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EDITORIAL

THE BIGGER THE WORSE?

It's time to ask the regional brewers just what they really stand for. The recent roll call of shame within the industry looks like a rogues' gallery of sins and sinners the usual suspects would be proud of. Indeed it appears that the philosophy of Coors, Carlsberg, InBev and S&N has been wholeheartedly adopted by those who should at the very least know a bit better. Fuller's acquisition of Gales, Young's decision to sell its Wandsworth site and just about everything Greene King has put its hand to over the past eighteen months suggest that the dog eat dog practice of mergers and acquisitions, and to hell with heritage, is no longer limited to the Big Four. While in the past CAMRA's fight was at least against an easily recognisable adversary from the 'outside' who would make little effort to conceal what they and everyone else knew - that they were only in it for the money - the sorry tales of Rideleys, Gales and now Hardys & Hansons, to name but a few, show a worrying trend.

The recent petitioning against Fuller's and the mounting concerns raised in *What's Brewing* against Greene King point to a high level of unease over the increasing acquisitions of smaller family breweries. But is this enough and does it really bring to attention the problems caused by the regionals' drive towards acquiring monopolies, not to mention the negative impact this is having upon access to a variety of decent ales across the South East? The big regionals are at the moment riding the crest of a wave, as more and more people are eschewing the restaurant for the pub. And herein lies the problem. This position of confidence has not only increased reliance upon the money generators of extensive wine lists and upmarket menus, but fermented a somewhat dismissive attitude to the ale market, particularly the accommodation of micros or small family brewers through a guest policy. Consequently the range of ales available from the regionals is decreasing, with some pubs now offering only two on cask. These are not the concerns of a pessimistic customer, but the observations of a despondent licensee (who shall remain anonymous along with the brewery he works for). So this is obviously a concern which is picked up not just by the drinker.

However, these issues raise an ambiguous point of contention. Despite the damaging impact this is having, the regionals are at least gaining a substantial market in competition with both the big four brewers and the dominant pubcos. Criticism of their consolidation is therefore somewhat morally loaded, and carries a level of responsibility. A limited boycott of the regionals is only feasible if there are other options and sadly, with the exception of a few enclaves, the landscape across London can be rather homogenous and sorely lacks free houses and outlets for the smaller brewers. Lobbying for a guest can be a thankless task, as our licensee will testify, and if it's tough enough for a manager who is in daily contact with his company then it doesn't bode to well for the rest of us. Likewise if, as many on the north eastern fringes of London have observed, Greene King

Views expressed in this publication are those of their individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

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

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

For publication in October 2006, please send electronic documents to the Editor no later than Wednesday 13th September.

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

ADVERTISING: Peter Tonge: Tel: 020-8300 7693.

Printed by Cliffe Enterprise, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2RJ

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are willing to limit availability to two casks, then it's unlikely they would consider a guest policy. Furthermore, Gales sold up as it was their legal right to, and Fuller's presumably will discontinue or limit production, as is their right. It's hard to argue with market freedom and economy.

So unless divestment is practical, and for many it is not, and for many it will rightly be regarded with trepidation, it is perhaps time for CAMRA to up the ante and demand that the loyalty tie members have shown in their devotion to the London Prides, Speckled Hens and Bitters, which has undoubtedly underpinned the success of the regionals, is reciprocated. Could CAMRA encourage executives to attend beer festivals in order at least to see how much we want a variety of ales? Could *What's Brewing*, *Beer* and *London Drinker* take a more provocative stance? Could CAMRA do anything less than vote Greene King IPA second in the Champion Beer of Britain competition?

After all, the dynamic that makes CAMRA what it is - its members' willingness to stick their necks out for the underdog and ask the uncomfortable questions that others would rather ignore or wish away - has set it in good stead over the years. Now that the underdog is no longer the ale industry per se, but the smaller breweries struggling within it, the awkward questions that need to be asked are of breweries which are represented at beer festivals and ever present on CAMRA awards lists. So where we go from here is a bit tricky and inevitably there will be many who disagree; after all if Greene King IPA is your favourite brew then its widespread availability across London is obviously something to be thankful for and not bemoaned. But what if you had particular affection for Gales Butser? It is important to make the regionals aware of the impact of their actions and that we demand a bit more than just a photo opportunity of execs turning up to accept petitions. With the Great British Beer Festival coming up, I hope this issue will be discussed, and maybe we can get our heads together and take things one step further.

Tim Tennant

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YOUNG'S LOOK FORWARD AFTER 175 YEARS

Presenting the 2006 Annual Report to a crowded AGM on Tuesday 11 July, chairman John Young celebrated 175 years of Young's and the dawn of a new era for the company in brewing for the next 175 years and beyond. Speaking first 'from my heart', he appreciated the dismay that Young's would be leaving the Ram Brewery and fondly thanked shareholders, family members and brewery staff for all their support. Then 'from my head' he explained the various reasons why it had become impossible to continue to invest in the historic site, particularly since the enforcement of health and safety restrictions imposed by a factory inspector three years ago.

The lengthy review had included making plans for a new brewery in Wandsworth but the alternative sites available had been no better. Other locations for a new brewery, outside the borough, had also been considered and rejected, as had the unattractive possibility of contract brewing.

Mr Young had known three generations of the Charles Wells brewing family. Sharing the capacity of their modern, out of town brewery provided the solution and first matching brews of Young's bitter had been enormously successful.

The Ram Brewery site would remain in use as a Young's depot for at least a year, and it was now hoped to re-employ the draymen afterwards to work at a new depot with seven Young's pubs nearby.

In his Trading Statement, chief executive Stephen

Goodyear said that the joint brewing arrangement with Wells had been the best possible outcome for Young's shareholders and customers and meant a step change in the company's financial performance. Recent and current acquisitions would bring the number of Young's pubs, managed and tenanted, up to a total of 221 and he looked forward to the future with confidence. In reply to a question it was made clear that the position of shareholders in Young & Co's Brewery P.L.C. would remain unchanged, the quoted company having a 40% share in the joint brewing subsidiary, and that Young's AGMs would continue to be held at the Wandsworth Civic Centre.

Shareholders would be advised when and if a contract for the sale of the Ram Brewery site was concluded; sensitive negotiations were at an advanced stage. Historic parts of the site would be preserved, thanks to English Heritage, and in consultation with other bodies such as the Victorian Society, the GLC Archaeological Society and the Museum of London.

Continuity was reinforced with the re-elections by rotation of executive directors James Young, Torquil Sligo-Young and Peter Whitehead and long serving non-executives Brian Palmer and Roy Summers, now joined by retired company secretary Christopher Sandland.

Members attending the meeting were each given an individually numbered bottle of Anniversary Ale, a 7.5% ABV beer brewed especially to mark Young's 175 years.

JOHN AND BETTY BAMFORD

On 6 June Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA members wished a fond farewell to John and Betty Bamford, the retiring licensees of the Coach & Horses in Kew. During their fifteen years at the pub we have seen it become a plush hotel without losing the all important atmosphere of the bar.

John and Betty spent several years at the Pope's Grotto in Twickenham where I first got to know them when delivering *London Drinker*. Since then I've lost count of the number of Good Beer Guides their pubs have featured in.

Before that they ran the Bridge Hotel at Greenford where Betty told us that she had her worst ever experience as a publican when a customer came back and threatened her with a gun because John had refused to serve him. Brave man – even with a gun I would have thought twice about tackling Betty, not that she's fierce but formidable if circumstances warrant it!

We shall miss John and Betty for the warmth of their welcome; the excellence of John's beer and the

quality (and portions!) of Betty's food. We wish them both all the very best as they start a life of leisure in South Wales.

Andy Pirson



Richmond & Hounslow CAMRA members with John and Betty Bamford following the presentation of a crystal tankard and a vase.

◆ Here we go again, again...

Greene King have opened their dreaded war-chest and have offered £270 million for the Nottingham family brewers Hardys & Hansons. As ever, GK's interest is in the company's 268 mostly rural pubs and the 174 year old brewery at Kimberley will almost certainly close. Think on that; it equates to over £1 million per pub.

CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said: *"If this deal goes through, history has shown us that Hardys & Hansons' brewery and beers will not be in safe hands. Now is the time for the shareholders who truly care about this excellent brewery to make a stand and reject this offer."* Alas, the offer price is a 48% premium on recent share values so with a potential £16.5 million to be split between 100 family members... Well, work it out for yourself... My Nottingham contacts tell me that they are not surprised. Their recent experience is that H & H pubs have been allowed to run down, with poorly-trained bar staff and poor quality beer. That all sounds sadly familiar.

Jonathan Webster, H&H's managing director said: *"There's a lot of similar values between the two companies; they are both steeped in heritage. They have got a very similar approach to the value of people and their input."* In reply to CAMRA's concerns that the deal would reduce consumer choice, Mr Webster replied that in fact it would increase it because all of GK's portfolio would now be available in H&H pubs. Like Ruddles, Morlands, Ridleys etc – all Bury-brewed copies. I wish I was clever enough to tell the difference between putting a brave face on a situation and rank hypocrisy.

Once upon a time, the County of Nottingham boasted three top class independent breweries, the others being Home and Shipstones of fond memory. GK's arrival is hardly going to help Castle Rock, Springhead and the handful of other micros to keep the heritage going.

◆ Glasgow glasses

Some good news; I reported before that the Glasgow Licensing Board had planned to impose a ban on the use of conventional beer glasses in all licensed premises by the end of next year. However the Licensing Board has now announced the ban will only apply to late opening venues and to venues with the highest risk of glassing attacks.

CAMRA Scottish Director Ken Davie said: *"I am delighted that the Glasgow Licensing Board has seen sense. Banning the use of conventional glass in all Glasgow's public houses would have sent a very negative message to all visitors to the city and was bound to damage tourism. It is right and proper that*

a ban is imposed where a venue has a history of assaults using glass; however the vast majority of Glasgow's public houses are well run and trouble free. It is gratifying that law-abiding pubgoers will now be treated like adults and a very small minority of hooligans will not be allowed to ruin the image of Scotland's superb cities."

Just a passing thought; a number of pubs will serve people who are intending to sit outside in public areas only with plastic glasses, which is fair enough. Do however check the glass in case it is a 500ml measure instead of a proper pint – the difference is 12%.

◆ Fuller's news

Fuller's good performance earned chief executive Michael Turner an interview on Radio 4's Today Programme. Pointedly asked if Fuller's were intending to take over any more breweries, he replied diplomatically that the company would always rise to any challenge. On the forthcoming smoking ban, his main concern was the delay in the Government releasing its guidelines because, without these, it was difficult to know what was and was not permitted and what alterations or additions to pubs would require planning permission. Asked if he thought that Fuller's would do well out of the football World Cup, Mr Turner said that he hoped that their City pubs would do well but what would really boost trade was a good summer. Can't argue with that!

Sales of London Pride increased by 3.6% with overall revenue up by 12% to £145 million. Pre-tax profits however fell 13% to £15.3 million because of the acquisition of Gales. Closing the brewery and laying off 40 workers cost £2.9 million.

◆ Around the chains

The Mitchells & Butlers chain, which includes All Bar Ones and O'Neills, appears to have fought off a £2.8 billion takeover bid from the property entrepreneur, Robert Tchenguiz, who was looking to add their 2,000-odd pubs to the 840 he already owns as part of the Globe and Laurel companies. The M&B chairman, Sir Roger Carr, had described the bid as 'hostile and inappropriate'. Mr Tchenguiz was runner-up to Punch in the bidding for the Spirit Group a few months back. He is obviously a serious participant in the pub business and no doubt he will be back if not for M&B then for someone else.

A new name - to me anyway - has appeared on the pub chain scene. Orchid Pubs are buying the 290 ex-Spirit managed pubs from Punch Taverns in a £571 million deal. Orchid, which has been set up by American private equity firm GI Partners, will merge these into its existing holding which includes

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the Bar Room Bar chain, recently acquired from Noble House Leisure. Punch has bought five pubs from the Sir John Fitzgerald chain in Newcastle, although none of their well-known city centre pubs were involved.

Regent Inns, best known for their 'Walkabout' Australian bars and Jongleurs comedy clubs, are being lined up for a £147 million take-over by Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group.

