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LONDON DRINKER

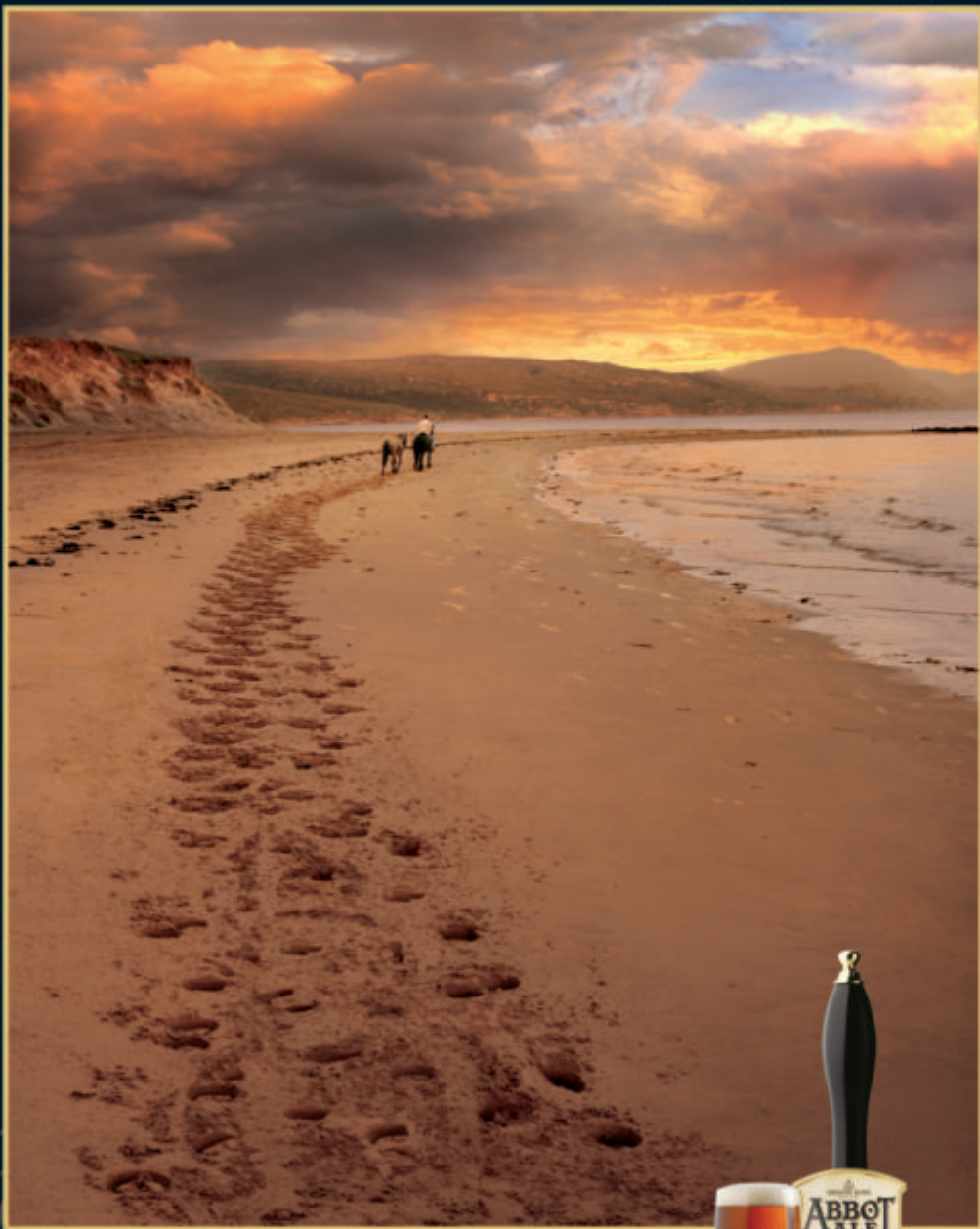
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REAL ALE

April
May
2009



The Dispensary, Aldgate (see page 23)

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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.

Press releases should be sent by email to Tony Hedger, ldnews@btinternet.com

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

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Let's drink to our campaigning!

As we reach the end of the CAMRA year in London, and will be electing a new Regional Director, it is an opportune time for me to reflect on my time in that position over the last five years or so.

My personal gains over that period are easy to show. A couple of extra stones, another spare tyre around the middle and an additional chin or two are all clear, demonstrable proof that I have had a great time.

Our Campaign's achievements are also easy to show. CAMRA in London has a very busy calendar of beer festivals that raise the profile of real ale in all parts of the Capital. They have also contributed to central campaigning funds which keeps membership fees low and our campaigning profile high.

We host the annual Great British Beer Festival at Earls Court which is staffed by over 1,000 volunteers, many living locally. All members are welcome to volunteer their time at any festival – a couple of hours to give someone a break, an evening or two to help take the strain or the whole week, learning all aspects of the festival. Everyone enjoys it so much, they come back year after year. As the events grow, it is good to have a growing band of helpers.

We continue to support our micro and regional breweries in every way possible to help them grow market share in a competitive industry. The LocAle scheme for London is gathering momentum

ahead of a formal launch in the coming months; many branches are already championing pubs that regularly sell cask ale brewed locally.

Our most tangible support for London's pubs is that we actually use them regularly and encourage others to do the same. There is a very active social scene in every London branch. Again, anyone is welcome to join any branch on any of their pub visits. Just come along to anything advertised in the branch diary and make yourself known.

CAMRA in London has also produced a stream of local pub guides, Bob Steel's London Pub Walks, London's Heritage Pubs and also contributes to a large section of the annual Good Beer Guide – all bringing the best of London's pubs to a wide audience.

Finally, returning to personal gains, I have made many good friends from my CAMRA social life over recent years. At a time when CAMRA is specifically making efforts to 'activate' more members, it is vital that we have a good time and are seen to be having a great time. My expanded waistline is testament to that and I raise my glass to it and to you.

Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think.

Steve Williams



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

It goes on...

Sorry if this all seems too familiar but pub closures remain the biggest threat to real ale. The issue was even raised on the BBC's Today Programme on 4 March with an interview with a representative from the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and the Chair of the all-party Parliamentary Beer Group John Grogan MP. In addition to pubs being closed by pub chains and breweries, the economic downturn has also seen a marked increase in pubs closing because of insolvency – 74 in the final quarter of 2008.

Faced with the prediction that 1 in 8 pubs will close by 2012, CAMRA is working with the BBPA to keep vital community locals open. This centres on the Save the Pubs forum which will allow people from all over the country to talk to each other about local campaigns, share

techniques and tips and make it easier for all involved to become activists. The forum can be accessed through CAMRA's website: www.camra.org.uk (click on Forums).

Some licensees are taking the initiative themselves. The Justice for Licensees and Save the Great British Pub groups are organising their own National Pub Day on 4 April.

Good news from SIBA

According to the Local Brewing Industry Report, published at the end of February by the Society of Independent Brewers, beer brewed by their members has defied the general decline in the drinks market and grew by 10% in 2008. Some 3% of the volume was contributed by breweries set up during 2007. The growth is ascribed to increased distribution and the Progressive Beer Duty. I hate to put a damper on this but will

they be able to replace the 140,000 barrels per annum that will be lost when Carlsberg close the Tetley's Brewery in Leeds in two years time?

Health and welfare

Some Dutch and Canadian researchers are calling for limits on alcohol advertising and the use of alcohol in TV programmes and films because "they spur viewers to reach for alcohol". They have calculated that the exposure can double normal consumption. I can accept the notion that seeing the drinking of alcohol might reinforce the idea that it is normal activity but the logic behind claiming that it doubles intake is spurious, to say the least. Why do these people always have to exaggerate? Anyway, in our culture, alcohol consumption is normal so here is art not simply reflecting life, rather than life imitating art?



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Needless to say, the bandwagon has been jumped on with Prof Ian Gilmour of the Royal College of Physicians' Alcohol Committee calling for a ban: *"At the very least, we should be looking at an advert ban before the 9pm watershed"*. David Poley of the Portman Group however disagrees, saying that 'more robust' studies have shown that adverts influence brand choice rather than consumption. Given that most drink adverts – ones for lager especially – are dreadful, a ban on the grounds of general good taste would not be unreasonable and would hardly affect us real ale drinkers.

