

Vol 31
No 1

LONDON DRINKER

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FOR
REAL ALE

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2009



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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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When we were young

At the time I edited the very first edition of this magazine thirty years ago, CAMRA was run almost entirely by its volunteers. There was only a handful of paid staff at headquarters. Development of policy and campaigns was led by a National Executive whose membership included several highly able and clued up individuals, and supported by a handful of volunteer committees with (generally) well defined remits. And it worked! In the few years between CAMRA's birth and 1979, the availability of real ale had grown quite remarkably: several brewers (such as Fuller's) who had gone down the keg or top pressure road were returning to the fold, and hand-pumps were reappearing all over the place, including in areas such as Scotland and the North East which had been arid deserts for good beer.

How things have changed! CAMRA is now a flourishing organisation with close to 100,000 members and around 30 full time staff, and is financially far more secure. But wait a minute. What is the current state of the market for cask ale? Well, it now accounts for little more than 5% of beer sales (by volume), far less than it was when CAMRA started life. What has happened to breweries? Well the hated Big Six have been swallowed up by multinational chemical engineering companies who make the likes of Watneys and Courage seem like champions of cask ale. As for the independent

sector, why not try a little exercise. If I give you Brakspear, King and Barnes, and Hartleys for starters, make a list of the independent breweries that have shut since 1979.

You should have no difficulty in getting to 50. True, plenty of microbreweries have sprung up (mainly because of a favourable tax regime), and many produce excellent beers; but how many micros would it take to produce the barrerage which once came out of Wandsworth? As for pubs, even before the present recession they were being hammered by the greed of many pubcos, the growth of city centre kiddy bars and the availability of cheap alcohol from supermarkets.

I would be the first to admit that the disastrous trends of recent years could not have been prevented by CAMRA but there were things which could have been done that might have limited the damage. The most obvious one would have been to fight hard for a ban on mass-media advertising of alcohol. Real ale has been reamed, steamed and dry cleaned by advertising that has promoted a handful of junk lagers to overwhelming market dominance. Such advertising distorts competition and also helps promote irresponsible drinking and yet CAMRA has not only been silent on the matter but has even on occasion denied that it believes in such a ban – despite the fact that a desire for one had been part of its stated policy since the 1980s.

London Drinker 30th anniversary

According to the current statement of CAMRA's objectives, we now apparently aspire to be the voice of all pubgoers and the campaigning body for such vital issues as securing legislation to ensure that drinkers will get a full pint without having to undergo the trauma of asking for a top-up. In 1973 I joined an organisation that simply campaigned in support of good real beer, the breweries that produced it, and the pubs that sold it. That was it and, whilst CAMRA had a hard enough task on its hands trying to secure these objectives, this narrowness of focus was a major contributor to the campaign's success.

So how does CAMRA get back to achieving that level of success? Well for a start, let us

focus once again on beer, breweries, pubs and nothing more. Our efforts recently have become too dissipated, with too many of us distracted from the main task. Then let's face the industrial and commercial realities, investigate the causes and try to identify what might be done to alleviate the situation for real ale, its breweries and pubs, rather than take false comfort from feelgood stories and marketing and promotional spin. And to achieve this end, wouldn't it be a good idea once again to involve more of CAMRA's volunteers in developing our strategy instead of somehow expecting the central staff to do most of it for us? Our national magazine, *What's Brewing* could serve as a place where the membership at large is kept up to

speed on what the centre is doing; it *could* serve as a forum in which the important issues of the day are debated and where ideas are exposed, evaluated and refined. *London Drinker* has done this on occasion even though, as a local magazine, it is not the most appropriate forum for discussion of national issues.

In short, a return to the ethos and objectives of those early days would be no bad thing. The spirit of those days led to real, meaningful successes for CAMRA, whereas the current style risks leaving us as observers at the roadside as the hearse burying real ale's coffin glides slowly by.

Brian Sheridan



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Sustainable Communities - convincing London's councils

The Sustainable Communities Act became law only as a result of a huge national coalition campaign of which CAMRA was proudly a leading member. But we can use the new process in this law only if our councils choose to use it too, and so we must first urge all London borough councils to do that!

The Local Works Campaign is now holding an open meeting on 10 February. Come and hear how you can use the new Act to make government do more to help you protect and promote local pubs and local ale as well as local services, shops, trade and the environment.

Date and time:

Tuesday 10 February, 7-9pm

Venue:

The Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House, Parliament, Victoria Embankment, Westminster SW1A 2LW

Chair:

Mike Benner (Chief Executive, CAMRA)

Speakers:

Hazel Blears MP (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) *yet to confirm*

Oliver Letwin MP (Chairman of the Conservative Policy Review)

Julia Goldsworthy MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government)

John Wright (National Chairman, Federation of Small Businesses)

Hugh Lanning (Deputy General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union)

Ron Bailey (Campaigns Director, Unlock Democracy)

This is a free, public event and no booking is required. Please come along and please distribute flyers and leaflets: contact Steve Shaw, steve@localworks.org or 020-7278 4443, and he will send you as many as you wish.

For more information, see

www.localworks.org

It is CAMRA's strategy to use the Sustainable Communities Act to push for specific policy changes to support the retention and viability of pubs.

This strategy can however only work if Councils can be persuaded to opt into the process. CAMRA members have therefore been requested to contact their local councillors.

CAMRA support for the Act has already achieved legal recognition of pubs as 'local services'. This has not always been accepted by all planners and policy makers. Now they have no choice as it is enshrined in statute.

All those who care about pubs

are urged to become involved at this time as it is probably our best opportunity in years to achieve:

- ◆ greater planning protection for pubs
- ◆ a right to buy for the lessee and/or the local community when a pub is being sold
- ◆ an end to restrictive covenants
- ◆ greater funds for Councils to grant rate relief to valued community pubs
- ◆ action to ensure fair rents for lessees

By working with a huge range of other interest groups, who face remarkably similar issues, we have a real chance of success.

Jonathan Mail

CAMRA MEMBERS' WEEKEND AND AGM

Preparations are now well under way for the 2009 CAMRA Members' Weekend and AGM, which will be held at the Eastbourne Winter Garden, starting on Friday 17 April and ending mid-afternoon on Sunday 19 April. The weekend gives members the opportunity to:

- ◆ review what has been happening at branch, regional and national level over the past year;
- ◆ have a say in reviewing campaigning themes and forming policy;
- ◆ hear guest speakers on issues related to beer, brewing and key campaigns;
- ◆ meet up with other volunteers from around the country, and members of staff;
- ◆ discuss ideas about future campaigns in small groups and seminars;
- ◆ enjoy a few beers at the bar, a members' beer festival in effect;
- ◆ visit pubs in Eastbourne and the surrounding areas;
- ◆ visit local breweries on organised trips.

Planned trips are proposed to several of the local breweries including Harvey's in Lewes, Dark Star at Ansty; 1648 at East Hoathly; Whites at Bexhill and Beachy Head at East Dean. Pub crawls are also planned around Eastbourne (Town Centre and Old Town), and in Lewes and Hastings. Several pubs in Eastbourne are planning to put on mini beer festivals for the weekend.

Members can pre-register to attend by visiting www.camra.org.uk and following the link from the Members' Weekend pages. All CAMRA members are welcome, whether this is their first or fifteenth time, and it promises to be an enjoyable and informative few days.

The Members Weekend is just one of the benefits of joining CAMRA. So if you are not a member, why not join today by completing the form on page xx, or by visiting www.camra.org.uk and clicking on 'Join Us'.

Brett Laniosh



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Welcome to 2009

Some good news to start with. Michael Hardman, CAMRA founder-member and long-time publicity man for Young's Brewery, was awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the New Year's Honours. The citation was 'for services to the Campaign for Real Ale and to the Brewing Industry'. That the citation specifically mentions CAMRA indicates the continuing strength of the organisation that Michael helped to found.

We offer our congratulations accordingly. Michael has, incidentally, now left SIBA to work on his own projects.

Another recipient was Jonathan Adnams, chief executive of the Suffolk family brewers, with special reference to his work in reducing the brewery's carbon footprint.

Breweries coming and going...

Encouragingly, given the current financial climate, two breweries started up in London before Christmas. Sambrook's Brewery in Battersea, as mentioned in the last issue is up and running. Their first brew, Wandle Ale (3.7% ABV) has been greeted with enthusiasm. As reported elsewhere in this issue, brewing has also started again at the William IV in Leyton.

On the down side, London has lost another brewery, this time its oldest. The Stag Brewery at Mortlake may only have been producing Budweiser since 1986 but it is still a brewery and therefore a loss, especially for its 300 employees. Current owners, the InBev/Anheuser-Busch conglomerate, gave higher duties on beer and the poor state of the economy as the reason for the decision, saying: *"the proposal to shut the brewery formed part of a planned restructuring of the two companies' UK operations"*.

I believe that closure has been

inevitable since the takeover of Scottish & Newcastle by Carlsberg and Heineken. This was originally a joint venture between A-B and S&N and so presumably Carlsberg inherited S&N's stake. I suspect that Carlsberg understandably have no interest in brewing Budweiser so are content to let InBev/A-B do the dirty work and await their share of the proceeds of the sale of the site.

That said, Anheuser-Busch are reported to be cutting costs at home as well. It was announced in December that they would be cutting around 2,000 jobs, most of them at A-B HQ in St. Louis. The new company has also recently launched a £5.4 billion rights issue – new shares – to meet the cost of the bridging loans required for the acquisition of A-B.

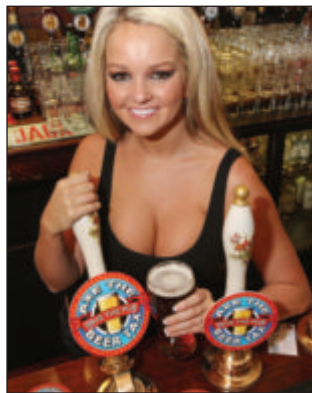
It is a sad end for a site that has been substantially modernised in recent years. Brewing was first recorded in 1487 and there is a record of continuous beer making there since the early 18th century.

Axe the Tax campaign

CAMRA has joined forces with the British Beer & Pub Association to campaign against ever-increasing tax and duty on beer. Mark Hastings of the BBPA said, *"It's truly staggering that struggling community pubs and brewers have been denied the tax benefit extended to the rest of the business sector through the VAT cut. With pubs closing at record rates and beer sales at their lowest since the Depression, this sector needs a fiscal stimulus just as much as the rest of the economy"*.

'Axe the Beer Tax, Save the Pub' was launched at the Westminster Arms in December. Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame said, *"There is a serious misconception in Westminster: the government has come to regard pubs and clubs as a tax collection point on one hand and a social problem on the other. Government policy is increasingly*

interfering with people's social lives. Responsible drinkers everywhere want to socialise, without being financially penalised for the irresponsible behaviour of a small minority."



In the 2008 Budget, the Chancellor not only imposed a duty rise of 9 per cent but also proposed the creation of an alcohol duty escalator, designed to increase duty on beer by 2 per cent above the rate of inflation in each of the next four years. The recent VAT reduction was then accompanied by an 8% increase in Excise Duty so as to neutralise any advantage to sellers of alcohol (the increase on spirits being reduced to only 4% to maintain any advantage for supermarkets!). Furthermore the Chancellor made it clear that this increase would stay when the VAT rate reverts to 17.5%, giving us yet another increase.

You can register your support for the campaign at www.axethetax.com. There is also a Facebook group and a video on YouTube or, more traditionally, you can lobby or write to your MP.

Ministerial support for pubs

Whilst agreeing that his ministerial colleagues were right to encourage responsible drinking, Licensing Minister Gerry Sutcliffe said that the Government should support community pubs and that

they should be aware of the negative effects that wider policies might have. In order to help with diversification, Mr Sutcliffe is pushing for changes in the licensing system that will make it easier and cheaper for pubs to extend their range of services without having to incur heavy costs for rewriting their licences. This is significant because the 'Pub is the Hub' campaign reports that nine county councils are prepared to consider making grants to pubs who want to open shops, post offices or other services. These would be 'matched' grants with the councils matching whatever the licensee or pub operator was prepared to put in.

John Grogan, chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Beer Group reinforced this train of thought, saying that the Government had to recognise that pubs, like post offices, were vital to communities.

Meanwhile, the Home Secretary, Jaqui Smith, has decid-

ed that the drinks industry's self-regulation schemes do not work. Local authorities will be given the power to ban 'happy hours', 'all you can drink' and 'speed drinking' offers and other price promotions. It is also possible that health warnings will be required for can and bottle labels.

Wandsworth site plans announced

The plans for the redevelopment of Young & Co's former Ram Brewery have been approved by Wandsworth Council. The site will feature two towers, one of 42 floors and the other of 32 floors, and contain 1,000 homes, bars, restaurants, shops and community facilities, bringing 400 jobs to the area. The existing listed buildings will be restored and there will be a microbrewery.

The 99p pint

JD Wetherspoon are now offering a number of drinks at 1989 prices, including draught Greene

King IPA at 99p per pint. Many customers will welcome this and you cannot criticise JDW for wanting to keep people in their pubs in these difficult times. Chief Executive John Hutson said: "People enjoy going to the pub. However, we appreciate that the economic downturn means that they now have to be more careful with their money". The news saw JDW shares rise by 14.75p to 325.75p.

Not everybody is happy, however. A price war is likely to result with at least one other chain - Town & City (who operate the Yates's and Litten Tree outlets) saying that they would be reviewing their prices whilst Spirit Group is launching special food offers in their flagship Chef & Brewer chain, offering two courses for £10 or three for £12. Greene King's own tenants now find themselves competing with pubs who can sell GK IPA for less than they can buy it from the brewery. This has led to some



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News round-up

very bitter correspondence in the trade press, especially about the 4.5% price increase that GK has announced for them from February.

I was however taken aback to find Greene King themselves complaining about the 99p pint. They were 'extremely disappointed' at the development and made it clear that they were neither funding nor supporting the promotion. JDW confirmed that they did not consult GK. Chief executive John Hutson confirmed that JDW did not speak to Greene King about it beforehand because there was no price support.

Incidentally, Greene King's half-year profits from their tenanted houses were down 3.3% and they were expecting Christmas to bring only 'modest relief' but they will still pay a dividend. Having refinanced their debt in 2008, they are said to be 'well placed to weather the storm'.

Worryingly, GK still holds a £235 million 'war chest'.

The health lobby has also had its say. Alcohol Concern's view was that '*alcohol is not an ordinary commodity like bread or milk. Alcohol causes harm to the nation's health and economy and there appears to be a strong link between cheap alcohol and the high levels of binge drinking in the UK*'.

How should us beer drinkers react to this? In a letter in the *Publican*, a group of Essex licensees asks:- "*But are CAMRA members happy to go into Wetherspoons pubs, drink at 99p per pint and discuss the demise of the local pubs which they profess to support?*" Food for thought there...

Health and welfare

Professional rugby are the latest recruits to the anti-binge drinking campaign. In the run-up to Christmas, the 12 Guinness

Premiership clubs teamed up with the Drinkaware Trust, the UK charity which aims to reduce alcohol harm, to promote responsible drinking. Players from London Irish, currently top of the Guinness Premiership, braved the rain to pose alongside a Drinkaware black cab, one of 300 taxis displaying advice to partygoers in London throughout December, to launch the campaign. Clubs also gave out festive pocket-size 'tip cards' containing unit guidelines and such practical advice as '*Avoid drinking on an empty stomach*' and '*Include soft drinks in your celebration*'. Times have changed since the pre-Premiership days when I supported London Irish; they are winning for a start...

