

Vol 29
No 4

LONDON DRINKER

Aug
Sept
2007



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



30TH GREAT
BRITISH BEER
FESTIVAL 2007
EARLS COURT
LONDON

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7-11 AUGUST 2007

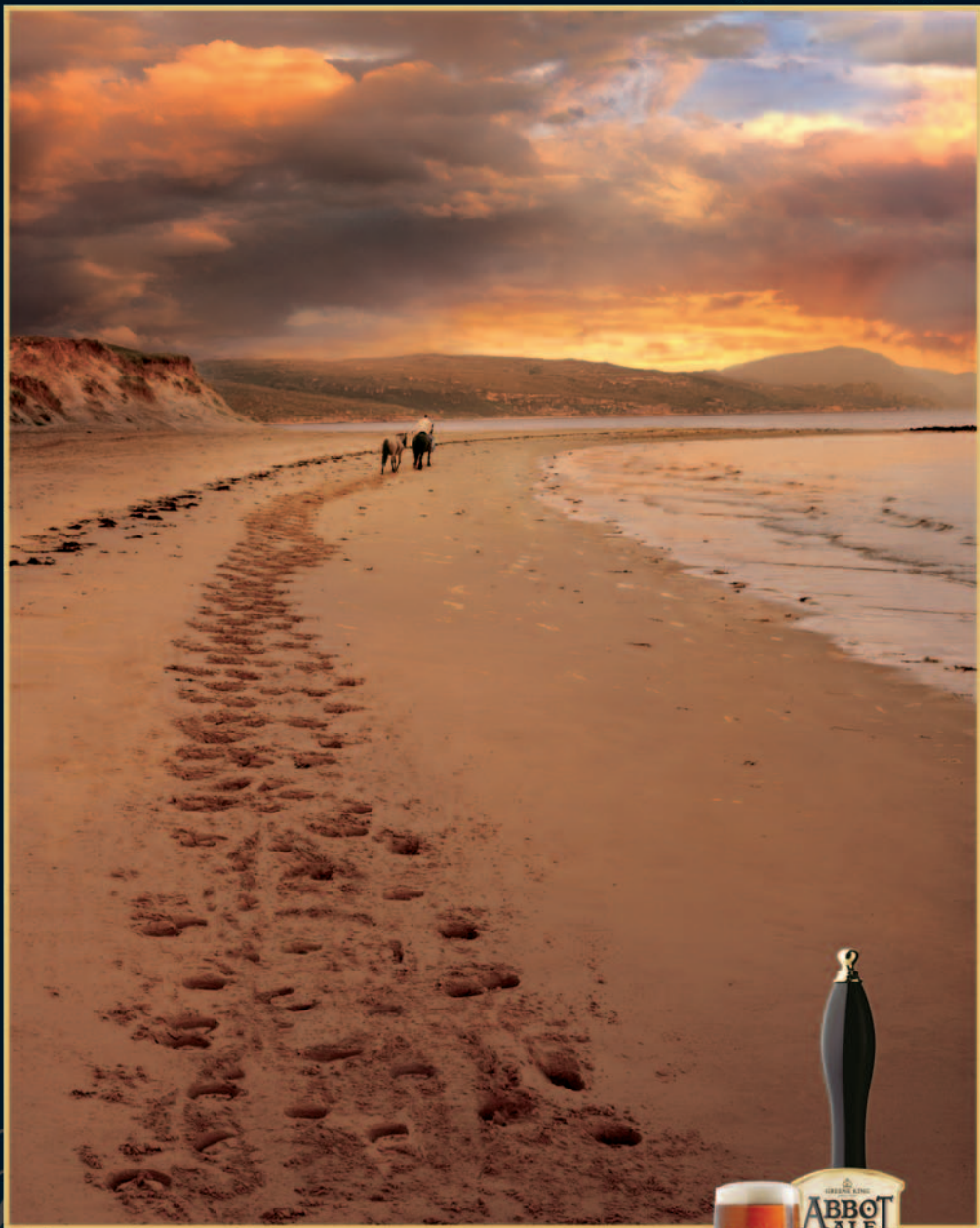
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Earl's Court, come again! (see page 20)

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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.

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

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Who's next?

Right, so that's the smokers sorted out; now on to the drinkers...

It cannot be disputed that, like smoking, the excessive consumption of alcohol can damage your health. Alcohol-related hospital admissions have almost doubled over the last ten years. Moreover, unlike smoking, the influence of alcohol can lead people to behave badly. There is consequently a point of view that the consumption of alcohol should be controlled or even forbidden not because those advocating it are necessarily killjoys but because it leads to loss of self-control. I however, like I suspect the majority of the readers of this magazine, prefer to trust myself, even if we all have to admit to the occasional fall from grace. Assuming that we do not wish to adopt total abstinence, how do we control the situation?

We need to identify the problem correctly. One area where I feel that a mistake is being made is in the use of the units of alcohol that we are advised that we can safely consume. Please see Peter Booth's excellent article on page 49. I'm not challenging the medical advice, simply its presentation. Warnings need to be credible; is two pints of normal strength beer a day really excessive? Is every CAMRA meeting really a mass binge?

Then we come to the advertising. The Portman Group, who act as the paid conscience of

the drinks industry, are trying to control such gimmicks as "shooters" and "squirt guns" which encourage the very rapid consumption of spirits. Obviously, the more booze a bar can sell, the bigger the profit, but to get your young customer so drunk so quickly that he or she ends up in hospital or prison is not a good long-term marketing strategy. A member of the Association of Chief Police Officers' Alcohol Working Party commented: "*there is a clear link between alcohol promotions such as 'two-for-one' and 'drink as much as you can for a fixed price' and crime and disorder.*" Perhaps more needs to be done than a voluntary code.

Availability is another key point. There has been much angry coverage in the licensed trade press about cheap supermarket booze with drinking at home increasing by 16% over the last five years. Trouble is, it is not just consumed at home; it is consumed in parks and bus shelters by those who should not have access to it anyway. The Government have announced that they will be reviewing this situation as part of their National Alcohol Strategy although the Minister says that they will have to tread carefully because of the competition laws and that "*our expectation is that if it demonstrates that there is an issue, we will talk to them about what we are going to do about it.*" Bet that's got them terrified.

So what is the answer then? It's

the pub. Whether it is a community local or a town circuit venue, encouraging people to drink in properly regulated circumstances must make sense. Under the recent licensing laws, the authorities have all the powers that they need to control any situation. They ought to have faith in them and use them properly. That goes for the Government that introduced them as well.

In the last few days, the Conservative Party's Social Policy Justice Group has proposed – amongst other things, to be fair – increasing the duty on alcohol to discourage drinking. Putting 7p on the price of a pint in a pub would, I believe, be a blunder. It will drive away from the pub exactly those people who need to be there in supervised conditions and may well lead to even more pub closures.

This view is supported by

Mike Benner, CAMRA's Chief Executive. He commented: "A beer tax increase of 10% will lead to people buying their alcohol at supermarkets where beer is irresponsibly used as a loss leader. The drop in trade will force pubs to close and communities that use those pubs will lose yet another valuable amenity. In addition there will be an increase in cheap alcohol being smuggled in from lower tax countries further eroding the Treasury's cut and promoting uncontrolled and underage drinking. Britain's pubs focus on providing value for money through a quality offering and are simply

not in the business of flogging low-price booze. Binge drinking and alcohol misuse should be tackled through targeted education and support for the small minority who abuse alcohol. This proposal simply punishes the responsible majority who like to relax with a drink or two in their local pub."

To end, I can think of nothing more fitting than to quote a sign that I saw recently in a pub in Swindon: *Warning – drinking in moderation can cause you to enjoy a pleasant evening in congenial company, despite Government intervention.*

Tony Hedger



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Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy –
Benjamin Franklin

Beware of the domino effect

Marston's (Wolverhampton & Dudley until this year) has bought Ringwood Brewery for £19.2 million, it was announced on 12 July. Ringwood has only seven pubs but supplies approximately 700 customers, mainly in the South of England. Marston's has said it is committed to the brewery, which will continue to brew all of its beers as well as serve as a base for operations in the region. Indeed, Daniel Pearce of the *Publican* notes that the deal fits well with Marston's recent purchase of the Eldridge Pope estate.

Alistair Darby, managing director of Marston's Beer Company, said he was delighted to welcome Ringwood to Marston's. *"We plan to develop its excellent brands as part of our strategy to meet consumer demand for premium ales with local provenance and heritage. Our premium ale business continues to deliver good, consistent growth and we look forward to replicating the success of the Jennings business through Ringwood in the South of England."*

The Campaign for Real Ale fears that this latest takeover will encourage a 'domino effect' of consolidation in pubs and brewing. CAMRA Chief Executive, Mike Benner said: *"The practice among larger breweries of acquiring smaller competitors is a race where the only loser is the consumer who is often denied a locally brewed beer. As one of the larger breweries buys a brewery and expands their estate their competitors start hunting for their next purchase to keep up. CAMRA's fear is that an increasing number of smaller breweries will be lost if this race continues and consumer choice will suffer as a result."*

"In the last three years alone we have seen another Hampshire brewery, Gales, bought and closed

by Fuller's and Greene King bought and closed Hardys and Hansons in Nottingham as well as buying and closing Ridley's brewery in Essex. Marston's purchased Jennings in Cumbria and invested in the future of the brewery and we hope they will continue this model with Ringwood. But it begs the question, who is next in line for acquisition?"

John Buckley, CAMRA's Wessex Regional Director said, *"Ringwood beers are widely available throughout Hampshire and are highly valued. It is essential that they are not replaced by other beers in the Marston's portfolio. Local drinkers in Hampshire are still reeling from the closure of Gales Brewery and we will fight to protect choice for consumers."*

The smoking ban

Whether you agree with it or not, it's here. At the time of writing it is too early to see any pattern emerging and, personally, I don't think that one will. As one pub gov'nor said recently: *"suck it and see"*. He may, of course, have been talking about extra strong mints. According to the Sunday Telegraph, a 'campaign of civil disobedience' will see the ban flouted in up over 200 pubs across the country led by publicans from Bolton and Herefordshire. I haven't yet seen one instance of the ban being ignored.

The level of enforcement in London is still unclear. Westminster City Council have said that they will not use their environmental health officers as 'smoking police' and that they used their £300,000 grant from the Government entirely on an education campaign. Neighbouring Camden have however recruited two full-time and one part-time smoking ban enforcers – for 17,000 assorted businesses – but their aim at this stage is simply to remind people that the ban is now in force.

Greene King sent 100 of their managers out on a Sunday recently to visit five pubs each and to each speak to ten customers. The

feedback was positive with almost half saying that they would visit the pub more often when the ban came in. Virtually all GK pubs will have some sort of outdoor smoking space and they are heavily promoting meals. Market researchers Nielsen however are predicting a reduction of 200 million pints in beer sales as a result of the ban.

Top marks for imagination go to the Peruvian Arms in Penzance, Cornwall, which applied to the Peruvian Embassy to become a consulate so that they would be exempt as diplomatic premises. The pub's manager had promised that if the request had been granted, she and her staff and customers would learn Spanish and adopt a llama. The pub name, incidentally, originates from the pub being built with the proceeds from silver mining in Peru, which begs more questions than it answers.

Curiously, with the relaxation of certain rules by the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency, pubs are now able to sell nicotine patches and gum. According to the Times, four million smokers were going to try to give up on 1 July although the campaign group Action on Smoking & Health (ASH) anticipates only 680,000 of them being successful. If you still need tobacco, however, snuff is making a comeback. Although there is thought to be a general risk of nasal cancer, according to the website snufftobacco.co.uk, there has only ever been one reported case of cancer from snuff use in the UK and that was a farmer in Suffolk who used to put it in his ear and developed ear cancer. I think that that says more about Suffolk than it does about snuff...

If you are not one of those giving up (and to be fair, it's your choice), the British-American and Imperial tobacco companies are funding a website listing smoker-friendly pubs at: smokerswelcome.co.uk.

It is, as the old saying goes, an

ill wind... The ban has proved to be a windfall for a Wolverhampton company, Rainbow Safety, who are a specialist manufacturer of health and safety signs. They are predicting that sales of their no smoking signs will increase from an average of 500 to 8,500 a month.

Finally, the redundant ashtray dilemma. I pass one two suggestions from letters in the Guardian. One says recycle the glass ones and keep the metal ones for customers to bang on the tables in protest against piped music whilst the other says fill them with pot pourri to hide the smell of the other customers, now no longer masked by cigarette smoke. Nice.

Recognition for CAMRA

Congratulations to Mike Benner, CAMRA's Chief Executive who has been named at no. 41 in the *Morning Advertiser's* list of the 50 most influential people

in the pub industry. That is no mean achievement considering that this is an industry award. The MA describes CAMRA as Britain's most successful consumer pressure group and particularly cites CAMRA's campaigning against the closure of rural and community pubs as an area of influence.

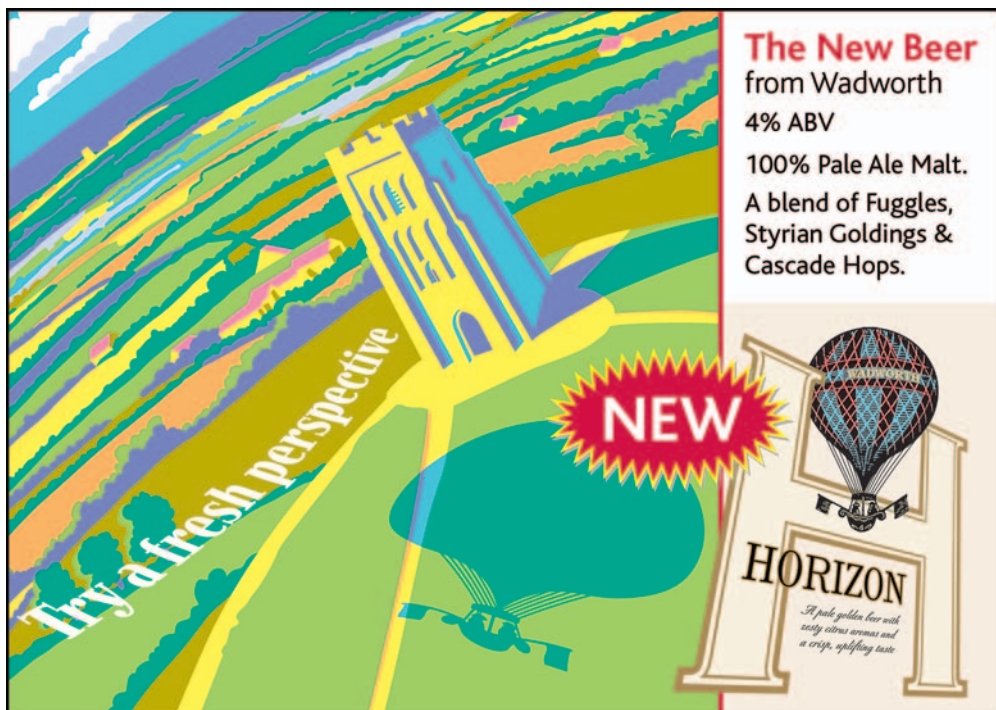
News from Fuller's and Young's

Fuller's are doing well. Boosted by the success of the Gales takeover and the sale of two hotels, their overall turnover grew 23% in the year ended 31 March and pre-tax profits were up by the same rate to £22.1 million with dividends up by 15%. Beer sales continue to grow in a declining market. Based on this, Chief Executive Michael Turner said that the company was interested in further acquisitions so long as it was the right deal:- "if people

wanted to sell" but refused to identify any likely target. Inevitably, their purchase of Young's was seen as a possibility but the high price and complicated beer supply arrangements are thought to make this unlikely – at the moment. It was reported that about 50% of Gales pubs had now been rebranded as Fuller's.

