

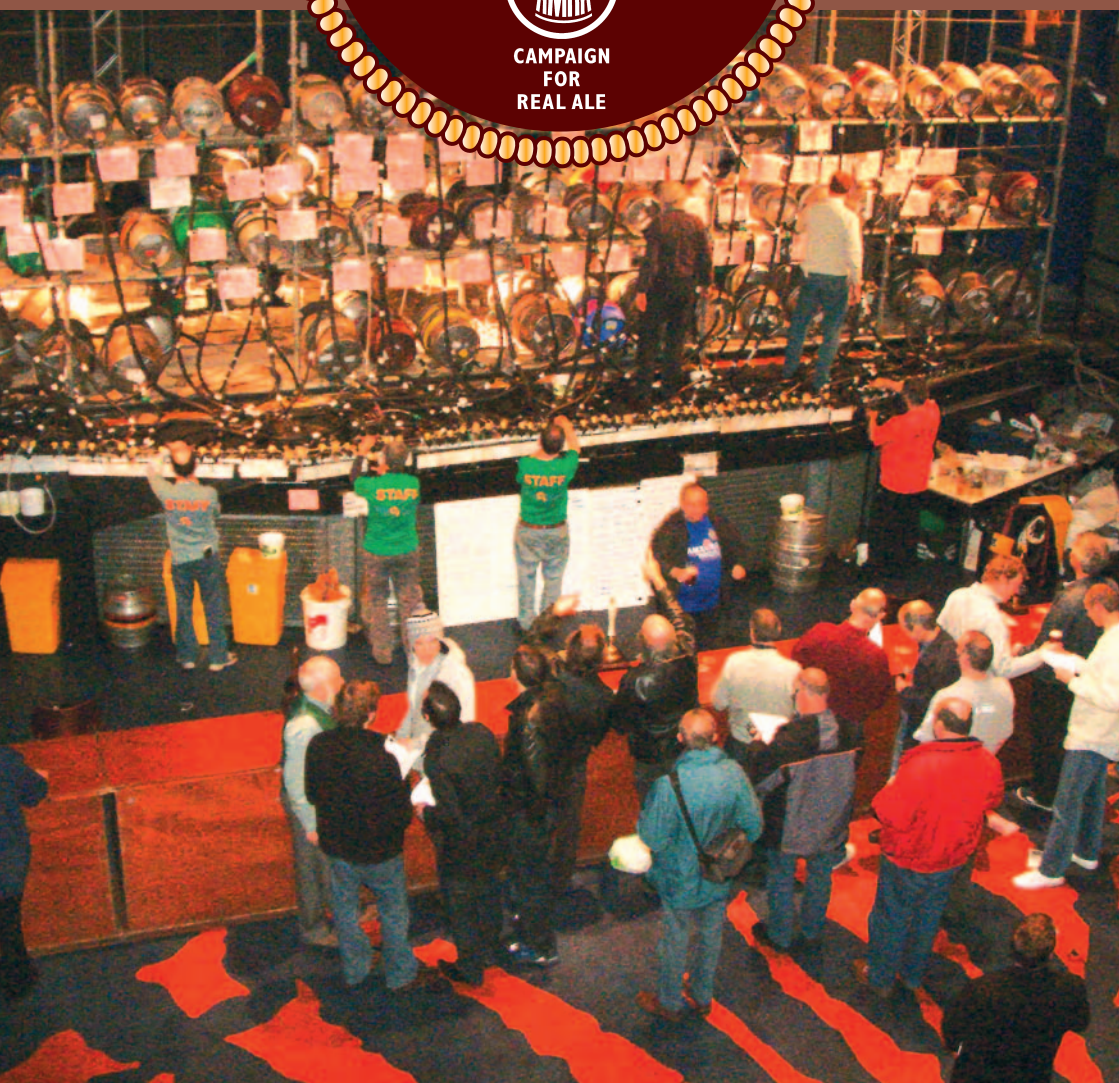
Vol 29
No 1

LONDON DRINKER



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

February
March
2007



Pig's Ear at the Ocean, Hackney (see page 18)

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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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Responsible Drinking

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is calling for a stop to irresponsible alcohol promotion as supermarkets sell lager for just 5p more than a pint of bottled water.

A survey by CAMRA revealed that in some supermarkets Fosters and Carlsberg was available for the equivalent of just 54p a pint – or 16p before tax. CAMRA, members of parliament, trade press and pub industry chiefs are calling for urgent action to prevent promotions that serve to exacerbate the problem of binge drinking.

CAMRA Chief Executive Mike Benner said: *"The ridiculous practice of the major supermarkets selling below cost for alcohol to out-price each other is reckless, irresponsible and dangerous. To put it in perspective, some bottled water in the supermarket costs 49p a pint and water is not subject to excise duty as alcohol is."*

CAMRA believes that irresponsible drinks promotions in the off trade are a major cause of binge-drinking incidents, yet it is licensed premises that suffer the fallout while supermarkets carry on with impunity. Pubs often come under unjustified attack for encouraging binge-drinking, yet the industry has committed itself to curb irresponsible drinking and cheap alcohol promotions in recent years. This hard work is undermined by supermarkets selling enormous quantities of alcohol at prices that simply cannot be justified.

Eighteen-year-olds are free to take advantage of these ludicrous beer prices, walk out of the supermarket door and then drink in a completely unsupervised and unsafe environment. They may also fuel under-age drinkers who do not know their limits but can pour premium-strength lager down their throats all night. This is in stark contrast to adults enjoying a drink in a pub which is regulated by law as to whom it can and cannot serve.

In December 2006, Shepherd Neame brewery Chief Executive Jonathan Neame gave evidence at the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group's inquiry into the future of community pubs, and blasted the supermarket promotions as 'idiotic'. Since then, MP John Grogan of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group has tabled an Early Day Motion urging supermarkets and off-licences to follow the example of pubs, act to end irresponsible drinks promotions and not use alcohol as a loss leader on their premises.

CAMRA has urged consumers to lobby their MP to sign Early Day Motion 495 and make supermarkets take their social responsibilities more seriously. For as long as these promotions are allowed to continue unchecked, they are doing irreparable damage to the licensed trade.

A pub is still the best place to enjoy a sociable and sensible drink with friends. CAMRA celebrates its Community Pubs Week from 17th to 24th of February this year.



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Messages in the bottle

At the time of writing there are still a few stocking fillers lying around the house collecting dust, waiting to be used. Odd, you might think considering that spring is (apparently) nearing, but not so if you urged whoever puts the stocking out, and someone does, to fill it with top of the range, expensive-as-you-can-get bottled ales. This year Christmas served the useful purpose of ensuring that the drab, miserable evenings of January and February would be made less painful with a steady supply of good, strong ale and the kind you can't get in a pub to look forward to being drunk by the fire or electric heater. For this we can partly thank Roger Protz's 300 Beers To Try Before You Die as the ultimate stocking filler and beer accompaniment and also, oddly enough, *Metro* for their rather ingenious beer club. Good

beer is getting more accessible, smaller breweries are reaching to a wide range of people, and the choice to ignore those who shall not be named can be made more easily. Bottled ale is central to this. Surely Santa would agree and forgo Coca Cola for just one Christmas. But are the benefits that obvious and what is the impact, long term, upon British pub culture? In the Christmas edition of *London Drinker*, a pertinent issue was raised by Mark Broe, which is quite easy to overlook: bottled beer, despite its growing success, may be deleterious to the pub and to the true British drinking culture which CAMRA is trying to preserve. While at first glance the growth in bottled fermented beer seems a victory for choice and reason, it raises a serious question; shouldn't we be doing this somewhere else,

with someone else? Where else are we enjoying bottled beer than the privacy of our own home and often in solitude?

It is evident, even in the space of half a decade, how many breweries are relying upon the bottle, so to speak, as a means to allow us to access their beers, and to expand their range. While the growing awareness of cask conditioned ales has been ramped up in recent years, the mini revolution within brewing, the reliance upon bottle conditioned ale, is considerable.

It would also be hard not to accept that people's growing awareness of cask is partly a product of the number of bottled ales that are now accessible in supermarkets. The volume of people who use Tesco's, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Waitrose most surely be taken into consideration

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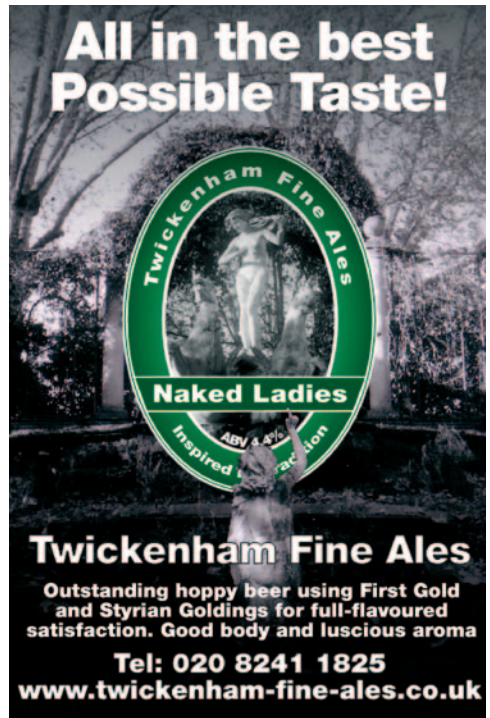
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when assessing how to reach a wide audience for what has been regarded a relatively specialist product. The growing space devoted to beer, the increase in beer being used as promotional items, even far, far away from the booze aisle is testimony to this transition. And of course how else can the unique, hard to come by foreign beers be accessed other than through specialist off licences or supermarkets? For those who frequent the Nelson office in South Wimbledon, for example, or even use Waitrose's locally sourced range, the question is pertinent; where else can these beers be obtained? Certainly not through cask as the choice on tap in London is shrinking increasingly what with Greene King's and Fuller's expansions.

One pub though gloriously bucks this trend and that is the White Horse in Parsons Green. Here there has been an extensive menu dedicated to those beers which are simply more suited to being bottled. And with this beer list, which seems more like an opulent wine list, and the elegant bottles, which are brought up from the cellar in champagne buckets, we hit another point. Beer in a bottle possesses a very different image to cask. Forget Newcastle Brown, think more like the twenty quid a go stuff. Remember the third pint measures at Earls Court? The organisers noted that they were crucial in providing a measure which the ladies felt more comfortable and more elegant drinking. And it's true because they did. In the White Horse, the specialist beers are sometimes sold in champagne glasses which importantly has an effect on how you approach and savour the beer. Quaffing from a pint pot does, if everybody's honest, have a different impact on how the beer is tasted than if you use a wine glass.

And the stronger the beer gets, the wiser it is to discard the usual pint glasses. A twelve percent is more palatable that way. So in

these scenarios one could argue that bottling beer, taking a different approach to drinking it, may make it more accessible and also more enjoyable and importantly allows us to access less well known and stronger beers. Very few landlords sell over the usual five to six percent because they can't ensure the custom nor are they willing to risk some of the more negative effects.

The same goes for cider, which is increasingly being seen as an alternative to white wine. So surely, bottled beer is good for us, good for brewers, and can be used to ensure a more refined approach to drinking?

Well, on paper it looks good but the strongest argument to the contrary is that which Mark raises. Beer is about pubs, and though the two should not be immediately linked as one and the same, they cannot survive without each other. One British pub, as we know it, dies just about every day. We don't need to look far into the future to see that loss severely impacting upon our social and cultural well-being and many people's jobs. Though much is made of takeovers, buyouts, tied houses etc, one of the reasons that many fold is simply a result of economics; they aren't viable because not enough people are using them. Away from the main cities and conurbations where costs are cheaper, it is perhaps easier to scrape through relying on a band of loyal drinkers. But even in those areas, which suffer less and are ignored by hungry banks masquerading as breweries, trade wanes as a result of demographics. For example the increase in second homes and holiday homes creates pockets of population deficits around pubs which are creating serious issues, especially for landlords in coastal areas. Combine this with the growing trend of drinking away from the pub and it is easy to see how our drinking habits can have a damaging impact.

In regard to the financial pros

and cons of drinking at home or in the pub, it seems that the former trumps. But that is not the brewer or the landlord's fault, rather escalating costs in land, increased red tape and the squeeze of the pubcos on smaller brewers. Of course one could argue that by relying on bottled ale one is also doing the specialist off a service too. But in honesty how many of us are fortunate enough to have that option and how many rely on the supermarkets? Here the moral argument to spend that little bit extra in the pub seems clear; supermarkets are unscrupulous and, as with their fresh goods suppliers, try to wring as much they can out of the brewers as possible. And while the special offers are often tempting, surely beer at half the price for the same measure in a pub encourages (though not necessarily causes) excessive drinking?

Finally, what is the social impact? Beer and pubs share an important role for society as they both provide the means for blokes and gals to do what is increasingly difficult to do today: sit down and have a good natter away from the distractions of weekly targets, the electronic noises that emit from people's pockets and ears, and perhaps Lucifer's most pervading and deleterious invention; modern television. Anything that undermines this should be seriously addressed. The struggle to either keep pubs as they are, or revert them back to their true functions, hinges on likeminded people using them and feeling an affiliation to the environment that the pub provides. It's easy to sit back at home with a beer in hand and read *London Drinker* or *What's Brewing* and tut distastefully and rue what the bastards are doing to us, but nothing is more important than using the pub, showing your support to the landlord who is doing the right thing, or making it clear to the landlord (though usually manager) who is doing the wrong thing what needs to be done. After all, if you want to

drink specialist bottled beer in a pub, it helps if you use that pub and feel comfortable enough to ask the landlord. And lastly we, as beer drinkers, need to show that despite what the *Daily Mail* says, the British are just as discerning and educated drinkers as those across the water. What better way to counter the binge culture than showing in pubs that it is possible to take an interest in and be able to speak knowledgeably and articulately about what we're drinking? We can't do this if we're drinking at home.


The ideal scenario of course would be obvious; to ensure that

more and more pubs have a decent range of bottled beers which provide a viable alternative to the usual cask available (hey who knows, people may want to drink Innis and Gunn rather than Pride for a change) and ensure that smaller breweries, or those attempting to push more specialist ranges or the foreign beers, have access to pubs. It is crucial that people have the choice; it is crucial that foreign breweries have access to the British market because after all it is us as drinkers who miss out and with the behaviour of our beloved nationals drawing more and more revulsion

we should be willing to give those further afield a chance. So let's say be responsible drinkers. For every bottled beer drunk at home consider the poor landlord who misses out, or the conversation which is not taking place at the bar. For every pint drunk in the pub of the usual stuff, demand an answer as to why the shelf behind the bar is only stocked with Bulmers and Newcastle Brown. Unfortunately there isn't a White Horse on everybody's doorstep, though we can but try.

Tim Tennant

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Smoking – or rather not

The smoking ban in enclosed public spaces will come into force in April in Wales and Northern Ireland and, the Government have finally announced, on 1 July in England. However, much to the anger of the pub trade, the Department of Health have not been able to yet publish the guidelines as to how the ban will operate (covering such aspects as the definition of enclosed areas, required signage and penalties), despite saying that they will be virtually identical to the Scottish ones. This really helps no-one.

One report from Scotland was that the largest economic effect from the ban was being felt not by the pubs and clubs but by the bingo industry. They are losing because in between games, punters are going outside for a cigarette instead of playing the gaming machines. From the pub trade, there are mixed reports from different organisations although overall trade has not been too badly affected, with customers simply nipping outside for a cigarette. The effect of the coming of the cold and particularly wet weather remains to be seen. All the same, Enterprise Inns have sold all of their 137 Scottish pubs although they claim that this is not because of the smoking ban.

