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LONDON DRINKER



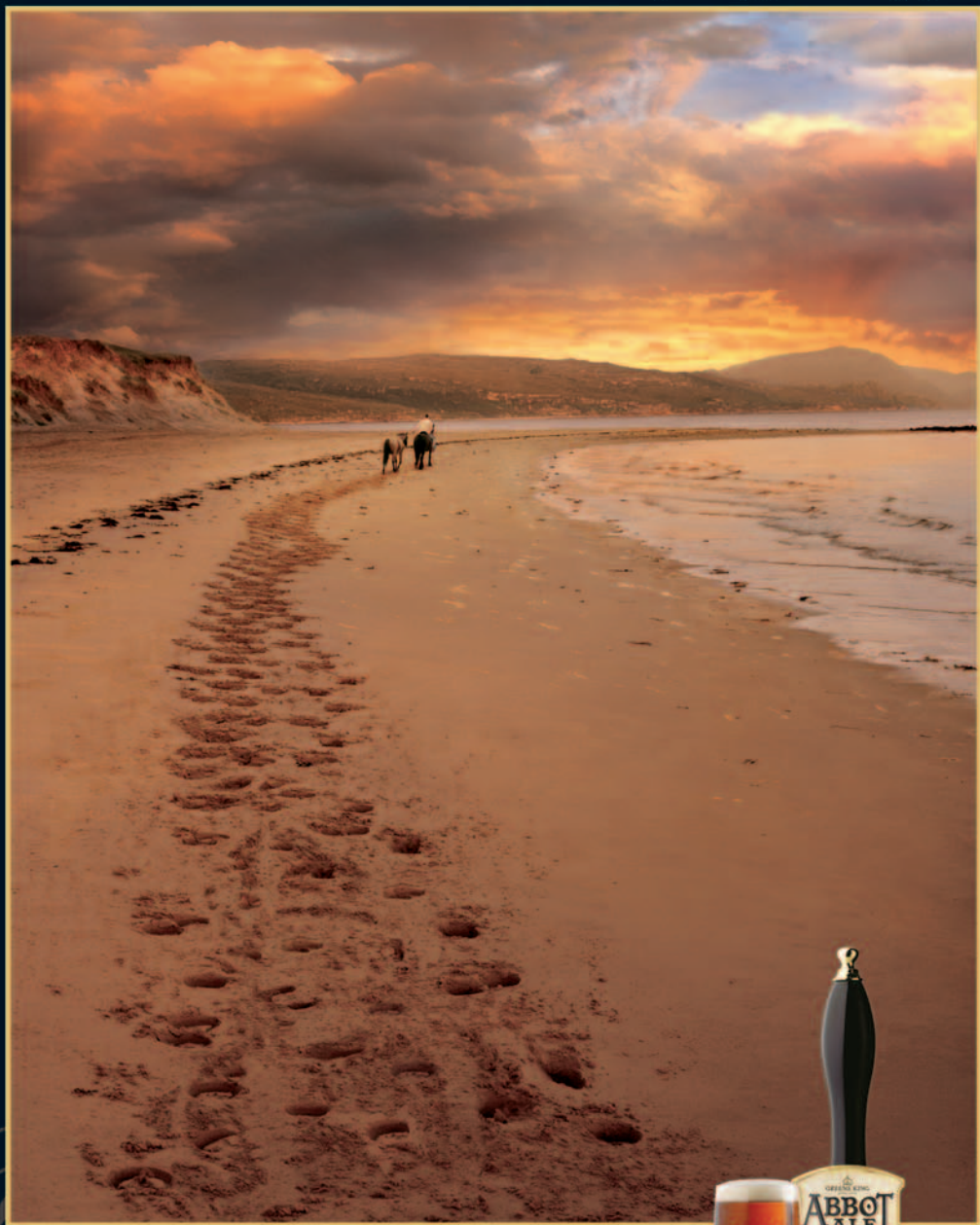
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Beneath that third runway? (see page 25)

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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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Pubs need drinkers

It may come as a surprise to some of CAMRA's membership, but traditional pubs are being lost because not enough people visit them. Trendy gastropubs are increasing in number because, quite simply, there is now a whole new generation of pubgoers and this is what they appear to want. Indeed, thank goodness lots of young people do still go to a pub of whatever ilk and, crucially, that many of these gastropubs serve real ale. We should welcome this and encourage all pub chains to follow suit and also encourage those that do feature real ale to offer a wider choice. Of course, there is no commercial sense in pub chains selling more real ale if not enough people are going to drink it. Here is the challenge facing CAMRA in promoting real ale through festivals and publicity, trying our best to level the playing field against the marketing budgets of the lager brewers.

This has to be the focus of our efforts. We must work with the market and not against it. It is not our job to force Carling drinkers to mend their ways at gunpoint any more than it is our business to prevent the private owners of a brewery or a pub from shutting it down if they can't make a profit. Things shutting down and things starting up is the very fabric of our

dynamic society, whether they be pubs, breweries, cinemas, curry houses or concrete factories. But it is very much our job – or rather aim – to help to expand the market for real ale, for this automatically supports the breweries that brew it and the pubs that sell it. The bottom line with regard to pubs is 'use it or lose it'. For real ale breweries of course, the mantra must be 'booze it or lose it'. And CAMRA has done a good job here, given that there were barely 70 independent breweries when CAMRA was formed against well over 600 today.

Young & Co could have taken the millions from the sale of the Wandsworth site and simply handed the loot back to their shareholders. They could have copied other pub chains with cheap bulk purchases of nitro-keg and lager replacing real ale in their mainly freehold pub estate, until that too were sold off to realise its enormous value. Instead, they invested in a substantial share of another much more efficient real ale brewery and made Herculean and to my mind successful attempts to match the beers. Moreover, they continue to invest in, improve and expand their estate and, best of all, they continue to support and promote real ale in all their outlets.

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Food now accounts for almost a quarter of total revenue, but good food brings people into the pub when they might otherwise have patronised a restaurant, and some of them will try and hopefully like the real ale on offer.

If Young's traditional pubs are well patronised, and I can think of several that are, then their future will in all likelihood be assured. If not, then Young & Co are quite justified in closing them, indeed they would be deserting their economic duty if they failed to do so. Not all the changes that Young & Co are making to their estate suit all the people all of the

time, but the massive boost in pub attendance and real ale consumption in the recently refurbished Young & Co pubs near me suggest that they are pleasing an awful lot more people than they are annoying.

Young & Co are opening and refurbishing far more pubs than they are closing down and bought five new ones in March alone. Even though we may regret the passing of a well loved pub, it is not and can never be CAMRA's business to tell Young & Co or any other brewery or pub company how to run their business. As an organisation we can express

regrets, and individuals are of course free to protest in any (legal) way that they wish. But in my opinion, that should be it. If we devote all our energies to contesting commercial decisions made by breweries and pub companies, then we deserve to be ignored by these same companies. To retain influence where it really matters – the quality, availability and variety of real ale – we should leave private firms to make their commercial decisions within the market-place. If they get it wrong, they go under and deservedly so.

Peter J Sutcliffe



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Work – the curse of the drinking classes (Oscar Wilde)

The Prologue

I ought to explain that the production schedule for London Drinker requires me to submit this column two weeks before publication so that inevitably some stories are overtaken by events, for example the Scottish & Newcastle take-over and Grand Union – see below. Whenever this happens, I hope that readers will bear with me accordingly.

Also, I should explain that this magazine is intended for the general pub-going and real ale drinking public of London, not just CAMRA members. In that context my good friend and colleague Andy Pirson has pointed out that I should not have included the item last time about the London Regional Pub of the Year. If I have an issue with something in the CAMRA

newspaper 'What's Brewing', I should take it up there. Quite right; apologies all round.

Those of you who remember the Frankie Howerd TV series *Up Pompeii* will recall that the Prologue was always interrupted by the soothsayer declaring: "Woe, Woe and Thrice Woe". And that, I regret, is mostly what I have for you this time.

A kick in the teeth from the Chancellor

A four penny tax increase will do nothing to curb binge drinking but will hit poorest the hardest. Readers will deplore the Chancellor's decision to increase beer duty by four pence a pint, with annual increases of 2% above inflation for the next four years. CAMRA fears that the increase will lead to at least 20 pence on a pint over the bar, accelerating pub closures and increasing unregulated drinking as more

choose to drink at home or on the streets. Tax on beer has never before increased by so much - a rise of 13%!

Real ale prices across the UK have increased by 4.6% in the last year, according to the latest CAMRA survey of pub prices across Britain, and the average price of a pint now sits at £2.45. Before Budget increases apply, the most expensive region for a pint is London at an average £2.64 for real ale and £2.84 for lager.

Statistics compiled by CAMRA Branches for 2007 reveal that 57 pubs are now lost permanently every month as the price differential between pubs and supermarkets widens. Pubs provide a regulated environment for people to enjoy alcohol socially and responsibly. Mike Benner, CAMRA chief executive said, "The Chancellor has failed to recognise that well-run community pubs are the solution to Britain's

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binge drinking problems. This budget will do nothing to stop binge drinking, but it will lead to pub closures on a huge scale, widen the gap between supermarket and pub prices and encourage smuggling and cross-border shopping. It's a great big nail whacked ruthlessly into the coffin of the British pub."

CAMRA had been campaigning for a cut in beer duty by a penny a pint to help cut the fall in beer sales, especially in pubs. There was some economic sense in this in that continued falling consumption would disproportionately reduce future income from duty paid. It would also have encouraged brewers not to close breweries in order simply to consolidate production for cost-reduction purposes, thereby reducing consumer choice.

Grand Union closes

I mentioned last time that GU had appointed a new brewer and I thought that although the brewery was still up for sale, it was as a going concern and that this was encouraging news. Alas, no buyers came forward and the brewery has closed after five years. The plant has already been sold off to a new enterprise in Liverpool. Sad.

Scottish & Newcastle takeover

It looks as if the takeover of the Scottish & Newcastle brewing operation by the Carlsberg and Heineken joint bid will go through. Once it actually happens, I will try to set out what this means in practical terms for the ordinary beer-drinking pubgoer.

For example, one aspect of the S&N takeover that I have not seen mentioned so far relates to S&N's half-share in the Budweiser operation in Mortlake. Presumably this would pass to Heineken but would AB be happy with that? It's one thing working with a relatively small 'national' brewer but with another multinational? Heineken chief executive Jean-Francois Van

Boxmeer has however at least promised to retain S&N's pub management business.

There was some talk of SABMiller coming in with a counter-bid but, when asked to clarify their intentions by the Stock Exchange, SABMiller said that they had "decided not to take any further action". Anheuser-Busch were also reported to be considering something similar. A-B have long had their eye on S&N but analysts now believe that a merger between A-B and InBev is more likely.

Another report said that S&N were in discussions with some private equity firms about help with buying out Carlsberg's half-share in the highly valuable Baltic Beverages Holdings operation. This seems odd given that Carlsberg's main interest in joining in the bid was to acquire S&N's half anyway. There are apparently specific clauses in the partnership agreement as regards taking over the other half's half and both are threatening the other with their lawyers.

Meanwhile, irrespective of the impending takeover, S&N have announced the closure of Worton Grange, their infamous 'meggaegery' by the M4 near Reading, with the loss of 362 jobs. This leaves the Federation site near Gateshead, John Smiths at Tadcaster and Royal in Manchester plus their joint venture with Caledonian. Production of Fosters and Kronenbourg from Worton Grange will be either spread across the other sites or outsourced to Molson Coors. This will happen over the coming two years. It is thought that, because of its location in the M4 'Silicon Valley', the site could be worth £100 million.

One last grim thought; there was a report in the Financial Times that the disappearance of S&N could lead to a link up between Greene King and Marston's which would then be the UK's largest independent

brewer.

A Vision in Battersea?

I am pleased to report that, despite some late problems, Battersea Beer Festival went ahead successfully last month. There is however a mystery. There was a very good write-up of the event in the *Clapham, Balham & Tooting Guardian* in which it was reported that, according to some of the visitors interviewed, the singer Madonna paid us a visit early on the Wednesday. Sadly, none of the staff noticed this but some recall seeing two non-drinking gentlemen who looked like 'security' standing around near to where the Taylor's Landlord was on sale and Landlord is known to be Madonna's favourite beer. I checked the membership forms just in case but alas, we had not signed up anyone called Ritchie.

Alas, what looked like proof of Mr and Mrs Ritchie's interest in beer turns out not to be so. A newspaper story that they have purchased their own pub, the Punch Bowl in Farm Street, Mayfair (W1J 5RP) for a reported £2.5 million has been strongly denied.

Near miss for the Land of Liberty

Alas, the Land of Liberty, A Peace and Plenty at Heronsgate did not win the CAMRA National Pub of the Year award. Getting into the final four was however a tremendous achievement and Martin Few and Gill Gibson will have another chance next year because they have won the Watford Branch Pub of the Year award again. Congratulations to them.

Pub news

Crackers Folly, the historic Maida Vale pub (NW8 8JR) has reopened but as a Lebanese restaurant. It could be worse; presumably this means that most if not all of its special features will be retained, which would not have

happened if it was developed as flats. It is also easier to turn a restaurant back into a pub although, under planning laws, you need permission to do that whilst you do not need it to turn a pub into a restaurant.

More encouragingly, the Princess Louise in High Holborn has reopened after refurbishment and it is reported to be well worth a look. Well done, Sam Smiths.

A plan has been announced whereby pubs in the Borough of Lambeth can earn grants of up to £1,000 a year for allowing the public to use their toilets.

ITV are looking to cash in on the fame of the pub in the long-running soap opera, Coronation Street by linking up with a pub chain to open a series of Rover's Returns up and down the country. If you are looking for the April Fool joke, this isn't it although I could understand if you thought it was.

Smoking ban

The Bolton rebel publican, Nick Hogan (see Dec/Jan issue) has been fined £10,000 after being convicted of illegally ejecting local authority inspectors from his pub.

The Borough of Barnet is planning to introduce licensing restrictions to prevent pubs and cafes having tables and chairs on pavements. This is to reduce the cost of sweeping up cigarette ends outside bars.

Law and order

Have you heard of Alcohol Disorder Zones? This legislation is likely to go through in the next few weeks and it will allow local authorities to declare specific areas as ADZs and impose a charge of up to £100 per week on all pubs, bars and clubs in the zone to cover the notional additional costs of policing and

controlling the 'problems' of the area. Failure to pay would be grounds for the revocation of the site's premises licence. Apparently, discounts of up to 90% will be possible for premises that are deemed not to be part of the problem but if the purpose is to raise income, will any discounts be granted? This strikes me as too sweeping and therefore grossly unfair. Behind most town centre circuits lie decent back-street locals struggling to make a living. Why should they have to pay for what goes on on the high street?

In the Liskeard area of Cornwall, police are contemplating reviving the 1898 Inebriates Act, a Temperance Movement-inspired measure that makes it illegal to serve anyone labelled a 'habitual drunk'. The reasoning is that the Act provides for larger fines – up to £200 – than the usual Fixed Penalty notices.

Following their smoking ban,



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News round-up

the French government is now to ban the sale of alcohol at petrol stations as part of a clampdown on drink drivers.

As part of a 'violent crime action plan' unveiled by Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, metal detectors will be installed at the entrances to pubs and clubs in a bid to clamp down on knife and gun violence.

Health and welfare

A Liberal Democrat MP, Greg Mulholland, believes that the current glass wine measures of 175ml and 250ml are so big that many people do not realise how much they are drinking. He has tabled a Bill in Parliament to reintroduce the 125ml measure.

Here is a thought for all those advocating increased prices to reduce alcohol consumption. According to the Office for National Statistics, the highest consumption is in the highest-

earning households. For men this was 22.9 units per week as opposed to the 2006 average of 18.7 for men and 12.5 units compared to 9.0 for women. Just to remind you, the limits per week are 21 for men and 14 for women. In theory, high earners should be the better educated and therefore be more 'health aware' but apparently not. Executive stress?

For those who enjoy a bottle of beer at home but want to keep tabs on their consumption, for £3.99 you can now buy a bottle-opener called the Beer Tracker with a built-in counter that clocks up how many times it is used.

Meanwhile, whilst some of their members are urging caution on the drinking public, the British Medical Association has applied to Camden Council for an extension to 1am of the drinks licence for their Tavistock Square headquarters.

On the subject of doctors, I recently came across a list of acronyms allegedly used in the medical profession. I advise you strongly not to end up in A&E with a 'UBI' (unexplained beer injury) or else you may be diagnosed as a 'PIFO' case (pissed and fell over).

News from Wetherspoons

JDW have reported that sales have fallen by 3.2% in the 11 weeks ending 13 January. Chief Executive John Hutson commented: "*Pubs are changing. People still like to pop out for a pint but increasingly they come to eat. There is a shift away from alcoholic drinks to other products*". I would have thought that when money was tight, eating out would be amongst the first things to be cut back. Mr Hutson still believes that the smoking ban will be for the good in the long term. He also made the point that JDW were



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not passing cost increases on to their customers.

Although plans for new pubs have been reduced, JDW opened a new bar, the Assembly Rooms, in Solihull (West Midlands) at a cost of £1m. Eighty jobs have been created.

News from Fuller's

Fuller's have, very politely, asked us to clarify several points from the last issue and we are happy to do so. Firstly, the signage was removed from the Cross Lances (Hounslow) as part of a refurbishment and it remains open. Similarly, the sale of the lease of the Royal Oak (Isleworth) is simply a change of licensee and it remains a Fuller's house. 'Danny Shannon's' has been sold; Fullers have explained that it was a circuit pub with a late licence and is not the type of pub that Fuller's want in their estate. Fair enough.

Meanwhile, the sale of the redundant Gales Brewery in Hordean has been agreed and the Star in Belgravia is closing for refurbishment.

News from Youngs

Oops, another retraction. The Queen Dowager in Teddington has had a settled licensee for some six months now and the pub is not up for sale.

The Duke of Devonshire in Balham, now just the Devonshire, has reopened after a major refurbishment and a number of initial comments on the 'Beer in the Evening' website are far from complimentary. The pub is now very much food oriented and this has upset a number of now ex-regulars.

There has also been some controversy about Young's closing the Tamworth Arms in Croydon. The explanation they give is that the pub simply wasn't being used

and therefore wasn't making money. Young's say that they remain committed to community pubs but not at any expense. The message is clear; as CAMRA's Liaison officer with Young's, Peter Sutcliffe, puts it: "*use it or lose it*".

Youngs have restructured their share arrangements. Their 'A Ordinary' shares will now be doubled and split in value from 50p to 12.5p in order to "*retain a diverse shareholder base*" and improve their liquidity. Presumably, the idea is that if there are more of them then there will be a higher turnover.