As a counter to the success of Magners cider brand, Fuller's are test-marketing the selling of Honey Dew 'over ice'. Apparently its slight sweetness lends itself to this treatment and in the eight pubs where it has been tried, sales increased by 50%. Clare Draper, its brand manager, however stressed that this only applied to the bottled version because the amount of ice in the glass would break Weights & Measures rules with the draught version.

Young's are also thriving with profits up 18.5% to £12 million and like-for-like sales up by nearly



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10%. The warm April (remember that?) and a number of the pubs going smoke-free in advance of the ban was given as the explanation. Young's have spent £5 million refurbishing patios and beer gardens in preparation for the ban. Young's Pub of the Year has been announced as the Duke on the Green – formerly the Duke of Cumberland – on Parsons Green, SW6. This success follows the pub's £500,000 refurbishment 18 months ago.

Meanwhile, the Wells & Young's Brewing Company is launching a £2 million advertising campaign for Young's Bitter. Although this will still feature the ram, the focus – understandably – is to be more on the beer than Young's heritage. Look out for the new posters on billboards and at railway stations.

I am pleased to report a happy ending to the Michael Hardman episode. Michael, who co-founded the Campaign for Real Ale and

created the Good Beer Guide, joined SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers, as public relations manager on 1 June. His role will include raising the profile of SIBA, which represents 380 local and regional brewers, and making the public more aware of the variety, quality and availability of their beers. He will also be involved in campaigns to modernise the image of traditional beer and gain access to markets closed to some of the best brews in Britain. SIBA chairman Peter Amor, who is head of the Wye Valley Brewery in Herefordshire, said: *"We are pleased to have someone of Michael's vast experience on board. We want to spread the SIBA message and make sure that drinkers know there is a wealth of locally produced, high-quality beer in their area."*

George Bateman

Sadly, we must record the passing on 25 June of George

Bateman, Chairman of Batemans Brewery, at the age of 79. His battle in the late 1980s to keep his Lincolnshire family business going was one of the real ale movement's great epics and, like John Young, he was one of its great characters and true gentlemen. It is sad that we will not see their like again. Many CAMRA members reading this will have made the journey to Wainfleet and enjoyed Bateman's generous hospitality. He promised 'Good Honest Ales' and never let us down. Roger Protz wrote a touching farewell to Mr Bateman in the 5 July *Morning Advertiser* which is worth reading. Go to www.beer-pages.com.

Plastic glasses

As I feared, this idea is not going to go away. There has been a lot about it in the trade press recently and the trade is very much against it. In a survey of 4,406 customers by the 'mys-

The Fox



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News round-up

tery shopping' firm Retail Eyes, 73% of pub-goers canvassed said that they were less likely to visit, or completely stop visiting, a pub that served drinks in plastic cups. Only 16% approved of it as a safety measure.

One important point here is that if we have to have plastic glasses they must be pint ones, not 500ml. It might not always be obvious, but the difference of 68ml is significant. On a £2.75 pint it comes to 33 pence.

News from Greene King

Greene King announced a 17% rise in profits to £139.8 million with a 12% increase in sales. As regards the smoking ban, investors were assured that their experience with their Balhaven operation in Scotland gave them, in the words of Chief Executive Rooney Anand, "a good sense of what works and what doesn't work well. We've factored a lot of that into what we've done in England".

GK are also jumping on the coffee bandwagon by linking up with the Coffee Republic chain. CR branded coffee will be available in 28 of GK's London pubs.

Greene King have also announced the results of their Abbot Ale Perfect Pub competition. The London winners were the Skinners Arms in Kings Cross in the Perfect Cask Ale Pub cate-

gory, the Windmill, Clapham Common in the Perfect Family Pub category, the Churchill Arms, Kensington in the Perfect Host category and the Drapers Arms, Islington in the Perfect Food category. Not that readers should be confused into thinking that all of these pubs sell Abbot or that they necessarily belong to Greene King.



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GK are also entering into a joint venture to put 872 of their pubs into an 'Operating Company/Property Company' structure. This type of development, including REITs (real estate investment trusts) is attracting the interest of a number of pubcos and I will attempt to cover this in more depth next time. I am concerned that these arrangements could have serious implications for pub closures.

News from the pub chains

Punch Taverns have bought a half-share in drinks distributor Matthew Clark. Chief Executive Giles Thornley explained that the move provided the company with "certainty in the long term. Supermarkets that control the route to market have tended to be the most successful. This is a route to market." 40% of Punch licensees already buy their wines or spirits from Matthew Clark.

Punch also report that 56% of their outlets, leased, tenanted and managed, have extended their hours since the new licensing laws came in, mostly at weekends. None of their pubs opens 24 hours a day. Their Customer Services Director, Francis Patton said: "We always believed that 24-hour opening was a myth and this latest research confirms it". Punch are looking more to trading earlier in the day. Already 14% of their pubs open for breakfast or morning coffee.

Scottish & Newcastle report 'mixed news' with a fall in sales in the first half of the year because of the poor weather and last year having been boosted by the World Cup. They will be managing the 279 pubs acquired from Marstons (Wolverhampton & Dudley as was) by the property investment fund, Piccadilly Licensed Properties, which is part of the AAIM Group and includes Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and TV personality Simon Cowell amongst its investors. Marstons said that the pubs were some of their smaller,

non-food sites. They were sold for £82.5 million and have total annual profits of £7.5 million. Will PLP wait 11 years to get their money back or have they other plans?

InBev UK have announced the launch of a keg version of Draught Bass called Bass Extra Smooth. It is brewed to the same recipe as cask Bass apparently, although it is only 3.6% ABV. It is aimed at the South West where Bass has a strong market. *(So why dilute the brand? - Ed.)*

Sadly, InBev doesn't seem to be having any luck with an established product. There is apparently a national shortage of Hoegaarden. One publican in Sussex has not seen any for two months. A spokesman for InBev UK said: *"(we) can confirm that a production issue has resulted in reduced availability of bottles and kegs of Hoegaarden. This is a temporary situation. However, InBev UK has informed its customers and will work with those affected to provide alternative products until normal supply resumes."* According to the *Publican*, rumours in the industry are that the problems have arisen from the industrial action that followed InBev's moving production from the original brewery to Leuven.

The Massive Pub Company is looking to sell off 25 of its pubs as it aims to become more food-oriented. The pubs are mostly in high street locations around London and include their 'Tup' branded pubs.

David Bruce and Clive Watson's Capital Pub Company has been listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM). The shares started being traded at 165p which valued the 23 pub business at £32.3 million. Bruce explained that the intention was not simply to raise funds although the company still intended to expand. The latest addition to the chain is the World's End in Finsbury Park, purchased for £1.7 million. Capital have also opened two brew-pubs in partnership

with the pub's operators. These are the Florence (formerly the Brockwell Park Tavern in SE24) and the Cock & Hen near Fulham Broadway.

Oakham Beer Festival at the Coronet

Too late for the June/July round-up, we learned that the Coronet pub in Holloway, north London, was hosting a two-week beer festival in conjunction with Peterborough-based Oakham brewery, running from Monday July 23 until Monday 30 July. In addition to its regular range of real ales, the Wetherspoon pub is serving six beers from Oakham brewery: JHB, White Dwarf, Bishops Farewell, Helter Skelter, Mompessons Gold and Atilla. The brewery is also brewing one of its ales as Oakham Coronet Ale, especially for the pub, for the duration of the festival.

Pub manager David Leach said: "Real ale is very popular at the Coronet and I am always keen to offer customers the widest choice of beers possible. We have an excellent relationship with Oakham brewery and serve their beers in the pub on a regular basis as part of our guest beer offering. The beer festival will allow the brewery to showcase a range of their beers not normally available in London and I am certain that our customers will enjoy the opportunity to sample them."

The Coronet - 338-346 Holloway Road, N7 (nearest underground station - Holloway Road).

The Duke goes to school

The organic flagship pub, the Duke of Cambridge, at the Angel, North London has set up an unusual arrangement with a local school. Prompted by a group of parents, Thornhill Primary School has decided to take its catering back 'in house' and the pub's owner, Geetie Singh, has agreed to advise the school staff on sourcing and preparing organic and eco-friendly ingredients. The

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wetherspoon

school's head chef has been working alongside her opposite number at the pub to make the new dishes and the parents will be able to try the school food at the pub.

Not so appetising was what happened to a diner at a Slug & Lettuce outlet in Farnham, Surrey. In the lettuce accompanying her chicken dish was – yes, you have guessed it – a slug. I suppose that it could just have been a misinterpretation of the requirements of the Trades Description Act...

Interesting statistics

Yes, there are such things, although they don't necessarily make comfortable reading. The British Beer and Pub Association's Annual Barrelage Survey shows that from 2005 to 2006 sales of standard ale (up to 4.2% ABV) fell by 1.5% to 16.5% whilst sales of premium ale and stout were constant at 4.9% and 5.1% of the market respectively. Sales of standard lager (up to 4.3ABV)

increased by 1% to 43.5% whilst premium lager increased by 0.2% to 30%. This gives lager 73.5% of the market.

As part of their research in preparation for setting up their technical services website www.cellardoctor.co.uk, Greene King pulled together the results of several surveys on beer quality and found that 31% of cellars are at the wrong temperature, 40% of beer is served in dirty glasses, 25% of pubs have dirty beer lines, 28% of pubs have poor stock rotation and 38% of pubs dispense beer at the wrong temperature. I should make it clear that this does not apply only to GK pubs.

News from the USA

American craft beer continued to surge in 2006, with volume sales up 11.7%. The increase came on top of a 9% gain in volume in 2005 and 7.2% in 2004. *"American tastes are clearly changing, thus the demand for more flavorful and diverse beers is*

exploding," said Paul Gatz, director of the Brewers Association, which tabulates industry growth data. The Brewers Association estimates 2006 sales by craft brewers at more than 6 million barrels (one barrel equals 31 US gallons). The increase totals over 690,000 barrels or 9.5 million case-equivalents.

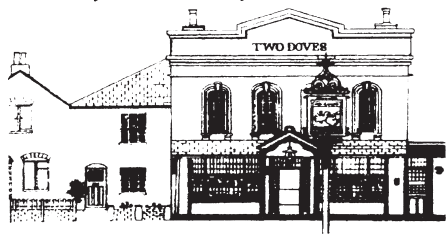
Diane Catanzaro, a Norfolk, Virginia homebrewer, beer judge and college professor, was crowned the 2007 Beerdrinker of the Year at the finals held at Wynkoop Brewing in Denver. A professor of industrial/organizational psychology at Christopher Newport University, Catanzaro is the second woman to win the competition.

A unique pub museum

If you are anywhere near Buckfastleigh in Devon, I think that you will like this. The Valiant Soldier, 80 Fore Street (TQ11 0BS), closed when Whitbreads gave up the licence in

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www.wychwood.co.uk

1965 as not viable but the publicans, Mark and Alice Roberts, sat tight, eventually buying the pub from the brewery.

In 1996 Alice had to leave through ill health and, remarkably, it was found that both the downstairs bar area and the living quarters were totally untouched from the night that the pub had closed. Teignbridge District Council established a trust to buy and manage the site and keep this time capsule intact. I am not sure of the opening hours but the contact number is 01364 644522.

And finally...

Archers Brewery of Swindon has gone into administration following cash flow problems. The administrators, Price Waterhouse Coopers, will run the business short-term in the hope of selling the company as a going concern. The brewery, based in the historic Great Western

Railway locomotive works, has twenty staff. It was reportedly producing a staggering 190 different beers at the time of its closure.

A study into external factors which influence behaviour has discovered that there was a rise in violent and unruly incidents at pubs and clubs in Brighton and Hove during full moons. Sussex police are accordingly deploying extra officers at these times.

The Cruzcampo Brewery kept its promise to give every Sevilla player his weight in beer as a reward for retaining the UEFA Cup.

Students from the Helicon Vocational Institute near Amsterdam have invented powdered alcohol. The powder, called Booz2Go, comes in 20g packets and, when water is added, produces a 3% ABV lime-flavoured drink. The only problem is that, not being in liquid

form, it can legally be sold to children.

I spotted an advert in the Morning Advertiser for a talking toilet. The Clean Seat Matic toilet can give out a routine message such as 'please flush' or 'now wash your hands' or be programmed to tell customers when 'happy hour' starts or what today's specials might be. Is there to be no peace anywhere these days? Mind you, I think I prefer the description of the Kohler C3 toilet seat as mentioned in the Guardian Diary. It has two cleansing wands providing warm aerated water, a heated seat with three temperature settings, a warm air fan, a lighted bowl so that you don't have to turn the light on at night, a deodorizer and a 'quiet-close' lid to prevent slamming. It also has a remote control but I am not sure quite why.

Tony Hedger



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Capital brewpubs

The first Firkin brewpub was opened in 1979 by David Bruce in an ex-Truman house by Elephant and Castle. Nine years later, he sold what was by then a national chain to European Leisure. The estate ultimately ended up in the hands of Punch, who promptly closed down brewing operations in 1999. A happy side effect was a flood of second-hand equipment on the market, snapped up by eager microbrewers.

Bruce's latest venture, the Capital Pub Company, was founded in 2000. It now owns more than 20 local pubs across London, all unbranded and free of tie. Among them are the Cock and Hen in Fulham and the Florence in Herne Hill, the capital's newest brewpubs. Five barrel plants have been installed at each venue by David Porter, a Lancashire microbrewer with 15 years of experience. Brewing started in May. 27 year-old Tony Lennon is manning the mash tuns and brew kettles. Currently each of the pubs has its own house ale, alongside two from the Adnams stable. Quality keg beers from Budvar and Meantime are also available. Bottled ales and lagers from Britain, the USA, Germany, Australia and Belgium are displayed prominently.

The pubs have been refitted in a modern style. Both boast extensive, private beer gardens to the rear. The Cock and Hen is well situated on North End Road, a short walk from Fulham Broadway. It retains listed wood panelling and fireplaces. The Florence sits opposite Brockwell Park on a corner, a street away from the Herne Hill railway station. The premises previously housed Ganley's, an unlovely Irish theme bar. Local residents may remember its previous incarnation as the Brockwell Park Tavern. The kettle is in the main bar at both pubs, filling the air with the heady aromas malt and hops on brew days.

At the Cock and Hen, the house brew is *Bonobo* (4.5% ABV), named after a lascivious breed of chimp. We tried a few pints in the sun trap beer garden. This light bodied, quaffable ale is a dark amber in the glass. The emphasis is on drinkability, with the fruity flavours providing a gentle hook and the long malty aftertaste settling in nicely for the session. It combines the allure and promise of a dark beer with the easy going drinkability of a lighter ale. Chinook and Cascade hops from New Zealand are used, offering grapefruit and a refined bitterness. This is a very solid beer, interesting enough for the hardened beer lover but accessible for the casual drinker. Down at the Florence, Tony has taken a different tack with *Weasel*, a light golden ale, also 4.5% ABV. Cascade and Styrian Goldings bring familiar citrus flavours to the palate and a fresh, appetising aroma to the nose. This pale and unthreatening beer might reassure the lager drinker, but that punchy bitterness and long, satisfying finish will excite the rest of us. Both beers sell for £2.50 a pint.



It is pleasing to see that Tony, London's youngest brewmaster, has the zeal of the convert. Having ascended a steep learning curve to produce two excellent beers, he is keen to make both beers available at each of the pubs soon. Seasonal brews are on the agenda. Brewpubs are a great way to remind people that quality beer is a hand crafted product, created by real people who take pride in the end result. The Cock and Hen and the Florence are new highlights on the capital's beer circuit. These upmarket, contemporary pubs may not be the sons of Firkin, but they might be nephews. Certainly, they owe something to their much-loved but slightly embarrassing uncle.

The Cock & Hen is at 360 North End Road, SW6 (Tel: 020 7385 6021)

The Florence is at 133 Dulwich Road, SE24 (Tel: 020 7236 4987)

Jeff Bell

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Great British Beer Festival 2007

Celebrating 30 years of 'The Largest Pub in the World'

The Great British Beer Festival is 30 years young in 2007 and, to celebrate, CAMRA wants this year's festival to be better than ever before. Last year saw the festival move to Earl's Court from its old home at Olympia. This resulted in more than 40% more visitors, with admissions exceeding 66,000.