Greene King are preparing for the ban with 'Operation Fresh and Clean', a general clean-up to make pubs more attractive so as, according to Chief Executive Rooney Anand: *"to win back people who had stopped going to pubs, particularly women and families"*. One possible answer to the ban is the 'patiola' which GK are trying out at the Red Lion in Stodmarsh, Kent. This is an all-weather gazebo featuring a retractable roof, heaters and CCTV, all remotely controlled. Similarly, Shepherd Neame are going to spend £3 million on 25 similar structures. It remains to be seen if these are classified as an enclosed space

when the rules are published. Some pubs may also have problems with planning permission.

Meanwhile, others are not being slow to spot an opportunity. Brakes (formerly Brake Brothers) the catering supplies firm, are advertising microwaves and panini machines in the trade press to encourage pubs not currently serving food to start doing so.

The French Prime Minister is convinced that the people are now ready there, and so a ban will be introduced in France from February on smoking in public places, to be extended to bars, restaurants, hotels and clubs within the next year. The Government will help out with the cost of anti-smoking treatment and also, to help cafés retain trade, is allowing tax breaks on pinball machines and darts and table-football equipment.

Here's a thought; what will happen to all the ash trays?

Young's latest

A memorial service for John Young was held at Southwark Cathedral on 30 November. It was presided over by the Rt Rev Thomas Butler, Bishop of Southwark – well, it's what he does – and amongst the mourners were a Pearly King and Queen, the Mayor of Wandsworth, many former Young's colleagues and other brewing trade luminaries such as Jacqui Bateman and Paul Wells. CAMRA was, of course, well represented. The reading, given by John's great grandniece, Alice, came from the Gospel of St John and told of the turning of water into wine. The Bishop said that the message of the miracle was about making something good better, which Mr John spent a lifetime attempting to achieve with his beers. Beer was available for all afterwards.

The London Lite free newspaper gave Young's new pub, the Waterfront, located in the development on the south-east corner of Wandsworth Bridge, a good

write-up but described it as a 'bright, glass-fronted eaterie' and did not even mention the beer.

An exhibition of the last day of brewing at Wandsworth, with photographs taken by Liz Shaw from Balham, is displayed at the Wandsworth Museum, 11 Garratt Lane until 11 February: Tue-Fri 10-5pm, Sat-Sun 2-5pm. As the museum itself is under threat of closure, here is the opportunity for those who haven't been there to go.

Wells & Young's take Courage

Scottish & Newcastle UK announced on 17 January an agreement with Wells & Young's Brewing Company (W&YBC) to sell the rights for the production, marketing and sales of the Courage portfolio of beers including Courage Best, Courage Directors, Courage Dark Mild and Courage Light Ale. A new joint venture business will be formed, Courage Brands Ltd, in which W&YBC will take an 83% equity stake.

John Dunsmore, S&N UK Managing Director commented, *"These new arrangements are part of S&N's continuous strategy to find the right organisational and ownership solutions for our brand equities. The Courage brands are an excellent fit with W&YBC's existing specialist beer portfolio and they have already proven excellent brewers of a number of our brands over the years so part of this strategy is to optimise the use of the excellent brewing facilities that they have at Bedford. Our sale of the Theakston brands back to family members in 2002 has proved that this type of innovative deal structuring can be beneficial for both parties and for the development of niche brands. Importantly, there should be no negative impact on Courage stockists or drinkers. Indeed, under the stewardship of W&YBC, we will see substantial new investment in these classic cask ale brands which will be able to*



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flourish under the new arrangement."

Nigel McNally, Managing Director of W&YBC comments that; *"This is a significant first major acquisition for Wells & Young's and firmly cements our commitment to brew and develop speciality cask ale. The Courage portfolio complements the W&YBC portfolio and gives us further authority to speak to the trade, both in the on and off trade sectors, as category leaders of cask ale. These Courage beers are iconic within the brewing heritage of this country. The Courage name, which we are committed to retaining, underpins all that is great about our industry."* S&N will retain a 17% stake in the new holding company and will continue to sell and distribute Courage brands throughout its direct regional on-trade business. WYBC will be free to promote the brands within its own customer base and seek new stockists around the UK. It will also take on existing S&N national pub accounts, wholesalers and the take-home sector.

The transfer of brewing from the John Smith's Brewery at Tadcaster to the W&YBC Brewery in Bedford will take place progressively over the next few months and great care and attention will be given to flavour matching and product quality over this period. Jim Robertson, now W&YBC Production Director, trained for 10 years as a Courage brewer at Horsleydown Brewery.

News from Fuller's

Fuller's have off-loaded four sites to the Mint Group: the Fine Lines in Clapham, the City and Bristol and the Hook, Line & Sinker in Twickenham. They have however acquired three pubs in Hampshire and one each in Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire, all described by the company as 'gems'.

Fuller's are also still in the market for other breweries. They are prepared to pay up to £200

million for what Michael Turner, Chief Executive, described as: *"a like-minded regional brewer who wanted a 'white knight' buyer who shared its culture"*. Any expansion would still be limited to Fuller's existing distribution area, anywhere below the M4 to the south coast. Mr Turner was not however aware of any regional or family-owned brewer thinking of selling-up at the moment. In the year ended 30 September, profits before tax were up 35% to £10.9 million. Apparently Gales pubs contributed well to this, especially over the summer. Mr Turner said that August has not usually been a great time for Fuller's but, in the Gales pubs, it is the busiest.

From my own observations at Christmas, Fuller's have left most Gales pubs untouched so far. The only pub that I noticed had been rebadged was the Wyvern at Leen-on-the-Solent, following a £200,000 revamp. The pub, incidentally, is named after an obscure Westland naval aircraft, being located next to the former Fleet Air Arm base.

A Fuller's pub, the Jugged Hare in Pimlico, was the start-point for the annual charity pub crawl by Father Christmases. Apparently there were 400 of them. You can't not believe in that! In a similar vein, the Star in Belgravia hosted a 'guess the mystery substance' competition for the Royal Society of Chemists. The substances were frankincense and myrrh. I seem to recall that someone once brewed a Christmas ale with myrrh in it. It was interesting...

On the subject of beers, Fuller's have announced this year's spring beers. There will be a new one under the Gales name called Swing Low which will be available in time for the Rugby Union Six Nations starting in February. It is brewed with pale and crystal malts plus Goldings hops for a light, floral aroma and refreshing taste. I have to ask however, is it right for Fuller's to use the Gales name here? The

beer for March will be Gales Festival Mild (4.8% ABV) and I note that the pub clip does not mention that it is brewed by Fuller's. Finally, during April, there will be India Pale Ale, also 4.8% ABV, a pale amber, well



hopped beer with a pleasant and distinctive bitterness.

Prize Old Ale will have a future (although the next release will be a Gales brew) but it will no longer be traditionally casked as it is felt that a crown cork will pro-

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Fullers are running a beer quality website, www.proudoyourpride.com from which they make a monthly 'Star Performer' award to the pub that receives the best online customer reviews for its London Pride. Appropriately, the Star Performer for December was the Star Tavern in Belgravia. The website provides London Pride drinkers with a forum in which to register details of when and where they recently sampled the UK's leading premium cask ale (Fuller's words) and asks them to rate the beer they drank. The managing director of Fuller's Inns, Simon Emeny, said: *"Fuller's has a very loyal fan base and we are looking for them to become ambassadors for Pride wherever it is found"*.

Finally, Fuller's London Porter has just won Silver Award at CAMRA's National Winter Ales Festival, behind Green Jack's Ripper from Suffolk and ahead of Orkney Skullsplitter.

Richard Boston

Back in the 1970s, when CAMRA first started, one of the biggest boosts that the Campaign received came through the writings of Richard Boston, who has died aged 67. He was the Guardian's beer correspondent and wrote a weekly column advocating real ale and railing against the keg merchants, notably Watneys, whom he would have

been delighted to have outlived. He later put his thoughts on the subject into a book called 'Beer & Skittles' which, although 30 years old, is still worth reading.

Boston was a man of many talents including being a pioneer environmentalist and running marathons. His friend Terry Jones of Monty Python fame and who financed Boston's one venture into brewing remembered him as an impressive looking and witty storyteller who however tended to drink pink gin more than beer. Boston maintained that you can stand in the way of 'progress' and that you can turn the clock back, thoughts that we in CAMRA today should not be ashamed of having.

PS. When I was running this item through the Microsoft Word spell-checker, for Watneys it suggested 'wetness'; I think that Mr Boston would have liked that.

Battersea Brewery

Stephen Nockolds, the owner of Battersea Brewery, has let us know that he is out of action at the moment because he has dislocated his shoulder. This means sadly that there will not be any of his beers at Battersea Beer Festival. This is doubly unfortunate timing because it coincides with the arrival of his second child. We wish Stephen a speedy recovery and congratulations to him and his wife. Stephen is committed to his brewery and justifiably proud of his beer; so although it will not be easy to regain any lost trade in this cut-throat business, the doom-mongers amongst us should not write him off yet.

Hardys & Hansons – the end

The last brew at the Kimberley Brewery was in mid-December. Greene King will keep the site in the short term as a depot but it will eventually be sold. H&H reported that more than half of their displaced workers have now found new jobs.

Name change for Wolverhampton & Dudley

W&D have decided to change their image by adopting the name Marstons for their pubs. Its Union Pub Company will become the Marston's Pub Company and Pathfinder, the managed pubs operation, will become Marston's Inns and Taverns. Even the brewing arm will become Marston's Beer Brands which does not say much for their belief in their original Banks's brand. All the pubs will be re-signed at a cost of 'several hundreds of thousands of pounds' over three years. Whatever they are called, they are still in the market for other breweries, with £400 million available. Pre-tax profits for the year ended 30 September were up 13.2% to £101.5 million.

News from the pub chains

JD Wetherspoon have announced that it is now confident enough about life with the smoking ban to spend £35 million on opening 30 new pubs in locations from Bishop Auckland to St Austell. They are spending a further £25 million on outdoor facilities for smokers and their new super-chilling equipment. That last point is a worry. There have been reports that although this equipment is not used on draught beer lines, it is located near enough to seriously affect them.

Seven J D Wetherspoon pubs in Nottingham are now serving a new, lower gravity, beer from the Nottingham Brewery. At 3.8 ABV, XXS is intended to help with responsible drinking and 10p from each pint is being donated to the City's Alcohol Problems Advisory Service. Fine but are 3.8 ABV beers that hard to find and if this is a good idea for Nottingham, why not everywhere else? I think that most JDW customers would prefer a better range of lighter-strength bitters. JDW's sales were up 5.1% over the summer with the year's profits forecast at

£52 million.

Inbev have revived a clear wheat beer called Peetermans, last brewed in the 1950s. The 4% ABV filtered brew will be part of the Artois brand. St Peter is the patron saint of Leuven, where the beer is brewed, and whose citizens are apparently nicknamed 'Peetermen'. It is interesting that Inbev should go for a new wheat beer brand, given that fairly recently they closed the Hoegaarden Brewery and moved production to Leuven.

Now for the numbers game. Punch have acquired the 82 pubs of the Millhouse Inns group for £164 million. These are largely food-led (59% of sales) neighbourhood pubs in the South East and the Midlands. The Capital Pub Company, David Bruce's current venture in the trade, has bought three pubs from M&B for £7 million. They include the Warwick Castle in Maida Vale. Capital now have 30 pubs.

Greene King have sold 155 what they term 'non-core' pubs to Admiral Taverns for £56 million. Most are in the South East. This is believed to be in anticipation of the smoking ban. Admiral now have 1,950 tenanted and leased pubs and have become the UK's third biggest operator of tenanted pubs. The Brakspear pub chain has been taken into private ownership by ones of its main shareholders, the J T Davies group, a family-owned pub operator and drinks wholesaler. The deal valued Brakspears at £106 million.

Dave Bender from West Middlesex Branch has let me know that our hopes for the preservation of the old Guinness brewery buildings at Park Royal were premature. They are to be demolished.

CAMRA Investment Club

There have been certain items in the national press recently

about the CAMRA Investment Club, not least a quote from Rooney Anand of Greene King sniping at CAMRA for making profits out of brewery closures that they have opposed. The CAMRA Investment Club, of which I am a member, is not part of CAMRA. It is run by CAMRA members for CAMRA members but is totally independent; its capital comes from its members, any profits go to those members and none of its money goes through CAMRA itself. As it happens, as a matter of principle, the CIC votes against all brewery takeovers, as it did for instance at the General Meeting that Fuller's called to authorise the purchase of Gales. Very rarely however are we on the winning side and we are obliged to sell our shares accordingly.

What Mr Anand may not know is that the CAMRA Investment Club recently announced that it was to start an

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or email: drinker@realalewalks.co.uk

www.realalewalks.co.uk

investment programme: it is looking to see small breweries grow, not close them down.

Southwick Brewery Museum

For some, the CIC initiative comes rather too late. I spent Christmas in South Hampshire. There I came across the Southwick Brewery in the village of the same name. This is an almost perfect small brewery standing separately in what is now the car park behind the Golden Lion. The brewery was originally privately-owned by Mr W J Hunt and in 1956 when the then owner Dick Olding at the age of 81 was too old to run it any more, it is said that he just locked it up and walked away.

The current Southwick Brewery Company now operates from there and has a shop on the ground floor selling a comprehen-

sive range of bottled beers and ciders plus their own very nice draught beer which is brewed for them by Oakleaf of Gosport. They have, most evocatively, got the steam engine running again but the brewery itself, whilst completely intact, is beyond restoration to working order. One of the features is a recording of an old British Pathe newsreel about the brewery which is fascinating in itself. Although off the beaten track, it is well worth a visit. The brewery has a website www.southwickbrewhouse.co.uk and the newsreel can be viewed through www.britishpathe.com.

Past its sell-buy date?

An interesting beer tasting took place in December at the White Horse, Parsons Green. Among the contents of a 'mis-laid' storeroom uncovered in the course of some works at the for-

mer Bass Worthington brewery in Burton on Trent were 200 1? pint bottles of a beer brewed in 1869 by Ratcliffs, one of the brewers that went to make up the Bass empire, to celebrate the birth of the brewer's son. Despite being 137 years old, the 13% dark brown brew was found to still be drinkable. Drinks expert Oz Clarke described it as: "*absolutely astonishing stuff. It's like beef tea and fish soup and leather wrapped in liquorice*". Well, each to his own; sounds more like a Heston Blumenthal recipe to me.

Beer Academy merger

The Beer Academy, as mentioned in the October/November issue, has merged with the training arm of the Institute of Brewing & Distilling. The Academy's claimant, Rupert Thompson, said: "the Beer Academy has made enormous

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Three rotating Real Ales (many from micro-breweries)

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



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progress since its inception in 2003. At the time, we said that we would review progress after three years and it is apparent that the next stage of the education and appreciation of beer is best served by like minded industry bodies”.

Measure for measure

A tradition came to an end on Monday 30 October 2006 when the Crown stamp on measure brim measure or lined beer glasses was discontinued. In its place all glasses used in the UK market must be stamped with a CE mark. Existing crown stamped glasses can continue to be used in perpetuity. I would like to think that CE stands for caveat emptor - let the buyer beware - and is a warning against short measure.

This has nothing to do with beer but readers may find it interesting. Pubs may sell spirits in either 25ml or 35ml measures but they cannot mix them. They must use one or the other, and multiples, for all spirits sold. They cannot for example sell a 35ml single and a 50ml (2 x 25ml) 'double' or sell one brand in 25ml and another in 35ml. Curiously, this applies to gin, rum, vodka and whisky only. Brandy does not have to be sold in prescribed measures although if it is presented for sale through fixed-measure optics then you must sell it in that quantity. This comes courtesy of the Morning Advertiser's very useful legal column.