The police in Torquay have identified a particular health risk in worst-for-wear ladies falling off their high heels. During December they were handing out



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flip-flops instead. Presumably the local A&E Department treated fewer sprained ankles but more frostbitten toes.

Smoking ban

Smoking ban refusenik Hamish Howitt has lost his High Court appeal and with it the premises licence for his Blackpool pub, Delboy's sports bar. He did not however have to pay costs because the judge ruled that the case was in the public interest. Mr Howitt said that this was a moral victory and has vowed to fight on.

News from Fuller's

The company released its half year figures (to 27 September) before Christmas. Revenue was up by 1% but profits overall, excluding exceptional items, fell by 1%. Managed pubs and hotels reported a 2.3% increase in like for like sales. To quote Chairman, Michael Turner, *"Our performance has been resilient in what has been a challenging period for the industry."* The estate at that date stood at 356, made up of 204 tenanted or leased pubs and 152 managed pubs or hotels.

On the brewing side, *"the relative performance has been good"*. Revenue rose by 2% but a 3% decrease in operating profits was recorded, reflecting an increase in marketing spend compared to the corresponding period last year. On the positive side, the report said that *"As a leading cask ale brewer, it is pleasing to report that cask ale has again grown its share of the draught beer market with Fuller's very much at the forefront. In addition, premium cask ale and premium bottled ale both continue to grow within the total ale market."* All in all, things could be worse.

News from Wells & Young's

The Young's brands Bitter and Special are to be relaunched in February with new pump clips and advertising material focusing on ingredients and their source under the slogan 'Natural Brewing Excellence'. The beers have the

Red Tractor accreditation for using only British raw ingredients. All the same, W&YBC put their prices up by 4% in the first week of January.

Young & Co's results

Youngs reported their latest half-year results to the same day as Fuller's. Turnover was up 3.7% to £66.3 million with operating profit up by 0.4% to £12.2 million. Chief Executive Stephen Goodyear did however warn that trading in the period since September had been hit by the 'unprecedented events' in the financial markets. All the same, he felt that Youngs had *"a sound platform for the immediate and long-term future of the business"*.

Around the trade

In these difficult times you would think that all customers would be welcome but at an M&B outlet, the Courtyard Bar in Leeds, door staff refused admission to anyone over 35, saying to a female family group *'daughters can come in but not mums'*. A spokesman from M&B said:- *"We are committed to treating our customers equally and fairly"* and promised to investigate.

Punch Taverns have come in for criticism from PIRC, an organisation that advises institutional investors on corporate governance. They are concerned that Punch's executive pay deals are unacceptable and that their targets are *'not challenging'*. Apparently, Punch's chief executive, Giles Thorley, has been paid a total of £29.8 million in pay, bonuses and incentives over the last five financial years. In contrast, 28% of the group's lessee publicans last year earned less than £20,000 – said by brokers Morgan Stanley to be equivalent to £3.30 per hour against the minimum wage of £5.73. A spokesman for Punch said:- *"There have been no pay increases and no bonuses. And the share-based incentives will not pay out"*.

Something similar was reported for Enterprise Inns. Their chief

executive, Ted Tuppen, whilst not receiving a bonus last year, was paid £634,000 in pay and benefits in the year ended 30 September. Mr Tuppen also made £331,000 from a long-term incentive scheme. This was triggered in November 2007 when the share price was 903p. Before Christmas, it was 62p. In fairness, if that is what is provided for in their contracts, then that is what they are entitled to.

Both of these gentlemen gave evidence to the Parliamentary Business and Enterprise Committee inquiry into pubcos in December. Amongst the evidence that came out was that over the year 575 Punch licensees and 170 Enterprise licensees had handed back their keys. The Punch figure includes those who were in breach of contract. Mr Tuppen was particularly concerned about licensees who buy outside their tie.

The Orchid Group went into administration recently but was then immediately sold by the administrators to its existing management in what is called a 'pre-pack deal'. This has saved over 5,000 jobs although 48 of the group's 287 pubs and restaurants were not included in the deal and are still under threat.

Sad to report that David Woodhouse, managing director of Hall & Woodhouse died of a heart attack on New Year's Day at the grimly young age of 48. He was of the fifth generation of his family to be employed in the business and had been managing director since 1998.

In contrast to Greene King, McMullens have appreciated the pressure on their tenants and have announced a price reduction in the cost of beer of £50 per barrel for January and February. This means that Mac's pubs should be offering a price reduction of 20p per pint.

Pub owner John Faulder has found one way of dealing with the property slump. He is raffling his pub, the Filly Inn in Brockenhurst,

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Hampshire for £10 per ticket. He aims to sell 52,000 tickets. The prize is a 20 year lease on the pub. Given that he will still own the freehold, if this works then Mr Faulder may be the real winner here.

Wetherspoons have once again found favour with the British Toilet Association who gave them the Corporate Provider National Award for the décor, cleanliness, accessibility and overall management of its toilets across the UK. The individual winner for England was the Ivy Wall in Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Scottish & Newcastle, now owned by Carlsberg, did away with its Christmas tradition of giving £30-worth of drink vouchers to former employees because of the economic climate and because of a rise in the number in those eligible. I don't suppose that the latter would have anything to do with redundancies by

any chance?

TV 'celebrity' brewers Neil Morrissey and Richard Fox interviewed CAMRA's chief executive Mike Benner in the *Publican* recently. Rather disappointingly (unless it was meant to be an elaborate joke) Morrissey started off by asking, "*why, when I'm going to meet a man so high up in CAMRA, do I expect him to come Morris dancing into the room with hardly any teeth and a big beard, playing the hurdy gurdy?*" Mike's reply was that such people existed of course and enjoy real ale and going to pubs but "*we also have members who are clean shaven and work in the City and do a lot of other things. It's a broad church which covers everyone.*" Mike had the last laugh, however. Neil Morrissey narrates a well-known children's TV series and, at the end of the interview, Mike produced all of his young son's Bob the Builder books and got Mr

Morrissey to autograph them. Can we fix it? I rather think that he did. The full interview is available at www.thepublican.com.

The 'celebrity' enthusiasm for pubs continues. Chris Evans, the disc jockey, has announced plans to expand his pub business. He already owns three pubs and, according to the Times, plans to buy three more in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire. Were Chris Evans ever to buy the Sultan, I think I might give up drinking and take up Morris dancing...

Law and order

I mentioned some time back that Wetherspoons were taking legal action against their former property advisors Van de Berg. The case recently came to court and led to an interesting situation. Both being key witnesses, Tim Martin and JDW's chief executive, John Hutson, were forbidden to talk to each other for the eight

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*"If you know me, drop in
and say HELLO"*

*"Watch this space for
more details in the
next London Drinker"*

Pat

days that the case lasted, despite having 700-odd pubs to run.

Signs of the times

The Wiltshire pub sign saga ended with the sign staying put. The Highways Agency said that their original response had been 'misinterpreted' and the local Council gave the necessary retrospective planning permission so that the Black Dog (Wadworths) at Chilmark is still signposted from the A303.

The importance of pub signs to our National Heritage has recently been acknowledged in a poll conducted by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. They were seen to be more iconic than red post boxes or canal boats and CPRE president Bill Bryson commented, "*Pub signs are as characteristic of rural England as church spires and ancient hedgerows. The diversity of English life has been*

reflected in these intriguing and deceptively informative artefacts for centuries". Let us hope that this message gets across to those who want to replace them with bland corporate logos or silly jokes.

And finally...

Spare a thought for the hawker of dodgy DVDs etc who tried to sell his wares at the Rose & Crown in Streatham before Christmas. How was he to know that the group that he approached whilst they were having their office Christmas Lunch were the local Trading Standards Officers...

Those of you who have travelled the canals may well have called at the Boat Inn at Stoke Bruerne at some time. Sadly, long-time landlord Jack Woodward has passed away aged 83. Jack, who was born in the pub, has however not gone far.

His ashes have been buried beneath the flagstone floor, marked by a plaque saying '*stand here and have a drink on me*'.

Be careful what you say these days. There was a rather disturbing story in the *Sunday Telegraph* recently. A diner who complained about slow service and poor food in a restaurant received a letter back from the manager disputing her version of events, saying that he had "*watched and listened with interest to the CCTV video recording of her table*" and added, "*It is quite clear that whatever we do, you will not be happy with us.*" The diner is taking legal action for invasion of her family's privacy. Spooky...

Date for your diaries: Sunday 1 February is British Yorkshire Pudding Day. Can you get foreign Yorkshire Puddings then?

Tony Hedger

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No doom and gloom at Pig's Ear Festival

CAMRA's East London and City Branch (ELAC) held its 2008 Pig's Ear Beer and Cider Festival from 2 to 6 December at the Ocean in Hackney. Despite fears of the impacting credit crunch in the City of London, the festival was an exceptional success. Attendance (3500) and sales were all-time records, with a massive increase in attendance by young people in their twenties and thirties. *"Real ale is becoming the discerning choice of a new generation,"* said Derek Jones, the Festival Organiser.

ELAC Chair, Jon Russell Brown, commented, *"We're grateful for the consistent support the Festival receives from the Mayor, Jules Pipe, councillors and staff of Hackney Borough Council. The people of Hackney and the City responded by coming to the Festival in their hundreds."*



Pictured left to right at the opening of the festival: Jon Russell Brown and Derek Jones of ELAC, Ian Rathbone, Speaker of Hackney and Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney.

Kinver Brewery wins Best of Festival

Visitors chose as the best beer of the festival a speciality beer from the new (2004) Kinver Brewery in the West Midlands. A hoppy bitter with an ABV of 4.2%, *Lynn's 50th Birthday Bash* was a one-off, named to recognise the 50th birthday of Pig's Ear's Safety Officer, Lynn Bennison, but it can be brewed to order and with a different name.



Phil Brown, Ian Davies, Carol and Dave Kelly from Kinver Brewery receive their award from Derek Jones and Lynn Bennison (fifth and sixth left).

Brodie's, the new East End brewery

Among the beers featured at Pig's Ear was the Best Bitter *Hoppy Ho Ho*, an innovative citric flavoured real ale produced by Brodie's Beers, based at the Sweet William Brewery in Leyton, now revived as a full-time operation with a 10 barrel plant and operated by brother and sister James and Lizzie Brodie. Their vision is to revive East London's once-proud brewery tradition. Both in their early thirties and children of a licensee, James was a home brewing enthusiast and Lizzie has an appropriate degree in biological sciences.

"East London has a bewery tradition as exceptional as Burton," says James. *"As recently as 1975 it boasted three major producers: Charrington at Mile End, Mann Crossman Paulin in Whitechapel and Truman in Brick Lane. We're respecting some of their traditional London styles but also introducing the unusual as a wheat beer and new-recipe seasonal specials."*

Lizzie adds, *"We're gratified and inspired by the approval our beers have received from discerning drinkers since we began in August 2008. There's a welcome for a new enterprise on the London beer scene. Currently we have a range of six standards – Mild, IPA, Red, Special Bitter, Wheat and a cask-conditioned lager."*



Lizzie and James Brodie

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French bar owner prepares for British real ale venture

An interested visitor to Pig's Ear was Franck Revel, owner of the Bijou Bar at Conflans Sainte Honorine near Paris. Franck will be installing hand-pulled ale in the Bijou Bar soon. He came to the festival with two bar staff, to experience real ale stillaging and dispense at first hand.



Franck Revel, Frederic Gouwe and Thierry Casier of Bijou Bar discuss technicalities with Kim Berriedale-Johnson of CAMRA (right).

Franck said, "I'm delighted at the advice and instruction we received from the CAMRA cellermen. We also enormously enjoyed tasting some – but not all!"

An advertisement for realale.com. It features several beer bottles of different brands and styles. A pink bottle cap in the foreground has the text "JOIN OUR ALE CLUB FOR 3,6,9 or 12 MONTHS". The background is dark with the website name "realale.com" in large white letters. Below it, text reads: "Over 90 quality ales, ciders and perries, including a European selection, available online or call 020 8892 3710". At the bottom, it says: "Visit our shop: 371 Richmond Rd Twickenham Middlesex TW1 2EF".

– of the 138 real ales on offer at the festival. British real ale is as wonderful a creation of national genius as Shakespeare plays or football. We will be proud to make French people aware of its quality."

Franck's Bijou Bar is beside the River Seine in the renowned tourist town of Conflans Sainte Honorine. Hand-pulled British real ale will be one more reason to frequent this popular hostelry. It is already famed for its selection of whiskies and international range of bottled beers.

Yule B Sorry is South East champion strong beer

At a tasting during the festival, *Yule B Sorry*, a Christmas special from Yates Brewery in the Isle of Wight was chosen as the champion barley wine and strong ale of the South East. Five beers already voted for by CAMRA branchess in the region were tasted. Interestingly, two of the other beers were from another Isle of Wight Brewery, Stumpy's.

Among the judges were Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney; David Holmes, head brewer of Shepherd Neame; Simon Thomsett, chief executive of the Hackney Empire; Scotty Scott, licensee of the Ye Olde Mitre Inn, East London's 2008 Pub of the Year, Mick Childs, chief steward of Leyton Orient Supporters Club, joint 2008 CAMRA National Club of the Year; and Lizzie Brodie, co-owner of Brodie's Beers in Leyton.

Tasting Panel Chair, John Cryne, former CAMRA National Chairman, said, "Barley wine and strong ale had almost disappeared from the beer scene, but new small breweries are producing wonderful modern examples of this classic British style."



Four of the tasting judges: left to right Jules Pipe, Mick Childs, Lizzie Brodie and David Holmes.

Yule B Sorry will now be a finalist in the Champion Beer of Britain judging to take place at the Great British Beer Festival in August.

Bill Green



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For more details see www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

Last rites for the London Drinker Beer and Cider Festival?

The Camden Centre in Bidborough Street, London WC1, has been the home of North London CAMRA's London Drinker Beer and Cider Festival since 1985. In that time, the Festival has had over 110,000 visitors from London, Britain and overseas including Japan!

Now this fine hall, the last Civic Hall in Camden, is under threat. Camden Council is thinking of selling off its Town Hall to take advantage of the high property prices that are resulting from the recent redevelopment due to the presence of the Eurostar terminal. But if they do sell, they would intend to close the Camden Centre and turn it into offices. If agreed, the proposals are likely to go ahead in autumn 2009, which would make this coming March's Festival the very last one after 25 glorious events.

But it is not just the London Drinker Beer Festival that is losing its venue. Many other community events take place here; some have been going over 40 years. Venues of this size at a

reasonable price that volunteer and community groups such as CAMRA can afford are few. And the sad thing is that the Hall actually contributes financially to the Council. It really is an asset from all viewpoints. So the Council's proposal is simply raiding the family silver for today's gain without thought of tomorrow. The local branch is running a campaign to save the Centre: see www.camranorthlondon.org.uk if you would like to help.

Regardless of the future, the 25th event should be a celebration of everything that the Festival is known for: more than 60 real ales plus ciders, perries, imported beer and food that is cooked by CAMRA's own volunteers, unlike at most other beer festivals. The Festival is open from Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 March, so come along for what could be the very last time.