The 2007 festival will include

- ◆ over 450 of the UK's finest ales from the smallest microbreweries to some of Britain's best known beers;
- ◆ a bottled beer bar offering more than 100 varieties of real ale in a bottle;
- ◆ announcement of the CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain 2007 during the trade session on Tuesday 7 August;
- ◆ beers from around the world, including Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and the USA;
- ◆ a wide variety of unique and tasty ciders and perries from independent producers in the UK;
- ◆ tutored beer tastings with brewing experts;
- ◆ full liquid pints guaranteed thanks to the use of oversized lined glasses;
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Tuesday 7 August
Trade Session 12.00-17.00: Admission to trade by advance ticket only

Tuesday 7 August
17.00-22.30;

Wednesday 8, Thursday 9 and Friday 10 August
noon-22.30: Non-members £6.00, CAMRA members £5.00

Saturday 11 August 11.00-19.00: Non-members £5.00, CAMRA members £3.00

Tickets purchased on the door will be priced at £8.00 for non-members and £6.00 for members Tuesday-Friday and £6.00 for non-members and £4.00 for members on Saturday.

Season tickets are available at £18.00 for members £20.50 for non-members. These tickets will give access to all sessions at the festival including the Trade Session on Tuesday afternoon.

CAMRA members will receive a free programme as part of their entry to the festival. For more information on joining CAMRA, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus.



Independent brewers showcase their winning beers

SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers, is to have its own bar at the Great British Beer Festival. It is the first time SIBA, which represents more than 400 local brewers, has taken a stand at the CAMRA-organised event, which is attended by 65,000 beer lovers from around the world.

Most of the 450 real ales on offer are produced by independent British brewers, and SIBA chairman Peter Amor said the Society's bar would be a showcase for the very best of local brewing. It will feature seven class winners from this year's SIBA national beer competition, all of which won awards in SIBA regional contests to qualify for the national finals.

Peter Amor added, "Our competition is

recognised as the only one judged on overall saleability in which the brewer can decide which beers are entered. The transparency of the judging process and the need for consistency in the beers from regional heats to the national finals give unparalleled credibility to the competition."

The seven beers scheduled to feature on the SIBA stand are Howard Town Brewery's Wren's Nest (SIBA National Supreme Champion and champion best bitter); Hophead (bitter) and Rutterkin (premium bitter) both from Brewsters; Crazy Days (strong ale) and Beijing Black (mild), both from Potbelly Brewery; O'Hanlons Port Stout (porter and strong mild) and Milton Brewery's Mammon (speciality beer).

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Bathe in beer, dance at a brewery, drink like a Czech!

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is proud to release *The Good Beer Guide Prague & the Czech Republic*, an independent guide to more than 100 Czech breweries, 450 different beers, and over 100 great places to try them, allowing travellers to embrace the Czech drinking experience. The Czech Republic has been called the world's greatest beer-drinking nation, consuming over 281 pints per capita each year. With listings and ratings for virtually every Czech beers, the new guide lets readers 'go native', escape the crowds and discover some truly remarkable beers, many of which are unknown outside their homelands.

The Good Beer Guide Prague & the Czech Republic tells readers how to:

- ◆ take a full-body beer bath at the family-owned Chodovar brewery;
- ◆ enjoy a free, open-air rock concert at the Pelhrimov brewery;
- ◆ taste 30 independent Czech beers at a locals-only beer festival in Olomouc;
- ◆ stay in a medieval brewery-hotel in the hilltop citadel town of Stramberk;
- ◆ drink the country's strongest beer, X-33, with 12.6% alcohol and the taste of a fine Sauternes;
- ◆ mix with the locals in a tram-theme pub inside a tram yard, hidden away from the crowds in a quiet corner of Prague;
- ◆ shop for more than 200 bottles of Czech beer at one of Prague's specialty beer shops;
- ◆ discover the difference between unpasteurised Pilsner Urquell (only available in the Czech Republic) and the exported version.

Author Evan Rail moved to Prague in 2000 for what was supposed to be a single year but, having discovered the wonders of Czech beers, he decided to stay. He has devoted six years to tracking down the best beers throughout the ancient kingdoms of Bohemia and Moravia, the two halves that make up today's Czech Republic. He said, "It may sound

strange to talk about drinking beer as a life-changing experience. But these Czech beers are unlike anything I've ever tasted: richly malty, highly aromatic and incredibly hoppy. Most of them are completely unknown outside the country. It really is one of the world's greatest beer-drinking secrets. Millions of travellers have already been enchanted by Prague, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. This book is for those who want to discover arguably the world's greatest beers in the world's greatest beer drinking nation."

The Good Beer Guide Prague & the Czech Republic is available from CAMRA and all good bookshops, priced £12.99.

Visit www.camra.org.uk/books to order a copy today.

35 years of bringing you the best pint

September will see the release of the 35th anniversary edition of the Good Beer Guide.

The first Good Beer Guide, published by CAMRA in 1974 and priced at 75p, featured the 104 breweries that existed in the UK at the time. By comparison *The Good Beer Guide 2008* will feature more than 600 breweries, and over 4,500 pubs that currently serve good quality real ale.

In the first edition the editor said the guide was 'designed to help people who are searching for a decent drop of ale'. The Good Beer Guide has served this purpose every year since, and has become known as the beer drinker's bible. CAMRA's network of volunteers work tirelessly to make sure only those pubs that serve the highest quality real ale can be considered for entry. When you buy your copy of *The Good Beer Guide 2008*, you can be sure that 35 years' dedication to finding a great pint of the nation's favourite drink is in your hands.

Edited once again by Roger Protz, the Good Beer Guide offers quick reference, county by county guides, clear maps and simple directions to the selected pubs, complete with beer listings, opening hours and notes on pub food, facilities for families, accommodation, history and the locality. The alphabetical directory of breweries and index of beers are unique sources of information.

To order a copy of the Good Beer Guide 2008 visit www.camra.org.uk.

- ◆ Cover price: £14.99 (+£1.50 p&p)
- ◆ CAMRA members' price: £11.00 (+£1.50 p&p)
- ◆ Good Beer Guide Privilege Club members' price: Only £9.50 (inc p&p)



Roger Protz (bearded) with Adam Chadwick, curator of the MCC museum and library, celebrating the launch on 5 June of *The Beer Lover's Guide to Cricket* at the Star, St Johns Wood.

Third award for the Calthorpe Arms

North London Branch chairman John Cryne (left) presents landlord Adrian Larnier with his North London's 2007 Pub of the Year award. This is the third time the Calthorpe Arms, on Gray's Inn Road, WC1 has triumphed in the competition. In a year in which the brewing of his main beers, Young's Bitter and Special, moved to Bedford, it is a testament to Adrian's skill in the cellar that he was able to head the poll. There was a great evening for regulars and CAMRA members alike at the presentation on 12 June, when Adrian's skills in putting on a great buffet also came to the fore.



CAMRA Winter Ale Award



It's better late than never as Fuller's Head Brewer, John Keeling (right) finally receives the award won by London Porter at January's Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition held at the National Winter Ales Festival in Manchester. London Porter won the Gold award in the Stouts and Porters category and then went on to win the Silver award in the Supreme Championship. Seen presenting the award to John are Fuller's Brewery Liaison Officer, John Cryne (left) and London Regional Director, Steve Williams.

Pots, beer mats and mirrors at the home of brewing

Whether you have an earnest interest in beer memorabilia or just want an excuse to visit Burton-on-Trent, then CAMRA's 2007 Breweriana Auction will be of interest. The event takes place at the Coors Brewery Museum (formerly the Bass Museum) in Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 1NG on Saturday 13 October.

Entry to the auction is by catalogue from Bill Austin (baustin@supanet.com), which also gives free entry to the museum and the museum bar. So come and make a weekend of it. Further details including accommodation and pubs nearby can be found at www.camra.org.uk nearer the date.

Letters and articles for publication in London Drinker may now be submitted online at www.londondrinker.org.uk

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Dear Editor

I feel I am uniquely placed to respond to your News Round-up article concerning the use of plastic 'glasses', specifically those manufactured from polycarbonate.

I am a real ale drinker, and I like my beer in a nice clean, straight glass. However, I think it is undeniable that there is a time and a place for the plastic 'glass', and somewhere like Nottingham city centre (or Reading?) on a Saturday night may be a good example of that.

I am also a supplier of polycarbonate, and I suggest you get on board with it, as this polymer is infinitely preferable to the alternatives based upon polystyrene (brittle) and polypropylene (soft and cloudy) which I also sell.

Polycarbonate is as near as we can get to glass currently. It lends itself to recycling, but I accept this may be beyond the capability of local authorities. To suggest that it may be a health risk is completely mischievous and uninformed. It is a very pure polymer and is widely used in medical applications, which are tested to, and pass, standards far more stringent than those applicable to beer consumption.

So fear not, and concentrate your efforts on ensuring that they are only used when appropriate.

Phil Weller

Dear Editor

I believe Tony Hedger is incorrect when he states (News round-up, Jun/Jul) that Ralph Findlay "saw a good future" for real ale when he spoke at the Members' Weekend in April. My recollection is that he foresaw further pressure coming on the market for cask ale. Mike Benner did however predict an arrest in the decline in the market for real ale, and even an increase in market share, although he did not explain why he believed this would happen.

Given that the market for cask beer in the UK has been declining steadily for well over a decade, and that cask beer's share of the market is well below what it was in the days when CAMRA first came into being, I do believe Mr Benner has a duty to explain why he is so optimistic. (The best I can come up with is 'Dead cat bounce'.)

Brian Sheridan

(In response to Brian's reasonable request, already addressed appropriately to the Editor of What's Brewing, Mike Benner promises a considered commentary there soon. London Drinker readers' views would be welcome. - Ed.)

Dear Editor

Further to the piece on Greene King in the June/July News Round-up, I have taken them to task for the misleading wording on the Tolly Original

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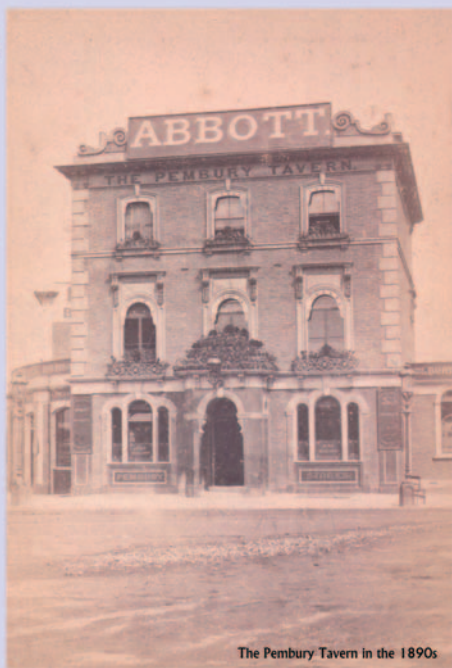
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SPBW London Pub of the Year 2007



The Pembury Tavern in the 1890s

pump clip which sports the misnomer, 'Brewing since 1732'. That would be correct if Tolly Cobbold were still extant but the ignorami at GK's customer services department don't understand the difference between brewing and brewed.

I have also pointed out the incorrect wording on the side of the Arab Boy pub in Putney which states, 'Probably the oldest pub in Putney'. Definitely not! It was built in 1849, 23 years after the Bricklayer's Arms.

Paul Kirsten

Dear Editor

On Page 29 of *London Drinker*, June/July 2007 you review the autobiography of John Young. W.H. Smith tell me it is not their intention to stock or obtain this book.

Can you please advise me from whom, where and at what all-up price I may obtain a copy please? Thank you.

Henry Russell

(A typical reply from a company who think they are a bookshop. Perhaps customers should go elsewhere for books. The book is available direct from the publisher, The Memoir Club, Stanhope Hall, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 2PF, price £19.95 + £2.50 P&P, tel: 01388 529060, fax: 01388 527215 or any privately owned bookshop.)

Dear Editor

Judith Black's 2006 article entitled "Across the Commons" (*plural*) published on page 44 of the June/July 2007 issue of *London Drinker* would have been far more accurate in view of its content had it been called "Across the Common" (*singular*) i.e. Wimbledon Common. Although she refers to the "two Commons, Putney & Wimbledon" in fact Putney Common is nowhere near her chosen route, unlike Putney Heath, the area she means.

Moreover, the article makes no reference to the beautifully renovated Telegraph on the junction of Telegraph Road and Wildcroft Road in the middle of Putney Heath which serves a wide and often rare selection of six real ales. It would have been nice if it had included this and a few more of the pubs on the chosen route - what about the Fox & Grapes, also on Wimbledon Common, and the Brewery Tap in Wimbledon Village?

Tony Bell

(The London for Free articles have never purported to offer exhaustive pub crawls, and readers' attention was drawn to CAMRA's London Pub Walks and the new local pub guide to the area. Thank you, Tony, for correcting the reference to Putney Common. The 2006 article was written before the Telegraph was so impressively refurbished. - Ed)

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– TIME OUT



SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED

RED CAR PUBS

Dear Editor

Nice to see The Palm Tree (a pleasant, old world, canal-side pub) as City and East London Pub of the Year for 2007.

But it is a great shame that they initially refused to add a single glass of tap water to a round of drinks, a refusal for which, I believe, the staff are well known.

We did get the water in the end but 'just a half...' since they said that their water was metered.

Gordon Joly

Dear Editor

I note with interest that the new Whole Food Markets building in the former Barkers Store in Kensington has a bar area with three hand pumps. When I popped in I found Rudgate Ruby Mild, Dark Star Hophead and St Peter's Organic Ale. Prices at £3.50 a pint plus seemed a bit steep even for the well heeled residents of West London (but arguably by comparison no more expensive than much of the rest of the produce across the three floors of the store) but in fairness this is really a 'halves' venue, not a pub, and the beer was in good condition.

We could moan but actually to find cask ale in such a venue is praiseworthy in itself and will almost certainly expose new people to the experience of real beer.

It also begs the question of how much organic beer there is being produced and what the criteria are to so describe it. Fullers and Brakspears amongst others certainly produce an organic beer and Hop Back Entire describes itself as vegan. Surely something that CAMRA needs to focus on. After when I was there Whole Food Markets was very busy indeed.

Keith Flett

Dear Editor

Further to Ken Donald's informative article in the on-line Travel Pages about beer in China, I can report one microbrewery in Shanghai - The Fest Beerhouse, 11 Hankou Street (near The Bund), home of the Shanghai Bund Brewage Co Ltd. Two large copper brewing vessels, manufactured by Kaspar Schultz Brauereimaschinenfabrik, Bamberg, dominate the beer-hall.

There are two beers, a light (would guess around 4.5% ABV, slightly cloudy refreshing wheat beer) and a dark (sweetish, rich and hoppy, probably around 5.5 to 6%). The beers are of course served with gas pressure, though no excessive carbonation was noticeable.

The bar is a quiet place to drink during the afternoon, and later it fills with raucous groups of Chinese, who seem to drink the dark beer (in 1 litre jugs!) almost without exception.

I believe there are two or three other German-style brewpubs in Shanghai (there is a 'Paulaner

Brauhaus' at 150 Feng Yang Road in the French Concession and there is also one in Ningbo).

Going across the border to Hong Kong, there are several kiosks called 'The Beer Bay' inside the Outlying Islands ferry piers. A range of British bottled beers are available. On my visit I noticed various Sharps beers, Old Speckled Hen, London Pride among others. Prices are around HKD25 (roughly £1.50).

Steve Thompson

Dear Editor

I was most interested to read Kim Rennie's comments about the Magdala Tavern in the June LD and how the name comes from Charles Napier, Baron of Magdala. The Lord Napier in Goodmayes and the Napier Arms in Woodford are both pubs I have frequented in the past but I hadn't realised how they got their names.