J D Wetherspoon's venture into the breakfast market is paying off. All its pubs now open at 9am and sales of cups of coffee have risen by 40% to 400,000 per week. They are now selling 180,000 'breakfast items' a week.

Wolverhampton & Dudley have strengthened their position in Southern England and Wales with the purchase of 70 pubs from Celtic Inns for £46.3 million. In the *Publican*, W&D Chief Executive Ralph Findlay indicated that further expansion in either South Wales or Southern England was planned and would necessitate sizeable acquisitions, although he would not be drawn on possible targets.

Scottish and Newcastle have spent £309 million on the rights to sell Fosters lager in Europe and the former Soviet Union. S&N now control 80% of worldwide sales of Fosters without reference to the

brand's owners. Meanwhile, having closed their Newcastle and Edinburgh plants, S&N are closing the Champigneulle Brewery in Nancy, France. S&N have a 37% share of the French beer market.

It may be hard work and long hours running a pub and bar staff wages may be low but it isn't a bad trade to be in for some. One of the founders of Enterprise Inns is retiring, aged 48. He earned £511,000 last year and has £6.3 million in shares, options and potential bonuses to his name.

◆ Spot the £3 pint

I received the first nomination even before I saw a copy of the last edition of the magazine. I walked into the Royal Oak and was greeted by Frank, the Guv'nor who pointed at the Harvey's Copperwheat pump and declared "Look - £3.00!" Given the quality of the product and the way that the beers are served at the Royal Oak, I have no complaints. Other reports are of a Dark Star guest beer and Fullers Porter in the Euston Flyer and £3.00 for HSB and £3.05 for ESB in the Wych Elm. My spy did however say that the ESB was amongst the best that he had ever tasted. Adnams Bitter was spotted on sale for £3.00 in a pub in N1 which I will not name because the price of a half was £1.65.

I want to make it clear that this spot is not intended

The Magpie & Crown

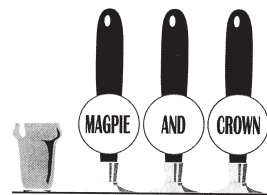


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to be a witch-hunt against pubs with relatively high prices; it is more of a market survey; you pay your money and take your choice.

Thinking about it though, should that perhaps be the other way around? You don't always know how much your going to be asked for, do you? Should the price of a pint be shown on each pump and not just on a sometimes mythical price list? After all, the price is normally on a label on the other side of the pump for the bar staff. Over to you, readers, for comment...

◆ Battersea Porter on Mayfair restaurant beer list

Michelin-star chef Michel Roux of Le Gavroche in Mayfair, who in February introduced Liefmans Kriek cherry beer to his special 8 course 'tasting menu', has now pushed a step further with the creation of a Gavroche beer list covering an eclectic range of styles. *"In the past, beer has often been neglected in top restaurants in Britain and perceived merely as a thirst-quencher. I believe that beer should be regarded as a sophisticated gourmet drink. When we partnered Liefmans cherry beer with spicy seared tuna on our seven course menu, several guests were uneasy and told us that they didn't drink beer. But once they tasted the combination, 99% of them have been converted. It*

makes me happy because it has helped us to jump the initial hurdle of beer scepticism, whilst giving us the confidence to go on to the next stage. Writing 'Matching food & wine – classic and not so classic combinations' last year gave me the excuse to pair wines and beers with a very wide range of foods; and I really enjoy some of the rather surprising matches I discovered."

The beers on Le Gavroche's beer list include:

Kasteel Cru 5.2%; delicate champagne-yeast fermented aperitif from Flanders
Gulpener Korenwolf 5%; spicy, floral wheat beer from Holland for fish and salads
Rocheport 8 9.2%; strong, pudding-friendly Trappist beer from Belgium
Innis & Gunn 6.6%; versatile oak aged beer for smoked salmon, crème brûlée or tarts
Battersea Power Station Porter 4.9%; dark malt brew for oysters, stews or chocolate puddings
Duvel 8.5%; deceptive Belgian blonde, a voluptuous match for turbot or halibut
Liefmans Kriek 6%; brown 'cherry beer' for spicy fish, puddings, and dark chocolate

◆ Publicans retire to their farm

Two of London's best-known publicans, Charles and Linda Gotto, have retired to the country after 25 years of running pubs for Young's.

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NEWS ROUND-UP



Young's deputy chairman James Young (left) presenting Charles and Linda Gotto with a Dorset Horn ram.

The Gottos, who ran four Young's pubs at the same time in their heyday, are to concentrate on producing beef, pork and mutton on the farm at Dorking, Surrey, where they live. Last year they took over the Parrot, a free house in Forest Green, south of Dorking.

Fittingly, Young's presented Charles and Linda with a Dorset Horn ram, the same breed as the brewery's living trade mark, as a retirement present. The ram will have the enviable job of serving ewes on the Gottos' farm.

Charles and Linda joined Young's as tenants of the Ship at Wandsworth Bridge in 1981. They recently gave up the Alma opposite Wandsworth Town station, which they had run since 1987, and they had also been tenants of the Coopers' Arms in Chelsea, the Grove in Balham and the Castle in Battersea High Street. Their meat and free-range eggs were served at all of their pubs and they won many awards over the years, including Evening Standard Pub of the Year at the Ship, Time Out's Best Food in London, the Publican newspaper's Best Multiple Operator and runner-up in BBC Radio Four's Food and Farming awards.

◆ The wrong trousers

On the face of it this is funny but it has disturbing overtones as to the power of sponsors. A number of Dutch supporters arrived at the stadium in Stuttgart for their World Cup game against Ivory Coast wearing orange lederhosen-type trousers called "Leeuwenhose" which bear the name of Bavaria lager, currently Holland's second biggest

An advertisement for Wadworth 6X beer. It features three tall glasses of beer with thick white heads of foam. The glasses are filled with a golden beer. The Wadworth 6X logo is visible on the glasses, with the text "WADWORTH 6X Handmade in Devizes". Overlaid on the glasses is the word "objects" in a large, white, cursive script. At the bottom, the text "Found only in the best London pubs." is written in a white sans-serif font. The website "www.wadworth.co.uk" is in the bottom right corner.

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NEWS ROUND-UP

brand. These have become the cult outfit for Dutch fans, with 250,000 pairs having been sold in the last few months.

FIFA officials were not impressed, however. Only the official sponsor beer brand (which I will not mention) could be allowed in front of the TV cameras and so around 1,000 Dutch supporters - including Bavaria's Chairman - had to take off the offending items before watching the game. The trousers went into a large bin and although owners were told that they could have them back at the end of the game, many did not bother as the same bin was used for rubbish.

◆ More dancing

My comments last issue about Morris Dancing were not met with universal appreciation so let's have a go at Volkswagen Dancing instead. Walter Hilterskogogl, a folk dancer from the Austrian Tyrol, wanted to prove how agile he was. Despite weighing 15 stone, he thigh-slapped and yodelled his way across nine cars, finally slipping off the roof of a VW Beetle having caused £30,000 of damage. Mr Hilterskogogl, who had been drinking and now faces property-damage charges, said that it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Tony Hedger

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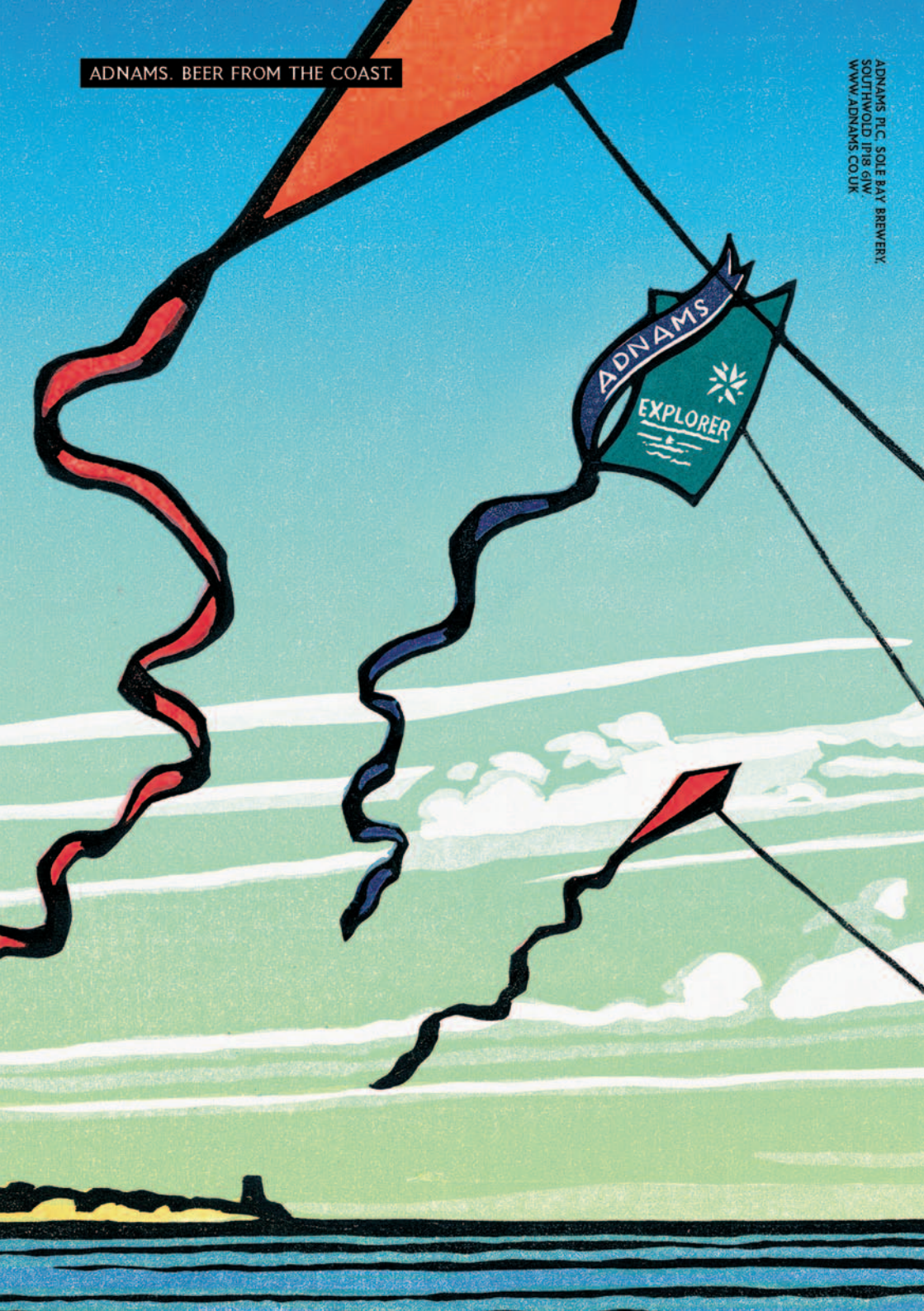
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LONDON REGIONAL INVENTORY

Here are additions, deletions and changes made to the London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest since July 2005.

East London

Dagenham RM10, **Eastbrook**, Dagenham Rd – has been added to both the Regional and National Inventories.

Romford RM1, **Wheatsheaf**, 45 Wheatsheaf Rd – has been added to the Regional Inventory

North West London

NW6, **Carlton Tavern**, 33a Carlton Vale – has been added to the Regional Inventory

NW8, **Richmond Arms**, 1 Orchardson St – has been added to the Regional Inventory

Eastcote HA5, **Case is Altered**, Eastcote High Rd – has been added to the National Inventory

Rayners Lane HA2, **Rayners Hotel**, Village Way East – has been listed grade II but is currently closed with an uncertain future

South West London

SW14, **Charlie Butler**, 40 Mortlake High St – has been deleted from both the National and Regional Inventories as it has had an insensitive refurbishment.