Christine Cryne

Check the Beer Festivals Calendar and visit the Travel Pages at www.londondrinker.org.uk

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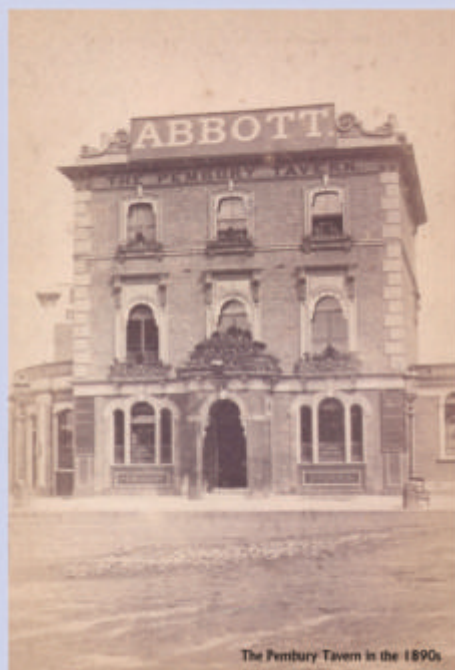
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The Grapes, Limehouse

Dedicated beer drinkers are always keen to see the cellars of pubs but in the case of the Grapes in Limehouse it might be best politely to decline the offer to go below. When landlady Barbara Haigh bid me follow her, I took a deep breath, grabbed at two handles below the open hatch, swung over on to a vertical ladder and clambered down into the depths.

There's no relief when you reach the floor. Only people who are four feet six inches tall or less can stand upright. There has been an inn on the site since the 16th century, though the original building was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt in 1720. But the cellar dates from the original inn, when the average Londoner was considerably shorter, and the floor has also been cemented and raised several times over the years. It all makes for an uncomfortable place to work in and I don't envy Barbara's colleagues who have to roll, stillage, tap and spile the nine-gallon and 18-gallon casks of beer.

I sat on a packing case, noted the spick and span nature of the Lilliputian cellar and then headed hurriedly back to the stairs when Barbara told me we were below the level of the encroaching Thames. I used to live in the East End and was always ill at ease on buses going through the Blackwall and Rotherhithe tunnels. The cellar of the Grapes was a bit too close to water for comfort and I was happy to return to the warmth of the bar.

The Grapes in Narrow Street, E14, has a bit of history behind it. For much of its time it was a haunt of dockers and watermen. It achieved notoriety when Charles Dickens used it as the basis for an inn he called the Six Jolly Fellowship Porters in *Our Mutual Friends*, where drunks were rowed out to the middle of the river, drowned and their cadavers sold to doctors for dissection. The front bar of the pub has an oil painting by Alice West showing regulars drinking there in 1949. You won't see many cloth caps and mufflers these days as the docks have long gone. Limehouse has been gentrified and you are likely to spot well-known politicians, actors and writers in the Grapes these days.

It's a tiny tavern, with a long and narrow front room with half wood-panelled walls. The bar is against the left-hand wall where pumps dispense Adnams Bitter, Black Sheep Best, Marston's Pedigree and Timothy Taylor's Landlord. Beyond



the bar there's a tiny snug with views over the river while one floor up a small restaurant, renowned for its fish dishes, has an even more spectacular river setting.

Barbara Haigh has run the pub since 1995. She's originally from Liverpool and worked in London clubs before branching out into pubs. She managed several Taylor Walker pubs and the company offered her the Grapes after a successful stint at the Brown Bear in Lemn Street in Whitechapel.

At first, she was horrified at the prospect of running the Grapes. "It was a desolate area of flattened buildings," she recalls. "Narrow Street was just a rat-run for drivers and the pub was busy if you had six customers."

But then the area was transformed. Old warehouses were turned into luxury riverside apartments and smart new blocks of flats were built. Trade picked up and lunchtimes became busy with locals and people from the City. Barbara, whose background is in catering, used her skills to build evening trade as well with fresh fish from Billingsgate market in the restaurant. A Sunday lunchtime roast is a successful addition. She has won many prizes for her food but she has also learnt the necessary skills of the bar and cellar from courses run by the British Institute of Innkeeping. The Grapes has Cask Marque accreditation for the quality of its ales: I don't envy the inspector who had to check the cellar.

Barbara now runs the Grapes on a lease from Punch Taverns and she chooses her cask beers from the pub company's list. She involves her regulars in the choice of beers. The Punch brochure of its cask beers is widely distributed in the pub and drinkers can vote for their choices. It was this grassroots democracy that led to Adnams and Pedigree being joined by Black Sheep and Landlord.

The Grapes has survived and revived. As Dickens wrote, "It had not a straight floor and hardly a straight line, but it had outlasted and would yet outlast many a better-trimmed building, many a sprucer public house".

*The Grapes, 76 Narrow Street, E14 8BP.
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Roger Protz

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London Pub - Public House or Museum

Last December, I was fortunate to be invited to a reception and launch for a publication a little out of the ordinary. It's a diary with a difference, in that the standard pages are interspersed with striking images of some of London's more iconic pubs, complemented by commentary from publican and blogger, Jeff Bell.

It sets out its stall early on in the statement that a beer at home is nowhere near as satisfying as one enjoyed down the pub and the photographs illustrate the message by approaching their subjects from a different angle. Pictures of pubs tend to concentrate on an external view or a shot of one of the rooms, often empty of drinkers. Nothing wrong in this, but seeing shots of different aspects of pubs helps illuminate things you might often miss. Sometimes it takes an overseas visitor to help open our eyes to what's right in front of us.

I expect that most people will have their 2009 diaries by now but, if you look on this more as a work of art and you can cope with German, then it's on sale at www.karografik.ch/ Otherwise, you might find copies at the Royal Oak in Borough (Frank's beaming face is one of the first things you see on opening the pages) or at our next port of call.

Showing admirable restraint, Jeff Bell chose not to include his own pub, the Gunmakers on Eyre Street Hill, EC1. Jeff and his team have taken great steps to bring this lovely little pub back to life on the back of his cask ale offering; Taylor's Landlord is

the house beer and there are two other pumps for rotating guests. Weston's Old Rosie complements the beers.

The pub derives its name from the fact that Hiram Maxim, inventor of the automatic machine gun, had a factory nearby and the pub celebrates his achievements which include a host of other things besides guns. The pub is just off the beaten track and, as a consequence, all the better for seeking out. You can find more at www.thegunmakers.co.uk/

Before running a pub, Jeff was better known as a beer blogger. You can still find his blog regularly updated at <http://stonch.blogspot.com/> and it is well worth visiting. To get an idea of his style, I particularly liked how he ended his piece on the nearby Crown at Clerkenwell Green: "I'm not really sure whether the group were any good. I don't really care. However amateur it might be, this kind of finger-in-ear folk will always strike a chord with me. It reminds me of my childhood and how I first fell in love with pubs..... (that night) I learned how to pronounce Kirkcudbright. More importantly, I learned about the ineffable magic of the British pub when music and laughter fill the air and beer fills the glasses."

A book, a blog and a beer (in a pub!), that's a great start to any year.

John Cryne



National Cask Ale Week, 6 - 13 April 2009

A trade-wide initiative to promote real ale

THE CLAPHAM OMNIBUS

Due for publication in time for the Battersea Beer Festival is the fourth in a series of pocket guides to pubs in the South West London CAMRA Branch area. *The Clapham Omnibus* gives details of all pubs in the SW4 and SW8 London Postal Districts: Clapham, South Lambeth and the northern parts of Stockwell. Priced £2, the new guide will be available this year at beer festivals and from CAMRA headquarters at St Albans. Local pubs that stock it will be listed in the April/May *London Drinker*.

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THE FINAL COPY DATE FOR ADVERTISING IN
OUR NEXT ISSUE (APRIL/MAY)
IS THE SECOND OF MARCH

The Rough Pub Guide

If you are looking for a guide to the fifty top real ale pubs in Britain, then head elsewhere. Indeed, many of the pubs featured in this eclectic little publication undoubtedly don't sell cask beer and, even if they did, there is no guarantee the text would get around to telling you so.

Supported by excellent photography, this is a completely different take on pub preservation but, in its own way, just as valid. What the authors are looking to get away from are the identikit pubs which increasingly occupy the High Street. They are looking for that spark of individuality, the difference that makes a pub what it is – or from the authors' perspective, what they fear they might no longer be.

The first pub I recognise is the Boot in Cromer Street which, as the one-time local of Carry On's Kenneth Williams, is described as the anti-Cheers, a place to wallow in the fact that no-one knows your name. The difficulty in finding the Cornubia in Bristol is said to be like a CAMRA version of a Freemasons' lodge, only easily accessible with a weird handshake and a sly wink. Soho's Intrepid Fox was "cruelly boarded up in preparation for housing a few moneyed ponsonbys who could fruit about the West End bragging into their iPhones". Why didn't Capital Pubcheck think of that one for *London Drinker*?

And so it goes on, some great turns of phrase on the pubs themselves, interspersed with articles covering topics as diverse as Wetherspoons (in favour), kids in pubs (against), the best TV pubs, the pub in British cinema, an appreciation of the jukebox, pub sports (in favour), station pubs (their rise and fall) and finally a 'What next for the Great British Boozer', which could not put the threat to British pubs any more succinctly.

If the 'Save our Pubs' button on the front cover does not say it any more clearly for you, then I am not sure what authors Paul Moody and Robin Turner (with photographer Scott Wishart) could have done to make any clearer the essential message of this pocket-sized publication.

Along with *Around London in 80 Beers* (reviewed by Steve Williams in Oct/Nov LD) it will take you to pubs you may never have considered if you are just a seeker of real ale. In that respect, it may be challenging but, hopefully, worth it.

The Rough Pub Guide is published by Orion at £9.99. Details may be found at www.orionbooks.co.uk or www.roughpubguide.co.uk.

John Cryne



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Dear Editor

The most recent edition refers in several places to the price of beer and, for an enthusiastic consumer, this is of course a matter of concern. Following a short visit to France before Christmas, however, I appreciate our comparative good fortune and was pleased to have a pint or three at London prices!

Contrary to popular belief, drinking on the near continent has not been cheap for a long time (except perhaps from supermarkets, as is the case here). On my recent visit I found that bar prices ranged between 2 and 3.50 Euros for a 25 centilitre glass, depending upon strength and quality. As the Euro is in effect at parity on tourist rates, this works out at between £4.50 and £8.00 per pint. It's no wonder that people comment on there being less binge drinking in those parts!

David Todd, Hanworth

Dear Editor

Sorry about the error in my letter to the Dec/Jan *Drinker*: for Cricketers, read Prince of Wales. At least one North Kingstons pub rose to the implicit challenge – the Willoughby Arms tried a Theakstons beer at £2.00 a pint!

Dave Morgan

Dear Editor

When was the last time you went in a pub and were pleasantly surprised by something other than the beer or ambience? While a wide variety of well-kept ales is a damn good reason to seek out a pub, many have a special or unique attraction unrelated to beer. With so many pubs closing and many more under threat, we should do our bit to promote those quirky one-offs whose discovery helps makes life in London special. While a closed pub running a 'mini-beer festival' could theoretically be reopened anywhere, once one with a unique architectural or

historical feature is gone, it is gone forever.

I would therefore like to propose an occasional column in *London Drinker* called Curiosity Corner. Its focus would be pub first, beer second (though pubs serving poor quality ale would forfeit a mention). I'd like to start the ball rolling by highlighting the Castle on West Street, Harrow-on-

the-Hill. To enjoy a winter pint in a pub with not one but three real coal fires blazing (rather than those ghastly gas-pretending-to-be-coal things) is pretty remarkable these days. It was also unusual to see a barmaid running around with a coal scuttle and obviously enjoying the novelty of the task.

Though serving the ubiquitous Fuller's range, it was built in 1901, is Grade II listed and is on CAMRA's National Inventory. Well worth seeking out before the warmer days arrive.

Bob Barton, Hayes, Middx.

Dear Editor

We would like the opportunity to respond to a letter in the recent *London Drinker* about one of our pubs, the Ledger Building in West India Quay. The writer, Gordon Joly, refers to the pub's door staff and the fact that they have searched the contents of his bags and on another occasion asked a customer to remove her hat.

We can confirm that the pub does not have a no hat rule and this has been clearly relayed to our door staff. We have also reviewed our door staff procedures and customers are no longer searched on entry. The role of our door staff is simply to maintain a secure and safe environment for our customers.

On a separate note, your readers might be interested to note that the pub has a new manager, John Wall. Under John's management, the Bluecoat (a Wetherspoon pub in Rotherham) was named Rotherham CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2005, 2006 and 2007 as well as Wetherspoon's real ale pub of the year in 2006. Both the Bluecoat and John's most recent pub, the Rawson Spring in Sheffield, are listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide. John is committed to offering the best range of real ales in the area, all kept and served in first-class condition. We trust that our reply to Mr Joly's letter makes our position clear on the issues he raised and that he will continue to enjoy a pint of real ale there.

Eddie Gershon (Wetherspoon spokesman), Watford

Dear Editor

Whilst visiting a friend in Brussels, we made a remarkable discovery about Jupiler beer. It has a secret ingredient.

Well actually it is not so much secret but just cunningly disguised, as the picture shows....

You have been warned.

Greg Tingey, Walthamstow



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CAMPAIGN
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The Bull at Horton Kirby, Dartford, Kent



I've always believed one can judge the ambience of a pub by its social activities: y'know, local darts team, cribbage boards, communal singing around an open fire- that sort of thing! Well, if that's the case, the Bull at Horton Kirby should have 'Traditional pub food and hand-crafted ales served here' impregnated throughout its loo rolls – a la Brighton rock.

How does this sound for a social diary? Mondays: quiz night; Tuesdays: cribbage; Wednesdays: darts, investment club and scout leaders meeting; Thursdays: friendly poker school plus bellringer and pigeon fancier meets! And, should this all sound a little Vicar of Dibleyish, Fran the local female vicar visited to bless the pub's reopening four years ago, sprinkling the Holy Water etc. All I can say is, if there is a God, a sincere "Thank you" – I'm ready to regain my faith.

The Bull is situated on a very minor road, the sort you may discover by car attempting to avoid the congestion of the nearby M20 and M25. It's not the kind of location to attract Wetherspoon's attention nor, hopefully, that of any other pub company. Originally called the Bull and Bavenstack, the pub has been here since the 1800s; the current building dates from circa 1903. Alas, like so many ex-Courage hosteleries in South East London and Kent, it had fallen into sad, boarded-up neglect. Enter the current landlords, Lynne and Garrett. With no previous pub experience, they say, "*We knew what we liked about pubs and determined to create our own idyll*". This small oasis, with its fearsome reputation for quality pub food and a wonderful range of real ales, has established a loyal clientele – and they regularly travel from a wide area.

My mid-afternoon visit coincided with the opening of their monthly 'Brewery Showcase' where one can sample around six gravity-served ales. The craft brewery featured was Marble of Manchester. The future line up includes Pictish in February, Atomic in March and Thornbridge in

April. The showcase runs for three or four days at the beginning of most months. Even without it, the ale range from the five hand pumps is impressive and constantly changing. On my day I sampled two Dark Star ales, Critical Mass (7.8%) and Brewer's Reserve, an ale only supplied to their best customers! As well as the familiar Fullers ESB I espied Oakham's Hawse Buckler and a 4.4% from Newby Wyke brewery. Being a tad chilly I tried an amazing ginger-based ale from the Marble showcase. There is also a wide range of international bottled beers and always a draught cider on offer.