From a purely real ale point of view the Magdala was not quite up to the standard of other Hampstead pubs but, as it is close to Hampstead Heath Station, I did visit it once in the 1980s as I was passing through Hampstead on the Silverlink line. There was a small metal plaque commemorating Ruth Ellis's shooting of David Blakely and claiming that some of the holes in the wall were from the bullets. The pub was renovated in the '90s with the wall being repaired and the plaque taken down although, as Kim says, there are some newspaper cuttings on display inside.

When a pub has been a scene of a famous crime there is a danger that if the pub gives it too much publicity they risk being accused of glorifying it. I understand the Ten Bells in Spitalfields run into problems for emphasising its Jack the Ripper connections.

On a similar note, the last time I visited the Blind Beggar in Whitechapel I noticed some graffiti in the Gents: "George Cornell was Right."

Colin Price

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The Truman Show

Want to get to know the real historic pub interiors in the capital? Really the only place to start is with a copy of CAMRA's Regional Inventory: Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest. This was published in 2004 and contains 133 entries of the most intact and interesting interiors covering the whole of Greater London. It is available from the CAMRA shop at www.camra.org.uk or by phone on 01727 867201 - price just £6 including postage and packing.

It is intended to bring out a new edition next year. The number of pubs will be much the same but there have been gains and losses, the latter resulting from a few closures, some refittings and even a few reassessments. The good news is these are more or less balanced by some exciting new discoveries thanks to welcome information received. We propose in this and future issues of *London Drinker* to whet your appetite for the forthcoming guide.

One of the things that has come out of our research is the discovery of a series of really good pub interiors from Truman's pubs of the 1930s. Truman, Hanbury & Buxton brewed in Burton on Trent and also had a major London brewery in Brick Lane. Both facilities were known as Black Eagle Brewery and the eagle emblem can still be seen emblazoned on many a pub (or indeed, former pub) in many parts of London. Trumans fell victim to the great brewery consolidations of the 1960s and early 1970s. The Burton operation closed in 1973 and was promptly demolished while the London end was acquired by Grand Metropolitan Hotels in 1971 and was merged with Watney Mann Ltd in 1974. Brewing ceased in 1989.

But back to the '30s. Truman's developed a distinctive house style which made great play of wall-panelling with lovely lettering advertising the company's products. They also developed distinctive red-brick fire-surrounds with charming reliefs and, in the overmantel, advertising mirrors. They were also partial to spittoon troughs with pretty chequerwork patterns, and ceiling panels made from a hard shiny material called Vitrolite.

Here we take a look at some examples of attractive and distinctive Truman's pubs serving real ale that you may enjoy exploring.

Golden Heart, 110 Commercial Street, Spitalfields, E1

An elegant, three-sided neo-Georgian frontage. The pub was built on a corner site c.1930 and is just a few yards away from Truman's very different Ten Bells. The Golden Heart is a largely intact example of inter-war pub-fitting and has two bars either side of a central servery. A blocked doorway in the centre indicates the larger bar on the right is an



amalgamation of two original rooms. This enlarged public bar is rather plainer than the other one but both have extensive panelling, brick fireplaces (note the Truman's eagle over a couple of the public bar fireplaces) and Truman's house-style lettering – the advertising inscription atop the panelling. Note the pleasing dimpled and coloured glass in the windows. None of this is showy but is typical of the careful, restrained face of much pub building between the two world wars. The one real blemish is the modern pot-shelf stuck on top of the public bar counter. A good, relaxed place to soak up the atmosphere of a typical inter-war pub.

Stag's Head, 55 Orsman Road, Hoxton, N1



This is one of many pubs built by Truman's between the wars. Like their Hope & Anchor, W6, it was built to serve a 1930s estate. The ground floor is faced with mottled blue and brown tiles that were then very popular for pub frontages. It is quite small and originally consisted of two narrow bars either side of a servery plus a 'Home Sales' compartment (now disused, of course). The public bar is on the right (on the street corner), the saloon on the left. In the 1950s or 1960s an extension was added on to the saloon (note that they couldn't get the tile match right).

The interior is typical of Truman's house style.

Note their characteristic lettering advertising their oatmeal stout, Eagle ale etc on the woodwork, and typical brick fire-surrounds with small relief panels (the leaping stags found here also prance about in other Truman's pubs) and mirrors in the overmantels. They also repeated the chequered spittoon trough arrangements frequently. The social (and price) distinction between the two sides is mirrored in the bar counters – commonplace matchboarding for the public bar and a more elegant streamlined effort in the saloon. Happily the toilets in both halves of the pub have not experienced modern refits and the tilework still appears as it did to those answering the call of nature seventy years ago.

Rose & Crown, 199 Stoke Newington Church Street, Stoke Newington, N16



An ambitious Truman's pub of 1934 that sweeps elegantly round a corner. Before going in, features to note are the external lamps, a pair of fine metal inn signs and the glazed shop-window to display wares from the former off-sales compartment. You can also trace the sequence of original rooms in the metal signs over the doors: right to left – public bar, private bar, outdoor sales, saloon and lounge.

Internally you can still get a good feel for the 1930s layout since the screens dividing the various rooms survive in their upper parts. Also the detailing of the counter is different in the public bar from the private bar, and, unlike the rest of the pub, the lounge has hatch-style service. Also have a look at the light-shades. Extraordinary as it may seem, these appear to be original and different parts of the pub have different shaped ones. The panelled interior is a first-class example of Truman's house style in the 1930s. Characteristics involve the advertising lettering on the panelling naming some of the brewery's offerings, the chequered spittoon trough, light-cream-coloured Vitrolite panels in the ceiling, overmantels with Truman's mirrors inserts, and doors in the bar counter to get at the beer engines. Note also some of the chairs which are not unlike the 1930s survivors at the Fox & Pheasant, SW10. The heavy-handed 'stone' flooring is clearly a product of the time when the pub was opened out.

Atlas, 16 Seagrave Road, West Brompton, SW6



A classic pub to see what Truman's were up to in their pubs in the 1930s. The building itself is Victorian but the fittings are a surprisingly complete array from the interwar refit. At that time there were two distinct rooms, the evidence of which is clearly apparent today with the public bar (named as such on the door) at the front.

The room decoration is expressed in a couple of ways. Most obvious is the remains of a screen where the glazing at the top survives. Then you will see that the bar counter is treated differently – at the front it is matchboarded and at the back (the plusher end) it has horizontal Art Deco panelling with a rounded corner. The bar-backs, however, are similar and there is also a black-and-white tiled spittoon trough (similar to the one at the Hope and Anchor, W6). Also from the 1930s are the fixed seating and three brick fire surrounds each with a small terracotta relief – a galleon, a hunting scene and a frisky stag. In the rear area is wall panelling with

Regional Inventory

advertisements for Truman's wares, and a promotional mirror over one of the fireplaces. You will see that the counter fronts have doors, a feature of many a London pub in times past to allow servicing of the beer engines.

Nearby Brompton Cemetery contains the tombs of several famous people, including that of Emmeline Pankhurst. Many of the tombs and monuments are listed 'buildings' as is the cemetery chapel and the entrance gates.

Duke of Edinburgh, 204 Ferndale Road, Brixton, SW9

A beautifully crafted piece of Truman's 1930s pub architecture. It has three storeys and is faced with

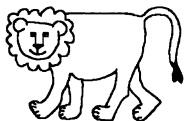
attractive thin red bricks which are also used for the window linings and mullions.

Inside you can now perambulate through the whole pub but still get a good sense of the way it was originally arranged. The public bar was at the front and more simply appointed than the more up-market rear areas, e.g. a matchboard counter in contrast to the panelled ones behind – note all the counters have doors for servicing the original beer engines as was usual in Truman's 1930s pubs. The light-coloured oak woodwork is typical of colouration and quality of what they put into their pubs, as is the distinctive advertising lettering in the bar-backs, the chequerwork spittoon trough in the rear area, the use of mirrors over the fireplaces, and the (now disappeared) sliding screen that would have split the rear parts. The inglenook with Tudor-arched fireplace and adjacent seating is particularly attractive (a pity about the totally inappropriate repro Victorian iron fire-surround in the middle area).

A notable feature is the extensive rear garden approached down a passage and which shows how interwar pub builders had in mind the need to encourage not just hardened drinkers but couples and families who might enjoy sitting out in good weather.

Happy Truman's-spotting!

Geoff Brandwood and Jane Jephcote



REMEMBER THESE DATES

Friday August 31st from 6pm

Saturday September 1st all day

Sunday September 2nd all day

The Lion, Teddington

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Branch diaries

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

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

September – Thu 27 (8pm) London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. *Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk*

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

August – Wed 15 Evening crawl of EC4: (7pm) Black Friar, 174 Queen Victoria St; (7.45) Punch Tavern, 99 Fleet St; (8.10) Crown & Sugar Loaf, 98-99 Fleet St; (8.35) Old Bell, 95 Fleet St; (9pm) Olde Cheshire Cheese, Wine Office Court, 145 Fleet St; (9.25) Tipperary, 66 Fleet St; (9.50) Old Bank of England, 194 Fleet St.

September – Wed 12 (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

August – Wed 8 (8.30) Mtg. Crayford Arms, Crayford.

September – Wed 12 (8.30) Mtg. Furze Wren, Bexleyheath.

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Michael Fairweather 07905 611978, 0203 039 0379 (H)

August – Tue 7 (8.30) Social. Albert Tavern, Harrington Rd, South Norwood. - **Tue 28** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs) 24-25 Surrey St, Croydon.

September – Sat 8 Wandle Walk led by Tony Waller: Racehorse (11.30-12noon). - **Tue 18** (8.30) Social at the Claret Freehouse, 33, The Broadway, Cheam (on A2043). - **Tue 25** (8.30) Mtg. Robin Hood (upstairs), 52 West St, Sutton.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

John Pardoe 07757 772564, elacbranch@yahoo.co.uk

August – Tue 14 Mtg/social: (7.30) Baxters Court, Mare St, E8; then Globe, Morning La; Chesham Arms, Mehetabel Rd, E9; Eclipse, 57 Elderfield Rd; Ship Aground, Lea Bridge Rd. Ring branch for more details. - **Sat 18** Joint social with SE London branch: (4pm) Crosse Keys, Gracechurch St, then Liberty Bounds, 15 Trinity Sq, EC3; Pommels Rest, 196 Tower Bridge Rd, SE1. - **Tue 28** (8pm) Pig's Ear festival meeting. Birkbeck Tavern, E11.

September – Sat 1 Joint ramble with Enfield & Barnet Branch through Epping Forest to forest edge pubs in Loughton and Theydon Bois. Meet by 11am at Chingford Station. Return by Central Line Underground (zone 6) and bus. Contact Ron Andrews on 020-8524 4239 for further details. - **Sat 8** Joint visit with Enfield & Barnet Branch to Chappel Beer Festival. Meet by 10.20am at Liverpool Street Station. Contact Ron Andrews on 020-8524 4239 for further details. - **Tue 11** (8pm) Mtg. Old Dispensary, Leman St, E1. - **Tue 18** Walthamstow E17 walk led by George Ingleby: (8pm) Plough, Wood St; then Flowerpot; Nags Head, Orford Rd; Castle, corner of Eden Rd and Grosvenor Rise East. - **Fri 28** (8pm) Pig's Ear festival mtg. Birkbeck Tavern, E11.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Brian Willis 020 8441 1892 (H), Branch mobile 07757 710008 at event

August – Wed 8 Working social at GBBF Earls Court. (6pm at Organic Bar). - **Thu 16** (9pm) Garden social, Greyhound, 425 Ordnance Rd, Enfield Lock EN3. - **Tue 21** Two pub Arkley EN5 social: (8.30) Gate, Barnet Rd; (9.45) Arkley, Barnet Rd. - **Wed 29** (9pm) Social. Fishmongers Arms, Winchmore Hill Rd, N14.

September – Sat 1 Joint ramble through Epping Forest. See ELAC entry. Contact Ron Andrews on 020-8524 4239 for further details. - **Wed 5** Two pub Barnet EN5 social: (8.30) Albion, 74 Union St, Barnet; (9.15) Lord Nelson, 14 West End La, Barnet. - **Sat 8** Joint visit to Chappel Beer Festival. See ELAC entry. Contact Ron Andrews on 020-8524 4239 for further details. - **Tue 11** (9pm) Social. Jolly Farmers, 2 Enfield Rd, Enfield EN2. - **Wed 19** Two pub N3 social: (8.30), Catcher in the Rye, 315-319 Regents Park Rd; (9.45) Dignity, 369 Regents Park Rd. - **Thu 27** (9pm) *London Drinker* pick up and social. Kings Head, Market Place, Enfield Town EN2.

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

August – Tue 14 (8.15) Mtg. Angel, Portsmouth Rd, Thames Ditton. - **Fri 17** (8pm) Beer Festival social. Woodies, Thetford Rd, New Malden. - **Tue 21** Oxshott social: (8.30) Victoria, High St; (9.30) Bear. Travel by 7.57 train from Surbiton.

September – Wed 5 (8.15) Mtg. George & Dragon, High St, Thames Ditton. - **Sat 8** Day out on train to Shoreham. Travel on 10.53 from Clapham Jct, arriving Shoreham at 11.59, or meet (12 noon) Buckingham Arms outside station, then to other pubs about the town. - **Sun 9** (1pm) Lunch time BBQ. Wych Elm, Elm Rd, Kingston. - **Fri 21** (7.30) Evening visit to Twickenham Brewery, Edwin Rd, or meet (6.45) Cabbage Patch, outside station. Please let me know if attending. - **Fri 28** Wimbledon Common crawl: (7.30) Hand & Racquet, then Swan, pubs around the common and finish in the village.

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.pvc.com

August – No Branch events.

September – Tue 4 NW1 Social: (7.30) NW1 Bar, 32 Parkway; Ice Wharf, Unit 1&2 Suffolk Wharf. - **Tue 11** NW1 social: (7pm) Constitution, 42 St Pancras Way; Prince Albert, 163 Royal College St; Quinns, 65 Kentish Town Rd. - **Tue 18** N8 (7pm) Social. Tollgate, 26-30 Turnpike La; (8pm) Mtg: Three Compasses, 62 High St. - **Tue 25** (8pm) 2008 Good Beer Guide launch. Oxford, 256 Kentish Town Rd, NW5.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

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

August – Tue 7 GBBF social: (6pm) Fuller's bar and each hour thereafter. - **Thu 16** (8.30) Mtg. White Hart, 121 Kneller Road, Whitton. - **Wed 22** Teddington crawl: (8pm) Queen Dowager, 49 North La; (8.45) Adelaide, 57 Park Rd; (9pm) Bloated Mallard, 3 Victoria Rd; (10pm) Teddington Arms, 38 High St; (10.30) King's Head, 123 High St.

September – Thu 6 (8pm) Social diary planning mtg. Waterman's Arms, 12 Water La, Richmond. - **Thu 13** (8.30) Branch mtg. Bridge, 204 Castelnau, Barnes and short list of three for Pub of the Year. - **Sun 23** (1pm) Survey of last three PotY venues tba. - **Thu 27** TBF publicity crawl in Twickenham: (7.30) Cabbage Patch, 67 London Rd; (7.45) Misty Moon; (8pm) William Webb Ellis; (8.30) Up & Under, 33 York St; (8.50) Bear, 26 York St; (9.15) Eel Pie, 9 Church St; (9.45)

Fox, 39 Church St. - **Fri 31** (8pm) Beer Festival Social. Lion, 27 Wick Rd, Teddington.

Website: www.camra.org.uk/richmond

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Roz Cox 07796 272 730 or 020-8697 6939 evening or weekends only, roz@selcamra.org.uk

August – Thu 2 (8pm) Social. Bear Free House, 296a Camberwell New Road. - **Wed 8** (8pm) Cttee mtg/social. Bridge House, 218 Tower Bridge Rd, SE1. - **Sat 18** Joint social with ELAC starting (4pm) Crosse Keys, 9 Gracechurch Street, EC3. See ELAC Diary. - **Thu 23** (8pm) Social. Florence, 133 Dulwich Rd, SE24. - **Tue 28** (8pm) Social. Charles Dickens, 160 Union St, SE1.