Pub chain with problems

Mitchells & Butlers have hit problems. The All Bar One and O'Neills chain has lost almost £400 million - over two year's profits - in a hedge fund deal linked to their now abandoned joint property venture with property magnate Robert



**194 - 196 Sussex Way
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Situated on the corner of Kingsdown Road and Sussex Way in Holloway Islington, North Nineteen is running a mini beer festival from the 10th to the 13th of April. Unlike other pub run beer festivals the owners Tony & Karen Cullen are letting its customers choose the beers for the event. Working with SIBA (The Small Independent Brewers Association) and CAMRA (The Campaign for Real Ale), we have listed 50 Real Ales (37 from small Independent breweries) on our web site (www.northnineteen.co.uk/events) for people to choose their top ten, all the votes will be collated and the ten with the most votes will be served over the four day event. What's more, if you RSVP via e-mail, your name will be added to a list where you get 30p off per pint making it only £2.20 per pint over the four days.

We are also serving a barbecue from Thursday the 10th through to Saturday the 12th and our fantastic Sunday Roast on the 13th. Live music will be played on the Saturday evening with three live bands playing in one of the bars for those of you who like live music.

Tony said " *We are looking for ale lovers not just for the event but also to become regulars as we always have good well kept real ales on draught*". Real ale and the British pub are national treasures, so we are doing our bit to keep this fantastic British tradition going.

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Tchenguiz. It had been intended to release a cash windfall of £4.5 million to shareholders. This has seen the departure of their Chairman and Finance Director.

A more serious consequence is an £11 million 'merger' proposal from rival Punch Taverns which values the company at less than the value of its freehold properties. M&B shareholders would however also receive a special cash dividend. This would leave the new company owning 10,500 pubs, 18% of the pubs in the country. The deal is dependent on the reaction of the aforementioned Mr Tchenguiz, who holds 23% of their shares.

Punch may not have it all their own way. It is reported that private equity groups Blackstone and CVC Capital Partners are also interested. Their proposals would probably replace M&B with a new company and offer shareholders the chance to own around 50 per

cent of the business.

A direct bid from Robert Tchenguiz should not be ruled out but, according to a report in the *Guardian*, one of his other ventures, the Globe Pub Company, the 442-strong chain managed by Scottish & Newcastle's Pub Enterprise division, is experiencing financial difficulties with sales down 7% and profits down 8% in the three months ending November.

News from the trade

Meantime Brewing Company are very pleased with their trading link with Adnams, with their products now being widely available from Adnams outlets. Meantime are also hoping to have a second pub shortly and are planning to move and expand their brewery to a new site. The new brewery should be up and running in two years or so. Meantime, have also, as they put

it, revived another old London beer style, Winter Warmer (5.4%).

Oyster Stouts are not unknown but Shepherd Neame have come up with an interesting variation, Scallop Stout. Brewer Stuart Main reports that the 3.7% brew has a "*hint of smokiness and a slight taste of the sea but no fishiness*". The brewery is said to be working on a crab and winkle ale as well. This isn't the April Fool joke either.

Whilst beer sales struggle, Greene King's investment in the Loch Fyne seafood restaurants is paying off with sales increasing by 2.3% since their purchase in August and particularly strong over Christmas and the New Year.

The C&C Group, producers of Magners, have issued a profits warning as a result of a continued 30% fall in sales in Britain over Christmas and the New Year.

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Analysts are attributing the problem to competition from lower-priced 'copycat' brands such as S&N's Bulmers Original. As a consequence, C&C have made a deal with Coors for Magners to be sold on draught.

The *Morning Advertiser* reports that the annual food inflation rate has reached 7.4% this year, the fastest rate of increase since records began in 1992. This is not good news for those looking to food sales to make up for falling beer sales. Similarly gloomily, a report in the *Scotsman* predicts the price of wines and spirits will go up by five times the rate of inflation in the next year.

Laurel Pub Company is to close 22 pubs as part of a move that could see up to 100 being sold whilst, following a recent profits warning, Regent Inns (the Walkabout and Jongleurs operation) have started takeover talks with a number of other firms including, oddly enough, the Laurel Pub Company. Regent put their troubles down to increased late night competition.

A new Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) is seeking to raise £20m to buy pubs. The Trident EIS Pub Fund is looking for £20m to buy run-down pubs in smaller urban areas outside city centres.

A report from Cask Marque, based on the sampling of over 28,000 pints at 9,403 pubs, says

that the town serving the best cask ale in the UK is Huddersfield. The beer sampled there averaged 19.5 out of 20, based on temperature, appearance, aroma and taste.

A striking proposition

Some of you may have heard of a proposal to erect an equivalent to Tyneside's Angel of the North sculpture at the new Eurostar station at Ebbsfleet. Here is my suggestion: as Kent is well-known for its connection with beer, how about a 65 foot high pint of beer? Or possibly, if we could get Shepherd Neame to sponsor it, a giant bottle of *Spitfire*? My friend Dave Paterson suggests calling it '*The Fokker of the South*'. I did suggest to some friends from the Gravesend and Darenth Valley Branch of CAMRA that they might like to put the idea to Sheps but they just gave me a funny look.

And finally...

I am sad to report the passing of one of South West London Branch's best loved characters, Miggys the cat from the Sultan (SW19). Miggys was a very regal tortoiseshell whose 'tours of inspection' always drew a smile from regulars and visitors alike. She also leaves a vacancy; some years ago during a fractious meeting of the Battersea Beer Festival Committee, the then

organiser walked out. Just then, Miggys appeared and was immediately elected as his replacement. She was still in office when she passed away.

Another sad story, however with a nice ending, involves a dog called Cooper, the companion of Alex Wylie of Bury St Edmunds. Cooper liked pubs and when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, Alex took him to as many pubs as possible in the time left. She used these visits to compile a guide - *Cooper's Pub Guide* (price £3) - to dog-friendly pubs in her area in Cooper's memory, with the proceeds going to the RSPCA.

Sorry to be so morbid but there is one more departure that I must mark. This is Abdul Latif, also known as the Lord of Harpole, a title that he purchased for £5,000. A larger than life character, Abdul ran a well-known curry house in Newcastle-on-Tyne which featured 'Curry Hell', a dish so hot that anyone finishing it could have it for free and was awarded a certificate to prove it. A group of us visited the restaurant when the CAMRA AGM was in Newcastle in 2001. Which of us would rise to the challenge? Step forward *London Drinker* Editor and trencherman *extraordinaire*, Geoff Strawbridge. He did it - but he had to take his tie off!

Tony Hedger

URGENT MESSAGE TO ADVERTISERS

The copy deadline for this issue of *London Drinker* had to be extended due to the failure of a few regular advertisers to provide copy on time. *London Drinker* was close to being printed late, which surely is the last scenario our advertisers and our readers need.

In future, any advertisers failing to produce copy to our deadlines will pay for the advertisement booked and the space reserved will be credited to them as 'copy not received by our negotiated copy deadline'. Should the copy deadline be passed and we can still produce the required advertisement, there will be a £50.00 surcharge for our inconvenience, regardless of the size of the advertisement.

We aim to provide a professional service and a quality magazine, printing 44,000 copies per issue as against some 7,000 just four years ago. We are not asking for six and a half times the advertising rate, but we must insist on adherence to our vital deadlines.

SO HERE'S A DATE TO REMEMBER.

THE FINAL COPY DATE FOR ADVERTISING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (JUNE/JULY) IS THE FIRST OF MAY.

But do please tell us your intentions before then. If you'd like to advertise in the June/July issue, would you please ring our Advertisement Manager, Peter Tonge on 020-8300 7693 by the middle of April.

Wetherspoon's international real-ale festival

Thu 27 March–Mon 14 April

Meet some of the beers

As at previous festivals, we will showcase some great continental beers, including St Georgen Bräu (from Germany) and Ecaussinnes – would you believe 'a cookie beer', imported from Belgium? At 5% ABV, this needs treating with a little respect, but has the delightfully sweet taste of a famous Belgian ginger & cinnamon cookie.

This year, we have also gone even further afield, with a range of beers from the US, Japan and Poland, as well as ciders from Sweden.

It's not all about international beers, though: we have up to 50 British beers available, carefully selected from award-winners, regional favourites and microbrewers.

Award-winners include:

- Freeminer Shakemantle Ginger Ale
– a ginger ale wheat beer and really something special
- Kelham Island Pale Rider
- Mauldons Black Adder
- Oakham JHB
- Orkney Dark Island

There is also a seasonal twist in the festival, with many spring brews making an appearance, including:

- Caledonian Chocolate Drop
- Nethergate April Fool
- Robinsons Top Tipple
- Wychwood Mad Hatter

TRY 3 ALES – For the price of a festival pint, you can try three ales in our exclusive 1/3-pint tasting glasses*. *All 1/3 pints are sold as single units.



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BATTERSEA COMES OF AGE IN STYLE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the 18th Battersea Beer Festival, not least the management of the Battersea Arts Centre for their cunning plan to accommodate us in a haunting theatrical setting during a week's break in performances of *The Masque of the Red Death*. Next year's festival won't have such an atmosphere, but the tombola will be back.

More than 4,250 admissions were recorded over the three days, 6-8 February, with many coming earlier and staying longer than expected, so that there was hardly any cask ale left after 9pm on the Friday. Sorry. And the increased order for cider and perry had all gone two hours earlier. Yes, we'll order more again for next year.

Beer of the Festival was Janine's One from Marble Brewery in Manchester. Runner up was Thornbridge Jaipur IPA, with Wensleydale Forester's Session Bitter in third place. Cider or Perry of the Festival was Severnside Blakeney Red Perry. Next year, by popular demand, we shall be inviting visitors, if they wish, also to nominate a favourite foreign beer of the festival.



CAMRA's South West London Pub of the Year for 2007 was announced on the Thursday: the Trafalgar Freehouse, 23 High Path, South Wimbledon. Second was South Wimbledon's Hop Back pub, the Sultan, 78 Norman Road, a previous winner, and third, the Nightingale, Young's thriving community pub at 97 Nightingale Lane, Balham. We shall be presenting the award at the Trafalgar on Friday 25 April.

Visitors' comments on this year's Battersea Beer Festival are collated at www.swlcamra.org.uk Thank you all, and special thanks to all of our hard working volunteer staff. Provisional dates for 2009 are 11-13 February. Chris Cobbold

REAL ALE IS KING OF THE CASTLE

A first-ever Real Ale Festival at the Castle in Walthamstow in East London held on the weekend of 15-18 February was a "staggering success." This was the opinion of Jon Russell Brown, Chairman of the East London and City (ELAC) Branch of the Campaign For Real Ale (CAMRA).

"Dozens of people came in to taste the 11 Real Ales and 3 Farmhouse Ciders on offer. Expressions of delight were standard. All of the product was sold."

Licensee of the Castle, Roger Carter, said he was pleased to work with ELAC. *"We all love cask British beer and want it to be appreciated. Thanks to CAMRA for their co-operation."* Roger is also licensee of another celebrated Walthamstow real ale pub, the Nag's Head.



John Pardoe of CAMRA (left) with Roger Carter



Happy Real Ale drinkers at the Castle Festival

The 100 Club stocks 2 real ales from the handpump: Young's 'Ordinary' & Flowers Original

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Festivals and Awards

BREE LOUISE IS NORTH LONDON'S SPRING PUB OF THE SEASON

It's smiles all round as licensees Craig and Karen (left) receive their Pub of the Season award from North London Branch Chairman, John Cryne (right). At the back of the bar can be distinguished some of the features that make this pub so popular, namely five beers dispensed on gravity. These are supplemented on the other bar by five handpumps and a further three are in the course of being fitted. The range of beers changes daily although Taylor's Landlord is pretty much a regular as in an offering from Adnams and Craig is a big fan of Sharp's in Cornwall. Weston's Old Rosie can now also be sampled on pump.

The pub has recently undergone a small internal refurbishment which has created more seating space and in summer this is augmented by outside benches and a fine flower display. CAMRA members are made to feel especially welcome, as by presenting their membership card they will receive 40p off their pints. And in addition, if they feel peckish, they can get one of the fine home-made pies (all the way from the first floor kitchen where they are made for a number of outlets) for a bargain price of £5. The Bree can be found in Cobourg Street, NW1, just to the west of Euston station.

John Cryne



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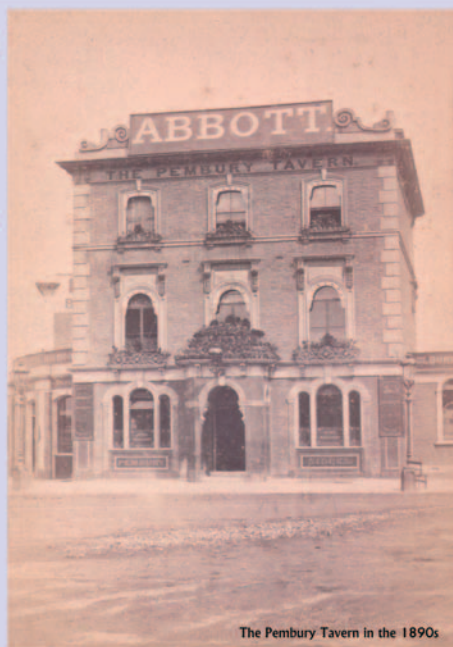
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South West London CAMRA

Pub of the Year

Where Eagle dares!

Rent at a London pub has fallen 12% in arbitration after Enterprise Inns proposed an increase. The rent reduction came despite the upward-only rent review (UORR) clause in the lease.

The pubco wanted to increase rent at the Eagle Ale House in Battersea from £52,130 to £63,000. Lessees Simon Clarke and David Law believed the pub was already over-rented and originally proposed rent should be £17,000, although they conceded it was unrealistic to think the level would be set that low, given the level of the rent passing.

The licensees took the dispute to Arbitration where the new level was set at £45,750. Using the Arbitrators' estimated 'Fair Maintainable Turnover' and rental decision, the rent equates to a rent to turnover percentage of 12.4%.

Mr Clarke advised the Arbitrator that his role was to establish the 'open market value', not the 'rent payable under the terms of the lease' and, following the Arbitrator's decision, that the rental value was lower than the rent passing, Enterprise

Inns honoured their statement to the Select Committee in 2004 and their Code of Conduct and lowered the rent accordingly. Enterprise has paid the licensees about £9,000 after backdating the rent reduction from November 2006.

The Eagle is a small, traditional, back-street pub and is the only remaining establishment specialising in real ale between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons. Unlike a managed house providing only a few selected beers, it has offered more than 5000 different real ales over the past 10 years.

Clarke said: "We are very pleased with the result, although we think it should be lower." Arbitration costs of £15,000 were split evenly between Enterprise and the lessees.

Whilst not enforcing the rent review clause in this case, Enterprise Inns have still not removed the clause from the leases where they still exist in accordance with their statements to the Select Committee in 2004.

Brewers call on Hogarth to help shift binge drinking blame

Britain's independent brewers are dusting down a 250-year-old condemnation of cheap booze to launch a concerted campaign to promote the British pub as a counter to binge drinking. SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers, has commissioned two up-to-date drawings based on Gin Lane and Beer Street, the 1750s engravings by the artist and satirist William Hogarth.

In the new pictures shown on pages 32 and 33, Gin Lane is renamed Binge Lane, a scene of violence, unconsciousness and under-age drinking in the midst of shops selling cheap beer, alcopops and Vin de Toilette. Beer Street becomes Pub Street, a peaceful environment of real ale, good food, bar games and live entertainment, according to one of the pub signs in the picture.

Rhymes beneath Hogarth's originals speak of gin as a "cursed fiend, with fury fraught", which "cherishes with hellish care theft, murder, perjury". But beer is praised as a "happy produce of our isle", which "warms each English generous breast with liberty and love".

SIBA chairman Peter Amor says: "The gin of the 18th century may have been replaced by a whole

trolley of cheap drinks, but the message is the same. The pub is practically the only place where you can drink draught beer and people's behaviour there is subject to strict controls by the licensee and by the presence of mature, well behaved regular customers who wouldn't stand for any kind of trouble. The real

source of the problems that are being sensationally highlighted by the media at the moment is cheap liquor sold in bulk and, in a minority of supermarkets and off-licences, without much regard to the age of the people buying it. In the circumstances, it is totally unfair to lump pubs in with the real perpetrators of the problem."

SIBA's campaign will include lobbying MPs and peers, to make them aware that pubs are not in the main the culprits of the current perceived rash of binge drinking, and working with other trade and consumer organisations

with interests in the brewing and licensing sectors to form a broad alliance in support of the positive aspects of the British pub.

The campaign will be aired at SIBA's annual conference in York in April, the biggest event in the calendar for British brewers of quality beers, whose sales rose last year by almost 11 per cent.



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Pub communities weak?

If ever I doubted the need for a Community Pubs Week, my attempt to join the South West London branch's pubs social on Monday 18th February in Mitcham confirmed that pubs need their community as much as the community needs the pubs. I should have looked at the map properly before setting out and assuming that the bus would stop at the Cricket Green in Mitcham. Instead it stopped at the Fair Green. With the mist already descending it took me a further 30 minutes to find the appointed starting pub - the Queens Head. I called in at four shops - newsagents and food shops - asked several passers by and none knew where the Cricket Green was, let alone either of the two pubs I mentioned.

Now the Cricket Green in Mitcham is the oldest cricket ground still in use, being first played on in 1685, and is also renowned for being the only cricket ground with the pavilion being on the other side of a busy road. Yet none of the locals knew of it, despite

it being only a short walk away from the shops and bus-stops.

It was not surprising then that all the three pubs we visited that night were largely devoid of customers, apart from a sprinkling in the White Lion of Mortimer (a Wetherspoons). The pub we had targeted, the Queen's Head, served an excellent pint of Shepherd Neame, including the charismatic Porter. The last pub reached just before stop tap, although not very welcoming at first, served superb Young's Ordinary. But what a pity there were not a lot of locals enjoying it.

I'm not sure how CAMRA can reach out to the locals who don't use pubs, but I fear we are going to have to learn how to and fast, before yet more back street boozers and once proud community pubs are closed, never to reopen.

Sue Hart

Sorry, there will be no Catford Beer Festival this year

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Dear Editor

Real Ale, recycling and energy saving

I fully support your campaign to get lower duty on beer sold in pubs as opposed to cheap supermarket stuff. However you haven't gone far enough.

A barrel of beer containing hundreds of pints is served to customers in glasses which are washed and re-used. The barrel itself is washed and re-used.

Compare this to hundreds of cans or bottles, which use large amounts of energy and manpower to manufacture and transport, and large amounts of energy and manpower to dispose of (besides littering our streets). If the overall real costs of pub beer and supermarket beer are factored in, then pub beer comes out a clear favourite.

Please include this aspect in your lobbying efforts and magazine articles. Keep up the good work, best wishes,

*Marc Addis
Crouch End*

Dear Editor

Pubs v pollution

It is shocking to hear that pub closures have reached 27 a week (according to the British Beer & Pub Association). Often their fate is redevelopment into private houses or apartments or, in areas unattractive to developers, they're simply closed and left to decay. One of my locals, though, risks an unusual end. If proposals to build a third runway at Heathrow airport go ahead, the King William IV in Sipson will lie beneath it - demolished along with 700 houses and a school.