West London

W1, **Stags Head**, 102 New Cavendish St – has been added to the Regional Inventory

W2, **Mitre**, 24 Craven Terr – has been sensitively refurbished so remains on the Regional Inventory

W6, **Queens Arms**, 171 Greyhound Rd – is closed and sold for redevelopment as a bar/restaurant

W9, **Chippenhams**, 207 Shirland Rd – been sensitively refurbished so remains on the Regional Inventory

W9, **Skiddaw**, 46 Chippenhams Rd – has been added to the Regional Inventory

Jane Jephcote

Chair, London Pubs Group

MABEL'S TAVERN – NORTH LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

CAMRA North London Branch Chairman John Cryne flanked by Mabel's manager Tom Milne (left) and deputy Sammy Hmida (right) happily accepting their Pub of the Year award at a ceremony on Tuesday 6 June attended by Branch members and a very full turn out from Shepherd Neame brewery. This Holborn pub is a regular entry in the Good Beer Guide and in recent years Tom has been runner up and then outright winner of the brewery's cellar management award.



KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD BRANCH 2006 PUB AWARDS

The Foley Arms in Claygate and **Woodies** in New Malden share the Kingston & Leatherhead Pub of the Year award for 2006. Woodies was previously a sports and social club and has now been a thriving free house for many years. It was previously winner in 2002. The Foley Arms is a traditional Victorian two bar pub with large garden and a hall hosting folk music every Friday.

Dave Oram, Branch Chairman said "We are pleased that the improvement in quality and range of beers



that Woodies have brought about in the last year or so means they have been voted Joint Pub of the



Year. The Foley Arms has consistently been serving absolutely excellent Young's beers, particularly the Bitter, and remains a wonderful pub for the community. These pubs' awards are richly deserved."

Club Bang! Bang! @ the 100 Club



Fri 18th Aug @ 7.30pm, £12.50 adv/ £15 door

THE ROLLIN' STONED

Fri 8th Sept, 7.30pm; £12.50 adv, £15.00 door: **EXCLUSIVE**

MARK OLSON **Ex-JAYHAWKS**
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From the USA - 1950s rock & roll legend

CHARLIE GRACIE

'Butterfly', 'Fabulous', 'Cool Baby', 'Wanderin' Eyes', etc...
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JAH WOBBLE & THE ENGLISH ROOTS BAND

Fri 7th Oct, 7.30pm-12.30am, £13.50 adv: Manic R&B

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LAND OF LIBERTY BAGS HERTS AWARD AND JOINS NATIONAL FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

Congratulations are due to Martin Few and Gill Nicoll of the **Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty** in Heronsgate. The Watford & District Pub of the Year gained another accolade after the Hertfordshire branches of CAMRA voted it Hertfordshire Pub of the Year. The Land of Liberty will now go forward to the East Anglian regional competition, where Martin and Gill will be in with a chance of getting to the national finals.

Martin has been a fan of Watford Football Club for over 30 years. So when the opportunity arose to acquire a unique signed 24 Carat Gold Disc of the album *Don't Shoot Me* by Elton John, he jumped at the chance.

Our Price Records are kindly supplying the disc to the pub as part of a national fund raising campaign

for a range of charities. The pub will raise over £1000 for local charities of their choice, with a third going to Our Price's chosen charities. Already in the last year the pub has raised over £3000.

The Hertfordshire CAMRA Pub of the Year holds a music quiz night every 2 months, and the draw will take place during the Saturday 19 August music quiz: 8.30 prompt; booking advised. Raffle Tickets are on sale for £3 each for the disc, and tickets for a signed photo of Elton are available for £1 each.

For further information see

www.landoflibertypub.com or
www.ourpriceplc.com

Viewing is possible by prior arrangement: please contact Gill Nicoll: 01923 282226.

CROYDON & SUTTON AWARD WINNERS

Every year the Croydon & Sutton Branch of CAMRA chooses two Pubs of the Year, one for each borough. This year our choice for Croydon was no surprise. The Claret Freehouse in Lower Addiscombe Road, Addiscombe won again having previously been victorious in 2002 and 2004. This small high street bar is justly famous in South London and beyond for the wide variety and consistent high quality of the real ales and ciders they serve. It is a great tribute to the gov'nor John Rand and his staff to win three times in 5 years, given that Croydon is London's largest borough with around 160 pubs.



The Robin Hood

There are fewer pubs in neighbouring Sutton, 72 at the last count but what they lack here in quantity, they more than make up for in quality with some fine pubs owned by our two regional brewers, Fuller's and Young's. It is a Young's pub that the Branch Pub of the Year award goes to this year. The Robin Hood, 52 West Street, Sutton was built in 1867 and acquired by Young & Co in 1898, the same year that Sutton United FC was founded at a meeting held there. The building was

refurbished in 1985 and is now one large L-shaped room but many period features can still be seen and there's a real fire which gives it a cosy feel on those mean winter afternoons.

The Robin Hood describes itself as 'the best kept secret in Sutton', tucked away in a quiet side road yet only a stone's throw from the main shopping centre. Managed for over a decade now by Ken and Michele Green, the Robin Hood serves Young's Bitter, Special and seasonal ales in top notch condition, and you can get £1 off when you buy a 4 pint jug. They also sell the full range of Young's bottled beers. You can note the collection of Young's bottles on the shelves behind the bar and see how the designs have changed over the years.

A selection of traditional pub games is available, Monday night is quiz night and the pub's customers have raised a considerable sum of money for charity. Main meals are served every day from 12 noon to 2pm and 7pm to 9pm and snacks are available all day. There is also a private function room.

On Wednesday 14 June our branch chairman Dave Lands presented the certificate to Ken and Michele Green.

Robert King
Pubs Secretary, CAMRA Croydon & Sutton

Photograph by Peter McGill

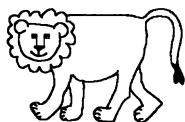
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Saturday September 2nd all day
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Weekend Beer Festival

25 beers from 25th August
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$\frac{2}{3}$ mile M25 junction 17, follow sign to Heronsgate; 1 mile Chorleywood station

A City of London pub favoured by Queen Elizabeth I won the award for 2006 Pub of the Year from the East London and City Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (ELAC).

The Old Mitre in Ely Court, Ely Place near Holborn Circus has served local drinkers since 1546 and is mentioned by Shakespeare in Richard III. Queen Elizabeth I danced the Maypole outside. Perhaps she had imbibed too much!

Jon Russell Brown, ELAC chairman, says, "The Old Mitre serves good-conditioned traditional beers. It equally preserves the tradition of world-renowned London hostelries with warm and well-wooded rooms and an appealing ivy-clad frontage. 560 years of Old Mitre drinkers can't be wrong!"

Scotty and Kathy Scott, licensees of the Old Mitre, are delighted that ELAC's 700-plus members chose their pub. "We're gratified to be selected out of some 1000 pubs and bars in the City and East London as 2006 Pub of the Year. We're real ale devotees and



are proud to continue serving splendid British beers."

Shown at the award presentation on Friday 2 June are left to right: Marion Robbens - ELAC secretary; Peter - Old Mitre barman; Kathy Scott - Old Mitre licensee; Jon Russell Brown - ELAC chairman; Scotty Scott - Old Mitre licensee; Luis - Old Mitre barman.

De Olde Mitre

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DOUBLE PRESENTATION FOR HOPHEAD AWARDS



Brewer Mark at Dark Star accepted Beer of the Festival awards from both Battersea and London Drinker Festivals on 1 July.

EARLS COURT PREPARES TO BECOME THE WORLD'S LARGEST PUB

The Great British Beer Festival from Tuesday 1 to Saturday 5 August this year will be bigger than ever before as it moves from Olympia to Earls Court. More than 700 different real ales, ciders, perries, and bottled beers will be available at the festival. Because of the new, larger venue CAMRA is looking forward to welcoming even more visitors this year than the 47,000 people who came to the 2005 Great British Beer Festival. Says CAMRA chief executive Mike Benner, *"The Great British Beer Festival is the best thing about the summer for beer enthusiasts. But even if you have never tried real ale before it is the perfect place to meet up with friends, come for a drink with colleagues after work or simply soak up some Great British hospitality."*



the first to hear the judges' choice for the 2006 Champion Beer of Britain. Licensees can apply for two trade tickets per public house or if you work in any other aspect of the trade. Tickets can be obtained from CAMRA headquarters on 01727 867201 or by emailing cressida.feiler@camra.org.uk.

This year the festival will include

Full liquid pints will be guaranteed thanks to the use of oversized lined glasses.

Opening times and prices

Tue 1 August & Wed 2 August 5pm to 10.30pm;
Members £5, Non-members £7

Thu 3 August & Fri 4 August 12 noon to 10.30pm;
Members £5, Non-members £7

Sat 5 August 11am to 7pm; Members £4, Non-members £6

The Trade Session runs from 12 noon to 5pm on the first day, Tuesday 1 August, when attendees will be

◆ Over 450 of the UK's finest ales, from the smallest microbreweries to some of Britain's best known beers

◆ A bottled beer bar offering more than 100 varieties of real ale in a bottle

◆ 'Bières sans Frontières' - beers from around the world including Germany, Belgium, Italy, USA and the Czech Republic

◆ A wide variety of unique and tasty ciders and perries from some of the UK's finest independent producers

◆ Tutored beer tastings with brewing experts

◆ A great selection of delicious food

◆ Live music

◆ A family room for under 18s

Smoking will be allowed only in designated areas.

AMERICAN BREWERS MOVE TO TAKE ON LONDON

Representatives from the Brewers Association were over in force in June on a mission to educate the UK that American beer is not all cold and tasteless.

To prove the point, an event held at the White Horse at Parsons Green showed how craft beers go as well with food as any wine. There were bottled beers from ten breweries and they ranged from a Pilsner and a Pale Ale to a Stout and a selection of Strong Ales. This tasting was not for the faint hearted as most beers were of above 5% ABV. So the food was welcome, if not a necessity.



The Brewers Association, which arranged the trip, is a not-for-profit trade organisation set up in 1942 to promote and protect American craft beer (and its brewers) and the community of brewing enthusiasts. American craft brewers now represent 3.4% of the American market and, although still small, this proportion is a welcome relief for anyone visiting the USA who likes their beer to taste of something. For further information visit their website: www.beertown.org and look out for their beers at the forthcoming Great British Beer Festival.

Christine Cryne

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VOTED TIME OUT PUB OF THE YEAR 2004**

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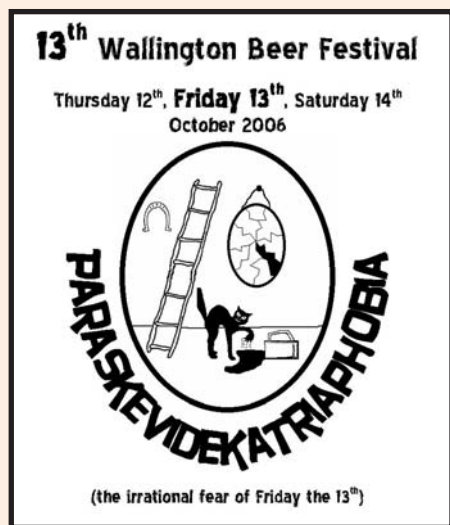
Special Hop Back seasonal brews each month

Summer Lightning 5 litre pins £15

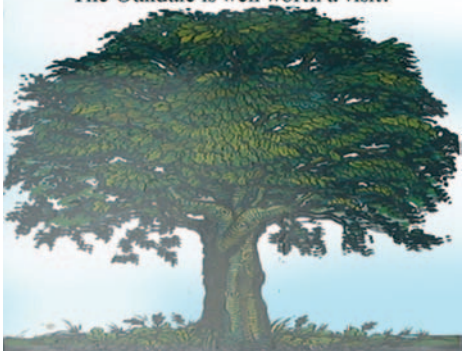
Nearest tubes: Colliers Wood or South Wimbledon (5 mins walk)
Local buses: 57, 156, 200

FRIDAY THE 13TH

Throwing caution to the wind, CAMRA Croydon & Sutton Branch have, this year, decided to hold their 13th Beer and Cider Festival over the weekend of Friday 13th October. As the Greeks would say, Paraskevidekatriaphobia, or, the irrational fear of Friday the 13th, has played no part in this decision. The Festival will be at its usual venue, Wallington Hall, Stafford Road, Wallington, open from noon on Thursday 12th, noon on Friday 13th and 11am on Saturday 14th, serving a wide selection of real ale and cider.