September – Tue 4 (8pm) Cttee mtg/social. Cricketers, 93 Chislehurst Rd, Orpington BR6. - **Mon 10** (8pm) Social. Lord Clyde, 27 Clenham St, SE1. - **Tue 18** Brockley SE4 crawl: (8pm) Brockley Barge, 184 Brockley Rd; (9pm) Brockley Jack, 410 Brockley Rd; (9.45) Mr Lawrence, 389 Brockley Rd. - **Mon 24** (7.30) Social. Gowlett, Gowlett Rd, SE15.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

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

August – Thu 2 (8.30) Social. Worlds End, Fort Rd, Tilbury. - **Tue 14** (8pm) Out of area social. Birkebeck Tavern, 45 Langthorne Rd, E11 (near to Leyton Tube). - **Sat 25** (from 12noon) Beer Festival social. St James' Church Hall, Tower Rd, Clacton on Sea. For more details see www.clactonbeerfestival.org.uk - **Tue 28** (8.30) Social, Phoenix, Broadway (B1335) Rainham.

September – Tue 4 (7.30) Beer Festival social. East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel & Wakes Colne Station. For more details see www.earm.co.uk/beerfestival.asp - **Wed 12** (8.30) Branch London Pub of the Year presentation and social. Britannia, 1 Church Rd, Barking (off Ilford Ln/Fanshawe Ave). - **Tue 18** (8pm) Cranham Curry & Crane social. Curry at Cranham Tandoori, 131 Avon Rd, followed by the Golden Crane, 117 Avon Rd, Cranham. - **Mon 24** Orsett Changes social: (8.30) Orsett Cock, Stanford Rd (A1013)(nr A13), followed by Foxhound, 18 High Rd (B188).

Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 2860 (W), markbravery@btblueyonder.co.uk; Cricket: Tom Brain 07796 265972, thomas.brain@horwath.co.uk. New players always welcome for friendly Sunday afternoon matches.

August – Wed 22 Earlsfield and Tooting crawl: (7.15) Halfway House, 521 Garratt La (nr station); (8pm) Jack Beard's in the Fog, Groton Rd; (9pm) Leather Bottle, 538 Garratt La, SW17; (10.15) Castle, 38 Tooting High St.

September – Thu 6 (7.30) Mtg. Sultan (left hand bar), 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19. - **Mon 24** (7.15) Balham SW12 crawl: (7.15) Nightingale, 97 Nightingale La; (8.30) Grove, 39 Oldridge Rd; (9.15) Clarence, 90 Balham High Rd; (10pm) Jackdaw & Rook, 96 Balham High Rd.

Website: www.swlcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan 01923 230104 (H) 07854 988152 (M)

August – Fri 10 GBBF social: (6pm) membership stand and every hour thereafter. - **Wed 15** Croxley Green social: (8.30) Coach & Horses; (9.15) Artichoke; (10pm) Sportsman. - **Thu 23** (8.15) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, St. John's Rd, Watford. - **Sat 25** Games Night. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Heronsgate. Contact branch for details. - **Wed 29** (6.30) Social. Hoopers, Ivanhoe Rd, Camberwell.

September – Thu 6 Abbot's Langley social: (8.30) Boys' Home; (9.30) Compasses. - **Sat 15** (from 7pm) Herts Pub of the Year Award. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty. - **Tue 18** Real ale

evening. Southern Cross, Langley Rad, Watford. Contact John Ross on 01923 256033. - **Thu 20** (8.15) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, St. John's Rd, Watford. - **Wed 26** St. Albans Beer Festival social: (7pm) CAMRA books stand and every hour thereafter. Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Alasdair Boyd (Social secretary) 020-7930 9871 ext 143 (2.30-3.15/6pm-9.30 Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk Fax 020-7839 4768. Branch contact Kim Martin 07717 795284, kimberlymartin@yahoo.com westlondoncamrabranch@hotmail.co.uk

August – Sun 5 (7.30) Pub of the Year presentation. Crown & Sceptre 34 Holland Rd. W14. - **Thu 9, Fri 10** GBBF socials: (from 7pm) Cider bar. - **Thu 16** (7.30) Mtg. Victoria (upstairs), 10a Strathearn Pl, W2. - **Mon 20** SW1 tour: (7pm) Fox & Hounds 29 Passmore St; (7.45) Duke of Wellington, 63 Eaton Terr; (8.15) Antelope, 22 Eaton Terr; (9.15) Star Tavern, Belgrave Mews West.

September – Fri 9 Trip to SIBA Beer Festival. Nr. Paddock Wood, Kent. Further details on website or speak to Kim. - **Tue 11** (7.30) Mtg. Harp, 47 Chandos Pl, WC2 (upstairs). - **Mon 17** SW1 Two pub social: (7.30) Morpeth Arms, 58 Millbank; (9pm) Buckingham Arms, 62 Petty France. - **Tue 25** W6 two pub social: (7.30) Brook Green Hotel, 170 Shepherd's Bush; (9.30) Andover Arms, 57 Aldensley Rd.

Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

John Bush 07739 105336, contact@westmiddx-camra.org.uk

August – Thu 2 GBBF publicity crawl, Harrow. Start (8pm) Moon on the Hill, 373 Station Rd. - **Wed 8** GBBF social: (6pm) Membership stand and every hour thereafter. - **Wed 15** (8pm) GBG Mtg. Black Horse (downstairs), 425 Oldfield La, North Greenford. - **Wed 22** (8pm) Club of the Year presentation. Questors Grapevine Bar, 12 Mattock La, Ealing. - **Mon 27** Bank Hol crawl Pinner to Uxbridge. Start (12 noon) Queens Head, 31 High St, Pinner.

September – Wed 5 (8pm) Pub of the Year presentation. Fox, Green La, Hanwell. - **Wed 12** (8.30) Mtg. Drayton Court Hotel, 2 The Avenue, West Ealing. - **Thu 20** Harrow on the Hill social: (8pm) Half Moon, 1 Roxeth Hill; (9.30) Castle, 30 West St. - **Fri 28** London Drinker pick up: (8pm) Magpie & Crown, High St, Brentford; (9.30) Fox, Green La, Hanwell.

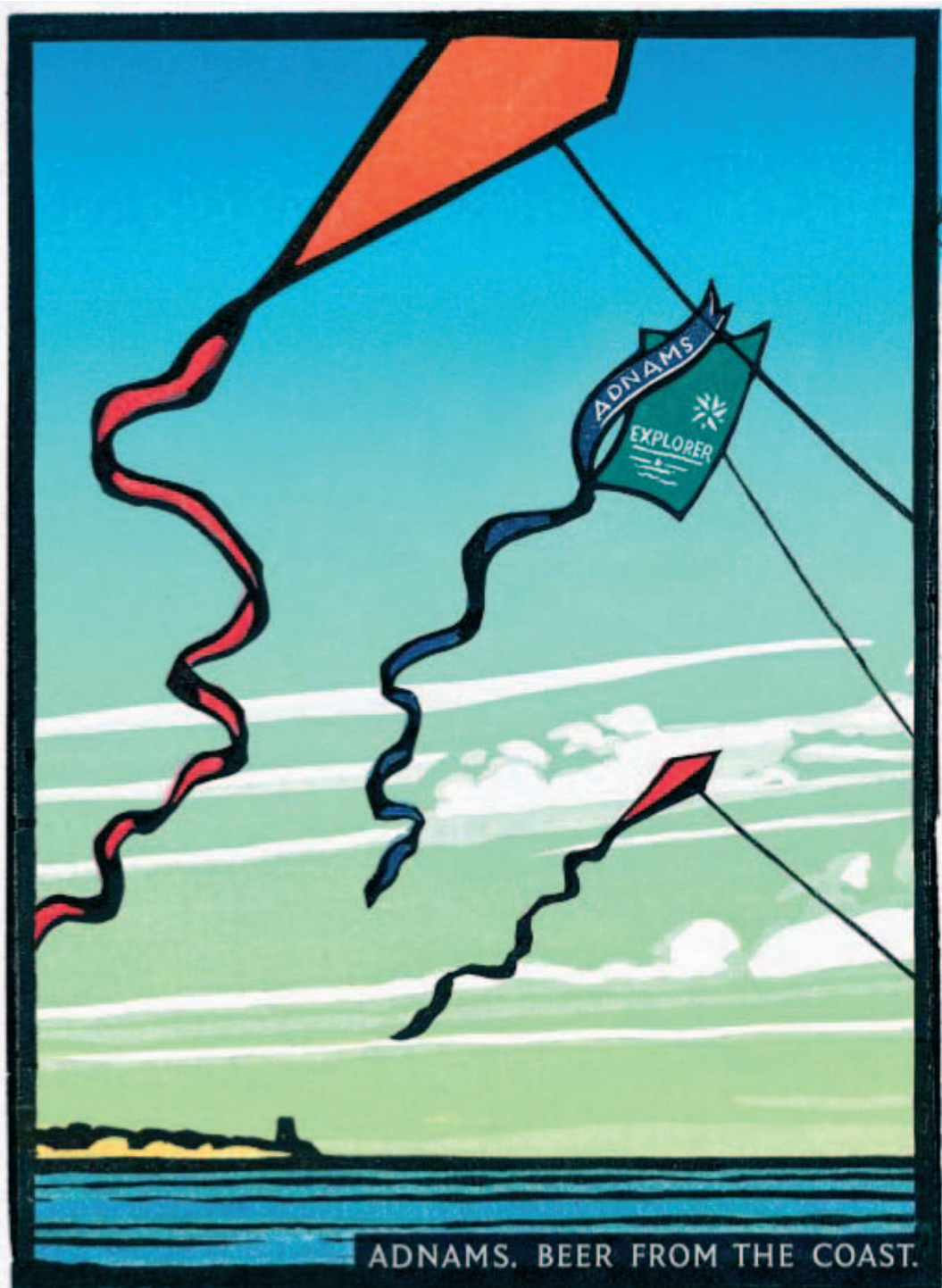
Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the October/November edition: 12th September 2007. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk

LESBIAN AND GAY REAL ALE DRINKERS EVENTS

A group of lesbian and gay members of the Campaign for Real Ale organising to extend the Campaign to the lesbian and gay community. All welcome to all events. Or visit our website at <http://www.lagrad.org.uk>. The group convenor can be contacted on info@lagrad.org.uk.

The Greater London Group meets at 7pm on the second Monday of every month alternating between a 'branch' meeting in the basement of the Half Way, 7 Duncannon Street, WC2, 020-7930 8312 (even numbered months – Feb, April...) and a new members' social upstairs at Compton's, Old Compton Street (odd numbered months – Jan, Mar...) with London Pride and Greene King IPA at £1.50 a pint (on sale downstairs) – happy hour all evening. There are also other events elsewhere in Greater London between these meeting – see website for others' suggestions, or make your own!



ADNAMS. BEER FROM THE COAST.

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.

We welcome the second **Capital Pub Co** brewpub joint venture opened in SE24 Herne Hill. A large US organic food chain has opened a store in W8 Kensington with a small bar upstairs supplied by Utobeer of Borough Market. A sister pub to the Lowlander Belgian and Dutch beer café has opened in EC3 City. A long time GBG pub in SE18 Woolwich is for sale and may fall victim to redevelopment aspirations.

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; BRP - Barnes to Raynes Park Pub Guide; CE - Camden & Euston Real Ale 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 email: capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, RED COW (YE OLDE), 72 Long La. Reopened and renamed **LONG LANE**. Courage: Best Bitter; Marston: Pedigree. Now independently run, ex-Shepherd Neame. (E22, U76, U121, U189)

WC1, BLOOMSBURY BOWLING LANES BAR, Tavistock Hotel, Bedford Way. No real ale. Free House/basement bar attached to hotel, with separate entrance.

WC2, SWAY, 61-65 Great Queen St. No real ale. Free House/bar and restaurant in former restaurant premises. Nightclub in basement.

W1(May), CECCONI'S, 5A Burlington Gdns. No real ale. Free House/bar at front of Italian restaurant.

W1(S), FRIENDLY SOCIETY, 79 Wardour St. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises.

W1(S), O'NEILLS, 37/38 Gt Marlborough St. Fuller: London Pride; Taylor: Landlord. (W68)

EAST

E11, CUCKFIELD, 31 High St. Black Sheep: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; Wells: Bombardier. Refurbished as a gastropub. (E128, U139)

E11, HEATHCOTE ARMS, 344 Grove Green Rd. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Now M&B, ex-Bass (East London Pub Co). Refurbished with soft pastel colours and furnishings. Reinstatement of real ale. (E128, U85, U147, U162)

NORTH

N4, GARDEN LARDER, 501 Green Lanes. Courage: Directors. Free House/bar in former restaurant.

N7, MINI BAR, 20/22 Holloway Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar opened by December 2001 but not previously reported. Now closed, with fittings removed, and used for storage for night club.

NORTH WEST

NW1, ARIZONA BAR & GRILL, 2A Jamestown Rd. No real ale. Free House/Mexican bar and restaurant in former

commercial premises.

NW1, BAR VINYL, 6 Inverness St. No real ale. Free House/bar not previously reported.

NW5, GRAND BANKS, 156/158 Fortress Rd. Reopened and renamed **BAR LORCA**. No real ale. A Free House. (U180)

SOUTH EAST

SE8 CENTURION, 1 Deptford Bdw. Renamed and renamed **BAR SONIC**. No real ale. (SE78, U177)

SE10, ST CHRISTOPHER'S INN, 189 Greenwich High Rd. Wells: Bombardier. Now run by Interpub, ex-Bass. Formerly **PRINCE OF ORANGE**. (SE100, U157)

SE13, MARLOWE'S BAR, 139/141 Lewisham High St. Reopened Marston pub. No real ale, H unused. Formerly **BROADWAY**, originally **QUAGGY DUCK**. (U110, U160, U168, U178, U181, U194)

SE18, COOPERS ARMS (PLAISTED'S), 120 Woolwich High St. Reopened some time ago following its sale. No real ale. A Free House dating from 1790 and once the headquarters of the local SPBW branch. (SE166, U156)

SE24, GANLEYS, 133 Dulwich Rd. Renamed **FLORENCE** and fitted out by new owners Capital Pub Co as its second brewpub. Two varying Adnams beers available and Florence: Weasel Beer (4.5%), a fruity, hoppy beer with a citrus nose brewed on the premises' 4.5 barrel plant. The copper and mash tun are displayed on the ground floor with the fermenters and storage tanks in the cellar. Brewer Antony Lennon also brews at the Cock & Hen, SW6 (see Update 195) and the Bonobo Beer (4.5%) from there is also due to become available at the Florence with Weasel Beer going to the Cock & Hen in exchange. Czech, German and Meantime keg beers and Aspull Suffolk Cider are also available, with a range of bottled Continental beers. Tastefully renovated with island bar, ceiling fans, grey and white decor and mix of seating, leading through to a tiled conservatory and a large enclosed outdoor seating area and patio. Retains its brown tiled facade. Food until 10pm (£4.50-£15). Open 12-12 Mon-Thu, 12-1am Fri, 11-1am Sat, 11-12 Sun. Formerly **BROCKWELL PARK TAVERN**. (SE209, U195)

SOUTH WEST

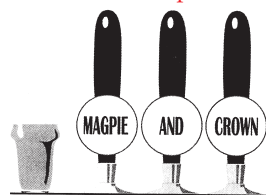
SW8, DUCHESS OF YORK. Renamed **DUCHESS**.

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- ◆ Only 30 minutes train journey from main line Waterloo
- ◆ 4 ever-changing guest ales
- ◆ One traditional cider or 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

- ◆ Draught Budvar, 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
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The Brewery Tap

**Three rotating Real Ales
(many from micro-breweries)**

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



Food served every lunchtime and Tues, Wed and Thurs evenings.