Health matters

What with this being the New Year I thought that I ought to make some comment about sensible and healthy drinking but, to be honest, it is a miserable enough time of year anyway. I will content myself with this. According to a study in Canada, if you suffer head injuries then being drunk at the time could save your life because the alcohol protects the brain from further damage.

They however appear to have missed the point that if you hadn't been drunk, you probably would not have damaged yourself anyway. The research also suggests that an alcohol-based resuscitation fluid might help with brain injuries. Strange that, because the ones that I drink seem to have the opposite effect, especially with the memory.

Community Pubs Week 17-24 February 2007

Each year, the Simpletons Club, a not-for-profit public speaking and communications club run for and by its members and established in 1961, holds a debate to support CAMRA's aim of raising awareness of the pub's role in today's society. The title of this year's debate, to be held on 20 February, is 'Communities need

community pubs and community pubs need real ale'. The motion is being proposed by a guest team from the Kingston Debating Society.

The debate will be held at the Victoria in Strathearn Place, W2, a Fuller's pub, and will be fuelled by a firkin of London Pride, donated by the brewery. Frank Legroux, membership secretary of the Simpletons, said: "We meet regularly at the Victoria, and the February debate is always one of the best attended. I'm not sure if that is due to the topic, or the opportunity for our members to have a couple of pints of London Pride. The debate is open to all-comers, and we would love to see as many CAMRA members, and others with an interest in pubs and beers, present at the event."

Tony Hedger

The Waterfront, Battersea, SW18

A new Young's gastropub has appeared on the Thames at Battersea. The Waterfront, located in Baltimore House, Juniper Drive, opened in late November 2006 and the official launch was on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November. My partner and I went to the launch dinner on the Saturday evening. We were immediately struck by the wonderful location of the pub, right on the Thames with a view from the terrace of the great sweep of the river to west and east. Once inside the door we were made welcome straight away by the staff and were pleased to see Young's Bitter and Special plus Wells Bombardier available. My partner had the Bitter and was impressed by the condition; I had a dry sherry which was properly cooled and was a delicious aperitif.

The interior is stunning - full of chic, reflective surfaces, and luxurious fittings and fabrics which make it feel special. We were shown to our table which was as close to the riverside as the dining tables get, the slight disappointment being that the view of the river was obscured by the coffee machine and till, and we felt that the tables could have been placed nearer the windows to make the most of the view. We both started with the pumpkin soup which was perfectly seasoned and very comforting on a November evening. My partner had a steak for his main course which he enjoyed and was cooked exactly to his liking; I had venison shank which was meltingly tender. The vegetables included garlic green beans which tasted good but were slightly undercooked. The wine list was divided into categories, eg 'fresh, aromatic and adventurous' We chose the Merlot Cabernet, a French Vin de Pays, which went well with our food. All in all, it was a lovely evening and I would recommend the Waterfront for its welcome, its beer, its wine and, of course, the view.

Jane Jephcote

Smarter Music presents

CLUB BANG! BANG! @ 100 CLUB

Fri 02 Feb: 7.30-12.30, Adv £12.50

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TICKETS at face value from JB's Records, 36 Hanway St, W1 (1-6pm, Mon-Sat, cash only) or by post: (please include SAE - cheques/POs payable to 'Smarter Music Ltd') from: Jim Driver, 16 The Woodlands, London SE13 6TY - no callers, please.

2 REAL ALES

AIR-
CONDITIONED

Invitation to an official unveiling of a painting of the Royal Oak, Tabard Street, SE1

The next issue of *London Drinker* will include an illustrated article about London Regional Inventory pubs which have been depicted in paintings by the artist, Mick Smee. Another pub which Mick has immortalised in paint is the Royal Oak, Tabard Street, London SE1. Readers are invited to a social and an official unveiling of the picture in the presence of the artist at 7pm on Wednesday 21 February, so see you there.

Meanwhile, twelve of Mick's pictures are included in the exhibition 'Works On Paper' running from 17 February until 3 March at Richard Hagen Gallery, Broadway, Worcestershire, Tel: 01386 853624.

Last orders for the Local?

Theme pubs and other environmental disasters

Inspired by the destruction of most of the best pubs in our locality and the increasing difficulty in finding a pub with a bearable atmosphere to enjoy a drink in, *Last Orders for the Local?* casts a critical eye over recent changes to pub environments and the emergence of theming as a marketing factor in various fields of leisure and consumption, and ponders how this connects to the balance of class forces and changes in the way we relate to history and memory.

What's Brewing, the CAMRA newspaper, said about the first (2001) edition of this pamphlet "a serious piece of work... If you like a good argument or pondering on 'what is real' then you'll find plenty to get your teeth into here."

If you're interested in ordering one or more copies of this £1 pamphlet, write to Past Tense/South London Radical History Group, c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton Street, London, SE17 3AE or email mudlark1@postmaster.co.uk CAMRA branches interested in receiving several copies for distribution can obtain a bulk discount.

Check out the Past Tense website: www.past-tense.org.uk

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WINTER BEER FESTIVAL

Chris Ryley, who for many years ran the beer festivals at Grays Athletic Football Club, welcomes old friends and new to his first Festival at The White Hart.



40 REAL ALES AND CIDERS

Thursday 15th February 6 pm - 1130 pm
Friday 16th February 12 noon - 12 midnight
Saturday 17th February 12 noon - 12 midnight
Sunday 18th February 12 noon - 11 pm

**Appearing Thursday night blues band
 BAD HAIR DAY**



*The White Hart, Kings Walk, Argent Street,
 Grays, Essex, RM17 6HR. Tel: 01375 373319*

So you want to run a beer festival?

Apart from the usual problems associated with a move to a new venue, Pig's Ear Festival organisers faced several major difficulties in December last at the Ocean, Hackney. The major one was the failure of the main goods lift, which apparently needs a main component replaced at an estimated cost of forty grand. Thus all the scaffolding, equipment, bars and casks had to be brought up on a hoist that had been temporarily installed in the lift shaft. Whilst most casks with handles could be brought up four at a time, those without had to carefully strapped individually and laboriously hoisted aloft.

Owing to a six foot drop from the stage to the main floor level, it was thought that the stage was the only place for the stillage. Space constraints meant that this had to be a three tier structure. This arrangement was not altogether satisfactory and, with hindsight, it could be possible for the stillage to be brought out to the main hall.

After all these trials and tribulations the last thing the organisers needed was further delay. However, a major local power failure on the Monday morning meant that the volunteers had a struggle to get to the



venue because of the ensuing traffic chaos, and then were unable to work as the Ocean hall has no natural light.

Looking back, it seems a miracle that the festival managed to open at all on the Tuesday.

Here's looking forward to the next Pig's Ear Beer Festival!

Owen Woodliffe

Ballard's Old Bounder is the Best of the Fest

The classic-style Barley Wine, Old Bounder, was chosen by 3,500 attendees as the Champion Beer of the Pig's Ear Beer Festival held at the Ocean, Hackney, East London in December. Old Bounder is brewed by Ballard's Brewery of Nyewood near Petersfield and is a powerful 9.7%.

The Pig's Ear Beer Festival was organised by the East London and City Branch of the Campaign For Real Ale. Its Chairman, Jon Russell Brown says: "The Campaign for Real Ale strives to preserve and support the traditional Beer styles that are the glory of our British Beer heritage. Old Bounder is a sublimely vinous example of what Barley Wines should be – rich and fruity in flavour, warming and

potent in character. Ballard's Brewery is gaining an increasing reputation among beer connoisseurs for its quality products and Old Bounder exemplifies why. 3,500 beer connoisseurs can't be wrong!"

Ballard's Brewery is a member of the Society of Independent Breweries (SIBA). It is owned and managed by Carola Brown and has traded successfully since 1980. Its telephone number is 01730 821301.

Other commended drinks were: Cider - Dan Y Graig; Perry - Oliver's Blakeney Red; Foreign - Schlenkerla Bier from Heller; Bottled - Night On Mare Street from Pitfield Brewery.

New venue for CAMRA Easter weekend festival

The 2nd Planet Thanet Easter Beer Festival takes place on Good Friday and Easter Saturday, 6 and 7 April, from 12 noon to 10.30 pm both days (beer stocks permitting).

Because the inaugural festival completely exceeded expectations - selling out completely before the end of the first day - it is this year being held in the Winter Gardens, Margate, the largest venue in Kent.

Around 200 real ales, ciders and perries will be on offer along with good food and great entertainment both days.

As the only CAMRA beer festival being held over the Bank Holiday it is hoped that the event will be another roaring success. There is plenty of space and the organisers have hugely increased the beer order so that visitors should have a good choice on both days of the festival.

2nd PLANET THANET EASTER BEER FESTIVAL



THE WINTER GARDENS MARGATE, KENT

Good Friday and Easter Saturday 6 & 7 April 2007

Opening times: 12 noon to 10.30pm daily

(families welcome until 8.00pm)

- ◆ Around 200 top quality real ales, ciders and perries on offer
- ◆ Featuring a festival commissioned recreation of a Cobbs of Margate beer using the original strain of yeast
- ◆ Hot and cold food and soft drinks available at all times
- ◆ Great live entertainment on stage throughout the sessions
- ◆ CAMRA stall, tombola and historical beer related exhibition by Kent Libraries
- ◆ Admission £3.00 each day (children accompanied by adults get in for free). Free admission to card carrying CAMRA members (or join on the day and get admission refunded in beer tokens)

**So make it a great Easter Bank Holiday seaside weekend
and get down to the Winter Gardens, Margate**

Organised by the Thanet branch of the Campaign for Real Ale

www.planetthanetalefest.org.uk

Volunteers required - please email ruth@thanet-camra.org.uk or phone 01843 850272

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.

Young's drinkers get a taste of change

The ale we used to know as Young's Bitter - or Ordinary - has gone, and it isn't coming back. But there is another ale, also called Young's Bitter, and it is getting increasingly similar, although it may never be exactly the same. That was the one of the conclusions of a pre-Xmas tasting organised for London CAMRA branches by the new Wells & Young's Brewing Company at the White Cross in Richmond.

Ken Don, the former head brewer of Young's and now an advisor to the new brewery, said that the current beers are just the latest in a long process that start-

full or half-empty - to some, it was *"It's not Young's Bitter, but it's very nice beer,"* while to others it was *"It's quite nice, but it's not Young's Bitter."* The difference, according to Ken Don, comes from the different brewing kit used. Wandsworth had old-style rectangular fermenters, while Bedford has steel conicals which are also used for lager - its highest volume product is licence-brewed Red Stripe. *"We said right from the start we'd never be able to match it 100 percent,"* he said. *"I spent a lot of my brewing life trying to match Skol lager from five different plants - you just can't do it! It's a different extraction system, so we*

were already three others in use at Bedford. The brewery now has four separate yeast mains and storage tanks, he said, while cross-contamination of the brewing vessels is prevented by the same rigorous cleaning that keeps wild yeasts at bay.

One of the biggest pains involved in negotiating the brewing merger - after having to have so many meetings with the commercial lawyers - was that the brewery had to increase its water extraction licence in order to take on the extra production volume. *"We are very lucky to have our own well, with water so good we have mineral water accreditation, but the down-side of that is it's seen as valuable,"* Jim said, adding that it meant fearsome negotiations with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.

Having to keep everything secret had been a challenge too, he said: *"The funniest thing was going to Manchester last February, as we needed a new cask racking line. The heart of it was bought second-hand from InBev - it was the Boddingtons cask line. Everybody thought I had a screw loose, as Wells had only just put in a new line capable of 200 firkins an hour."*

The brewers are now working to match Young's Special as best they can. *"There's no intrinsic problem - just that the volumes concerned meant we couldn't do the brews,"* Ken said. The brew length is 150 barrels, but the company sells 200 barrels of Special a week compared with around four times that much Bitter. He expects fewer problems matching bottled beers such as Double Chocolate Stout, as their flavours depend more on the ingredients and less on the brewing process. He added: *"Get the ingredients right, and not much else changes."*

Bryan Betts



ed with test-only brews. *"We did one brew, which we analysed and tasted. We had to modify the run-off - it's different at Bedford, it has a thinner bed and a quicker run-off, so we got some grainy harsh flavour through,"* he explained. Bedford-brewed Bitter has been going into Young's pubs since last summer, and by August it was around 15 percent of the volume, which meant nearly every pub had some of it - yet according to Ken, no-one seemed to notice the difference. *"After about four brews we had a beer we considered good enough to go to the trade,"* he said. *"That was interesting because we got zero response."* However, many of the tasters present said that the Young's ales from Bedford were noticeably maltier than the Wandsworth versions - just as the Wells ales tend to be malty.

Reactions to the new Bitter varied. It was rather like asking someone whether the glass is half-

still have work to do on the bitterness versus maltiness. It is malty - we are going to try to shift that back a bit."

This season's Winter Warmer was all Bedford-brewed, and that too was maltier - though Ken said he gets comments about the Winter Warmer *"not being what it was"* every single year. *"National trends change, and beer is in general sweeter than it was,"* he added. He said Winter Warmer's gravity is still 5 percent, but acknowledged that some flavour has gone because it's not fermented in wood, like it used to be.

The addition of the Young's brands has more than doubled the Bedford brewery's ale volumes and increased its total annual beer production by 100,000 barrels, taking it to around half a million barrels. W&Y head brewer Jim Robertson said that having the Young's yeast there had not caused any problems, as there



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60 Beers & Ciders

**Souvenir glasses, snacks,
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Admission:

Thursday 12 April	6pm-11pm	£1, CAMRA members free
Friday 13 April	11am-5pm	£1, CAMRA members free
	5pm-11pm	£2, CAMRA members £1
Saturday 14 April	11am-11pm	£2, CAMRA members £1



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Dear Editor

While surfing the net I came across the web site www.deadpubssociety.org.uk which features closed down pubs in London. It may be of interest to London Drinker readers.

This is a separate web site from www.dereliction-london.com which also has sections on derelict London pubs.

Colin Price

Dear Editor

Real Ale Home Brewers Unite - We Have Nothing To Lose But Our Loneliness

Recently I returned to Real Ale home brewing. I now find a sad lack of shops and suppliers in Inner London. I believe this is often the case elsewhere. So we Home Brewers can only benefit from getting together. We can welcome those who are already using premium kits, and then assist them to go all the way with malted barley, hops and of live brewers' yeasts. Otherwise it is a lonely exercise.

I would be happy to co-ordinate formation of a Real Ale Home Brewing Circle.

- We could taste members' beers and discuss modifications and improvements;
- discuss problems and techniques among ourselves and with invited head brewers;
- exchange different live brewers yeast and other ingredients;
- buy in bulk for discounts.

Let's get together. Email me at peter.snell@dsl.pipex.com or phone 020-7254 3630 or 07941 179129. East London CAMRA will support such an initiative if we get it started.

Peter Snell

Dear Editor

After I saw John Young's obituary in the Daily Telegraph and pointed out that in 1999 the Telegraph had printed Dave Swarbrick's obituary and then found out that he was still alive (p49, October LD), I was not expecting you to print my email but, as you have and one person has asked me who Dave Swarbrick is, I thought I had better explain.

Dave Swarbrick was a folk musician and fiddle player whose main claim to fame was playing for a folk rock group called Fairport Convention, who were fairly successful in the 1970s without ever really making it big time. I do remember seeing Dave at various folk clubs and concerts in the East London/Essex area.