The menu is impressive and incredible value, all home-cooked by Lynne, who takes the 'locally-sourced' label to the extreme, growing her own vegetables (and herbs!) from the huge garden out back and buying more produce from the locals' allotments. The mid-week special, at an outstanding £3, included turkey and smoky bacon pie, pheasant stew and Carribean pepperpot beef with rice amongst others (check the times by phoning 01322 862274 or visiting www.thebullpub.co.uk). Friends to whom I've recommended the Bull assure me the dishes were wonderful. The coffee is of the never-ending



American style: buy one, refills free – great news for the designated driver!

Now early evening, a few of the regulars had turned up and the banter could have made me tarry longer still. I didn't want to leave but kind Garrett had offered me a lift back and I had a feature to write! Needless to say I've been back since.

There are no frills at the Bull, just a fanatical dedication to serving wonderful food and fine ales. Is it in the Good Beer Guide? Course it is! Do the local CAMRA guys like it? Well, it was Gravesend & Darenth Valley Branch's Pub of the Year for 2008. Garrett and Lynne deserve all the praise being heaped on them. Thank you for creating your wonderful pub; may it stay 'blessed' for many years to come.

Peter Tonge

Banging the Drum for Wetherspoons



The Drum in Leyton, one of Wetherspoon's oldest pubs, opened in December 1986, is now offering a choice of ten real ales at all times. David Kirby became the pub's manager in September 2008 and has built on its real ale success. He says, "*The Drum probably has the widest choice of real ales on offer in*

the area, including an ever-changing selection of guest beers from numerous breweries, for example Ringwood, Exmoor and Itchen Valley, and I can assure drinkers that they are kept and served in first-class condition at all times."

Good on him - let's hold him to that!

TIME FOR A BREAK AT THE FIVE BELLS INN



CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2009 describes us as 'West Chiltington's Best Kept Secret'. We are passionate about the real ale we serve and the great choice of five good quality beers. Local CAMRA Pub of the Year 2007 and 2008.

Five beers always available including a mild, a guest, a premium ale, plus local Appledram cider.

No Sky, Pool, Frozen Food
or Pickled Eggs!

The Five Bells recently converted into an Inn providing five rooms all en-suite with bath and shower and we have four doubles and one twin room. All rooms have TV, tea making facilities and all face the morning sunshine. Every room is neutrally decorated, all have a view of the countryside and dog lovers will be pleased to know there is a relaxed attitude to customers bringing their pets to stay!

If you need a lie in, fancy watching TV and having breakfast in bed, please feel free to ask and this can be arranged for you.



FIVE BELLS INN, SMOCK ALLEY, WEST CHILTINGTON, WEST SUSSEX RH20 2QX
Just ring Bill & Joan Edwards for more details
www.fivebellsinn.co.uk Tel: 01798 812143

South West London pubs join CAMRA LocAle scheme



Two pubs within CAMRA's South West London branch area are now promoting their locally brewed cask ales within the London LocAle scheme. First to enlist was London's current Pub of the Year, the **Trafalgar** in High Path, Merton SW19. Here the house beer, Thru'penny Hop, is brewed by Pilgrim at Reigate and often other ales with low 'beer miles' also feature, for example from W J King at Horsham. Brodie's Christmas beer, Yo Ho Ho, and their Mild have both been available in recent

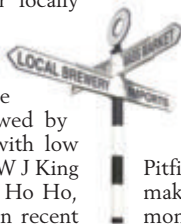
months, as well as the Pilgrim Mild.

The second pub in the branch to parade its LocAle credentials is the **Westbridge** at the corner of Westbridge Road and Battersea Bridge Road, SW11. By mid-December, Sambrook's Wandle Ale, brewed in Battersea less than a mile away, was a permanent and very welcome addition to the cask beer range.

Sambrook's has reached other pubs in the area including the Falcon at Clapham Junction and Le Gothique and the Roundhouse, to the north of Wandsworth Common. We hope it will catch on.

The October/November 2008 *London Drinker* listed 29 breweries within a 30 mile radius of London pubs. Brodie's, Sambrook's, the new Dorking Brewery and

Pitfield, now brewing at North Weald, Epping, make four known additions to that list in as many months.



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

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Branch diaries

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

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

March - Wed 25 (8pm) London AGM and 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, jephcote@waitrose.com

February - Sat 28 Daytime crawl of Greenford, West Ealing, Acton and Chiswick: (12 noon) Bridge, Western Ave, Greenford UB6; (1pm) Duke of Kent, 2 Scotch Common, West Ealing W13; (2.45) Drayton Court Hotel, 2 The Avenue, West Ealing W13; (3.45) Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, West Ealing W13; (4.45) George & Dragon, 183 High St, Acton W3; (5.45) Tabard, 2 Bath Rd, Chiswick W4; (6.30) Old Pack Horse, 434 Chiswick High Rd, Chiswick W4. Public transport will be required at times.

March - Wed 11 (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

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

London co-ordinator Matthew Black 07786 262798, youngmembers@selcamra.org.uk

February - Wed 18 Hammersmith crawl: (7pm) Plough & Harrow, 120-124 King St (Wetherspoons near Ravenscourt Pk Underground); (8pm) Salutation, 154 King St; (8.30) Dove, 19 Upper Mall; (9.30) Brook Green Hotel, 170 Shepherd's Bush Rd; (10pm) William Morris 2-4 King St.

March - Fri 6 (7pm) Social, Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, Hackney E8.

BEXLEY

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

February - Wed 11 (8.30) Mtg. Royal Standard, Belvedere. - **Wed 25 (8.30)** GBG finalisation mtg. Robin Hood & Little John, Bexleyheath.

March - Wed 11 (8.30) Mtg. Black Horse, Bexley.

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Keith Worsfold 07872 009005, keith925603@btinternet.com

February - Thu 5 (8.30) Social. Robin Hood, 52 West St, Sutton. - **Mon 16 (8pm)** GBG selection mtg. Spread Eagle, 41 High St, Croydon. - **Tue 24 (8.30)** Mtg. Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey St, Croydon.

March - Thu 19 (8.30) Social. Orchard, 116 Orchard Way, Shirley. - **Thu 26 (8.30)** Mtg. Windsor Castle, 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

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

February - Mon 9 (8.30) GBG/PotY and CoTY nomination mtg. Black Lion, High St, Plaistow E13 - **Wed 11-Fri 13** Social and work at Battersea Beer Festival.

March - Thu 12 (8pm) Mtg. Birkbeck Tavern, Langthorne Rd, E11. - **Wed 18-Fri 20** Social and work at London Drinker Beer Festival. - **Thu 26-Fri 27** Social at Piglet beer festival, LOSC, Oliver Rd, E10.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

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

February - Tue 3 Friern Barnet social: (8.30) York Arms; (9.30) Cavalier. - **Thu 12 (8pm for 8.30 start)** GBG final selection. East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Chestnuts, N2. N.B. card carrying CAMRA members only. - **Wed 18** New Barnet social: (8.30) Railway Tavern; (9.30) Lord Kitchener, 49 East Barnet Rd. - **Thu 26 (8.30)** Social. Stag & Hounds, 371 Bury Street West, N9.

March - Wed 4 High Barnet social: (8.30) Queens Arms; (9.30) Old Red Lion, both Great North Rd. - **Tue 10** Winchmore Hill social: (8.30) Salisbury Arms, Hoppers Rd; (9.30) Kings Head, The Green. - **Wed 18 (from 7pm)** Working social. London Drinker Beer Festival (see page 19) - **Thu 26 (8.30)** London Drinker pick up and social. Old Mitre, 58 High St, Barnet EN5.

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

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H) 020-8540 1901 (W), ctaylor2007@free.uk.com

February - Thu 5 (8pm) Branch AGM. Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston. - **Wed 11 (8pm)** Social. Battersea Beer Festival. - **Sat 14** Day visit by 11.20 train ex Waterloo, 11.40 Twickenham to Wokingham, arr. 12.27: (12.30) Hope & Anchor, Station Rd, then Queens Head and other pubs, including four GBGs. - **Wed 25 (8pm)** GBG selection mtg. Willoughby Arms, Kingston.

March - Wed 4 (8.15) Mtg. Dittons, Ditton Hill Rd, Long Ditton, nr Surbiton. - **Tue 10** Evening visit to Epsom: (8pm) Marquis Of Granby, West St, then Cricketers, Jolly Cooper and back into the town. - **Wed 18 (8pm)** Social. London Drinker Beer Festival. - **Sun 22** Sunday afternoon stroll from Worcester Park to Berrylands: (1pm) Worcester Park (opp rail sta), then Malden Manor, Woodies and Berrylands.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

Social contacts: Stephen Taylor, 07531 006296, stephen.taylor2@selexgalileo.com; John Adams, 07970 150707, J.Adams@ucl.ac.uk. Branch chairman: John Cryne, 07802 174861, john.cryne2@googlemail.com

February - Tue 3 Newington Green N16 social: (7.30) Rochester Castle, Stoke Newington High St; (8.15) Nobody Inn, Newington Green; (9pm) Milmay Club tour, Newington Green; (10pm) Lord Clyde, Essex Rd. - **Tue 10** LDBF planning meeting: (8pm) Wenlock Arms, Wenlock Rd N1. - **Tue 17** N1 GBG 2010 surveying: (7.30) King Charles I, Northdown St; (8.15) Castle, Pentonville Rd; (9pm) York, Islington High St; (9.45) Duke of Cambridge, St Peters St. - **Tue 24 (8pm)** Hampstead & Highgate pub guide launch. Duke of Hamilton, New End, NW3.

March - Tue 3 Hoxton N1 social: (8pm) Prince Arthur, Brunswick Pl; (9pm) Electricity Showrooms, Hoxton Sq; (9.30) Macbeth, Hoxton St; (10pm) George & Vulture, Pitfield St. - **Tue 10 (8pm)** Pub of the Season presentation. Pineapple, Leverton St, NW5. - **Tue 17** LDBF setup social: (7pm) Euston Flyer, Euston Rd; (9pm) Betjeman Arms, St Pancras Station. - **Tue 24** Mtg and post-LDBF N1 social: (8pm) Scolt Head, Culford Rd; (9.30) Wellington, Balls Pond Road. - **Tue 31** WC1 hotel social: (7.30) Cafe London, Bedford Hotel, Southampton Row; (8.15) Night & Day, Imperial Hotel, Russell Sq; (9pm) London Pub, Royal National Hotel, Woburn Pl; (9.45) Tavistock Hotel, Tavistock Sq; (10.15) County Bar, County Hotel, Upper Woburn Pl.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk Email list: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/camranorthlondon/>

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Brian Kirton 020-8384 7284(H), briankirton@blueyonder.co.uk
February – Tue 10 (8.30) Mtg and GBG final listing. Builders Arms, 38 Field La, Teddington.

March – Wed 11 Hampton Hill crawl: (8pm) Duke of Clarence, 147 High St, then including Jenny Lind, 80 High St and Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd. - **Wed 18** (8.30) Mtg. Popes Grotto, Cross Deep, Twickenham.

Advance Notice: Thu 16 April Branch AGM (venue tba).

Website: www.rhcamra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

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

February – Tue 3 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Old Kings Head, 45 Borough High St, SE1. - **Wed 11** (8pm) Pub of the Season presentation. Commercial, 210-212 Raiton Rd, SE24. - **Wed 18** (8pm) Beer Festival mtg and social. Two Doves, 37 Oakley Rd Bromley Common. - **Mon 23** (8pm) GBG final selection and social. Hoopers Bar, 28 Ivanhoe Rd, SE5.

March – Wed 4 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Westow House, 79 Westow Hill, SE19. - **Mon 9** New Cross social crawl: (7.30) Deptford Arms, 62 Deptford High St, SE8; (8.15) Royal Albert, 460 New Cross Rd, SE14; (9pm) Marquis of Granby, 322 New Cross Rd, SE14; (9.45) Hobgoblin, 272 New Cross Rd, SE14. - **Wed 18** SE1 social crawl: (7.30) Rose, 123 Snowfields; (8.15) Kings Arms, 65 Newcomen St; (9pm) Trinity, 204 Borough High St; (9.45m) Lord Clyde, 27 Clennam St. - **Tue 24** (8pm) Beer Festival mtg and social. Ship, 68 Borough Rd, SE1.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker swessex@essex-camra.org.uk

February – Thu 5 (8pm) Out-of-area social: 10th Chelmsford Winter BF, Triangle Club, Duke St (Nr Chelmsford Rail Station) - **Sat 7** Grays social: (12 noon) Bricklayers Arms, 48 Bridge Rd; (1pm) White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, during their Annual Beer Festival. - **Tue 10** (8.30) Social. Thatchers Arms, Warley Rd, Great Warley CM13. - **Tue 17** (8.30) GBG and PotY selection mtg (London entries). Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd, Woodford Bridge IG8. - **Sat 21** (11.30/12 noon) Brentwood Brewery trip, South Weald, by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford-Le-Hope. Contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215. - **Tue 24** (8.30) GBG and PotY selection mtg (Essex entries). Rising Sun, 144 Ongar Rd, Brentwood. - **Sat 28** (8pm) 'Jolly Good Party' in memory of Andrew Clifton. White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, Grays. This event is being held in accordance with Andrew's wishes. Would Andrew's old CAMRA friends who wish to attend please contact Alan Barker at swessex@essex-camra.org.uk by 14 Feb, to book. Please include your address and telephone number(s).

March – Tue 3 (8.30) Out of area social. King Edward VII, 47 Broadway, Stratford, E15. - **Wed 11** (8.30) **Branch AGM**, White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, Grays. - **Wed 18** (7.30) Out of area social. 25th London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1. - **Tue 24** CM14 Social: (8.30) Tower Arms, Weald Rd, South Weald; (9.30) White Horse, Coxtie Green. - **Sat 28** (12/12.30pm) Red Fox Brewery trip, Coggeshall, Essex, by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford-Le-Hope. Contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215.

Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 3826 (W),

markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk

February – Mon 2 Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl: meet (6.45) Falcon, 2 St Johns Hill, Clapham Jct, SW11. - **Thu 5** Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl: meet (6.45) Stonhouse, 165 Stonhouse St, Clapham SW4. - **Thu 19** (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Princess of Wales, 98 Morden Rd, Merton SW19.

March – Sun 1 (12.15) GBG selection mtg. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, S Wimbledon SW19. - **Mon 23** (7.30) Social, Nightingale, 97 Nightingale La, Balham SW12.

Website: www.sulcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

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

February – Wed 4 Bushey: (8.30) Black Boy, Windmill St; (9.15) Three Crowns, High Rd; (10pm) Swan, Park Rd. - **Thu 12** Watford: (8.30) Flag, Station Rd; (9.15) Champions, St. Albans Rd; (10pm) Nascot Arms, Stamford Rd. - **Mon 23** (8pm) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, St Johns Rd, Watford. - **Thu 26**. Breweriana Auction, Function Room, West Herts Sports & Social Club, Park Ave, Watford. Viewing from 7.30 for 8pm start.