Not all Dutch research is so negative. One psychologist, Anna van Wersch, working at Teesside University, reckons that a binge is preferable to drug-taking, saying, *"If people didn't have the 'big night out with friends' to look forward to, what would they feel like at the end of the week? We don't want a*

nation on prozac, do we?"

Mind you, we should not pretend that there isn't a problem. In Scotland you can buy 3 litres of Frosty Jack white cider (7.5% ABV), made in England by Aston Manor, for just £3.39. This contains 22.5 units of alcohol. The male weekly recommended maximum number of units is 28. Aston Manor's sales director commented, *"Alcohol misuse is a social issue, not a price issue"* and went on to say that the price was set by retailers and not manufacturers anyway. Even worse, for traditionalists, it is looking to replace Buckfast Wine as the choice of Scottish urban youth.

On the subject of units, Guinness are now introducing new branded glasses which will feature a warning that each pint contains 2.3 units of alcohol. The new glasses also feature a logo commemorating the 250th

anniversary of the brewery.

One last thought here; more, I suspect, by coincidence than intention, the transfer of licensing powers to local authorities under the Licensing Act 2003 was the fulfilment of one of the aims of the temperance movement from the 1880s. Their logic was that local councils would be more susceptible to lobbying for prohibition than magistrates. I wonder if this could still be a valid argument.

News from the pub chains

According to one of the London evening free papers, Punch Taverns is looking to sell off dozens of pubs from the top end of its portfolio described as *"its most prized houses"*, including the Punch Tavern in Fleet Street. The basis of this speculation is that Punch is £4.7 billion in debt and, following the collapse of its share price, its equity value is currently only £100 million. The

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article says that parcels of pubs have been offered to Fuller's, Young's and Shepherd Neame. Punch themselves declined to comment, and so you will have to wait and see what comes of this.

What Punch have confirmed that they are doing is to set up a new operation called the Turnaround Division to manage about 1,000 of their struggling pubs or 'more marginal' sites, as they call them. This restructuring does away with some regional operations director posts.

A new name to me is Real Pubs. Founded by two ex-Whitbread employees, they now have a total of 10 outlets, mostly food-led in historic premises. Nick Pring, one of the Real Pub partners, said, *"The emphasis is on fresh food and a friendly, relaxed style of service. We want to create a haven where customers can enjoy hand-pulled ale and a freshly prepared meal in a warm, homely environment"*. They have recently reopened two pubs in West London, the Grade II listed Queen Adelaide in Uxbridge Road, W12 and the former Coleherne in Old Brompton Road SW5, renamed the Pembroke. This pub forms part of the mansion block where Lady Diana Spencer lived before she married. I doubt if she or any of her flatmates ever used the old Coleherne however...

Presumably in the hope that food sales will be the answer, Mitchells & Butlers are extending the new 'Pub & Grill' format for their O'Neills outlets from the original seven to 19 houses. Included in the next batch are pubs in Wardour Street and Muswell Hill.

Enterprise Inns have made major changes to their basic tenancy agreement to meet growing licensee demands for a more 'flexible and negotiable' trading deal.

Worryingly, according to a report in the *Mail on Sunday*, Tesco has lodged hundreds of

planning applications, hoping to take advantage of the possible failure of pubs and rival retailers. I presume that Tesco are taking advantage of the very odd legal loophole that you do not need to have any interest in a property, let alone be its rightful owner, to lodge a planning application.

Law and order

Further to the story last issue about CCTV in a restaurant, there has been talk of the police in Islington making the installation of CCTV a condition of pub licences. The Deputy Head of the Information Commissioner's Office has however written to the *Guardian* recently to say that the Commission considered that this raised serious privacy concerns and that they would be contacting the local police about it because *"hardwiring in blanket measures where there is no history of criminal activity is likely to breach data protection requirements. Use of CCTV must be reasonable and proportionate if we are to maintain public trust and confidence in its deployment"*.

News from Fuller's

Fullers have bought three London pubs from Mitchells & Butlers: the Flask in Highgate Village, the Red Lion in St James's and the Anglers, on the banks of the Thames in Teddington. All will be operated as managed pubs. This brings the total estate up to 360. No price has been quoted.

John Dunsmore has been appointed to the Fuller's board as a non-executive director, with effect from 20 January. He is the former chief executive of Scottish & Newcastle PLC prior to its takeover by Heineken and Carlsberg last year. He was recently appointed chief executive of C&C Group PLC, the makers of Magners Irish Cider.

Trials of a keg version of

London Porter have been going on for some six months at 11 managed houses, including the Churchill Arms in Kensington, and are reported as having gone very well. It is not clear whether there will still be a cask version in the future. London Porter won a silver medal in its category at CAMRA's recent National Winter Ales Festival.

Some wise words; in a recent *Publican* feature on a report on cask ale by analysts CGA Strategy, Simon Emeny, managing director of Fuller's Inns had this advice for 'circuit' bars: *"It's especially important with cask to maintain throughput. The CGA figures suggest that many of them have tried and failed to maintain that throughput. You need the throughput and quality; otherwise, don't do cask at all."*

News from what was Young's

The £1 billion redevelopment plan for the Ram Brewery site has now been made subject to a public enquiry and so will be delayed accordingly. The final decision may consequently lie with Communities Secretary Hazel Blears. The Leader of Wandsworth Council, Edward Lister, said: *"It's unbelievable that in the depths of a recession we have a Government that would put at risk £1 billion of investment in a suburban town centre. The development would have been the catalyst for the wider regeneration of Wandsworth town centre. It would create 1,000 new homes, 400 new jobs and help solve traffic problems in the one-way system"*. I feel that Mr Lister might have been more convincing if he had not described Wandsworth as 'suburban' and not made the comment about fixing the traffic.

The Eagle has crash-landed...

Nothing symbolic in this, I hope, but the cast-iron eagle that used to stand atop of the

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Spread Eagle in Wandsworth High Street sadly fell off in high winds late in January. I have it on good authority that it narrowly missed a passer-by, believe it or not, Wandsworth Council's Dangerous Structures Officer.

News from Wells & Young's Brewery

W& Y are bidding to boost cask beer sales with their biggest ever advertising spend for their three core brands. Some £4 million will be spent over four months on the Young's and Courage brands but only Bombardier from the Wells range. Bombardier is however being promoted as a 'national' brand, starting on St George's Day with the adverts featuring English icons such as Queen Victoria, pork pies and the White Cliffs of Dover. The advertising for Courage and Young's will be more regional.

W & Y are however looking to cut costs in other areas. Subject to the approval of the two parent boards, they plan to 'outsource' their dray fleet and warehousing to the logistics company Kuehne + Nagel. This will affect 38 workers who may be subject to TUPE transfer to the new operation.

News from Wetherspoons

Wetherspoons have yielded to Greene King's complaints about their selling GK IPA at 99p per pint and are instead selling Ruddles Bitter as their cheap pint. Sweetness and light appears to have broken out all round. John Hutson, JDW's chief executive said, "*Rather than fall out with Greene King, we're happy to stock Ruddles Best. It's slightly stronger at 3.7% ABV and it's every bit as good*". Justin Adams, managing director of GK Brewing Company, said, "*We have great*

respect for JDW. It has always said that its aim was to get people off their sofas and back into the pub – a worthwhile aim". Yes, GK are the brewers of Ruddles Bitter...

If JDW are back on good terms with GK, not so Enterprise Inns. Ted Tuppen, Enterprise's chief executive is reported to have said: - "*I don't take Wetherspoons terribly seriously*". In reply, Tim Martin described Enterprise, and Punch Taverns, as 'finished'.

Wetherspoons are placing certain projects on hold for 12 to 18 months. This includes their conversion of the former police station at New Malden for which they fought a long battle, overcoming a 1,100-signature local petition and two licence refusals from Kingston Council. Spokesman Eddie Gershon said, "*We have put a number of projects back but New Malden will definitely open*". Mysteriously, the

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article described New Malden as a 'leafy Surrey town'.

The 99p pint has worked to an extent. Like-for-like sales in January were up 6.4% but a £99 million US bond issue is up for repayment in September so that, to conserve cash for this, not only are projects on hold as above but dividends have been cancelled.