The pub is not only a popular community local serving real ale but also a listed mediaeval building with heavy oak beams and bags of character.

To lose pubs that are deemed 'uneconomic' is sad but when they are well used, thriving and historic it is nothing short of criminal. It would be a pity to see this ancient hostelry go to satisfy an industry whose growth will exacerbate climate change.

*Bob Barton
Hayes, Middx.*

Dear Editor

The cold pint

Can one possibly persuade *London Drinker* to take up the cudgels in respect of the Cold Pint in a similar manner to the campaign for the Full Pint? Whereas a short measure pint can lead to the loss of only a fraction of an inch of ale, a hot glass can lead to the ruination of an entire pint.

With the large turnover in bar staff in pubs and the apparent scarcity of experienced bar staff, the likelihood of ale being served in a hot glass that has just come out of the glass-washer is becoming noticeably more prevalent. Furthermore it is not sufficient for the barperson to merely gauge the coolness of the glass by feeling its sides as it is the

thick bottom of the glass that retains the heat far longer than the sides of the glass. Pouring the ale out of a hot glass into a cold glass is also not sufficient as the quality of the ale has been changed/ruined by the heat. A fresh pint needs to be served in a cold glass. One would expect the aforementioned to be a natural part of any barperson's training but sadly it would appear to be otherwise, even in renowned real ale pubs where one would naturally expect greater awareness. It is particularly surprising how a real ale pub can diligently clean the pipelines, ensure that the barrels have settled and that the cellar temperature is correct and yet disregard the temperature of the glasses in which the ale, that they have taken so much care with up to that point, will be served to the customers.

It also seems that no matter how politely the customer tries to explain to the barperson the heat retention of the bottom of the glass or even request beforehand that the barperson please feels the bottom of the glass before pouring the ale therein, the customer is often made to feel that his request for a cold glass is unreasonable and/or impolite. Indeed, in what one can only hope was an isolated case, the licensee exploded in an outburst, swearing profusely and repeatedly at the customer and shouting at him (and his wife) to get out.

We learn from press statements that the pub is in decline and it is therefore incomprehensible why some publicans apparently cannot see that they will drive away further custom by dispensing a frosty reception to customers who quite naturally prefer not to be served their ale in hot glasses. What has happened to the customer care manual - does the paying customer not have a right to be served ale in a cold glass?

*Tony Bell
London SW6*

Dear Editor

Former licensees of Queen's Head, Cranford

Further to Keith Porter's recent letter in the Dec '07/Jan '08 edition, readers might be interested to know that Tom Mahedy was a former licensee of the Queen's Head, Cranford. His name still appears above the former entrance to the public bar, along with a certain D Mahoney, inside the porch of the current lobby.

The current licensee there is Jonathan Smyth, whose parents, Bill and Freda Smyth, recently retired after virtually a lifetime in the trade. A long-time supporter of CAMRA, Bill was originally a Charrington's licensee and, at the time of the Campaign's formation, ran the Green Man in Berwick Street before moving on, in the mid-1970s, to the Tower Tavern in the shadow of what was then called the Post Office Tower, both W1.

Transferring to Fuller, Smith & Turner thereafter, he was in charge of the Crown, Cloudsley



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Road, N1 but, since the mid-1990s, has run the roadhouse that is the Queen's Head which even featured in an early edition Trivial Pursuits board game as being the first premises in the country to have been granted a full licence when built c.1930.

Bill would be pleased to see any of his former customers as, although technically 'retired', he can be often found helping out in the Queen's Head – after all, for a licensee and a LVA member for over 30 years, the trade is in his blood – and, when he can bear to tear himself away from the bar or cellar, let's hope he (and his wife Freda) have many years to come to enjoy a deserved rest.

Paul Dabrowski

Upper Basildon, Reading

PS Anyone venturing to the Queen's Head might be lucky enough to try the Jolly Gardeners opposite should it still be standing. The West Middlesex branch has been battling to save this community pub from developers and a decision from the Planning Inspectorate, following a last-minute appeal against Hounslow LB's original refusal to grant planning permission, is expected imminently.

Dear Editor

Richard Larkin's Tale from the Trade No 13 in Feb/Mar LD reminded me of a tale told by my late

Mum, Connie. She was in Canada for a while in the late 1940s and, due to local regulations (at certain hours?), it was illegal to order a drink without a meal.

Thus every customer got their beverage AND the same solitary sandwich that gradually aged as it was passed to every new drinker throughout the evening.

Dave Kennedy

Ruislip

Dear Editor

1. Re: No 14 in Feb/Mar *London Drinker*: 'Plain or Tainted'

When I am helping at my local Bowls club bar, and get asked, "Have you water, please?" my CAMRA back ground springs to mind when I reply with great glee, "Certainly Sir, draught or bottled?" Sometimes the expression on people's faces has to be seen to be believed, but it always raises a laugh.

My apologies to CAMRA purists. It is under slight pressure, lacks alcohol, and has a non-existent malt content, but at least you can drive on it!!

2. Re: No 22 in Feb/Mar *London Drinker*

A couple of years ago, the George & Dragon,



Speldhurst, Kent, a GBG listed pub, had just had its toilets refurbished with galvanised buckets, complete with mosaic interiors.

Cheers!

Dave Betteridge

Dear Editor

There was some confusion over the **Bar Nakoda**, formerly the Black Bull in Whitechapel in the "Pubcheck" (Volume 30 No.1), although the entries have been corrected and apologies given.

The prospect of decent beer served in a pub that

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offers 'real curry' on the menu would, to my mind, be a pub made in heaven. However, although the pub remains committed to Nethergate beers after the change of name, the food will be a long wait. It seems that the kitchen facilities are not quite ready, and the new sign outside proclaiming 'authentic Indian cuisine' is ahead of itself. The signage also says 'Nakoda' rather 'Bar Nakoda', and promises 'breakfast, lunch and dinner'.

Let us hope that by the time of publication of this letter that the pub will be in full swing with both real ale and Indian food, and that the shortage of chefs (reported elsewhere in the media) will be not be another delaying issue.

Gordon Joly
London E14

Dear Editor

Roger Hughes's response to my article on pubs associated with the Kray Twins raises some interesting points.

George Cornell was born in the East End and had been a friend of the Krays. However after meeting a woman from Elephant and Castle he moved to South London and became involved with the Richardson gang, who were rivals of the Krays. As both gangs' operations expanded they came into

conflict and the relationship between Cornell and the Krays deteriorated. It is claimed that a meeting was held at the Grave Maurice (another ex Trumans pub) in Whitechapel to agree a truce between the gangs but they were unable to come to an agreement and the meeting ended acrimoniously with Cornell calling Ronnie Kray a "big fat poof".

In early March 1966 there was a fight between members of the rival gangs at a nightclub in Catford that led to the death of the Krays' cousin, Dickie Hart, and they blamed George Cornell for this. On 9 March Cornell visited a friend, who had also been injured in a gangland fight, in the London Hospital and went for a drink in the Blind Beggar afterwards. Word of this got back to the Krays who were drinking in the Lion in Tapp Street and the rest is history. At the time the Lion was nicknamed the Widows as the previous landlord had died and the pub was run by his widow. The Krays went on to the Chequers in Walthamstow to change their clothes and dispose of the evidence. Charles Richardson, the leader of the Richardson gang, was arrested during the 1966 World Cup and I have seen a Sunday Express front page with an article about this referring to the shooting of his "associate" George Cornell.

I believe I read somewhere that the White Hart on the corner of Mile End Road and Cambridge Heath Road was also the scene of a brawl involving the Kray brothers. In their younger days all three Kray brothers were boxers and once all fought on the same bill. I once saw a copy of the poster for this in the Old White Horse in North Ockendon.

I was unaware of the existence of the Carpenters or its Kray connections until I saw it last year on the Derelict London website. The pub can be seen from the train just before you get into Liverpool Street station and I did notice that it has reopened recently.

Another former Truman's pub in the area was the Lord Hood which in the 1980s was owned by Alan Roberts, the Labour MP for Bootle. The pub had music hall nights and due to this and the fact that it was owned by a Labour MP some friends of mine decided to go there for a night out. They were a bit surprised to find that it was a gay pub and most of the clientele were men snogging each other.

I do remember visiting Truman's brewery twice in the 1980s when for a short spell they had gone back to real ale. Initially they produced a bitter called Tap Bitter and then four beers were produced: Prize Mild, Bitter, Best Bitter and Sampson's Strong Ale. One pub that had all four on was the Red House in Barking Road, Plaistow E13. This pub was originally called the Northumberland Arms but was nicknamed the Red House after union meetings and other left wing political meetings were held there in Victorian times and the name stuck.

Colin Price



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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 April and May are listed below.

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENT

May - Wed 28 (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

April - Wed 16 Evening Crawl of Bloomsbury and Holborn: (7pm) Lamb, 94 Lamb's Conduit St, WC1; (7.45) Duke of York, 7 Roger St, WC1; (8.30) Cittie of Yorke, 22 High Holborn, WC1; (9.15) Princess Louise, 208-9 High Holborn, WC1; (10pm) Museum Tavern, 49 Great Russell St, WC1. Public transport will be required at times.

May - Wed 14 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.
Website: www.londonpubsgroup.co.uk

BEXLEY

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

March - Thu 27-Sat 29 3rd Bexley Beer Festival, Sidcup Sports Club (see website for details).

April - Mon 7 Wetherspoon Beer Festival: (8pm) Furze Wren, Bexleyheath; (8.45) Wrong 'Un, Bexleyheath; then probably (9.30) New Cross Turnpike, Welling. - **Wed 9 (8.30)** Branch mtg. Black Horse, Bexley. - **Wed 23 (8.30)** St George's Day social. Robin Hood & Little John, Bexleyheath.

May - Wed 14 (8.30) Branch mtg and Mild Month social. Robin Hood & Little John, Bexleyheath.
Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Michael Fairweather 07905 611978, 0203 039 0379 (H)

April - Tue 1 (8.30) Green Dragon, High St, Croydon. - **Thu 10** North Cheam two pub social: (8.30) Lord Nelson; (9.30) Wetherspoons, (Beer Festival). - **Tue 29 (8.30)** Branch mtg. Dog and Bull (upstairs), 24-25 Surrey St, Croydon.

May - Thu 8 (8.30) Mild Month social. Cricketers, Shirley Rd, Addiscombe. - **Thu 29 (8.30)** Branch mtg, Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), 378 Carshalton Rd., Carshalton.
Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

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

April - Fri 18 E2 Crawl: (8pm) Marksman, 254 Hackney Rd; then Royal Oak, 73 Columbia Rd and, if time permits, Owl & the Pussycat, 34 Redchurch St; ending Carpenters Arms, 73 Cheshire St.

May - Tue 13 (8pm) Branch AGM. Dispensary, Leman St, E1; some food will be provided. - **Fri 23** Vincent's Hackney tour: (8pm) Railway Tavern (opp. Hackney Central stn), then Prince Arthur, 95 Forest Rd; Spurstoe Arms, 68 Greenwood Rd; Globe, 20 Morning La; ending Pembury Tavern, 88 Amhurst Rd.
Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Acting Branch contact Ron Andrews 020-8524 4239 (H), branch mobile 07757 710008 at event.

April - Tue 1 Two pub Enfield EN2 social on 313 route: (8.30)

Robin Hood, 240 Ridgeway; (9.45) Ridgeway Tavern, 76 Ridgeway. - **Wed 9 (8.30)** Wetherspoons Festival social. Chase Side, Southgate N14. - **Wed 16 (8.30)** Branch mtg. White Lion, 50 St. Albans Rd, EN5. - **Tue 22 (9pm)** Social. Black Bull, 1146 High Rd, Whetstone N20.

May - Thu 1 (9pm) Social. Picture Palace, Hertford Rd/Lincoln Rd junc, Ponders End EN3 - **Mon 5 (noon)** Bank Hol. pub beer festival social. Beehive, 24 Little Bury St, Edmonton N9 - **Tue 13 (9pm)** Social. Rising Sun, 137 Marsh La, Mill Hill NW7. - **Wed 21 (9pm)** Social. Cricketers, 19 Chase Side Place, Enfield EN2. - **Thu 29 (9pm)** *London Drinker* pick up and social. Whole Hog, 430-434 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13

Website: www.camra-enfield-and-barnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H), 020- 8540.1901 (W), ctaylor2007@freeuk.com

April - Thu 3 (8.15) Branch mtg. Old Plough, Station Rd, Stoke D'Abernon, nr Cobham stn. - **Sat 5** Day trip to Portsmouth. Travel from Surbiton on 10.44 train, change Woking for 11.25, alight Furraton at 12.27. Meet at Golden Eagle, Delamere Rd, then Leopold Tavern, Albert Rd and other GBG pubs into Portsmouth. - **Wed 23 (8pm)** Social. Willoughby Arms St George's Day beer festival. - **Fri 25** Evening tram visit to Addiscombe. Dep Wimbledon 7.40, change East Croydon for Black Horse Lane, walk to Cricketers, Shirley Rd and Claret Free House.

May - Sat 3 Day bus trip to pubs and breweries in Reading/Henley on Thames areas. Dep Surbiton stn 10am. Return about 8pm. Fare about £15. Deposit £5 to book. - **Tue 13 (8.15)** Branch mtg. Earl Beatty, Motspur Park, next to stn. - **Thu 29** Claygate crawl: (8pm) Swan, Hare La, then Foley Arms and others.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

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

April - Tue 1 (8pm) Branch mtg. Pineapple, 51 Leverton St NW5. - **Tue 8** N19 social: (8pm) Star, 47 Chester Rd; then St John's Tavern, 91 Junction Rd; North Nineteen, 194-196 Sussex Way. - **Tue 15** NW1 Primrose Hill social: (8pm) Albert, 11 Princess Rd; then Princess of Wales, 22 Chalcot Rd; Lansdowne, 90 Gloucester Ave. - **Tue 22** WC1 social: (8pm) Jeremy Bentham, 31 University St; then Marlborough Arms, 36 Torrington Pl; College Arms, 18 Store St. - **Tue 29** NW3 social: (8pm) Magdala, 2a South Hill Park; then Garden Gate, 14 South End Rd; White Horse, 154 Fleet Rd.

May - Tue 6 Social. Details tbc, check with website. - **Tue 13** WC1 social: (8pm) Princess Louise, 208-209 High Holborn; then Bountiful Cow, 51 Eagle St; Old Red Lion, 72 High Holborn. - **Tue 20** N1 social: (8pm) Eagle, 2 Shepherdess Walk; then William IV, 7 Shepherdess Walk; Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd. - **Tue 27 (8pm)** Social. Junction Tavern, 101 Fortress Rd NW5.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

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

April - Wed 9 Hampton crawl: (7.30) Court Jester, 31 Tangle Park Rd; then (8.15) Railway Bell, Station Rd; (8.45) World's End, 88 Station Rd; (9pm) Bell Inn, 8 Thames St; (10pm) Jolly Coopers, 16 High St. - **Thu 24 (8pm)** Branch AGM. Prince of Wales, 136 Hampton Rd, Twickenham.

May - Sat 17 Festival workers' outing. Details to be confirmed. - **Tue 20 (8.30)** Branch mtg. Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd, Hampton.

Website: www.camra.org.uk/richmond

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Neil Pettigrew 07751 898310 (M) *evening or weekends only, branch.contact@selcamra.org.uk*

April – Mon 7 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Moon & Stars 164-166 High St, Penge SE20. - **Mon 14** Herne Hill SE24 crawl: (7.30) Half Moon, 10 Half Moon La; (8.15) Commercial 210-212 Raiton Rd; (9.30) Florence, 133 Dulwich Rd. - **Tue 22** Camberwell SE5 crawl: (7.30) Hermits Cave, 28 Camberwell Church St; (8.30) Joiner's Arms, 35 Denmark Hill; (9.30) Bear Free House, 296a Camberwell New Rd. - **Sat 26** Cider of Catford beer festival award visit to Halfway House (a GBG regular with Castle Ciddington cider, Harvey's, Westerham and other guest beers), Brenchley, Tonbridge TN12. Meet London Bridge (10.30) outside WH Smiths for 10.53 train to Tunbridge Wells then 297 bus right to the pub! Arriving at 12.25, we leave at 3.04 returning to Tunbridge Wells to visit pubs there. Please advise Ian, whiteik@talk21.com if you are coming and also if you wish to eat.

May – Thu 1 (8pm) Cttee mtg/Beer Festival mtg/Social. Catford Ram, 9 Winslade Way, Catford SE6. - **Tue 6** (8pm) Social. Horseshoe Inn, 26 Melior St, Southwark SE1. - **Fri 9** (8pm) SEL Pub of the Year presentation. Blythe Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, Forest Hill SE23. - **Tue 13** Greenwich SE10 crawl: (7.30) Spanish Galleon, 48 Greenwich Church St; (8.15) Coach & Horses, 13 Greenwich Market; (9pm) Mitre, 291 Greenwich High Rd; (9.45) Kings Arms, 16 King William Walk. - **Fri 16** (7.30) Mild Month social. Hoopers, 28 Ivanhoe Rd, East Dulwich SE5. - **Wed 21** Chislehurst BR7 crawl: (7.30) Crown Inn, School Rd; (8.15) Tiger's Head, Watts La; (9.15) Bull's Head Inn, Royal Parade. - **Tue 27** (8pm) Social. Montague Arms, 289 Queens Rd, Peckham SE15. Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker swessex@essex-camra.org.uk

April – Tue 1 Kelvedon Hatch Mini-drawl: (8pm) Eagle, Ongar Rd; (9pm) Shepherd Inn, Blackmore Rd; (10pm) Dog & Partridge, Swan La. - **Thu 10** (8.30) 6th Maldon Beer Festival trip. Town Hall, Market Hill, by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Corringham. Contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215. - **Tue 15** (8.30) Social. Cricketers, 299/301 High Rd, Woodford Green. - **Wed 23** (8.30) Out-of-area St George's Day social. Molettrap, Stapleford Tawney, Tawney Common. - **Sat 26** (12.30) Hart of Stebbing Brewery trip. Stebbing, Essex, by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Corringham. Contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215. - **Tue 29** (8.30) Pub of the Year presentation (London Area). Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd, Woodford Green.

May – Wed 7 (8.30) Social. Railway, Station La, Hornchurch. - **Wed 14** (8.30) Social. Bald Hind, Hainault Rd, Chigwell. - **Tue 20** (8.30) Social. Old Dog, Billericay Rd, Herongate Tye. - **Thu 29** (8.30) Social. Eva Hart, 1128 High Rd, Chadwell Heath. - **Sat 31** (12/12.30) Farmers Ales Brewery trip. Maldon, Essex by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Corringham. Contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215.

New website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 3826 (W), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk

Cricket: Tom Brain 07796 265972, thomas.brain@horwath.co.uk. New players always welcome for friendly Sunday afternoon matches.