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BEER ON BROADWAY

The 17th Beer on Broadway beer festival, organised by CAMRA West Middlesex Branch, was held at Ealing Town Hall from 10 to 13 May. For the second consecutive year, the festival hosted the SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers Association) South-East England region's annual competition; the champion beer was Shere Drop brewed by Surrey Hills Brewery.

Although no attendance, beer consumption or profit records were broken, it was a successful festival that was enjoyed by just about everyone who came. It was a rare opportunity to be able to sample so many different beers from small breweries in the South-East of the country, all of them, of course, served in excellent condition.

The branch is greatly indebted to the many volunteers who helped run the festival. CAMRA members from across London, with a particularly

large contingent from the East, flocked to work with us. Without them we could not have managed, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to thank them publicly for their efforts.

A staff outing will be organised and everyone who worked at the festival will be invited.

The use of Ealing Town Hall for further festivals is in doubt and so this may have been the last Beer on Broadway. However, it is most certainly not the last West Middlesex Branch festival. We are definitely planning to have one next year, probably from 16 to 19 May. Details of the dates and venue will be given nearer the time on the website www.beeronbroadway.org.uk, in *London Drinker* and in *What's Brewing*, the monthly newspaper sent to all CAMRA members.

Brian Lawrence

WHAT'LL IT BE THEN?

A PINT OF THE USUAL, OR A
LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE?

Allow us to introduce you to an old friend. Fuller's ESB, three times Champion Beer of Britain, seen here in its smart new livery. Don't worry, the beer's just the same as ever. But if it's been a while, maybe it's time you reacquainted yourself with its uniquely rich, deliciously fruity flavour and long, satisfying finish. It could well be the happiest reunion of your life.



ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

Dear Editor

I've been a CAMRA member since 1970-something and my first ever pint was Young's Ordinary. My dad's office backed on to the Wandle on the opposite bank to the Ram Brewery, about which I wrote on my website.

Young's Brewery, Wandsworth

It's hard to imagine what the brewing landscape would have been without John Young, his firm and his family, past and present. Yes, the Ram Brewery has been on that site since the reign of Queen Elizabeth I - but there have been many other traditional breweries which have lost their way, their heart or their business over the centuries. But not Young's.

John Young has been chairman for over four decades and during his stewardship, Young's have remained steadfast to the cause of beer drinkers, publicans and brewers. I may not like his politics but I cherish his company, his estate and his beers.

Wandsworth has the concrete nightmare of the Arndale Centre and a deluge of yuppies flooding into what was a perfectly normal South London manor but nestled in the hell of the one way system is the jewel in Wandsworth's crown that is Young's Brewery. As you sit in the traffic fumes inching past the Brewery Tap, just think that behind the brewery gates lies England's oldest continuously operating brewery, shire horse stables and a small farm - home to Young's Ram both figuratively and literally.

All through the last half of the last century, as other brewers dumped their history and lept onto the keg, lager and nitro-keg bandwagons, Young's has kept the discerning drinker going with two*1 of the finest beers ever brewed: a peerless session bitter (never ordered by name*2) and a heavier, flavour packed Special. And they know how to run an estate, too. Whether old and traditional or newbuild, every Young's house is recognisable as a proper pub with a proper cellarman. Over 4 decades of drinking Young's, I think I have had two pints which were not up to scratch and far too many to count which could be described as perfect.

That's why Young & Co is one of the heroes of British Brewing.

1 - well probably at least four as their Winter Warmer is a world-class Winter Ale and RamRod is something else.

2 - The pump clip says "Young's Bitter" but it is always ordered as "pint of Ordinary, please" - as opposed to "Special" which is, as you'd expect, the Special Bitter.

Oh my word how wrong I was. Today, I can't believe I wrote that page.

I remember the pensioners' party during the Jubilee, I've met RamRod (the third one, I was told), I've been in the sample room, I've had the private tour (and the public one several times), I remember the beam engine - and as a Wandsworth resident and beer drinker, I can remember being so proud of Young's. Here was a company that stuck to its guns against all the odds, here was a slug of history on a site that goes back to when the Dane called Wendel gave up pillaging and turned left up a little tributary of the Thames and settled as a trader from, yes it's true, 'Wendel's wharf' and gave the settlement its name.

A glorious anachronism that stuck two (rather right wing) fingers at the establishment and told it to flush its keg down the tubes - we do proper beer here, deliver it the proper way (and if that means drays and shires on the A3, so be it - there's nothing magical about so-called 'progress', you know), and serve it in proper pubs. Right in the middle of that one way system where they've been for centuries before the one way system existed.

Every time I sank another pint it was in tribute to this wonderful company and in thanks for its stubborn determination to do things properly. Well, apart from the wonderful taste and thirst-quenching properties, obviously. Now it's just another regional brewery. I think that's what saddens me the most. Once, the flag of Young's fluttered proudly over a unique institution that gave Wandsworth its soul and the real ale movement heart in the dark days of the 70s. Now an industrial estate in Bedford just doesn't cut it. It may be 'more efficient' but Young's once survived and thrived by telling the 'efficiency of keg' where to get off. Just another brewery, how sad.

How Wandsworth could have allowed this to happen is beyond belief. I think we should organise a wake. A last pub crawl round the four corners. Or even let's bring the whole A3 to a grinding halt in memory of this dearly-departed, much-loved long-time friend.

What a sad day. Five centuries of brewing history wiped from the map. Bloody politicians, bloody developers. I remember Wandsworth when it was a proper South London town. And now in one stroke, London loses 50% of its breweries. It's a bloody disgrace.

I'm moving to Devizes...

Mike Locke

Dear Editor

So the waiting is over: we now know the details of Youngs betrayal - of their customers, their

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w e t h e r s p o o n

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workforce and, above all, their heritage and tradition. What happened to the promises that they were committed to brewing in Wandsworth or at least in London? All gone, because of the short term attraction of flogging off their site, no doubt to enable more yuppie flats to be built in SW18.

We should now expect to hear the reassurances, spun no doubt by one of CAMRA's founders, that the quality of the beer will remain unchanged and that the recipes will be matched. Yeah, right, a brewery in Bedford noted most for the unexciting nature of its own beers, is going to be able to replicate the excellent ales currently produced at Wandsworth. When this happens, I expect also to look out of the window and wave at the tooth fairy as she rides by on a flying pig.

The short term future for Young's might be an increase in share price to reflect the capital inflow from the sale of the Ram Brewery site but the smart money will take a quick profit and get out. The long term prognosis for Youngs is that they will become just another moribund pubco selling indifferent Young's badged beers for a while before giving up on even that pretence.

Still, I expect CAMRA will organise an on-line petition.

Brian Sheridan

CAMRA's stance is to support Young's pubs, support Wells and Young's Brewery and encourage people to remain loyal to the Young's beers. - Ed.

Dear Editor

SOMETHING IN THE WATER?

Although not unique to the Thames Water area, the loss of breweries along the river continues as Young's follows the shameful path of Morland, Morrells, Brakspear, Wethered etc etc. Perhaps some waterborne malaise inhibits the higher brain functions that allow long-term planning and the valuing of tradition. I suspect, however, that the answer is not in the water but the absurd price of land in the South-East.

Drought orders all round!

Dave Morgan, Kingston upon Thames

Dear Editor

A REAL BRICK!

What a delight to discover via your June/July 2006 (Vol.28, No:3) issue of *London Drinker* a traditional local pub, viz: the Bricklayer's Arms in Putney. With the cavalry charge by some breweries (sadly now apparently led by Young's) to convert as many of their pubs as they can to faceless bars and gastropubs (most of the latter in fact falling well short of the real thing and often being far less value for money than

most restaurants) and thereby invariably driving away their long-serving faithful ale drinkers, it is refreshing to find that fast disappearing traditional British pub.

I cannot recommend more highly the Bricklayer's Arms in Putney (32 Waterman Street, SW15 1DD) for its old-fashioned hospitality (Becky, John & Sam are a welcome departure from the disdain and indifference displayed all too often these days, especially by new pub management), real ale (four handpumps serving extremely well kept Timothy Taylor's Golden Best, Best Bitter, Ram Tam and Landlord) and friendly locals. For lager drinkers the Bricklayer's healthily concentrates on serving three imported lagers (Staropramen, Budvar and San Miguel) rather than the tasteless 'chemical' (to my palate) lagers brewed under licence in the UK, although they do also serve Fosters.

Long may traditional pubs like the Bricklayer's Arms survive, although it will not be by all current indicators thanks to some breweries. Thank you again CAMRA and please increase your concentration on the preservation of the traditional British pub before it disappears much like the traditional English meal has apparently now become a curry!

Tony Bell, London SW6

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Dear Editor

Over the past few months, we have noticed an apparent increase in the number of dubious individuals quietly entering pubs and trying (and often succeeding) to sell cheap CDs to the customers. Many pubs and chains, and an honourable mention should be made of the J. D. Wetherspoon organisation here, do their best to prevent these persons carrying on their dubious business, but others are worryingly lax. The people doing the selling are usually of Chinese origin, though some from Eastern Europe have been noted. This is by-the-by however, as the more worrying aspect of this trade is that these sales are criminal - for several reasons, in (the authors' opinion) increasing order of importance.

- ◆ A large number of the people engaged in the selling are probably illegal immigrants.
- ◆ The CDs are pirate, unlicensed copies, so that both intellectual property theft and fraud are being committed.
- ◆ Buying a copy is, effectively, receiving stolen goods.
- ◆ The monies received from the idiots who buy these inferior copies will be used to further more criminal enterprises.
- ◆ The people behind these rackets are almost certainly involved in people-trafficking or, in other words, slavery.

It is this last which we find so worrying as, in our opinion, even dealers in heroin and cocaine are less evil than slavers. The highly-publicised tragedies in Morecambe Bay, and other deaths of people sealed into containers coming into this country emphasise the criminality of the people behind these operations.

What is this to do with CAMRA? Because it is our duty to try to prevent this sort of thing. Can CAMRA members please:

- ◆ never buy these items, and give no encouragement to anyone else to do so;
- ◆ try to convince those publicans who have so far, turned a blind eye to this funding of the slave-trade, to cease doing so;
- ◆ make sure that any pub that does not follow these simple rules is not included or recommended in any guide or other CAMRA publication;
- ◆ if a publican refuses to curb this trade, then report him or her through the local branches to what used to be the licensing magistrates - now the licensing division/department of the relevant local authority.
- ◆ contact the LVAs and other similar organisations



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- Jazz piano Sunday afternoons
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- Open daily from midday



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NORTH LONDON
PUB OF THE YEAR
1995, 1996,
THE MILLENNIUM 2000
AND 2004**

**26 Wenlock Road
London N1**

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<http://www.wenlock-arms.co.uk/>

covering the running of public houses, to try to get some more co-ordinated action on this deeply unpleasant subject.

We have been prompted to write this after seeing, in three days, one 'salesman' being thrown out of our local Wetherspoons (again); another being verbally ejected by one of us in a City pub (the staff understood our explanation perfectly and the CD-salesmen will not be permitted in again); and finally a repeat performance by one of these 'salesmen' in one of our local pubs, even after the landlord had been asked, the previous time, "How many CDs per cockle-picker?" Then there is the refusal of some members of the general drinking public to understand the issues involved. All they can see is a cheap CD; they dislike the thought of having to pay full price and refuse to look at the very unpleasant reality behind the (often) smiling mask.

G. N. G. Tingey & R. F. Neil.

The authorities share your concern. Both Trading Standards and the Police are fully aware of the this trade and take the appropriate action. However, in the case of the Chinese sellers, in particular, they have problems of identification. The Immigration Service is not as efficient as one would hope and the Chinese authorities are apparently slow in assisting with identification. So the offenders usually 'disappear' once bailed, never to be seen again in the same area.

The answer is therefore in the hands of the consumer who should not buy from these traders and in the hands of the publicans who should ban them from their premises. - Ed

Dear Editor

I noticed that the Cask Masque feature in June's London Drinker includes two pubs in my locality that are no longer open. These are the Rose and Crown in Ilford and the Swan in Stratford (E15).

Colin Price

The list was checked by Cask Marque but these closures seem to have slipped through. Their deletions are confirmed in this issue.