Other trade news

Following on from the untimely passing of David Woodhouse, Richard Gilchrist, the chairman of Hook Norton Brewery, was killed in a riding accident at the end of January. Aged 57, he was riding with the Cheshire Hunt at the time. He had been a director since 1977 and chairman since 2005 and is credited with Hook Norton's survival as an independent family brewer.

Well, as any Archers fan will tell you, property speculators are

liable to come to sticky ends. A company linked to Robert Tchenguiz is being sued by the collapsed Icelandic bank Kaupthing for £643 million. Mr Tchenguiz made it clear to the *Guardian* that it is the company, Oscatello, that is being sued and not him personally. That said, given what the *Guardian* describes as 'a complex web of corporate loans and cross-holdings', it is unclear what effect this will have on Mr Tchenguiz's interests in the Slug & Lettuce and Yates's pub chains and the 420-pub Globe chain that he jointly owns with Scottish & Newcastle.

Greene King have somewhat trumped Wells & Young's in the 'Red Tractor' stakes. W&Y were very proud that they got the certification for using British ingredients for Young's Bitter but GK have now obtained it for their entire beer portfolio –

presumably including Ruddles Bitter. GK source all of their barley from suppliers in Norfolk and Suffolk and brew with their own well water.

Magners have launched a pear variety, thus somewhat belatedly entering the pear and 'fruit cider' products market which has apparently quadrupled over the last year, although starting from a small base.

Dangerous to gloat, I know, but sales of Fosters lager, Heineken's biggest UK brand, have fallen by 10% over the last year: double the market trend. Analysts now say that Heineken massively overpaid for Scottish & Newcastle – wonderful thing, hindsight – and the company is planning to cut back on capital investment and raise cash by selling non-core assets.

Good news from Adnams; they are re-introducing their 4.3 ABV Extra Bitter. A former



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Champion Beer of Britain (1993), it will be part of the Southwold brewery's contribution to National Cask Ale Week. It isn't reported whether it is just going to be a 'seasonal' or if it is back for good. I hope that it is the latter.

Alas, it looks like another celebrity is lost to the world of real ale. In the grand Madonna divorce settlement, Guy Ritchie has been given the couple's stake in the Punch Bowl pub in Mayfair and Madge herself was nowhere to be seen at Battersea this year.

A tale of two chefs

Celebrity chef Marco Pierre White, owner of the Yew Tree Inn in Newbury, Berkshire, has announced that he will be increasing the price of a pint at his pub to £5.00. Mr White commented, *"When you have a pint, you're not just paying for delicious beer, you're paying for the place you drink it and the people who serve it"*. I hope that Mr

White is prepared to be consistently perfect then.

Mr White may however be doing better than his comrade Antony Worrall Thompson. According to an item in the *Guardian*, the four restaurants, two pubs and a delicatessen owned by AWT Restaurants have closed following the company going into administration. Mr W-T had apparently failed to persuade the banks to provide £200,000 in temporary funds. 60 staff lost their jobs initially but 40 may be re-engaged if Mr W-T is able to buy back two of the restaurants and the shop with a combination of private funds and his own money. One of the pubs is reported to be the Greyhound near Henley-on-Thames.

Taking a Liberty...

Congratulations to Martin Few and Gill Gibson of the Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty at Heronsgate for winning the Watford and District CAMRA

Branch's Pub of the Year competition for the 4th time against increasing competition. Just put WD3 5BS into your designated driver's SatNav to find, to use their own strapline, *Real Ales, Real Food and a Real Welcome in a Real Pub!*

A curious tale

I have taken the following from an article by Roger Protz in the *Morning Advertiser*. I am sure that Roger will want to see it get a wider circulation. No doubt many of you watched the recent *'Oz and James Drink to Britain'* TV series. In the episode broadcast on 10 February, the pair went to a beer festival. No mention however was made of where the event was – it was Worcester – let alone which organisation was staging the event.

Roger knew that it must be a CAMRA event because he recognised some of the organisers but the only CAMRA logo on

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- Milestone, Taeberrie Bock, 4.2% ABV
- Ramsgate, A Common Conspiracy, 4.8% ABV
- West Berkshire Brewery, Good Old Boy, 4.0% ABV
- Olde Swan, Bumblehole, 5.2% ABV

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view was on someone's shirt. Roger asked the BBC why CAMRA's name was blocked out. He did not get an answer; he was simply told that the CAMRA organisers were happy to take down their banners. Roger, of course, checked this with them and their version was that the production company said that they would not film unless all CAMRA banners were removed; so they felt obliged to do so. As Roger says, when it comes to real ale, CAMRA is the story so why did the BBC not want to acknowledge CAMRA's existence. The full article is well

worth reading: www.beer-pages.com.

And finally...

Regular readers may recall that I had hoped that the monumental edifice to be installed at Ebbsfleet would be a giant pint. Instead, it looks like it is going to be a 50 metre white horse, so it's more like a whisky advert – and not even decent malt at that.

The licensee of the Crown Inn, Roelcliffe, North Yorkshire, is worried about people driving past his pub and not realising that they are open. His answer has

been to put two dummies sitting at one of the outside tables. Couldn't he have just put out a sign saying 'open'?

Spare a thought for a barman at the Jolly Farmer, Great Yarmouth who, having been asked to look after them by the licensee, hid £1,000 in takings in the oven, not realising that it had been left on a low heat. Luckily, the notes were not so badly damaged as to have had the serial numbers obliterated, so the value can be reclaimed.

Tony Hedger

LORDING IT BY THE THAMES

With the government's strength in Parliament somewhat less secure due to revolting backbenchers, February was a good time for the Campaign to take its message into the heart of Westminster. Forsaking the chance to meet Neil Morrissey and Richard Fox in the Red Lion, Whitehall, a dedicated contingent from CAMRA braved a demonstration by Sri Lankan Tamils and sallied forth to host a successful parliamentary reception in the Houses of Parliament.

Making full use of Axe the Beer Tax promotional material, every opportunity was taken to challenge/slag off the Chancellor's duty proposals which will see excise duty increased on an annual basis by 2% above the rate of inflation. The effect of this, the smoking ban, and cheap beer in supermarkets has caused the current threat to pub viability, as closures mount across London and the rest of the country.

While the threat to rural pubs has long been apparent, it seems now that it is urban pubs that are facing even greater challenges with closures escalating; something of which avid readers of *Capital Pubcheck* will be only too well aware.

MPs led by John Grogan, Chairman of the All Parliamentary Beer Group, are being increasingly active in taking the case on the future of pubs to Ministers, and events such as CAMRA's reception



(John Cryne (left) Chairman of CAMRA's North London Branch, and John Grogan)

help them very much in this regard. We should all take this up by contacting our local MPs as nothing works better for them than a bulging post bag from local constituents.

John Cryne

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RECORD TURN OUT FOR BATTERSEA

More than 5,000 admissions were recorded for the first time over the three days of the Battersea Beer Festival in February. There were no complaints about warm beer this year but a few wanting the hall to be heated at the same time! Sadly, cask ale ran out at 8pm on the Friday – a bonus for the Falcon down the road at Clapham Junction – and cider and perry at 6pm despite a 19% larger order than last year: the cider and perry drunk every year at Battersea has more than doubled since 2004.

From 138 nominations, the Beer of the Festival was another session beer, **Bowman's Swift One** from Hampshire, with two stronger brews tying for second place: Wensleydale Coverdale Poachers IPA and Yates Holy Joe from the Isle of Wight. Cider votes were too close and too confused to call, but Verhaeghe Echte Kriek was voted Best Foreign Beer, an award made for the first time.

Jenny Jones from the Greater London Assembly opened the festival on the Wednesday evening. On the Thursday afternoon, with the local Mayors and MP Martin Linton in attendance, the Branch Pub of the Year for 2008 was announced: the **Bricklayer's Arms** in Putney, the 2006 winner and 2007 Greater London Pub of

the Year. Second was the Eagle Ale House, Battersea and third, for the second year running, the Nightingale in Balham. Congratulations, respectively, to Becky, Dave and Lee together with their enthusiastic and hard working colleagues.