In the late 1990s Dave suffered from poor health, mainly caused by his heavy smoking, and in April 1999 was taken seriously ill and rushed to hospital. The Telegraph mistakenly thought he had died and on 20 April 1999 printed his obituary. It was then established that he was still alive and the next

day's editions of the Telegraph printed an apology on the obituaries page.

Dave did see the funny side of it, "Well I've died in Coventry before but not this time". When he recovered and started playing gigs again he started selling copies of the obituary. The Telegraph's lawyers did point out to the then editor, Charles Moore that this was in breach of the Telegraph's copyright on the article and suggested taking legal action against him. However Charles Moore thought that this would be poor PR and decided not to take any action.

Dave has since had a successful lung transplant and is still performing. One woman I emailed the comment to did reply that she has seen him perform at two concerts this year. Anyone wishing to read the obituary can find it at:

www.alexlyons.co.uk/atrax/swarb_archive/obituary_files/telegraph_obituary.htm

Colin Price

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www.swlcamra.org.uk

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BEER & CIDER



FESTIVAL 2007

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Thursday 29th March	12 - 3	5 - 10.30pm
Friday 30th March	12 - 10.30pm	

Admission free Wednesday & Thursday lunchtimes,
£3 at other times, £1.50 for CAMRA members.
Last admission 10 pm

Organisers reserve the right to refuse admission

For further details see www.camranorthlondon.org.uk/ldbf

Branch diaries

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

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENT

March – Wed 21 (8pm) London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. *Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk*

LONDON PUBS GROUP

Jane Jephcote 020-7720 6327, jephcotej@hotmail.co.uk

February – Sat 17 Community Pubs Week Daytime Crawl of Middlesex: (12 noon) Three Horseshoes, 2 High St, Southall; (1pm) Viaduct, 221 Uxbridge Rd, Hanwell; (2.30) King's Arms, 110 Uxbridge Rd, Hanwell; (3.30) Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, West Ealing; (4.15) Ealing Park Tavern, 222 South Ealing Rd, Ealing; (5.30) Waterman's Arms, 1 Ferry Lane, Brentford; (6.30) Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Rd, Brentford. Public transport will be required at times

March – Wed 14 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.co.uk

BEXLEY

Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H),

contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk

February – Wed 14 (8.30) Mtg. Jolly Millers, Bexleyheath.

March – Wed 14 (8.30) Mtg. Wrong 'un, Bexleyheath.

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Michael Fairweather 07905 611978, 0203 039 0379 (H),

February – Thu 1 (8.30) Mtg. Windsor Castle (cottage room)

378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton. - **Tue 6 (8.30)** Social. Rail View, 188 Selsdon Rd, South Croydon. - **Mon 19 (8.30)** GBG selection mtg. Spread Eagle, 41 High St, Croydon. - **Tue 27 (8.30)** Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs room) 24-25 Surrey St, Croydon.

March – Tue 15 (8.30) Social. Old Bank, 2 High St, Sutton. -

Thu 29 (8.30) Branch AGM followed by 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

February – Tue 6 GBG survey mtg: (8pm) Lord Raglan, 61 St. Martins-le-Grand EC1. - **Tue 13 (8pm)** Mtg. Cheshire Cheese, 48 Crutched Friars EC3. - **Thu 22 & Fri 23 (8pm)** Socials at Piglet 4 Festival. LOSC, Oliver Rd, Leyton E10.

March – Tue 6 (8pm) POTY mtg. Ring branch for details after 6 February. - **Tue 13 (8pm)** Mtg. Palm Tree, Haverfield Rd, Bow E3. - **Sat 31 (12 noon)** Mtg. North Woolwich railway museum.

Advance Notice – Sat 14 April Proposed visit to Maldon Beer festival and Mighty Oak Brewery. Contact branch for details.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Sandie Ward 020-8884 0075 (H), Branch Mobile 07757 710008

February – Tue 6 (9pm) Social. Half Moon, 749 Green Lanes, N21. - **Tue 13 (9pm)** Social. Windsor Castle, The Walks, N2. - **Sat 17** Crawl of western area of branch. Meet (12 noon) Adam & Eve, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill NW7. Remember to bring your mobile, so as to 'phone ours to find out where we are! - **Thu 22**

(8.30) Darts Social. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - **Sat 24** Hertford Road Crawl 'The Sequel'. Meet (12 noon) Moon & Cross, 104-106 High St, Waltham Cross. Remember to bring your mobile again! Finish at Picture Palace (Wetherspoons), Ponders End. - **Wed 28 (8.30)** Mtg and final GBG selection. Enfield Town Club, Old Park Ave, Enfield EN2. **Membership Card required.**

March – Wed 7 (9pm) Social. Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd, New Barnet EN5. - **Sat 10 (1pm-6.30)** Club Social. Barnet Saracens Rugby Football Club, Byng Rd, Barnet EN5 (from Black Horse, Wood St., take The Avenue, then Wentworth Rd.). **Membership Card required.** - **Thu 15 (9pm)** Social. Moon Under Water, 115 Chase Side, Enfield EN2. - **Thu 22 (9pm)** *London Drinker* pick up and social. Old Mitre, 58 High St, Barnet EN5. - **Wed 28 (6pm onwards)** Working Social at London Drinker Beer Festival, see page 25.

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

February – Thu 1 (8pm) Branch AGM. Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston. - **Wed 7 (8pm)** Social gathering at Battersea Beer Festival, see page 24. - **Tue 20** Three branch social in Coombe Lane, Raynes Park SW20: (7pm) Cavern; (8.30) Raynes Park Tavern; (9.30) Edward Rayne. - **Wed 28 (8pm)** GBG selection mtg. Waggon & Horses, Surbiton Hill Rd, Surbiton.

March – Tue 6 (8.15) Mtg. Manor, Malden Manor, near rail station. - **Fri 9** Evening train trip to Shepperton to visit Barley Mow, Watersplash Rd, stopping off at Sunbury for Grey Horse. Take 6.41 train from Kingston to Sunbury, then 7.59 on to Shepperton, (7.41 from Kingston). - **Wed 14 (8pm)** Quiz night at Wych Elm, Elm Rd, Kingston. - **Sat 31** Day trip to Winchester. Take 10.30 train from Surbiton, changing at Woking, arr Winchester 11.33. Start in White Swan, then Hyde Tavern, then other pubs around Winchester.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

Social contact: Steve Ducker 07910 151494, steve.ducker@yahoo.co.uk; Branch contact: John Cryne 020-8452 6965, john.cryne@uk.pwc.com

February – Wed 7 Social: Battersea Beer Festival, see page 24.

- **Tue 13 (8pm)**: Pub of the Season presentation. Baring, 55 Baring St, N1. - **Tue 20 (8pm)**: London Drinker Beer Festival Planning Meeting. Square Tavern, 26 Tolmers Sq, NW1. - **Tue 27 N1** Social: (8pm) Crown, 116 Clouesley Rd; then Angelic, 57 Liverpool Rd; York, 82 Islington High St; Angel, 3-5 Islington High St.

March – Tue 6 (7pm): NW1/NW5 Guide launch. Somerstown Coffee House, 60 Chalton St NW1. - **Tue 13 N7** Social: (8pm) Old Kings Head, 382 Holloway Rd; then Coronet, 338-346 Holloway Rd. - **Wed 20 (8pm)**: Mtg. Lucas Arms, 245a Gray's Inn Rd, WC1. - **Wed 28-Fri 30** London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough St WC1. See page 25.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

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

February – Thu 1 Brentford Social: (8pm) Magpie & Crown, 128 High St; (9.30) O'Briens, 11 London Rd. - **Tue 6 (8pm)** Final GBG selection mtg. Prince of Wales, 136 Hampton Rd, Twickenham. - **Thu 8 (8pm)** Battersea Beer Festival, see page 24. Meet by stage. - **Thu 15 (8.30)** Mtg. Adelaide, 57 Park Rd, Teddington. - **Tue 20** Three branch social in Coombe Lane, Raynes Park SW20: (7pm) Cavern; (8.30) Raynes Park Tavern; (9.30) Edward Rayne. - **Thu 22** Pubs Week Crawl: (8pm) Red Lion, 164 Stanley Rd, Teddington; (9pm) Old Goat, 241 Hampton Rd; (10pm) Prince of Wales, 136 Hampton Rd,

Twickenham. - **Fri 23** (8pm) Mini beer festival, Lion, 27 Wick Rd, Teddington.

March – Thu 8 (8.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, 128 Worton Rd, Isleworth. - **Thu 15** Sheen SW14 crawl: (8pm) Plough, 42 Christchurch Rd; (8.45) Pig and Whistle, 86 Sheen La; (9.30) Hare & Hounds, 216 Upper Richmond Rd; (10.15) Halfway House, 24 Priests Bridge. - **Sat 24** Richmond crawl: (1pm) Mitre, 20 St Mary's Gro; (1.45) Molly Malone's 115 Kew Rd; followed by many others ending at Roebuck, Richmond Hill in the evening. Phone branch contact mobile or 07718 194571 for location update on the day. - **Thu 29** (6.30) Social at London Drinker Beer Festival, see page 25. Meet by door every hour.

Website: www.camra.org.uk/richmond

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Richard Martin 020-8464 1866,
richard.martin23@ntlworld.com

On the day of the event only, ring 07775 973760

February – Wed 7 (8pm) Cttee mtg/Social. Charles Dickens, Union St, SE1. - **Tue 20** (7pm) Pub games eve. Prince Albert (Rose's) Hare St, SE18. - **Sat 24** (8pm) Pubs Week Quiz. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 - **Tue 27** (8pm) Catford Planning.

Bromley Labour Club, St. Marks Rd. Bromley BR2
March – Thu 1 (8pm) - Cttee mtg/Social/GBG selection. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. - **Mon 12** (8pm) Beckenham BR3 Social. Oakhill Tavern, Bromley Rd, then Jolly Woodman, Chancery La. - **Sat 24** Oakleaf Brewery possible visit; please check website for details nearer the date. - **Mon 26** (8pm) Catford Planning. Pommellers Rest, Tower Bridge Rd, SE1.
Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H), swessex@clara.co.uk
February – Thu 1 (8pm) Social. Chelmsford Winter Beer Festival, Essex County Council Social Club (Triangle Club), Duke St, Chelmsford (for more details see Chelmsford website www.chelmsfordcamra.org.uk/wbf/index.html - **Sat 3** (11am at Brewery) Brewery Trip, Brentwood Brewing Company (for more details contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215) - **Tue 6** (8.30) Social. Prince of Wales, 63 Green La (A1083), Ilford. - **Wed 14** (8.30) Branch AGM, White Hart, 168 High St/Kings Walk, Grays. Nominations and motions/matters for discussion to Secretary, Andrew Clifton, 46 Havering Dr, ROMFORD RM1 4BH or by e-mail by Wed 7 Feb. - **Tue 20** (8.30) Social. Phoenix, Broadway (B1335), Rainham (+ opportunity to visit other pubs in Rainham Village).

March – Thu 1 (8.30) GBG selection and Pub of the Year (London area) selection. Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd (A104), Woodford Green. - **Tue 6** (8.30) Crib and Darts Social. Brave Nelson, 138 Woodman Rd, Warley. - **Thu 15** (8.30) Social. Alma Arms, Horseman Side, Navestock CM14. - **Thu 22** (8.30) GBG selection and Pub of the Year (Essex area) selection. Foxhound, 18 High Rd (B188), Orsett RM16. - **Thu 29** (7.30) Social at London Drinker Beer Festival, see page 25.
Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 2860 (W), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk
February – Thu 15 (7.30) Mtg, Crane, 14 Armoury Way, Wandsworth SW18. - **Tue 20** Community Pubs Week social in Raynes Park (with Richmond & Hounslow and Kingston & Leatherhead branches). Meet (from 7pm) Cavern, 100 Coombe Lane; then (8.30) Raynes Park Tavern, 32 Coombe Lane East; finally (9.30) Edward Rayne, 8-12 Coombe Lane East.

March – Thu 1 (7.30pm). GBG selection mtg. Spread Eagle (function room), 71 Wandsworth High St, SW18. - **Wed 21** Vauxhall and South Lambeth SW8 crawl. Meet (from 7pm)

Riverside, 5 St George Wharf, Vauxhall; then (8.15) Wheatsheaf, 126 South Lambeth Rd; (9pm) Mawbey Arms, 7 Mawbey St; (10pm) Surprise, 16 Southville.
Website: www.sulcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan 01923 230104 (H) 07854 988152 (M)
February – Tue 6 (8.30) Open Mic Night, Pump House Colne River Rooms, Local Board Rd, Watford. - **Sat 10** Stanmore to Bushey Heath lunchtime crawl: (1pm) Man in the Moon, Buckingham Parade and finishing in the Black Boy, Bushey Heath. - **Tue 20** Real Ale Evening. Southern Cross, Langley Rd. Contact John Ross at the pub for details 01923 256033. **Fri 23** Pub of the Year presentation. Venue TBA. - **Mon 26** (8.15) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, St. Johns Rd, Watford.
March – Wed 7 Rickmansworth social. Meet (8.30) Feathers, Church La. - **Thu 15** Watford Heath social. Meet (8.30) Royal Oak, Watford Heath. - **Mon 26** (8pm) Branch AGM. Estcourt Arms, St Johns Rd, Watford. - **Sun 1 April** St Albans social: (1pm) Farmers Boy, London Road; finishing (3pm) Lower Red Lion.
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

February – Thu 1 Post-M&B AGM tour: Meet (7 for 7.30) Westminster Arms, Storeys Gate SW1; finish (10pm) Three Greyhounds, 25 Greek St, W1. - **Fri 9** (7.30, Cider bar) Working social, Battersea Beer Festival, see page 24. - **Mon 19** (7 for 7.30) 2nd GBG selection and Branch mtg. King & Queen (upstairs room), 1-2 Foley St, W1. - **Thu 22** Beer and curry evening: (7.30) Shakespeare's Head, 64-68 Kingsway, WC1. for beer quality survey tour of Covent Garden, Soho and Westminster followed by an Indian meal back at the point of origin. Further details: contact Kim Martin as above. - **Tue 27** (7 for 7.30) Final GBG selection mtg. Harp (upstairs room), 47 Chandos Pl, WC2.

March – Tue 6 SW6 Social: (7 for 7.30) Waterside, Unit 2, Riverside Tower, The Boulevard, Imperial Wharf, meet Grd Floor Bar; (9pm) Duke on the Green, New King's Rd; (10pm) White Horse, 1-3 Parson's Green. - **Tue 13** West Kensington Socials: (7.30) Radnor Arms, 247 Warwick Rd, W14; (9pm) Crown & Sceptre, 34 Holland Rd, W14; ending (10.30) Britannia, 1 Allen St, W8. - **Mon 19** Mtg (7.30) Warwick Castle, 6 Warwick Pl, W9. - **Fri 30** Social at Cider bar, London Drinker Beer Festival, see page 25.

WEST MIDDLESEX

David Bender 07734 509111, contact@westmiddx-camra.org.uk
February – Wed 7 (8pm) Publicity social. Battersea Beer Festival, see page 24. - **Fri 9** (All day) Working social. Battersea Beer Festival. - **Thu 15** (8.30) Mtg. West London Trades Union Club, High St., Acton. **Membership Card required.**
March – Thu 1 (8pm) Social. JJ Moons, Victoria Rd, Ruislip. - **Wed 7** (8.30) GBG selection mtg. Conservative Club, High St, Southall. - **Wed 14** (8.30) Mtg. Castle, St Mary's Rd, Ealing. - **Fri 23** (8pm) London Drinker pick up. Magpie & Crown, High St, Brentford, then (9.30) Fox, Green La, Hanwell. - **Wed 28** (8pm) Publicity social. London Drinker Beer Festival, see page 25.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May edition: 7th March 2007. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.