March – Fri 6. Branch Pub of the Year presentation; venue tba. - **Thu 12** Abbots Langley: (8.15) Royal Oak, Kitters Green; (9.15) Boys Home, High St; (10pm) Compasses, Tibbs Hill Rd. - **Thu 19** London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival. Meet 6pm and every hour thereafter at products stand. - **Mon 30**. Mtg. Estcourt Arms, St Johns Rd, Watford.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Kimberly Martin 07717 795284, KimberlyMartin@yahoo.com

February – Mon 9 (7.30) GBG selection mtg. Upstairs function room, Antelope, Eaton Terrace, SW1. - **Thu 19** (7.30) Final GBG selection and PotY shortlisting. Upstairs function room, Harp, Chandos Pl, WC2. - **Mon 23** (7.30) Mtg. Upstairs function room, Mitre, Craven Terrace, W2.

March – Tue 10 Covent Garden WC2 crawl: (7.30) Cove, The Piazza; (9pm) Ship & Shovell, Craven Passage. - **Thu 19** Maida Vale W9 crawl: (7.30) Warrington Hotel, Warrington Crescent; (9pm) Prince Alfred, Formosa St. - **Tue 24** (7.30) Mtg, King & Queen, Foley St, W1.

Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

Social secretary Bob O'Brien 01895 673266; Branch contact John Bush 07739 105336, info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk

February – Thu 5 Crawl: (8pm) Ye Olde Greene Manne, Batchworth Heath, Rickmansworth; (9pm) Gate, Rickmansworth Rd, Northwood; (10pm) William Jolle, 53 Joel St, Northwood Hills. - **Wed 11** Battersea Beer Festival social: meet 7pm, 8pm, 9pm at membership stand. - **Wed 18** (8pm) GBG final selection mtg. Upstairs Meeting Room, Southall Conservative & Unionist Club, Fairlawn, High St, Southall. - **Tue 24** Local Wetherspoon Beer Festival: (7pm) Moon & Sixpence, 250 Uxbridge Rd, Hatch End; (9pm) Man in the Moon, 1 Buckingham Parade, Stanmore.

March – Tue 3 Harlington crawl: (8pm) Wheatsheaf; 286 High St; (9pm) White Hart, 158 High St. - **Wed 11** Mtg (8pm) Black Horse, Black Horse Parade, High Rd, Eastcote. - **Thu 19** London Drinker Festival social: meet 7pm, 8pm, 9pm at membership stand. - **Mon 23** (8pm) LocAle launch. J J Moons, 12 Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May edition: 11th March 2009. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
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**Good Friday
and Saturday 10th & 11th April
Winter Gardens, Margate, Kent**

*featuring around 200 top quality real ales,
ciders & perries. Hot & cold food,
live entertainment and quiet sessions
on both days*

To Margate

2009

Planet Thanet Easter Beer Festival

**Giant
pub-style quiz
Saturday pm with cash
and other prizes.**

Opening times: 12 noon to 10.30pm daily, Admission per person: Friday £3, Saturday £2.

Free admission to card-carrying CAMRA members or join us on the day and get admission refunded in beer tokens.

Organised by the Thanet Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. www.easterbeerfestival.org.uk

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

Make it a great Bank Holiday Easter seaside weekend down at the Margate Winter Gardens

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.

Wetherspoons have taken over a further surplus Laurel pub in Sutton, with another in the pipeline in Sidcup. Offsetting this, one of theirs has been sold in EC1 Farringdon. A brand new Barracuda pub has opened in Coulsdon and we record the operation of two pubs by 'celebrities' in W1 Mayfair and NW1 Camden Town. As we go to press, Fuller's have announced the acquisition of three prestigious M&B pubs in SW1 St James's, N6 Highgate and Teddington: full details in the next update.

Young's have clocked up four losses in N1 Canonbury, SE1 Borough, SW18 Wandsworth and in Croydon, but the first and last continue to trade. On an encouraging note, two new microbreweries have opened in London: Brodie's in the Sweet William brewery premises in E10 Leyton and Sambrooks in SW11 Battersea. Known regular outlets are listed below. Finally, we record three instances of reopening for either pub or restaurant use of pubs that had been presumed permanently closed with permission for or

expectations of residential development. Could this be the start of a realisation that the pub conversion bubble has burst and that an operational pub is of more value than a deteriorating building awaiting conversion in a stagnant housing market?

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 Pub Guide; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; WB - Wandsworth and Battersea Pub Guide; X - Essex Beer Guide, 9th edition.

If you would like to report changes to pubs or beers, please write to: Capital Pubcheck, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR or email: capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, WICKED WOLF, 105 Charterhouse St. Reverted to SMITHFIELD TAVERN. Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (E24, U70, U79, U159, U191)

EC2, VINUM, 63 Worship St. No real ale. Ground floor and basement bar run by Grand Union group in former 'Pulpit', a Davy's wine bar without draught beer.

EC4, PRINT HOUSE, 1 St Brides Passage. No real ale. Independent wine bar now with keg beer.

WC1, AKA, 15 West Central St. No real ale. Independent bar in former sorting office premises.

EAST

E1, BAR BED, 40 Leman St. Reopened and reverted to BLACK HORSE. Free House, still with no real ale. (E61, U110, U163, U201)

E9, BRITANNIA, 360 Victoria Park Rd. Taylor: Landlord. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly VICTORIA PARK, previously FALCON & FIRKIN. (E120, U191, U202)

E15, THEATRE ROYAL BAR, Gerry Raffles Sq. Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement of real ale. Bar open to general public. (E155, U128, U143)

NORTH

N7, BAILEY, 81 Holloway Rd. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Reinstatement of real ale. Thai food and screens for sports. Formerly CASTLE. (N86, U121, U192)

N18, LT'S, 56 Upper Fore St. No real ale. Reopened after only two weeks' closure. Details unchanged. Formerly PHOENIX. (N139, U167, U192, U203)

N22, PRINCE, 1 Finsbury Rd. Fuller: London Pride.

Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly PRINCE OF WALES. (N156, U172, U202)

BARNET (EN5), DANDELION, 31 High St. Reopened and renamed TOBY CARVERY. No real ale. Now part of M&B's Toby Carvery chain, ex-Bass. Formerly AVENUE, FELIX & FIRKIN and DANDY LION. (N250, U120, H19, U157, U160, U167, U193, U198)

NORTH WEST

NW1, YORK & ALBANY, 127/129 Parkway. No real ale. Keg Old Speckled Hen £4/pint with 12.5% (50p) automatic service charge! Gordon Ramsay operated bar and restaurant overseen by another TV celebrity chef, Angel Hartnett. A former Watney pub at the end of a Nash terrace, it had been boarded up since closure in 1985. The freeholder was the Crown Estate. The bar area is modern in design, open to non-diners and also serves as a reception area for the restaurant at the rear and in the basement with its open kitchen. Ten bed hotel upstairs and deli shop to side which supplies bar snacks.

EDGWARE (HA8), CARRIE'S BAR, 19 Burnt Oak Broadway. No real ale. Independent Irish bar in former shop unit, opened 2008.

EDGWARE (HA8), PRINCE OF WALES, 218 Burnt Oak Broadway. No real ale. Reopened in October 2008 as an Irish pub operated by Carey's Taverns. Now an Enterprise lease, ex-S&N. (N257, U106, U201)

PINNER (HA5), KING GEORGE IV, Marsh Rd. Courage: Best Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale - others may follow. Now independently owned, ex-M&B. Formerly GEORGE. (W179, U185, U199)

SOUTH EAST

COULSDON (CR5), PEMBROKE, 12-16 Chipstead Valley Rd. Adnams: Broadside; Courage: Directors; Fuller:

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London Pride; Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; Wells: Bombardier; Young: Bitter. Brand new pub opened by Barracuda in October 2008 under its Smith & Jones brand. Large open plan room with a raised area to one side with a skylight and modern furnishings. A mixture of high and low tables and comfortable sofas with piped music and no TV screens. Small patio at rear, railed off seating area outside front door and easy disabled access. Family friendly with heavy emphasis on food, including Sunday roast. Nearest station: Smitham; buses 60, 166, 405 and 463. Open 11-11 Mon-Thu, 11-12 Fri/Sat, 12-10.30/11 Sun

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ), TIGER TIGER, 29 Haymarket. No real ale. A modern bar operated by Urbium in former bank premises.

SW4, PERFECT BLEND, 82/84 Clapham Park Rd. No real ale. Independent gastrobar opened in November 2008 in former shop premises.

SW8, AQUA, Unit 12, Flagstaff House, 9 St George Wharf. No real ale. Brand new bar and brasserie with keg lagers, opened in May 2008 by Souk Ltd

SW8, CAVENDISH ARMS, 128 Hartington Rd. Greene King: IPA. Reinstatement of real ale. Now Enterprise, ex-Discovery Inns. (SW76, U141, U143)

SUTTON (SM1), GRAPES, 198 High St. Greene King: IPA, Abbot; Marston: Pedigree; 2 guest beers. Acquired by Wetherspoon from Laurel, ex-Whitbread in December 2008. Refurbished in typical style with mixture of seating, local history panels, old pictures of Sutton etc at a

cost of £0.5 million. Food. Open 9-12 Sun-Thu, 9-1am Fri/Sat. Was PITCHERS for a while. (SW167, U123)

WEST

W3, CHURCHFIELD, Station Blds, Churchfield Rd. Renamed **STATION HOUSE**. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA. Reinstatement of real ale. (W81, U192)

BRENTFORD (TW8), ALBANY ARMS, 17 Albany Rd. Reopened. No real ale. (W130, U191, U201)

HAMPTON WICK (KT1) OLD KINGS HEAD, 1 Hampton Court Rd. Reopened. No real ale. (W146, U203)

HAYES (UB4), FLANAGAN'S BAR & GRILL, 1090 Uxbridge Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly FLYNN'S BAR & GRILL, originally CROWN TAVERN. (W160, U202)

TWICKENHAM (TW1), THREE KINGS, 42 Heath Rd. Reopened November 2008 under new management. Fuller: London Pride; Twickenham: Original; Wadworth: 6X; Young: Bitter. Outside architectural detail retained and woodwork painted dark green. (W205, U203)

WEST DRAYTON (UB7), SWAN, 82 Swan Rd. Courage: Best Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale. (W226, U199)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, PRINT WORKS, Wetherspoon, closed and sold but rumoured likely to reopen as a bar/club. (U167, U185)

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ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

EC1, MOSAIC, Free, ex-SFI, already reported closed. Converted to Gunshot poker bar in 2006 and subsequently to a kitchen showroom in 2008. Originally **SLUG & LETTUCE**. (U155, U184)

EC4, APOSTLE, Food & Drink Group, closed and for sale. Formerly **JAMIE'S**, previously 38 **LUDGATE HILL**, originally **SLURPING TOAD**. (U131, U154, U156, U182, U196)

WC1, CHURCHILLS, Free, already reported demolished, flats now under construction on site. (N19, U171, U189, W17, U199)

WC1, MALT BAR, Regency Group, H removed. The Bonnington in Bloomsbury Hotel is now renamed Park Inn Hotel. (N18, U154, HB5, W20)

WC1, PUZZLE WC1, Puzzle Pub Co, closed, future uncertain after voluntary liquidation of pubco in early January. Formerly **OLD MONK**. (N26, HB11, W24)

W1(F), SLUG & LETTUCE, Laurel, closed following pubco going into receivership, future uncertain. Formerly **HA! HA! (BAR & CANTEEN)**. (W45, U199)

W1(Mar), CONDUIT OF TYBOURNE, Free, closed December 2008, future uncertain. Formerly **O'CONNOR DON**. (W56, U199)

W1(May), SAMUEL PEPYS, M&B, closed in June 2008, future uncertain. (W62)

EAST

E2, DURHAM ARMS, Enterprise, ex-Truman via Unique, closed and appears to be undergoing conversion to residential use. The pub was established before 1814. (E80)

E2, GLOBE (STRING RAY CAFÉ), ex-Ascot, closed, future uncertain. (E81, U75, U99, U166, U187)

E5, GLYN ARMS, Punch, ex-Taylor Walker, closed and boarded up. (E100)

E10, THREE BLACKBIRDS, Enterprise, now converted to Taj Mahal restaurant. (E125, U106, U163, U199)

E15, BRITISH LION, ex-Taylor Walker, demolished in September 2008. (E152)

GOODMAYES (IG3), STANDARD BEARER, ex-Wetherspoon. Reported as sold to a developer in October 2006, now due to reopen as 'Mirah Masala' Indian restaurant. (U152, U191, U195)

ILFORD (IG1), BLUE ICE, Free (Starcom), ex-Whitbread, closed to let. Formerly **PROVOKE** and originally **HOGSHEAD**. (X73, U162, U185, U188)

ROMFORD (RM1), PLACE (THE), Laurel, closed, future uncertain. Formerly **BAR ME**, originally **HOGSHEAD**. (X101, U183, U194)

NORTH

N1, BASTILLE, Punch (not Free), closed. Formerly **CENTURIA**, originally **NEW CROWN**. (N53, U121, U184, U186)

N1, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 71 Nile St, Pubs 'N' Bars, H unused. (N41, U109, U149, IS15)

N1, SALISBURY, Enterprise, ex-Ascot, closed and surrounded by hoarding. Formerly **BRADY'S**. (N39, U164)

N1, THREE CROWNS, Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique, H unused. (N60, IS21)

N6, ROSE & CROWN, Enterprise, ex-Whitbread, now converted to 'Carob' restaurant. (N82, U156, U176)

N7, BARCOSA, Urban Bar, no real ale. Formerly **TANK**, **BEER HOUSE** and **FLOUNDER & FIRKIN**. (N87, U153, U154, U170, U176)

N7, HERBERT CHAPMAN, Pubs 'N' Bars, ex-Faucet Inns, no real ale. Formerly **STUDY**, **HOBGOBLIN** and originally **PRINCE OF WALES**. (N89, U120, U188, U194, U202)

N7, NAMBUCCA, Free, closed after fire damage. Formerly **SWAGMANS REST**, **BJ'S (SPORTS BAR & GRILL)**, and originally **COCK TAVERN**. (N86, U120, U130, U165, U168, U170)

N8, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA. Renamed **VILLIERS TERRACE BAR & RESTAURANT** in December 2008. Enterprise, ex-Watney via Unique, H removed, now a gastropub. (N95)

N9, WILLIAM IV, ex-Taylor Walker. No real ale following change of management. (N101)

N10, WELL, 291/293 Muswell Hill, ex-Bass, closed and converted to 'Eat and Two Veg' restaurant. Formerly **O'NEILLS**. (U143, U158, U199)

N12, ERRIS TAVERN, Free, closed, future uncertain. Formerly **TINTED GLASS**. (N112, U155)

N13, WHOLE HOG, Independent, closed again, future uncertain. (N115, U175, U192, U200)

N15, RIDGE BAR, ex-Watney, closed. Formerly **BLACK BOY**. (N123, U156, U189, U202)

N16, TURNPIKE HOUSE, Enterprise, no real ale. (N131, U159)

N19, BLACK HORSE, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. (N143, U197)

BARNET (EN5), CROWN & ANCHOR, Free (Local Image), now converted to offices. (N250, U175)

EAST BARNET (EN4), DRUM, Punch, closed. Formerly **KINGS HEAD**. (N247, U165, U170, H46, U195)

ENFIELD EAST (EN3), ORDNANCE, Punch, closed. Formerly **BARNYARD**. (N239, U160, U195, U197)

ENFIELD EAST (EN3), NAVIGATION, now M&B (Harvester), ex-Whitbread Beefeater (not Free), H removed. Originally **NAVIGATION INN**. (U126, U160, U189)

NORTH WEST

NW1, ST PANCRAS GRAND, Searcys Group, H removed after a very short period. (U203)