March – Mon 31 (7.30) Branch mtg. Woodman, 222 Durnsford Rd SW19 (Wimbledon Park tube).

April – Fri 25 (7.30 for 8pm) Branch Pub of the Year presentation. Trafalgar, 23 High Path, Merton SW19.

May – Thu 8 (7.30) Mild Month social. Bricklayer's Arms, 32

Waterman St, Putney SW15. - **Thu 15** (7.30) Open cttee mtg followed (8pm) by Branch AGM. Priory Arms (upstairs), 83 Lansdowne Way, South Lambeth SW8. Website: www.sulcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

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

April – Thu 10 Rickmansworth social: (8.30) Feathers, Church St; (9.15) Pennsylvanian, High St. - **Mon 21** (8pm) Branch AGM. Estcourt Arms, St John's Rd, Watford. - **Tue 29** (8.30) Open Mic night. Pump House, Local Board Rd, Watford. **May – Fri 9** (8pm) Mild social. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Herongate. - **Thu 15** (8pm) Mild social. Southern Cross, Langley Rd, Watford. - **Mon 19** (8pm) Branch mtg. Estcourt Arms, St John's Rd, Watford. - **Wed 28** Watford High Street: (8.30) Moon Under Water; (10pm) One Crown. - **Thu 5 June** (7.30) Annual Darts Tournament, West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Kimberly Martin 07717 795284, KimberlyMartin@yahoo.com

April – Sat 5 Wetherspoon International Real Ale Festival crawl: (2pm) Knight's Templar, 95 Chancery La, WC2; (4pm) Shakespeare's Head, 64 Kingsway, WC2; (9pm) Lord Moon of the Mall, 18 Whitehall, SW1; (8pm) Willow Walk, 25 Wilton Rd, SW1. - **Tue 15** Ladbroke Grove W11: (7.30) Pelican, 45 All Saints Rd, Westbourne Park; (8.30) Cock & Bottle, 17 Needham Rd; (9.30) Elgin, 96 Ladbroke Grove. - **Mon 21** (7.30) Branch mtg. Hope, Tottenham St, W1 (upstairs). - **Wed 30** Maida Vale W9: (7.30) Warrington Hotel, 93 Warrington Cresc; (8.30) Warwick Castle, 6 Warwick Pl; (9.30) Prince Alfred, 5a Formosa St.

May – Tue 6 Paddington W2 Beer quality survey crawl: (7.30) Cleveland Arms, 28 Chilworth St; (9.30) Mad Bishop & Bear, Paddington stn. - **Tue 13** (7.30) Branch AGM. Antelope, 22-24 Eaton Terr, SW1 (Guest lecture: 'NBSS - A professional statistician's perspective'. Guest speaker Sara Hughes. - **Thu 22** Covent Garden WC2 Beer quality survey crawl: (7.30) Seven Stars, 53 Carey St; (9.30) Harp, 47 Chandos Pl.

Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

Social Secretary Roy Tunstall 07960 031399, socials@westmiddx-camra.org.uk; Branch contact John Bush 07739 105336, contact@westmiddx-camra.org.uk

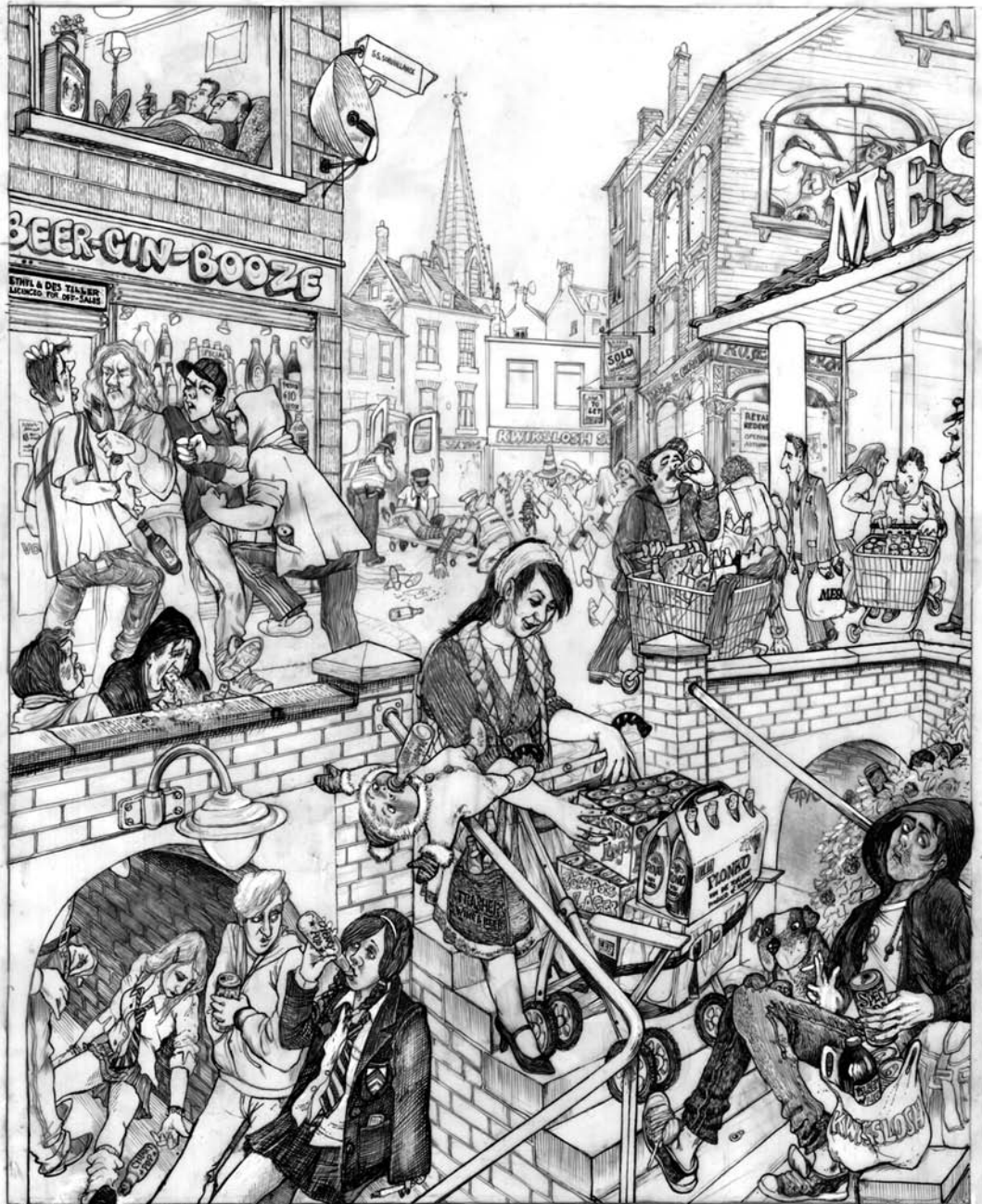
April – Wed 2 Wetherspoon Festival social: (7pm) Tichenham Inn, Ickenham; (9pm) Village Inn, Rayners La. - **Wed 9** (8.30) Branch mtg; (9pm) Festival planning mtg. Botwell Inn, 25-29 Coldharbour La, Hayes. - **Wed 16** Hillingdon Hill Social: (7.30) Prince of Wales; (8.15) Turks Head; (9pm) Vine; (9.45) Red Lion Hotel. - **Fri 25** (7pm) Social JJ Moons, Ruislip Manor. - **Wed 30** Eastcote Social: (7.30) Woodman; (8.30) Black Horse; (9.30) Case is Altered.

May – Mon 5 Bank Hol crawl: West Ealing to Brentford; (1pm) Drayton Court then Foresters; T J Duffys; Plough; Ealing Park Tavern; Globe; Magpie & Crown. - **Wed 14** (8pm) Mtg; (8.30) Branch AGM. Southall Conservative Club, Fairlawn, High St, Southall. - **Tue 20** Pitshanger Lane social: (8pm) Duke of Kent; (9.30) Duffys. - **Mon 26** Bank Hol GBG 2008 Pubs and Clubs crawl: (noon) Fox; (1.30) Southall Conservative Club; (3pm) Load of Hay; (4.15) Paddington Packet Boat; (5.30) JJ Moons, Ruislip Manor; (7.30) Questors Grapevine Bar.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the June/July edition: 12th May 2008. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

BINGE LANE



Designed by Erik Sweetland after Mic W. Hogarth MMVIII

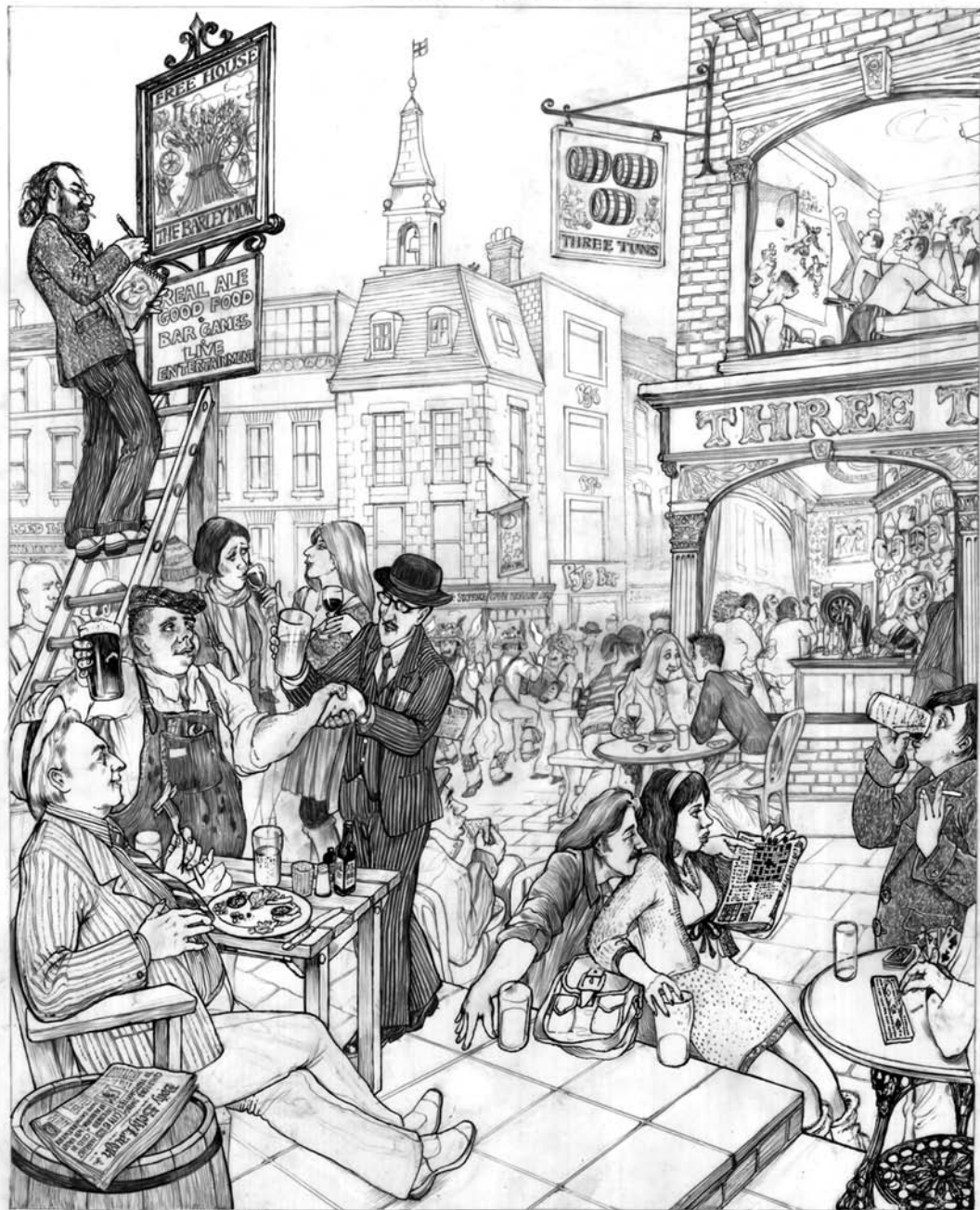
publ by Mr Peter Anor

The Couch-potato cheers the game
With lonely pizza, G-pack drinks
Every booze-filled fridge's the same
Each man at home in stupor sinks

Finnish Vodka, eight quid the Bottle
Fills youthful breast with wanton Rage
His friend he'll stab, his neighbour throttle
ASBO's progress to prison Cage

In Alcopops our Children Find
Some Comfort to their troubled Mind
Drunk in whatever sordid Spot
The CSO's discover not

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Designed by Erno Szecskand after Mr. W. H. Hagarth. 1848/1849

1848/1849 by Mr. Peter Hagarth

Pub, happy product of our Isle
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I And sullen Youth, in Gits and Pool
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The threat of ban, tends to keep cool
Young Men, if not: by Bouncer taught

I T-Dress kids can learn the Art
of drinking without Conflagration
And older Counsel with friendly Heart
can guide them toward Moderation

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** has regular events including pub crawls incorporating a gay venue with real ale, but otherwise good real ale venues. In April we're meeting at the BeerEx at the CAMRA Members' Weekend in Cardiff at 7pm. on Saturday 19th. We're also going to the Otley Brewery Trip at 6.40pm. on Friday 18th (if it's not already fully booked). Check the website for details of the London meeting on 7 May.

Letters and articles for publication
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AND 2004**



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Timothy Taylor's best kept secret

The brewery is 150 years old and they have won Champion Beer at CAMRA festivals too many times to remember. But Landlord is not Timothy Taylor's only claim to fame. The Duke of Wellington, a Victoria Cross, and even the introduction of an everyday word into the English language are all bound into the history of one rarely distributed ale. Havercake, which gave the world the word haversack, is, at 4.7% ABV, not a session beer. Savour it, one mouthful at a time. And be aware that it has history.

The Havercake, an oatmeal bread cake, was a staple of Yorkshire Pennine towns and villages. The regiment's recruiting sergeant went around with a Havercake held aloft on his sword when out looking for 'volunteers'. It seems that the promise of being fed was a real bait to the lads of the West Riding, particularly when washed down with plenty of Havercake ale. Even today, soldiers of the regiment still talk about their 'Haversack' rations, unaware of the origins of this custom.

So why is Havercake, this beauty of a beer, brewed so rarely and why haven't we heard about it? Is it really Yorkshire's best kept secret? You'll search in vain in the Good Beer Guide for any mention or reference to it. Havercake was first

brewed at Taylor's in 2002 to celebrate the tercentenary of the Duke of Wellington's regiment. Timothy Taylor's chief executive, Charles Dent, is honorary colonel of The Dukes, who have always been known as the Havercake lads.

Many Taylor employees, both past and present, have served with the Duke's, including Private Arthur Poulter. In April 1918 the 1/4th Battalion fought in defence of Erquingham-Lys, during the final German offensive. The regiment suffered a total of 15 officers and 391 soldiers killed, wounded or missing. In the heart of the battle Private Poulter, a stretcher bearer with The Dukes, was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for bravery. On ten separate occasions Poulter returned, in full view of the enemy, to carry ten wounded comrades to safety under heavy machine gun and artillery fire. Two of them were shot again whilst being carried on Poulter's back and he only gave up when he himself was seriously wounded. When asked where he got his strength from he put it down to his days working for Timothy Taylor maltings, carrying heavy sacks of barley.

The Havercake was brought to England by our Norse ancestors and derives its name from an old Norse word, *Hafrar*, meaning oats. Down through

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Friday 2nd May - Preview Night 7pm - 11.30pm

Saturday 3rd May - BBQ from 12-6pm. Live music 9pm - 11.30pm 'Sunset Boulevard'

Sunday 4th May - BBQ and Carvery 12 - 4.30pm - 8.30-10pm 'Inside Edge'

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May - BBQ 12-4pm. 'Jam' Night 9 - 11pm

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the years the same simple ingredients have still been used: whole oatmeal, salt, buttermilk yeast to help them rise, and water. "We decided to use two sorts of oats in the Havercake Ale," explained Peter Eells, Head Brewer at Taylor's, "malted oats and golden oats. We also wanted to use some coloured malts to give the beer a toffee-ish flavour, and the hops are East Kent Goldings to give it some bite."

Initially Havercake was brewed as a celebration beer for local events celebrating the Duke of Wellington's regiment's birthday. It was only distributed in Yorkshire and parts of east Lancashire. Most of it was reserved before it had left the brewery, which is why it isn't so well known in the south.

"We've tried extending the range of beers we produce before," Andy Leman, Second Brewer at Taylor's, explained, "notably with the Porter a few

years ago. However, we've found it dilutes the impact of the rest of the range and sales suffer." This is a shame because response to Havercake in London has been phenomenal. When it was last brewed in 2006, the first cask I brought back from the brewery was sold out in three hours! I asked Robert Clayton of Ash Marketing, who handle Timothy Taylor's publicity, if there were any plans to brew Havercake on a regular basis. "Taylors are fortunate in that they already have a nationally recognised brand with Landlord," he told me. Charles Dent and Peter Eells both subscribe to the 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' point of view."

For Taylor's 150th anniversary, sixteen barrels of Havercake Ale have just been delivered to the Bricklayer's Arms in Putney, so enjoy it while you can!

Becky Newman

IT MAY NOT BE A 'CORKER'... BUT IT'S BACK

Rather quietly, at least to me, Gales Prize Old Ale has reappeared in a new 1 pint 0.9 fl oz crown cork capped bottle. This quiet approach is perhaps due to the fact that it is not intended to distribute it through pubs, so you will need to get down to the brewery shop to buy some. At £2.40 for a 9% brew, it's worth the effort. It has more conditioning than the old soft corks from Gales, giving it a nice head and lacing as it goes down the glass. Fuller's Head Brewer John Keeling felt that the corks that were used previously did not help the beer in this respect, giving it a flat, lifeless appearance.

Gales had brewed about 200 barrels of the beer at Horndean which, since the sale, has been held maturing for two years in tanks at Chiswick. It has an almost lambic characteristic as some of the flavour comes from an infection which was present at Gales. As it will not be possible to replicate this infection at Chiswick, some 40 barrels of the Gales brew have been held back. When Fuller's then produce the first Chiswick brewed beer, they will mix it with the stuff held back from Gales. The flavour of the latter will then seep into the former. Some of this mix will then be held back for the next batch and so on and so on. In that way, it should retain its somewhat unique character. And a little bit of the last Gales brew will go on forever.