Quiz on Mondays from 8.30pm

Open all permitted hours.

Digital juke box.

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Capital Pubcheck - update 196

Greene King: Abbot. Reinstatement of real ale after refurbishment. (SW76, U144, U188)

SW18, KONNIGAN'S, 344-346 Old York Rd. Free House/bar in former York's wine bar.

SW19, WHITE HART, 144 Kingston Rd. Fuller: London Pride; Wells: Bombardier. Reinstatement of real ale after refurbishment. Now Free, ex-Greene King. Light and airy: light wooden floor boards and painted walls; high tables with bar stools and settees. Sky sports on big screens. Pool table. Occasional live music Fri/Sat. Open now 11-11(12 Fri & Sat), 12-11 Sun. Was BODHRAN BARNEYS for a while. (SW116, U150, U163, U187, BM34, U193)

WEST

W8, BRAMLEY (THE), First Floor, Whole Foods Market, Barkers Building, 63-97 Kensington High St. 3 guest beers supplied by Utobeer of Borough Market (e.g. St Peters: Organic Best, Elgood: Black Dog Mild; Purity: Pure Gold) @ c£3/pint, plus 13 bottled beers. Small stand-up bar in corner of first floor eating area and part of large American organic food store located below. Quiet lounge area nearby overlooking High St, provides a refuge from the crowds. Open 11-10 Mon-Sat, 12-6 Sun.

HAMPTON (TW12), LONGFORD, 92 High St, Hampton Hill. Adnams: Bitter. Formerly **STONE HOUSE**. (W145, U191, U193)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC2, OLDE GRESHAM, Free, converted to 'Jamies' wine

bar and now demolished. (E34)

EC3, ANGEL, ex-Bass, closed and interior stripped. (E37)

WC1, 2 ANGELS BAR, Free, closed. (W16)

W1(Mar), IGUAZU, Free, converted to shop. (W52)

EAST

E5, DOWNS HOTEL, ex-Taylor Walker, converted to residential use. Formerly **DOWNS**. (E99, U162)

E5, FOUNTAIN, ex-Watney, closed. (E100)

E5, OLD KINGS HEAD, Ground floor now empty after period as restaurant, flats above – correction to U159. (E100, U159)

E8, QUEEN ELIZABETH, Free, now used as church by 'New Connection International Church. (E115, U85, U159, U187)

E11, TOBY CARVERY (SNARESBROOK). Renamed **EAGLE**, H removed. Now M&B, ex-Bass and still a Toby Carvery. Formerly **EAGLE HOTEL**. (E128, U143)

E11, WOODHOUSE TAVERN, Free, H now removed. (E130, U100, U168)

E11, ZULUS, Punch, ex-Taylor Walker, H now removed. Formerly **RED LION**. (E129, U73, U79, U160, U168)

ELM PARK (HORNCHURCH), ELM PARK, ex-Ind Coope, H removed. Formerly **NEW ELM PARK**. (X50)

HORNCHURCH, CRICKETERS, Enterprise, ex-Watney via Unique, H unused. (X71)

HORNCHURCH, LLOYDS NO 1 BAR, Wetherspoon, closed and boarded up. Formerly **WHITE HART** and previously **NEWT & CUCUMBER**. (X71, U153, U157)

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 196

UPMINSTER, BRIDGE HOUSE. Now simply BRIDGE, Greene King, H removed. Was BRIDGE HOUSE (PICKLED NEWT) for a while. (X121, U155)
UPMINSTER, MASONS ARMS, H unused. (X121, U159)

NORTH

N1, BACCHUS, Enterprise, H now removed. A drastic makeover has removed most of the old features including the horseshoe bar with brass inlays, creating 90% restaurant and 10% bar. (U164)

N1, PENNY FARTHING, ex-Ascot, ex-Belhaven, ex-Watney (not Bass), confirmed converted to pizza restaurant. (N54, U189, U195)

N1, PRINCE ALFRED, ex-Whitbread, ground floor now converted to shop, with flats above. (N55, U181)

N1, UNICORN, ex-Sycamore Taverns, now converted to 'Papa Jo's' pizza take-away outlet. (N61, U164, U178)

N1, WHITE HORSE, Free, ex-Phoenix, closed and boarded up. (N62, U112, U152)

N4, ALEXANDRA (BAR & EATING HOUSE), Free, ex-Taylor Walker, closed and boarded up. Previously HORNSEY WOOD TAVERN. (N75, U141, U185)

N7, ST GEORGES THEATRE BAR, Free, now demolished along with modern extension. (N90, U153)

N16, PRINCE OF WALES, ex-Courage, originally Truman, now demolished. (N130, U173)

N22, RAFTERS, Free, converted to commercial use. Formerly PALACE GATES. (N156, U167)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, THREE JOLLY GARDENERS, ex-Truman.

Reported demolished in U192, now replaced by flats. (SE36, U192)

SE5, OLD DISPENSARY, Free, closed and boarded up. (U195)

SE6, PLACE HOUSE TAVERN, ex-Whitbread. Closed and empty, planning application submitted for change of use to commercial. Formerly PRINCE HENRY. (SE68, U102)

SE6, RISING SUN, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. Was GOOSE & GRANITE for a while. (SE68, U120, U164, U188)

SE10, AUCTIONEER, M&B, ex-Bass (Scream), H removed. (U138)

SE15, IVY HOUSE, Glenfield Holdings, H now removed. Formerly STUART ARMS. (SE140, U126)

SE18, ANGLESEA ARMS, Shepherd Neame, H unused. (SE164)

SE18, CASTLE TAVERN, ex-S&N, H unused. (SE166)

SE18, CROWN & CUSHION, ex-Watney, still closed and boarded up. (SE166, U156)

SE18, MITRE, Greene King, H unused. (SE169)

SE18, PRINCE ALBERT, 9 Old Mill Rd, ex-Courage, H unused. Under threat of compulsory purchase from Greenwich Council for a school extension. (SE171)

SE18, ROSE & CROWN, ex-Whitbread, closed and

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Presentation
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Muzik Kwiz – 1st Sep
General Kwiz – 29th Sep**



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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.

boarded up. (SE173)

SE18, STAR, 84 Wellington St, Free, ex-Labatts, still closed and boarded up. (SE174, U102, U126, U187)

SE18, WOODMAN, Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur via Unique, H removed. (SE175)

SE25, FREEMASONS TAVERN, ex-Ind Coope, confirmed converted to flats. (SE216, U175)

SE25, GOAT HOUSE, Fuller, now demolished. (SE216, U120, U175)

SE26, MAN OF KENT, ex-Bass, closed and boarded up. (SE223)

BEXLEY (BLENDON), THREE BLACKBIRDS, M&B, ex-Bass, H removed. (3SE210, K36)

BEXLEYHEATH, CROOK LOG, M&B, ex-Bass, H removed. Was TOBY CARVERY (BEXLEYHEATH) for a while. (3SE211, K33, U157, U168)

BIGGIN HILL, GLASS'S CAFÉ BAR, Free, converted to restaurant. (U47)

BIGGIN HILL, MANOR, Free, demolished. (U47)

BROMLEY (SUNDRIDGE PARK), CROWN, Spirit, ex-S&N, H unused. (3SE216, 8K164, U107)

BROMLEY (SUNDRIDGE PARK), TEASEL, Greene King, now demolished. Was HUNGRY HORSE for a while. (SE220, U59, 8K164, U98, U99, U108, U117, U131, U187)

BROMLEY COMMON, PLOUGH, ex-Whitbread, now converted to commercial use. (3SE223, U46, 8K51, U163)

CROYDON, ALMA TAVERN, Spirit, ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. (3SE234, U50, U108)

CROYDON, SUN, Free, closed and boarded up. Formerly RISING SUN. (3SE249, U181, U184)

FARNBOROUGH, GEORGE (AT FARNBOROUGH), ex-Courage, demolished. (3SE266, U64, 8K203)

ORPINGTON, ANCHOR & HOPE, ex-Inntrepreneur, ex-Courage, closed for sale. (3SE265, 8K130, U163)

ORPINGTON, BLACKSMITH (YE OLDE), ex-S&N, closed and boarded up. Formerly ARTICHOKE. (3SE265, 8K130, U107, U163)

ORPINGTON, RAM BA BA, ex-Young. Renamed MR JACKS and now a Free House, closed and empty. (U142)

ST MARY CRAY, ANGLESEA ARMS, Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique, closed for sale. (3SE269, U60, 8K145)

ST MARY CRAY, BLACK BOY, ex-Courage, now converted to a community centre. (3SE269, 8K145, U160)

ST MARY CRAY, SEVEN STILES, Greene King, demolished. (3SE271, U64, 8K146, U98, U117)

ST PAULS CRAY, BROOMWOOD, Spirit, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (3SE270, U46, 8K147)

SIDCUP, BLACK HORSE, 3 Sidcup High St, Enterprise, H unused. Was BLUE ROSE for a while. (3SE272, U107, K127)

SIDCUP, HORSE & GROOM, M&B, ex-Whitbread, H removed. (3SE273, K127)

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AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Friday 24th – Monday 27th August 2007

40+ CASK ALES

Special deals for CAMRA members.

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SIDCUP (BLACKFEN), WOODMAN, Spirit, ex-S&N, H removed. (3SE274, U107, K36)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), REEF, Free, now converted to retail. (U166, U190)

SW6, FRONT ROOM, 562 Kings Rd. Renamed **NECTAR**, Free, H removed. Formerly **TUT 'N' SHIVE**. (SW71, U150)

SW6, LUNASA, Free, now converted to commercial use. Formerly **ADELAIDE**. (SW65, U134, U158)

SW18, SPOTTED DOG, Woolwich Taverns, closed end of January 2007. (SW114, U138, U146, U167, U174, U178, U181, U193)

WEST

W2, WHITE HART. Spirit, now demolished. The end for this 1930s mews pub. (W80)

W7, OLD BILL, Trust Inns, closed and boarded up. (W108)

W8, CATHERINE WHEEL, ex-Bass, confirmed converted to 'Ramda' restaurant. (W235)

W8, SETTLE DOWN, Free, closed and absorbed into basement of Barkers shopping complex. (W111, U189)

HAYES (UB3), KINGS ARMS, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. (W160)

HESTON (TW5), HOPE & ANCHOR, Free, still closed and boarded up. (W163)

ISLEWORTH (TW7), KINGS ARMS, Enterprise, still closed and boarded up. (W172)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC2, PACIFIC ORIENTAL. Renamed **PROHIBITION**. Now a Free House/bar & grill. Still no real ale in this former brewpub. Brewing equipment removed. (U140, U178)

EC3, HOG'S HEAD, 1 America Sq. Renamed **SLUG & LETTUCE**. Retains Caledonian: Deuchars IPA and Fuller: London Pride. Now Laurel, ex-Whitbread. Formerly **HOGSHEAD**. (U131, U171)

EC4, HOG'S HEAD, 5-11 Fetter La. Renamed **SLUG & LETTUCE**. Now Laurel, ex-Whitbread. Formerly **HOGSHEAD**. (U150, U175)

EC3, POET BAR, 18/20 Creechurch St. Free, closed early 2006 but not previously reported. Sold and renamed **CHRISTOPHERS BAR & GRILL** for a short while but, prior to opening, sold on again to be renamed **LOWLANDER (GRAND CAFÉ)**, the second outlet for the speciality Belgian & Dutch beer café in Covent Garden. No real ale but 16 Belgian and Dutch beers available on keg font (£1.60 to £2.80 a half pint) together with around 100 bottled beers. Pleasantly fitted out with yellow and cream décor, beer adverts, polished pine flooring, pewter bar top, subtle lighting and a mixture of tables, chairs and benches. Beer tasting events with tutored tastings. Downstairs bar being fitted out available for private functions. Open Mon-Fri only 8.30am for breakfast, drinks from 11.30am to 11pm. Food until 10pm including main meals and snacks. (U145, U155, U158)

EC4, JAMIES. Renamed **APOSTLE**, still no real ale.

Operated by Food & Drink Group. Formerly 34 **LUDGATE HILL**, originally **SLURPING TOAD**. (U131, U154, U156, U182)

EC4, MAGPIE & STUMP. Renamed **FIREFLY**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride. (E50, U66)

WC1, DUKES. Renamed **NUMBER TWELVE** after a swanky makeover, still no real ale. (W18)

W1(S), BAR ROOM BAR (BRB). Renamed **EXCHANGE BAR**, still no real ale. (W63)

EAST

UPMINSTER, ESSEX YEOMAN, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier. (X121)

NORTH

N4, WORLDS END. Barracuda pub acquired by Capital Pub Co in May 2007. Likely to close temporarily for refurbishment. (N77, U188)

N7, LIL RED. Reverted to **WIG & GOWN**. H still unused. (N91, U188)

NORTH WEST

NW6, CALCOTT TAVERN. Renamed **FATHER TED'S**. (N204, U158)

NW6, CANE. Renamed **ECLIPSE**. Formerly **SCRUFFY MURPHYS**, originally **ARKWRIGHTS WHEEL**. (N203, U152, U160)

NW6, RAT & PARROT. Reverted to **RAILWAY**. (N206, U174)

STANMORE, RED LEOPARD. Renamed **SPICE RACK**, an Indian bar and restaurant. (W194)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BREW WHARF, Brew Wharf Yard, Stoney St. House beers brewed on the premises are now named Wharf Bitter (3.6%) £3.20/pint and Wharf Best (4%) £3.40/pint. Occasional specials include Trader (3.9%), Century Ale (4%) and Rebel (4.9%). Employees of local companies frequenting the pub can now help brew a 'Special' (hence Century Ale brewed by 'Century Films' employees). Contact brewer Iain Peebles. (U186)

SE5, JACK BEARD'S. Renamed **BEAR**. Black Sheep: Bitter; 3 changing guest ales and some unusual RABs. Now a fully independent Free House intended to source particular ales requested by customers, sensitively and unpretentiously restored and retaining two separate bar areas. Reasonably priced evening food Tue-Sat 6-10, brunch Sat 12-3, roast Sun 12-6. Open 4-11 Mon-Fri, 12-11 Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. Formerly **STATION**. (SE62, U135)

SE10, MITRE. 'O'Sullivan's' Irish bar at the side has now been absorbed into the pub proper. (SE98, U102, U123, U184)

SE13, ZAR BAR. Renamed **STONEWALLS** by 2004 and now renamed again to **TWO8SIX**. Originally **CASTLE (KELLY'S)**. (SE118, U102, U125)

SE15, OLD NUNS HEAD, -beers listed; +guest beers (e.g. Brakspear: Bitter, Otter Ale, Brains: SA). Now Punch, ex-Bass. (SE138)

SE18, ELEPHANT & CASTLE, -beers listed; +Brains: Bitter (£1.70/pint). (SE168, U171)

SE18, JACK BEARDS AT THE VOLUNTEER, -beers

listed; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Young: Bitter.
Formerly VOLUNTEER. (SE174, U155)

SE18, LORD DERBY, -John Smith: Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree. (SE169)

SE18, PRINCE ALBERT (ROSE'S), 49 Hare St. Sadly the guv'nors of 18 years, Dave and Jackie are due to leave this pub at the end of July and it has been sold by auction to an unknown bidder for a price of £800,000 that reflects its perceived development value and may threaten its future as a pub. We all hope that this rare and unique community pub will be rescued to continue serving the discerning drinkers of Woolwich. (SE171)

SE18, WHO'D A THOUGHT IT, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (SE175, U107)

SE22, HERNE TAVERN. Renamed **O'REILLYS** by 2004 but reverted to original name by October 2006. (SE200, U192)

SE23, BLYTHE HILL TAVERN, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +guest beers (e.g. Adnams, Westerham). Now Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique. (SE204)

SE23, HOBBS. Now **HOB (THE)**. Formerly **HOBGOBLIN** and previously **PIE & KILDERKIN**. (SE207, U102, U116, U166)

BEXLEYHEATH, LLOYDS NO 1 BAR. Renamed **FURZE WREN** in February 2007 and now, after refurbishment, a Wetherspoon proper with more emphasis on real ale: -Young: Triple A; +Marston: Pedigree; retains 2 guest beers. A furze wren is apparently an alternative name for the Dartford warbler bird. Open daily 8am-11.30pm. (U166)

CHISLEHURST, PENNY FARTHING. Renamed **LOUNGE**, still no real ale. Formerly **WHITE HORSE**. (3SE227, U59, U87, 8K205, U163)

CROYDON, ORCHARD, -beer listed; +Fuller: London Pride. Not always available. Formerly **CHERRY ORCHARD**. (3SE237)

KENTON, GREYHOUND, -beers listed; +Harvey: Sussex Bitter; +Young: Special. Now a Market Taverns Free House, ex-Courage. (3SE262)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), HEDGEHOG & PHEASANT. Renamed **WARWICK**. Formerly **ORANGE KIPPER**, originally **PRINCESS ROYAL** (SW41, U141)

SW6, LEGLESS TUP. Renamed **FULHAM TUP**. Formerly **LEGLESS LADDER**. (SW68, U166)

SW6, SOUTHERN CROSS. Reverted to **PETERBOROUGH** after 21 years. (SW71)

SW11, CHOPPER. Renamed **BATTERSEA BAR**. (SW87)

SW11, ONE TWO SIX. Renamed **CUBAN**. Formerly **NAPIER ARMS**. (SW89, U139)

SW16, WATERFRONT, -Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. (U156, U188)

WEST

W2, BAR OZ. Renamed **PHOENIX HOTEL**, still no real ale. Believed now leased from Punch. (W71)

W13, CASTLEBAR, + Adnams: Bitter. (W126)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 194

NEW & PUBS CLOSED ETC

NW1, NO 1 BAR. Has always been called **QUEENS BAR** (since U184). The confusion arose from the etching of No 1 Bar in the glass windows referring to the address rather than the pub name. Refs should read: (N173, U184)

PUBS CLOSED ETC

NW1, VICTORY, 152 Albany St. Delete entry; still open and trading as a pub. Confused with **VICTORY**, 41 Clarence Way, which was converted to a Thai restaurant (see U192).

