Eagle Ale House off Northcote Road in Clapham/Battersea, the Bread and Roses in Clapham Manor Street, the Speaker in Westminster, the Landor near Clapham North tube and the Market Porter by Borough market in Southwark. Several of these splendid hostleries are close and some very close to Victoria, Waterloo, London Bridge, Battersea Park and Clapham Junction stations, so commuters take note!

Peter J Sutcliffe



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE (SOUTH WEST LONDON BRANCH)
PRESENTS



Design by John Geipel

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(£1 Wed before 5pm)

£1 discount for CAMRA members at all times

BATTERSEA PAYS TRIBUTE TO JOHN BARRY

Last August, CAMRA South West London members attended the funeral of John Barry. Only in his early fifties, John had suffered from Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma for some time and it looked for a while that he had beaten it. John was the schoolkeeper at the school where Chris Cobbold teaches. Chris had recruited him to CAMRA many years ago and John helped Chris and the late Ted Higgins run a bar at GBBF for several years. John went on to be Branch Membership Officer and Staffing Officer for the Battersea Beer Festival. For recent festivals he drove the van and also helped on the door.

Underneath a no-nonsense exterior was a very kind and generous heart. John never refused help to

anyone who he thought deserved it. I checked the modern usage of the biblical quote 'salt of the earth' and my source said that people who are salt of the earth are decent, dependable and unpretentious. That was John. He is deeply missed by family and friends.

The Branch will be suitably commemorating John's life and contribution to CAMRA at this year's Battersea Beer Festival, opening from Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 February.. Besides collecting for the Battersea Dogs' and Cats' Home, a cause that John strongly supported, the Festival will also be appealing for donations to a cancer charity in his memory.

Tony Hedger

NATIONAL PUBS WEEK 2006 – 18TH TO 25TH FEBRUARY

CAMRA's National Pubs Week has been running for four years now. It supports all British pubs by encouraging more people to visit them at a quiet time of the year. It also gives pubs the opportunity to organise events and promote themselves whilst taking part in an established, generic consumer campaign. About 10,000 pubs participate in National Pubs Week every year. The National Pubs Week website, www.pubsweek.org promotes their events.

London Pub Walks, describing 30 walks in different parts of London linking interesting pubs, has been

researched and written by Bob Steel of CAMRA Croydon & Sutton Branch for publication by CAMRA Books to celebrate National Pubs Week this year, but copies will not be available until 20 February. Meanwhile, **Through the Gateway to the South**, a guide to pubs down the Northern Line from Balham to Morden prepared by SW London Branch members, will be available on the Products stand at Battersea, priced £2.00, replacing the coverage of this area in the 1997 South West London Pub Guide. Future guides are planned annually for other districts within the Branch.

The Magpie & Crown

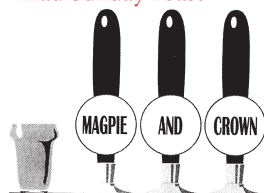


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Sunday 23 April	Noon-3pm	(if any beer left) Free

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THE PIGLET FESTIVAL

The place to be on the 8th and 9th of December 2005 was the Leyton Orient Supporters Club (LOSC), the new club premises opened in 2005 in Oliver Road E10.

As CAMRA's East London & City Branch (ELAC) had not resolved problems, the Pigs Ear Beer Festival did not happen in 2005 (watch this space for 2006). Instead, a mini-festival, named the 1st Piglet Beer Festival was run by LOSC. in the new clubhouse. The Festival was quickly put together by Mick Childs (Secretary / bar manager at LOSC), his team and three members of ELAC.

The festival was only open for two evenings for CAMRA and members of the public, the Orient supporters having the pre and post match sessions. It was an outstanding success, with 28 ales, a cider and a perry on offer and in all over 1700 pints were consumed. All the beers were excellent. The beer of the festival was brewed by Millis, a seasonal offering

called Winter Witch Dark Beer at 4.8%.

The festival was enjoyed by all who attended. Although the Orient football team did not win on the Saturday, it did not dampen the festival mood in the clubhouse. An extra event took place after the match, a book launch and signing. The book was "They Took The Lead", the story of Clapton Orient's contributions to the footballers' battalion in the Great War. Author Stephen Jenkins and ex-Orient player Peter Kitchen spent the evening signing copies. Old newsreel and uniformed WW1 "Tommies" supported the event.

The endlessly repeated question since the festival is 'when will Piglet 2 happen?'. I am glad to be able to report that Piglet 2 will be on the 23rd and 24th February 2006. Hope to see you there.

For further details email elacbranch@yahoo.co.uk

Marion Robbins
ELAC CAMRA

UK BEER FESTIVALS ON BEER-FESTIVALS.COM

If there was ever a sensible idea on the Internet these days, then <http://www.beer-festivals.com> has to be it, a very easy to navigate website listing Real Ale and Cider Festivals across the UK. Events advertised are divided into three main categories: CAMRA Beer Festivals, Public House Beer Festivals and Live Music Events with Real Ale.

The website is browsed via a calendar interface that

displays that day's Beer Festivals. As you hover over each date a concise list of that day's events appears, disappearing automatically as you move to the next date in the calendar. The festival categories are easily identified by colour, allowing you easily to spot events to your taste, in your area.

Be sure to add this page to your favourites...



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LONDON FOR FREE - MORE POUNDS TO SPEND ON BEER

FROM THE HOMELY TO THE SUBLIME

Today's free adventure takes you from the history of English interiors and gardens to a magnificent collection left to the nation by a noble family. In between these extremes you'll visit two pubs surrounded by classy stores, an auction house and a ritzy neighbourhood.

Begin with the homely and work your way up to the sublime. A small, unique museum of English interiors awaits you at the **Geffrye Museum** (Kingsland Rd, E2; Old Street Tube + bus 243 or 15 mins. walk - consult A-Z for the best route; 020-7739 9893; www.geffrye-museum.org.uk). Housed in 18th century almshouses, the Geffrye is now made into a series of period rooms showing the chronological evolution of the English home through paintings, china, and other furnishings, and highlighting English furniture. According to a museum pamphlet, the exhibits range from "the 17th century with oak furniture and panelling, past the refined splendour of the Georgian period and the high style of the Victorians, to 20th century modernity seen in a 1930s flat, a mid-century room in 'contemporary' style plus a late 20th century living space in a converted warehouse". Should you be interested in exploring interiors in more depth, research materials are readily available in a pleasant room located halfway through the exhibit. Before walking through the beautiful knot and herb gardens behind the museum, enjoy a cup of tea in the on-site restaurant. Whether you love interiors or gardens, this is the spot for you.

Before attempting the overwhelming second free venue, travel into central London for a beer at the **Golden Lion** (25 King St, St. James's, SW1Y; 020-7930 7227 or 020-7925 0007; Green Park Tube), a small, narrow Nicholson's pub. The interior is lovely, with tiles, glass, and wood floors. A small carpeted bar with seating area is upstairs; this is called 'the theatre bar', as the pub was close to the St. James's Theatre, demolished in 1957. It was at this theatre that Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest* debuted, and in the small alley next to the pub you can see Wilde's face in the center tableau, according to Roger Tagholm in *Walking Literary London*. Framed pictures of theatre greats are on the walls of the pub, attesting to its theatrical ties. A few tables are available in this alley when the weather permits. The pub has six or seven real ales, and, on a recent visit, was serving Harvey's, Timothy Taylor Landlord, and Fuller's London Pride.

After you've finished your beer, stroll around the up-market area, as the pub is across the street from Christie's auction house and, in nearby Regent Street, you can window shop at Aquascutum,

Burberry, Liberty, GapKids, and Jaeger. The Ritz Hotel is in the area as well, so get ready for the opulence of the second free site, a magnificent house.

Do not go home without seeing the **Wallace Collection** (Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1; 020-7563 9500; Bond Street Tube; www.wallace-collection.org.uk). You can get up close and personal with the exhibits here. Priceless porcelain is at risk with school children hovering precariously near to it, but the staff are friendly and lenient. Among famous paintings exhibited here are Hals's *The Laughing Cavalier* and *The Swing* by Fragonard. European and Oriental armor is displayed in several galleries. Four generations of the Hertford family have added to the collection and donated it and the house to the public. In the summer of 2000, the Prince of Wales opened a £10 million addition which included a Centenary Project lower ground floor and courtyard, which encompasses a Sculpture Garden and four new galleries, including a Fakes and Forgeries section in the Reserve Collection. This is a magnificent art collection and deserves your full attention, so allow time to savor each gallery. Visit the shop before you leave, donate a few pounds to the cause, and grab a bite to eat in the Café Bagatelle. The Wallace Collection is truly a gift to London.

Since you've been hobnobbing with the rich for a good part of the day, finish it off with a visit to the **Guinea**, a Young's pub (30 Bruton Place, Berkeley Square, W1; 020-7409 1728; Bond Street Tube). According to the Good Beer Guide 2004, "there has been a pub on this site since 1423 and this building dates back to 1675. It's a small pub with a grill and restaurant that has won many awards for its food". Although the "clientele is mainly local business people", on a recent evening visit, a Roller, complete with chauffeur, sat in front of the pub, proving that upscale customers of the surrounding Mayfair neighbourhood frequent the Guinea. Now that you are fortified with a range of Young's beers, head for home thinking of the manner in which the English have lived over the centuries and the beer they have drunk.

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Dear Editor

I refer to Mr Sheridan's excellent article "A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: AWAITING OR A WASTING". How refreshing to read an article in London Drinker that recognises some of the real problems that face the Campaign and identifies possible remedies. With this degree of insight, he should really be a member of the National Executive. If only such thinking were the norm in CAMRA circles.

However, I would like to add, regarding Mass Media Advertising and Sponsorship of alcohol, that I would call for a ban as applies to tobacco and tobacco products. It should not be forgotten that alcohol and tobacco are both behaviour altering substances and therefore should be treated the same. Before someone leaps up and says that tobacco does not alter behaviour I would argue that early death is indeed behaviour changing albeit of the most extreme kind. This ban, as Mr Sheridan states and I will repeat, would apply to Mass Media Advertising and Sponsorship, not advertising on local billboards, buses, point of sale advertising, pub promotions, local beer festivals etc., as these do not constitute Mass Media Advertising and Sponsorship. The clue is in the first two words, Mass Media.