John Cryne



PLEASE NOTE

THE FINAL COPY DATE FOR
ADVERTISING IN OUR NEXT
ISSUE (JUNE/JULY) IS
THE FIRST OF MAY

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A Rose's by any other name

Last July fans of Rose's feared that the rolling beer festival built up by Dave and Jackie Evans over 18 years would be lost. Rose's, at 49 Hare Street, Woolwich had become a favourite place to sample a fine range of beers from microbreweries but, when Dave and Jackie decided to retire, the owner, John McDonnell, put the pub up for auction. The sale, fortunately for Rose's fans, fell through, and John kept the pub on with a quick transfusion of Fuller's, and then leased Rose's to Terry Booker who also runs the Belfry Club bar in Plumstead High Street, above one of John's chain of bookmakers. John is also currently working on the reopening of the former Conservative Club at Blackheath Standard. (The Belfry is also a failed Tory Club - not a fertile area for Clan Cameron, it would seem).



Terry (above) is seeking beers with a nautical theme (qv Titanic and Nelson) to reflect the location near the Woolwich Ferry.

Sharon Bouchère manages the pub on a day-to-day basis and the familiar rolling microbeer festival has now settled back in with the odd Fuller's seasonal beer mixed in.



Nelson and Cottage are frequently in evidence, and recent sightings have included Northumberland, Cotleigh, Everards, Adnams and Titanic. A mini-beer festival is planned for June (watch this space).

Local artist Stan Batham has produced a stunning mural of the old and current ferries and their



surroundings (above), and Terry is now wondering whether the pub should be called the Old Ferry Inn to reflect the location. I am no fan of renamings, but given that Rose's has been formally named the Prince Albert for decades (but called that by no-one), I would be surprised if any new name would gain popular currency!

Food for the time being is still sandwiches only, but Sharon plans more in the future (as they always were by Dave!) when the pub is updated to meet the more exacting 21st century requirements.

The Tuesday lunchtime CAMRA and GLCRAS reprobaters are back in regular residence, and all the past regulars also – John McDonnell promised and ensured there was a gap of only a day at most in reopening when Dave and Jackie had left: as long as it took emergency supplies from Fuller's to arrive and settle!

The future of the adjacent area (Powis Street/Hare Street/Woolwich High Street) is unclear for the moment; Greenwich Council has aspirations to revive the 'triangle' as it is often described, but seems to have enough on its plate at the other (Station/Town Hall) end of the centre for the moment. A large part is a former Co-op, there is a large Bingo Hall and a garage plus multi-storey car park, and the rest has been owned by the same property interests that own most Powis Street shops, and have not done much with them. The dereliction is giving lead-stealers a temptation too hard to resist - they even tried it on with Rose's last August. However, Rose's really forms part of the surviving section of Woolwich High Street and would not necessarily be swept up by redevelopment.

Rose's is now the only real ale pub in that end of the Woolwich town centre – Plaisted's, the Castle and the Mitre are all gaseous (even though the Mitre is a Greene King tied house) – and, contrary to spurious rumours, Rose's still blooms! All Woolwich buses (96, 161, 180, 177 etc) pass nearby. Woolwich Arsenal Station is at the other end of Powis Street. And we have the DLR in 2009!

Mostyn Lewis

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Traditional Sunday Lunch: 1:00 - 6:00pm

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

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

A disastrous period for brewing in London. Following the demise of Grand Union, one of only two micros regularly supplying cask ales in the whole of Greater London, comes the news of the closure of the Mash brewpub in W1 Great Portland St and the sale of the Cock & Hen brewpub in SW6 Fulham by Capital Pub Co to Young's, both with brewing equipment removed.

Young's have also bought two further pubs from CPC in W2 Bayswater and two more from others in SW6 Fulham and W12 Shepherds Bush. Three pubs in W1 and WC2 Covent Garden sold off and abandoned to their fate by M&B and Spirit in 2006 have reopened as independent free houses, albeit with limited real ale availability. A former Young's pub has also reopened in EC3 City and the Princess Louise in WC1 Holborn has emerged in magnificent style after a sensitive refurbishment by Sam Smiths, including the reinstatement of original features.

On the down side, we confirm the demolition of a Young's pub in SW11 Battersea and list three more community 'locals' Young's have put on the market for more lucrative alternative uses in Croydon, Mitcham and Thornton Heath. Similarly, Hall & Woodhouse have relinquished the lease of a traditional mews pub and former Good Beer Guide regular in SW1 Belgravia which has closed in anticipation of an upmarket residential conversion being permitted. First time reported losses for the four month period since the last Update was compiled total 86 of which 11 have been demolished, 14 converted to restaurants and cocktail bars, 4 to shops and a bank and three to residential use. The remaining 54 have closed and

are awaiting their fate. A further 36 pubs previously reported closed are now confirmed as demolished or converted to restaurants, shops or residential use.

As from this Update, newly reported pubs and bars not known to be operated by a pub chain will be referred to as 'Independent' rather than 'Free House'. In many cases, particularly where no real ale is sold, it is difficult to ascertain whether they are truly free of tie. The term 'independent free house' will be used for those non-pub chain pubs and bars offering a varied beer range from a variety of brewers.

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; RHP - Richmond to Ham & Petersham guide; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; SSE - 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.

A new pub guide, *Down the River*, covering SW18 and SW11 (Wandsworth and Battersea) was published by CAMRA South West London Branch in February this year. It updates the coverage of those districts in the comprehensive 1997 South West London Pub Guide and, as from the next Update, Capital Pubcheck will include cross references to it.

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

EC2, MEDICINE BAR, 89 Great Eastern St. No real ale. Bar run by Medicine chain in former commercial premises.

EC3, ANGEL, 14 Crosswall. Reopened and renamed MISSOURI ANGEL. No real ale, H removed. An independent American bar/restaurant with Sierra Nevada and Anchor keg beers. (E37, U196)

EC3, REVOLUTION, 140-144 Leadenhall St. No real ale. New branch of Revolution chain opened in summer 2007.

EC3, WINE LODGE, 145 Fenchurch St. Wells: Bombardier, Young: Bitter. Reopened and now independent, ex-Young. Formerly CHAPMANS WINE LODGE. (E39, U73, U194, U195)

EC4, CAFÉ ROUGE, Unit 5, Condor House, St Paul's Churchyard. New branch of Café Rouge chain opened in 2007 selling keg beers.

WC1, FRIEND AT HAND, 4 Herbrand St. Reopened. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: IPA; Wells: Bombardier. Not always available. (N22, U106, HB7, W18, U193)

WC2, GLOBE TAVERN, 37 Bow St. Reopened and now simply GLOBE (THE). Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Young: Bitter. One of the former Nicholson pubs disposed of by M&B in 2006 and now an independent free house, reopened in November 2007. The former theatrical theme has been replaced by an eclectic collection of artefacts put together by the new Indian lessee. Flock wallpaper, chandeliers and restaurant upstairs. Food all day 12-11pm. Open 12-11.30 Mon-Thu, 11-12 Fri/Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. (W33, U191)

WC2, MARQUIS OF GRANBY, 51/52 Chandos Pl. Reopened and now simply MARQUIS (THE). Fuller: London Pride. Another former Nicholson pub closed in 2006, reopened in early December 2007 as an independent free house. Tastefully renovated in traditional style with marble bar top, wooden screens, polished wooden floors, ceiling fans etc. Specialises in organic food. Bottled beers and German keg beer from Hacker Pshorr and Paulaner. Full menu 12-8. Open 11-11.30 Mon-Sat, 12-8 Sun. (W35, U191)

W1(F), HA! HA! BAR & RESTAURANT, 43-51 Gt Titchfield St. Renamed SLUG & LETTUCE. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Fuller: London Pride. NB Laurel, ex-Yates Group. (W45)



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RED CAR PUBS

W1(May), BABBLE, 59 Berkeley Sq. No real ale. Independent bar.

W1(May), GROSVENOR ARMS, 2 Grosvenor St. Reopened. Greene King: IPA. Now independent free house, ex-Spirit. Open 11-8 Mon, 11-11 Tue-Fri, 11-6 Sat, closed Sun. (W60)

EAST

E2, BRICK LOUNGE BAR, 212 Brick La. No real ale. Independent bar in ex-shop.

E2, REDCHURCH, 107 Redchurch St. No real ale. Independent bar.

E3, ELEANOR ARMS, 460 Old Ford Rd. Shepherd Neame: Kent Best. (E90, U75, U110)

E3, LITTLE DRIVER, 125 Bow Rd. Adnams: Bitter. (E90, U69, U72, U79, U117, U134, U143, U177)

E14, ANCHOR & HOPE, 41 Westferry Rd. Reopened by August 2007. No real ale. (E142, U184)

E14, CAFÉ ROUGE, 25-29 Mackenzie Walk. No real ale. Branch of chain with keg Belgian beer.

E14, GREENWICH PENSIONER, 2 Bazeley St. Fuller: London Pride. (E145)

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

E14, SMOLLENSKYS, 1 Nash Ct. No real ale. Branch of bar/restaurant chain with keg beer.

E15, BLACK BULL, 13 Broadway. Now **BLACK BULL (YE OLDE)**. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Greene King: IPA Wells: Bombardier. Refurbished. Formerly **MOONEYS** and **MULLIGANS** for a while. (E154, U98, U153, U167)

E17, BARLOCKS, 883-887 Lea Bridge Rd. Reopened and renamed **TRINI BAR**. No real ale. A Trinidad & Tobago bar/restaurant. Formerly **RUSSELLS**, **HARRISONS BAR**, **MONKEY BUSINESS** and originally **McCANNIS**. (E167, U71, U108, U130, U168, U183, U187)

E17, WALTHAM OAK, 757 Lea Bridge Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Formerly **CHESTNUT TREE**. (E166, U165, U168, U191)

NORTH

N1, CAMINO, 3 Varnishers Yard, Regent Quarter, off Pentonville Rd. No real ale. Independent Spanish bar/restaurant with keg beer, in new development area.

N1, ELECTRICITY SHOWROOMS, 39A Hoxton Sq. Taylor: Landlord; Wells: Bombardier. Formerly 'Cube & Star' cocktail bar/restaurant, originally **SHOREDITCH ELECTRICITY SHOWROOMS**, an independent bar/restaurant. Now has a revolving door from the Old Street corner. (U155, U184)

N1, JAY CUBED (j3), 73 White Lion St. Renamed **HOBGOBLIN**. Wychwood: Hobgoblin. Formerly **THREE JOHNS**. (N60, U130, U184)

N8, PRIORY, 169 Priory Rd. Greene King: IPA. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly **LATIN BAILEY**, originally **NEW PRIORY TAVERN**. (N94, U158, U175)

N10, WELL, 291/293 Muswell Hill Broadway. Fuller: London Pride. Formerly **O'NEILLS**. Note corrected name. (U143, U158)

N16, BAR 23, 23 Stoke Newington Rd. No real ale. Independent bar in former commercial unit.

N19, WHITTINGTON STONE, 53 Highgate Hill.

Fuller: London Pride, in side bar. Now M&B, ex-Bass. (N145)

NORTH WEST

NW1, SILKS & SPICES, 27/28 Chalk Farm Rd. No real ale. Thai bar/restaurant, part of chain, in former shop premises.

NW6, COCK TAVERN, 125 Kilburn High Rd. Greene King: IPA. Formerly **OLD COCK TAVERN** and previously **COCK**. (N204, U117, U119, U173)

NW10, CARRAMORE, 236/238 North Circular Rd. No real ale. Previously unreported bar run by Pubs 'n' Bars chain in former café and commercial premises.

HARROW (HA1), RAT & PARROT, 84/86 St Ann's Rd. Reverted to **ROYAL OAK**. Greene King: IPA. Note full address. (W155)

KENTON (HA3), KENTON ARMS, 177/179 Kenton Rd. Reopened and renamed **LANCER BAR, CLUB & RESTAURANT**. No real ale, H unused. Now independently run by Bestville Properties Ltd, ex-SFI. (W216)

KENTON (HA3), DELANEYS, 404 Kenton Rd. No real ale. Independent Irish bar.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, AZZURRO, Arches 145 & 146, Sutton Walk. Independent Italian bar/restaurant, previously unreported.

SE1, STREETS, 121 Lower Marsh. Renamed **CAMEL** by April 2005 and now renamed again **CAMEL & ARTICHOKE**. Greene King: IPA, Abbot. Originally **ARTICHOKE**. (SE35)

SE10, GUILDFORD ARMS, now simply **GUILDFORD (THE)**, 55 Guildford Gro. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch, ex-Bass. Reinstatement of real ale and now a gastropub. (SE95, U105)

SE24, CAFÉ PROVENCAL, 2-6 Half Moon La. No real ale. Independent bar/café in ex-restaurant and shop.

SE24, ESCAPE BAR, 214/216 Railton Rd. No real ale. Independent bar in former shop premises.

SE24, NUMBER 22, 22 Half Moon La. No real ale. Small independent bar at front of restaurant in former shop premises.

SE26, FOX & HOUNDS, 150 Kirkdale. No real ale. Reopened after spruce up. Now Barter Inns, ex-Bass. (SE222, U149, U197)

BROMLEY, CAFÉ ROUGE, 12/13 Market Sq. No real ale. Branch of chain with keg beer in former **DUKES HEAD** pub, latterly a building society office. Reinstated on pub database. (3SE218, U69, U86)

BROMLEY, LATE LOUNGE, 161 Masons Hill. No real ale. Previously unreported independent bar.

BROMLEY, SALSA (TAPAS & BAR), 195 High St. No real ale. Previously unreported independent bar.

BROMLEY, SKY BAR, 175 High St. Reopened and renamed **BROMLEYS**. No real ale. Formerly **ROYAL BELL**. Believed sold by Spirit. (SE220, U53, U70, U163, U195)

BROMLEY COMMON, TIGERS HEAD, 14 Masons Hill. Wadworth: 6X. Reinstatement of real ale. (3SE223, U163)

ORPINGTON, BLACKSMITH (YE OLDE), 105 High St. Reopened and renamed **PRIORY TAVERN**. Greene King: Abbot; Harvey: Best Bitter; two guest beers and two

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real ciders (see December/January *London Drinker*, page 22). Now Enterprise, ex-S&N. (3SE265, U107, U163, U196)

SOUTH WEST

SW8, NOLANS FREEHOUSE, 33 Wilcox Rd. Fuller: London Pride, but not always available. Reinstatement of real ale. (SW78, U167)

SW11, BARRIO, 14 Battersea Sq. No real ale. Independent Mexican bar with keg beer.

SW11, MICROBAR, 14 Lavender Hill. Guest beer from microbrewery, e.g. Dark Star or Nethergate. (U163)

SW11, OUT OF THE BLUE, 140 St Johns Hill. No real ale. Independent bar/restaurant with with keg beer, in former shop unit. Also has bottled beers from six continents.

SW11, PROJECT ORANGE, 43 St Johns Hill. No real ale. Independent bar/restaurant also with excellent bottled beer collection, in former shop unit.

SW15, FOX, 167 Upper Richmond Rd. Fuller: London Pride; Marston: Pedigree. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly FOX & HOUNDS. (SW101, BRP18)
SW17, BLUE PUMPKIN, 16/18 Ritherdon Rd. No real ale. Independent bar/restaurant.
SW17, TRAMSHED, 48A Mitcham Rd, M&B (not Punch). Renamed **TOOTING TRAM AND SOCIAL**. Taylor: Landlord and a spare handpump. Young clientele, soft ambience with subdued lighting, no noisy music or machines, and the tiled walls now decorated with framed pictures, mirrors, lamps and

other paraphernalia. (U142, BM21)

SW18, BAR 366, 366 Garratt La. No real ale. Independent bar/restaurant in former shop unit.

SW18, BARAZA BAR, 561 Garratt La. No real ale. Independent bar/restaurant in former shop unit.

SW18, BOX BAR, 537-539 Garratt La. No real ale. Independent bar/restaurant in former commercial unit.

SW18, KAZANS, 607-609 Garratt La. No real ale. Independent bar/restaurant in former commercial and shop units.

SURBITON (KT6), ST MARKS TAVERN, 7 St Marks Hill. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: IPA. Formerly RAT & PARROT, originally FERRET & TROUSER LEG. (SW161, U150, KT43, U198)

WALLINGTON (SM6), GRANGE, Beddington Park, London Rd. Adnams: Bitter; Black Sheep: Bitter. Now Spirit, ex-Greenalls. (SW126)

WEST

W2, RAT & PARROT, 99 Queensway. Renamed BAYSWATER ARMS. Fuller: London Pride; Wells: Bombardier. (W75)

W6, CAFÉ ROUGE, 98/100 Shepherds Bush Rd. No real ale. A branch of the chain with keg beers.

W6, RICHMOND, 55 Shepherds Bush Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch lease, ex-Spirit. (W104)

W9, WATERWAY, 54 Formosa St. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. (W115)

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W12, EAGLE, 215 Askew Rd. Young: Bitter. Beer may vary. (W122)

BRENTFORD, OLD FIRE STATION, 55 High St. No real ale. Rather upmarket conversion of the fire station into an independent bar/restaurant.

BRENTFORD, GURU CAFÉ & BAR, Watermans, 40 High St. No real ale. Café bar in basement of arts centre, mixed in with an Indian restaurant.

HILLINGDON (UB10), VINE, 121 Hillingdon Hill. Fuller: London Pride; Young: Bitter. Now Orchard, ex-Spirit. (W166)

NORTHOLT (UB5), PLOUGH, Mandeville Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement of real ale. (W176, U187).