NW5, DUKE OF ST ALBANS, S&N PE, closed and scheduled to be converted to a Greek restaurant. Was **PLATINUM BAR** for a while. The sad loss of a once popular neighbourhood local. (N198, U106, U158, U192, U195)

NW9, RED PEPPERS, Free, closed. Formerly **RED LION**. (N218, U151, U153, U192)

NW10, CROWN, 335 High Rd, Willesden Green, Spirit, ex-S&N, closed autumn 2008. (N229, U106, U109)

NW10, O'SHAUGHNESSY'S, 34 High St, Harlesden,

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Free, closed and converted to shop and social housing. Formerly FU BAR, RAT & CARROT (CROWN) and originally CROWN. (N224, U117, U145, U178)

NW10, WHITE HART, ex-S&N, demolished in 2008. (N225, U106)

EDGWARE (HA8), FLYING EAGLE. Renamed MUMBAI MIX, an independent Indian bar and restaurant, ex-S&N, no real ale. Apparently the planning permission for demolition and replacement by flats has not been implemented, perhaps reflecting the collapse of the housing market. (N256, U106, U199)

HARROW WEALD (HA3), BOXTREE, Punch, closed, future uncertain. (W216)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, ROSE, 35 Albert Embankment, now independent (Zone One), ex-Whitbread, no real ale. Formerly RIVERS. (SE31, U201)

SE1, WHEATSHEAF, Young (leased to Red Car Pub Co), closed in early January and due for demolition to allow for the construction of a wider railway bridge to accommodate the Thameslink rail upgrade scheme. (SE38, U102, U105, U160, U163)

SE6, PLACE HOUSE TAVERN, ex-Whitbread, now converted to flats (not commercial use), completed in September 2008. Formerly PRINCE HENRY. (SE68, U102, U196)

SE16, LION, Free, converted to offices by July 2004, now demolished and flats under construction on site. (SE146)

SE16, QUEENS ARMS, ex-Courage, closed, future uncertain. (SE151, U202)

SE6, RISING SUN, Enterprise, already reported closed. Now a planning application for demolition and replacement by houses, flats, offices or a restaurant was refused by Lambeth Council in August 2008. Was GOOSE & GRANITE for a while. (SE68, U120, U164, U188, U196)

SE6, RUTLAND ARMS, Free, already reported closed, now advertised for sale in July 2008 with planning consent for nine flats. (SE68, U192, U195, U198)

SE13, QUEENS ARMS, ex-Bass, now being converted to residential use. (SE121, U197)

BROMLEY COMMON (BR2), FIVE BELLS, Enterprise, ex-Bass via Unique, closed by December 2008, future uncertain. (3SE223, 8K51)

COULSDON (CR5), RED LION, ex-S&N, already reported demolished. Site still vacant whilst planning applications for redevelopment have been refused by Croydon Council. (3SE229, U48, U98, U107, U181)

CROYDON (CR0), CRICKETERS ARMS, 23 Southbridge Pl, ex-Bass, already reported closed. Now planning application for partial demolition and extension for nine residential units turned down by Croydon Council, but application upheld on appeal. (3SE238, U195)

CROYDON (CR0), DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, Independent, ex-Enterprise, Unique and Courage, no real ale. Planning permission granted by Croydon Council for conversion to flats in February 2007 but pub is still trading. (3SE241, U200)

SIDCUP (DA14), HOGS HEAD, Laurel, ex-Whitbread, closed following Laurel going into receivership. Acquired by Wetherspoons and due to reopen as TAILORS CHALK. Formerly HOGSHEAD. (U126, K127, U189)

SOUTH WEST

SW4, BAR LOCAL, Free, converted to 'Be At One' cocktail bar with bottled beers only. Delete from pub database. (U170)

SW4, SAND, Free, closed. Formerly CLOCK HOUSE. (SW59, U153)

SW4, SEQUEL, Free, closed. (U191)

SW4, WHITE HOUSE, Free, converted to 'Whitehouse', a weekend nightclub with bottled beers only. Delete from pub database. Formerly AROUND THE CORNER and previously AULD TRIANGLE. (SW59, U140, U153, U180)

SW8, ARTESIAN WELL, now operates only as a weekend nightclub or as a party venue by arrangement at other times; bottled beers only. Delete from pub database. Formerly NAGS HEAD. (SW78, U155, U162)

SW8, BAR SW8, currently a shop, now to let as restaurant or shop. Formerly BELL and briefly TURNERS 2. (SW76, U156, U171, U178, U195, U199, U201)

SW8, BRITANNIA PUB TAPAS BAR, now simply 'Britannia' again but operates only late night at weekends, as a licensed restaurant providing a dine and dance venue for the local Portuguese community. Delete from pub database. (SW76, U141)

SW8, DEWDROP, ex-Allied Domecq, closed and boarded up, for sale. (SW76, U130, U141, U144, U167)

SW8, HORSESHOE, still closed but rooms now advertised to let. (SW78, U167, U198)

SW8, NACIONAL DE LONDRES, Punch (Sycamore Taverns), now resolutely a Portuguese restaurant with no bar area for drinkers. Delete from pub database. Formerly VASCO DA GAMA. (SW80, U141, U199, U201)

SW8, NOTT, Free, H unused. Formerly NOTTINGHAM CASTLE. (SW78, U131, U141, U144, U201)

SW8, PAVILION, Free, ex-Inntrepreneur, H unused. (SW79, U138, U200)

SW8, PHOENIX, ex-Marr Taverns, now converted to residential use. (SW79, U201)

SW8, STOCKERS, Free, now operates more as a club, a late night dine and dance venue (closed Mondays but open Sundays from noon), for the local Portuguese community. Delete from pub database. Was RED STILETTO for a time. (SW79, U171, U195)

SW8, WHEATSHEAF, Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur via Unique, closed, leasehold for sale. (SW80, U144)

SW11, RAVEN ONE FORTY, Independent, ex-Phoenix, closed, future uncertain. (SW90, WB36)

SW15, MONTAGUE ARMS, ex-Inntrepreneur. On 16 October, Wandsworth Council received a pre-application consultation notice for conversion of this closed, Grade II listed building to flats. On 6 November the *Evening Standard* reported that the Council had obtained an injunction to protect the pub from unauthorised damage by its owner, Carrington Sears, who had ordered works to

begin 'to make the building safe' without listed building consent. (SW102, BRP21)

SW18, WHEATSHEAF, confirmed converted by Young's to staff accommodation. (SW115, WB22, U202)

SW19, MARIMBA, Free, closed. Formerly PIANO LOUNGE. (U173, BM28, U191)

CHESSINGTON (KT9), WHITE HART, Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur via Unique, closed and delicensed in response to police order, future uncertain. (SW135, KT16)

KINGSTON (KT1), SWAN, Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur via Unique, closed, future uncertain. (SW144, KT28)

WEST

W2, FETTLER, ex-Spirit, already reported closed, now a planning application submitted to Westminster Council for conversion to residential use. (W72, U194)

W3, ALBION, Punch, closed, boarded up and for sale. (W81)

BRENTFORD (TW8), GEORGE & DRAGON, Punch (not M&B), closed, boarded up and for sale. (W131, U199)

FELTHAM (TW14), GREEN MAN, Spirit, closed by December 2008, future uncertain. (W135)

GREENFORD (UB6), SUDBURY ARMS, ex-Greene King, already reported demolished, now block of flats under construction on site. (W142, U199)

HAYES (UB4), CURRANS, Free, closed by 2007 and converted to a betting shop. (W160)

HAYES (UB3), RAM, Greene King, demolished. (W161)

ISLEWORTH (TW7), ROSE & CROWN, Punch (leased to Avebury Taverns), closed by November 2008. (W172)

ISLEWORTH (TW7), WAITING ROOMS. Renamed PAPA J'S, an Indian tapas bar and restaurant, no real ale. Same owner as former Royal Oak in Wealdstone (HA3). (W174)

RUISLIP (HA4), SIX BELLS, Punch, closed following bankruptcy of tenant. (W182)

TEDDINGTON (TW11), WALDEGRAVE ARMS, Punch, already reported closed, now a planning application submitted to Richmond Council to build flats in pub garden, retaining pub building. (W197, U191)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, CROWN TAVERN, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord; +guest beer. Now M&B, ex-Bass. (E15, U151)

EC1, DEUX BEERS. Reverted to HAT & TUN, +Adnams: Broadside; +Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch (leased to ETM), ex-Bass. (E18, U152, U197)

EC1, GUNMAKERS. Now sells four real ales. Beer range varies but often includes Taylor: Landlord and Theakston: Old Peculier. Formerly GUNMAKERS

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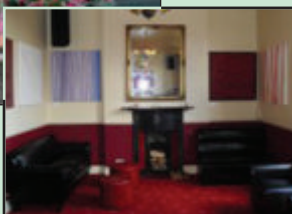


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ARMS. (E17, U165, U169)

EC1, KING OF DIAMONDS, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA. Now M&B, ex-Bass. (E19, U151)

EC1, OLD RED LION, -beers listed; + Adnams: Bitter; + Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: Abbot; +Harvey: Sussex Best. (E21, U67, U159)

WC1, BLUE LION, -Greene King: Abbot. Guest beer, often just from Greene King, changes monthly. Hand pumps have replaced electric pumps since refurbishment. (N18, HB5, W16)

W1(May), MARLBOROUGH HEAD, +Draught Bass; +Greene King: IPA; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. (W61)

W1(May), PUNCHBOWL, -beers listed except Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; +Marston: Pedigree (£3.90/pint!); +Wells: Bombardier. Acquired by celebrities Madonna and Guy Ritchie in early 2008, ex-S&N PE, and now an independent, upmarket free house with an emphasis on food. Note correct name. (W61)

W1(S), OLD COFFEE HOUSE, +Brodie: IPA and another varying Brodie beer in this Brodie operated pub. (W68)

EAST

E1, OLD GLOBE, -beers listed; + Wychwood: Hobgoblin (beer varies). Now Free, ex-Wells. (E70, U79, U118)

E2, SEBRIGHT ARMS, Free, a new planning application for demolition and replacement mainly by flats has been submitted to Tower Hamlets Council. (E84, U131, U194)

E3, CROWN. Now owned by Geronimo Inns. Was MAR 1 TERRA for a while and originally CROWN HOTEL. (E89, U79, U155, U188, U194, U201)

E8, OLD SHIP, -beers listed; + Sharp: Doom Bar; +Taylor: Landlord. Enterprise, leased to Urban Inns. (E114, U156, U192)

E10, HARE & HOUNDS, -beers listed; + Harvey: Sussex Best (not always available). Now Enterprise, ex-Bass via Unique. (E125, U67, U124, U134, U162, U192)

E10, KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH, 816 High Rd. Range now Brodie Mild (3.6%), English Best (3.9%), IPA (4%), Jamaica Stout (5%); Fuller's London Pride, ESB; and occasional guest beers. The Brodie beers are brewed at the former Sweet William brewery plant at the rear of the premises. Bottled Brodie beers also available include Red, London Lager, Wheat Beer and Sunshine. Formerly WILLIAM IV. (E125, U85, U109, U130, U157, U158, U169, U179)

E12, GOLDEN FLEECE, -beers listed except Courage: Directors; +Greene King: Abbot; +Young: Bitter. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (E133, U106, U133)

E15, RAILWAY TAVERN, 131 Angel La, now Punch, ex-Bass. Retains Greene King: IPA. (E154, U83, U160)

E17, LORD PALMERSTON, 252 Forest Rd, -Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Now M&B, ex-Bass. (E167, U126, U184)

E17, ROSE & CROWN (YE OLDE), -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride; +two guest beers. Now Enterprise, ex-S&N. (E168, U106, U142)

E18, RAILWAY BELL, -beers listed; + Fuller: London

Pride; +Taylor: Landlord. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (E171, U67, U106, U142)

NORTH

N1, ALWYNE, -beers listed; + varying guest beers (e.g. Batemans, Okells) and a real cider. Formerly ALWYNE CASTLE. (N38, U180, IS13);

N1, BIERODROME, sold by Belgo and renamed LUCKY VOICE, an independent karaoke venue with a bar open to the public, still no real ale. (U144, IS7)

N1, CEDAR ROOM. Renamed LIBRARY, still no real ale. Formerly LUSH, INDEPENDENCE and TUT 'N' SHIVE. (N61, U165, U175, U192)

N1, CLOCKWORK. Renamed LEXINGTON, still no real ale. Formerly FINCA TAPAS BAR. (N43, U113, U179)

N1, KING CHARLES I, +Brodie beers. Formerly CRAIG HOUSE, previously CHARLES THE FIRST. (N39, U133, U184, U185, U186)

N1, MARQUESS TAVERN. Now Independent, ex-Young's. Retains Young: Bitter and Special (£3.20/pint). Now owned jointly by six local barristers and run by a new manager. Top-ups may need to be requested. (N51)

N5, HIGHBURY BARN TAVERN. Now simply HIGHBURY BARN, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Wells: Bombardier. Now Spirit, ex-Greenalls. (N79)

N6, FLASK, M&B GBG pub also in CAMRA's London Regional Inventory, acquired by Fuller's and due for completion in early February. (N82, U51, U192)

N16, LONDESBOROUGH, -beers listed; + Harvey: Sussex Best; +Taylor: Landlord. Now Enterprise, ex-Ascot. (N128)

N20, THREE HORSESHOES. Now THREE HORSESHOES (AT WHETSTONE). Retains cask ales. Interior gutted with all existing fixtures, fittings and furniture removed. Now Enterprise, ex-Whitbread via Unique. (N148, U195)

ENFIELD (EN2), GEORGE, -beers listed; + Greene King: IPA, Abbot. Now owned by 'Welcome Freehouses' since September 2008 and refurbished in the Wetherspoon mode, ex-M&B (Goose branded). A recent drinks promotion featured a golden beer promoted by TV celebrities 'Morrissey & Fox' and believed to be contract brewed by the Cropton brewery in North Yorkshire. (N234, U166)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CROWN & GOOSE. Planning permission granted on appeal to the Government Planning Inspectorate for demolition and replacement by flats. (N164)

NW3, HAVELOCK ARMS. Renamed HAVERS. Now M&B, ex-Bass. (N186, U174)

HARROW WEALD (HAS), LEEFE ROBINSON VC, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA, Old Speckled Hen. Now M&B and branded as a 'Miller & Carter' steakhouse, ex-Whitbread (Beefeater). (W217)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, FIRE STATION, -beers listed; +Brakspear: Bitter; + Fuller: London Pride; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. Now

Marston, ex-Wizard. (SE15, U168)

SE18, LORD CLYDE. Planning permission for demolition and replacement by flats was refused by Greenwich Council but granted on appeal to the Government's Planning Inspectorate in September 2008. The pub however is still trading. (SE169, U198)

CROYDON (CR0), BRIEF. Reverted to **OLD BRIEF**, -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen, Ruddles County; +St Austell: Tribute. (U129, U184)

CROYDON (CR0), PITLAKE ARMS. A planning application to demolish the pub was refused by Croydon Council. (3SE247, U60, U86)

CROYDON (CR0), SHIP, -beers listed; +Brakspear: Bitter; +Jennings: Sneek Lifter; +Marston: Pedigree; +Wychwood: Hobgoblin. Now Marston, ex-Wizard. (3SE250, U43, U60, U99, U137)