I believe that the tobacco industry which has accepted the restrictions put on it is a little miffed that the government seems to be treating them somewhat more harshly than the alcohol manufacturers and they have a point. I never thought that I would agree with the tobacco lobby but on the principle mine enemy's enemy is my friend, we seem to have common cause.

As far as the 24-hour opening is concerned, the real winners here are the supermarkets, not real ale pubs. Supermarkets can sell mass marketed alcohol free of concern as to its consumption, which will be off their premises anyway. It is the innocent pubs, where real ale is more likely to be available, who will get the blame for the ensuing mess. It is no wonder that most responsible pubs have applied for the right to serve alcohol for a few hours extra per week whereas the supermarkets have mostly gone for the maximum. The whole question of extended hours needs rethinking, for as it stands it is not doing the cause for real ale any favours, rather the reverse.

The Campaign was never more successful than when wit and ridicule was used viz. Watneys, Whitbread and Double Diamond (Grotneys, Twitbread and DD=K9P) etc. Where are they now? However, I doubt that anything like these successful campaigns of yesteryear could be repeated given the reluctance to rock the boat and the fact that the Campaign has assets and vested interests that it would not wish to put at risk. Not seriously considering the proposals

set out in Mr Sheridan's article would demonstrate purblindness for which we as a campaign would not be forgiven. It would also be a lost opportunity to make a real difference, rather than tinker with peripheral matters however important they may seem to appear.

*Mike Moran
Clapham Park*

Dear Editor

My letter about Fuller's which appeared in the December/January issue was actually written last July. I did not know then that Fuller's were planning to take over Gales. I would like to make it clear that I oppose the acquisition and used my small shareholding in Fuller's to register a protest vote against it.

In my letter the wider availability of London Pride did not mean at the expense of Gales brands and the Fuller's success story did not mean jumping on the takeover bandwagon. I remain a fan of Fuller's award winning cask ales but concerned at the increased levels of debt which will intensify short term profits demands.

Whilst enjoying Jack Frost I will drink to a future in which Fuller's holds true to its roots as our local family brewer.

*Roger O'Brien
South Ruislip*

Apologies to Mr O'Brien for the delay in publishing his previous letter. This was due to pressure of space. I suspect that back in July no one in Fuller's themselves even knew that they would end the year owning Gales - Ed.

Dear Editor

I would like to share our experiences briefly of a recent crawl of EC4 on Tuesday 3rd January. We started at the Counting House in Cornhill and finished twelve pubs later in the Olde Cheshire Cheese.

The beer in the first two was good, Fuller's followed by Harvey's in Simpsons at £2.50 was a good start. The next three were reasonable, but then we came to the Seahorse with just Pride on. It was not very good and at £3 for two halves I would of returned it, being the worst quality beer so far and the most expensive. As my colleague had bought the round and there was not any other choice we persevered with it, but not for long. The manager took exception at me making notes and informed me I should get permission before writing things in my note book. I did explain what we were about, but he asked me how would I like it if he came to my house and started writing things down. I did explain that I did not actually live in a public house like the

Seahorse, my colleague drank his beer and left and I informed the manager that his beer was so far the worst and most expensive at which he pointed to the door. I did not bother drinking my expensive beer, leaving it on the bar.

To be honest we did not know whether to laugh or cry. We were actually quite stunned leaving the only two other customers in the pub. We made our way to the Centre Page, (soon to be changed to the Horns, the original name of the old pub on the site). Not to be caught out twice I did actually ask the manager if it was all right if I wrote in my note book. He gave me the look of 'What on earth was I asking for'! We relayed our story and he commented that if I had anything bad to write about his pub he would like to know about it so that he could rectify the problem. Incidentally I did not, the Bombardier at £2.60 was in excellent condition: in fact we had two.

A bit later on we found a more expensive pub, the Punch Tavern with just Tim Taylor Landlord on at £3.10 for two halves. It was good: it should be at that price. But the next surprise was that, on leaving, around the immediate corner we found a pub called the Crown & Sugar Loaf, £1.70 a pint of Sam Smiths. We had to take advantage and have a pint this time, and the same actually applied to the Cheshire Cheese

where we finished.

Clive Taylor
Kingston & Leatherhead CAMRA

Dear Editor

I just thought I'd better warn you to be careful if going for a drink around Euston Station after I had a little wander round the area on Friday last.

First problem place was the Hope & Anchor on Drummond Street, where I observed the barman serve one of the shortest pints I've ever seen. Aghast that the customer didn't ask for a top-up, and that the barman made no attempt to top it up, I commented to him that that was the worst short pint I'd ever seen, to which his reply was 'We have been trained that way'. My reply that they had been very badly trained then, was met by the comment from the manager that 'Oh, no - we been trained well'. At this point, I made my excuses and left, as they say.

Next stop was the Exmouth Arms in Starcross Street where, after being served a pint, I noticed the bar person emptying the slops tray into a pint glass. As she didn't seem to be going straight to the sink to pour it away, I watched what she did next, and was horrified to see her divide the contents of the glass into a second pint glass, after which both glasses

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1994/5/6/7/8/9/2000/1/2/3/4/5/6

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LETTERS

were hidden under the bar by the pump. Over Christmas, I had been talking to my brother, who lives in Cumbria, but visits the Euston area frequently for curry at the Ravi, and who was complaining of a pub in the area in which he had had an identical experience. I assume it must have been the Exmouth also, which suggests that it was not a one-off occurrence, but regular practice at that establishment.

So, if in the area, BEWARE! The forces of wrongdoing are out to get you if you give them the chance.

The thought occurred to me that so many people just take a poorly filled glass without comment, that perhaps we ought to try using Beer Festivals to educate them in how to respond to short pints. Perhaps we could offer a well short pint and say 'Would you accept this as a pint in a pub?', then point out that it's their right to have it filled up. I despair of people who accept really short measures without complaint. Perhaps I'm just a grumpy old bugger, but it gets my blood pressure up.

Steve Taylor
Crouch Hill

Dear Editor

London Drinker readers may be interested in two websites that list and review London pubs.

One is www.fancyapint.com which currently lists just over 2000 London pubs and is adding others on a regular basis. Pubs are reviewed by a team of reviewers and graded from 0 to 5. Website users can search the site for pubs by name, location, pubs near stations and by the pubs' ranking. Looking through the reviews of the pubs ranked 0 or 1 is quite amusing; sometimes the reviews tell you more about the reviewer's prejudices than the pub itself. The site usually mentions if a pub serves real ale but is not exclusively real ale orientated. Even some of the pubs ranked 4 are not 'real'.

The other site is www.beerinthevening.com which relies on reviews sent in by users and therefore the reviews are more subjective.

Colin Price

Dear Editor

In reply to A N Onimus of North London (LD Dec/Jan), could he be a little less comma-phobic when using subordinate clauses in his letter-writing? Perhaps he didn't have enough of Santa's Little Helpers (*subordinate clauses* - geddit??) when he drafted his letter about us 'types' who attract adverse comments. As he lives in north London, he is obviously not a farmer, so could he refrain from describing having "ploughed" through an edition of LD, as it offends us chavs in sarf London.

LETTERS

I apologise for the anorak and (false) beard, but my job as an interrogator at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in Croydon bars me from wearing my much-loved burqa; moreover, the false beard allows me, as a female, to *quaff* my pint-sized *beverages* without attracting undue attention, as I can't talk and drink at the same time.

Incidentally, I was impressed by Mr Onimus' Zen-like reference to "noise about the glass size". Does this bear any relation to the time-honoured Zen koan of "one hand clapping"?

Mrs G Arbage (a near relative of Mrs Trellis of North Wales)

Dear Editor

The people to whom A N Onimus (letters vol 27 #6) refers are known as 'Camoraks'. Their other worldliness stems from the fact that they are refugees from the planet Acram. Acram is a small planet where until recently the population lived a civilised and fruitful life subsisting on a natural diet of fresh fermented barley, malt and hops. There world has been, however, turned upside down in recent years by the cruel ambition of one mad scientist. He believed that the Camoraks of Acram would best be served by drinking a more consistant mass produced

product. He believes that choice is confusing and that it is the role of the producer to decide what the people should drink. To this end he mounted a coup and took control of Acram, naming himself 'Roi Vert' and imposing his views upon all. Sadly the population wilted under the bland and boring diet put before them. The natural products once used to make their staple diet withered and died, and they had to find somewhere else to go. An advanced people in many ways, they discovered Earth and the great riches that are to be found there. An advance party arrived and is slowly integrating itself into society. Unfortunately, whilst they are great at space travel, they have spent little time assessing the fashion and language requirements essential if they are to fully fit in.

So it is, when you see men 'Crawling' and 'Quaffing' wearing beards, socks with sandals and badly knitted cardigans - take pity. Their world was destroyed by the greed of the Roi Vert. Lets us welcome them to Earth. Yes, educate them on their language and dress sense, but listen to their tales of woe and ensure we do not let it happen here. Not least because our space program is not quite as advanced as theirs...

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SW London

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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 are listed below.

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

LONDON REGIONAL MEETING

March – Wed 29 (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 020-7720 6327, jephcotej@hotmail.co.uk*

February – Sat 18 National Pubs Week daytime crawl of Lambeth and Kennington: (12 noon) Pineapple, 53 Hercules Rd, SE1; (1pm) Black Prince, 6 Black Prince Rd, SE11; (1.30) Prince of Wales, 48 Cleaver Sq, SE11; (3pm) Old Red Lion, 42 Kennington Park Rd, SE11; (3.45) Hampton Court Palace, 35 Hampton Street, SE17; (4.30) Hand in Hand, 37 Meadow Row, SE1. Public transport may be required at times.

March – Wed 15 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.co.uk

BEXLEY *Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H), contacts@camrabexleybranch.co.uk*

February – Wed 8 (8.30) Mtg. Kings Arms, Bexleyheath

March – Wed 1 (8.30) GBG 2007 and St David's Day social. Robin Hood & Little John, Bexleyheath. – **Wed 8** (8.30) Mtg.. Portrait, Sidcup.