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, SHAKESPEARES HEAD, 46 Percival Street, Punch, ex-Bass, renamed simply **SHAKESPEARES** by April 2005 and by October 2007 converted to 'LMNT II' restaurant. (E24, U79, U80)

EC4, CANNON, ex-Bass, demolished by July 2007. (E46, U119)

EC4, CHAMBERS BAR, Free, converted to 'Terranostra' restaurant by November 2007. Formerly O'DONNELLS, originally RUMBOE. (E53, U121, U184)

EC4, SLUG & LETTUCE, 25 Bucklersbury, Laurel, closed and boarded up by October 2007. (U138, U189)

WC1, CHURCHILLS, Free, now demolished and new building under construction on site. (W17, U189)

WC2, BAR AQUADA, M&B, converted to 'Gourmet Burger' restaurant by June 2007. (W28)

WC2, O'REILLYS, Free, now converted to 'Nandos' restaurant (by September 2007). (W36)

WC2, SOUND, Free, closed by August 2007. (U191)

WC2, SPRINGBOK, Free, converted to 'Wahaca' Mexican restaurant by August 2007. (W41)

W1(F), MASH, Free, brewpub, closed by November 2007 and brewing equipment now removed. (W46)

W1(Mar), CALLAGHANS, Free, now converted to 'Carbon' cocktail bar (by October 2007), bottled beers only; delete from pub database. (W51)

W1(Mar), THREE CHEERS, Free, converted to 'Ping Pong' restaurant by October 2007. (W56)

W1(S), BAR LOGIC, Regent Inns, converted to fish restaurant and sushi bar by November 2007. (W63)

W1(S), PITCHER & PIANO, Marston (ex W&D), closed and whole building covered in scaffolding. (W68)

EAST

E1, COLET ARMS, Inn Business, now converted to residential use. (E63, U71, U147, U166, U169)

E1, SOMA, Free, closed and boarded up by July 2007. Formerly **KINGS ARMS**. (E68, U79, U180)

E2, WILDCATS, Free, closed and premises empty. (U192)

E3, CALEDONIAN ARMS, ex-Shepherd Neame, upstairs now converted to residential use and ground floor boarded up and unoccupied by November 2007. (E89, U159)

E3, MILTON ARMS, Free, closed by July 2007. (E91)

E3, TRADER, ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. Formerly **NEEDLE GUN**. (E91, U191)

E3, UNICORN, ex-Whitbread, confirmed now converted to residential use. (E93, U75, U137, U160)

E7, CAMDEN ARMS, Enterprise, ex-Watney via Unique, closed in November 2007 and demolished in January 2008. (E107)

E8, HACKNEYCENTRAL, Free, closed by July 2007. (U176)

E9, DAGMAR ARMS, ex-Ascot, converted to corner shop by November 2007. (E120, U99, U187)

E9, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Enterprise, now demolished (by November 2007). (E120, U99, U194)

E10, BEAUMONT ARMS, ex-Bass, closed by July 2007. (E123)

E10, THREE BLACKBIRDS, Enterprise, ex-S&N, closed and boarded up. (E125, U106, U163)

E14, BRUNSWICK ARMS, ex-Watney, now demolished. (E142, U187, U195)

E14, CITY PRIDE, ex-Watney, H unused. (E143)

E14, HERON, ex-Bass, now converted to offices (by August 2007). Formerly **DRUMMONDS ON THE QUAY**, originally **DRUMMONDS**. (E144, U81, U119, U191, U192)

E14, PHOENIX, ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. (E147, U80, U190)

E14, TRADEWINDS, Free, converted to 'Bengal Quay' restaurant by August 2007. (U119)

E16, ANCHOR, ex-Phoenix, now in use as commercial premises although there is planning permission for conversion to student accommodation. (E157, U112, U156, U191)

E16, BRITISH FLAG, ex-Watney, now demolished. (E157, U156, U184)

E16, CALIFORNIA, Free, closed and boarded up. (E157, U77)

E16, FOX & CONNAUGHT TAVERN, now **FOX @ CONNAUGHT**, address now Lynx Way, Free, H unused. (E159, U163, U184)

E16, NOTTINGHAM ARMS, ex-Watney, confirmed now demolished. (E159, U191)

E16, ROSE OF DENMARK, ex-Phoenix, confirmed now demolished (by February 2008). (E160, U89, U112, U119, U167)

E17, COACH & HORSES, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. (E166, U106, U168, U188, U194)

E17, GROVE TAVERN, Free, closed. (E167, U89)

E17, LORNE ARMS, ex-Bass, closed and premises empty. (E167)

BARKING, BARGE AGROUND, ex-S&N, closed. (X10, U157, U175, U177)

BARKING, FISHING SMACK, ex-Taylor Walker, confirmed now demolished (in November 2007). (X11, U165, U166, U170, U185, U195)

SEVEN KINGS, ASHGROVE, ex-Bass, H removed after refurbishment. (X105)

NORTH

N1, CLOTHWORKERS ARMS, Free, closed by December 2007 and building work in progress. (N40, U184)

N1, DOVE REGENT, Free, now converted to residential use (by November 2007). Formerly **ANGEL CAFÉ BAR**, originally **DUKE OF BRIDGEWATER**. (N38, U159,

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U164, U185)

N1, GARDEN, Barracuda, no real ale. Formerly MOON UNDER WATER, originally 179 UPPER STREET. (N37, U137, U145, U176, U189)

N1, MITRE, 129/130 Upper St, M&B, ex-Bass, closed by September 2007. (N52, U155)

N1, REGENT, Free, H unused. Formerly PRINCE REGENT, STONE BAR, Jindvicks restaurant and NOLIAS CAFÉ BAR. (N53, U141, U175, U198)

N4, ALEXANDRA (BAR & EATING HOUSE), Free, now demolished. Formerly HORNSEY WOOD TAVERN. (N75, U185, U196)

N7, BEDFORD TAVERN, ex-Whitbread, H removed. (N85, U153)

N7, McLOUGHLINS, Free, closed and shuttered, all signage removed. Formerly BALMORAL CASTLE. (N85, U159, U184)

N7, TOMMY FLYNN'S, Enterprise, ex-Intntrepreneur via Unique. Renamed PHIBBERS, no real ale. Formerly VICTORIA. (N91, U144, U176)

N8, LION LOUNGE, ex-S&N, H unused. Formerly NOBODY INN, originally LION. (N94, U158, U174)

N9, INN ON THE GREEN, Punch, ex-Bass, closed and boarded up. Formerly OLD CIRCUS. (N100, U189)

N15, JJ MOONS, ex-Pubmaster, renamed JJ'S by November 2003 and H unused, closed and boarded up by September 2007. (N124, U138)

N15, SEVEN STARS, Free, now closed and boarded up

after a period as a children's nursery. (N125, U165)
N19, WHITTINGTON & CAT, Free (McGovern), H unused. (N145, U185)

N22, WESTBURY, now Punch, ex-Taylor Walker, H unused. (N157)

ENFIELD (EN2), KINGS HEAD, M&B, ex-Bass, closed, future uncertain for this landmark pub on CAMRA's Regional Inventory. (N235)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CAMDEN ROCK CAFE, already reported as converted to shop, now badly fire damaged. Formerly CAERNARVON CASTLE and was FUSILIER & FIRKIN for a while. (N166, U151, U164, U184, U192, U194)

NW1, HAWLEY ARMS, Greene King, closed and badly fire damaged. Was BAR HAWLEY for a while. (N167, U132, U164)

NW1, HENRY J BEANS, Free, converted to Chinese restaurant. Originally HA! HA! BAR & CANTEEN. (U143, U165)

NW1, PRINCE ALFRED, ex-Taylor Walker, closed and boarded up. (N172)

NW1, REIDS, Free, now being converted to residential use. Formerly PRINCE GEORGE OF CUMBERLAND. (N172, U151, U184)

NW2, OX & GATE, now Spirit, ex-Taylor Walker and leased, H removed. (N180)

NW2, RED LION, ex-Magic, now converted to residential use (by July 2007). (N180)

NW2, ST JAMES'S GATE, renamed HERITAGE TAVERN by July 2007, Free, closed. Originally HOLE IN THE WALL. (N180, U155)

NW3, 3 ONE 7, S&N, ex-Greenalls, H unused. Formerly O'HENERYS. (N188, U178)

NW4, WHITE BEAR, ex-Bass, closed and sold to property developer, December 2007. Was FOOTMAN & FIRKIN for a while. (N195, U120, U151, U161, U180)

NW5, FIDDLERS ELBOW, Enterprise, ex-Saxon Inns, renamed FIDDLERS by October 2004. Now operates as a music venue with entry charge; delete from pub database. Formerly MOTHER SHIPTON. (N198)

NW6, BIDDYS, Greene King, closed and boarded up. Previously SOUTHERN K and formerly BIDDY MULLIGANS. (N203, U117, U173, U197)

NW6, DUKE (O'ROURKES), Free, closed. Formerly McGARVEYS. (N205, U149, U188)

HARROW (HA1), JOHN LYON, sold by Greene King in mid 2007 and now renamed MUMBAI JUNCTION, an independently owned Indian bar/restaurant with keg beers, H removed. (W154)

HARROW (HA1), OSCARS, Free, H removed. (W154)

KENTON (HA3), LOUGH INN, Free, H removed. (W217)

PINNER (HA5), KING GEORGE IV, M&B, no real ale. Formerly GEORGE. (W179, U185)

WEALDSTONE (HA3), ROYAL OAK, M&B, renamed PAPA J'S, a franchised Indian bar/restaurant, H removed. (W217)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BELL, Free, H removed. (SE10, U153)

SE1, BRIDGE BAR, Free, closed presumably to help

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Favourites &
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facilitate the London Bridge 'Shard of Glass' development. (U178)

SE4, DUKE OF EDINBURGH, ex-Bass, closed. (SE51)

SE4, LORD WOLSELEY, ex-Bass, confirmed converted to flats in August 2000. (SE52, U155)

SE4, MAYPOLE, ex-Unique, ex-Watney, closed c2005. (SE52)

SE8, CROWN & SCEPTRE, ex-Courage, closed. (SE79)

SE8, DREADNOUGHT, ex-Bass, demolished. (SE79)

SE8, OLD MANOR HOUSE, Free, now converted to Italian restaurant. (SE81, U102, U173)

SE8, RED LION, ex-Watney, closed. Was BRADY'S BAR for a while. (SE77, U102)

SE8, ROSE OF KENT, ex-Courage, converted to flats. (SE82, U157)

SE8, VICTORIA, ex-Whitbread, converted to Vietnamese restaurant. (SE82)

SE10, DANIELS, Free, converted to 'Embassy' African restaurant. Formerly GASTRO GASTRO, originally ROYAL ALBERT. (SE101, U121, U164, U184, U193)

SE10, MILLERS, Free (Saxon Inns), still closed and boarded up. (SE98, U120)

SE12, PRINCE ARTHUR, Enterprise, ex-Watney, closed. (SE114)

SE13, ANGEL, ex-Watney, demolished. (SE118)

SE13, PITCHERS, ex-Whitbread, closed. Formerly PLOUGH. (SE121, U116)

SE13, RAVENSBORNE ARMS, ex-Phoenix, now converted to flats. (SE121, U112, U135)

SE13, ROYAL OAK, 1 Lee Church St, ex-Unique, now converted to flats. (SE122, U176)

SE13, ROYAL OAK, 45 Loampit Vale, ex-Truman, now demolished. (SE122, U165)

SE14, ARROWS, ex-Bass, now converted to flats. (SE125, U158)

SE14, COACH & HORSES, ex-Belhaven, demolished. (SE125)

SE14, DEW DROP INN, ex-Courage, now converted to flats. (SE126, U158)

SE14, DUKE OF ALBANY, ex-Courage, closed. (SE127)

SE14, EARL OF DERBY, Free, closed. (SE127)

SE14, RAILWAY TAVERN, ex-Bass, previously reported as converted to catering supplier, now demolished. (SE130, U102)

SE14, ROYAL ARCHER, Free (Labatts), closed. (SE130, U102)

SE14, SPANISH STEPS, ex-Phoenix, closed. (SE131, U112)

SE15, LONDON & BRIGHTON, Admiral, ex-Labatts, closed and for sale. (SE136, U102)

SE24, HARRIERS, ex-Truman, demolished by October 2007. Originally HERNE ARMS. (SE210)

SE25, GLADSTONE, Punch, ex-Bass, closed. (SE216)

SE26, DUKE, Enterprise, now demolished. Formerly DUKE OF EDINBURGH. (SE222, U149, U197, U198)

BROMLEY, GREYHOUND, ex-Whitbread, closed, planning application in window dated March 2007 for change of use to restaurant. Formerly TOWN HOUSE for a while. (3SE218, U59, U86, U158, U186)

BROMLEY, SCRUFFY MURPHYS, ex-Spirit (Firkin Beer

Co). Renamed **COMPASS** by May 2005, H unused. Formerly ARKWRIGHTS WHEEL, originally THREE COMPASSES. (3SE220, U70, U85, 8K50, U111)

BROMLEY, STAR & GARTER, Punch, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (3SE220, U44, U70, 8K50)

COULSDON (WOODMANSTERNE), JACK & JILL, ex-Wizard, H unused. (3SE229, U109, U153)

KESTON, KESTON MARK, ex-Whitbread, now confirmed converted to residential use. (3SE263, U46, U163, U184)

ST MARY CRAY, OLD STAR, ex-Bass, converted to residential use. (3SE270)

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

ST MARY CRAY, WHITE SWAN, now Enterprise, ex-Watney via Unique, H unused. (3SE271)

SOUTH CROYDON, WINDSOR CASTLE, M&B, ex-Bass, renamed **TOBY CARVERY**, H removed. (3SE280)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), GROUSE & CLARET, Hall & Woodhouse, closed in December 2007 following, it is understood, early relinquishment of the lease by the brewer to the freeholder, who is believed to have aspirations for conversion to flats if Westminster Council can be persuaded to grant permission. The sad loss of one of a diminishing number of traditional mews pubs and a former GBG regular follows a similar pattern to the Archery Tavern in W2 and the Blenheim in SW3, also relinquished by Hall & Woodhouse and both now upmarket restaurants with flats above. Having built up a good, loyal trade, the landlord was understandably peeved to be ousted and a notice on the door reads 'closed for ever and eternity'. (SW37)

SW1(P), BALMORAL CASTLE, ex-Intreprenuer, still closed and building scaffolded. (SW40, U167)

SW1(W), COACH & HORSES, now M&B (Nicholson), ex-Bass, closed. (SW48)

SW4, CROWN & ANCHOR, closed and boarded up. (SW59, U184)

SW5, RICHMOND, M&B, ex-Bass, converted to Wagamama restaurant. Formerly EARLS. (SW62, U138)

SW8, BAR SW8, closed, future uncertain. Formerly BELL and TURNERS 2 for a while. (SW76, U171, U178, U195)

SW8, PJ MALONEYS, closed and boarded up. Formerly BRITISH LION. (SW76, U184)

SW8, VASCO DA GAMA, closed and boarded up. (SW80, U141)

SW10, MAGPIE & STUMP, ex-Bass, previously reported as converted to wine bar and wine shop, now converted to a pizza restaurant. (SW85, U151, U172)

SW10, RILEYS, now Enterprise ex-Intreprenuer via Unique, H unused. (SW85)

SW11, ALL BAR ONE, 30-34 Northcote Rd, no real ale. Note correction to address given in new guide. (U130)

SW11, BOLINGBROKE, ex-Bass, now demolished for housing redevelopment. (SW86, U154, U165)

SW11, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Enterprise, being converted to flats. (SW87, U195)

SW11, FALCON KITCHEN, Free, converted to shop. (U163)

DOWN THE RIVER

Copies of the new Wandsworth and Battersea pub guide are available, price £2, from CAMRA and the following pubs:

Wandsworth: The Hop Pole, Le Gothique, The Royal Oak, The Spread Eagle

Battersea: The Duke of Cambridge, The Eagle Ale House, The Westbridge



SW11, GALLEON, ex-Intntrepreneur, demolished and replaced by flats. (SW88)

SW11, GROVE, Enterprise, H unused. (SW89, U159, U177)

SW11, PLOUGH, Young, now demolished pending redevelopment. (SW89, U195, U197, U198)

SW11, S BAR, Independent (Trieamain Properties), ex-Phoenix, H removed. Formerly EARL SPENCER. Note correct name. (SW88, U126)

SW11, SLUG & LETTUCE, Laurel, H removed. (U126)

SW11, UNION ARMS, Enterprise, ex-Intntrepreneur via

Unique, H removed. (SW90, U144)

SW16, JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE, closed and boarded up. Formerly HALF & HALF. (SW105, U153, U168)

SW18, OPEN PAGE. Renamed MEL'S, H removed, a café bar. (U166)

SW18, LORD PALMERSTON, Intntrepreneur, now long since converted to residential use. (SW113, U153, U156)

SW18, PIGGIES WINE BAR, Free, now long since demolished. (SW114)

SW18, SPOTTED DOG, Woolwich Taverns, now demolished. (SW114, U138, U146, U167, U174, U178, U181, U193, U196)

SW19, SUBURBAN, Free, now cocktails and bottled beers only; delete from pub database. (U187, BM30)

SW20, EMMA HAMILTON, Spirit, H unused. (SW125, BRP37)

KINGSTON (KT2), ARTFUL DODGER. Renamed ACORN 20 by December 2007, H removed in refurbishment as an 'urban bar & kitchen'. (SW140, U140, U172, KT18)

KINGSTON (KT1), COCOANUT, Fuller, H removed. (SW141, KT21)

KINGSTON (KT1), LITTEN TREE, ex-SFI, now converted to a shop unit. (SW143, KT24, U198)

KINGSTON (KT1), SLUG & LETTUCE, Thameside, ex-SFI, demolished and replaced by the renamed CASA (see 'Changes' below. (U126, U167, KT27)

The Magpie & Crown

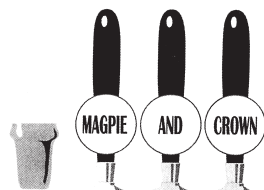


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KINGSTON (KT1), WATERS EDGE, ex-Discovery Inns, closed. Previously **PORTER BLACK**, formerly **SHAMUS O'DONNELLS**. (SW144, U150, U165, KT26, U198)
MITCHAM (CR4), QUEENS HEAD, 10 Mill Green Rd. Now **JACK BEARDS AT THE QUEENS HEAD**, H unused. (SW147)

MORDEN (SM4), LADY ST HELIER, ex-Wetherspoon, now absorbed into adjacent Lidl store. Formerly **WETHERSPOONS**. (SW151, U147, BM38, U191)

RICHMOND (TW10), BE AT ONE, included in error in new RHP guide. No draught beer; cocktails, wine and bottled beers only. (RHP19)

RICHMOND (TW9), ONE PARADISE ROAD, included in error in new RHP guide. No draught beer; wine bar with bottled beers only. (RHP26)

WEST

W3, BELVEDERE, Laurel, H removed. Formerly **SOUTHERN CROSS**. (W86, U198)

W3, PUZZLE, ex-Puzzle, no real ale, for sale for £1.25 million. (W85, U185)

W4, FLASHMANS. Renamed **GOODNESS**, a bar/restaurant, closed, future uncertain. Delete erroneous report in U189 about renaming to Revolution – see Pitcher & Piano under 'Changes' below. (W88)

W5, ALL BAR ONE, M&B, converted to bank. (W92)

W12, SLUG & LETTUCE, ex-SFI, now converted to gaming shop. Formerly **WELLINGTON**. (W124, U190)
BRENTFORD (TW8), GEORGE & DRAGON, M&B, H unused. (W131)

BRENTFORD (TW8), NORTH STAR, ex-Courage, reported as converted to club, now demolished. (W235)

GREENFORD (UB6), LITTEN TREE, ex-SFI, closed, boarded up and sold for redevelopment. (W142)

GREENFORD (SUDBURY) (UB6), SUDBURY ARMS, Greene King, demolished and to be replaced by flats. (W142)

GREENFORD (UB6), WHITE HART, Enterprise, now demolished after fire damage. (W142, U195)

HILLINGDON (UB10), MASTER BREWER HOTEL, Fuller, closed and acquired and demolished by Tesco's to add to adjacent land in anticipation of planning permission for a new store. (W165)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), SOUTH WESTERN HOTEL, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. (W170)

NORTHOLT (UB5), OAST HOUSE, Spirit, now demolished. (W176)

SOUTHALL (UB2), BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Free, now demolished. (W186)

SOUTHALL (UB2), WOLF, Spirit, no real ale. (W188)

TWICKENHAM (TW1), JOYA, Free, closed by October 2007. (W203)

TWICKENHAM (TW1), SMOLLENSKYS METRO, Smollenskys, closed. Formerly **SMOLLENSKYS**. (W204, U191, U192)

WEST DRAYTON (UB7), SWAN, Enterprise, H removed. (W226)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, COCO. Renamed **COTTONS**, a bar/restaurant with the basement venue named **RHUM SHACK**.