Dear Editor

One of the ways that we pass our time at beer festivals (apart from seriously discussing the different beers of course) is to do the puzzles in the Idle Moments section of the London Drinker. The first question in the Numbers puzzle of Vol28 No1 was 86 MM to the S. Now three highly tuned brains pondered on this long and hard but all we could come up with was "Million Miles to the Sun", but as every schoolboy knows it's actually 93 million miles to the sun (give or take). If we were only 86 million miles global warming due to the burning of fossil fuels would probably not be a big issue. So imagine our surprise when we saw the answers in the current

magazine: it is 86 million miles.

When did this orbit shift happen? Are we in danger? What's the government doing about it?... or was it just I slight lapse in research?

Keep up the good work we still enjoy the puzzles and half the fun can be spotting the mistakes!

Tony Danks

Guilty as charged; I know full well that there are 93 million miles to the sun (give an Angstrom unit or three). I also know that there are six stars on the Australian flag and that the big one has seven points. My only excuse is that both of these were recycled from old Idle Moments and nobody seems to have spotted them first time around. I failed to spot the discrepancies while I was in cut and paste mode.

I shall try harder in future. - Andy P

Dear Editor

Tony Hedger's gibe distorts the truth. Morris Dancing is mentioned as entertainment in the Licensing Act. It is just that, being a 'traditional' activity, it does not need licensing and has been specifically exempted.

A long campaign was fought to get this exemption on to the statute book.

Greg Tingey

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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 August and September are listed below.

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

LONDON REGIONAL MEETING

September – Wed 27 (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*

July – Mon 31 Evening crawl of Hammersmith W6: (7pm) Cross Keys, 57 Black Lion La; (7.45) Black Lion, 2 South Black Lion La; (8.15) Dove, 19 Upper Mall; (9pm) Hope & Anchor, 20 Macheth St; (9.30) Plough & Harrow, 120-124 King St; (10pm) Salutation, 154 King St.

September – Wed 13 (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 528757 (H),*

contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk

August – Wed 9 (8.30) Mtg. Victoria, Upper Belvedere
September – Wed 13 (8.30) Mtg. Charcoal Burner, Sidcup.
Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

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

August – Tue 1 (7.30 & 8.30) GBBF Social. Bar Nouveau, Earls Court. - **Thu 10 (8.30)** Social, Cricketers, 47 Shirley Rd., Addiscombe. - **Tue 29 (8.30)** Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs), 24 Surrey St, Croydon.

September – Tue 5 (8.30) Social. Red Lion, 17 Park Rd, Cheam. - **Thu 28 (8.30)** Mtg. Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.
Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY *John Pardoe 07757 772564, elacbranch@yahoo.co.uk*

August – Tue 8 Mtg/E5 crawl: (8pm) Princess of Wales, 146 Lea Bridge Rd, then Eclipse, 57 Elderfield Rd; Anchor & Hope, 15 High Hill Ferry. For location on the night, ring branch mobile. - **Tue 15 (8pm)** Pigs Ear Festival mtg. Birkbeck Tavern, Langthorne Rd, E11. - **Fri 25** Ray's pub crawl by the Tower: (8pm) Mint (Fullers), 2 East Smithfield, then Bridge House, 218 Tower Bridge Rd; River Bar, 206 Tower Bridge Rd; Pommers Rest, 191-198 Tower Bridge Rd; Shipwrights Arms, 88 Tooley St. For location on the night, ring branch mobile.

September – Sat 9 Proposed visit to Mauldons Brewery and on to Chappel Beer Festival. £10 deposit to be paid one month in advance. Contact branch for more details. - **Tue 12 (8pm)** Joint Branch and Pigs Ear mtg. Old China Hand, 8 Tysoe St. - **Fri 15 (8pm)** Last of three darts matches with West London Branch. Sekforde Arms, 34 Sekforde St, EC1. - **Fri 26** Social/EC1 Crawl: (8pm) Harlequin 27 Arlington Way, then Britannia, 94 Ironmonger Row; Masque Haunt, 168-172 Old St.
Advance notice – Thu 19 & Fri 20 October Piglet 3 (The Prelude).
Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET *Sandie Ward 020-8884 0075 (H), Branch Mobile 07757 710008*

August – Wed 9 East Finchley N2 three pub garden social: (8.30) Five Bells; (9.45) Bald Faced Stag; (10.30) White Lion. - **Tue 15** Enfield EN2 two pub garden social: (8.30) Six Bells; (9.30) Crown & Horseshoes. - **Thu 24** New Barnet EN4 two pub garden social: (8.30) Builders Arms; (9.30) Railway Bell. - **Wed 30 (9pm)** Social. Dog & Duck, 74 Hoppers Rd, N21

September – Sat 2 Branch ramble: details from contact. - **Tue 5** High Barnet EN5 two pub social: (8.30) Alexandra; (9.30) Lord Nelson. - **Sat 9** Chappel Beer Festival: details from contact. - **Thu 14 (9pm)** Ponders End WMC, 46 South St, EN3 (card carrying CAMRA members only). - **Wed 20 (9pm)** Tally Ho, 749 High Rd N12. - **Thu 28 (8.30)** Mtg and *London Drinker* pick up. Enfield Town Club, Old Park Av, EN2 (card carrying CAMRA members only).
Advance notice – Tue 3 October High Barnet EN5 two pub social: (8.30) Black Horse; (9.30) Albion.
Website: www.camra-enfield-and-barnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD *Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H), 020-8540 1901 (W),*

clive@paylor2005.wanadoo.co.uk, kandle@camrasurrey.org.uk

August – Tue 8 (8.15) Mtg. Griffin, Common Rd, Claygate. - **Thu 10 (8pm)** Last chance social to drink Pilgrim beers at Rising Sun, Heathcote Rd, Epsom. - **Sun 13 (10.40)** Walk to Headley and Mickleham, meet Chessington World of Adventures bus stand. Connecting buses (71) Kingston 10.11, Surbiton 10.19 or train from Raynes Park 10.52 for Ashted 11.30. - **Fri 18 (8pm)** Social. Woodies Beer Festival, Theftford Rd, New Malden. - **Sun 20 (12.30)** Barbecue, Wych Elm, Elm Rd, Kingston.
September – Thu 7 (8.15) Mtg. Bear, High St, Esher. - **Sat 16 (10.20)** Walk from Hayes (Kent) to Knockholt via five GBG pubs. Meet at Wimbledon Stn tram platform. Contact Clive, please, if interested. - **Thu 28 (8pm)** Pub Crawl from Thames Ditton to Surbiton. Meet George & Dragon, High St, Thames Ditton, then Angel, Ferry Tavern etc.
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

August – Sat 19 N4 Finsbury Park crawl: (11.30am) White Lion of Mortimer, Stroud Green Rd; (12.10) Nicholas Nickleby 6 Ferme Park Rd; (12.50) Big Comfy Sofa, 29 Crouch Hill; (1.30) Faltering Fullback, 17a Perth Rd; (2.30) Alexandra Bar and Dining Rooms 376 Seven Sisters Rd; (3.50) Oakdale Arms, Hermitage Rd. - **Tue 29 (8pm)** WC1 Social. Lamb, 94 Lambs Conduit St; Rugby Tavern, 19 Great James St; Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Rd.
September – Tue 5 NW1 Social: (8pm) Feathers, 43 Linhope St; Hobgoblin, 21 Balcombe St; Metropolitan, 7 Station Approach, Marylebone Rd. - **Tue 12** NW1 Social: (8pm) Spread Eagle, Albert St; Constitution, 42 St Pancras Way. - **Tue 19 (8pm)** Mtg. Kings Arms, 11a Northington St, WC1. - **Tue 26 (8pm)** Pub of the Season presentation. Three Compasses, High St, N8.

Advance notice – Tue 3 October Hampstead NW3 social: (8pm) Holly Bush, 22 Holly Mount; Duke of Hamilton, 23 New End; Flask, 14 Flask Walk; Horseshoe, 28 Heath St.
Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

BRANCH DIARIES

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

August – Tue 1 (6pm) GBBF social. Meet by Adnams' bar then every hour until 9pm. - **Thu 10** (8.30) Mtg. Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd, Hampton Hill. - **Sat 26** (6pm) Beer festival social. Red Lion, 92 Linkfield Rd, Isleworth.

September – Fri 1 (8pm) Beer festival social. Lion, 27 Wick Rd, Teddington. - **Thu 7** (8.30) Mtg. Admiral Nelson, 123 Nelson Rd, Whiston. - **Sat 9** (9am) Day trip to Hall and Woodhouse brewery, departing from Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd, Hampton Hill. - **Thu 14** Brentford crawl for TBF publicity: (8pm) O'Briens, 11 London Rd; (8.30) Maggie & Crown; (9pm) Beehive; (9.30) Brewery Tap; (10.15) Express. - **Wed 20** Hampton Hill crawl for TBF publicity: (8pm) Jolly Coopers, 16 High St, Hampton; (9pm) Star; (9.45) Jenny Lind; (10.30) Roebuck. - **Sat 30** (12noon) Joint campaign outing with Staines Ramblers Association starting at White Swan, Riverside, Twickenham for a 5-6 mile walk visiting several pubs.

Website: www.camra.org.uk/richmond

SOUTH EAST LONDON. *Branch Contact Ian White, 0845 223 5265 Mon-Fri 6-8pm only*

August – Thu 3 Working social at Great British Beer Festival. Meet (6pm) on Cider Bar. - **Sat 19** Rotherhithe crawl: (4pm) Mayflower, 117 Rotherhithe St, SE16 then on to Famous Angel, Old Justice, Anchor Tap, Bridge House and finish at Pommellers Rest SE1. Phone number on the day is 07775 973760.

September – Mon 4 (8pm) Cttee/social. Watch House, Lewisham High St, SE13. - **Sat 9** Out of area social. Meet at Chappel Beer festival from noon onwards. - **Thu 21** Chelsfield BR6 trip, Five Bells then Bo Peep. Meet 6.45 for next R3 bus from outside Orpington station. - **Tue 26** (8pm) Camberwell SE5 crawl. Meet Phoenix, Windsor Walk, then Castle, then Hermits Cave.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

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

August – Tue 1 (from 7pm) Great British Beer Festival Social, Earls Court. - **Thu 10** Social: (8.30) Ship, Princess Margaret Rd, East Tilbury Village (OS TQ686771); (9.30) Kings Head, The Green, West Tilbury (OS: TQ661870). - **Wed 16** (8.30) Social. Crown & Crooked Billet, 13 Cross Rd (B173), Woodford Bridge. - **Sat 26** (from 12noon) Social. Clacton on Sea Beer Festival, St James' Church Hall, Tower Rd, Clacton on Sea. For more details see www.clactonbeerfestival.org.uk - **Thu 31** (8.30) Out of Area Social, Viper, Mill Green Rd, Mill Green (OS: TL641019).

September – Tue 5 (7.30) Social. Chappel Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel & Wakes Colne Station. For more details see

www.earm.co.uk/beerfestival.asp - **Thu 14** (8.30) Social. Stag, Brentwood Rd (A128), Marden Ash. - **Tue 19** (8.30) Social. Crooked Billet, 113 River Rd, Creekmouth, Barking. - **Thu 28** (8.30) Social. Chequers, Jnct North St and Billet La, Hornchurch (Adjacent Emerson Park Station).

Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON *Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 2860 (W), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk. Cricket contact: Martin Frost 07748 183772 (New players welcome for Sunday afternoon matches)*

August – Wed 16 Wandsworth SW18 crawl: (7pm) King's

Arms, 96 Wandsworth High St; (8.30) Earl Spencer, 262 Merton Rd; (9.30) Gardener's Arms, 268 Merton Rd. **September – Mon 4** (7.30) Open Cttee mtg. Angel, 11 High St, Roehampton SW15. - **Thu 21** Brixton SW9 two pub social: (7.30) Beehive, 407 Brixton Rd; (9pm) Trinity Arms, 45 Trinity Gardens.