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.co.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON *Terry Hewitt 020-8660 5931 (H), 020-7126 4448 (W)*

February – Wed 1 HQ NPW pack distribution around Carshalton: (8pm) Railway, 47 North St - **Sat 4** Coulsdon ramble: meet 12.15 junction of Downs Rd/Marlpit Lane nr. Coulsdon Stn. – **Tue 28** (8.30) Mtg (incl. GBG 2007 final selection): Dog & Bull (upstairs), 24 Surrey St, Croydon. – **Sat 18 – Sat 25** Local NPW events (see Croydon website for details).

March – Sat 11 Joint social with East and Mid-Surrey Branch (see Croydon website for details). – **Thu 30** (8.30) Mtg and LD pick-up. Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY *Marion Robbins 07960 268773, elacbranch@yahoo.co.uk*

February – Wed 1 (8pm) Social. Black Bull E1. – **Fri 10** (8pm) Social. Pembury Arms E8. – **Tue 14** (8pm) Mtg. Black Lion, Plaistow E13. – **Thu 23/Fri 24** (6pm onwards) 2nd Piglet Festival. Leyton Orient FC.

March – Fri 3 Wanstead E11 three pub social: (7pm) George; (8pm) Duke of Edinburgh; (8.45) Nightingale. – **Tue 10** (8pm) Mtg. Counting House, Cornhill Bank.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET *Sandie Ward 020-8884 0075 (H)*

February – Wed 1 East Finchley N2 two pub social: (8.30) Dick Turpin; (9.45) Windsor Castle. – **Tue 7** (9pm) Social. Whole Hog, 430-434 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13. – **Wed 15** (9pm) Social. Monken Holt, 193 High St, Barnet EN5. – **Sat 18** Southgate/Enfield NPW crawl. (12 noon) New Crown, 80-84 Chase Side, N14. – **Thu 23** (8.30) New Members night. Sebright Arms (McMullen), 9 Alston Rd, Barnet EN5. – **Sat 25** Barnet/Finchley NPW crawl. (12 noon) White Lion, 50 St. Albans Rd EN5.

March – Wed 1 (9pm) (8.30). Mtg and final GBG selection. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. – **Wed 8** (9pm) Social. Greyhound 52 Church End, Hendon NW4. – **Tue 14** Green Lanes N21 two pub social: (8.30) Jim Thompson's, 889 Green Lanes; (9.45) Half Moon, 749 Green Lanes. – **Wed 22** (from 6pm) Working Social at London Drinker Beer Festival. – **Thu 30** (9pm) LD pick-up. Old Mitre, 58 High St, Barnet EN5.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD *Clive Taylor*

0208.949.2099.(H) 0208.540.1901 (W), clive@paylor2005.wanadoo.co.uk, kandle@camrasurrey.org.uk

February – Thu 2 (8pm) Branch AGM. Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston. – **Thu 9** (8pm) Social at Battersea Beer Festival. – **Thu 23** Ewell NPW crawl: meet: (8pm) Eight Bells, Kingston Rd, then to Wheatsheaf etc. – **Sat 25** Dorking NPW tour: meet (12.30) Prince Of Wales, Hampstead Rd. 465 bus from Kingston 11.41, Surbiton 11.51.

March – Wed 1 (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Waggon & Horses, Surbiton Hill Rd, Surbiton. – **Tue 7** (8.15) Mtg. Albert, Kingston Hill, Kingston. – **Sun 19** Afternoon walk from Berrylands to Worcester Park. Meet (1pm) Berrylands, Chiltern Drive, near rail station, then to Woodies, Malden Manor and Worcester Park. – **Fri 31** Evening minibus trip to Bagshot and Windlesham pubs. Pick up New Malden, Grayham Rd 6.45, Surbiton rail station 7pm. Fare about £12. Deposit £5.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON *Social contact: Mike Rose 07986*

458517, mikewrose@blueyonder.co.uk; Branch contact: John Cryne 020-8452 6965, john.cryne@uk.pwc.com

February – Wed 8 (8pm) Battersea Beer Festival. – **Tue 14** (8pm) London Drinker Beer Festival Planning meeting. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd, N1. – **Tue 21** (7pm) Night and Day 61-66 Russell Square; (8pm) Queens Larder, 1 Queen Square; then Perseverance, 63 Lambs Conduit St and Lamb, 94 Lambs Conduit St, all WC1. – **Tue 28** (8pm) Hemingford, 158 Hemingford Rd; then Albion, 10 Thornhill Rd and Crown, 116 Cloudeley Rd, all N1.

March – Tue 7 (8pm) Social. Marquess Tavern, 32 Canonbury St, N1; then Compton Arms, 4 Compton Avenue, N1. – **Tue 14** (7pm) Windsor Castle, 98 Park Rd; (8pm) Feathers, 43 Linhope St; then Hobgoblin, 21 Balcombe St, and Metropolitan 7 Station Approach, Marylebone Rd, all NW1. – **Wed 22** Fri 24 London Drinker Beer Festival. – **Tue 28** Euston NW1 Social: (8pm) Euston Flyer, 83 Euston Rd, then Head of Steam/Doric Arch, Euston Station Colonnade.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW *Brian Kirton 020-8384 7284 (H), sk014j4253@blueyonder.co.uk*

February – Thu 2 (7.30) Beer fest sub cttee mtg and GBG 2007 final list. Maggie & Crown, 128 High St, Brentford. – **Wed 8** (6pm) Social at Battersea Beer Festival, meet on the hour at Products stand. – **Mon 13** (8pm) Goodbye presentation to landlord of Cross Lances, 236 Hanworth Rd, Hounslow. – **Thu 16** (8.30) Mtg. Red Lion, 2 Castelnau, Barnes. – **Mon 20** (8pm) Social at beer festival at Moon under Water, 84 Staines Rd, Hounslow. – **Wed 22** (7.30) Presentation to Twickenham Fine Ales brewer at brewery and Twickenham Green crawl: (8.45) Prince Blucher, 124 The Green, then (9.15) Prince Albert, 30 Hampton Rd; (10pm) Prince of Wales, 136 Hampton Rd. (10.30) Rifleman, 7 Fourth Cross Rd. – **Fri 24** (8pm) Social at POTY, Lion, 27 Wick Rd, Teddington.

March – Thu 9 (8.30) Mtg Abercorn, 76 Church Rd, Teddington. – **Tue 14** (8pm) Meet the Twickenham FA brewer night at Teddington Arms, 38 High St, Teddington. -

BRANCH DIARIES

Wed 22 Brentford crawl: (8pm) New Inn, 1 New Rd, then (8.30) Princess Royal, 107 Ealing Rd, (9pm) Griffin, Brook Rd South, (9.45) Albany Arms, 17 Albany Rd, (10.15) Brewery Tap, 47 Catherine Wheel Rd.
Website: www.camra.org.uk/richmond

SOUTH EAST LONDON. *Richard Martin 020-8402 0424*
February – Tue 7 (8pm) Branch Cttee mtg. Cutty Sark, 4-7 Ballast Quay, Greenwich, SE10. - **Wed 15** (8pm) Social. Prince of Wales, 48 Cleaver Sq, SE11. - **Sat 18** Southern Rail Mega Pub Crawl, visiting many great pubs. Contact Ian White on 07775 973760 for more details (or check the website). - **Tue 21** Blackheath Crawl: (8pm) Railway, 16 Blackheath Village, SE3. - **Sat 25** (7.30 onwards) Another great evening of fun and frolics to round off **National Pubs Week**. Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St, SE1. You can dress up or just wear a hat (remember last year, we made front page of What's Brewing). This year's theme – well, just come along as a beer or a brewery, the mind boggles. - **Tue 28** (8pm) 2006 Catford Beer Festival planning mtg. Catford Ram, 9 Winslade Way, SE6. Please come along if you fancy helping out at this great event.

March – Wed 8 (8pm) Branch Cttee mtg. Dulwich Wood House, 39 Sydenham Hill, SE26. - **Tue 16** (8pm) Social. Red Lion, 10 North Rd, Bromley BR1. - **Tue 21** (8pm) Social. Ramblers Rest, Mill Place, Chislehurst BR7. - **Mon 27** (8pm) Catford Beer Festival planning mtg. Catford Ram, 9 Winslade Way, SE6.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX. *Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H), swessex@clara.co.uk*

February – Thu 2 (7pm) Social at 7th Chelmsford Winter Beer Festival, The Triangle Club, Essex County Council, Duke St, Chelmsford (5 mins from Chelmsford Station). (For further details see Chelmsford Branch website: www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk/wbf06.html). - **Tue 7** (8.30) Social. Rising Sun, 144 Ongar Rd (A128), Brentwood. - **Wed 15** (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 8 February. - **Tue 21** (8.30) Social. Prince of Wales, 63 Green Ln (A1083), Ilford. - **Thu 23** (11am at brewery) Brewery Trip to Larkins Brewery, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent, followed by lunch at The Rock Chiddingstone Heath. Coach from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford le Hope.

Details/Bookings contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215.
March – Thu 2 (8.30) GBG Selection mtg (London Area), Golden Crane, 117 Avon Rd, Cranham. - **Mon 6** (8.30) Social. Royal Oak, The Green (by B186), South Ockendon. - **Thu 10** (7pm at brewery) Brewery Trip to Mauldons, Blackadder Brewery, 13 Churchfield Rd, Sudbury, Suffolk. Coach from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford le Hope. Details/Bookings contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215. - **Thu 17** (8.30) Social. White Lion, Lion Hill (B1420), Fobbing. - **Thu 23** (7pm) Social at London Drinker Beer Festival. - **Wed 30** (8.30) GBG Selection mtg (Essex Area), Foxhound, 18 High Rd (B188), Orsett.

Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON *Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 2860 (W), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk*
February – Wed 1 Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet (7pm) Plough, 89 St Johns Hill, Battersea SW11. **Wed 8-Fri 10** Battersea Beer Festival. - **Wed 15** (7.30) Open branch cttee mtg. Bricklayers Arms, 32 Waterman St, Putney SW15. - **Wed 22** NPW social (Tooting SW17 pubs on National & Regional Inventory): (7pm) King's Head, 84 Upper Tooting

Rd: (8.30) Little House, 13 Tooting Grove. - **Sun 26** (12.15) GBG 2007 selection mtg. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19, followed by beer festival review mtg. **March – Thu 23** (7.30) Social. Landor, 70 Landor Road, Clapham SW9.