Thanks once again to everyone for making the festival such a success: all our visitors, all our suppliers, Andrew Bishop and his staff at BAC, Kam and his catering team and all those CAMRA members who helped as staff volunteers: we shall need you again next year, and more beer and cider!

Chris Cobbold

BEER FESTIVAL CASH FOR HACKNEY CHARITIES

The Speaker of Hackney, Councillor Ian Rathbone, received a cheque for £446 on 20 February to be given to his 2008-09 charities. This amount was collected from attendees at the 2008 Pig's Ear Beer Festival held at the Ocean in Hackney in December.

The Festival was organised by the East London and City (ELAC) Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). Its Chairman, Jon Russell Brown said, "In 2008 Pig's Ear broke every record for attendance and sales. Happily, we also raised a record amount for Hackney charities. The Speaker, Mayor and Council of Hackney are consistent festival supporters. We're delighted to help give something back to its people."

The three 2008-09 Speaker's Charities are Laburnum Boat Club, the King's Centre Family



Pictured with the Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Ian Rathbone are, left to right, ELAC Members Cllr Vincent Stops; Jon Russell Brown, Festival Organiser; Derek Jones and Bill Green.

Project and the Hackney Society. Their members helped to collect the money at the festival.



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Thursday 16 April

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Midday-5pm £2, CAMRA members Free

5pm -11pm £2, CAMRA members £1

11am-11pm £2, CAMRA members £1

11am- 9pm* £2, CAMRA members £1

* or while beer lasts

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South London freehouse to showcase London breweries

Hoopers in Camberwell, SE5, are bringing together cask ale from all available London breweries for National Cask Ale Week, 6-13 April.

London was once a major brewing centre, but first members of the Big Six, and latterly Young's closed their plants, so that only Fuller's remain in London of the breweries that existed when CAMRA started in 1971. However they have been joined by five microbreweries, the well established Meantime and Twickenham Fine Ales; Brodie's and Sambrook's, established at the end of last year and right now the Camden Brewery, expanded out of the Horseshoe brewpub in Hampstead.

There are also currently three smaller brewpub operations in London: Brew Wharf, Borough; the Florence, Herne Hill; and Zerodegrees in Blackheath (which produces good quality lagers but not cask ale).

Fuller's will be supplying their Hock, a 3.5% Mild Ale, which is not produced every year, and will probably just have a single brew this year. It is a rich, dark ale packed with subtle caramel and nutty flavours.

Twickenham will supply two of their ales from their permanent range and seasonals, Spring Ale (4.3%), Pale Beauty (4.7%) and Smiler's Ale (4.8%).

Whilst many drinkers may have reservations over Meantime's means of dispense, there is no denying that the beers are brilliantly crafted and innovative. It is probable that their London Pale Ale or Stout will be available on draught, as well as a selection of their bottled ales. Zerodegrees will be supplying their Black Lager which is brewed to a Czech recipe by a German brewer.

Hoopers will be offering Brodie's Superior London Stout which has a whopping 7.1% abv and one other Brodie's brew.

Sambrook's will not only have their session bitter, Wandle available for sampling, but Duncan Sambrook will be hosting a 'Meet the Brewer' evening on Wednesday 8 April. He will explain the mechanics of brewing, and be pleased to answer questions.

There will also be two ales each from the Camden Brewery and Brew Wharf, and one of the



beers (Weasel (4.5%), Bonobo (4.5%) and Beaver (4.8%) from the Florence (Capital Pub Co) range.

To complete the range of brewing styles presently available, Hoopers have sourced interesting and unusual beers from all around Britain. A few of these to mention are Harvey's Porter (4.8%) from Lewes, Sussex; Otley O8, described as a golden-coloured barley wine from Pontypridd in South Wales, and Cairngorm Trade Winds, a beer that incorporates spices, from the Highlands of Scotland.

More information on the beer festival can be found on the pub's website

www.hoopersbar.co.uk or by telephoning 07956 502152.

HOOPERS

28 Ivanhoe Road, London, SE5 8DH
Tel: 020 7733 4797 Mobile: 07956 502152
www.hoopersbar.co.uk Email: info@hoopersbar.co.uk

..supporting National Cask Ale Week with a London Beer Festival

4th-13th April - We will have selections from all 9 London brewers together with other beers representing all current beer styles.

Wednesday 8th April, 8pm - 'Meet the Brewer'. Duncan Sambrook will be speaking about his new brewery in Battersea.

Thursday 9th, 8.45pm Quiz on pubs and beer.

Good Friday 10th, 7.00pm Beer & Jazz

See our website for transport info.

Good Beer Guide 2009

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Sambrook's: A brewery with food miles in mind

With Young's Brewery leaving London a few years ago, we thought that was it for brewing in South West London. So it came as a delightful surprise last autumn to hear that someone was bringing brewing back.

But it nearly didn't happen here. Duncan Sambrook, the brewery's director originally planned to set it up in White City and to do it as a hobby. The change happened when Duncan met David Welsh. David had sold his brewery (the famous Ringwood in Hampshire) and was looking for a new challenge. With his extensive experience in brewing, David was an ideal mentor and he became Duncan's business partner, complementing Duncan's skills (he originally trained as a chemist and then went to work for Deloitte Touche).

Recently CAMRA's London Tasting Panel paid a visit. The brewery is in Battersea, some 10-15 minutes walk from Clapham Junction and set in an industrial unit. The kit is a brand new 20 barrel plant of Canadian origin. They use whole hops as the plant is designed to use the spent hops as a sieve. Although they currently have only one beer, the long term intention is to have five in the range but to bring them out gradually, ensuring they get one beer right before moving on to the next. Their current bitter, Wandle (3.8% ABV), is likely to be joined by a summer ale and then a dark winter beer later this year.

Duncan is very much into his "food miles". All the hops he uses are English and his malt is from Warminster Malts where he can even trace the source back to an individual farm. His wish is that eventually all of his ingredients will come within 100 miles of the brewery.

Wandle is made from Boudicca hops, for a dry finish with Fuggles and Goldings, particularly for the aroma. The

malt is Maris Otter with some Crystal and the yeast is a derivative of Brakspear's.

Outlets currently number around 20 but availability is likely to increase particularly as plans are in hand to launch a bottled conditioned version

of Wandle at a brewery open day on 4 April.

So what does the beer taste like? The London Tasting Panel described it as having citrus and a little hop on the nose, with fruit becoming stronger in the taste. The finish is initially fruity but dry with some bitterness that lingers. It's amber in colour with a surprisingly smooth mouthfeel for a beer of this strength.

If that whets your interest, visit www.sambrooksbrewery.co.uk. Let's support our few London breweries.

Christine Cryne



Sambrook's outlets

The following pubs now sell Sambrook's beer permanently:
Skinners Arms, Judd St, WC1
Camel & Artichoke, Lower Marsh, SE1

Queen's Arms, Warwick Way, SW1
Coach & Horses, Clapham Park Rd, SW4

Lighthouse, Battersea Park Rd, SW11

Westbridge, Battersea Bridge Rd, SW11

Brown Dog, Cross St, SW13

Earl Fellers, Ellora Rd, SW16

Selkirk, Selkirk Rd, SW17

Le Gothic, John Archer Way, SW18

Roundhouse, Wandsworth
Common North Side, SW18
Cow, Westbourne Park Rd, W2
Distillers, Fulham Palace Rd, W6
Havelock Tavern, Masbro Rd, W14

Other pubs selling Sambrook's regularly include:

Bree Louise, Cobourg St, NW1

Hobgoblin, Balcombe St, NW1

Duchess, Nine Elms La, SW8

Bricklayer's Arms, Waterman St, SW15

Cat's Back, Point Pleasant, SW18

East Hill, Alma Rd, SW18

Red Lion, Linkfield Rd, Isleworth



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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

HISTORIC DISPENSARY IS EAST LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

The Dispensary in Leman Street, Aldgate, has been chosen as the 2009 Pub of the Year by the East London and City (ELAC) Branch of the Campaign For Real Ale (CAMRA). A Grade II listed building, once the 19th century dispensary of the Royal London Hospital, it became a hostelry in 1995 and now serves superbly kept

cask ales and excellent food. There are over 800 pubs in the ELAC Branch area so that to be selected as the very best is a great tribute to the high standards which the Dispensary owner and licensee, Annie Smith, and her ever-friendly staff have. Annie is pictured on the front cover at the bar of the Dispensary.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD CAMRA AWARDS

The Willoughby Arms, Kingston has been voted Branch Pub of the Year 2009 by the Kingston & Leatherhead Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The Willoughby has been a favourite since Rick Robinson, the landlord, took over 14 years ago and has won this award several times before. The pub always has a great atmosphere, whether for group meetings or for the frequent sports games or just a normal day with the locals. This year has seen Rick avidly take on the LocAle initiative, with many ales from Surrey Hills and Twickenham breweries over the year as well as his regular Wells Bombardier and Fuller's London Pride.