OTHER CHANGES ETC

N1, SUSSEX. Should read **SCHOLT HEAD**. (Scholt is apparently an island in Norfolk.)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 195

NEW & REOPENED PUBS CLOSED ETC

N1, BACKPACKERS Should read **BACKPACKER**, as per N guide.

SE5, OLD DISPENSARY. Is a Free House.

SW6, DURRELL. Refs should read: (SW70 etc)

SW16, GREYHOUND. Now a Free House, ex-Spirit.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

EC3, WINE LODGE. Add: **FORMERLY CHAPMANS WINE LODGE**

WC2, BAT & BALL. Now Free, ex-M&B

W1(F), PINT POT (now **BAR AT TCR**). Now Free, ex-Spirit.

W1(Mar), ALL BAR ONE (now **LA VINA**). Now Free, ex-M&B.

E1, BARLEY MOW. Delete second set of refs.

N1, ED VI. Delete entry; still trading as a pub.

N1, PENNY FARTHING. Should read ex-Ascot.

WEMBLEY, PLOUGH. Should read (HA0).

SE1, ALL BAR ONE. Now M&B, ex-Bass.

SE11, SOUTH LONDON PACIFIC. Formerly **COCK TAVERN**.

THORNTON HEATH, HORSESHOE. Enterprise, ex-S&N, ex-Courage.

SW11, PINE TAVERN. Should refer to planning application.

RUISLIP, TALLY HO. Ref should read: (W237)

OTHER CHANGES ETC

HAREFIELD (UB9), PICKLE JAR (now **HAREFIELD**). Should read: -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier etc.

COULSDON, LION. Should read **CROYDON**.

SW6, COCK (now **COCK & HEN**). Brewing plant is 4.5 barrels capacity.

W7, ROYAL VICTORIA. Delete entry. **McCANN'S** remains as per W guide.

FELTHAM, ROSE & CROWN (now **MANSION**). Should read (TW13)

HILLINGDON, LITTLE FOX. Should read **CHAMPIONS**. Renamed **LITTLE FOX**.

Museum mecca

The advent of free museum admission has brought culture to the masses. London offers world-class museums galore, in which you can spend a lifetime exploring to your heart's content, with repeat visits a must. This article will skim the wondrous offerings of three museums in the Museum District, all within walking distance of each other, then recommend some pubs to visit to quench your thirst.

Whether you are a specialist or eclectic in your interests, the Museum District has something for everyone. If you like art and design, the magnificent V&A is for you; if you prefer the history of dinosaurs, fishes, birds, humans, and plants, the Natural History Museum is your cup of tea; and if you are a science and/or technology buff, head for the Science Museum. Each of these can enlighten and expand your horizons. None of them can be covered in a day, so relax and plan your next trip to any or all of them. The South Kensington Tube has a convenient tunnel leading to the museums, so they can be reached easily on a bad weather day. Special exhibits charge an admission, so check the respective web sites to see what's available. Of course, donations are always welcome.

The **Victoria and Albert Museum** (Cromwell Road, SW7; 020-7942 2000; South Kensington Tube; www.vam.ac.uk; opening hours: 10am-5.45 daily; 10am-10pm Wednesday and the last Friday of the month), affectionately known as the V&A, has glorious offerings for the visitor, from the collections and special exhibits to shops with an array of gifts, books, and collectables of high quality to good food in the cafés to free daily tours and talks, accessible on screens at the entrance or on leaflets, in addition to free family activities. This museum truly has something for everyone, and its pull on the visitors can draw them back again and again. After years of visiting there, I've finally discovered the Cast Courts, reproductions of some of the world's masterpieces, which took my breath away. Located in rooms 46a and 46b, these are mainly plaster casts for statues, religious icons, effigies, plinths, and fronts of churches. Opened in 1873, one of the courts is dominated by two sections of Trajan's Column, an awe-inspiring sight, which demands an answer to the question, 'How did they get it here intact and install it in this room?' Also included is an exhibition of how the casts are made, using the death mask of Queen Elizabeth I.

Some of my favourite haunts at the museum include the Fashion gallery in room 40 and the Morris, Gamble and Poynter Rooms. Condé Nast Traveller had a special section in the April 2004 issue, '60 Minutes in the Victoria and Albert Museum', an excellent guide for the visitor with limited time to spend at the museum. Among the recommendations are the Great Bed of Ware, the

Mortlake Tapestry and various paintings by Landseer and Gainsborough. Allow yourself enough time to see at least a portion of the museum's offerings and plan to return on a follow up visit.

The **Natural History Museum** (Cromwell Road, SW7; 020-7942 5000; South Kensington Tube; www.nhm.ac.uk; opening hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sun 11am-5.50pm) is located nearby in a most unusual building that strikes the visitor's eye immediately. The building and exhibits here are massive; the dinosaur exhibit, one of the most popular exhibits for all ages, is a must-see. It has skeletons and models, interactive questions and answers, hands-on, touch-feel models of tusks, teeth, etc. The four shops, including the Dino Shop, sell items unique to the exhibits and attractively arranged to catch the shopper's eye, and I saw many youngsters happily clutching toy dinosaurs as they left the museum, helping them to remember their special day out. Pick up a museum map to take you to your own special interest sections. You might want to take the free Explore Tour, which lasts 40 minutes and shows a behind-the-scenes working of the museum by its 300 scientists. This can be booked at the Life Galleries information desk. Whether you are interested in the Life Galleries or the Earth Galleries, this museum holds wonders for you. Its magnificent surroundings inspire you to explore them.

The **Science Museum** (Exhibition Road, SW7; South Kensington Tube; www.sciencemuseum.org.uk; opening times: 10am-6pm daily;) is a place of learning for all ages. Just to see the enormous landing gear of a jet plane at one of the entrances leaves the viewer with a new perspective of flight engineering. I've been interested in Isambard Kingdom Brunel since seeing his suspension bridge in Bristol, and more on this amazing man was recently available at the Science Museum. Commemorating the 200th anniversary of Brunel's birth, the exhibit focused on his last project, the 'immense steamship Great Eastern', and showed famous photos of Brunel in front of the ship's huge launching chains. Among the vast holdings of the museum are exhibits featuring mathematics, ships, flight, agriculture, telecommunications and veterinary history, to name a few. Whatever in the world interests you is likely to be represented here. The IMAX 3D Cinema, which charges an admission fee, hosts a changing line up. Check the web site before you go so that you can make the most of your time. Although school groups are encouraged at all three of these museums, adults have plenty to keep their minds occupied as well.

After such a long time wandering the floors of your chosen museum, you deserve a beer. Among your choices of pubs is the **Nag's Head** (53

Kinnerton Street, SW1; 020-7235 1135; Knightsbridge Tube). Kevin Moran, the feisty landlord, has put his own name on the pub sign above the picture of the nag's head to show that this is, indeed, his 'private' pub with fresh, well-kept Adnams beer and no ties to a brewery. The unusual layout, with bars on two levels, adds to its unique atmosphere. The Good Beer Guide claims that 'the front one boasts possibly the lowest bar counter in London'. Over the fireplace in the lower bar is a sign which reads 'No mobile phones—thank you', a distinctly individualistic outcry against the ubiquitous blight on modern society. Moran thinks mobiles are rude and unnecessary. The day I visited, opera music filled the pub, and the regulars were chatting to each other, a very cosy feel to the place. Be sure to read the truthful and glowing comment on the pub at pubs.com. As one beer guide states, 'The atmosphere is always relaxed and welcoming, and it's the kind of place where they'll greet you when you come in and say goodbye as you leave'. Not the kind of uninviting pub where no one knows your name or the kind of beer you prefer but the old-fashioned one where everyone knows the landlord's name—because, even if it's your first time to visit—it's on the pub sign!

Another choice of post-museum pub is the **Grouse & Claret** (14 Little Chester Street, SW1; 020-7235 3438; Hyde Park Corner Tube), which is easy to find if you know where it is. Try to go in the daytime, because, even with a pub map and A-Z, we've got lost at night. Also, be aware that this pub is closed on the weekends. 'A real pub', my husband calls this, and it also offers one of the few Stilton ploughman's that I have seen in London pubs; as this is my favourite pub grub, it adds yet another reason to return to this lovely pub, which recently served, among other beers, Badger Brewery's Tanglefoot and Fursty Ferret. 'Tucked away into a discreet mews off Belgrave Square, this is a good, solidly built modern pastiche of a gentlemanly old-fashion tavern. . . .'. You will be paying Central London prices for your beer, but if the above accolades attract you, head for the Grouse & Claret. You won't be disappointed.

After trudging around at least one museum and filling yourself with information from the 'Museum Mecca', relax at a pub; then go home full of knowledge and good beer. Repeat as often as necessary.

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Hackney thanked for success of Beer Festival

Beer enthusiasts have thanked Hackney Borough Council for the strong support given to the Pig's Ear Beer Festival in December 2006. The Council made the Ocean Theatre in Mare Street, Hackney, available to the organisers, the East London & City (ELAC) Branch of CAMRA. It also helped greatly in promoting the Festival.

As a token of gratitude, at Hackney Town Hall on 5 June, ELAC presented Cllr. Afolasade Bright,



Cllr. Afolasade Bright (centre) receives cheques from Derek Jones (left), Pig's Ear Festival Organiser and Jon Russell Brown (right), ELAC Chairman, Cllr. Vincent Stops of Hackney is on the far left.

the 2006-07 Speaker of Hackney with two cheques of £100 each as donations to her chosen charities, *St Joseph's Hospice* and *Help The Aged Hackney*.

Cllr. Bright said, "We were pleased to host the famous Pig's Ear Beer Festival last December at the Ocean. It was enormous fun and well supported by local people. We will welcome it back again to the Ocean in 2007. The dates will be Tuesday 4 December until and including Saturday 8 December."

Derek Jones, Pig's Ear Festival Organiser, commented, "The Ocean is a superb state-of-the-art venue and the Hackney Council people were invariably helpful. We're delighted to show our gratitude by aiding Charity." Jon Russell Brown, Chairman of ELAC, added, "3,500 attended the 2006 Festival and greatly appreciated the quality of the Ocean venue and the warm Hackney welcome. We owe a special 'thank you' to Hackney Councillor, Vincent Stops. He worked tirelessly to enable the festival to come to Hackney and ensure that it was then the great success it was."

Festival fans salute Ballard's Brewery

On Saturday July 7 over 40 beer enthusiasts paid a visit of congratulation to Ballard's Brewery at Nyewood near Petersfield, Ballard's Old Bounder Darkly Veiled having being voted by 3500 attendees as Beer of the Festival at the CAMRA East London & City Branch (ELAC) Pig's Ear Beer Festival in December 2006.

Festival Organiser, Derek Jones, says, "Ballard's is a fine example of a craft brewery producing outstanding traditional top-fermented beers. Its Old Bounder Darkly Veiled is an excellent example of a Barley Wine: vinous, rich, deeply malty and potent. It

will happily be available again at the next Pig's Ear to be held at the Ocean, Hackney from 4 to 8 December."

Carola Brown, Ballard's owner and director comments, "We can proudly say that Ballard's has received many awards. But this is special. Pig's Ear is a renowned and long-standing beer festival and to be honoured by 3500 beer connoisseurs is most pleasing. We're delighted to be back there again in December."

Note: Ballard's Brewery is a Member of the Society of Independent Brewers and has traded successfully since 1980. Its telephone number is 01730 821301



Pictured left to right are – Fran Weston, Brewer at Ballard's, Carola Brown, Jon Russell Brown (clutching a Darkly Veiled!), and Derek Jones.

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There has been a slight generational shift at the Duke of Hamilton in Hampstead. This three-times winner of North London's Pub of the Year title was until recently run by husband and wife team, Michael and Mary Wooderson, but they are now taking a bit of a back seat and their son Richard is at the reins. As one of his first initiatives, Richard is looking to hold a beer festival at the pub over the weekend of August 31, September 1/2. The intention is to feature some of the gold/silver/bronze medal winners from the Champion Beer of Britain competition, the results of which will have been announced at the Great British Beer festival at Earls Court in August.

As well as up to 20 beers, Richard also plans to have a few unusual ciders and perries. The beers will be stillaged in the cellar bar and, on the assumption the rains have finally relented, it is hoped good weather will allow drinkers to take full use of the outside terrace. All being well, CAMRA will have a small membership/book stand at the event.

Less encouraging news comes from Flask Walk where pub owners Young's have upset drinkers at the Flask through their plan to convert the lounge bar of the pub into a gastro-style operation. One of North London's best known pubs, it was rebuilt in 1870 and has been owned by Young's for over 100

years. Managers Andrew Thomson and Simon Allen canvassed the opinion of regulars and submitted plans to run the pub. It appears they did not push the right buttons in SW London and not only was the plan rejected but Andrew and Simon have been fired and new management is being brought in to run the pub on different lines. Apparently the public bar will remain much as it is but the concern is that the lounge side will only be welcoming to diners.

It is not as if Hampstead is either short of restaurants or indeed short of gastro pubs. Nor was the pub short of eating space as at the rear of the lounge there's a large conservatory geared towards food. In these times, the need for pubs to offer food is clear but it would be a shame if that was to come at the expense of regular drinkers and loyal customers who are, in essence, being given the message that their custom is no longer valued. Let us hope that in its new guise the Flask remains welcoming to traditional drinkers in all areas of the pub who can continue to sit and have a chat over their pint of Special. The consistent failure of what was the other Young's pub in Hampstead, the Horse and Groom, to operate as a restaurant should be a clear warning that this is something that can easily be got wrong.

John Cryne

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Alcohol units and pricing: the facts

It is surprising how many people know so little about 'units' of alcohol. Your editor was right in pointing out the vast difference in price between buying those units in a pub or in a supermarket. However, the polarity is more extreme than he suggested. He has asked me to explain it.