Website: www.swlcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT *Andrew Vaughan 01923 230104, 07854 988152 (M), branch@watfordcamra.org.uk*

February – Thu 9 Bushey pub crawl: (8.30) Black Boy, 19 Windmill St; (9.30) King's Head, 10-12 Little Bushey La; (10.15) Lazy Fox, 42 Sparrows Herne. - **Tue 21** (8.30) Pop quiz. Southern Cross, 41 Langley Rd, Watford. - **Fri 24** (7.30) Pub of the Year presentation, venue TBA. - **Mon 27** (8.30) Mtg, Estcourt Arms, 2 St John's Rd, Watford.

March – Wed 8 (8.30) Club social. West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford. This is a members' club and visitors may need to be signed in. Contact branch for details. - **Tue 14** (8.30) Open Mic Night social. Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre, Local Board Rd, Watford. - **Wed 22** Festival social. (6pm and every hour thereafter) London Drinker Beer Festival. Meet at the products stand. - **Mon 27** Branch AGM. (8.15) Estcourt Arms, 2 St John's Rd, 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. Branch Contact Kim Martin 07717 795284, kimberlymartin@yahoo.com*

February – Wed 1 (8pm) 2nd West London Beer Fest Planning mtg. Carpenters Arms, 12 Seymour Place, W1. - **Sun 5** WC2 tour: (3pm) Freemasons Arms, 81 Long Acre; (4pm) Prince of Wales, 150 Drury Lane; (5pm) Shakespeare's Head, 64 Kingsway. - **Thu 9-Fri 10** Socials at Battersea Beer Fest, Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill SW11: (7pm) Cider Bar. - **Tue 14** (7.30) Mtg and GBG Selections. Harp, 47 Chandos Place (upstairs). - **Sat 25** National Pubs Week Tour: (1pm) Argyll Arms, 18 Argyll St, W1; (2pm) Clachan, 34 Kingly St, W1; (2.30) Shaston Arms, 4 Ganton St, W1; (3.15) Crown & Two Chairmen, 31 Dean St, W1; (3.45) Dog & Duck, 18 Bateman St, W1; (4.15) Three Greyhounds, 25 Greek St, W1; (4.45) Porcupine, 48 Charing Road, WC2; (5.15) Bear & Staff, 11 Bear St, WC2.

March – Wed 1 (7pm) William Morris, 2 King St, W6; (end 10pm) Old Packhorse, 434 Chiswick High Rd, W4. - **Wed 8** (7pm) Mtg. Function Room, King & Queen, 1-2 Foley St, W1. - **Tue 14** (7.30) George & Devonshire, 8 Burlington Lane, W4. - **Thu 23-Fri 24** Socials at London Drinker Beer Fest, Bidborough St, WC1: (7pm) Cider Bar. - **Fri 31** (7.30) Horse & Groom, 7 Groom Pl, SW1; (end 10pm) Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews West, SW1.

WEST MIDDLESEX *David Bender 07734 509111 or contact@westmiddx-camra.org.uk*

February – Wed 8 (8.30) Mtg. Castle, St Mary's Rd, Ealing. - **Thu 16** Pinner two pub social: (8pm) Oddfellows Arms, Waxwell Ln; (9.30) Queens Head, High St. - **Tue 21** (8.30) Social. De Burgh Arms, High St, Yiewsley.

March – Wed 1 (8.30) GBG selection mtg. Conservative Club, High St, Southall. - **Wed 8** (8.30) Mtg. Royal Naval Association Club, 388a Long Lane, Hillingdon. (NB new venue) - **Thu 16** (7.30) Theatre Social. Questors Grapevine Bar, Mattock Ln, Ealing. - **Tue 21** Harrow two pub social: (8pm) Kingsfield Arms, Bessborough Rd; (9.30) Castle, West St. - **Fri 31** (8pm) *London Drinker* pick up. Magpie & Crown, High St, Brentford, then (9.30) Fox, Green Lane, Hanwell.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May edition: 15th March 2006. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.



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Old Fish Market
59 - 63 Baldwin Street
Bristol
BS1 1QZ
T: 01179 211 515



Harpenden Arms
188 High Street
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 2TR
T: 01582 461 113

Elephant Inn
283 Ballards Lane
Finchley
London
N12 8NR
T: 020 8343 6110

Queen's Head
120 Church Street
Old Chesham
Buckinghamshire
HP5 1JD
T: 01494 778 690

Prince Albert
30 Hampton Road
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW2 5QB
T: 020 8894 3963

Latymers
157 Hammersmith Road
Hammersmith
London
W6 8BS
T: 020 8748 3446

Churchill Arms
119 Kensington Church St.
Kensington
London
W8 7LN
T: 020 7727 4242



CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 187

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.

This time we welcome the reopening of a pub in E8 Hackney with a range of up to 16 microbrewery beers, including Milton beers, and sister pub to the Oakdale Arms in N4 Harringay. We also report on the opening of a new bar in E8 next to the Hackney Empire Theatre. The replacement bar for the now demolished Southside Bar has opened in SW7 South Kensington. Real ale has been removed from a Fuller's pub in Northolt and Fuller's have acquired a Free House in SE10 North Greenwich with a consequent reduction of beer choice. An historic Hall & Woodhouse pub in W2 Paddington has closed on non-renewal of lease. Following the acquisition by Laurel of some of the erstwhile SFI estate, a 'Hog's Head' in EC3

City has been transformed into a 'Slug & Lettuce', but thankfully real ale has been retained. More closures, demolitions and conversions to other uses have come to light, particularly in East London.

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; IS - N1 Islington Real Ale 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 - West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; 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

EAST

E7, HOLLY TREE, 129 Dames Rd. Greene King: IPA, Old Speckled Hen. Reinstatement of real ale. (E108, U125)

E8, CAT & MUTTON, 76 Broadway Market. Adnams: Bitter; Taylor: Landlord. Refurbished as a gastropub. Two small handpumps hidden behind high fronted bar. Reinstatement of real ale. (E111, U86)

E8, MARIE LLOYD BAR, 289 Mare St. Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale, seasonal beer. Free House/bar opened in October 2004 on ground floor of new extension to Hackney Empire Theatre. Owned and operated by the Theatre, it can only be entered from the street. It has large, curtained windows, black décor, a mixture of seating and a mezzanine area behind the bar. A pink neon sign reading 'Just Love Me', designed by Tracey Emin, adorns one wall, presumably a reference to the 'luvvies' next door. Sandwiches available at lunchtimes. A small corner stage hosts live music and DJs Wed-Fri. Disabled WC. Occupies site of SAMUEL PEPYS, demolished to make way for it. Open 12-11 Mon-Wed, 12-1am Thu-Sat and 7-10.30 Sun.

E8, PEMBURY ARMS, 90 Amhurst Rd. Free House reopened after five and a half years' closure in early January with a changing range of Milton Brewery beers and guest beers from other micros on 16 handpumps! Sister pub to the Oakdale Arms in N4 Harringay (which recently narrowly avoided demolition for housing development following refusal of planning permission). Refurbished in light and airy style with cream décor and second hand furniture from Downing College, Cambridge and King's College chapel, the walls display framed old photos of the pub, which dates from the mid 19th century, and historic maps of the environs. It had become a Trumans pub by the mid 20th century and was operated by Banks & Taylors for a short period in the late 80s. Expected to open 12-11 Mon-Sun from end of January (currently at time of writing 5-11 only). A most welcome addition to the London pub scene. Close to Hackney

Central (Silverlink Metro), Hackney Downs ('One' trains from Liverpool St) and many bus routes. Route 253 will take you close to the Oakdale Arms. (E114, U156)

E9, BABA TS, 91 Lauriston Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar in former commercial premises, formerly called Piano Bar but not previously reported.

E11, EROSION, 483 High Rd. Renamed **LOADED DOG** and now enlarged into 483-485 High Rd. Adnams: Bitter; Greene King: IPA. Formerly FASE II and originally COWLEY ARMS. (E128, U124, U134, U155, U168)

E14, STEAMSHIP, 24 Naval Row. Fuller: London Pride. (E148, U98)

E16, TAPAS AND WINE BAR, 1st Floor, departure terminal (landside), City Airport, Royal Docks. No real ale. Free House/bar with keg beers and no tapas!

NORTH

N8, PUMPHOUSE, 1 New River Ave, off Hornsey High St. No real ale. A Free House/bar and restaurant run by the Mozaic restaurant chain in part of old water works. Sells keg beer and imported bottled beers.

NORTH WEST

NW6, BLACK LION, 274 Kilburn High Rd. Adnams: Broadside. Now a gastropub with separate restaurant. Interior features sensitively renovated. Reinstatement of real ale in this CAMRA Regional Inventory pub. (N203, U173)

NW10, GALWAY HOOKER, 289 Neasden La. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop unit.

NW10, ZOO BAR, 350 Neasden La. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop unit.

SOUTH EAST

SE10, FROG & RADIATOR, 1 Woolwich Rd. No real ale, H removed. Reopened. (SE94, U102, U107, U185)

SOUTH WEST

SW7, HARRINGTON'S, Linstead Hall, Prince's Gardens. Adnams: Bitter (£1.50/pint); Fuller: London

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 187

Pride (£2), Discovery (£1.90). New small bar on ground floor of students' hall of residence with separate entrance from footpath. Replacement for late lamented SOUTHSIDE BAR, now demolished (see below). Polished light pine flooring and furniture, cream and red décor, modern lighting, piped music. Open 8.30-11am for breakfast weekdays, and licensed 11-11 Mon-Sat, 11-10.30 Sun Food 12-8pm. Follow footpath opposite No 14 Prince's Gardens on north side.

SW17, GORDON BENNETT, 24 Mitcham Rd. Renamed **ROUNDED OAK**. Marston: Pedigree; Young: Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale in December 2005 in this Wolves & Dudley (Pathfinder) ex-Wizard Inns pub. (SW109, U135, U151, U152, U159, U168, U174)

SW19, FOOTLIGHTS, Centre Court Shopping Centre, Queens Rd. No real ale. A Free House/bar.

SW19, SUBURBAN, 27 Hartfield Rd. No real ale. A Free House/bar in former shop premises.

SW19, WHITE HART, 144 Kingston Rd. Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Now Greene King, ex-Whitbread. Formerly BODHRAN BARNEYS for a while. Reinstatement of real ale. (SW116, U150, U163)

RICHMOND (TW9), CENTRO, 31/33 Kew Rd. No real ale. Free House/music/café bar in former shop premises.