CROYDON (CR0), TAMWORTH ARMS, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride. Despite a campaign by locals, it was sold by Young's to a property developer in 2008 and has now changed hands again. The new owner is keeping it trading for the time being. (3SE251, U154, U157, U199)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ), RED LION, 2 Duke of York St. M&B (Nicholson) pub acquired by Fuller's and due for completion in early February. (SW46, U151)

SW1(W), STAGE DOOR. Spirit pub under threat of demolition for proposed redevelopment scheme. (SW50, U188)

SW11, WESTBRIDGE, +Sambrook: Wandle Ale. Originally PRODIGALS RETURN. (U155, WB39)

SW11, WINDSOR CASTLE, proposed for demolition as part of planning and conservation area applications for Clapham Junction redevelopment; CAMRA London Pubs Group and SW London Branch have objected. (SW90, WB39, U201)

SW12, GEORGE, Enterprise, -beers listed; +Taylor: Landlord; +2 guest beers. Renamed **AVALON** by new leaseholder Renaissance Pubs, after comprehensive refurbishment in November into attractive gastropub, retaining traditional bar with front lounge but transforming rear sports bar into sumptuous restaurant area. (SW92, BM7)

SW18, FREEMASONS. Reverted to **ROUNDHOUSE**, -beers listed; +Everard: Original; Sambrook: Wandle Ale and a draught Weston cider. Refurbished by new owners who also run the Lighthouse in Battersea Park Rd, SW11. (SW114, WB10)

KEW, GREYHOUND, Enterprise pub under new management. The leaseholder also runs the Three Kings at Twickenham. (SW138, U181, RHP14)

WEST

W2, LEINSTER. Planning permission was granted in June 2007 for conversion of upper three storeys to flats. (W74)

W5, DUFFYS. Renamed **VILLAGE INN**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +two guest beers. Free House, now part of Broken Foot pub chain. (W92)

W12, EAGLE. Now Geronimo Inns, ex-M&B. (W122, U199)

GREENFORD (UB6), RAILWAY HOTEL, +Adnams: Broadside; +Young: Bitter. Now Orchid (not Free), ex-Spirit. Note pub name is Railway Hotel, not Tavern (correction to W guide). (W142, U197)

HAMPTON WICK (KT1), RAILWAY, -beers listed; +Harvey: Sussex Best; +Twickenham: Original; +Young: Special. Was **STRYKERS RAILWAY** for a while. (W146)

TEDDINGTON (TW11), ANGLERS HOTEL. Now simply **ANGLERS**, M&B pub acquired by Fuller's and due for completion in early February. (W194)

TEDDINGTON (TW11), KINGS ARMS. Renamed **CLOCK HOUSE** in December 2008, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Taylor: Landlord; +Twickenham: Grandstand Bitter. (W196, U191)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 199

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC

SW8, NOLANS FREEHOUSE, Free, H unused. Delete entry, H still unused.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

SE16, FITCHETTS, renamed **AARDVARK**. Add: now a South African theme pub. Originally **SURREY DOCKS TAVERN**. Correction in U102 should have read 'Renamed **FITCHETTS**'. Delete erroneous correction in U201.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 203

PUBS CLOSED ETC

N1 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE. Should read **DUKE OF CLARENCE**.

N7, DEVONSHIRE ARMS. Should read **DEVONSHIRE CASTLE**.

N10, SPOONS. Delete 'no real ale'; add: -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +Fuller: London Pride. Move entry to 'OTHER CHANGES ETC.'

N20, NEW BULL & BUTCHER. Is ex-Taylor Walker.

SE16, RAYMOUTH ARMS. Should read **RAYMOUTH TAVERN**.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

EC3, SHIP TAVERN. Address is 27 Lime St.

RICHMOND, WHITE HORSE. Add ref: (RHP35).

W5, SLUG & LETTUCE. Should read; Renamed **SIR MICHAEL BALCON**

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(APRIL/MAY) IS THE SECOND OF MARCH

Breakfast, lunch and dinner in Wetherspoons - and a few beers and buses!

On Saturday 15 November 2008, the penultimate day of the last Wetherspoons Beer Festival, members of CAMRA Enfield & Barnet branch took on the daunting task of visiting all eight of the chain's pubs in the branch area of, 'as it says on the tin' the London Boroughs of Enfield and Barnet.

We chose to start in our south-eastern corner in the *Gilpens Bell* on the Hertford Road, Edmonton. Here we met up at opening time, 9am and some partook of the excellent breakfast and a coffee as well as trying three thirds of festival ales. A short walk and two buses took us to the *Alfred Herring* on Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13, opened as a non-smoking pub over a year before the English national ban came into force.

A short bus journey then brought us to the *New Crown*, Southgate and we were still very much on

long to wait for a bus taking us east back into Enfield, stopping at Enfield Chase station. A short walk along Chase Side took us to our second *Moon Under Water* of the day for an evening meal. This pub was our first of the current Wetherspoons to



open in the branch area, having just celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Well we are still going strong and only one more to go. Very conveniently the tenth and final bus of the day stops right outside. We returned to the Hertford Road about two miles north of our start but some 12 hours later, the *Picture Palace*, Ponders End being our eighth and final pub. A good day was had by all and we were pleased with both the range and the quality of the beers available.

Here's looking forward to the next Wetherspoons beer festival – will we have the stamina to try it again, maybe in the reverse direction or starting at the western extremity!

Ron Andrews



schedule. More three thirds were consumed, then on again, still going west this time on a longer route and crossing from Enfield into Barnet. It was now lunch time and some had not only the festival beers but also a meal at the *Tally Ho*, North Finchley. So a slightly longer stay was called for but eventually we had to move on for the most difficult pub for us to reach. Another long bus trip took us to Edgware bus station where we changed for what should have been a quick journey south down the Edgware Road to the *Moon under Water* at Colindale. The traffic had other ideas and we slipped 45 minutes behind schedule.

More welcoming thirds were in order before the 'task master' moved us on. We chose to walk a few steps down the Edgware Road to intercept a bus to Hendon Central where a further change took us on a circuitous route to New Barnet and the *Railway Bell*. Unfortunately road works delayed us on this part so we were even further behind but we still made time for our customary thirds. By the time we left it was fully dark but luckily we did not have

For the bus enthusiasts

short walk from *Gilpens Bell*, Edmonton
34 from Angel Edmonton to Palmers Green bus garage.
329 to *Alfred Herring*, Palmers Green
121 to Southgate and walk to *New Crown*.
125 to *Tally Ho*, North Finchley
221 to Edgware bus station.
142 to *Moon under Water*, Colindale
short walk
83 to Hendon Central
326 to *Railway Bell*, New Barnet
307 to Enfield Chase
walk to *Moon under Water*, Enfield
191 to *Picture Palace*, Ponders End

The Wimbledon Brewery

Pubs names are very important. There is a pub in Wimbledon Village known as the Brewery Tap, which seems to indicate that at one time there might have been a brewery there. However, when I was researching my Pubs of Wimbledon Village book ten years ago, I was assured by several supposedly reliable sources that there had never been a brewery in Wimbledon.

But that name kept nagging at me. Why was it called the Brewery Tap? Then, by a stroke of luck, I found an old newspaper article about the disastrous fire at the Wimbledon Brewery in 1889. Not only had there been a brewery there, but it had been there for over sixty years. Also, at five storeys high, it was the tallest building in Wimbledon Village – a veritable skyscraper in those days. It was surprising that no one had heard about it. It was recent enough to be of the same vintage as the grandparents of some of the older Wimbledon Village inhabitants.

flourished under several different owners through most of the rest of the century, and then in 1885 it was rebuilt by William Quartermaine who had taken over in 1880.

Whether or not Mr Quartermaine had a premonition about the fate of the brewery we shall never know, but in 1888 he sold it to Leonard McMullen. Unfortunately for him the brewery burnt to the ground just a few months later, in January 1889.

Leonard McMullen also did not have much luck with the firemen who came to put out the blaze. The fire was spotted by a passing policeman, PC Carver, at 3.15 in the morning of 2 January. He blew his whistle but no one came to help and the firemen who were stationed in Queen's Road, down past Wimbledon station, would not have heard it. The resourceful PC Carver commandeered a young baker's boy on his way to work at Standen's in the High Street. He told the lad to hurry down to the fire station and alert the fire brigade. Unfortunately the boy did not arrive there until thirty-five minutes later.

The firemen, who were all volunteers in those days, had to be raised from their beds, and the horses coupled onto the engine. Then they had to get up Wimbledon Hill on a very icy night. They elected to go round the back way, via St Mary's Road which was, of course, just as icy. When they finally arrived the fire was well under way, or 'had obtained a great mastery' as the Surrey Independent put it.

The firemen encountered several problems with their equipment, not least of which was the fact that they had to collect firewood to get the steam engine going to power their pumps! Finally, at 6am, they had a stroke of luck. A huge water tank at the top of the building suddenly crashed through the weakened lower floors and did more to douse the flames than they had managed in the previous two hours.

There was talk of rebuilding the brewery, but it never happened. But in what was perhaps an unconscious tribute to the lads of the Wimbledon fire brigade, they put in its place... a fire station.

Clive Whichelow

(adapted from *Pubs of Wimbledon Village (Past & Present)*, available at the Battersea Beer Festival and from local bookshops, museums and libraries priced £3.95, or post-free direct from enigmapublishing.co.uk)



The Wimbledon Brewery had been started by 1832 by William Cook who also owned the Brewery Tap next door in Wimbledon Village High Street, just opposite the Dog & Fox. The brewery

Meantime founder acclaimed 2008 'Brewer of the Year'

Founder and brewmaster of London's second largest brewing company, Greenwich based Meantime, a surprised Alastair Hook received the 'Brewer of the Year' award for 2008 at the annual awards dinner of the British Guild of Beer Writers held at the Tower Bridge Hilton on 11 December. Guild Chairman, Tim Hampson, described the award as being for Alastair's vision, innovation and as recognition that was long overdue.



Upon receiving the award Alastair (on the right in the photograph) said. *"Naturally I am delighted to have my work recognised by the people we rely upon to get our message across to the drinking public. Britain's beer writers perform a crucial function for us and without them*

we wouldn't be here; after all the Guild was founded by my particular hero and mentor Michael Jackson, and I would like to dedicate this award to his memory."

Trained at Heriot-Watt and at the world famous Weihenstephen brewing school in Munich, Alastair serves regularly as one of a small number of British judges at the World Beer Cup and Great American Beer Festival and has always brought a cosmopolitan and international perspective to the British brewing industry. Even his first brewery, the Packhorse, set up in Ashford, Kent, in 1990, was unusual in being geared solely to the production of authentic lager beer. Subsequent breweries that he commissioned for others, including Freedom, Mash & Air and Mash were all very continental in both the approach to brewery design and style of beers produced.

In 1999 Alastair felt he was finally in a position to fulfil his ambition to start his own brewery and the first bottle of Meantime beer was cracked open in April 2000. Since that time Meantime has carved out an enviable reputation for innovation. In 2004 it became the first British brewery to win any medals at the World Beer Cup. In 2005 it became the first British brewery to make a Fairtrade beer, with its acclaimed Coffee Porter, which went on to win a WBC gold in 2006.

Under Alastair's direction, Meantime's mission has been unashamedly to challenge the way that both brewers and consumers view beer. To this end in 2005 Meantime became the only British brewery

able to package beer into champagne bottles and produced both the broadest range of beers of any British brewery and a range packaged in a style that tore up the rule book as far as the presentation of beer was concerned. Meantime even worked to produce a bespoke 330ml 'mini-Krug' bottle which won a medal at the British glass industry's own design awards.

In 2009 the 'Brewer of the Year' will be busy planning the construction of Meantime's two new brewing facilities. At the end of the year Meantime will install a new research brewery in the original 1717 brewhouse at the Old Naval College, part of the Greenwich World Heritage site, which will focus on experimental brews, researching and recreating historic beers and championing the provenance of beer from London; the city that was once the brewing capital of the world. In 2010 Meantime will build a brand new production brewery which will triple the capacity of the, now rather cramped, Penhall Road site. Alastair commented. *"This award – demonstrating, as it does, the faith that people have in us – will certainly be of use in putting together the various packages we need to see these ambitious projects to completion."*

Peter Haydon



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In memoriam - a few recollections of a small public house

Closed, in the first week of January, latterly a 'Young's' house, in Stoney Street, Borough Market. However, it had a previous life.

Before Borough Market became fashionable, there was already an ancient market on the site – I first took my wife there, about 3 years before the first 'consumer' market, on a warm, drizzly February night ... under the arches from London Bridge station, and out into a market that, apart from the electric lights and one modern pallet-truck, could have come straight off the stage-set of *My Fair Lady*. It was a complete time-warp; about 20 paces took one from 1995 to 1895. And there was the Wheatsheaf, in those days nominally a Courage pub but always selling a Mild, even rarer then than it is now.

Dark, comfortable, very shabby and with decidedly primitive bogs, but welcoming, and not a 'dump'.

Shortly thereafter, once the present market had started, the landlord managed to get free of the 'tie' but, unfortunately, he was forced to sell out to Young's a year or two later. Rumour has it that he wasted his money on the gee-gees, but I am unable to confirm this.

Young's improved the bogs and relaid the floor (which had reached an advanced stage of decrepitude by this time) but, unfortunately, the

'Mild always available' policy ceased.. Food, and good food at that, was also sold and it was, in spite of the narrow beer selection, a haven from the nasty state that the Market Porter had descended into at that period.

Now it has gone, to be demolished to make way for the reconstruction of the Thameslink railway lines, which are much needed but still not done right in this engineer's opinion, and the 'Sheaf *could* have been left.

Farewell.

Greg Tingey

BASTARDISED BEERS

Young's were famous for refusing to do keg beers in the 1970s. So why now do they now threaten to give us a 'smooth' version of Courage Best?

Courage Best for years under ScotCo/S&N was a poor relation to the Bermondsey/Reading/Bristol brewed Courage Best of decades ago (none of those breweries made an identical pint to each other). Then Wells & Young's started putting strange things like malt and hops into it, and all of a sudden Courage Best was a decent beer again. So why a nitrokeg version? Why not do it in your own name and have Young's ordinary smooth? Or that ghastly tipple A stuff of a couple of years ago? Or dare I say it Wells' Eagle smooth (I'm sure someone would notice the difference)?

Don't hide behind the Courage name to do the nitrokeg beers, do them in your own name. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Courage Best might not be on a par with the newer ales from Twickenham etc, but is still better than most cask ales from the Bedford brewery.

Suddenly the brewery in Bury St Edmunds is second on my boycott at all cost list. I now find myself hating the brewery (half a brewery?) I always had most respect for. If the real Young's family (or John Courage) could see this now - too ashamed to call it Young's or Wells so we'll call it Courage!

And while we are at it, leave the logo alone too.

Leslie Bailey

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Ken Brewster

Just as we were putting this edition of the *London Drinker* together for publication we heard of the sad death of Ken Brewster, founder member of the Richmond and Hounslow Branch (then the Richmond and Twickenham branch) in 1974 and its first vice chairman. Ken, who was a bachelor, was found at home by a neighbour and the landlord of his local on Sunday 11 January when they were asked to investigate when he did not show up at a gathering of the Ring on the Saturday – an almost unheard of occurrence.