Formerly **DON PEDRO**, originally **LONDON SPA**. (E19, U67, U164, U180)

WC1, PRINCESS LOUISE. Reopened at the beginning of January after temporary closure and major refurbishment by Sam Smith. Thankfully it retains handpumps dispensing Old Brewery Bitter. The brewery are to be congratulated on a splendid restoration job including reinstating the original layout with wooden screens in period style dividing the bar area into separate drinking areas or booths. The tiles, etched glass mirrors, pillars and dark wood panelling have been beautifully restored. The upstairs bar is comfortably furnished with cream décor, chandeliers and pictures of Princess Louise adorning the walls. Traditional English food at reasonable prices. Open 11-11 Mon-Sat, 12-11 Sun. (W24, U195)

WC2, DALYS WINE BAR. The basement level, previously **DAVYS BAR**, is now named **HEMISPHERE** with access at 46 Essex St, -beers listed: +St Austell: Tribute; +Young: Bitter available both upstairs and downstairs. (W31)

WC2, ROSE & SPRINGBOK. Renamed **MARQUEE CLUB & BAR** after the famous music venue formerly in Charing Cross Rd and now occupied by a Wetherspoon pub. Draught Bass tried but H now unused due to poor sales. Formerly **BABELLAAS**. (W41, U191)

W1(Mar), O'CONNOR DON. Renamed **CONDUIT OF TYBOURNE** in November 2007, still no real ale. Note correct spelling of former name. (W56)

EAST

E2, OARSMAN. Renamed **CK BAR** and now renamed again **MELANGE**. Previously **NICE LITTLE EARNER**, originally **VICTORY**. (E83, U75, U158)

E3, PALM TREE. Address is now 24/26 Haverfield Rd. (E91, U108, U169)

E10, BAR EUROPA. Renamed **DIPLOMAT BAR**, still no real ale. (U179)

E16, VICTORIA (PUB & KITCHEN). Renamed **CUSTOM HOUSE (BAR & KITCHEN)**, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. Originally **FIGUREHEAD**. (U160, U163, U174)

BARKING, LEGENDS. Renamed **LUKES BAR & RESTAURANT**, still no real ale. Open during day but becomes part of 'Club Lorca' nightclub at night. (X11)

NORTH

N1, WARWICK. Renamed **BARRIO NORTH** by October 2007. Formerly **BAR FUSHION**. (U155, U184)

N8, O'S BAR. Renamed **BAR APOGEE**, still no real ale. Formerly **BLUE BAR CAFÉ**, originally **BIRD IN HAND**. (N93, U143, U157)

NORTH WEST

NW2, WELCOME INN. Renamed **McGOWANS** by October 2007, still no real ale. (N180)

EASTCOTE (HA5), CASE IS ALTERED. Now McManus Pubs, ex-Spirit. (W179)

EDGWARE (HA8), FLYING EAGLE, ex-S&N, planning permission granted for demolition and replacement by flats. (N256)

HARROW (HA1), FAT CONTROLLER. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Broken Foot. (W150)

HARROW (HA1), O'FLAHERTYS, 205 Watford Rd. Renamed **CAPTAIN MORGANS**, still no real ale.

(W154)

HARROW WEALD (HA3), CASE IS ALTERED. Now franchised by M&B to 'More Than Just a Pub Company'. (W216)

WEALDSTONE (HA3), OLD BANK. Renamed **SHANKEE (THE)**, still no real ale. (W217)

SOUTH EAST

SE9, PARK TAVERN, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +3 guest beers from regional and SIBA breweries.

Acquired by new owners and now believed to be an independent free house, ex-Truman via Unique and Enterprise. Home cooked lunches. (SE87, U178)

SE9, TUDOR BARN, Free, under threat of closure by owner Greenwich Council. (U195)

SE10, GREENWICH UNION, -Meatime: Blonde Cask Ale; +Adnams: Bitter. Formerly OBSERVATORY, originally FOX & HOUNDS. (SE98, U102, U136, U148, U163)

SE10, L'ATTITUDE BAR. Renamed **ELEMENTS**, a restaurant and bar, still no real ale. (U184)

SE10, POLAR BEAR. Renamed **BAR ARMANI**, still no real ale. Formerly WHITE SWAN HOTEL, originally WHITE SWAN. (SE103, U102, U120, U155, U164, U177, U184)

SE10, POWDER MONKEY. Renamed **W LOUNGE**, still no real ale. Formerly CRICKETERS. (SE93, U123, U193)

SE16, FITCHETTS. Renamed **AARDVARK.** (SE152, U102)

BECKENHAM, HOGS HEAD. Renamed **SLUG & LETTUCE**, -Greene King: Abbot. Formerly HOGSHEAD. (U144, U179)

BROMLEY, LORD HOLMESDALE, 184 Homesdale Rd (corrections to name and address shown in Guides and Updates). (3SE218, U86, 8K50, U163)

BROMLEY, PRINCE FREDERICK, now Greene King, ex-Whitbread by 2004, +Greene King: IPA, Ruddles County. (3SE219, 8K164)

BROMLEY, RED LION, Greene King, ex-Beards in 1996. The two weekly guest beers include those from Brains, Exmoor, Lees, Okells and Shepherd Neame. (3SE219, U59, U122)

COULSDON, FOX. Now M&B, ex-Bass, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Special. The most southerly pub in Greater London. (3SE229, U195)

CROYDON, PORTER & SORTER. Now Marston, ex-Wizard, -beers listed; +Marston: Pedigree; +Jennings: Cumberland Ale. (3SE248, U49, U108, U136, U168)

CROYDON, TAMWORTH ARMS. Recently listed pub under threat of closure by Young's and for sale for non-pub use. (3SE251, U154, U157)

THORNTON HEATH, FOUNTAIN HEAD. Under threat of closure by Young's and for sale for non-pub use. (3SE282)

SOUTH WEST

SW3, CAFÉ BODEGA. Renamed **ALBUM** by December 2007, still no real ale. Formerly CAHOOTS. (SW156, U188, U193)

SW6, COCK & HEN. One of three pubs newly acquired by Young's from Capital Pub Co for nearly £9 million and due for a six week refurbishment. Brewing equipment

removed. The sad loss of one of London's very few brewpubs after less than a year's operation. Formerly COCK. (SW66, U158, U188, U195)

SW6, GEORGE. Due to be acquired by Young's in April. (SW67, U159)

SW6, KINGS HEAD. Renamed **ZULUS**, still no real ale. (SW68, U163, U166)

SW6, PROSPECT. Renamed **BELUSHIS.** Formerly FAT SAMS. (SW67, U152, U158)

SW8, WYVILS. Renamed **VAUXHALL GRIFFIN**, retains Fuller: London Pride. Formerly BUILDERS ARMS. (SW76, U141, U167)

SW10, FINCHS. Reverted to **KINGS ARMS**, -Young: Special; +Wells: Bombardier. (SW84)

SW11, BOHO. Renamed **MARGARITA LOCA** and now a Mexican/Cuban bar/restaurant. (U164)

SW11, BOOM. Renamed **BROWN SUGAR** and now a, a Caribbean lounge bar/restaurant. Formerly BARRINGTONS. (SW86, U139, U152)

SW11, CHURCHILLS, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. Formerly PRINCES PUZZLE (SW89, U143, U145)

SW11, FALCON, retains Fuller: London Pride and Wells: Bombardier; +Adnams: Broadside; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Taylor: Landlord; +Wadworth: 6X; +3 guest beers. Now part of M&B Nicholson's chain, ex-Bass. (SW88, U144, U159, U188)

SW11, FINE LINE, 31-37 Northcote Rd. Renamed **BANK.** Note correct address. (U137)

SW11, LA NA THAI & FACE BAR. Renamed **THAI ON THE RIVER**, a restaurant with attached bar, licensed for marriages and civil partnerships. Formerly BATTERSEA BOATHOUSE, RIVERSIDE and originally RIVER RAT. (SW90, U152, U155, U163)

SW11, SETTLE INN. Renamed **PRINCE OF WALES**, -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +Wells: Bombardier. Refurbished with the loss of Victorian interior fittings. Now Enterprise, ex-Merlin Inns. Formerly RISING SUN. Note correction of beer list in new guide. (SW90, U155)

SW15, CEDAR TREE. Renamed **NORMANDY**, styled a diner, deli and pub. (SW100, BRP16)

SW18, ROYAL STANDARD, -Fuller: London Pride; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +guest beer. Was TONSLEY TUP for a while. (SW114, U144, U157, U192)

SW18, GARAGE. Name has remained **OLD GARAGE**, contrary to report in U161. (U129, U161)

SW18, ROSE & CROWN. Independent free house, ex-London & Edinburgh. Formerly GLEESON & SONS CORNER HOUSE. (SW112, U141, U149, U151, U175)

SW18, SAIGON LOUNGE. Renamed **SPACE LOUNGE**, still no real ale. Formerly D BAR, JUST SO BAR and originally FOOTE & FIRKIN. (U130, U146, U154, U165, U178, U195)

SW19, LEATHER BOTTLE, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Formerly OLD LEATHER BOTTLE. (SW118, BM27)

CHEAM (SM3), WETHERSPOONS. Renamed **NONSUCH INN.** (SW133).

KINGSTON (KT2), OWL & PUSSYCAT. Reverted to

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QUEENS HEAD, -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter; +Flowers: IPA; +guest beer. Punch (not Free). Formerly **EDDIE RYANS**. (SW142, U165, KT25)

KINGSTON (KT1), CASA. Renamed **SLUG & LETTUCE**, still no real ale. Laurel, ex-Free. (U165, KT18, U198)

MITCHAM (CR4) CRICKETERS. Under threat of closure by Young's and for sale for non-pub use. (SW145)

RICHMOND (TW9), HENRYYS. Renamed **REVOLUTION** after temporary closure, still no real ale. (RHP21)

WEST

W2, MITRE. Acquired by Young's from Capital Pub Co, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter, Special, +seasonal or guest beer (currently Caledonian: Deuchars IPA). (W74)

W2, PHOENIX HOTEL. Now simply **PHOENIX**, still no real ale. Formerly **BAR OZ**. (W71, U196)

W2, PORCHESTER. Acquired by Young's from Capital Pub Co, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter, Special, +seasonal or guest beer (currently Caledonian: Deuchars IPA). Formerly **ROYAL OAK**. (W78, U188, U192)

W2, REEF. Renamed **SLOE** by November 2007, still no real ale. (W78)

W3, WHITE LION. Renamed **CHATSWORTH BAR**, refurbished, still no real ale. (W86)

W4, PITCHER & PIANO. Renamed **REVOLUTION** after sale by Marston (W&D) to the independent pub chain, still no real ale (confused with **FLASHMANS** in U189). (W90)

W5, CHANDLERS. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Broken Foot, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter. (W92, U195)

W5, HAVEN. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Broken Foot, ex-Regent Inns. (W96, U185)

W6, GEORGE. Renamed **BELUSHIS**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride and Wells: Bombardier. (W102)

W6, LAZY VINE. Reverted back to **CARPENTERS ARMS**, -Fuller: London Pride; +Adnams: Bitter. Foody bar catering primarily for eaters, with a table reserved for drinkers. (W103, U192)

W12, BUSHRANGER. Free House acquired by Young's in late February, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter. Due for refurbishment and renaming in April. (W122)

W13, WALSINGHAM ARMS. Renamed **FLYNN'S BAR & DINER** and part of chain, still no real ale. (W126)

NORTHOLT (UB5), CROWN. Now M&B, ex-Whitbread, -beers listed; +three guest beers from M&B list. (W176)

SOUTHALL (UB1), WHITE HART (AT CLUB MISSION). Renamed **VICTORY**, still trading but planning permission granted to demolish and replace by

flats. (W188, U185)

TWICKENHAM (TW2), PAVILION BAR. Old bar has been demolished and the clubhouse is now part of a large, new build, sports complex on the site now open to Members only (correction to W guide). (W237)

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 195

OTHER CHANGES ETC

HILLINGDON (UB10), LITTLE FOX. Should read **OLD FOX** (see also corrections to U195 in U196).

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 196

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC

WC1, BLOOMSBURY BOWLING LANES BAR. Is named **SWIVEL BAR**, Bloomsbury Bowling Lanes, Tavistock Hotel.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

HAYES (UB3), KINGS ARMS. Delete entry; the pub is open despite boarded up windows.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 197

PUBS CLOSED ETC

ST PAULS CRAY, WANDERER. Add: Renamed **RAVENSBURY ARMS**, closed by July 2007.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

N8, BAR ROCCA. Should read 'Renamed **CHEEKEE MONKEEZ** and now renamed again **MUSIC PLACE**'.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 198

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC

CROYDON, MILAN BAR. Should read 'only known fizz outlet in London (apart from some airside bars at Heathrow)'.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

N17 WATERS EDGE. Is now a canoe and cycle centre.

SW8 HORSESHOE. Should read 'demolished' instead of 'closed'.

SW11 GARDENERS ARMS. Should read: **JACK BEARDS AT THE GARDENERS ARMS**.

SW11, MEYRICK ARMS. Enterprise, leased to Pubs 'n' Bars.

CHEAM (SM3), QUEEN VICTORIA (MR Q'S). Should read 'closed and boarded up', not 'demolished'.

SURBITON (KT6), CORKYS. Address is 12 Claremont Rd. Add ref: (KT40)

OTHER CHANGES ETC

KEW (TW9), RAILWAY. Add: Now Orchard, ex-Spirit. **KINGSTON (KT1), BAR CASA**. Should read 'renamed **CASA** by 2005'.

RICHMOND (TW9), HENRYYS. Should read 'ex-Greenalls via Spirit'.

Visit the Travel Pages at
www.londondrinker.org.uk

A new website is aiming to preserve one of Britain's great traditions. With 56 public houses closing down every month, it is hoped to reverse the trend by opening the first virtual community pub.

www.runmypub.com is aimed at attracting both would-be publicans and those with an interest in the licensed trade to buy their own boozier. Users are invited to become members of the website and, by buying a share, will have a say in everything about a prospective pub purchase.

Phil Womack, from runmypub.com, said: "People are astonished when they find out how many pubs are actually closing down every month – and this is a chance to do something about it. Members of the website will have a vote on everything from the location of the pub, the type of pub, the décor, the entertainment, the beers, the food, and even the staff who work there!"

Tony Jerome, CAMRA's spokesperson said, "runmypub.com sounds like a wonderful idea and it will appeal to a lot of people out there who have always dreamed of owning their own pub. Buying a pub can cost a lot of money but this scheme lets pub

lovers have a slice of the action for just £25 per year! Who knows, in months to come this scheme could help save many pubs that are currently under threat from closure."

www.runmypub.com is a similar concept to myfootballclub.com where membership subscriptions recently provided the funds to purchase Blue Square Conference football club Ebbsfleet United.

Members of runmypub.com will be kept fully informed of the progress being made and will be asked to vote on all decisions. Once the pub is open, members will be invited to use the facilities, and will also be able to view the establishment via a live webcam.

Phil added: "It is the members who will shape the pub and, together, work to make it a success. Once we have enough members in place we will be consulting them about a first purchase, and the decisions will be down to them." Phil is keen to stress that becoming a member is NOT an investment opportunity, but the chance to have a say in all aspects of running a pub and help maintain one of Britain's great traditions.



THE NIGHTINGALE WALK

The Nightingale Walk has been running for 28 years now, and as the T-shirt logo last year said - 'STILL GOING STRONG'!

So far we have raised a massive £400,000.00, with the proceeds going to various charities including, Trinity Hospice and Contact a Family, to name just a couple. So many have benefited from the Nightingale Walk, and will continue to do so!

The walk takes place on the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May every year and in 2007 we had almost 200 walkers gather at Walton-on-Thames, to start the gruelling 22 mile walk to Putney.

The walkers come from all walks of life: we have walkers from 5 years old up to 73 years old (Joannie our treasured bar lady), we even had one walker fly in from South Africa just to do the walk and represent the Nightingale. It is fantastic to watch the walkers limp back into the pub gasping for that first pint of bitter!

Upon their return there is a massive barbecue waiting for them and even a couple of free pints. Very few of them make it till closing time, but the true 'professionals', can last all night. Every one sits around and compares their injuries (mostly blisters) from the day. It is a wonderful atmosphere and definitely something to consider becoming part of.

So much planning goes into it and the committee do a fantastic job! As do the people who actually sponsor the walkers, and not to forget the walkers themselves, who are all amazing!!!

We have a big presentation day in September, where the money gets handed over to the charities. It is touching to hear the stories of the people the money has helped. And naturally we all partake in some more good food and great beer!

So from mid April onwards why not pop in to the Nightingale for a pint and sign up for the Walk while you are there!

Check out our website at www.nightingalewalk.org



Further to the 'Resident' and 'After Hours' items on pages 48 and 49 of the February/March issue of the London Drinker, I am sure that most beer drinkers of my generation (approaching retirement age) will have stories of similar experiences.

I will give you just two of my own personal examples. In the '70s I lived in the village of Harlington just on the northern boundary of Heathrow, where there was a notorious pub called the Garth Hotel tucked away at the end of a cul-de-sac off the High Street. As soon the final bell sounded the shutters would be quickly lowered with a big crash, then the bar staff would rush out and take orders for simple 'basket meals' (sausage and chips, chicken and chips, etc) and, once these had been served, it was permissible to order drinks again!

Things were not that different at the other end of the country. I used to visit a motor racing track near a place called Melbourne (about ten miles east of York) during the 1980s and spent many a weekend session at the Cross Keys pub in the centre of the village. One Sunday lunchtime my friend and I – both used to strict London licensing times – noticed

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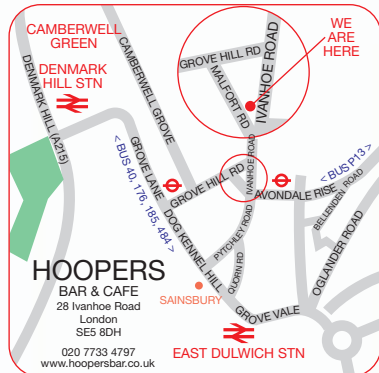
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that it was well past 2.30pm and therefore assumed we had missed out on the chance for one last drink. However, the landlord assured us that it was not a problem, pointing out that the curtains had been drawn and the front door locked. I cannot recall what time we eventually left the pub, but I do remember the local bobby coming in through the back door for a pint much later that same afternoon!