RICHMOND (TW9), SMOLLENSKY'S, 24 Hill St. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in former shop premises. Latest opening in small chain.

RICHMOND (TW10), STEIN'S, 55 Petersham Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar on riverside towpath, specialising in German beer and food.

WEST

FELTHAM (TW13), SWAN, 21 Swan Rd, Hanworth. Marston: Bitter, seasonal or guest beer. (W137)

TWICKENHAM (TW1), UP N UNDER, 33/35 York St. Two changing guest beers. Handpumps replaced after

WEST LONDON PUB GUIDE

- ◆ Lists 1310 pubs (1/4 of London)
- ◆ Contains 48 maps
- ◆ Every pub located on a map (except Heathrow Airport pubs)
- ◆ Has 230 pub photos

Covers:

WEST END – WC1, WC2 & W1 (440 pubs)

Covent Garden, Soho, Mayfair, Bloomsbury, Holborn, Marylebone etc

ALL W POSTAL DISTRICTS (374 pubs)

Paddington, Maida Vale, Kensington, Hammersmith, Chiswick, Ealing etc

WEST MIDDLESEX DISTRICTS (496 pubs)

Twickenham, Teddington, Hampton, Feltham, Heathrow Airport, Uxbridge, Hayes, Hounslow, Harrow, Wembley etc.

Copies from WLPG, 30 Whitton Rd, Hounslow TW3 2DA, price £5.95 (£4.95 for CAMRA Members – quote membership number) plus 60p p&p with cheque payable to CAMRA West London Pub Guide, or order from CAMRA HQ on 01727 867201 or at www.camra.org.uk/shop



refurbishment. (W205)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, CHEQUERS, Free, closed, future uncertain. (E13, U108, U113)

EC3, OLD MONK, 80 Leadenhall St. Converted to 'Pause' cocktail bar, bottled beers only. Operated by Swizzlestick Ltd. Delete from pub database. (U119, U171)

EAST

E1, BRITANNIA, 232 Cable St, ex-Taylor Walker, now in residential use but retaining pub signage. (E62, U119)

E1, BRITANNIA, 44 Morris St, ex-Ascot, converted to fast food outlet. (E62, U99)

E1, OLD DISPENSARY, Free (Poetry Bars & Restaurants), closed, future uncertain. (U130, U163)

E1, OLD MONK, 32 Lemon St, Free (Springbok), closed, future uncertain. (U131, U174, U175)

E2, ATOMIC, ex-Sycamore Taverns, closed and boarded up. Formerly HALFWAY HOUSE. (E81, U99, U186)

E2, CONQUEROR, Free, closed and boarded up. (E79, U159)

E2, DOVER CASTLE, ex-Ascot, now demolished and new housing being built on site. (E80, U70, U99, U181)

E2, EARL GREY, ex-Mayfair Taverns, converted to clothes shop. (E80, U98, U99, U156, U159, U170)

E2, GREEN MAN, Free, ground floor now converted to convenience store and a fish and chip shop, upper floor now 'City Inn Hotel' advertising bed & breakfast. Delete from pub database. (E81, U66, U79, U168)

E2, O2 BRASSERIE (BAR), Free, converted to 'Green & Red' Bar and Cantina, no draught beer. Delete from pub database. (U170)

E2, PANTHER, ex-Whitbread, demolished. (E83)

E2, RED DEER, ex-Phoenix, now converted to estate and letting agency. (E84, U86, U112, U132)

E3, BEEHIVE, Free, H now removed. (E87, U157)

E3, LITTLE DRIVER, Enterprise, ex-Bass, H now removed. (E90, U69, U72, U79, U117, U121, U134, U143, U177)

E3, LOUNGE BAR, Free, converted to Domino's Pizza restaurant. Formerly WHITE HORSE. (E93, U112, U119, U160)

E3, ROSE OF DENMARK, ex-Ascot, closed and boarded up. (E93, U99)

E8, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Enterprise, ex-Courage, H removed. (E112)

E8, KINGS ARMS, Wells, H unused. (E113, U65, U112)

E8, OVERDRAFT, ex-Whitbread, closed and boarded up. Formerly DUKE OF SUSSEX. (E112, U158)

E8, PAGET ARMS. Renamed CAREYS 3, Free. Closed and boarded up. (E114, U119, U159)

E8, PRINCE ARTHUR, Free, still closed and boarded up and for sale. (E113, U98, U119, U130, U158)

E8, QUEEN ELIZABETH, Free, closed. (E115, U85, U159)

E8, THREE COMPASSES, Free, H now removed following refit. (E116, U96)

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E9, DAGMAR ARMS, ex-Ascot, closed and boarded up. (E120, U99)

E9, DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, ex-Ascot, now demolished by June 2005. (E120, U99, U161)

E9, GENEVAS, ex-Truman, possibly operated as a club. Closed. Formerly **WHITE LION**. (E122, U110, U136, U167)

E9, KENTE SPOT, Free, now converted to 'Fiesta', a wine bar with no draught beer. Formerly **ROUNDHOUSE TAVERN** and previously **BRIDGE HOUSE TAVERN**. Delete from pub database. (E119, U84, U108, U151, U161)

E9, PLOUGH, ex-Ascot, converted to Jerrys, a bar and restaurant. (E121, U99, U164)

E9, RISING SUN, Free, now demolished. Formerly **BOURNES** and previously **RETREAT** for a while. (E122, U54, U96, U119, U147)

E10, BAKERS ARMS, ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. (E123, U161, U166, U179, U183)

E10, FOUR FINCHES, ex-Bass, now converted to flats. Formerly **ALMA**. (E123, U105, U113, U156, U167)

E14, BUILDERS ARMS, ex-Courage, closed and boarded up. (E143)

E14, GUILDFORD ARMS, Free, demolished and new 'Ascot House' flats under construction on site. (E145, U98)

E14, TOLLESBURY BARGE, Free House on barge, removed after rumoured sinking. (U119, U138)

E15, SWAN, Wolves & Dudley ex-Wizard, closed and surrounded by scaffolding, future uncertain (E155, U113,

U134, U140)

E16, GRAVING DOCK TAVERN, ex-Watney, closed and boarded up. (E159)

E17, BARLOCKS, Free, closed and shuttered. Formerly **RUSSELLS**, **HARRISONS BAR**, **MONKEY BUSINESS** and **McCANN'S**. (U71, U108, U130, U168, U183)

COLLIER ROW, WHITE HART, ex-Taylor Walker, demolished. (X43)

GANTS HILL, BEEHIVE, M&B (Harvester), H removed upon refurbishment. (X54)

WOODFORD GREEN, WOODMAN, ex-Intntrepreneur, now demolished and awaiting development of site for flats. Was **BEDROCK** for a while. (X132, U175, U186)

NORTH WEST

NW1, RAT & PARROT, Spirit, closed and boarded up. (N174, U174)

NW6, BRITANNIA, Greene King, closed and partially boarded up. For sale as a pub with potential for other uses. (N204, U117)

SOUTH EAST

SE14, DOWN THE HATCH, Free, closed. Formerly **HATCHAM ARMS**. (SE127, U158, U186)

SE23, MOORE PARK TAVERN, ex-Bass, confirmed converted to flats. (SE207, U120)

SE24, HAMILTON ARMS, ex-Watney, converted to a convenience store. (SE210)

BROMLEY, TEASEL, Greene King, closed and boarded up. (3SE220, U59, 8K164, U98, U99, U108, U117, U131)

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 _____



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

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

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 187

SOUTH WEST

SW7, SOUTHSIDE BAR, Free, sadly demolished and replaced by HARRINGTON'S (see above). (U160)

SW12, PITCHER & PIANO, ex-W&D, now demolished and replaced by flats. (SW93, U156)

SW15, MONTAGUE ARMS, ex-Inntrepreneur, H unused. (SW102, U137)

SW17, NEW FOUNTAIN, Free, now demolished and housing being built on site. (SW110, U135, U159, U163)

SW19, HAYDONS, ex-Taylor Walker, now converted to residential use. (SW117, U149)

SW19, JIM THOMPSON'S FLAMING WOK, Free (Taipan Taverns), H removed. Formerly BROADWAY. (SW116, U144)

SW19, KILKENNY TAVERN, Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur, H now removed. (SW117, U134, U173)

SW19, KINGS HEAD, Young, confirmed now converted to bus company offices. (SW118, U178)

SW19, NAGS HEAD, Free, site now occupied by new flats (not converted as reported in U159). (SW118, U131, U136, U159, U161)

SW19, RSVP, Laurel, H unused. Formerly YATES'S WINE LODGE. (U152, U155, U184)

WEST

W2, ARCHERY TAVERN, Hall & Woodhouse, closed, future uncertain following non-renewal of lease on this Grade II listed pub. (W70)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), BAR TW3, Free, converted to 'Red China' restaurant. (W166)

NORTHOLT (UB5), PLOUGH, Fuller, H unused. (W176)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC3, HOG'S HEAD, 25 St Mary Axe Refurbished in more modern style and renamed SLUG & LETTUCE, a 'brand' recently acquired by Laurel from the erstwhile SFI, -beers listed; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier. A welcome retention of real ale despite the change of name, and much appreciated by pub regulars. Perhaps we will see the introduction of cask ales at other 'Slug & Lettuce'



Teddington Arms

38-40 High Street, Teddington TW11 8EW

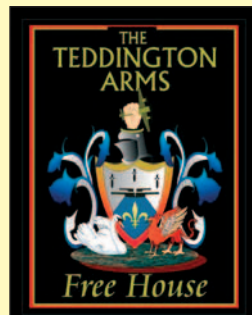
Tel: 020 8973 1510

Email: enquiries@teddingtonarms.com

With six Cask Marqued real ales, a large choice of British and speciality beers and an extensive wine list combined with friendly and attentive service, it is no wonder that the Teddington Arms is the Heart of the local community.

Our menu offers the best of seasonal dishes and daily changing specials as well as a large range of small bites and sandwiches which can be enjoyed in our cosy dining area or our lively bar.