Website: www.swlcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT *Andrew Vaughan 01923*

230104 (H), 07854 988152 (M), branch@watfordcamra.org.uk

August – Fri 4 Great British Beer Festival social. Meet 6pm at membership stand, and every hour thereafter. - **Sun 13** (from 1pm) Clarendon Arms, Chandler's Cross. - **Fri 18** (8.30) Herts Pub of the Year presentation. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate. - **Mon 21** (8.15) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, St. Johns Rd, Watford. - **Sun 27** West Hyde walk. Meet (1.15) at the Oaks, Coppermill La, West Hyde. Catch No 6 bus from Watford Town Centre Stop C at 12.30.

September – Wed 13 (8.30) Metropolitan Police Sports Club, Aldenham Rd, Bushey. - **Mon 25** (8.15) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, St. Johns Rd, Watford. - **Wed 27** St. Albans Beer Festival social. Meet 7pm at CAMRA products stall, and every hour thereafter.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON *Alasdair Boyd (Social Secretary) 020-7930 9871 ext 143 (2.30-3.15/6pm-9.30 Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk Fax 020-7839 4768. Branch Contact Kim Martin 07717 795284, kimberlymartin@yahoo.com*

August – Fri 4 (7.30) GBBF Social at Cider Bar. - **Thu 10** W1 Social: (7.30) Guinea, 30 Bruton Pl; (8.30) Windmill, 6-8 Mill St. - **Wed 16** Mtg (7.30 for 8pm upstairs) King & Queen, 1-2 Foley St, W1. - **Mon 21** W2 Social: (8pm) Prince Edward, 73 Princes Square; (9pm) King's Head, 33 Moscow Rd; (10pm) Cleveland Arms, 28 Chilworth St. - **Thu 31** (6.30) Dove, 19 Upper Mall, W6; (7.15) Fox & Hounds and Mawsons Arms, 110 Chiswick La South, W4.

September – Wed 13 (7.30 for 8pm) EGM. Carpenter's Arms (upstairs) 12 Seymour Pl, W1. - **Fri 15** (8pm) Last of three darts matches (tie breaker) with ELAC Branch. Sekforde Arms, 34 Sekforde St, EC1. - **Tue 19** (8pm) Pub of the Year 2006 presentation. Harp, 47 Chandos Pl, WC2.

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

July – Tue 25 (8pm) GBBF Publicity Crawl. Start Rose & Crown, St Mary's Rd, Ealing.

August – Wed 9 (8.30) Mtg. Load of Hay, Villier St, Uxbridge. - **Wed 16** (8pm) Club of the Year presentation. Questors Grapevine Bar, Mattock La, Ealing. - **Mon 28** (12noon) Brent Valley crawl. Start Roundhouse, Church Rd, Hanwell.

September – Tue 5 (8.30) Social. Case is Altered, High Rd, Eastcote. - **Wed 13** (8.30) Mtg. Botwell Inn, Coldharbour La, Hayes. - **Thu 21** (8.30) Social. Black Horse, Harrow Rd, Sudbury. - **Fri 29** (8pm) *London Drinker* pick up. Maggie & Crown, High St, Brentford, then (9.30) Fox, Green La, Hanwell.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the October/November edition: 13th September 2006. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

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.

A good period for recording new pubs with real ale. We welcome a new Wetherspoon pub in London, the first for a while and marking a return to traditional style in N13 Palmers Green. Young's have opened a brand new riverside pub and restaurant in SW8 Vauxhall. We catch up on three new Lewis & Clarke pubs in the City, one of them at the base of the Gherkin building. Real ale is a staple in the small Lewis & Clarke chain whereas competitor bars run by the likes of M&B (All Bar One) and Laurel (Slug & Lettuce) are removing handpumps. More Shepherd Neame pubs in London have been closed

and are for sale. More closures and renamings are reported London-wide.

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: BM - Balham to Morden Pub Guide; 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

CENTRAL

EC1, EMBER, 99/100 Turnmill St. No real ale. Faucet Inns Free House opened in former commercial premises by April 2005.

EC2, CITY PIPE, 33 Foster La. Davy's: Ordinary Bitter, Old Wallop (Courage: Best Bitter, Directors). New Davy's Free House/basement bar in former restaurant under office block replacing the bar demolished along with the site further along the lane. Grey tiled and bare board flooring, cream décor, spot lighting and display cabinets in typical modernised Davy's style. Restaurant area to side and area to rear for private functions. Open 10am-11pm Mon-Fri, closed weekends.

EC2, GABLE, 25 Moorgate. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Lewis & Clarke Free House/gastropub opened c. August 2005 on ground floor of new office development. Large L-shaped bar with open-plan kitchen at rear. Bare floorboards, exposed ceiling ventilation ducts, large windows to front and side. Mixture of seating areas. Rear entrance also on to Moorfields. 'Cellar' bar downstairs (without real ale). Available for hire for functions, including weekends. Open 9am (for breakfast) - 11pm Mon-Fri only.

EC2, GALLERY, 10/11 Austin Friars. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Lewis & Clarke Free House/gastropub opened c. 2004 in former bank tucked away off Old Broad St. Large windows to street with high ceilings, the bar is fitted out in basic style with bare wooden floor, concrete pillars and steps, exposed brickwork, red covered seats, grey décor and exposed metallic ventilation ducts. Open-plan kitchen to rear. Small balcony seating area upstairs. Open 7.30 (for breakfast) - 11 Mon-Fri.

EC2, WORSHIP, 14 Finsbury Sq. No real ale. Free House reopened as a bar with fizz beers after a spell as 'Context' cocktail bar. Originally BAR MED. Reinstated on pub database. (U147, U151)

EC3, STERLING, 30 St Mary Axe. Adnams: Bitter;

Fuller: London Pride. Lewis & Clarke Free House/gastropub opened c. April 2005 on ground floor of landmark 'Gherkin' office building. Entrance is at rear of building, approached through a large outdoor drinking and eating area. Large glass windows, narrow bar area with mixture of seating, cream décor and open-plan kitchen. Small upstairs seating area. Open 8am (for breakfast) - 11pm Mon-Fri only.

WC1, 06 ST CHADS PLACE, 6 St Chads Pl. No real ale. New Free House/bar in former commercial premises in side street located directly above Kings Cross Thameslink station platforms.

WC1, HARRISON ARMS, 28 Harrison St. Now simply **HARRISON**. Young: Bitter. Transformed by new private owner with open-plan layout, large tables, sofas and two real open fires. Food 12-3, 6-9.30 weekdays and Sunday roasts 2-6.30. Folk music sessions alternate Sundays (£3). Chess and backgammon club Mondays. Available for private hire on Saturdays. Four modern en-suite rooms (£80/£90 B&B) Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, 1-10.30 Sun, closed Sat. (N23, U141, U179, W19)

WC1, NORFOLK ARMS, 28 Leigh St. Greene King: IPA. Reopened. (N25, U106, HB10, W21, U189)

EAST

E1, LILLY'S, 75 Wapping High St. No real ale. New Free House/bar, restaurant and grill on ground floor of apartment block.

E14, HOPE & ANCHOR, 14 Newby Pl. Now **JACK BEARDS AT THE HOPE & ANCHOR**. Courage: Best Bitter. (E146, U110)

E14, JAMIES, Unit 1, 28 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf. No real ale. New riverside Free House/bar and restaurant in 'Canary Riverside' area near to pier. Opened c. 2001 but not previously reported.

E14, LINKS, 566 Commercial Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in former shop premises.

E15, BRITANNIA, 2 Plaistow Grove. Greene King: IPA Reinstatement of real ale. (E152, U167)



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expect from

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CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 190

NORTH

N13, ALFRED HERRING, 316-322 Green Lanes. Courage: Directors; Greene King: Abbot; Marston: Burton Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire, two guest beers. New Wetherspoon Free House opened late May in former furniture store premises. A welcome return to traditional style with large central bar area and raised seating area to side. Dark wood panelling, subtle lighting, carpeted throughout, with cream and pastel mauve décor and a mixture of furnishings. Local history panels with old photos of Palmers Green adorn the walls, highlighting former local residents and landowners. Alfred Herring was a local First World War hero, born and educated in Tottenham, who gallantly retook a bridge from the enemy, was captured and was awarded the VC by King George V in 1919. Air conditioned. No smoking throughout. Small patio at front. TV for sports. Food including Grill night (3-11 Mon), Curry club (3-11 Thu) and Sunday club (12-9). Open 10am-11pm every day.

NORTH WEST

NW1, MAC BAR, 102 Camden Rd. Renamed **GRAND UNION**. Adnams: Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly ROSIE O'GRADYS, originally EAGLE (N164, U132, U165)

SOUTH EAST

SE10, FROG & RADIATOR, 1 Woolwich Rd. Reverted

to **SHIP & BILLET** after 17 years. Greene King: IPA. Real ale reinstated after refurbishment, but not always available. (SE94, U102, U107, U185, U187)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), CROSTINO, 1 Fountain Sq, 123-151 Buckingham Palace Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in Colonnades development beyond Victoria Place, built over Victoria station platforms.

SW1(W), HA! HA! BAR & CANTEEN, Cathedral Walk, Cardinal Place. No real ale. A Yates's owned bar/restaurant opened in June in new shopping/leisure complex at Victoria opposite Westminster Cathedral.

SW1(W), LA TASCA, 6 Cathedral Walk, Cardinal Place. No real ale. Free House/bar and Spanish tapas restaurant in new shopping/leisure complex

SW8, RIVERSIDE, Hamilton House, 5 St George Wharf. Young: Bitter, Special, Waggledance, seasonal beer (currently St George's Ale). Large new Young's riverside pub opened late June and part of new residential development just west of Vauxhall Bridge. Pedestrian access from Vauxhall station is through development or alternatively along Thames Path itself. Large glass frontage with tall windows gives light and airy feel, with polished wooden floor, tiled around the bar, brown marble and wood topped bar, white/barley décor, contemporary lighting and piped music. Drinkers are restricted to an area adjacent to the bar with red benches and stools or two

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 190

small corner areas with sofas. The handpumps are hidden amongst a plethora of keg fonts mostly dispensing lagers from global brewers; the lack of throughput for real ale sadly resulted in poor quality on my visit. The remainder of the floor space is subdivided into eating areas with tables laid out with menus and wine glasses for table service. Wine ranges from £12.50 to £130 a bottle; food is varied, looked good quality but was relatively expensive. Open-plan kitchen and no smoking area to rear. There are large,

covered outdoor drinking areas on each side, one for drinkers, the other with table service for eaters. Live jazz on Sunday afternoons. Food 10am-10.30pm. Open 10am-12 midnight (last orders 11.45). A welcome addition to the London pub scene but sadly, like so many recent Young's upgradings, the emphasis on food and the availability of keg products of dubious quality is unlikely to do much for raising the profile of Young's primary product – real ale.