A delighted Rick said, "Lysa and I are honoured to receive this accolade once more, particularly in light of the very strong competition we faced in a geographical area that has many pubs offering high quality, traditional English beers and ales". "ALL HAIL TO THE ALE!", Rick toasted, looking forward to the Willoughby's next St George's Day beer festival, from Wednesday 22 April till Saturday 25 April.

The Royal Oak in Great Bookham has won the Branch Pub of the Year for 2009 (Surrey) for the first time and an ecstatic publican Dwayne Kent was "over the moon". Dwayne has been involved with the Oak for about 2½ years and this last year has seen the introduction of Folk and Ale nights, beer festivals for St George's (April) and the

Great Bookham Village Day (June), another festival in October and one for late night Christmas shopping in December. The pub has been revived with a community focus and helped by a great selection of real ales, a couple often on gravity dispense. The stalwarts are Sharp's Doom Bar and Greene King Abbot, supplemented by many other beers, recently Caledonian and Surrey Hills.

The Surbiton Club, 34 St. James Road, Surbiton, is a friendly, members only, social club with regular events, good quality real ales and very welcome bar prices. It has a comfortable lounge



area, TV sports room and a snooker room with three full-size tables.

The food served at lunchtimes is marvellous, especially the roasts on Sundays. Bar manager Perry Johnson said, "We have tried hard to please our members with a change in real ales this last year, we've introduced Sharp's Doom Bar and a guest ale and are delighted to win again!"



Steve Allen

NORTH LONDON SPRING PUB OF THE SEASON



The Pineapple in Kentish Town, NW5 is the North London spring Pub of the Season. Manager Simon Rennie (left) accepts the award from Branch Chairman John Cryme. The next major event at the pub will be a beer festival over the Easter weekend.

THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE

Croydon & Sutton branch have awarded their inaugural 'Pub of the season' award to the Hope in West Street, Carshalton, two minutes' walk from Carshalton station, and close to several bus routes. For long shunned by CAMRA aficionados as the one pub in town without real ale, the Hope was closed for a good part of last year with an uncertain future, but rescued by the arrival of Susanna, a young licensee from Kent. Despite many frustrations over beer supply and lack of a kitchen, she set about introducing real ale, including a regular Mild, a real rarity these days in South London. Slowly but surely the discerning drinkers of Carshalton – and there are many – have been beating a path to her door.



Recently Susanna has secured a beer supply contract with AVS of Gravesend, and the range and quality of real ales has broadened markedly, with Dark Star Hophead a regular, and a fourth handpump brought into service. Aided by her young, friendly and efficient staff, this traditional pub has been transformed from a no-hoper (*groan* – Ed) into Carshalton's destination of choice for a decent pint in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Three mini beer festivals are in the pipeline, and a new kitchen is being installed which will mean a lunchtime and evening food menu in the near future.

The award was presented by branch chairman David Lands on 21 March. The Hope shows that a well-run pub which offers the right atmosphere will quickly become a community asset and be well used, even in a recession. Seeing the Hope transformed into a real ale Mecca is the Carshalton equivalent of the return of the prodigal son.

Bob Steel

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Around Bruges in 80 Beers

The latest offering from the *booksaboutbeer.com* stable is the second edition of *Around Bruges in 80 Beers* updated by Chris (Podge) Pollard and Siobhan McGinn. The book is aimed at general travellers who know that Belgian beer is supposed to be good and want to know where they can try the best, in the most interesting surroundings.

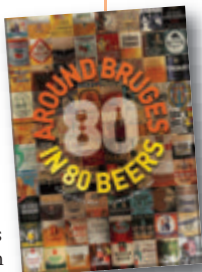
The places chosen range from specialist beer shops to posh restaurants, from locals' bars to elegant taverns and from early risers to late night haunts. They have even included a boat. Armed with this guide,

you should be able to dig a little deeper and be more adventurous in your beer choices and to experience some of the truly exceptional offerings of one of the greatest brewing nations in the world. You will find out, with practice, which beer styles and which beers you prefer.

And if 80 proves a bit too much for even a long weekend, you may be persuaded to return, again and again.

Priced at £7.99, *Around Bruges in 80 Beers* is available from www.booksaboutbeer.com

Steve Williams



Oz & James Drink to Britain



I found this book incredibly easy to read but very difficult to review. Clearly, unless you inhabit a world without TV, you will know that this is a tie-in with the recent series of programmes screened on BBC2. If you saw those programmes you will be aware of the jokey, at times schoolboyish, humour which the protagonists bring to bear.

The thing is, in many ways the book tries to translate that on-screen banter into text and that just doesn't work for me. On the screen, you can get away with a lot because there is always the visual diversion. When it's put down in black and white, you need something more.

But, then again, it's doubtful if the book is aimed at me. It's a bit of a beginner's guide to the various alcoholic beverages produced in the Britain, with an odd excursion to Dublin thrown in. Its strength is that it advocates, often with a passion, craft production, whether it be of beer, cider, wine, vodka (from spuds) whisky or gin (and tonic).

We would expect this from Oz Clarke, what's better is that a bloke like James May, who otherwise doubles as a bit of a petrol-head, comes out as such a staunch supporter of quality, cask beer. Constantly sniping at mass produced gunk, it is hard to beat May's rant against the Magor brewery, the megakeggery in Wales, and "its basic mass-produced lagers (that) are absolute dogs' piss".

Beneath the banter there is lots of good stuff here, facts and information, good references to the various places visited and a helpful index, all supported by lots of good pictures and some jazzy presentation. If CAMRA wants to explain what real ale is to a younger, less committed audience, then the style adopted in this book could be one way of doing this. But you'd need to ask somebody less long in the tooth than me to test that!

Oz and James Drink to Britain, published by Pavilion Books and with a recommended retail price of £19.99, is available from bookshops and CAMRA.

John Cryne

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THE FINAL COPY DATE FOR

ADVERTISING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

(JUNE/JULY) IS THE SECOND OF MAY

New local pub guides

We don't see any local guides for ages then three come along at once – a bit like buses, which is appropriate as one of them is called the Clapham Omnibus. All of them have been produced by CAMRA branches.

The biggest of them is the *North Surrey Pub Guide*. Put together by the North Surrey and Kingston & Leatherhead Branches and sized at a handy pocket-shaped 10cm by 21cm (110 pages), this guide covers the Surrey boroughs of Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne, from Staines in the north to Cobham in the south; Thames Ditton in the east to Virginia Water in the west. The pubs are clearly listed and well described, including those that do not sell real ale. There are good maps of the important town centres (including Ashford, Chertsey, Staines and Walton-on-Thames) and the brewery section is very comprehensive. There are also a lot of very interesting editorial items, including an account by Scott Wayland on how he came to be brewing at Addlestone. The price is £4.95.

Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate is North London Branch's third local guide to those pubs



serving real ale, produced with the help of sponsorship from Fuller's Brewery. It covers the postal districts of NW3, N6, NW8, East NW6 and surrounding areas. There are clear maps of Highgate, both ends of Hampstead and St John's Wood. Slightly bigger (15cm by 10cm) but thinner (28 pages) than North Surrey because of the much smaller area covered, it is still very handy and with all due respect to North Surrey, has more obvious visitor appeal. It is very well presented, being the only one of the three to have colour photos on the inside pages, and these fit in well with the comprehensive pub descriptions. The historic detail in particular is very informative. For example, it explains that the highwayman Dick Turpin was not born at the Spaniards Inn but in Essex – which explains a lot. The price is a very reasonable £2.00.