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

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

This time we welcome another brand new Young's riverside pub in SW18 Battersea Reach and detail a further four acquisitions in SE5 Camberwell, SW10 Fulham Road, W5 Ealing and W9 Maida Vale. We report on a new Fuller's pub in EC4 Cannon Street, and the reopening of a 'listed' pub in EC1 Clerkenwell after 16 years' closure. A couple of M&B's O'Neills chain have reinstated real ale and another has been transformed into a gastropub, again with cask ale. Gastropub conversions across London are now encouragingly offering a choice of real ale.

On the down side, pub losses to other uses continue at an alarming rate and a recent survey in one London

Borough, Greenwich, carried out to help fight an impending demolition of a locally listed pub, has revealed a 30% net reduction in pubs in just 12 years.

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, FILTHY MACNASTYS, 68 Amwell St. Adnams: Broadside. Contrary to erroneous report in Update 128 that it was converted to a restaurant, it is still operating as a pub. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly FOUNTAIN. (E16, U89, U128)

EC1, HAT & FEATHERS, 2 Clerkenwell Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Reopened in late November 2006 after 16 years' closure, this former Taylor Walker pub and listed building has been sensitively renovated as a Free House, with lots of wood and glass. A 'pub and dining room', though food does not predominate. Retains original and unique external signage. (E18)

EC2, O'NEILLS, 64 London Wall. Fuller: London Pride. A welcome reinstatement of real ale in one of M&B's pseudo-Irish pubs, many of which were formerly Firkin brewpubs (but not this one). Could this indicate a change of policy throughout the chain? Formerly TALBOT. (E36, U120)

EC2, RIVINGTON GRILL, 28/30 Rivington St. No real ale. A bar and restaurant in former commercial premises.

EC2, VINUM, 2/4 Paul St. No real ale. A Davy's Free House and formerly one of its wine bars named Heeltap & Bumper. Unlike other Davy's outlets, it only has draught lager.

EC3, CORNEY & BARROW, 2B Eastcheap. No real ale. Free House/wine bar now with keg beer.

EC4, APT BAR, Aldermay House, 10-15 Queen St. No real ale. Free House/bar with entrance around the corner in Watling St.

EC4, O'NEILLS, 65 Cannon St. Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly SUGAR LOAF. (E54, U116, U142)

EC4, RYANS PUBLIC HOUSE (BAR), 56 Carter La. Fuller: London Pride; Wells: Bombardier. Reinstatement of real ale. (U121, U164)

EC4, VINTRY, Sherborne La, off King William St. Fuller: London Pride, Discovery. New Fuller's pub tucked away at rear of an office building (with frontage on Cannon St),

opened in August 2006. Large, open-plan and noisy bar in rather dated 'basic' style with grey décor, a rag-bag of second hand furniture and mirrors, concrete slab ceiling, bare lightbulbs and exposed ventilation ducts – a design nightmare. The bar front utilises wooden wine crates to reflect the wine emphasis and 'British Brasserie' theme. Open-to-view kitchen at rear, specialising in seafood and beef, with small dining area to side. Stairs at the main entrance lead to an upstairs bar. Side entrance on to Abchurch Yard. 'Accessible' wc. Open 12-11 Mon-Fri (food until 10pm), closed weekends. Verdict: could do better, even within a concrete box.

WC1, 06 ST CHADS PLACE, 6 St Chads Pl. Wells: Bombardier. A welcome addition of real ale in this recently opened younger drinkers' venue. (U190)

W1(S), BAR RUMBA, Basement, Trocadero Centre, 36 Shaftesbury Ave. No real ale. Free House/bar.

W1(S), BOARDWALK, 18 Greek St. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant on three floors, run by Urbium chain. Formerly 'Bill Stickers' but not previously reported.

W1(S), YARD, 57 Rupert St. No real ale. Free House/bar opened by 2004 but not previously reported.

EAST

E1, OLD DISPENSARY, 19A Leman St. Reopened in October 2006 and renamed DISPENSARY. Adnams: Broadside; two varying guest beers (e.g. Fuller: Chiswick Bitter and Taylor: Landlord). Leased by Regent Inns to enterprising couple with a keen interest in real ale and quality food, albeit rather expensive. Formerly run by Poetry Bars & Restaurants. Tastefully refurbished with cream décor and ceiling fans, bare boards and tiled flooring, low lighting and mirrors. Spiral staircase leads to dining area at mezzanine level over bar. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri (food available 12-10). (U130, U163, U187)

E9, FOLLIES, 130 Lauriston Rd. Reopened and reverted to original name, EMPRESS OF INDIA. Greene King: IPA; Taylor: Landlord. Now a gastropub. (E120)

NORTH

N1, BIG CHILL HOUSE, 257/259 Pentonville Rd. Wadworth: 6X. Formerly SAHARA NIGHTS, previously

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CROSS BAR. (N38, U123, U184, U190, U192)

N1, NEW ROSE, 84/86 Essex Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Formerly HALF MOON. (N47, U185)

N11, RANELAGH, 82 Bounds Green Rd. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: IPA; Guest beer (eg Taylor: Landlord). (N109, U110, U151, U185, U192)

N14, MERRYHILLS, 95 Bramley Rd. Reopened and renamed MAZE INN. Now a bar and restaurant, 'Q's branding removed. Still no real ale. (N119, U174, U192)

N16, BAR LORCA (BAGABON), 175 Stoke Newington High St. Reverted to **THREE CROWNS**. Three guest beers (eg Harvey: Sussex Best Bitter, Shepherd Neame: Spitfire and Taylor: Landlord). Retaining external metalwork and much of original interior (less a few walls), this vast pub has been restored with a corner section with wooden tables and chairs for dining or reading. Another section has more of a wine bar feel with low lighting, a bizarre selection of mirrors and maroon décor. Kitchen open 12-3, 6-10. Now Enterprise, ex-Saxon Inns. (N128, U166, U184)

N16, TONIC, 97 Stoke Newington Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Refurbished as a style bar on the ground floor with grey and brown décor and leather sofas. Downstairs has become **SATCHMO'S**, a live jazz venue. Formerly **KRYSTALS**, originally **HARE & HOUNDS**. (N128, U165, U188)

N19, TOTNES CASTLE, 47 Chester Rd. Renamed **STAR**. Fuller: London Pride; Taylor: Landlord; Guest beer from SIBA list expected. Now a gastropub with avocado wood panelling and ceiling and exposed brickwork. Live music. Emphasis on wine and food - available 6-10 Mon-Fri, 10.30-9.30 Sat and 12-9 Sun. Now Enterprise, ex-Watney via Unique. (N145)

NORTH WEST

NW1, DUBLIN CASTLE, 94 Parkway. Courage: Best Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale. (N164, U157)

NW1, FRESHH, 48 Chalk Farm Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar in former restaurant premises opened by April 2005 but not previously reported, currently closed.

NW1, NW1, 32 Parkway. Young: Bitter. Formerly **PARKWAY BAR**. (N171, U171)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, ROSE, 123 Snowfields. Fuller: London Pride. Note correct street name. (SE31)

SE1, TAPAS BRINDISA, 18/20 Southwark St. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in former commercial premises. Drinkers welcome at bar.

SE1, VILLAGE EAST, 171/173 Bermondsey St. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in former commercial premises.

SE5, BLAKE HOUSE, 16 Grove La. Renamed **DARK HORSE**. Black Sheep: Bitter. Now a gastropub and part of a three pub chain. Formerly **KERFIELD**. (SE59, U159, U184)

SE10, GREENWICH INN, 17 Greenwich High Rd. Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Free House reopened some time ago. (SE95, U138)

SE18, SHIP, 205 Plumstead Common Rd. No real ale. Reopened after refurbishment. (SE174, U145, U156, U178)

SOUTH WEST

SW4, WINDSOR ARMS, 165 Stonhouse St. Renamed **STONHOUSE (THE)**. Taylor: Landlord; Guest beer (eg Harvey: Sussex Best Bitter). Reinstatement of real ale. Renovated with cream décor, polished wooden flooring, low lighting and fans. Now Punch, ex-Bass (not Free). (SW61, U184)

SW6, MEUM COR, 308 North End Rd. Renamed yet again to **ARBITER**. Taylor: Landlord; Guest beer (eg Rebellion: Mutiny), and real ale reinstated. Now features good quality British food with some Scandinavian dishes. Independently run pub leased from Enterprise Inns. Formerly **NORTH END**, **MARTINI BAR**, **JOLLY BREWER** and **HOBGOBLIN**. (SW67, U157, U162, U188)

SW6, O'NEILLS, 90/90A Fulham High Rd. Renamed **TEMPERANCE**, reflecting its past incarnation as a temperance billiard hall. Three varying guest beers (eg Adnams: Broadside, Greene King: IPA, Highgate: Old Ember); Westons: Organic Draught Vintage Cider (7.3%). Revamped with pseudo-Irish tat removed and original features enhanced. Food orientated with island bar and kitchen open to view. Tiled floor and mixture of seating and dining areas. Stairs lead to a mezzanine lounge area over the former **PHARAOH & FIRKIN** brewery area now used for storage. Food 12-10. Now M&B, ex-Bass. Welcome reinstatement of real ale but a pity the opportunity to recreate a brewpub has not been taken, given the paucity of brewpubs in London compared with the Continent and North America. Open 12-11 (10.30 Sun). (SW70, U151, U161)

SW18, WATERFRONT, Baltimore House, Juniper Drive, Battersea Reach. Young: Bitter. Another beautiful, brand new, non-smoking Young's riverside gastropub, opened in late November 2006 but hardly a drinkers' pub and sadly reduced already to a single real ale. Open 11-11.30 (10.30 Sun), with food until 10.30 (9.30).

SW19, MARQUIS OF LORNE, 117 Haydons Rd. Reopened as Free House but no real ale yet. (SW118, U134, U181, BM28, U192)

WEST

W6, OSP, 80 Fulham Palace Rd. Greene King: IPA, Abbot. Reinstatement of real ale. (W104)

W11, LIQUID LOUNGE, 209 Westbourne Park Rd. Reopened and renamed **BUMPKIN**. Adnams: Broadside; Caledonian: Deuchars IPA. (W120)

RUISLIP (HA4), MIDDLESEX ARMS, Long Drive. Fuller: London Pride; varying guest beer. (W182)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, ONE OF 2, 45 Old Broad St, renamed **WALL**. Fuller, H removed. (U151)

WC1, FRIEND AT HAND, Punch (Spirit), closed. (W18)

WC2, ALL BAR ONE, 84 Charing Cross Rd, M&B, converted to 'Med Kitchen' restaurant. (W27)

W1(Mar), CHEZ STELIOS, Free, converted to Chinese restaurant. (W51)

W1(May), ALL BAR ONE, 3/4 Hanover St, M&B, closed by June 2004 and omitted in error from 'lost locals' in W

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guide – add to W234. (U118)

NORTH

N1, OLD IVY HOUSE, ex-Phoenix, now in residential use. (N54, U112, U152, U181)
N2, CLISSOLD ARMS, Barracuda, ex-Ambishus, closed since August 2006, future uncertain. (N65, U137, U186)
N4, AULD TRIANGLE, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. Formerly PLIMSOLL ARMS. (N76, U134)
N7, ARUNDEL ARMS, Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique, closed. (N85)
N9, TOWN CRIER, Enterprise, ex-Whitbread, demolished. (N101, U158)
N14, RISING SUN (YE OLDE), ex-Watney, closed, future uncertain. (N119, U161, U163)
BARNET (EN5), GREEN MAN, McMullen, now converted to shop. (N250, H19, U188)
ENFIELD EAST (EN3), SUN & WOOLPACK, Punch (Spirit), ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. (N242, U172)

NORTH WEST

NW1, DOME, ex-Whitbread, converted to restaurant (U146)
NW1, SHIRES CAFÉ BAR, Free, temporary building demolished/dismantled by October 2006. (U179)
NW3, ROOM SIXTY EIGHT, Free, now converted to 'J'Aime' restaurant. Formerly a wine bar/restaurant called 'Opera', a Chinese restaurant and originally HORSE & GROOM (Young's). (N186, U157, U165, U171, U188, U189)

NW11, ROYAL OAK. Now believed owned by Youngsbury Developments, ex-Punch (Spirit). Already reported closed, now bar area gutted and windows altered but it is understood that a planning application has not yet been submitted. (N227, U191)

EDGWARE (HA8), JOLLY BADGER. Renamed **HARVESTER** with no subtitle. M&B, ex-Bass, H unused. Formerly **EVERGLADES EXCHANGE BAR**. (N256, U151, U153)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 45 Tarn St, ex-Sycamore Inns, demolished. Note correct address. (SE14, U102)

SE1, FLEECE, ex-Courage, now converted to residential use. (SE16, U162)

SE1, GLOUCESTER ARMS, ex-Courage, closed and boarded up. (SE18)

SE1, JUBILEE TAVERN, S&N Pub Enterprises, ex-S&N, closed, future uncertain. (SE22, U107)

SE1, LIAM OG'S. Renamed **LAZY**, H removed following drastic refurbishment. Formerly **DOCKHEAD**. (SE13, U117)

SE1, RAVEN AT THE TOWER, ex-Watney, closed. (SE29)

SE1, ST JOHNS TAVERN, Free, still closed and boarded up along with whole block. (SE34, U157)

SE1, TRINITY ARMS, Free, now converted to residential use after being closed for nearly 10 years. Once a renowned real ale outlet. (SE36, U106, U125, U174)

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
	DD	Non-DD	DD	Non-DD		
UK and EEC	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£22 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27 <input type="checkbox"/>	£360 <input type="checkbox"/>	£450 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27 <input type="checkbox"/>	£30 <input type="checkbox"/>	£32 <input type="checkbox"/>	£450 <input type="checkbox"/>	£540 <input type="checkbox"/>
Under age 26/Student	£11 <input type="checkbox"/>	£13 <input type="checkbox"/>	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£16 <input type="checkbox"/>	-	-
Unemployed/Disabled	£11 <input type="checkbox"/>	£13 <input type="checkbox"/>	-	-	-	-
Over 60	£11 <input type="checkbox"/>	£13 <input type="checkbox"/>	£14 <input type="checkbox"/>	£16 <input type="checkbox"/>	£198 <input type="checkbox"/>	£252 <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 193

SE1, UXBRIDGE ARMS, ex-Watney, H removed despite huge plaque promoting London Pride. (SE37)

SE2, PEGASUS, ex-Bass, converted to dental practice. (SE43)

SE3, BITTER EXPERIENCE OFF LICENCE, closed by 2003. (SE45)

SE3, DWYERS BAR, Free, closed since June 2004. (U171)

SE3, WAT TYLER, ex-Allied (Ind Coope), closed and boarded up since June 2004. (SE49)

SE8, FARRANGOS, Free, ex-Ascot, now converted to flats. Formerly McMILLANS. (SE81, U102, U120, U164, U173)

SE9, CHEQUERS, ex-Whitbread, converted to Mexican restaurant and cocktail bar by September 2004. (SE86)

SE9, GREYHOUND (YE OLDE), Enterprise, ex-S&N, closed and boarded up (a listed building) and for sale. (SE86, U107, U158)

SE9, MAN OF KENT, ex-Courage. Confirmed acquired by fire station next door and used for ancillary purposes since the mid 90s. (SE87)

SE9, WATSONS (SPORTS BAR). Renamed DOUBLE Ms BAR, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. Originally KINGS ARMS. (SE86, U120)

SE9, WELCOME INN, now fire damaged. A planning application for demolition and residential replacement has been submitted. (SE88, U102, U186)

SE10, BRITISH SAILOR, ex-Belhaven. Whole building demolished and new housing built on site by 2004. (SE93,

U102, U160, U166)

SE10, CRICKETERS. Renamed POWDER MONKEY, Free, ex-Saxon Inns, H removed. (SE93, U123)

SE10, DANIELS, Free, closed and boarded up. Formerly GASTRO GASTRO, originally ROYAL ALBERT. (SE101, U102, U121, U164, U184)

SE10, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, ex-Whitbread, now converted to flats. Bizarrely a front of property wall has been constructed around and under a customer's parked Range Rover left on the forecourt! (SE94, U191)

SE10, GREENWICH THEATRE, Free, bar now only open during performances and sells bottled beers only. Delete from pub database. (SE95)

SE10, RED BOOT, Regent Inns, now demolished to make way for new O2 entertainment complex in and around the Millennium Dome. (U154, U159)

SE10, S BAR & RESTAURANT, Free, converted to Ladbrokes betting shop. (U164)

SE10, VICTORIA, ex-Truman, now demolished. (SE103, U177)

SE18, ADMIRAL, ex-Watney, now demolished. (SE164, U188)

SE18, AVENUE ARMS, Phoenix, ex-Courage, now converted to flats. (SE165, U112, U129)

SE18, DIRECTOR GENERAL, Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique. Due to close at the end of January to make way for new Greenwich Council civic offices on the site. CAMRA SE London Branch and Pubs Group have objected to the proposed demolition of this decorative,

What's new at THE TELEGRAPH in 2007 - The 'Country Pub' in London -



Six Real Ales, New New Zealand Wine list and Brooks Blues Bar upstairs on Fridays starting a new season on 12 January.