The Riverside

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, TERRY NEILL'S SPORTS BAR & BRASSERIE, Free, converted to 'School Dinners' restaurant. Formerly KNIGHTS. (E19, U69, U85))

EC2, CITY PIPE, Free, demolished along with whole block. Replaced by bar of same name further along lane (see above). (E30)

EC2, CROWDERS WELL, Free, closed and lease for sale. (E30, U70, U87, U88, U131, U173)

EC2, STAR, Free, converted to 'Ballroom' cocktail bar, bottled beers only. Formerly ALL BAR ONE. Delete from pub database. (U129, U184)

EC3, CITY LITTEN, Free (SFI), confirmed whole building refurbished as hotel and basement now in general hotel use. (E39 U99, U184)



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CAMRA members free at all times
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CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 190

EC4, ALL BAR ONE, 103 Cannon St, M&B, H removed.
(U127, U189)

WC1, PRINCE ALBERT, Free, now converted to
'Konstam' restaurant. (N28, U164, W24)

W1(F), STANLEYS, Free, now converted to 'Annex 3'
cocktail bar. Delete from pub database. (W48)

EAST

E1, BRITISH PRINCE, Free, closed and boarded up.
(E62, U108, U119)

E1, CARLTON, Free, no real ale. Formerly CARLTON
ARMS. (E62, U73, U79, U119)

E1, HORNS. Reverted to **HORN OF PLENTY**, Free,
no real ale. (E67, U69, U73, U155)

E1, MERCERS ARMS, Free, closed and boarded up,
construction work under way. (E70, U92, U174)

E1, WHITE HORSE, 48 White Horse Rd, ex-Bass, H
unused. (E75)

E6, CENTRAL, ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. Former
CENTRAL HOTEL. (E103, U78, U85, U120, U159,
U162, U183)

E14, ALL BAR ONE, M&B, H removed. (U114)

E14, SLUG & LETTUCE, Laurel, ex-SFI, H removed.
(U138)

E15, BAKERS ARMS, ex-Bass, still closed and boarded
up. (E152, U165)

E15, PARK TAVERN HOTEL, Free, no real ale.
Formerly TOBY TAVERN. Note full title. (E155, U85,
U167)

E15, WHEELERS, Free, closed, future uncertain. (E155,
U81, U168)

ROMFORD, DOLPHIN BAR, Free, now replaced by
apartments. (X100, U184)

NORTH

N1, AS GOOD AS IT GETS, Shepherd Neame, closed
and boarded up. Formerly PACKINGTON ARMS.
(N54, U171, IS13, U184)

N1, EDINBURGH CELLARS, ex-Inntrepreneur, H
unused. Formerly EDINBURGH. (N42, U159, U188)

N1, ELK IN THE WOODS. Free, fizz bar only available
to eaters. Reclassify as restaurant and delete from pub
database. (U184)

N1, SAHARA NIGHTS, Free, ex-Bass, closed. Formerly
CROSS BAR. (N38, U184)

N1, WEAVERS, Free, H unused. Formerly XANADU,
originally WEAVERS ARMS. (N61, U152, U155, U159,
IS21, U184)

SOUTH EAST

SE11, MANSION HOUSE, Shepherd Neame, closed,
boarded up and for sale. (SE108, U165)

WELLING, FORESTERS ARMS, ex-Courage, closed
and boarded up after a fire. (3SE286, K146)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), REEF, Free (Select Service Partners), closed and
vacant. (U166)

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 190

SW15, MONTAGUE ARMS, ex-Inntrepreneur, closed and boarded up. (SW102, U137, U187)

SW19, SLUG & LETTUCE, ex-SFI, closed, future uncertain. Formerly **BAR MED**. (U148, U181)

WEST

W12, SLUG & LETTUCE, ex-SFI, closed, future uncertain. (W124)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, ONE TUN, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA; +Young: Bitter. Now Free, ex-Watney. (E21)

EC1, SURPRISE. Renamed **BOWLER**, -beers listed except Wychwood: Brakspear Bitter. Formerly **CHARLOTTES, HARLEM YACHT CLUB** and **LITTEN TREE** for a while. (E25, U79, U92, U108, U113, U114, U159, U164)

EC2, BONAPARTES. Renamed **WREN**, now a Select Service Partners Free House, ex-Travellers Fayre. (See also corrections below). (U89, U162)

EC4, GOOSE AT THE CASTLE. Renamed **COS BAR**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Greene King: Abbot. Originally **BAYNARDS CASTLE**. (E46, U70, U157, U160)

WC1, NA ZDROWIE. Renamed **BAR POLSKI**. (W21)

WC2, BACCHANALIA. Renamed **BEDFORD & STRAND**, still no real ale. (W28)

WC2, LONG ISLAND ICED TEA BAR. Renamed **VERVE**, still no real ale. (W34)

W1(Mar), BRICKLAYERS ARMS. Is now owned by Trust Inns, ex-S&N and not a Free House (correction to W London Guide). (W51)

W1(Mar), WILLIAM WALLACE. Renamed **GUNMAKER**, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Old Speckled Hen; +Wells: Bombardier. (W57)

EAST

E14, LEDGER BUILDING. Now branded as a 'Lloyds No 1 bar' by Wetherspoon, -beers listed except Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Marston: Pedigree; retains four guests and Addlestone cider on handpump. TV screens installed but thankfully no 'music' on my visit. (U160)

E14, PHOENIX, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. (E147, U80)

E15, MANBY ARMS. Now Enterprise, ex-Bass. (E154, U73, U125, U161)

BARKINGSIDE, HORNS. Renamed **COUNTY**

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5 minutes from South Wimbledon Tube
see www.thetraf.com for a map...

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 190

ARMS. Formerly HORNS TAVERN. (X12, U166)

ROMFORD, PARKSIDE. Renamed **SQUIRE.** (X102, U178)

WOODFORD GREEN, TRAVELLERS FRIEND.
Now Barracuda, ex-Ambishus. (X132, U159)

NORTH

N1, ALMA, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier. (N37, U154, U182, IS13)

N1, PRINCE ALBERT. Renamed **CHARLES LAMB,** -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord; +Guest beer. Now a gastropub. (N55, U181, IS19)

N1, Y BAR. Renamed **EQ,** still no real ale. (U184)

NORTH WEST

NW1, COOPERS. Renamed **BRITANNIA,** -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Formerly **UPSTAIRS BAR.** (N176, U168)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, SIMON THE TANNER. Now an independently owned Free House, ex-Shepherd Neame. (SE33)

BEXLEYHEATH, BRICKLAYERS ARMS. Now advertises itself as a 'Tex-Mex restaurant and pub', still no real ale. (3SE211, U47, K33, U150, U159)

BEXLEYHEATH, WRONG 'UN. Now all no smoking. (U93, K35, U157)

BEXLEYHEATH, YATES'S. Renamed **RSVP,** still no real ale. (U159)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), PHOENIX, -beers listed; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Sharp: Doom Bar Bitter. Now food orientated. (SW49)

SW11, COMMON ROOMS. Renamed **ALCHEMIST.** Formerly **MESS,** still no real ale. (SW89, U157, U168)

SW15, PIED PIPER. Renamed **BAR ROOM BAR.** Formerly **RAT & PARROT.** (SW104, U163, U164)

KINGSTON (KT1), SIX BELLS. Renamed **HONEST CABBAGE.** (SW144, KT27)

WEST

UXBRIDGE, OLD BILL. Renamed **FIG TREE** after refurbishment. (W211)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 189

NEW PUBS ETC

EC2, WREN. Delete entry – see **BONAPARTES** above.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

E2, CONQUEROR. Is a Free House.

E3, MOULDERS ARMS. Is Enterprise, ex-Unique.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

EC2, OLD GEORGE. Should read: -Ruddle: Best Bitter.

E4, THOMAS WILLINGALE (now **STATION**). Is W&D, ex-Wizard.



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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. For more information visit the Cask Marque website at www.cask-marque.co.uk.

ADDITIONS

New Cask Marque awards to licensees of pubs in Greater London and deletions notified since May are listed here.

CENTRAL

WC1 (Mar), BRICKLAYERS ARMS, 6 New Quebec St. Trust Inns. (W51, U190)

WC2, PRINCE OF WALES, 150/151 Drury La. Spirit. (W37)

WC2, SALISBURY, 90 St Martins La. Spirit. (W40).

EAST

WOODFORD GREEN (IG8), TRAVELLERS FRIEND, 496/8 High St. Barracuda. (X132, U159, U190)

SOUTH WEST

RICHMOND (TW9), CRICKETERS, 24 The Green. Greene King. (SW155)

WEST

W2, ROYAL EXCHANGE, 26 Sale Pl. Free House. (W78)

DELETIONS

E15, SWAN, 31 Broadway. W&D – closed

ILFORD (IG1), ROSE & CROWN, 16 Ilford Hill. Punch – closed

W12, BUSHRANGER, 55 Goldhawk Rd. Free House

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 752112

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR WOKING

The 13th Woking Beer Festival will take place on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 November at Woking Leisure Centre, organised by Surrey/Hants Border CAMRA, Woking Leisure Centre and Woking Borough Council with strong support from CAMRA members from all over the South (and beyond!). 70+ real ales are planned to be available, plus ciders and perries and a wide range of imported bottled beers. All subject to availability.

There are three sessions: Friday and Saturday evening from 6pm to 11pm, and Saturday lunch time from 11am to 3.30. Entrance is strictly by ticket only, price £6.00. Tickets are available in advance from Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA. Cheques, payable to Woking Borough Council + SAE please, or phone the credit card hotline (50p booking fee) 01483-771122 (8am - 9pm) seven days a week.

The admission price includes a pint lined glass with a commemorative logo and also a festival programme. CAMRA members get a free pint (up

to 5% ABV) on presenting their current membership card at the membership stand. Every session there will be a recital on the famous Woking Wurlitzer Organ and there is a live band each evening. Soft drinks and food available at all times. A range of brewery and CAMRA products will be on sale as well, with a Tombola to relieve you of your loose change.

Woking Leisure Centre is less than 15 minutes walk from Woking Railway Station, which has links to just about everywhere, and there's even a map of the area on the back of the ticket to show you how to get there. Woking is a 100% NO SMOKING Beer Festival.

Volunteer staff should e-mail wbfstaffing@yahoo.com or write to: WBF Staffing, 30 Hedgerley Court, Woking, Surrey. GU21 3LY.

Read the Festival web page at www.wokingbeerfestival.co.uk, www.woking.gov.uk/leisuretourism/ or www.camrasurrey.org.uk/.

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BS1 1QZ

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Harpندن Arms

188 High Street
Harpندن
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

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Hammersmith
London
W6 8BS

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Kensington
London
W8 7LN

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LONDON PUBS GROUP EAST LONDON & SOUTH WEST ESSEX TOUR - PART 1

Saturday 24th June 2006 saw members of the CAMRA London Pubs Group embark on one of their most ambitious crawls yet, an 8-hour marathon which commenced in one of the outermost London boroughs and moved westwards until completed within a few hundred yards of the City.

First port of call was the **Golden Lion** in High Street, Romford, whose white-painted 19th Century frontage conceals an interior dating back to



the 16th Century. The ground floor bar has a low and beamed ceiling, whilst the upstairs is multi-roomed with a wealth of old timber set at crazy angles. The building is believed to have been a galleried coaching inn at one time and a small section of first floor window frame, now marooned within the expanded building's confines, was discovered during a renovation and left uncovered as a historical feature. Also of interest is the sloping weatherboarding and jetted upper storey on the east side. This is almost certainly the oldest secular building in Romford and is deservedly Grade II-listed. In an area where many pubs do not attract a large bitter-drinking clientele, it was gladdening to see so many real ales available: Adnams Broadside, Charles Wells Bombardier, Courage Best, Greene King IPA and Young's Special at the time of our visit. Despite us meeting up at 11am on a hot day, and the likelihood that many of our pints would be 'first out of the pipe' that morning, there were no complaints as to the quality of beer served.

A brisk walk through the town centre was required to reach our next destination. On the way, we paused to inspect the remains of the former Star in South Street, an 'improved' and streamlined pub probably of 1936 which seems to have been built in conjunction with the adjacent former Times Furnishing store. With the ground floor re-fronted, little of the original remains, but the discerning eye can still pick out a star motif on the side wall, plus what appear to be original metal railings at roof level.

Happily still in business is the **Wheatsheaf** in



Wheatsheaf Road. Typical of thousands of English suburban pubs built to serve the expanding suburbs between the wars, as originally constructed it had the usual floor-plan of separate saloon and public bars divided by an off-sales department, and all three serviced from a single central bar. Just as typical is the way the former off-sales section has since been closed and knocked-through to enlarge one of the bars, though fortunately a 'saloon' and 'public' divide remains. The position and status of all three former rooms can be determined by the door glass lettering, including the odd use of the title 'Off License' (sic), an error that has remained uncorrected for some 80-odd years! Another quirk is the way the saloon doors open into a loggia, or arcaded gallery, rather than directly into the room itself. The exterior is predominantly red brick together with some half-timbered black and white work on the first floor window bays. Examination of the counter in the saloon revealed that four handpumps had once been fitted. Alas now a mere two suffice, clipped to the edge of the bar in modern fashion, and for us it was a case of Greene King IPA or nothing. However, it was good to see this sort of pub continuing to sell the 'real stuff' against all the odds. The Wheatsheaf is listed on CAMRA's London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest (LRI).