Also part of a series and with a suitably bright red cover, *The Clapham Omnibus* is the fourth of

South West London's local guides, substantially sponsored by Young's. This guide is unashamedly cheap (£2.00 again), cheerful and functional. I can say that because I helped produce it. It covers the postal districts of SW4 (Clapham) and SW8 (South Lambeth). All pubs in both areas are listed, with descriptions included on merit and one large map. There are also geographical descriptions and some historical notes although there is not much tourist appeal here either. It is the same size as North Surrey but only 40 pages: there aren't that many pubs...

All three guides are different in detail and presentation but all have much in common and, to my mind, successfully serve their purpose. All are easy to use and, if you are going to be in the areas covered for any particular reason any time, they are all worth having. They can be purchased on-line or by 'phone from CAMRA Head Office, or will be available over the counter at CAMRA beer festivals this year. *The Clapham Omnibus* is also available from the Bread & Roses, the Coach & Horses and the Manor Arms, SW4 and the Plough, the Priory Arms and the Roebuck, SW8.

Tony Hedger

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The Park Tavern, Passey Place, Eltham SE9



Eltham was a town one drove through speedily on the way to more interesting and safer places. There was no reason to break one's journey and no pub at all worth a call. From the '70s heyday of around a dozen pubs, the six remaining all had a certain atmosphere – the wrong type.

You'll notice I'm speaking in the past tense. Prompted by glowing reports of amazing changes at the Park Tavern, just off the High Street, I paid a visit. This pub, after all, had been the worst of the lot.

Last November found me entering the said hostelry. My first shock was to hear Classic FM wafting through the speakers and I'd *never* heard *that* anywhere else but those gorgeous bars in Bruges. Secondly, the white oak bar was immaculate; thirdly the real ale range outstanding; fourthly the bar staff, lovely Sam and Ali were friendly and attentive... But hey, let's stop the counting; I could run out of numbers!

Steve, mine host, came down to greet me over my pint of St. Austell Tribute (superb!) and over the next twenty minutes proceeded to enlighten me starting with my first, albeit obvious question: Why Eltham?

"Linda and I had run a large live music-led venue for twelve years, sold out in 2005 and moved to France for a break. Whilst relaxing we reminisced about Blighty and the sort of pubs we really enjoyed. We analysed what had gone wrong with the British pub scene and, batteries recharged, returned to create our own little pub. We looked around Kent and South London, particularly for pubs, shall we say, down on their luck!" "Eltham was a good place to start," I quipped.

"Our pub was to be first and foremost real ale-d. A garden was essential (my wife has green

fingers), as was a genuine need for sensible home cooking at reasonable prices. The Park Tavern fitted the bill and, as tenants with Enterprise Inns, we started renovation in September '07 and reopened last February."

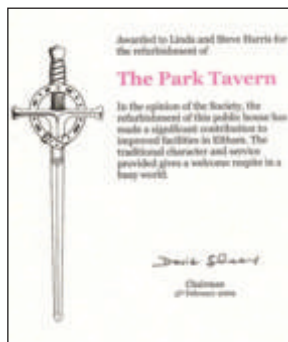
Back to my appraisal. The beer range is impressive: regulars include the aforementioned Tribute, Timothy Taylor's Landlord (magnificent!), Harvey's Sussex and Fuller's London Pride. In addition there are two rotating guests: on my visit Brains SA and Archer's Best. Unusually, the draught lagers include both Amstel and Leffe – shades of Belgium again. And all this complemented by a wine list numbering twenty six, eight malts and a wide selection of bottled beers.

The seating area cosily snuggles in around 40 in traditional style with an L-shaped bar. There is a real log fire, home-cooked food with main courses changing every few days, a selection of board games, etched windows, no TV, no fruit machines, immaculate loos – getting the message?

A natural conversation break had me visiting the garden, in itself a novelty for Eltham pubs. What a revelation! Seating around 40 (much of the area is covered and heated), it resembles an up-market garden centre- festooned as it is with potted plants and shrubs. Serene is the word, and it's already won the London Gardening Society's Award of Excellence certificate.

In Steve's words, the customers sit comfortably across the demographic range: both sexes, all ages, all types – "people who appreciate a traditional pub run with old-fashioned pub etiquette."

On my next visit, the Park had won another



award, this time from the Eltham Society, and I quote: "In the opinion of the Society, the refurbishment of this public house has made a significant contribution to improved facilities in Eltham. The traditional character and service provided gives a welcome respite in a busy world".

I'll say! Bearing the location in mind, this pub is nothing short of a miracle. And whilst I may never fall deeply in love with Eltham itself, I can feel a long and passionate affair nurturing between these two particular 'PTs'!

Peter Tonge



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Branch diaries

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

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

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

LONDON PUBS GROUP

Jane Jephcote 020-7720 6327, jephcote@waitrose.com

April – Wed 15 Evening Crawl of Brixton, Herne Hill and Camberwell: (7pm) Duke of Edinburgh, 204 Ferndale Rd, SW9; (8pm) Trinity Arms, 45 Trinity Gdns, Brixton SW9; (8.50) Half Moon, 10 Half Moon La, Herne Hill SE24; (9.50) Hoopers Bar, 28 Ivanhoe Rd, Camberwell SE5; (10.35) Joiners Arms, 35 Denmark Hill, Camberwell SE5. Public transport will be required at times.

May – Wed 13 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.co.uk

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

April – Thu 9 (7.30) Cask Ale Week beer festival social.

Hoopers Bar, 28 Ivanhoe Rd, Camberwell SE5.

May – Sat 2 Reading Beer Festival trip: meet 10.30 Paddington or from 12 at the festival. - **Sat 23** London Bridge crawl: meet 2-3pm Market Porter, Stoney St, SE1.

BEXLEY

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

April – Wed 8 (8.30) Mtg. Jolly Millers, Bexleyheath. - **Thu 16-Sat 18** Bexley Beer Festival. Sidcup Sports Club (see page 17).

May – Wed 13 (8.30) Mtg. PotY presentation and Mild Month social. Robin Hood & Little John, Bexleyheath.

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Keith Worsfold 07872 009005, keith925603@btinternet.com

April – Wed 8 (8.30) Social. Grapes, 198 High St Sutton. - **Thu 16 (8.30)** Social. Postal Order, 33 Westow St, Crystal Palace. -

Wed 22 (8.30) Social. Hope, 8 West St, Carshalton. - **Tue 28 (8pm)** Branch AGM. Dog & Bull, Surrey St, Croydon (membership cards required to vote).

May – Mon 4 Cheam area social. Meet (noon) West Croydon or (12.45) Railway Hotel, Cheam. - **Fri 15 (8.30)** Social. Hope, Carshalton. - **Mon 25** Bank Holiday Wetherspoons crawl: (noon) Postal Order, Crystal Palace then Flora Sandes, Thornton Heath. For further locations/times, contact Keith. - **Thu 28 (8.30)** Mtg. Windsor Castle, Carshalton.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

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

April – Tue 7 (8pm) Pig's Ear festival mtg. Nightingale, 51 Nightingale La, E11. - **Thu 9** Brodie's Brewery night. LOSC, Oliver Rd E10, 8 different brews at £2/pint. - **Wed 15-Sat 18** Maldon Beer Festival. - **Thu 23 (8pm)** St George's Day crawl: Hare, 505 Cambridge Heath Rd, E2; Approach Tavern, 47 Approach Rd E2; Camel, Sugarloaf Walk/277 Globe Rd, E2, and if time allows Eleanor Arms, 460 Old Ford Rd, E3

May – Sat 2 Crosse Keys, 9 Gracechurch St, EC3. Special festival of beers not available in any other pubs in the chain. - **Tue 12 (8pm)** Branch AGM. Rose & Crown, 55 Hoe St, E17 (upstairs)

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

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

April – Wed 1 Enfield Town two pub social: (8.30) Crown & Horseshoes, 15 Horseshoe La; (9.30) Cricketers, 19 Chase Side Pl. - **Sat 4** Brewery visit. Sambrook's, of Battersea: Branch contact for details. - **Tue 7** Muswell Hill two pub social: (8.30) Keenan's, 89 Colney Hatch La; (9.30) Minstrel Boy. - **Sat 11** Enfield Real Ale Rural Ramble. Meet 10-11am (for optional breakfast) in Moon under Water (see below): details Ron 020-8524 4239. - **Wed 15 (8.30)** Moon under Water, 115 Chase Side, Enfield. - **Thu 23 (8.30)** Social. Elephant Inn, 283 Ballards La, North Finchley. - **Tue 28** Midweek midday social. Picture Palace, Hertford Rd/Lincoln Rd jct, Ponders End. - **Thu 30 (8.30)** Social. New Crown, 80-84 Chase Side, Southgate N14. **May – Thu 7 (8.30)** Mild social. Beehive, 24 Little Bury St, Edmonton. - **Tue 12** Joint social with North London, q.v. - **Thu 21 (8.30)** Mild social. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill. - **Thu 28 (8.30)** London Drinker pick up and Mild social. Old Wheatsheaf, 3 Windmill Hill, Enfield.