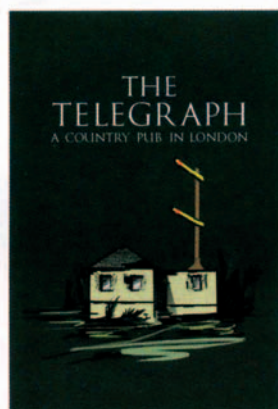
Weltons Pride & Joy – an excellent session beer – it's 2.8% but tastes like 4% and will be available regularly, with a constantly changing range of five other real ales.

BROOKS BLUES BAR BOOKS THE BEST IN BLUES
Wine and Dine every Friday, 8pm 'till late. Book a table.

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Edwardian pub, which is on the Council's list of buildings of architectural and historic interest. (SE167)

SE18, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, ex-Phoenix, already reported demolished, new housing now under construction on site. (SE167, U112, U156, U170)

SE18, EDINBURGH CASTLE, ex-Courage, closed, boarded up and fenced off. A listed building. (SE167)

SE18, LORD BLOOMFIELD, ex-Ascot, ground floor now converted from residential use to a Chinese restaurant. (SE169, U102, U113, U129)

SE18, NAVY & ARMY, Phoenix, ex-Courage, converted to Chinese takeaway. (SE170, U112)

SE18, NORTH KENT TAVERN, Phoenix, ex-Courage, closed and boarded up. (SE170, U112)

SE18, TRAMSHED, Free. Building no longer a theatre and now used by a number of community groups. Bar no longer open to the general public. Delete from pub database. (SE174, U106)

SE18, WALPOLE ARMS, ex-Bass, converted to flats. (SE175)

SE18, WOOLWICH INFANT, ex-Inntrepreneur, ex-Courage, closed and to let. (SE175)

SE28, CUTTY SARK, Free, H removed. (SE231, U102)

SE28, ROYAL ARSENAL, Free, now converted to Christian centre and family church. Formerly WILDFOWLER INN. (SE231, U120, U156)

SOUTH WEST

SW14, MARKET GARDENER, ex-Inntrepreneur. Now

converted to residential use. (SW98, U138)

SW15, IDLE HOUR, Enterprise (not Free), H unused. Formerly BIERREX. (SW100, U179, U181)

SW15, BOAT & DRAGON, Free, now converted to 'art warehouse' and residential use. Formerly CYCLISTS REST, originally CRICKETER. (SW100, U143, U157, U167)

SW15, ROBIN HOOD, Whitbread (Beefeater), converted to flats. (SW104)

SW19, KING OF DENMARK, ex-S&N Pub Enterprises (and latterly Globe pubs), closed and boarded up by local architect freeholder who has submitted planning applications to Merton Council for demolition and replacement by a bar/restaurant with offices and flats above. CAMRA SW London Branch has formally objected. (SW118)

SW19, WHITE HART, Greene King, H unused. Formerly BODHRAN BARNEYS for a while. (SW116, U150, U163, U187, BM34)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, BOUDOIR. Renamed PARKER McMILLAN. Formerly VAULTS. (E26, U184)

EC1, EXTRA TIME. Renamed MASQUE, still no real ale. (U142)

EC1, HAND & SHEARS. Now Trust Inns, ex-S&N. (E17, U67, U106)

EC2, MOORGATE ORIENTAL. Renamed MEHEQ, an

The Magpie & Crown

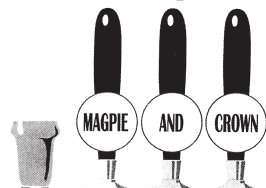


- ◆ Draught Budvar, Hoegaarden, Paulaner Münchener Lager, Stiegl Lager & Bavarian Wheat Beer
- ◆ Quiz Night Thursday
- ◆ Bar billiards
- ◆ Cycle rack
- ◆ 2007 Good Beer Guide
- ◆ Beers from Grand Union and Twickenham Breweries
- ◆ Hours of opening: Mon-Wed 11-12 midnight, Thurs-Sat 11-1am, Sun 12-12 midnight

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- ◆ Only 30 minutes train journey from main line Waterloo
- ◆ 4 ever-changing guest ales
- ◆ 3 traditional ciders and the occasional perry
- ◆ Foreign bottled beers selection
- ◆ Food is back
Tues-Sat eves 6.30 - 10pm
Sat lunch 12 - 2pm
Sun 12.30 - 5.30pm



Steve and the staff look forward to seeing you soon

Capital Pubcheck - update 193

Indian bar and restaurant. (U148)

EC3, RAVEN. Renamed FEN, -beers listed; +Fuller:

London Pride; +Greene King: IPA. (E41, U162)

EC3, UNDERWRITER. Now Trust Inns, ex-S&N. (E43)

EC4, BRODIES. Renamed SAINT by new owners Jamies. (U175)

EC4, CASTLE, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Black Sheep: Bitter. (E47, U76)

EC4, HEELTAP & BUMPER. Renamed WINE TUN, -beers listed; +Davys Ordinary, Old Wallop. Ex-style bar now a proper Davys. (U139)

EC4, OCHRE. Former Free House now run by Faucet Inns. Formerly COOLIN, originally BIERREX. (U109, U147, U191)

EC4, VIVO. Renamed REFLEX. (U182)

WC1, QUEENS HEAD. Now Faucet Inns, ex-M&B. (N29, HB12, W25)

WC2, BAR 38. Renamed LONG ACRE, still no real ale. (W28)

WC2, CHESHIRE CHEESE is Trust Inns, not a Free House. (W30)

WC2, CONSERVATORY. Renamed INTREPID FOX presumably to replace the Intrepid Fox, 99 Wardour St, closed and sold to a property developer by M&B to the dismay of customers. (W31)

WC2, GEORGE, 213 Strand, -Taylor: Landlord; +Adnams: Broadside; +Sharps: Doom Bar. Confirmed now Capital Pub Co, ex-M&B. (W32, U191)

WC2, ESSEX SERPENT. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Spirit. (W32)

WC2, GREEN MAN & FRENCH HORN. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Spirit. (W33)

WC2, MARQUIS OF GRANBY, 142 Shaftesbury Ave, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Harvey: Sussex Best Bitter. (W35)

W1(S), DOME. Renamed BOULEVARD (BAR & DINING ROOM). (W65)

W1(S), JAMIES. Renamed POLKA. (W66)

EAST

E14, HENRY ADDINGTON, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord; +Guest beer (eg Adnams, Hop Back). (U69)

NORTH

N1, LE MONTMARTRE. Renamed AKARI, a Japanese 'bar and kitchen' owned by Noble House. Formerly NUBAR, previously DISGRACELAND. (N40, U137, U147, U163, U164)

N7, METRO. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Porter Black. Formerly SPOOFERS BAR, previously TAPPIT HEN. (N90, U121, U155, U168, U188)

N7, OLD KINGS HEAD, -beers listed; +Theakston: XB; +2 guest beers. Revamped under new management, comfortable seating, Cajun food, jacket potatoes, fake coal fire. (N89)

N15, GOAT, -Wadworth: 6X; +Adnams: Broadside. (N124, U138)

N17, BEEHIVE, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. Now Enterprise, ex-S&N. (N133, U106)

BARNET (EN5), AVENUE. Renamed DANDELION.

Formerly FELIX & FIRKIN, previously DANDY LION. (N250, U120, U151, H19, U157, U160, U167)

ENFIELD EAST (EN3), COACH ARMS. Renamed ALMA PUB. Originally ALMA. (N239, U151)

NORTH WEST

NW1, LOUNGE BAR. Renamed STUDIO 88, still no real ale. (U184)

NW6, NORTH LONDON TAVERN, -Adnams: Bitter; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Harvey: Sussex Best Bitter; +Taylor: Landlord; +guest beer (eg Grand Union: Gold). (N205, U157, U173, U187)

NW6, OLD BLACK LION. Renamed LION. Major refurbishment with all original furniture and fittings removed. Retains Greene King IPA and Old Speckled Hen. Formerly RAT & CARROT (BLACK LION). (N206, U117, U154, U174)

NW7, RAILWAY TAVERN, -Courage: Best Bitter; +Courage: Directors; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; +Wells: Bombardier; +guest beer (eg Shepherd Neame: Spitfire). Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (N210, U160)

NW10, ASTONS. Renamed REGENTS. Now Trust Inns, ex-S&N. Originally GREY HORSE. (N223, U106, U191, U192)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BLUE OLIVE. Renamed REMBRANDT, a bar and restaurant, still no real ale. Formerly CAFÉ DELL' UGO. (U102, U158)

SE1, COOPERS. Renamed WELLESLEY, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride and ESB; +Wells: Bombardier, Young: Bitter. (U160, U170)

SE1, HAND & MARIGOLD. Renamed MARIGOLD by April 2005, still no real ale. (SE20)

SE1, HEELTAP & BUMPER. Renamed HEELTAP, -Theakston: XB; +Davys Best Bitter, Old Wallop. Former Davys style bar now transformed into a proper Davys as with other branches. (U139)

SE1, RUBY LOUNGE. Renamed LOUNGE 34, still no real ale. Formerly SPANISH PATRIOT. (SE34, U168).

SE1, WETHERSPOONS. Renamed ROCKINGHAM ARMS. (U156)

SE1, WOOLPACK, -beers listed; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; +Young: Bitter. Was LONDON SCOTIA BAR for a while. (SE41, U157, U191))

SE5, BRB THE GROVE. Acquired by Young's from Spirit in late 2006 and shortly to be refurbished with real ale reinstated. Originally GROVE HOUSE TAVERN. (SE58, U166)

BROMLEY, ROYAL BELL. Renamed SKY BAR. (3SE220, U53, U58, 8K50, U70, U163)

SIDCUP, BLACK HORSE. Renamed BLUE ROSE and now reverted to BLACK HORSE again. Now a pub and Indian restaurant. Enterprise, ex-S&N. (3SE272, U107)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), LORD HIGH ADMIRAL, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride or Greene King: IPA or Wells: Bombardier. Now Punch, ex-Taylor Walker. (SW41)

SW1(SJ), GOLDEN LION, -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +Adnams: Bitter; +Harvey: Sussex Best Bitter; +guest beer. Now Capital Pub Co, ex-M&B (Nicholson). (SW45, U151, U181)

SW3, CAFÉ BODEGA. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Spirit (not Free). Formerly CAHOOTS. (SW56, U188)

SW10, HOLLYWOOD ARMS, -beers listed; + Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter. Free House acquired by Young's in early November and refurbished in December. Maroon décor, bare floorboards. Function room upstairs. Photos of past pub outings from 1928 to the 1980s taken outside the pub show changes over the years. (SW85, U136, U167, U172, U181)

SW11, BABEL. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly SIGNIFICANT HALF. (SW90, U184)

SW13, ROSE. Renamed **BROWN DOG**, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Refurbished in December 2006. Formerly GOURAMYS and originally ROSE OF DENMARK. (SW95, U136, U169, U174, U192)

SW15, BAR ROOM BAR. Now Faucet Inns, ex Spirit, ex-S&N, still no real ale. Formerly PIED PIPER, previously RAT & PARROT. (SW104, U163, U164, U190)

SW18, SPOTTED DOG, Woolwich Taverns, planning permission granted for conversion to retail, financial services and restaurant uses. (SW114, U138, U146, U167, U174, U178, U181)

SW19, DOG & FOX. Elegantly refurbished and reopened early in December 2006, non-smoking throughout and with extensive, family-friendly seating areas mainly for diners away from the busy, over 21s bar area. (SW117,

U155, U192)

SW19, JIM THOMPSON'S FLAMING WOK. Renamed **DRIFT**, a 'Bar and Pacific Rim Diner'. Formerly BROADWAY. (SW116, U144, U187, BM27)

WALLINGTON (SM6), ROSE & CROWN, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA; +Marston: Pedigree. Now Spirit, ex-Allied. (SW126)

WEST

W5, GRANGE TAVERN. Now simply **GRANGE**, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter. A 'pub and dining room' acquired by Young's from Spirit in late 2006. A third beer is expected on refurbishment. (W93)

W9, CHIPPENHAM, -Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; +guest beer (eg Woodforde or Wyre Piddle). (W114)

W9, PRINCE ALFRED, -Fuller: London Pride; +Wells: Bombardier. Retains Young: Bitter. Acquired by Young's from Spirit in August 2006. (W114)

HAMPTON (TW12), LONGFORD. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly **STONE HOUSE**. (U145, U191)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 192

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC

E2, PRAGUE BAR/CAFÉ/LOUNGE. Should read simply **PRAGUE BAR**.

W2, PORCHESTER. Refs should read (W78, U188, U191).



- ◆ Ever changing guest beers
- ◆ Lunchtime cooking
- ◆ Traditional Sunday lunches served 12.30 - 3.00pm
- ◆ Contained pub garden
- ◆ Quiz Night Thursdays

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!
See the next issue of
London Drinker for details of
our annual Easter Beer Festival

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A genuine traditional family pub situated in a quiet side road, yet just 100 yards from the Grand Union Canal and Hanwell flight of locks.

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Timothy Taylor's Landlord always alongside Deuchars IPA and London Pride.