A ride on the 174 bus took us to the junction of Dagenham Road and Rainham Road South, where on the south-east corner, stands the **Eastbrook**. Built in 1938 by G. A. Smith & Son, the exterior is perhaps unremarkable; the inside however is a different story, remaining almost entirely in pre-war condition. The small public bar, now called the Oak Bar (with no real ale) is decorated in a neo-Tudor effect including cased-in beams, fireplace and what appear to be the original metal lantern light fittings. One of the tables also seems to be contemporary, if so making it almost 70 years old and a remarkable survivor. The pub's real glory is in the main saloon,

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Caledonian Deuchars IPA, **Suddaby's** After Dark Coffee Porter
and Bananarambo

For more details tel: 020 8888 8488
email: jonathanflatman@hotmail.co.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP EAST LONDON & SOUTH WEST ESSEX TOUR - PART 1



The Eastbrook's stained glass.

or Walnut Bar, which offers Abbot Ale and Green King IPA. The choice of name is immediately apparent upon entry, with the entire room lined with walnut wood or veneer. Fluted wooden columns are used for decorative effect and the mirrored bar-back carries a wavy line art deco detail. To the left the room is divided by a hinged wooden screen glazed with frosted glass, which in turn leads to a larger function/music room situated at right angles. This too can be separated by yet another screen which folds concertina-style. The latter room also boasts a raised balustraded stage behind which are a delightful set of four stained-glass windows featuring musical instruments and other emblems. It is amazing that so much of this has remained untouched over the years and a tribute to the pub's successive owners. Indeed, the only substantial change has been the necessary recent conversion of one of the entrance lobbies into a 'disabled' toilet. On the borders of the East London & City and South West Essex CAMRA branch areas, the Eastbrook's interior has perhaps been overlooked over the years. This state of affairs was justly rectified early in 2006 when it was recommended for immediate inclusion into CAMRA's National Inventory of historic pub interiors. The pub once followed the fashion of having an off licence which stood separate from the main building. Though no longer owned by the same concern, this is still in use and carries a stone plaque bearing the pub's name.

After another bus ride, this time by 103, to Dagenham East station, itself being of some interest as a 1931 example of LMS suburban station design, we reached East Ham by what is now the District Line. Turning left upon leaving that station, a ten minute walk down High Street North brought us to its junction with Barking Road and the **Denmark Arms**. This former Taylor Walker, and before that Ind Coope pub, is on a classic corner site, diagonally opposite East Ham Town Hall. Grade II-listed



and on the London Regional Inventory, the Denmark was constructed at the turn of the 19th Century and attributed to F. W. Ashton. It was extended to the north in 1903 to the design of C. J. Dawson, whose red

brick and terracotta contrasts with the yellow brick of the original building. Dawson also remodelled the interior and added the grand pedimented entrance to the saloon bar. The pub's name was probably inspired by Princess Alexandra of Denmark who had married the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) in 1863 and became Queen in 1901. Some excellent friezes and ceramic glazed tiling (including an art nouveau-inspired rose pattern) remain inside as do vestiges of the original cut glass. The pub remained multi-roomed well into the 1980s and it is sad to think it was opened out so recently. Allied certainly put some money into the place during the rebuild and the 1991 edition of the East London & City Beer Guide lists it as selling Ind Coope Burton Bitter and Tetley Bitter. Unfortunately the advent of a Wetherspoon's nearby took away much of the pub's real ale trade and the handpumps have now been removed.

Leaving the Denmark and its cosmopolitan mix of customers, we walked west along Barking Road to the green-tiled **Central Hotel**. Built to serve the once affluent Central Park Estate developed to the south in the 1890s, this Victorian corner local still has three rooms, one of which can only be accessed from the long side bar and has a skylight indicating original use as a billiard hall. All three bars abut a single servery and much of the original counter and bar-back remains, albeit spoilt by the almost obligatory modern addition of gantries for glasses. The ELAC Guide showed the pub as having the same beer range as the Denmark, but once more we found that real ale was no longer available. In this case the beer engines have remained, albeit disused and with pumpclips reversed. When asked when real ale was last served, the barmaid became extremely consternated and agitated and was only able to answer "You'll have to ask the guv'nor, I'm only new here..." as if she was being asked to give away state secrets!

Kim Rennie

(In Part 2 we will discover further architectural delights on the Barking Road before finishing the tour in Spitalfields).

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IDLE MOMENTS

SOLUTIONS

As promised, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in June's Idle Moments column.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 63 Characters in the Braille Alphabet
- 30 Pieces in a Game of Backgammon
- 80 Threepenny Bits in a Pound (in Old Money)
- 3 Kilderkins in a Hogshead
- 14 Stations of the Cross
- 2 Olympic Gold Medals of Kelly Holmes
- 11 Top Ten Hits by Dusty Springfield
- 35 is the Minimum Age for a President of the USA
- 30 Days Hath September, April, June and November
- 4 Bows in a String Quartet

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- BAN DRY SACK - BRANDY CASK
- CAKE WITH NINE FLAMES - TWICKENHAM FINE ALES
- CLEAN STAR - LANCASTER
- GREASING TOES - SAINT GEORGES
- TANGLE OPEN COT - PENLOW COTTAGE
- MOO ON NEST - MOONSTONE
- BETTER RIDGES - BRIDGE STREET
- DRY WHITE BILGE - WHITLEY BRIDGE
- SMEAR TAG - RAMSGATE
- GRIND A NOUN - GRAND UNION

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- Helix aspera and Helix pomatia are the posh names for the two most common species of edible snails.
- You should expect to find a hallux on the end of your foot - it is the posh name for the big toe.
- The two rugby teams which compete annually for the Babcock Trophy are the Army and Navy.
- Waterloo teeth were dentures made using real teeth from dead bodies - usually soldiers who died before their teeth rotted away.
- The Lincolnshire Curly Coat was a rare breed of farm animal that became extinct in 1972 - it was a pig.
- This year's Promenade Concerts season is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the centenary of that of Dmitry Shostakovich.
- The England bowler whose total of test wickets passed the 200 mark during last month's first test against Sri Lanka is Matthew Hoggard.
- And the bowler who holds the record as England's highest wicket taker of all time with 383 wickets is Ian Botham.
- The major planet of the Solar System discovered in 1846 by the German astronomer Johann Galle is Neptune.
- And finally as anybody interested would know, the first football World Cup competition was held in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1930.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTIONS

Well hello again - or if this is the first time you have visited Idle Moments, welcome (especially if you picked up your London Drinker at the Great British Beer Festival). As regulars will know I like to start this little celebration of the inconsequential with an aphorism; this month I've found this eminently sensible motto from American comedian Carol Leifer (who just happens to have celebrated her 50th birthday last month):

I'm not into working out. My philosophy: no pain, no pain.

Now let's get on with the number puzzles. Some of you complain that these are too easy so here's a challenge. I don't

think you will get the solution to No. 1 (8 S on a HF) - I'm so sure of this that I am offering a prize of £10 (of my own money) if anybody gets MY answer correctly. You might make up a perfectly logical solution but if it's not the same as mine then it won't count. If there's more than one correct answer it will go to the first out of the hat. There has to be a deadline because of production requirements so I need all entries (only by email andy@pironson.demon.co.uk or handed over personally, I'm afraid) by Sunday 10th September. If there is a winner I'll let you know in the next issue.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 8 S on a HF | 6. 6 K of E were CG |
| 2. 1805 B of T | 7. 4840 SY in an A |
| 3. 13 Y to your LWA | 8. 100 YRR the OOT |
| 4. 2 L of S on a DDB | 9. 3 is OT on a DB |
| 5. 28 D in a LM | 10. 21 is the MP for a FCT |

Sorry, but because of the long intro to the number puzzles there is not enough space for the brewery anagrams this month. Don't all cheer at once!

A couple of years ago I did a 5BY4 called Forty Years Ago. A couple of years on and I can do Forty Years Ago (again) 'cos this time it's 1966. So come on fellow old farts and exercise the grey matter and match the songs to the performers. And just so it isn't too easy there's nothing by The Beatles in there (no, really).

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Sunny Afternoon | A. Beach Boys |
| 2. Michelle | B. Manfred Mann |
| 3. Get Away | C. Spencer Davis Group |
| 4. Good Vibrations | D. Small Faces |
| 5. With a Girl like You | E. Kinks |
| 6. Reach Out I'll Be There | F. Jim Reeves |
| 7. Pretty Flamingo | G. Four Tops |
| 8. All or Nothing | H. Georgie Fame |
| 9. Distant Drums | I. Overlanders |
| 10. Keep On Runnin' | J. Troggs |

And as per usual I shall finish off with a miscellany of questions - general knowledge? ... trivia? Call them what you like, but can you answer them?

- Alfriston Clergy House was the first property acquired by what organisation (and if you're really brainy, in what year)?
- Cornishman Robert Carlyle was the first man to do what "extreme" activity (He did it with a wheelbarrow)?
- What historic property can you visit by travelling west on the Kent and East Sussex Railway from Tenterden?
- As it's Great British Beer Festival time, what was the unusual venue for the 1980 event - and why?
- And on a very similar subject, before the first GBBF where (exactly) was CAMRA's first national beer festival held in 1975 - and what is housed there now? (Yes, I know it's far too easy for far too many of us old farts!)
- What do the principal churches of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church have in common?
- Queen Mary's Doll's House was designed by architect Edwin Lutyens and presented to the wife of King George V in 1924. Where is it on display?
- The Red House in Bexley was built as the home of which noted 19th century character?
- What particular event took place in New Orleans in 1892 involving John Sullivan and Gentleman Jim Corbett?
- Who was the most famous daughter of the Earl of Strathmore?

So there we are then, that's your lot for this time. We'll have some more (and the answers to these ones) in the next edition. Meantime, don't forget my little challenge.

Andy Pironson

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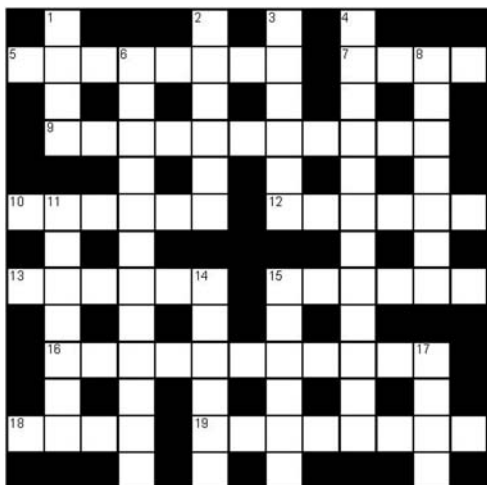
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LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

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All correct entries received by first post on 27th September will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the December London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the October edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

SOLUTION TO JUNE'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

5. Learner causing record pileup [8]
7. Kiss cheek? [4]
9. Against Darwin's generation? [11]
10. Man seen next to toilets is released. [6]
12. The first joiner to make a tripod. [6]
13. Studied books on character. [6]
15. Men catching last of summer seafood. [6]
16. Keeping to the middle of the road. [11]
18. Unrepeated in the past. [4]
19. Moved act with unacceptable speech. [8]

DOWN

1. Pils unusually affected speech. [4]
2. Released and spread about. [6]
3. Leave from French sector. [6]
4. Suggestion about desire causing fear. [12]
6. Annoyed with cabinet transvestite. [5,7]
8. Is youngster able to find café? [7]
11. Train drivers heavily defeated. [7]
14. Attack business I am in. [6]
15. Quietly organised church parade. [6]
17. Urge to make dough on the radio. [4]

Winner of the prize for the April Crossword:
Mark Antony, London SW2.

Other correct entries were received from:

Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, N.Ashley, Hillary Ayling, Geoff B, Clare Batty, Mike Belsham, Steve Block, John Blundell, Norah Brady, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, John Cattermull, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Brian Collins, Chas Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Paul Curson, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, John Dyer, Mike Farrelly, Ian Forbes, Arthur Fox Ache, Chloe Gilbey, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, Alan Greer, Tarnya Haigh, Tony Harrup, John Heath, Kevin Henriques, Graham Hill, William Hill, Sheerluck Holmes, L.D.Jenkins, David Jiggins, Roger Kershaw, Terry Lavell, K.L.May, M.J.Moran, Mick Norman, Nigel Parsons, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Lou Quarm, Lucy Reeve, Michelle Regan, Richard Rogers, Bryan Smith, R.Stephenson, Bill Thackray, Thamesmeado, Srinivasath Venkatraghavan, Neil Walton, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, "Shotgun" Wells, Ian Whiteman, Sue Wilson.



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