The Teddington Arms – A True Free House



CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 187

pubs. Originally HOGSHEAD. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri only. (U155, U177)

EAST

E1, Q BAR. Main signage now reverted to **GRAVE MAURICE**, but subtitled with two large 'Q' signs in addition. (E67, U161, U180)

E2, CITY OF PARIS. Renamed **HABANAS**, now a wine bar but retaining keg beers. (E79, U86, U98, U136, U168)

E2, STINGRAY GLOBE CAFÉ. Should read **GLOBE**, subtitled (**STRING RAY CAFÉ**) (correction to update 166) A bar and restaurant. Formerly **GLOBE**. (E81, U75, U99, U166)

E9, BRUNSWICK ARMS. Renamed **MILIKI SPOT 2** following a complete refurbishment. Now Free, ex-Bass. Sister pub to **MILIKI SPOT** in SE5 Camberwell. (E119)

E9, HOSPITAL TAVERN. Drastic refurbishment with all new interior, still no real ale. Formerly **WELSH HARP**. (E122, U136)

E14, BRUNSWICK ARMS -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. (E142)

E14, CALLAGHANS. Now Free, ex-Watney. Note correct name. (E143)

E14, GEORGE IV. Now subtitled 'Regency Hotel', offering B&B. (E145)

E14, GRAPES. Now Spirit, ex-Taylor Walker. (E145, U184)

NORTH

N20, BLACK BULL. +guest beers (eg Shepherd Neame: Late Red and Ringwood: Porter) (N147, U151, U165)

N20, GRIFFIN. -beers listed with removal of casks and stillage behind the bar by owners Massive Pub Co; +Wells: Bombardier (H) only. (N147, U110, U172, U184)

N20, ORANGE TREE. -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +guest beer: both @ £2.50/pint. Refurbished and more food orientated. (N147)

N20, YORK ARMS. -Greene King: IPA; +Courage: Best Bitter (£2.05 on Sat). (N148, U167, U168)

BARNET (EN5), BLACK HORSE. +Fuller: London Pride. (N250, U181, U182)

ENFIELD WEST (EN2), FALLOW BUCK. Now Spirit, ex-Taylor Walker. (N233, U161, U177)

NORTH WEST

NW6, BRIDGE. Now Enterprise, ex-S&N and operated by Eskimo Flipper, an Australian pub company. Still no real ale. (N203, U109, U173)

NW6, GOOSE. Renamed **GOLDEN EGG**, -beers listed; +Boddington: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA. Formerly **GOOSE & GRANITE**, originally **EARL DERBY**. (N204, U119, U173)

NW6, NORTH LONDON TAVERN. -Fuller: London Pride; +Adnams: Bitter. Now modernised with semi-gastro treatment, and dining/restaurant area at one end. Now Enterprise, ex-Bass. (N205, U157, U173)

NW10, THREE BARRELS. Renamed **FINBARS**, still no real ale. (N225)

SOUTH EAST

SE10, KINGS ARMS. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (SE98,

Come on down to the TULSE HILL TAVERN

150 Norwood Road
London SE24 9AY

Tel: 020 8674 9754

We pride ourselves on the quality of our Real Ales - Marston's Pedigree available at all times.

At the time of going to press we have
Greene King IPA plus ever continuing Guest
Ales including Black Sheep, Wadworth 6X,
Shepherd Neame & Sharps Doom Bar

- ◆ Bar snacks par excellence
- ◆ Good range of bottled beers
- ◆ Beer garden front and back
- ◆ Disabled toilet facilities
- ◆ "Board Games" Night every Wednesday
- ◆ Function Room available Friday nights
- ◆ Darts - random mixed doubles each month
- ◆ Karaoke on Saturdays

TWO DOVES

37 Oakley Road, Bromley Tel 020 8462 1627



*A warm welcome awaits you in the
relaxed surroundings of this friendly pub*

**Young's selection of Real Ales
Young's Award Winning Garden**

**CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed
Friendly Clientele • Light Snacks**

Bus 320 from Bromley North and Bromley South
railway stations stops outside

Hours: Mon-Thu 12-3, 5.30-11; Fri 12-3, 5-11.30;
Sat all day 12-11; Sun 12noon-11

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 187

U107)

SE10, PILOT, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride, ESB, seasonal beer. Another well respected Free House acquired by Fuller's in early January with a consequent reduction in beer choice, though Chiswick Bitter and a guest beer are expected to be added soon. Let's hope the example of the Head of Steam, with some tasty guest beers, is followed here. (SE99)

SE23, BLYTHE HILL TAVERN, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +guest beer. (SE204)

SE23, FORESTERS ARMS, -beers listed; +Draught Bass. (SE205)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ). Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (SW45)

SW1(W), RED LION. Now Spirit, ex-Taylor Walker. (SW49)

SW12, GEORGE. Now Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SW92)

SW12, PRINCE OF WALES. Now Enterprise, ex-Ascot. (SW93, U170, U186)

SW17, A BAR 2 FAR. Now Enterprise, operated by Formerly HORSE & GROOM. (SW109, U157, U163)

SW17, CORNER PIN. Now Free, ex-Greene King. Was RIVERSIDE for a while. (SW108, U135, U142, U152, U163)

SW17, HARDYS AT THE TRAFALGAR ARMS. Reverted to TRAFALGAR ARMS, -beers listed except Greene King: IPA and Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +occasional guest beer. Now Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SW110, U161, U174)

SW17 HOOCHIMAMAS should read HOOCHI MAMAS. (U179)

SW17, JACK BEARDS. Now Enterprise, formerly Free. (SW109, U144, U159, U180)

SW17, LITTLE HOUSE. Now Punch, ex-Bass. Formerly QUEEN VICTORIA. (SW110, U181, U184, U186)

SW17, PLOUGH. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (SW110, U142, U151, U159, U174)

SW17, RAILWAY BELL. Now Enterprise, operated by 'Pubs 'n' Bars', ex-Inntrepreneur. (SW110, U142, U159)

SW17, SELKIRK. Now Enterprise, operated by Larrik. Formerly FROB & FORGET-ME-NOT for a while. (SW110, U163, U174, U186)

SW17, TRAMSHED, Now Punch, ex-Bass. (U142, U143, U157)

SW17, WHEATSHEAF. Now Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SW110, U142, U159)

SW17, WHITE LION. Now Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SW110, U142, U186)

SW18, EAST HILL, -beers listed; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Sharps: Doom Bar Bitter; +2 guest beers. Formerly 21 ALMA ROAD and previously SLUG & LETTUCE. (SW114, U141, U152, U164)

SW19, FIRE STABLES, 27/29 Church Rd. Now Spirit, ex-Taylor Walker. Formerly CASTLE. Note full address. (SW116, U144, U157)

SW19, GJ'S, Now Punch, ex-Bass. Formerly RED LION. (SW119, U142, U163, U177)

SW19, HORSE & GROOM. Now Enterprise, ex-Whitbread. (SW117, U181)

SW19, NELSON ARMS, Now Punch, ex-Bass. (SW118, U177)

SW19, OLD LEATHER BOTTLE. Now simply LEATHER BOTTLE. (SW118, U146, U151)

SW19, PRINCESS ROYAL. Now Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SW119, U146, U159, U176)

SW19, SWAN. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. Delete reference to Free House in U164. (SW120, U164)

SW19, SW19 (THE). Now simply THE. (U164)

MORDEN (SM4), BEVERLEY, -beer listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +guest beers. Now Spirit (John Barras), ex-S&N. Refurbished. (SW150, U142)

MORDEN (SM4), GANLEY'S IRISH BAR. Now Free, ex-Faucet Inns. Note correct name. Formerly JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE and originally END OF THE LINE. (SW150, U132, U135, U136, U168, U175, U178)

MORDEN (SM4), GEORGE INN, -beers listed except Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. Now M&B (Harvest), ex-Bass. (SW150)

MORDEN (SM4), JOLSONS (WINE BAR). Renamed BLUE JUNCTION, still no real ale. (U175)

MORDEN (SM4), MORDEN HALL, -Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Now Herald Inns & Bars, ex-Laurel (Out & Out). (SW150, U146, U175)

MORDEN (SM4), TAVERN, -Courage: Best Bitter; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. Now Enterprise, ex-Wychwood. Formerly MORDEN TAVERN. (SW150, U175)

RICHMOND (TW10), ROEBUCK. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (SW156)

TWICKENHAM (TW2), FULWELL ARMS. Renamed OLD GOAT, +Courage: Best Bitter; +guest beer. Refurbished by new owners to a gastropub with minimalist décor etc. Belgian bottled beers, high standard food and five B&B rooms to open soon. (W203)

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 184

PUBS CLOSED ETC

E8 MADDIGANS (OF MARE STREET). Delete 'being demolished'; add 'closed, future uncertain'

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 186

NEW PUBS ETC

EC4, SPORTS ACADEMY (now DIZZYS). Is a Free House, ex-Bass.

WC1, CROWN. Ref should read (N21, U109, W18)

SE1, BREW WHARF. Is a Free House/brewpub.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

SW18, TONSLEY TUP. Delete entry – already in U185.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

N1, SHAW'S. Should read SHAW'S FREE HOUSE.

SW12, BEDFORD. Should read: now Enterprise, operated by Onifas.

SW17, KINGS HEAD. Add: Now Spirit, ex-S&N

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 187

BROMLEY, TOWN HOUSE. Refs should read (3SE218, U86, 8K203, U158).

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 185 (IN 186)

N1, HEAD OF STEAM. Should read NW1; reinstate reference to Holt: Bitter.