One unit of alcohol is 10 millilitres (ml), or one centilitre (cl), so that one litre of any alcoholic drink contains its percentage alcoholic strength in units. Thus a litre of 14% Shiraz contains 14 units, a litre of 37.5% gin contains 37.5 units and a litre of 5% ale contains 5 units.

So a bottle (75 cl) of wine contains three quarters of its percentage alcoholic strength in units. That old adage that a bottle of wine contains 6 units is correct if it's some 8% Liebfraumilch or similar, but a 14% bottle? That's ten and a half units. And some pubs are serving wine in 250 ml glasses – a third of a bottle. Three and a half units per glass, then, if it's a 14% bottle! And as for the mark-up, pricewise, in a pub or wine bar !!

When most spirits were 40% alcohol instead of 37.5%, it was so simple. A 'normal' single pub

measure is 25 ml. So a 70 cl bottle contained 28 units and 28 single measures. With the 37.5% stuff there are 'only' $26\frac{1}{4}$ units in the bottle. I can buy 70cl of supermarket gin for as little as £6.30. At 37.5% that is 24p per unit. A pub might charge ten times that, as well as charging about £1.50 for a tiny bottle of tonic (litres available in a supermarket for under 40p) or about 80p for a squirt of coke.

A pint of 3.5-3.6% ale contains 2 units and, in London, most pubs are charging well over £2.50 per pint now. 568 ml in a pint, of course. A 440 ml can of 5% lager? Easy maths, in yer head: 2.2 units, as a litre would contain 5 units.

In short, the number of alcohol units in a bottle or a drink is the millilitres multiplied by the abv percentage figure and divided by a thousand. Unit for unit, the pint of session beer in a London pub is typically more than *five times* as expensive as that supermarket gin.

So it's all down to Wetherspoon's for a 7.5% cider at £2.10 per pint., then? $4\frac{1}{4}$ units ($568 \times 7.5/1000$) at under 50p per unit: burrrp!

Peter Booth

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Who says that beer and intellectual activity don't mix? I'm sure that many LD readers tackle Idle Moments or the crossword over a pint or two in a pub of their choice. Organised pub quizzes have become very popular and establishments of high repute such as the Dog & Bell, Wenlock Arms and the Trafalgar in South Wimbledon hold regular quiz nights. Such events provide good light hearted quizzing with the prospect of cash prizes in some cases. But where do you go if you want to take your general knowledge to a slightly more serious level?

Well, you can always try the Quiz League of London (QLL). This began in 1990, in its early days confining its activities to south of the Thames. Starting with just four teams, it's expanded to the extent that last season seventeen teams competed in two divisions. The attraction of this form of quizzing is that, on the one hand it's challenging and competitive; on the other it's an enjoyable and sociable way to spend a Tuesday evening.

An even bigger attraction is that most of the teams play in venues which serve real ale, which seems to be the favoured tipple of the majority of participants. I play in a team named Accrington Cylindricals (please don't ask), a highly underachieving outfit which mostly comprises SPBW members and plays in the Royal Oak, Borough. This venue is also used by a team called Ovalytes, who have strayed a couple of miles from their roots. Last season our road trips took us to such worthy venues as the Triple Crown (Twickenham), Calthorpe Arms (Clerkenwell) and the Pineapple (Kentish Town) and we're looking forward to future visits.

The QLL season runs from September to April and includes knock out team and individual competitions, a charity night and various social quizzing events. Matches are 4 a side and last 30-40 minutes (depending if there's a half time beer break!). As a sample of the questions, try these from a recent league match:

1. From which German football club did Chelsea sign Michael Ballack in the summer of 2006?
2. Which band from Leeds did Liam Gallagher of Oasis describe as "...just a bad Blur"?
3. What part of the body is inflamed in gingivitis?
4. Which Nordic country gives its name to the strait that separates Greenland from Iceland?
5. What illustrator of Roald Dahl's books was Kirsty Young's first guest on *Desert Island Discs*?

You can find out more about the QLL from its website: www.qll.org.uk or email the League at londonquiz@hotmail.co.uk. Give it a try - you'll meet people, have a good drink and find out facts you never thought you wanted to know!

(Answers: 1 Bayern Munich; 2 Kaiser Chiefs; 3 Gums; 4 Denmark; 5 Quentin Blake)

Roger Jacobson

On a sunny April Saturday London Pub walks author Bob Steel led a group of about 15 CAMRA members, most from his home branch of Croydon & Sutton, on a Spring saunter through West London, on a walk offering more than London's usual share of microbrewery delights. First port of call was the **Red Lion** in Isleworth where



Phil Brewin landlord of Red Lion Isleworth, surrounded by some of the group.

landlord Phil Brewin, having built the pub up to host one of London's best beer ranges, is soon to move on. He opened up early to welcome us warmly and get the day off to a good start. He had the predictable wide range of brews, with the Vale Notley Ale packing a good punch for its 3% and the Grand Union Bitter on good form.

Down to the river in old Isleworth village and to riverside sun terrace at the **London Apprentice**.



Sun terrace at the London Apprentice.

The new management seem committed to real ale and there was certainly nothing wrong with the quality of the Taylor Landlord which we all selected. This was followed by a pleasant stroll though Syon Park, so by the time we arrived in Brentford we had regained our thirst and appetite. We made an unscheduled stop at **O'Brien's**, (formerly the Northumberland Arms) where there were four hand pumps with micro breweries well represented, including tasty Hop Back Porter, although the wall



Croydon & Sutton chair Dave Lands turns his hand to map reading.

to wall TVs were rather intrusive. A few yards further, the **Magpie & Crown** would be a highlight of any London pub walk as far as beer range is concerned, and as usual there was plenty to try (I tried the Tom Woods Barn Dance and Grand Union) - a good spot to linger for an extended stop with the tempting lunch menu as a further excuse!

Into Fuller's territory now, and some of the group managed to get geographically challenged on the short step to the **Brewery Tap**, located as it is in a little back street close to the river and canal. Eventually re-united in its tiny little back patio, we enjoyed Fuller's beers in good condition with an interesting guest ale in the shape of Castle Rock *Tree Sparrow*.

Resisting temptations of a siesta as it was that time of day, we followed the Thames Path along to Kew Bridge, where the Express Tavern had already shut for the afternoon. So we repaired across the road to Fuller's spacious **Waggon & Horses**, a spacious 1930s' roadhouse with a patio garden and beers in good condition. Most of us then walked along to Strand on the Green and the firmly upmarket **Bell & Crown**, which was doing a roaring trade in the sunshine, certainly a very pleasant spot right next to the river on a traffic free path. More Fuller's beers....

Now lightweights like myself peeled off at this point leaving the 'A' Team to continue and complete London pubs walk No. 27 by calling at the **Coach & Horses** across the river in Kew, with Young's fine Bedford ales, and then on to the **Inn at Kew Gardens** where unfortunately the quality of the beer appears to have taken a serious downturn since the book was published. On the plus side the excellent **Express Tavern** had reopened by the time the group returned to the north bank of the river and of course that fine establishment, arguably serving the best Bass ale in town, made a fitting finale to a full day that everybody had enjoyed.

Bob Steel

THE ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 5 Olympic Gold Medals of Sir Steve Redgrave
2. 3 Andrews Sisters
3. 7 Weeks from Easter to Whitsun
4. 9 Feet is the Length of a Table Tennis Table
5. 1 Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
6. 6 Of The Best
7. 12 Rugby Union Clubs in the Guinness Premiership
8. 3 Stripes on a Sergeant's Sleeve
9. 2 Countries have Land Borders with the United States
10. 8 Rolling Stones Number One Hits

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. NEVER DO IT - DERVENTIO
2. ST. POODLE - OLD POETS'
3. CAME WITH NINE FLAKES - TWICKENHAM FINE ALES
4. LASS MOWER - LOWERS ARMS
5. WANTED BOLT - BATTLEDOWN
6. DOWNLOADS - WOODLANDS
7. HARRIDAN READ BOND - HADRIAN AND BORDER
8. WAS HOLDER - OLDERSHAW
9. SLAVE? NEVER! - SEVERN VALE
10. DIG FRONT BUN - BUNTINGFORD

SBY4:

How well do you know the Underground? Did you match the stations with their correct lines?

1. Tufnell Park – Northern
2. Highbury & Islington – Victoria
3. Turnpike Lane – Piccadilly
4. Shoreditch – East London
5. Maida Vale – Bakerloo
6. Goldhawk Road – Hammersmith & City
7. Pinner – Metropolitan
8. Chiswick Park – District
9. Kilburn – Jubilee
10. Bethnal Green – Central

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The river on which the Victoria Falls stand is the Zambezi.
2. The river which flows from Lake Erie into Lake Ontario is called the Niagara River.
3. The other two rivers on the Isle of Wight apart from the Medina are both called the Yar (or for those who travel a bit more, the East Yar and West Yar).
4. The mutual help organisation formed when New York stockbroker Bill W and surgeon Bob S met in Akron Ohio in 1935 is Alcoholics Anonymous (as you might have guessed from the lack of surnames).

5. Also in Akron, Ohio the competition which has taken place annually since 1934 (for contestants aged between 11 and 15 years) is the All-American Soapbox Derby.
6. In Gaelic it is known as Ellan Vannin, but we English know it as the Isle of Man.
7. Tokinese, Singapura, American curl, Cymric and Cornish Rex are all breeds of domestic cat.
8. The film in which Marilyn Monroe played the part of Sugar Kane was Some Like it Hot.
9. The star sign (if you believe in such things) shared by the aforementioned Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland, Thomas Hardy, The Duke of Edinburgh and the Marquis de Sade is Gemini.
10. The English county on whose arms six martlets (a mythical bird, like a swallow but with no legs), appear is Sussex.

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No-one can make you feel inferior without your consent. (*Eleanor Roosevelt writing in the Catholic Digest, 1960*).

So there you are you superior lot – just ‘cos I know the answers to this bunch of puzzles and you don’t (perhaps), it doesn’t make me better than you. (But I do know the answers though.)

Enough of that arrant nonsense; it’s time for this arrant nonsense! And let’s start off with some number puzzles:

1. 4 EC have B with W
2. 13 W in a C
3. 6 is the N of BPS
4. 26 C in S
5. 60 OP in a C
6. 3 CF (H at GH or WC)
7. 8 S in a H
8. 32 C on the LE
9. 5 FO in a G
10. 24 CT by GC

And in case you haven’t suffered enough here’s a few bits of nonsense that when turned into anagrams become names of breweries (or maybe you can make something altogether more interesting out of one or two of them):

1. GO GRAY, LES
2. AXES TOMB
3. WARM SHEET
4. SORTED
5. ALL LEADEN
6. AH! MOTH ON PAM’S BRA
7. ALL CHIVE TYNEVALLEY
8. I BAR COMMENT
9. SLOW REF
10. CHER’S POTTER

While I was casting about aimlessly for a subject for this month’s 5BY4 I picked up the Good Beer Guide and the idea of County Brews came to me. At the start of each county section there is a list of the breweries located in it. I started at the beginning and picked one brewery from each county and jumbled them up. Can you unjumble them?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Driftwood | A. Durham |
| 2. Butts | B. Devon |
| 3. Goldfinch | C. Essex |
| 4. Hill Island | D. Cornwall |
| 5. Beartown | E. Dorset |
| 6. Potton | F. Cumbria |
| 7. Donnington | G. Gloucestershire |
| 8. Scattor Rock | H. Bedfordshire |
| 9. Yates | I. Cheshire |
| 10. Mighty Oak | J. Berkshire |

And at last we come to the trivia bit (No not trivial, that applies to the whole column) How many of these do you know?

1. The German word “hakenkreuz” means an emblem better known by what name?
2. In Australia, what is a jackaroo?
3. What name was given to the followers of the 14th century religious leader John Wyclif?
4. What is the proper name for the establishment in The Strand commonly known as the “Law Courts”?
5. The Order of Leopold was founded in 1832 by king Leopold II in what European country?
6. In nautical terms, what is a spanker?
7. In this year’s promenade concerts, what symphony is being performed twice because its scheduled performance last year was cancelled owing to a fire in part of the Royal Albert Hall?
8. And while we are talking about proper music, who wrote the Trout Quintet in 1819?
9. And before we leave music altogether, what is the correct term for a player of the lute?
10. What is lysergic acid diethylamide?

So there we are – that’s over for another couple of month’s. Enjoy the summer hols and I’ll have some more entertainment (!!!) for you in October – month of the Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival (Don’t miss it!).

Bye!

Andy Pirson

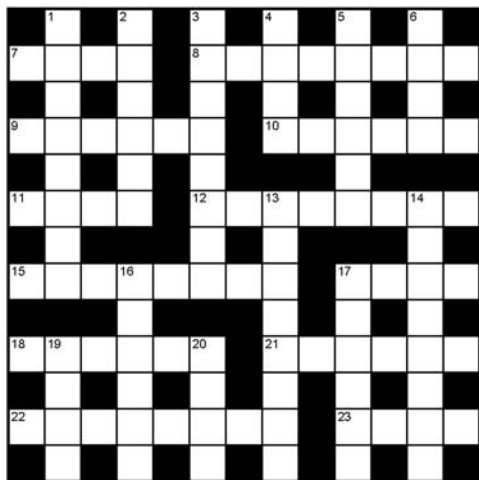
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Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



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All correct entries received by first post on 26th September will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the December London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the October edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

SOLUTION TO JUNE'S CROSSWORD



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

7. One marsh seen back in desert. [4]
8. It's shocking to vote for Nixon but not hard. [8]
9. Way out of a meeting place. [6]
10. When having right to enter, foreigners appear. [6]
11. Encourage operator to dismiss son. [4]
12. Break in mountains causes floods. [8]
15. Claimed fellow died in the act. [8]
17. Come on, Sadie, you've taken ages! [4]
18. Beat Olivier, almost, on a horse. [6]
21. Pea stick found in shelter. [6]
22. Write account of redhead with exhilaration. [8]
23. Sister heard no one. [4]

DOWN

1. Look on edge but get it together. [8]
2. He's intended to have most of money [6]
3. Gave up when fast in vegetation. [8]
4. Turned up a diamond? Great! [4]
5. Drunken Priest in bar. [6]
6. He is viewed with pride. [4]
13. Don't leer – it's upsetting and suggestive. [8]
14. It's believed to place people in accommodation. [8]
16. Flying musician? [6]
17. Points out drink as a source of power. [6]
19. Very nearly change the last word. [4]
20. Father has desire to be professional. [4]

Winner of the prize for the April Crossword:

M.J.Moran, Clapham Park, SW12.

Other correct entries were received from:

The A Team, Julie Ackroyd, Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe & Kathryn Everett, Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Geoff B, Jack Bass (the Gluepot), Mike Belsham, Steve Block, Bob at the Pawsons, Jeremy Brinkworth, Eddie Carr, John Cattermull, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Brian Collins, C.Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Paul Curson, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Chris Ellis, Brian Exford, Mike Farrelly, Paul Foley, Arthur Fox-Ache, Anthony Gdula & Jess the Collie, Ken Godfrey, Marion Goodall, Ellie Gray, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Stuart Guthrie & Carrie van Ollidae, Jez Haigh, John Harmer, John Heath, F.Hegarty, Kevin Henriques, Graham Hill, William Hill, David Hughes, Claire Jenkins, Gan Jenkins, Pete Large, Marjorie & Gerald Lopatis, Donald MacAuley, Steve Maloney, Terry Mellor, Alec Moore, Al Mountain, Ann R.Nunn, Alan O'Brien, Nigel Parsons, Mark Pilkington, Derek Pryce, John Redwood, Paul D.Reynolds, Richard Rogers, D.Shaftoe, Graham Shortell, Bryan Smith, P.G.Smith, Alina Syed, Ava Maria Taleyarkhan, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Thamesmead, Trevor Turner, Leo Walsh, Neil Walton, Tony & Ann Watkins, Martin Weedon, Ian Whiteman, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, Jon Witts.



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