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

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

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

April – Wed 1 (8.30) KBF mtg. Kingston Working Men's Club. - **Sat 4 (noon)** Surrey liaison. Willoughby Arms, Kingston. - **Tue 7 (8.15)** Mtg. Manor, Manor Drive North, Malden Manor. - **Thu 16** Thames Ditton to Surbiton crawl: (8pm) George & Dragon, then Angel and other pubs including City Arms and Lamb.

May – Sat 9 (12.30) Day visit to Pilgrim Brewery, Reigate. Travel by train or bus to meet at the brewery. Train 11.38 Clapham Jct changing at Redhill to arrive Reigate 12.18. Names please if interested. - **Tue 12 (8.15)** Mtg. Old Plough, Station Rd, Cobham. - **Wed 20 (8.30)** KBF mtg. Kingston Working Men's Club. - **Thu 28** Ewell crawl: (8pm) Eight Bells, then Wheatsheaf and other pubs through the village. - **Sat 30** Day trip to visit Irving Brewery near Portsmouth. Hoping to hire a bus with SHB branch. Final arrangements tba. Names please by 9 May if interested.

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

April – Tue 7 Cask Ale Week social: (8pm) Bree Louise, 69 Cobourg St, NW1. - **Tue 14** N8 Crouch End social: (7.30) Maynard, 70 Park Rd; (8pm) Kings Head, 2 Crouch End Hill; (8.30) Railway, 23 Crouch End Hill; (9pm) Harringay Arms, 153 Crouch Hill; (10pm) Queens, 26 Broadway Parade, Tottenham La. - **Tue 21** N1 Upper Street bottom half social: (7.30) Angel (for Wetherspoon festival), 3-5 Islington High St; (8.30) Agricultural, 13 Liverpool Rd; (9pm) Nags Head, 12 Upper St; (9.45) Bull, 100 Upper St; (10.30) Kings Head, 115 Upper St. - **Tue 28** N17 Tottenham social: (8pm) Volunteer, 131 Chestnut Rd; (9pm) Beehive, Stoneleigh Rd; (10pm) Elbow Room, 503-505 Tottenham High Rd.

May – Tue 5 (8pm) Mtg. Perseverance, 11 Shroton St, NW1; then (9.30) Victoria & Albert, Marylebone Station; (10.15) Metropolitan, Baker Street Station. - **Tue 12** Joint N2/N10 social with Enfield & Barnet branch: (7.30) Maddens, 130 High Rd, N2; (8.15) Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Rd, N2; (9pm) Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, N2 and/or Alexandra, 98 Fortis Green, N2; (9.30) John Baird, 122 Fortis Green Road, N10. - **Tue 19** NW3 Belsize Park social: (7.30) Washington, 50 Englands La; (8.15) Steeles/Sir Richard Steele, 97 Haverstock Hill; (9pm) Havers/Haverstock Arms, 154 Haverstock Hill; (9.45) Hill, 94 Haverstock Hill; (10.30) Enterprise, 2 Haverstock Hill. - **Tue 26** N4 Stroud Green social: (7.30) Nicholas Nickleby, 6 Ferme Park

Rd; (8.15) Noble, 29 Crouch Hill; (8.45) Old Dairy, 1-3 Crouch Hill; (9.15) White Lion of Mortimer, 125-127 Stroud Green Rd; (10.30) Worlds End, 21-23 Stroud Green Rd.

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

April – Thu 9 (8pm) Beer festival social. Blued Services Club, 111 Spring Rise, Egham - **Thu 16** (8pm) **Branch AGM**, Adelaide (upstairs room), 57 Park Rd, Teddington

May – Thu 7 Hounslow crawl: (8pm) White Bear, 198 Kingsley Rd; (8.45) Sun, 148 Hanworth Rd; (9.15) Cross Lances, 236 Hanworth Rd; (10pm) Moon under Water, 84/88 Staines Rd. - **Wed 20** (8.30) Mtg. Swan Inn, 1 Swan St, Isleworth.

Website: www.rhcamra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

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

April – Tue 7 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Golden Lion 116 Sydenham Rd SE26. - **Wed 15** SE22 Dulwich crawl: (7.30) Plough, 381 Lordship La; (8pm) Magnolia, 211 Lordship La; (8.30) Crystal Palace Tavern, 193 Crystal Palace Rd; (9pm) Uplands Tavern, 90 Crystal Palace Rd; (9.30) Herne Tavern 2 Forest Hill Rd. - **Mon 20** BR1 Bromley crawl: (7.30) Swan & Mistre, 260-262 High St; (8pm) Tomfoolery, 204-206 High St; (9pm) Partridge, 194 High St. - **Mon 27** (8pm) Beer festival mtg and social. Gypsy Moth, 60 Greenwich Church St, SE10.

May – Tue 5 (8pm) Cttee mtg, social and PotY presentation. Dog & Bell, 116 Prince St, SE8. - **Mon 11** SE5 Camberwell crawl: (7.30) Phoenix, 5 Windsor Walk; (8.15) Cambria, 40 Kemerton Rd; (9pm) Fox on the Hill, 149 Denmark Hill; (9.45) Bear, 296a Camberwell New Rd. - **Wed 20** SE16 Rotherhithe crawl: (7.30) Blacksmiths Arms, 257 Rotherhithe St; (8pm) Ship & Whale, 2 Gulliver St; (8.45) Moby Dick, 6 Russia Ct, Russell Pl; (9.30) Surrey Docks, 185 Lower Rd. - **Tue 26** (8pm) Beer festival mtg and social. Yacht Tavern, 5 Crane St, SE10.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker swessex@essex-camra.org.uk. Minibus trips (all from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford-Le-Hope) contact Graham Platt, 020-8220 0215

Apr – Thu 2 (8.30) Social. Eastbrook, Dagenham Rd/Rainham Rd South, Dagenham. - **Mon 6** (8.30) Out-of-area social. Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St, SE1. - **Fri 10** (1pm) Out-of-area social. 4th Planet Thanet Easter BF, Winter Gardens, Fort Crescent, Margate, by minibus. - **Wed 15** (8.30), Out-of-area social: 7th Maldon BF, Town Hall, Market Hill, by minibus. - **Wed 22** (8.30) Social. Ye Olde Green Dragon, 112 Shenfield Rd, Shenfield. - **Sat 25** (noon/12.30) Brewery Trip: Farmers Ales, Maldon, by minibus. - **Mon 27** (8.30), Out-of-area Social. William IV (for Brodie's), 816 High Rd, Leyton, E10.

May – Wed 13 (8.30pm), Out-of-area social: Bull, 3 Lombard St, Horton Kirby, Kent, by minibus. - **Wed 20** (8.30) Social. County (ex- Horns Tavern), 134 Horns Rd, Barking-side IG6. - **Sat 23** (noon) Double-header brewery trip: Son of Sid, Little Gransden, Cambs, then Devils Dyke, Reach, Cambs, by minibus. - **Sun 24** (noon) Social. Aldborough Hall Farm Spring BF, Aldborough Hall Farm, Aldborough Rd North, Newbury Park, IG2. New 'Ha' Penny Brewery' beers will (hopefully) be available. - **Thu 28** (8.30) Out-of-area social. 24th Colchester BF, Colchester Arts Centre, Church St.

Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

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

Cricket contact: Tom Brain 07796 265972, tom.brain@horwath.co.uk Nets Sundays in April; matches Sundays from May

April – Thu 2 (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Spread Eagle, 71 Wandsworth High St, SW18. - **Wed 29** (7.30) Branch Pub of Year presentation. Bricklayer's Arms, 32 Waterman St, Putney SW15.