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7 days a week**

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**Thank you everybody for
your fine support of our
January Beer Festival and
also for drinking all of our
Christmas Ales**

**DON'T FORGET OUR
HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL**

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www.thestargodalming.co.uk**

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

E14, X UNDERS. Should read **XANDERS**.
N16, BAR LORCA. Was subtitled **BAGABON**.
NW1, HARMOOD ARMS. Refs should read (N167, U168).
SE11, SOUTH LONDON PACIFIC. Formerly **COCK**, originally **COCK TAVERN**.
SW3, SURPRISE (IN CHELSEA). Refs should read (SW58, U125).
W2, OAK. Ref should read (W75).
W6, HOPE & ANCHOR. Is ex-Unique, not Enterprise.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

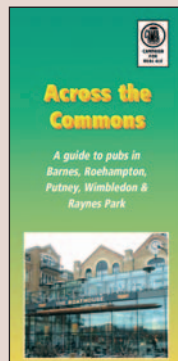
EC3, SIMPSON'S TAVERN. Retains Draught Bass.
E14, NARROW STREET. Add –Greene King: IPA.
E14, WHITE SWAN. Address is 556 Commercial Rd. Reopened as a pub/club with no real ale, it should have been under '**NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC**'.
N7, PRIDE OF THE WEST. Refs should read (N91, U144).
N16, BIRDCAGE. Now Enterprise, ex-Labatts.
N16, JOLLY BUTCHERS. Delete entry – already in U188.
NW1, GLOBE. Address is 47 Marylebone Rd.
NW10, BUCCANEER. Address is 123 College Rd. Should have been under '**NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC**'.
CROYDON, ARKWRIGHTS WHEEL. Formerly **RAILWAY BELL**.
CROYDON, JJ'S BAR CAFE. Was renamed **RENDEZVOUS BAR**.
SW19, FOX & GRAPES. Is Massive, leased from Enterprise.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 191 (IN 192)

EC2 YORKIES. Should read **E2**
RICHMOND (TW9), DUKE OF YORK. Should have been under '**PUBS CLOSED ETC**'

New local pub guide

This year's Battersea Beer Festival will mark the launch of Across the Commons, priced £2.00, a pocket guide to all the pubs in Barnes, Roehampton, Putney, Wimbledon Village and Raynes Park. Copies will be available at CAMRA festivals, from Richmond & Hounslow and SW London Branch contacts, at interested pubs in the area and also at Wimbledon Books Ltd, 40 High Street, Wimbledon Village.



Burton on Trent Antiques!

Collectors of Thomas Hardy Ale will probably have tasted beers of a decade or so old but what about ten decades? Ever wondered what it would be like? Recently the White Shield Brewery (formerly the Museum Brewery Company) hosted a tasting of some real antiques from Burton on Trent. Found stored away at the brewery, these long forgotten bottles were covered in dust and represent almost 140 years of brewing.

The oldest was Ratcliff Ale from 1869. The one and a half pint bottle itself was unusual, being blown in several parts unlike today's one piece bottles. The alcohol content was estimated between 11% and 13% abv (alcohol by volume) and this strength gave a clue to what the beer would be like. Dark ruby brown with a smooth nose with hints of nutmeg leading to a smoky malt flavour overlaid with warming wine characteristics and an alcoholic finish.

The third oldest was 1929 Prince's Ale, which was bottled in pint and quarts. Another strong ale at circa 11% abv but surprisingly light in flavour. A fruity aroma with mead overtones that linger on

the palate and into the aftertaste with just a touch of pear drops.

Wine characteristics seem to develop in most strong ales that are left to mature. A good example of an aged beer creating a hybrid of wine and beer flavours was the 1977 Jubilee Strong Ale. There are notes of burnt malt balanced by a little syrupy sweetness with a shortish dry bitter finish.

But my favourite was a mere youth by comparison, being brewed four and a half years ago in 2002. Called Duke's Ale, the beer was mashed by the Duke of Edinburgh and had an alcohol content of around 7% abv. A balanced appetising aroma with malt and a little sulphur dioxide. The flavour was full of malty honey sweetness with bitterness on the palate and aftertaste with some dryness.

Other beers tasted included King's Ale from 1902 and an effervescent 1978 Princess Ale mashed by the Earl Spencer. So before you throw any out of date beer, why not leave it a decade or two, you might be surprised!

Christine Cryne

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Various events for
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17-24th February
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Wednesday 6th March

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- Real Food
- New Belgian Beers
- Free Soft Drinks for Drivers
- Over-sized lined glasses
- Indoor & Outdoor Games
- Real Log Fire
- Dog Friendly
- No under 14s in bar



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Thank you to everyone who entered The Fuller's Pub Quest competition in the last edition of The London Drinker

The solution was:
Fuller's pubs - great places for a great pint.

Congratulations to Steve Maloney from Twickenham who was the lucky winner.

Steve and his father, pictured above with Fuller's manager James Keogh, went to their Fuller's local The Prince Blucher to enjoy their prize of a slap up meal for two, with of course, lashings of London Pride.

Look out for another Fuller's Pub Quest in the next edition of The London Drinker.
In the meantime don't forget, Fuller's pubs are great places for a great pint!

The Prince Blucher is located at 124 The Green, Twickenham Tel: 020 8894 1824
where you'll find excellent ales, delicious food, televised sports and a very warm welcome.

Doug Airey

Descended as he was from a brewing family based in Wigan, it was perhaps inevitable that Douglas Airey, who died at 74 on Christmas Day following a brain haemorrhage, would be an early recruit to the fledgling Campaign for Real Ale in the mid-seventies.

Following National Service he moved to London and soon found the best Bass south of the Trent served at the late Bob Aldington's house, the Express at Kew Bridge. Disillusioned in the sixties with the inexorable rise of bland tasteless keg, he was delighted to find a group of like minded Young's drinkers who welcomed him to their ranks and christened him 'Old Smokey'; he was a regular member of the Ring, as they are still known, until his retirement to Dorset in 1996.

In the '70s Doug embraced CAMRA and their ideals wholeheartedly and was a tireless campaigner for the West Middlesex branch for two decades, and a well known face at countless London and national festivals. Many a pub in the Chilterns, Brakspear country, his preferred walking and drinking ground away from his home campaigning territory, would bear the discrete legend 'Smokey likes Braks', the civilised precursor to the now ubiquitous graffitist's tag always enscribed by a member of his drinking entourage but never by the man himself.

Once settled in Gillingham, Dorset, he soon established a new CAMRA branch, Heart of Wessex, and produced the branch's magazine Beer

Bytes until incapacitated by illness. His adored wife of 50 years, Jean, sadly developed Alzheimers and Doug's time was increasingly taken up caring for her. Two years ago he suffered a stroke with the result that Jean moved to a residential home where she passed away peacefully three months before him. Always stubborn, always a fighter, Doug perservered with his physiotherapy and rehabilitation, visiting Jean whenever possible and staying in touch with his friends in and out of the licensed trade. Tragically while staying with his family in London for Christmas, he suffered a brain haemorrhage and passed away peacefully 24 hours later.

Always quick to question authority and the established way, as well as Real Ale he was also a champion of ramblers' rights and a passionate follower of QPR football club. He was extremely proud of the comment (at a croquet game) made to him by Martin O'Neill when the two of them were colleagues at an insurance company: "*You're an evil bastard, Doug Airey*" and would be amused to read it in his obituary.

He will be much missed by his family Paul and Jo and his grandsons Jack, Will and Stephen, as well as friends, colleagues and fellow beer lovers in and out of CAMRA. If you are reading this in your favourite local with a decent pint, raise a glass in gratitude to Doug and those like him.

Paul Airey

Ray Johncock

South West London Branch is sad to announce the passing of Ray Johncock on 14 December at the age of 77. Ray was the Branch's representative in Mitcham and he distributed London Drinker there as well as being our auditor. Although we did not see much of him at meetings, we knew that he was always there in the background, making his

contribution. His funeral in Streatham was very well attended, including many old colleagues from his lifetime's service on the railways. It is people like Ray who are the backbone of any successful CAMRA branch and we will miss him. We offer our condolences to his family.

Tony Hedger

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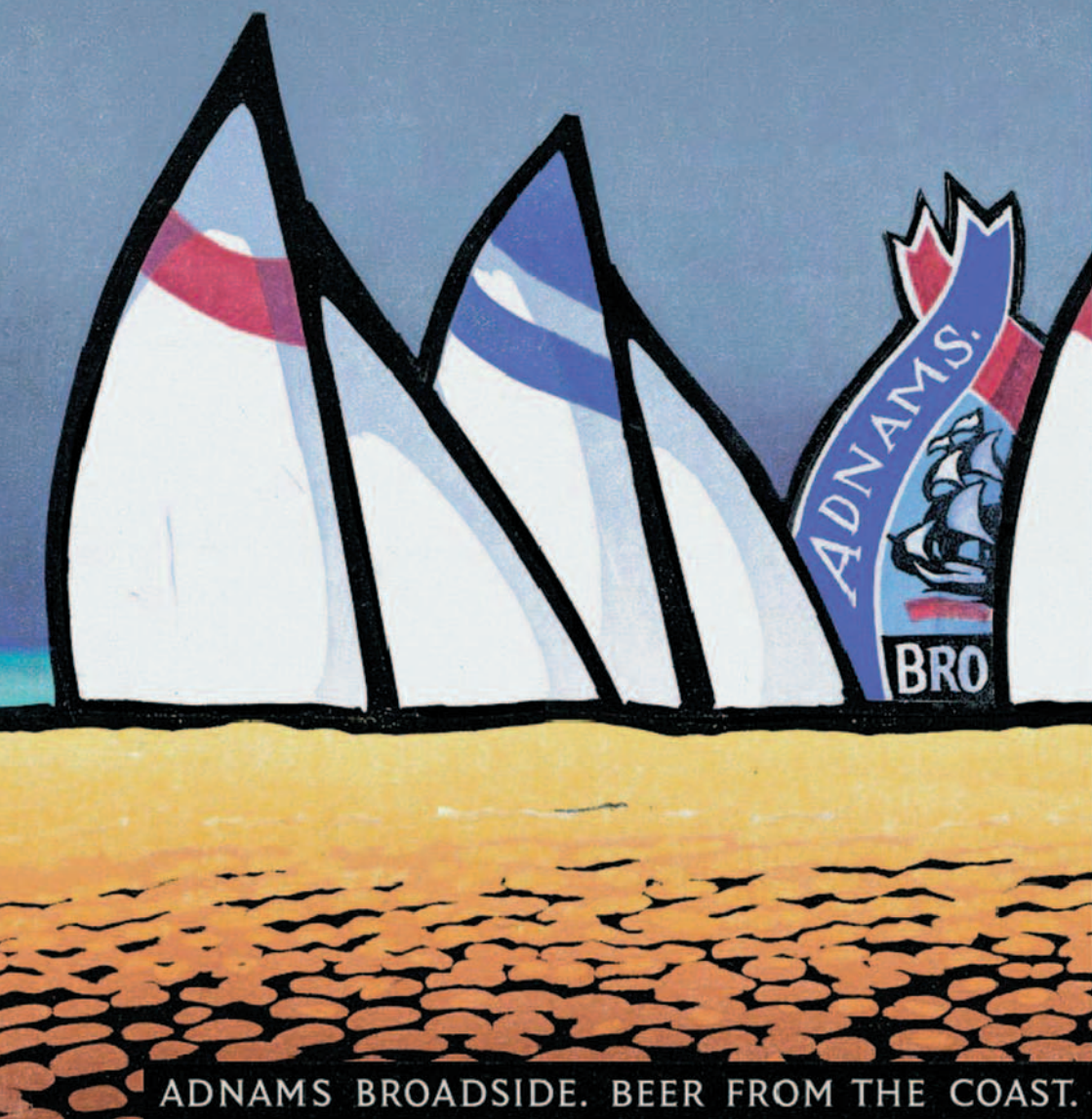
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Begin at the Temple or Chancery Lane Tube station and walk to your first pub, Fuller's Old Bank of England (194 Fleet Street, EC4; 020-7430 2255; opening hours Mon-Fri, 11-11; closed weekends). Fuller's have done a magnificent job of restoring the law courts branch of the Bank of England, keeping the feel of a bank with the space and design of a huge pub, which has side rooms promoting a degree of privacy from the open space around the large bar. The pub has been a Fuller's pub since 1975, featuring the range of Fuller's beers as well as food. It does a lively lunch business, as would be expected from its site. The pub was allegedly built on the site of Sweeney Todd's barber shop and the adjacent pie shop; ironically, it's currently termed a Fuller's Ale & Pie house, but don't let Todd's grisly story put you off.

After your quaff, head for the Bank of England Museum (entrance in Bartholomew Lane, London EC2; 020-7601 5545; opening hours Mon-Fri, 10-5; closed weekends; www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum/). Opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 16 November 1988, the museum 'traces the history of the Bank from its foundation by Royal Charter in 1694 to its role today as the nation's central bank', according to the museum's pamphlet. After a search of your bags, proceed into the museum, which is full of informative, varied and well displayed surprises. Exhibits change frequently; at my visit, a display of piggy banks added colour and curiosity, appealing to both children and adults. The history of banking is available, plus models of Charles Fox and William Pitt arguing over the 1797 House of Commons debate centring on whether to back up money with bullion or back it up solely by government promises.

The design and the architect of the original building, Sir John Soane, are also explored, with the current building, designed by Sir Herbert Baker, built after World War I and completed in 1939. Baker's rotunda, at the centre of the museum, showcases the 'draped female figures, or caryatids', which are 'Soane originals, rescued from demolition in the 1920s and re-used by Baker'. In addition, you have a unique opportunity to handle a 13 kilogram bar of gold. If you are thinking of making off with it, beware, for it is heavily guarded. The visitor learns that the gold standard was adopted in 1816, which 'linked the value of the pound sterling to a fixed quantity of gold', 'played a major role in controlling inflation. ... and contributed towards the growth of

international trade during the 19th century', being abandoned in 1931. A display of banknotes is of interest as well, making contemporary spenders thankful that we no longer have to carry huge, unwieldy paper notes, but instead use 'today's technologically sophisticated notes produced at a state-of-the-art factory in Essex'. All of us use money, and this museum examines its history at 'the old lady of Threadneedle Street' as well as the truthfulness of the saying, 'as safe as the Bank of England'. Go online to see the background of the real old lady of Threadneedle Street, buried in what is now the bank's garden; her ghost apparently still appears. When you leave, you may think differently about money, its history and uses.

Proceed to another museum, this one in a small but compact room with 600 watches, 30 clocks and 15 marine timekeepers. The Clockmakers' Company Museum (Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2; opening hours Mon-Sat, 9.30-4.30, although 'it may be closed (briefly) from time to time for re-winding and adjusting the clocks', according to www.clockmakers.org; Bank/Moorgate/St. Paul's Tube). The sponsoring agents, The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, established their library of manuscripts and rare documents in 1813 and agreed to transfer them to the City's Guildhall Library; its collection of clocks was begun a year later and 'is therefore the oldest collection specifically of clocks and watches in the world' on display since 1874. In addition, you will find information on chronometers as well as how to find longitude at sea, established, in part, by John Harrison, which corroborates information available in Greenwich at the Royal Observatory. I commend the watch and clockmakers who have refused to lower their standards and products in order to make cheap watches, even with stiff competition from foreign watchmakers. Buyer, beware! Buy British! One web site recommends that you visit at noon 'when the chiming clocks are at their best'; however, if simultaneous clock chimes aren't to your taste, make your trip at another time; this is a self-guided museum, and any questions about clocks cannot be answered by the Guildhall Library staff. It is a charming museum, unique and hidden.