AN INNKEEPER'S OBLIGATIONS

In 1948 the Ramblers' Association published a leaflet outlining the obligations of an innkeeper. This document revealed that, for over four hundred years, the courts in England held that inns (in law called 'common inns') were instituted for 'passengers and wayfaring men' and an innkeeper was defined as a person who, having suitable facilities available, presented himself to the outside world as being prepared to receive and entertain travellers, offering them accommodation and other necessities. According to the law of the land, an innkeeper was bound to provide, at a reasonable price, food and shelter for the traveller regardless of the hour at which he – or presumably she – arrived at the inn.

Furthermore, the innkeeper could not pick and choose who he would accept as guests. Provided that they were willing to pay a reasonable price and arrived in a fit state to be received, travellers were legally entitled to be admitted.

On the other hand, if a person was not a traveller, the innkeeper was perfectly justified in refusing to entertain him and/or her. Also, any person who arrived as a traveller and then stayed on indefinitely would become either a lodger or boarder and cease to have the rights of a traveller; in which case the innkeeper might refuse to accommodate him/her further and, after giving a reasonable period of notice, ask him/her to leave.

It should be noted, however, that just because an establishment was called an inn (for example, the Crown Inn) this did not automatically make it a 'common inn' under the law. Conversely, a place called a Tavern or even a Coffee House (might this be applied to Starbucks today?) could be classified as an inn. The decisive factor was the actual use of the building concerned. In other words, if the landlord of a public house made it known that he was willing to accept guests then it was regarded as a 'common inn' no matter what name it had on the sign outside.

The above legislation applied across England until midway through the 20th Century, but European law has probably since replaced many of these old statutes. These days I certainly would not advise anyone to arrive unannounced at a remote country pub late at night and demand their legal right to accommodation and sustenance as a traveller!

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WHAT'LL IT BE THEN?

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

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



ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

Being occasional anecdotes, tall tales, notes and experiences from a drinker's life, all of which are true: for certain values of 'true' (I thank Terry Pratchett for this disclaimer.)

26. Mr. Harvey Loughran and 'Mother Superior'

An Irish gentleman of my acquaintance told me of the day that he went into the bar of his golf club for a beer. As the club stocked all the Greene King draught beers, he considered the IPA, but dismissed it as it was a little light for his taste; he similarly dismissed Abbot Ale as over the top. Eventually, he ordered half and half mild and Abbot. Thinking out loud, in a good Irish public school accent, he mused: 'half mild and half Abbot? I suppose that makes it a Mother Superior.' The name stuck.

27. The Washington, England's Lane NW3, and DBA handpump

In the days when Allied Breweries thought that they should jump on the real ale bandwagon, they introduced a strong bitter called Draught Burton Ale: DBA or Burton for short. One morning, the then licensee of a certain north London pub was rudely awoken, and told that the fitter or fitters on his doorstep had come to fit a handpump. He averred that he knew nothing about it, but consented to the work. With his next beer delivery, he received some casks of DBA, unordered.

Despite having been in the trade for 15 years, this gentleman had never before handled real ale (or as the brewers preferred to call it, 'cask conditioned beer'). Nevertheless, he duly connected the cask to the handpump line, and tried to serve it. Consternation! Closely followed by an irate call to cellar services at the brewery, to the effect of '*** newfangled handpumps' and '*** newfangled DBA', etc. The pump was exceeding difficult to pull, and the beer was coming up cloudy. Cellar services promised to send help as soon as possible, which they duly did. When they got there, they found that the licensee did not even know what a spile was, much less that he had to vent a cask before serving it.

I blame the brewery: they should have made certain that any publican receiving this beer knew how to handle it.

Draught Burton Ale was the only beer from any of the then 'big six' breweries ever to have won the Champion Beer of Britain prize from CAMRA.

28. 10 gallon bottle

In the early 1960s, we saw lots of advertisements for Watney's Red Barrel on ITV. Unfortunately (for them), we were outside the delivery area for the beer. One day, the word went round that the local Labour Club would be getting it in, and had invited

anyone and everyone to come and try it (but not at the Club's expense, of course). My friends and I duly went along and did. It was noticeably more expensive than the beers we usually bought, so after one pint each, we returned to our local. On the way, I was asked what the difference was between this 'keg' beer and the stuff we usually drank. As I was a pedant even then, I replied that it (keg) was a bottled beer, but in a ten gallon bottle. We were none of us bottled beer drinkers, so it hadn't appealed to us.

29. CAMRA: Siduri, not Ninkasi

Was I the only pedant who spotted CAMRA's error in the 'tAle Ninkasi' campaign? (That was the one which tried to convince juveniles that Lara Croft [or a Lara Croft lookalike] drank real ale.)

Ninkasi was indeed a goddess in ancient Mesopotamia: the goddess of food and drink. She was referred to as 'she who fills the mouth.' A better choice, from the same geographical region, though many centuries earlier, would have been Siduri, known as 'the alewife'.

30. Holidaymaker's invisible hitch, at St Olaves

My friends George and Toy were on a boating holiday on the Norfolk broads, and stopped one day for a pub lunch at the riverside pub in St. Olaves. Whilst looking round, they saw this display case, with examples of various knots, ties, splices and hitches: the sort that we have all seen somewhere. Each one was numbered, with a decode list provided. What cracked them up was the listing for the 'holidaymaker's invisible hitch'. Against that number, there was only a blank space, it being the one that holidaymakers used to tie up the loose (lost) boats.

31. "Richard will march you home..."

Some years ago my then local was also home to several policemen from the nearby nick. The licensee was ex-Royal Engineers, and I soon let on that I had served in the Royal Signals. One night, at throwing out time, there were only the Police and I left, so Sam called out: "*Fall in outside in three ranks! Richard will march you home, it will save you from walking.*"

32. Duke of Cambridge, NW5 and its lights

One night in the 1980s, well after 11.30, the landlord left me, one other regular and his in-laws in the bar while he attended to something in the cellar. Moments later, his wife went into the kitchen. Enter a Police Inspector and his Sergeant with their hats on (for the uninitiated: this means on duty!) Consternation, especially as the other regular was himself a copper! Moments later, the landlady

reappeared. She made a rather flustered attempt to cover the situation, but the Inspector reassured her and explained that the outside lights were still on. He said *"we know that it's not like you, so we came in to see if anything was wrong"*. At this moment, the licensee reappeared: *"It's alright, officer; I know who they all are: that's my mother-in-law, that's my father-in-law, ..."* Again the Inspector explained his reason for being there. The situation was saved. The licensee naturally offered drinks, to receive the standard 'not on duty' reply, so he assured them that they were welcome to soft drinks. *"No,"* said the Inspector. *"I'll come back when I am not in fancy dress."* And he did.

NOTE to the officious: the pub is long since closed, and the licensee deceased; even the Inspector is probably now retired.

33. Adnams' keg: *"they boil it!"*

This story is apocryphal, which means I can't remember who told it to me, nor do I intend to

check it!

Decades ago, the Adnams Brewery experimented with a keg beer. They discontinued it soon after. When asked by a sympathetic why by a drinker, the then Head Brewer said: *"We weren't very good at it."* followed by a pained aside: *"They boil it!"*

34. Adnams': Roses' yeast

Now this one I can vouch for, as I heard it from the Head Brewer, during a 'meet the brewer' evening event at the Hollybush, NW3, some years ago.

During the Second World War, Adnams suffered from a yeast infection in the brewhouse. They phoned the Roses Brewery in Norwich for help, and were promised a bucket of yeast would be sent down on the next train. This gave Adnams sufficient time for a thorough clean-up, and they duly recommenced brewing. Three days later the Luftwaffe bombed Roses flat. Adnams are still brewing with Roses' yeast.

© Richard Larkin, 2008.

SO WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

The ambitious Oxfordshire Wychwood Brewery is looking to take one if its beers, Hobgoblin, into the top 10 premium cask ales in the country and, as a part of its strategy to get there, has decided that it should revert to its historic 4.5% ABV (from 5.0%). A group of journalists including Roger Protz, Oz Clarke and yours truly were on hand to sample the launch of the new beer at the eponymous Hobgoblin in Balcombe St. NW1.

The clear perception from Rupert Thompson MD was that, at its higher strength, sales were discouraged, that strength was limiting its 'sessionability' as was calling it a 'strong dark ale' – the epithet is that now it is a 'legendary ruby beer' and that it will be more 'sessionable in a sociable pub environment'. So head brewer Jeremy Moss has looked to keep the colour and the rich taste while dropping the ABV.

"Due to the inclusion of so many dark malts," said Jeremy, *"we are able to adjust the ABV without affecting the body and flavour of the cask beer."* The brew uses dry roasted white malt from which chocolate malt is created using a coffee roaster, taking it on to the edges of being black. Some crystal is used to impart a sweet, toffee-like flavour. Two hops are used: Fuggles in the copper which is not overly

bitter and gives a certain spiciness, then a late and increased addition of Styrian Goldings in the boil to give a dry flavour, more hop/fruit aroma and to add complexity and citrus flavours to complement the sweetness of the malts. There is then a further addition of three (unmentioned) hops which we were asked to guess; some North American influence was felt to be present.

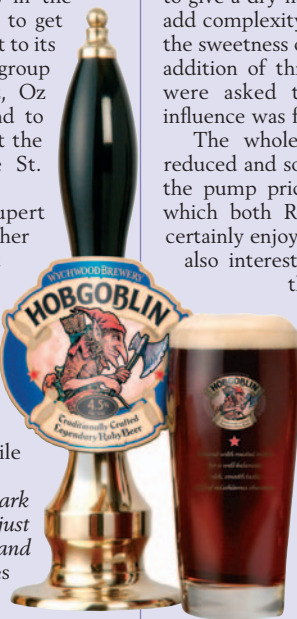
The wholesale price of the beer has been reduced and so hopefully this will feed through to the pump prices and result in the sessionability which both Rupert and Jeremy are seeking. I certainly enjoyed the tasting experience and it was also interesting to drink the draught alongside

the bottled version, which remains at 5.2%. To complete the picture, we were also offered a bottled version for the Swedish market at 3.5% and the kegged export version for the US at 4.5%.

One thing that is not to change, however. Hobgoblin's advertising challenge, 'What's the matter, Lagerboy, afraid you might taste something?' is still going to be their clarion call and Thompson is confident that the move in ABV will encourage new drinkers, *"and of course give more lagerboys the chance to see the light*

– salvation is at hand!"

John Cryne



THE ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 9 Beds on a Shove Ha'penny Board
2. 3 Day Event
3. 7 Year Itch
4. 5 Lines in a Limerick
5. 2 Points for a Conversion in Rugby Union
6. 10 Cables in a Nautical Mile
7. 8 Legs on a Spider
8. 4 Dials on Big Ben
9. 12 Points for Four of a Kind in Crib
10. 6 Dozen is Half a Gross

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. PROLE VIOL - LIVERPOOL
2. BOND JOINS SACK BAND - DOBBINS AND JACKSON
3. RUM WISE MEN - SUMMER WINE
4. TROTS FACILE ROBBERY - BRISTOL BEER FACTORY
5. SEVER NAVEL - SEVERN VALE
6. ALLEN FLANGE - FALLEN ANGEL
7. I CHEW TERNS - WINCHESTER
8. HAD CRED - CHEDDAR
9. OIL GREEN FORD - OLD FOREIGNER
10. RON GLINTED - GRINDLETON

5BY4:

1. Bullmastiff - Glamorgan
2. Warcop - Gwent
3. Slaughterhouse - Warwickshire
4. Brandy Cask - Worcestershire
5. Jacobi - West Wales
6. Big Lamp - Tyne & Wear
7. Whalebone - East Yorkshire
8. Moles - Wiltshire
9. Welton's - West Sussex
10. Batham's - West Midlands

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

You may recall that these were all about dates in February and March.

1. The person executed for high treason on Tower Green (in the Tower of London) on 12th February 1554 was Lady Jane Grey (the "Nine Days Queen")
2. And on 13th February 1542, it was Catherine Howard (wife No. 5) who was executed (also on Tower Green), accused of adultery.
3. Yoko Ono was born on 18th February, in 1934 (Yes, she's now 74)
4. The first Football League match to be held under artificial lighting took place on 22nd February 1956, between Portsmouth and Newcastle United at Fratton Park.
5. The denomination of bank note which was first issued by the Bank of England on 26th February 1797 was £1.

6. And as our leap year question, Jimmy Dorsey (younger brother of band leader Tommy Dorsey) was born on February 29th in 1904. (No, I won't allow a year either way!)
7. On 1st March 1867 the state which became the 37th of the USA was Nebraska.
8. Charlie Chaplin was knighted by the Queen on 4th March - in 1975.
9. The child of the Queen who was born on 10th March (in 1964, as it happens) is Prince Edward.
10. And finally, the attempt to kidnap Princess Anne took place on 20th March 1975.

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JOIN OUR ALE CLUB FOR 3, 6, 9 or 12 MONTHS

Hello and Happy Easter - oh no! Missed it. I thought I would search the interweb for a quotation about beer; I found this one about marriage from George Jean Nathan (1882-1958): *"Marriage is based on the theory that when man discovers a brand of beer exactly to his taste he should at once throw up his job and go work in the brewery."*

Now, on with the boring bits - starting with the number puzzles:

1. 41 S by WAM
2. 12 D from CD to E
3. 959 C in a NW
4. 6 S in NE
5. 147 SM is the A of the I of W
6. 38 S on the PL
7. 207 DC is the MP of L
8. 10 D in a D
9. 76 Y is the P of HC
10. 25 H in the D when the CGB

I trust they weren't too easy; now see if you can work out which breweries got mutilated just to produce these bits of meaningless drivel (That probably tautological, isn't it?):

1. PICT'S LONG SWORD
2. THROWN SAIL
3. ADJUST SINE
4. CLOUT MAIN BANK
5. DOFFS A KEY
6. SAWN LADY
7. GRIM BEAST
8. BARN HOME
9. STALIN'S SOLDIER HIT AT COAT
10. SWEEP FLOOR

And now it's 5BY4 time. I seem to have come over all Hello this month and found a bunch of pairs of romantically linked celebrities. It's amazing what you can find if you want to expend no effort in the interweb. Just link the chaps in the second list with the chapesses in the first (preferably correctly; I'm not supporting anybody's defence against libel claims):

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Julia Roberts | A. Kurt Cobain |
| 2. Beverly D'Angelo | B. Tom Cruise |
| 3. Barbara Bach | C. Al Pacino |
| 4. Demi Moore | D. Ringo Starr |
| 5. Brooke Shields | E. Robert Wagner |
| 6. Ann Bancroft | F. Brad Pitt |
| 7. Jennifer Aniston | G. Mel Brooks |
| 8. Nicole Kidman | H. Bruce Willis |
| 9. Courtney Love | I. Andre Agassi |
| 10. Natalie Wood | J. Lyle Lovett |

And finally it's trivia time again - and once again I have taken the easy option and dug out some questions related to the months of currency of this illustrious publication:

1. On 5th April 1982 the British fleet set sail for - where?
2. Concorde 002, the British prototype made its first flight from Filton to Fairford on 9th April - in what year?
3. On 10th April 1988, who became the first British golfer to win the US Masters tournament?
4. What was the name of the WPC shot dead by terrorists during a siege at the Libyan Embassy on 17th April 1984?
5. BBC2 was officially opened on 21st April, in what year?
6. Coming up shortly will be the May Day bank holiday in Britain - in what year was it first celebrated?
7. On 6th May 1972 the first all-ladies race under Jockey Club rules, the Goya Stakes, was first run - at what race course on the fringes of Greater London?
8. What's this, a football question?!? Who retired on 14th May 1977, the occasion of his 1000th appearance (all matches for West Ham, Fulham and England)?
9. On 15th May 1928 in Cloncurry, Queensland, Dr Vincent Welsh became the first - what?
10. The first air raid on London took place on 31st May in what year?

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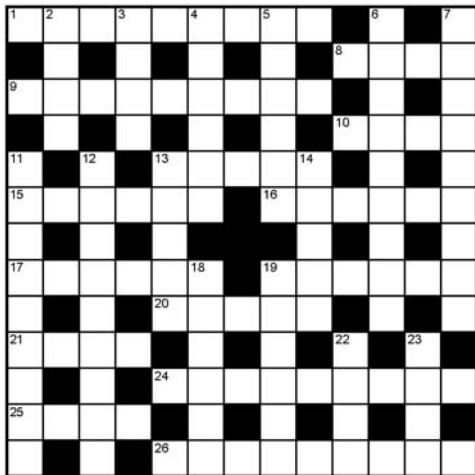
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Wed. 26th NOV-Sun.30th THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER !

Runner up to CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2006

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name

Address.....

.....

All correct entries received by first post on 21st May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the August London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the June edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER'S CROSSWORD



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Entrance of vessel in top match. [9]
8. Charge about right. Nothing! [4]
9. Prisoner in trial battled hard. [9]
10. Compiler returned with my award. [4]
13. Perfect copy of the real thing. [5]
15. Honour man, an enchanting character. [6]
16. Carpet smuggler. [6]
17. Drum largely contains a fruit. [6]
19. Name of composer heard on radio. [6]
20. Stranger cut top off oats. [5]
21. Some painting isn't common. [4]
24. Theatre, for the most part, has time for a booze-up. [4,5]
25. Fish upset Mum's sister. [4]
26. Action to besiege southern city is utterly defeated. [9]

DOWN

2. Vera comes with drink, nothing added. [4]
3. Clergyman seen in skirt. [4]
4. Is one to run through German aristocrat on sight? [6]
5. Hesitate to enter infinite eternity. [6]
6. Way for people in this day and age to take drug. [9]
7. City man's latest delivery. [3,6]
11. Left one star out of pictures. [9]
12. Endless kind of wave. [9]
13. Message going too far in a very short while. [5]
14. Initial launch usually not around rear of the moon. [5]
18. Woman in short poem? [6]
19. Get measure of Hardy's first crew. [6]
22. Payment made but no equipment put up. [4]
23. Damaged hose is put in it. [4]

Winner of the prize for the December Crossword:
Lesley Smith, Wanstead, E11

Other correct entries were received from:

Ted Alleway, Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Hilary Ayling, Geoff B, Jack Bass, Steve Block, Jeremy Brinkworth, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, John Cattermull, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Brian Collins, Charles Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Paul Curson, Robert Day, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Brian Exford, Mike Farrelly, Arthur Fox Ache, Anthony Gdula & Jess the border collie, Chloe Gilbey, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Stuart Guthrie & Win T'Drawson, John Heath, Graham Hill, W.Hill, R.Holt, A.Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Les Jenkins, David Jiggins, Roger Knight, Terry Lavell, M.J.Lloyd, G.Lopatis, Steve Maloney, John Marshall, M.J.Moran, Al Mountain, A.R.Nunn, Alan O'Brien, Michael Oliver, Nigel Parsons, Mark Pilkington, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Dave Reynolds, Richard Rogers, Nelson Skollam, Bryan Smith, P.G.Smith, Alina Syed, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Thamesmeado, Dave Thomson, John Treeby, Vic the Beard, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Elizabeth Whale, Sue Wilson.

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