FURTHER CORRECTIONS TO WEST LONDON PUB GUIDE

PUB LISTINGS

WC1, DAILY. Entry omitted in error. (18):
DAILY

1-5

36-38 New Oxford St, WC1A 1EP

Free

No real ale

Formerly Nudge

HAMPTON, WORLDS END (see corrections to WLPG in U186). Map ref is 22-6. (145)

TWICKENHAM, ALBANY. Address should read: 1 Queens Road. (200)

WEALDSTONE, CONWAYS 1. Should read simply **CONWAYS.** (216)

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

EC4, OLDE LONDON (YE), 42 Ludgate Hill. Spirit, formerly BELL, BOOK & CANDLE for a while. (E50, U162, U186)

W1(Mar), APOLLO, 28 Paddington St. Spirit. (W50)

W1(May), AUDLEY, 41/43 Mount St. Spirit. (W58)

W1(May), MARLBOROUGH HEAD, 24 North Audley St. Spirit. (W61)

W1(May), WOODSTOCK, 11 Woodstock St. Spirit. (W62)

EAST

E14, GRAPES, 76 Narrow St. Spirit. (E145, U184, U187)

NORTH

ENFIELD WEST (EN2), FALLOW BUCK, Clay Hill. Spirit. (N233, U161, U177, U187)

SOUTH EAST

SE10, KINGS ARMS, 16 King William Walk. Spirit. (SE98, U107)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ), CLARENCE, 53 Whitehall. Spirit. (SW45, U187)

SW1(W), RED LION, 48 Parliament St. Spirit. (SW49, U187)

SW19, FIRE STABLES, 27/29 Church Rd. Spirit, formerly CASTLE. (SW116, U144, U157, U187)

SW19, SWAN, 89 Ridgway. Spirit. (SW120, U164, U187)

RICHMOND (TW10), ROEBUCK, 130 Richmond Hill. Spirit. (SW156)

WEST

W2, DICKENS TAVERN, 25 London St. Spirit. (W71)

W2, KINGS HEAD, 33 Moscow Rd. Spirit. (W74)

W2, REDAN, 1 Westbourne Grove. Spirit. (W75)

W2, SWAN, 66 Bayswater Rd. Spirit. (W80)

W5, GRANGE TAVERN, 29 The Common. Spirit. (W93)

W8, OLD SWAN, 206 Kensington Church St. Spirit. (W111)

W9, PRINCE ALFRED, 5a Formosa St. Spirit. (W114)

W14, BEACONSFIELD, 24 Blythe Rd. Spirit. (W127)

W14, CURTAINS UP, 28a Comeragh St. Spirit.

Cask Marque have been working with the four National Brewers to create a 'best practice' guide for the industry on cellar management and dispense. This handbook now forms the basis of a new cellar management qualification created by the British Institute of Innkeeping, the industry's examination body.

Cask Marque would now like to see all pubs have a trained and qualified cellar manager as this will have a major impact in beer quality and create a knowledge base within the outlet. To achieve this objective Cask Marque will be encouraging its corporate members, i.e. pub groups and brewers, to adopt the cellar management qualification in their training; renting out trainers to groups of 15 people running their own cellar management training courses for individuals based at breweries throughout the country.

Visit the Cask Marque website www.caskmarque.co.uk for information or call the office on 01206 752212.

Over 3,745 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**



YOUNG'S MANAGERS CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

In November Terry and Debbie Urwin celebrated twenty years as managers of the Princess of Wales, Morden Road, South Wimbledon. The celebrations were attended by company chairman John Young and many others from the brewery, including head brewer Ken Don.

Also present were Don Younger, who runs the

pub's twinned pub, the Horse Brass, Portland, Oregon, and six of his customers who had made the trip especially for the anniversary. And off course many of the pub's regular customers, past and present, were at the daylong celebrations.

We add our congratulations to Terry and Debbie and our best wishes for the future.

CELLAR SERVICES MAN'S 35 YEARS WITH BREWERY

John Chandler, a member of a cellar services team that boasts it is one of the best in Britain, has been installed as a member of an exclusive club open only to people who have clocked up 35 years working for Young's. John was presented with a silver tankard by brewery chairman John Young when he was taken to two Young's houses for drinks and lunch with his colleagues.

After working as a carpenter in the building trade, John joined Young's in 1970, originally on maintenance and later as a carpenter. He then joined the fledging cellar services department, a team of four at the time set up to provide licensees with technical support.. Since then, the team has grown to 10 and John has taken over the cellar services help desk as well as helping to plan the department's workload. "There have been lots of changes in the 20 years that I've been with cellar services," he says.

"When I began, there were no keg or lager taps on the bars of our pubs: all the beer was served by handpumps. Now we have to be experts in the latest technology, including cellar cooling equipment, as well as making sure that our real ales are served as well as they possibly can be."



Ye Olde Monken Holt

193 High Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 5SU

Tel: 020 8449 4280

Email: enquiries@yeoldemonkenholt.com



Ye Olde Monken Holt, North London's best-kept secret. A wonderful, cosy, locals' pub, serving an excellent selection of at least 3 real-ales with regular guests. Delicious home-cooked food, the best Sunday lunches and a stunning conservatory and beer garden to enjoy in the summer along with sizzling barbecues. A must-see for all. Frances and her staff are always hugely welcoming.

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

Two Bars including the Towpath Bar
Function Room/Bar available

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North London Pub of the Year 2005

With our ever changing range of guest beers
as well as Milton Brewery Ales
on our 8 Handpumps
plus Czech Budvar, Real Cider and Pub Grub
The Oakdale is well worth a visit!



OAKDALE ARMS

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0208 800 2013 www.individualpubs.co.uk/oakdale

De Olde Mitre

Ely Court, between Ely Place
and Hatton Garden,
London EC1N 6SJ
020 7405 4751

**Historic and traditional Ale-House
CAMRA Listed • Cask Marque Award**

***During February and
March a selection of
'5 Nations'
Commemorative Ales
will be available.***

**Adnams, Deuchars, IPA
and Broadside Ale always available
Open 11-11pm Monday to Friday
(try our famous toasties)**

Nearest tubes: Chancery Lane/Farringdon



THE RED LION

Linkfield Road, Isleworth. Tel: 020 8560 1457 (Isleworth British Rail 2 mins)

**Richmond and Hounslow CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR
TWO YEARS RUNNING**

Spring Equinox Beer Festival

17th to 19th March

Friday 6.00pm to Sunday 11.30pm

**Over 20 different traditional English Real Ales plus Ciders,
Perry and Belgian Beers. Food each day. Music includes Big
Jim Sullivan and Papa George. Also Mark our Childrens
Entertainer and Morris Dancers.**

Admission Free - www.red-lion.info

REAL ALE AND THE MORRIS

'This is just an excuse for you to go to the pub' was one onlooker's response to watching us dance recently. 'We don't need an excuse', was the reply he got. This perspicacious soul had noticed that Morris dancing frequently occurs in close proximity to licensed premises. In fact, such premises invariably sell real ale.

So, why do most Morris men come equipped with a tankard and know how to use it? What's the connection between real ale and the Morris? For a start, both are quintessentially British. You all know about the credentials of our beer. And folklorists will tell you that the Morris was collected only in Britain, and is arguably the most complex of the ritual dances of Europe. (If you want to get narrowly nationalistic about it, virtually all the dances were collected within England).

Next, both take some effort. Many of us found our first taste of beer rather bitter, but aren't we glad we persisted? Few people can turn in a decent effort at the Morris without months of practice. Those of us who kept at it have found Morris very rewarding (and we don't just mean the occasional round on the house).

There is also higher than average prevalence of facial hair amongst both real ale drinkers and Morris dancers, but quite why we'll leave for the

sociologists.

Evidence that card-carrying real ale drinkers and Morris dancers are fellow-travellers comes from the pages of the last *London Drinker*. Your correspondent Robin Forshaw-Wilson enjoyed a convivial evening in the Trafalgar in South Wimbledon on Trafalgar night, and his enjoyment was enhanced by a performance by a Morris side. That was us, Greensleeves Morris Men, a bunch of Wimbledon's finest. It wasn't Strictly Morris, as we performed our mummers' play, complete with Nelson and Napoleon, and a longsword dance from Yorkshire. But mumming is a closely associated tradition, largely involving dressing in old clothes and remembering, more or less, doubtful rhymes.

Please don't take our word for the pleasures of the Morris. We'd be delighted to let any drinker sample it for himself at one of our Friday night practices. And as an extra incentive, these are held opposite that bastion of real ale in south west London, the Sultan (no guesses where we'll be found before and after our 8-10pm practices). Just turn up or, if you'd like to know more, get in touch with Greensleeves' bagman (Morris speak for secretary), Gerald Killingworth on 020-8947 1126, e-mail: gkllngwrth@aol.com

Roy Fenton



Le Gothique

***Royal Victoria Patriotic Building
Fitzbush Grove
Trinity Road
London sw18 3sx***

***020 8870 6567
www.legothique.co.uk***

Le Gothique Bar was arguably London's first gastropub when founded by eccentric owner Mark Justin in 1985. Today, as ever, a selection of regional real ales from Shepherd Neame and Ballards

Housed within South London's most remarkable building this former orphanage was a war time home to M.I.5 & M.I.6. Cellar trips (by arrangement) reveal the prison cell last frequented by Rudolph Hess. Here, you may also bump into our resident ghost.

This truly impressive building is really worth a special visit and large off street parking is available as well as an award winning garden in the sheltered Victorian cloisters. Lunchtime specials at £7.95 plus an extensive evening menu are available Monday to Saturday. Private parties and weddings a speciality (Great Hall seats 250).

**Vehicular access via Fitzbush Grove, off Trinity Road Wandsworth SW18
On foot from John Archer Way, off Windmill Drive. Nearest Station Clapham Junction.**

See you after the Battersea Beer Festival

"arguably London's first gastropub"

SPBW LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

The Royal Oak in Tabard Street, London SE1 has won the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood's award as best London pub for the second time in three years. The judges also gave honourable mentions to the Harp (Covent Garden) and Robin Hood & Little John (Bexleyheath). The Royal Oak is probably familiar to all discerning London drinkers so suffice to say that it continues to serve the full range of Harvey's beers in prime condition; friendly service and good food complete the scene. The award was presented to Frank and John at the Royal Oak on 2 February.

Advertise in the next LONDON DRINKER

Our advertising rates are as follows:

Whole page £260 (colour) £220 (mono)

Half page £150 (colour) £110 (mono)

Quarter page £80 (colour) £55 (mono)

Phone Peter Tonge now on

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FOR CHRISTMAS**

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info@realale.com

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4th BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th February 2006

20+ CASK ALES

Special deals for CAMRA members.

Beer list and tasting notes available.

Fresh, seasonal menu changes daily.

Bookings advisable.