Time to visit the last pub before going home. This time it's a pub I first visited in 1979 and designated in my diary 'the Nirvana of pubs', which it was at that time. Named after Queen Victoria's fourth daughter, the Princess Louise (208 High Holborn; London WC1; 020-7405 8816; opening hours: Mon-Fri, 11-11; Sat, 12-11; closed Sun; Holborn Tube) had a variety of beers in 1979, and my husband had an informal 'exam' one evening, blind tasting Fuller's ESB, Brakspear's Ordinary, Brakspear's Special, Young's Special, Martlet Brighton Bitter, Old Samuel Smith Special Bitter, Ruddles Ordinary, Ruddles County (the original),

Courage Directors, and Godson's Black Horse (GBH). Alas, the vast array of beers is no more, for the current owner is Samuel Smith, which features some of that brewery's own beers. However, the Victorian accoutrements are as beautiful as ever, although a bit faded. The stained glass, the horse-shoe-shaped bar, the beautiful carved wood, and flowered tiles are evidence of fine craftsmanship. 'Even the toilets are a work of art'. The Princess Louise is listed in the CAMRA Regional Inventory for London, whose reviewer exhorts, 'Don't miss having a pee(k) at the gents' - a piece of lavatorial elegance'. If you are hungry, food is available and delicious but pricey, because Central London prices prevail here; however, on a recent visit Sam Smith Old Brewery Bitter was only £1.70, so the price of the beer and the beauty of the pub are worth the visit.

It's time to wind up your excursion, as you've spent a full day visiting two small but fascinating museums, rounded at beginning and end with trips to two unique pubs. As expensive as London is, careful planning can make your day profitable in both time and money.

© 2006 Judith Black

(The Old Bank of England and the Princess Louise are included in two of Bob Steel's London Pub Walks, published in February 2006 by CAMRA Books @ £8.99 and reviewed in the April/May 2006 issue of this magazine. Ed.)

Less smoke, more custom!

In my recent experience, those pubs that are now non-smoking inside throughout do seem to be attracting new customers, and plenty of them. Young's refurbished Duke's Head in Putney and Dog & Fox in Wimbledon Village are two good examples. Another is the Telegraph on Putney Heath, now run by the Massive Pub Company. A hundred non-smokers filled the first floor area for the inaugural Brook's Blues Bar session there on Friday 12 January, and the whole pub was busy again for lunch on the Sunday.

On Wednesday 14 March, the Trafalgar in South Wimbledon will be having a smoke-free day, run in conjunction with the Sutton & Merton Primary Care Trust. It will be an interesting test for a back street, drinkers' pub, ahead of the 1 July ban.

A statistic quoted recently in *What's Brewing* was that whilst 45-55% of pub-goers smoke, the number in the general population is less than 28% and falling. And the reason a lot of people don't go into pubs is because they are smoky. Well, not for much longer, thankfully. Good health!

Geoff Strawbridge



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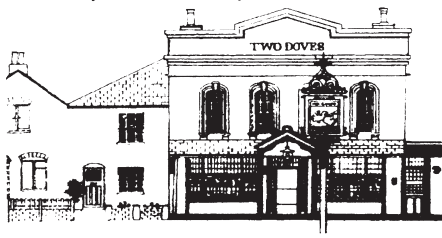
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As promised, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in the December Idle Moments column.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 7 Months of the Year are Thirty One Days Long
2. 4 Rounds in an International Golf Tournament
3. 14 West Postal Districts in London
4. 24 Letters in the Greek Alphabet
5. 20 Nickels in a Dollar
6. 1 Swallow Doesn't Make a Summer
7. 5 Lines on a Musical Stave
8. 17 Top Ten Hits by Diana Ross
9. 12 Eleanor Crosses Built by Edward the First
10. 8 Engines on a B-Fifty Two Bomber

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. OH! MAD MANGO - GOODMANHAM
2. BORING RUNT - BURRINGTON
3. REG GOT HER WIG - GEORGE WRIGHT
4. TILT A CAN - ATLANTIC
5. NO FOG - OK T.T. CLEAR - NORFOLK COTTAGE
6. DRAGGED ONE GROAN - GEORGE AND DRAGON
7. BIG HERD TORN - THORNBURIDGE
8. LOOT HERB COG - LAUGH! - BOGGART HOLE CLOUGH
9. RUN BLAND MOTHER - NORTHUMBERLAND
10. MY LOW FARE - MAYFLOWER

5BY4:

The battles listed took place in the following years (too easy, weren't they):

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Blenheim - 1704 | 6. Jutland - 1916 |
| 2. Omdurman - 1898 | 7. Stamford Bridge - 1066 |
| 3. Waterloo - 1815 | 8. Culloden - 1746 |
| 4. Trafalgar - 1805 | 9. Flodden Field - 1513 |
| 5. The Nile - 1798 | 10. Naseby - 1645 |

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The only US president to eliminate the National Debt (and who appears on the 20 dollar note) was Andrew Jackson.
2. The link between Rider Haggard and John Mortimer is She (Who Must Be Obeyed).
3. Probably the second best known resident of 39 Hilldrop Crescent, London N7, Belle Elmore was better known as Mrs. Crippen (wife and victim of the infamous doctor).
4. In 1949 Timothy Evans was hanged for the murder of his wife and baby daughter. The true culprit was John Christie and the infamous address of this gruesome episode was, of course, 10 Rillington Place, Notting Hill.
5. The system of numbering Britain's roads was introduced by the (then) Ministry of Transport in 1919.
6. The motto of the Order of the Thistle is "Nemo me impune lacessit" and it is now to be found around the rim of £1 coins with a Scottish reverse design.
7. The theatre dedicated to (and named after) Dame Sybil Thorndyke is to be found in Leatherhead
8. The Queen's House is part of the (former) Royal Naval College Greenwich (originally hospital); its architect was Inigo Jones and the architect of the equally magnificent buildings that flank it was Sir Christopher Wren.
9. The south coast town where you can find a beach called The Stade (home to a fleet of small fishing boats) is Hastings.
10. The ballerina Lillian Alice Marks is better known as Dame Alicia Markova.

Well, that's Christmas out of the way for . . . oh, at least six months so it's time to get back to normal and start wasting our time again on pursuits to which inconsequential is praise indeed. Let's start with a little aphorism; this one is from Vince Lombardi:

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge but rather a lack of will.

There now, that should have inspired you to sort out these number puzzles:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 8 B in a B | 6. 15 WP in a G of B |
| 2. 2 D of H the E | 7. 22 YB the W on a CP |
| 3. 5 B of NY | 8. 12 M have W on the M |
| 4. 16 P in a G of C | 9. 3 NOH of the BO (RO) |
| 5. 4 F on the M | 10. 117 M of the MTF |

. . . and as for the brewery anagrams, try picking the bones out of these:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. FAR SLACK RIB | 6. SHREW MEAT |
| 2. SHOUT OWEN | 7. FELL AN ANGLE |
| 3. SLOW ADD-ON | 8. LOWER WASTE |
| 4. FOLD PAPER | 9. LONGER E.E.C. LEG |
| 5. BAG ASTERN | 10. DRIVE SIRE |

Whenever I get stuck for a subject for 5BY4 I tend to go to the Guinness Book of Hit Singles - as you can see, I've run out of ideas. As this is the first edition of the new year I thought I would go back to the number ones of a significant number of years ago (funny how it always seems to be the Sixties). Can you match the hits to the artists?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Puppet on a String | A. Long John Baldry |
| 2. The Last Waltz | B. Petula Clark |
| 3. Silence is Golden | C. Procol Harum |
| 4. I'm a Believer | D. Monkees |
| 5. Let the Heartaches Begin | E. Bee Gees |
| 6. Baby, Now That I've Found You | F. Sandie Shaw |
| 7. A Whiter Shade of Pale | G. Foundations |
| 8. Hello Goodbye | H. Tremeloes |
| 9. This is my Song | I. Beatles |
| 10. Massachusetts | J. Engelbert Humperdinck |

And so before we run the curtain down for another couple of months, here are some general knowledge questions (unless you want to be pedantic and say there's too many on sport to be general, in which case - here's some questions):

1. In England's successful Rugby Union World Cup campaign in 2003, who was their only player to be on the field for the every minute of every match?
2. In 1956 the Grand National was won by a horse which (coincidentally) had the same name as a well known real beer - what was it?
3. Syon House on the borders of Brentford and Isleworth is owned by the Duke of - where?
4. What was the title of Dennis Potter's TV drama serial of 1978 starring Bob Hoskins where the cast keep breaking into song and dance routines?
5. Who was described by Lady Caroline Lamb as "mad, bad and dangerous to know"?
6. Burlington House in London is often better known by the name of the organisation which it houses - what is that organisation?
7. In motoring terms what does the abbreviation GTO (as in Ferrari etc) stand for?
8. In what year were the first Isle of Man motorcycle TT races run?
9. Graham Hill won his first Formula 1 World Championship in 1962, but in what make of car?
10. And finally, still on Formula 1 - who was the first British F1 world champion? Also if you are dead clever - what year was it and what car was he driving?

Andy Pirson

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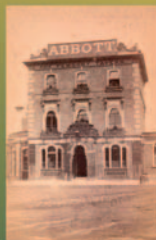
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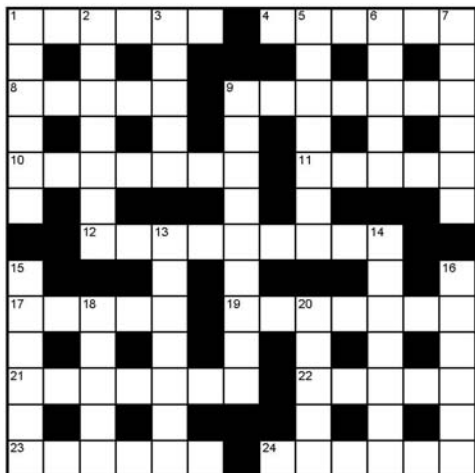
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All correct entries received by first post on 28th March will be entered into a draw for the prize. Prize winner will be announced in the June London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the April edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

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SOLUTION TO DECEMBER'S CROSSWORD



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. It's made for smoking jacket [6]
4. A sweet den in Blackfriars? [6]
8. Show off support. [5]
9. It's savage to beat one with a flail end. [7]
10. Expert shoreman is top. [7]
11. TES is annoyed. [5]
12. Dim rebels drunk the dark stuff. [4,5]
17. Fantasy of first daily paper. [5]
19. U.S. city less than clean. [7]
21. Rural aristocrat extremely randy. [7]
22. Drunk always in past. [5]
23. Doctor originally studies phobias. [6]
24. It's connected with part of George Bernard Shaw's era. [6]

DOWN

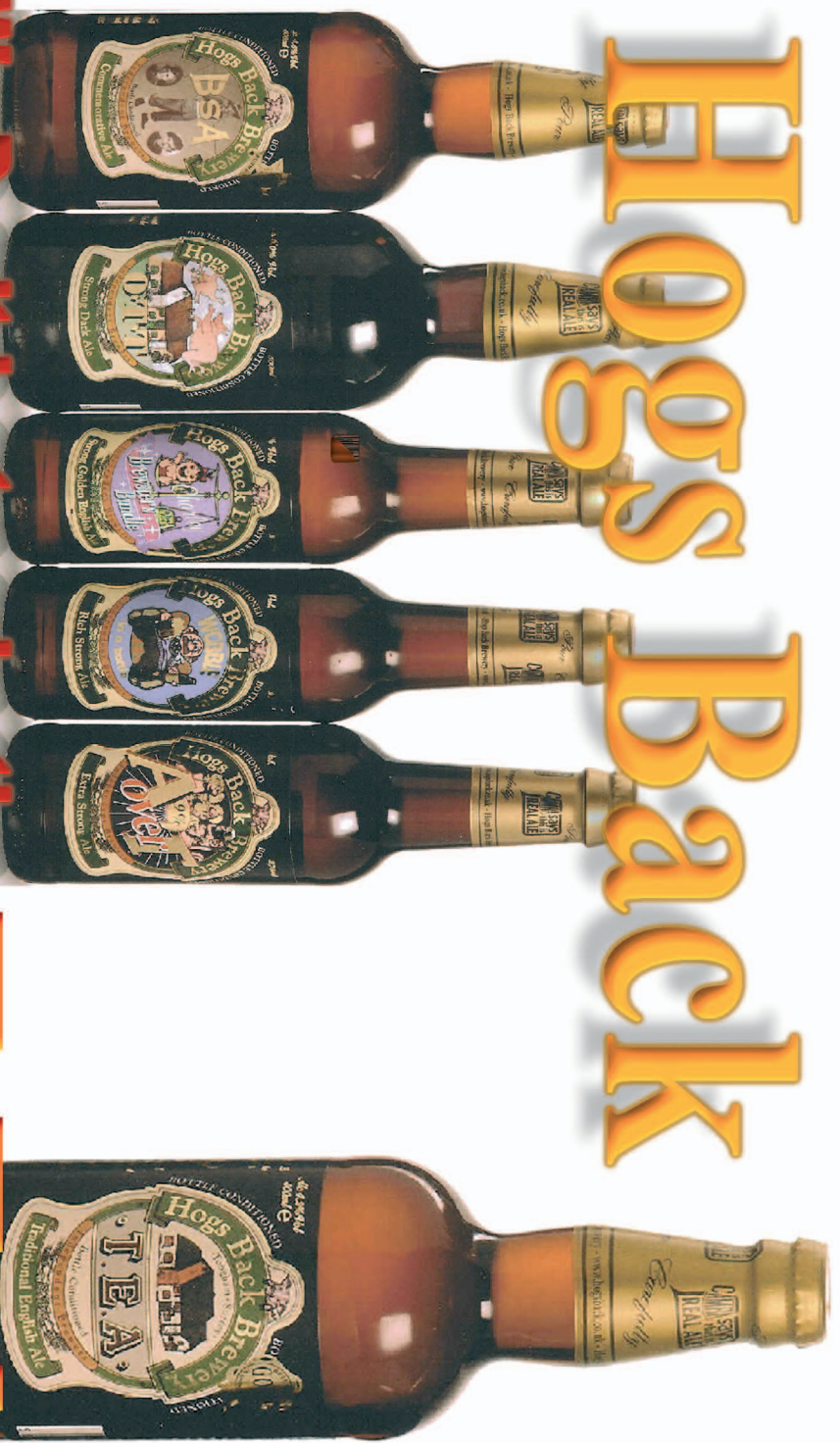
1. Unit with break out fight back. [6]
2. It lets us hear a murder being disturbed. [7]
3. Run more! [5]
5. Price to you, say, and me, of dress. [7]
6. I am in, sorry to say, disguise. [5]
7. Tell be about the dead. [6]
9. Corporation of London drinkers. [4,5]
13. Cover round tiny creature is tight.... [7]
14.being blue. [7]
15. Learned at departing: found out. [6]
16. Request to buyer is about right. [6]
18. Old king in outer exile to escape. [5]
20. Hesitate to support shade. [5]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:
F.Hegarty, Mitcham

Other correct entries were received from:

The A Team, Julie Ackroyd, Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Hilary Ayling, Geoff B, B&B at the Pawsons, Maurice Beales, Mike Belsham, S.J.Block, Gladys Boyle, Jeremy Brinkworth, Eddie Carr, Hopeless Caseys, John Cattemull, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Brian Collins, Mark Cook, Chas Creasey, Paul Curson, Ms. R.Dalton, Kevin Deadman, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Chris Ellis, Brian Exford, Arthur Fox Ache, John Garwell, Peter Giles, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, David Griffiths, Jez Haigh, Peter Haines, John Heath, Andrew Hide, William Hill, David Hughes, Mike Joyce, P.Kerrigan, Roger Knight, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, J.G.McDonnell, Steve Maloney, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, Michael Morrison, Melanie Moul, John Nevitt, Anna Nigma, Nigel Parsons, Mark Pilkington, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Paul Rogers, Richard Rogers, Geoff S, John Sapsford, Bryan Smith, Lesley Smith, Barry Stannard, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Thamesmeado, Trevor Turner, Hatchback Walters, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Sue Wilson, David Woodward.

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