He progressed from vice chairman to Branch Chairman after a couple of years and remained in that post until 1978 when he stood down as his work involved designing and supervising the installation of data switching systems around the world, largely in airports. Some time afterwards he moved away to live in Basingstoke and very quickly became active in the local branch there, serving as their Treasurer for a long time.

Ken was a Yorkshireman with a keen sense of humour and a strong sense of propriety; former members of the committee from his R&H days still recall, almost every time his name is mentioned, his insistence that all branch activities should be carried out with “strict financial contro-o-o!” the words delivered in his unmistakable soft Yorkshire accent. He never raised his voice – he didn’t need to.

I first got to know Ken when I started going to branch meetings shortly after I joined CAMRA in 1975 and he has remained a good friend ever since although our meetings in recent years have mainly been confined to bumping into each other at beer festivals, particularly Battersea.

In the first few years after he moved small groups of friends (some not even CAMRA members!) would regularly go to stay with him for weekends sampling the pubs and beers available in north Hampshire and south Berkshire.

I can’t imagine a decent pub within 30 miles of Basingstoke that Ken didn’t know. The fact that he was quite seriously diabetic did not stop him enjoying half a dozen pints on a Saturday night (probably more in other company), often with a couple of generous scotches at home afterwards as a nightcap – having made sure we all had a good meal before we started. It was all planned with the meticulous care that you would expect of an engineer as good as Ken.

I do not know how old Ken was but I reckon that he would have been around fifty when I first knew him (about twice my age then) and so I estimate that he must have been in his early eighties at his death. At the time of writing we have no information as to the cause of death.

Forever the beer taster and like his great friend Frank Baillie before him, Ken was always in pursuit of the never to be found but always hoped for perfect pint. Searching out new microbreweries whether at home or abroad was a large part of his life. But he also liked pubs and people. As a founder member of CAMAL (the Campaign for Authentic Lager) he masterminded many jaunts to foreign parts, always armed with a long list of pubs or bars he had researched. On several occasions his reports (or CAMAL Comments) appeared in the pages of *London Drinker*; more recent ones can be found on the Travel Pages on the website. A stalwart of the Ring too (as alluded to above), he was helping to rewrite the Ring Rules when he died.

Somehow the world seems a smaller place now, with the knowledge that Ken won’t be popping up at beer festivals with a cheery hello and encouragement to those working behind the bar. We shall all miss you, Ken.

Andy Pirson

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30 YEARS OF LONDON DRINKER POSTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

It hardly seems possible that I have been dealing with the postal subscriptions for *London Drinker* for almost 30 years. When *London Drinker* started in March 1979, Brian Sheridan, the then editor, offered a postal subscription service to readers and, initially, dealt with the subscriptions himself. However, as the list grew over the first few editions, Brian realised that he needed help with this service and I volunteered for the task in autumn 1979. I inherited a handwritten foolscap sheet of A4 of about 30 subscribers.

In the days before the widespread use of computers, I addressed each envelope by hand each month (*London Drinker* was issued monthly for many years) and this became more onerous as the number of subscribers increased. Fortunately, help arrived in the form of Barry Tillbrook, who was an early subscriber. Barry offered to print labels for me each month and is still doing so today. As usually happens, once you volunteer for one job, you are talked into another and Barry dealt with the *London Drinker* advertising for a number of years.

I now send out over 250 copies of the *London Drinker* every other month. Most subscribers are within the Greater London area, although about

30% go to other parts of the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man. There are also a number of overseas subscribers and over the years I have sent the *London Drinker* to Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the USA.

There has also been a social side to this as subscribers have sometimes contacted me for advice as to where to drink in London and I have met up with a number of people over the years for a pub crawl around London. I usually find that they know as much about London pubs as I do, if not more! Jukka Jarvela from Finland has visited London several times and Ian Shimmin from Canada and his wife, Lorna, stay with me every year in order to sample real beer and enjoy the pubs. Ian was responsible for the *London Drinker* going to Papua New Guinea as he worked there for a time some years ago.

If you want to make sure that you receive *London Drinker* regularly, details of how to take out a postal subscription are on page 3. You do not have to be a CAMRA member to take out a postal subscription.

Stan Tompkins

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The Dear Dipsy Column

Dear Dipsy

I have become concerned that lager drinkers may be dying out. Whereas we know that the pub trade is feeling the recession early, in my local the lager taps sit rusting as no-one disturbs them, and we haven't heard anybody with any serious flatulence for months.

Is this unusual? What is happening?

Falstaff

Chiswick

Dear Falstaff

This is something that I suspect may be a localised phenomenon to the degree you describe, but lager drinkers are definitely a disappearing species, as is verified by the Soggy Twitchers Institute research report on the London Borough of Walford for 2007-08, in that there has been a 20% reduction in sightings of lager drinkers since the previous year. Ard Nutt of the International Beer Customer Survey (better known by its Flemish acronym COCK) suggests that consumers of the major British brands may have been dying out of boredom, but that seems unlikely as most of these brands like Fosters have been around for 30 years and one would have expected that boredom with that would have happened a lot sooner.

The Al-Qaedaalcoholpops research team concluded that lager was bombing, but their views have as usual been rapidly debunked on the internet by the Central Institute for Alcohol (if I have decoded the mnemonic correctly) who insist that lager is a gas and that that lagers of mass destruction are out there somewhere and will turn up someday.

In the interest of obtaining some more authoritative advice I have turned again to Professor Angus McShagnasty, now senior research fellow at the South Hampstead Institute of Technology (again mnemonic problems). After a lifetime of research in licensed premises, and the production of a widely praised thesis to the Gelsenkirchen Symposium on Advanced Self-Deconstruction entitled *The World has had enough but don't worry it will be back in Tomorrow* Angus concurs that boredom factor is a factor but that



the main cause is those multinational brewers themselves (or the Federation of Active Trading Consortia for Active Tipsification as their trade organisation is now known) who having chilled, filtered, pasteurised and carbonated their "product" to make it as inoffensive as possible are content to relinquish the pub trade as the supermarkets sell the identical "product" in cans for half the price. (*As usual after years of painstaking research, the bleeding obvious-Ed.*)

So the conclusion is that the lager drinkers are not dead, just sleeping off the tinnies at home.....

Dipsy

And from the internet.....

Dear Dipsy

I keep seeing things about gas in your beer – don't that give you a load of oil fumes?

Dubya

Duninvading, Ca

Dear Dipsy

It is evident that you are all using too much gas and therefore I will start to cut back your supplies unless you place a billion roubles in a brown paper bag behind the toilet tank at the Polonium Arms in Belgravia.

Vladimir

Vokzal

Dear Dipsy

Hey now just because these guys don't get we're talking CO₂ here don't lose the plot. Even if they're doing it at home these lager drinkers will still be making methane in industrial quantities.

Al

Somewhere on an airplane between climate conferences.

Idle Moments

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 32 Teeth for a Full Adult Set
2. 1980 Bill Beaumont's England Team Won the Grand Slam
3. 364 Total Presents in the Twelve Days of Christmas
4. 40 Minutes Playing Time in each Half of a Rugby Match
5. 119 International Rugby Caps of Jason Leonard
6. 50 Stars on Old Glory
7. 55 is the Sum of the Numbers from One to Ten
8. 692 Feet was the Length of Brunel's Great Eastern
9. 60 Pounds Buys the Old Kent Road in Monopoly
10. 44 Years of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth the First

5BY4:

1. Pacific Bitter – Bazens'
2. Piper's Gold – Fyne
3. Pit Pony – Northumberland
4. Pressed Rat & Warthog – Triple fff
5. Peat Porter – Moor
6. Paradox – Brew Dog
7. Pompey Royal – Oakleaf
8. Pale Rider – Kelham Island
9. Pigbrook Bitter – North Cotswold
10. Pendle Witches Brew – Moorhouses

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The year in which Christiaan Barnard performed the first heart transplant operation (on Louis Washansky) was 1967.
2. When the first stretch of motorway in the UK (the Preston Bypass section of the M6) was opened on 5th December 1958, the ribbon was cut by the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan.
3. Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge over the River Avon in Bristol was opened on 8th December in 1864
4. When Kenya became an independent republic on 12th December 1964, its first President was Jomo Kenyatta.
5. Women were first allowed to vote in a British General Election on 14th December 1918, but they had to be at least 30 years old.
6. The English test cricketer, Colin Cowdrey was born on 24th December 1932 – in Bangalore, India
7. "Bonnie Prince Charlie" was born on 31st December 1720 – in Rome
8. The coronation of Queen Elizabeth I was held on 15th January in 1559.
9. On 17th January 1977 the man executed by firing squad at the Utah State Prison (thus ending a ten year suspension of capital punishment in the USA) was Gary Gilmore.
10. The Victoria Cross was instituted by Queen Victoria on 29th January in 1856



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Well, Christmas is over and forgotten and we are back in the daily routine (those of us who still have a job, anyway) – nothing changes. And so let's kick off with another definition from the Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce:
Contempt (n): The feeling of a prudent man for an enemy who is too formidable safely to be opposed.

Now let's have some number puzzles:

1. 8 P in a B
2. 4 F on a H (and OT)
3. 20 Q in a R of P
4. 75 LL in the TBD
5. 2 WCPD in L
6. 160 S in a T
7. 10 P of C (and 2 T)
8. 5 P of W in a W
9. 50 QAG is the A of the HO
10. 3 C-O in a RR

This month's 5BY4 is subtitled Beatles Followers; the first list contains ten of the Fab Four's No. 1 hits and the second list is the records that immediately followed them in the top spot. All you have to do is sort out which followed which:

1. Lady Madonna
 2. Yellow Submarine/Eleanor Rigby
 3. From Me to You
 4. I Want to Hold Your Hand
 5. Help!
 6. Paperback Writer
 7. She Loves You
 8. Ticket to Ride
 9. Can't Buy Me Love
 10. Hello Goodbye
- A. A World Without Love (Peter & Gordon)
 - B. Do You Love Me? (Brian Poole & the Tremeloes)
 - C. All or Nothing (Small Faces)
 - D. Sunny Afternoon (Kinks)
 - E. I Like It (Gerry & the Pacemakers)
 - F. King of the Road (Roger Miller)
 - G. I Got You Babe (Sonny & Cher)
 - H. The Ballad of Bonnie & Clyde (Georgie Fame)
 - I. Congratulations (Cliff Richard)
 - J. Glad All Over (Dave Clark Five)

And so we come to trivia time. I have finished with last year's idea of linking the questions to the months of currency of the *London Drinker* and have gone back to casting my net more randomly (not to say, aimlessly).

1. What and where is the world's largest astronomical observatory with approximately 25 telescopes?
2. What was the make and model of car found last month in the late Dr. Harold Carr's garage which is expected to sell for between £3 and £6 million?

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 for good food and warmth,
 for the touch of a friendly hand
 and for a talk beside the fire:
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Letters and articles for publication in
London Drinker may now be
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www.londondrinker.org.uk

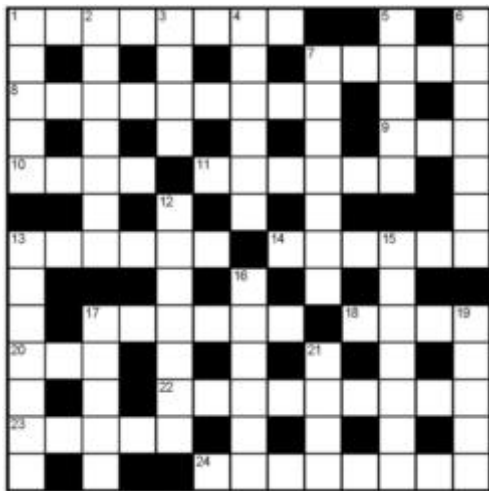
3. Two other cars were also found in the same garage - what were they?
4. What London landmark has the postcode SW1A 1AA?
5. And what is to be found at postcode W1A 1AA?
6. Where is the Wharncliffe Viaduct?
7. What, in order left to right, are the colours of the Olympic rings?
8. What was the original name of Francis Drake's Golden Hind?
9. What distinction does the heavenly body, Ceres, bear?
10. What is the main title of the Gilbert & Sullivan opera subtitled "The Peer and the Peri"?

And so, hoping I have brought a little amusement to the dark days of winter (but not really caring if I haven't) I shall bid you farewell until next time.

Andy Pirson

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name _____

Address _____

All correct entries received by first post on 18th March will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the June London Drinker. The solution will be given in the April edition.

All entries to be submitted to:
London Drinker Crossword, 25 Valens House,
Upper Tulse Hill, London SW2 2RX

Please Note: Entries on oversize copies of the grid will not be entered into the prize draw

DECEMBER'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Stands against bars. [8]
7. Hit the drink. [5]
8. He has pride in his work. [4,5]
9. Having some mail lost is not good. [3]
10. Lunch time comes and goes all the same. [4]
11. Plant providing punter's first fix. [6]
13. Saw is always hidden in grass. [6]
14. Struggled to get right inside oven [6]
17. It's cleaner left in sand. [6]
18. Mother, I am hurt badly. [4]
20. Hill of recycled rubbish. [3]
22. Spun fencing? [9]
23. And French beer returns to cheer. [5]
24. Jenny given alternative judge. [8]

DOWN

1. Stop and look into swindle. [5]
2. You flog off saucer collection. [7]
3. Mark left pole to carry. [4]
4. Notice band on boat. [6]
5. Attack on peace organisation is bad. [5]
6. Pests going after tea cup. [7]
7. Man trap I've set off [7]
12. In time becoming very strong. [7]
13. Conceal southern dam. [7]
15. They're wise, heading off boats. [7]
16. Not a clue where this is. [6]
17. Money roll? [5]
19. Are allowed to put men on leading citizen. [5]
21. That is including 550 unemployed. [4]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:
Mr. R.F.Dalton, Highgate, London N6.

Other correct entries were received from:
Ken Adams, Ted Alloway, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, H.E.Ayling, Jack Bass, Mike Belsham, Steve Block, Norah Brady, D.Brand, Jeremy Brinkworth, Ben Burfutt, John Butler, Eddie Carr, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Carole Cook, Charles Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Paul Curson, Daphne Curtis, Carole Daly, Michael Davis, Robert Day, Dave DJ, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, C.J.Ellis, Brian Exford, Mike Farrelly, David Fleming, Arthur Fox-Ache, Dudley Freeman, L.Frost, Anthony Gdula & Jess the border collie, Bea Gishav, B.Gleeson, Molly Godridge, Marion Goodall, David Goodchild, Roger Grant, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Alan Groves, Stuart Guthrie, John Heath, Andrew Hide, Graham Hill, William Hill, A.Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Les Jenkins, David Jiggins, Martin Jones, Marcus of Guildford, Mike Joyce, P.Kerrigan, Pete Large, G.Lopatis, J.G.McDonnell, Steve Magin, Barbara March, John Marshall, Steve Moloney, Alec Moore, M.J.Moran, Mike Morrison, Al Mountain, Paul Nicholls, Alan O'Brien, Kevin O'Keeffe, Michael Oliver, Nigel Parsons, Miss G.Patterson, Mark Pilkington, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Juan Querre, John Redwood, Richard the Thirst, Alph River, Paul Rogers, Richard Rogers, Bryan Smith, Lesley Smith, Alina Syed, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Dave Thomson, S.Todd, Andy Wakefield, Paul (the bus) Walford, Martin Weedon, Martine Welsman, Elizabeth Whale, Tony Whitford, Sue Wilson, Peter Wright & the Missus, Ray Wright.

The Cricketers



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