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The Men They Couldn't Hang

St Patrick's Night:
Friday March 17th

100 CLUB

100 Oxford Street, London W1

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Ticket agencies: 0207734 8932

08702 643 333 08700 600 100



Only London show

THE BLOCK-HEADS



+ LUC WARM BAND

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100 CLUB

100 Oxford Street, London W1

tickets online: www.bangbang-live.com

Ticket agencies: 0207734 8932

08702 643 333 08700 600 100

CLUB BANG! BANG! @ 100 CLUB

Fri 10 Feb: Amazing Double Bill

EDDIE & THE HOT RODS JOHN OTWAY

Fri 17 Feb: Manic R'n'B from

WILKO JOHNSON + ANGELO PALLADINO + BOSS GOODMAN'S JUKE JOINT

Fri 24 Feb:

CHAS 'n' DAVE + RIK WALLER'S MIGHTY BIG SOUL BAND + DJ BOSS GOODMAN

Fri 03 Mar:

THE STORYS + support + BOSS GOODMAN'S JUKE JOINT

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IDLE MOMENTS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 6 King Henry's Wives (Two Lost their Heads)
2. 22 Players in a Rugby Union Team (Including Replacements)
3. 1000 Litres of Water Weigh a Tonne
4. 1 is One and All Alone (and Ever More Shall Be So)
5. 44 BC - Murder of Julius Caesar
6. 288 Hours of Christmas (Twelve Days)
7. 7 Events in the Heptathlon
8. 181 Highest Number You Can Bust in Darts
9. 4 Quadrants in a Circle
10. 168 Spots on a Set of Dominoes (Double Six)

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. OLD MAN - MALDON
2. CROPPED ONGAR - COPPER DRAGON
3. UNREST AS CULT - UNCLE STUARTS
4. I BRAND HIND - BIRD IN HAND
5. DIVER'S IRE - RIVERSIDE
6. HOOPED MAN - HOPDAEMON
7. HOW ODD, ANNE - WOODEN HAND
8. DON'T BURN FIG - BUNTINGFORD
9. BOLD EAR - OLD BEAR
10. GLEE FINDER - GREENFIELD

5BY4 was subtitled "How well do you remember your Beatles" and the songs appeared on the albums as follows:

1. Abbey Road - Here Comes the Sun
2. A Hard Day's Night - Can't Buy Me Love
3. Sgt. Peppers Lonely Heart Club Band - When I'm Sixty Four
4. Help! - Yesterday
5. Please Please Me - Twist and Shout
6. Revolver - Here, There and Everywhere
7. Rubber Soul - In My Life
8. Magical Mystery Tour (the LP!) - Penny Lane
9. With The Beatles - It Won't Be Long
10. Beatles for Sale - Eight Days a Week

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The Shatt al Arab is formed by the confluence of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates.
2. The city of Manaus stands near the confluence of the Amazon and the Rio Negro.
3. Cayenne is the capital city of French Guiana.
4. And Bratislava is the capital of Slovakia.
5. The architect who warranted a song about him on Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was Frank Lloyd Wright
6. The numbers linking US Presidents were fathers and sons. Nos. 2 and 6 were John and John Quincy Adams and Nos. 41 and 43 are George and George W. Bush. The aside was that Nos. 22 and 24 were the same man - Grover Cleveland.
7. The World Champion in 2003 was Werner Schlager of Austria, in 2001 it was Wang Liqin of China and the last English World Champion was Johnny Leach in 1949. And the sport is Table Tennis.
8. The toxin produced from the beans of the castor oil plant is Ricin.
9. The patron saint of archers (perhaps ironically as he is frequently, if inaccurately, depicted as being martyred by arrows) is Saint Sebastian
10. The man who is supposed to have nailed his "95 Theses" opposing the sale of indulgences to raise money for the building of St Peter's in Rome to the door of the church in Wittenberg was Martin Luther (who is perhaps as well known for his chronic constipation).

IDLE MOMENTS

"You can't say that civilization don't advance for in every war they kill you in a new way."

There's a lively thought for a new year; it comes from Will Rogers writing in the New York Times on 23rd December 1929. And on that cheery note let's do some number puzzles:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 86 MM to the S | 2. 13 Å is the CR of a TPP |
| 3. 1840 I of the FPS (B) | 4. 22 B on a ST |
| 5. 4 CP on a C | 6. 70 TS and T |
| 7. 18 M is the D of a FPC | 8. 55 D in a DNS |
| 9. 10 P are A to the W | 10. 72 P in a F |
- of a FOGPR

Last year I was a bit remiss with the number puzzles because I didn't get round to doing the new breweries listed in the 2005 Good Beer Guide. I have now made amends – half of the following ones were new in the 2005 guide and the rest are new in the 2006 edition

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. CLAN LORD | 2. WEARS TOWEL |
| 3. GRAN FOUGHT LORDS | 4. NOT DOWN |
| 5. REMOTE RAG | 6. WALLY NEEDS "E" |
| 7. DIM SAFELY | 8. WE'RE HARD |
| 9. BONK CURLY CAT | 10. HAULS THE GROUSE |

We're not having a 5BY4 this month; instead I am offering you a Real Money Slang Quiz.

Do you remember the days of real money? You know – pounds shillings and pence, before the mock colonial stuff we have now. If not you could be in trouble but to make things easy I'm even giving you the answer. All you have to do is add up the twelve things listed below and arrive at a total of £32:17:8d. It will probably also help if you like awful puns:

A stone; A bicycle; A singer; A man's name; Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune; Leather worker; 50% of a pair of panties; Royal headress;

Unwell sea creature; Simian leg joint; King Charles II; Exotic fowl.

So there you are then. By the way you can thank a chap called Ian for those. (Further information is withheld to protect the guilty!) If anybody else would like to submit any other silly things like this I would be happy to hear from you. You can email me on andy@pirson.demon.co.uk – let me know if you want fame or anonymity (aka protection).

And so at last we come on to the trivia bit. No, I don't know where I rake them up from either:

1. In the Bafta and Emmy award winning television play, "The Gathering Storm" about Churchill's life in the mid-thirties (recently rebroadcast on BBC2), who played the Butler, David Inches?
2. What is the title taken when he became a peer by Tony Banks, who died suddenly from a stroke while on holiday last month? (Apparently he was not allowed his first choice – Lord Banks of the Thames!)
3. What are Churchwards and Collets?
4. By what name are the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories more commonly known?
5. What is run every other August from Cowes to Plymouth – the long way round (605 miles in all)?
6. Aston Martin cars derive the second part of their name from Lionel Martin who started the company but where does the "Aston" come from?
7. What modern technology takes its name from the epithet of Harold, King of Denmark from about 940 to 985?
8. How far below seal level is the surface of the Dead Sea? (Ignoring the obvious, "If it is a sea it is at sea level")
9. In 1955 which Englishman won the round Italy Mille Miglia race at the record average speed of 97.95mph – and in what make of car? And for lots of extra points, who was his navigator?
10. Eleanor Velasco Thornton was the secretary (and more, we believe) to the Second Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. She is also (almost certainly) the model for what sculpture?

And now the bit you've all been waiting for

Byeel! *Andy Pirson*



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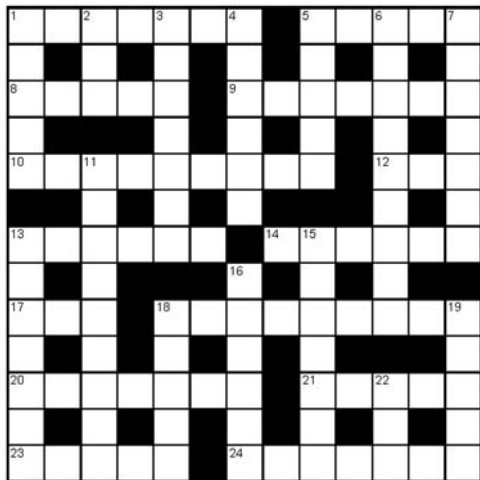
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LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

£20 PRIZE TO BE WON



Name

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.....

All correct entries received by first post on 29th March will be entered into a draw for the prize. Prize winner will be announced in the June 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



ACROSS

1. Talk introducing new design. [7]
5. Party man is right to swear. [5]
8. Change at noon. [5]
9. It's wrong to be in debt and abused. [7]
10. Create diversion and gain access to let soldiers in. [9]
12. Born in need. [3]
13. Be quiet and, at the end of the day, you'll get a drink. [5]
14. Shoots puritans on the Sabbath. [6]
17. Pub in Spain? Never! [3]
18. Many countries showing restraint. [9]
20. Plead for knowledge of the devil. [7]
21. Pale like a bird? [5]
23. State yobbo should be punished. [5]
24. Some breathe a tremendous sigh hear. [7]

DOWN

1. Put material on pinhead. [5]
2. Match clothing. [3]
3. Stood and stopped outside ancient city. [7]
4. Girl with new man. [6]
5. Flier is welcome in the navy. [5]
6. He loves to invent ale variety. [9]
7. It's a relief to put clothes on again. [7]
11. Teach dog to watch for carriages. [5,4]
13. Having a go at drink in grass. [7]
15. Head round edge of gorilla. [7]
16. Determined to be at camp. [6]
18. Great noise in extremely cold mass. [5]
19. It may be perfect to be tight. [5]
22. Attack success. [3]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:
Bryan Smith, London NW3

Other correct entries were received from:
Tony Alpe, Mrs. Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Geoff B, Kamal Gbajia Biamila, Steve Block, John Blundell, Stanley Brown, Eddie Carr, R.Conway, Mark Cook, Charles Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Paul Curson, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Chris Ellis, Mike Farrelly, Arthur Fox-Ache, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, David Griffiths, Tarnya Haigh, Peter Haines, John Heath, Kevin Henriques, Graham Hill, William Hill, Sheerluck Holmes, Bob Jarvis, Claire Jenkins, Terry Lavell, Rob Lewis, David Lopatis, Mike McHugh, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, John Nevitt, Mick Norman, Brian Phillips, Derek Pryce, Richard Rogers, D.Shaftoe, Lesley Smith, Alina Syed, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, John W & a H.K. bobby, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Ian Whiteman, J.Williamson, Sue Wilson, David Woodward, Ho Lin Wun.





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tea

"noun, a hot drink made by infusing the dried, crushed leaves of the tea plant in boiling water."
(Oxford English Dictionary)

TEA

"A pale brown best bitter with both malt & hops prominent in the nose. These carry through into a well rounded bitter flavour balanced by fruit & some sweetness. Hoppy bitterness grows in the aftertaste."

(Good Beer Guide)

Good Taste...



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