May – Thu 14 (7.30) Open committee meeting then (8pm) **Branch AGM**. Priory Arms (upstairs room), 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8: *officer nominations to Branch Contact by 13 May*. - **Tue 19** (7.30) Mild Month social. Brewery Tap, 68/69 High St, Wimbledon Village SW19

Website: www.sulcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

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

April – Fri 3 Croxley Green: (8.30) Coach & Horses, The Green; (9.15) Artichoke, The Green; (10pm) Sportsman. - **Tue 21** (8.30) Open mic night. Colne River Rooms, Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre, Local Board Rd, Watford. - **Mon 27** (8pm) **Branch AGM**. Escourt Arms, St John's Rd, Watford. **May – Fri 8** Heronsgate: (8.30) Stag, Long La; (9.15) Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty. - **Thu 14** (8.30) Quiz night. Southern Cross, Langley Rd, Watford. - **Mon 18** (8pm) Mtg.. Escourt Arms, St. John's Rd, Watford. - **Thu 28** Annual Branch Darts Tournament. West Herts Sports Club. Contact branch for details. Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Kimberly Martin 07717 795284, KimberlyMartin@yahoo.com

April – Thu 2 (7.30) Shut the Box social. Queen Adelaide, 412 Uxbridge Rd, W12. - **Mon 6** (7.30) Cask Ale Week quiz. Albion, 121 Hammersmith Rd, W14. - **Fri 10** (8.30) Easter Beer Festival. Fox, Green La, W7. - **Tue 13** (7.30) Mtg. Star Tavern, Belgrave Mews West, SW1. - **Thu 23** St George's Day Festival. White Horse, Parsons Green, SW7.

May – Thu 7 Shut the Box social. Duke of Sussex, 75 South Parade, W4. - **Sun 10** (2pm) Mtg. Glassblowers, 42 Glasshouse St, W1. - **Tue 19** W10 North Kensington crawl: (7.30) Paradise (By Way of Kensal Green), 19 Kilburn La; (8.30) Eagle, 250 Ladbroke Grove; (9.30) North Pole, 13-15 North Pole Rd. - **Thu 28** SW1 Round the Houses survey crawl.: (7.30) Buckingham Arms, 62 Petty France; conclude (10pm) St Stephens Tavern, 10 Bridge St.

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

April – Wed 1 Ealing crawl: (8pm) Haven Arms, 33 Haven La; (9pm) Wheatshaf, 41 Haven La; (10pm) Sir Michael Balcon, 46-47 The Mall. - **Wed 8** (8pm) Mtg. Load of Hay, 33 Villier St, Uxbridge. - **Fri 10** (from noon) Bank Holiday Beer Festival Social. Fox, Green La, Hanwell. - **Wed 15** Ruislip social: (8pm) Woodman, Breakspear Rd; (10pm) J J Moons, 12 Victoria Rd. - **Thu 23** (8pm) St George's Day. Botwell Inn, 25-29 Coldharbour La, Hayes. - **Wed 29** Two pub Wetherspoon Festival social: (8pm) Moon on the Hill, 733 Station Rd, Harrow; (9.30) Village Inn, 402-408 Rayners Lane.

May – Mon 4 Bank Holiday Uxbridge Road crawl: (noon) Red Lion & Pineapple, 281 High St, Acton; (1.30) Sir Michael Balcon, 46-47 The Mall; (3pm) Fox, Green Lae, Hanwell; (5pm) Prince of Wales, 1 Harlington Rd, Hillingdon Hill; (6.30) Swan & Bottle, 98 Oxford Rd, Uxbridge. - **Thu 7** (8pm) Games evening with West London Branch. Duke of Sussex, 75 South Parade, Acton Park, W4. - **Wed 13** (8pm) Mtg; then (8.30) **Branch AGM** Southall Conservative Club, Fairlawns, High St, Southall (membership cards required). - **Wed 20** (8pm) Social. Harefield, 41 High St, Harefield. - **Thu 28** (8.30) Social. Foresters, 2 Leighton Rd, West Ealing. Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the June/July edition: 12 May 2009. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

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The Art of Survival

You get the feeling that quite a few journalists are rather enjoying the credit crunch – it's given the Dad's Army-style gloom merchants an excuse to bring their inner Private Frazers hurtling to the surface.

Amongst the glut of 'we're all doomed' articles to have peppered the news and business pages over recent months, few have made bleaker reading than those about the pub industry. Everywhere you look, there are predictions of widespread pub closures as drinkers stay at home en masse, forsaking the boozer and abandoning themselves to lives of joyless mega-frugality.

But there are other, more cautiously optimistic, ways of looking at the situation. "Of course there are means of getting through it," the landlady of one of my favourite pubs said when asked, probably for the umpteenth time, about the potential impact of the crunch. "Perhaps landlords just need to think harder than they used to have to about what they can do to encourage people to come and drink in their pubs – and to come back again."

Faced with the scenario of having to fight harder to attract and retain customers, many pubs are branching out and broadening the range of attractions they have to offer. That could mean anything from adding to their drinking options – providing more, or more unusual, guest beers, for example – to the introduction of regular events such as live music, karaoke, quizzes or themed food evenings.

And at the Trafalgar Freehouse in South Wimbledon, the current CAMRA Greater London pub of the year, that diversification is spreading to the world of art. Sydney L Bennett is a locally based landscape and portrait painter and picture restorer who also happens to be the banjo player in the jazz band that performs at the Traf every Sunday afternoon. An exhibition of his paintings, opening at 3pm on Saturday 4 April followed by an evening of live jazz, will run at the pub until the end of May. So if you've ever fancied the idea of sipping a pint while buying a picture or commissioning an artist, this is your chance to do it.

Other local artists will also be able to display their work in mini weekend exhibitions over the two months – Wimbledon College of Art is nearby – and the visual art will be complemented by extra music events.

If pubs get involved in the lives of their neighbourhoods, it can help them take advantage of what many commentators believe could be a feature of the crunch – an increased sense of community in uncertain times. And if that prediction turns out to be true, imaginatively-run locals could reap the benefits. They may not be able

to match the high street chain bars when it comes to cutting beer prices or offering spirits for ludicrously small sums, but they can offer the sort of enticingly individual touch those venues couldn't even dream of.

After all, the social history of Britain and booze tends to show the opposite trend to that forecast in the bleak media coverage – people value their fun more during periods of crisis, when pubgoing numbers have risen, more often than not. Having a beer and relaxing with friends in congenial surroundings is surely more important than ever when the stresses and strains of day-to-day life are growing. And as the landlady said, pubs can still tempt people to go out and have a good time, rather than sitting at home and nursing their pennies, by offering variety, friendliness and a sense of community.

Despite the prevailing economic climate, innovation can help local pubs survive.

© Chris Borg

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



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email: thebrewerytap@hotmail.com

The Dove, 24-28 Broadway Market, Hackney E8 4QJ

The exterior of this long-established pub, now converted into a pub-and-restaurant, has a thoroughly traditional East End tiled exterior, as

resistance is useless in this case! The Dove has a fair range of well kept real ales: two from Crouch Vale, Flowers (hence the probable Whitbread origins...),



Speckled Hen, Pride, and Taylor Landlord.

Certainly, upon our visit, the Crouch Vale ales were in excellent condition. So were the Belgian beers, and I can personally vouch for the excellence of the Brugse Zot on draught. A wide selection of excellent bottled, including 'real' (that is bottle-conditioned) ales are also to be had.

The interior is obviously constructed upon the 'L-space' principle, as the

used by Trumans and Charringtons at least.

It may have been a Whitbread pub, originally, from one of the ales available. For those fanatical CAMRA purists who will not accept authentic foreign beers, even though they are correctly served by their own local standards, I'm afraid that

inside appears to be considerably larger than the outside, spread over several levels or half-levels, and decorated effectively as a Dutch/Belgian 'Brown Bar', in effect. Seats, chairs and benches of all shapes and sizes: as with the beers, there is something for everyone. However, my companion suggested that the layout was deliberate, to ensure that if you could find your way back to your place, having finally found the Gents', then you were sober enough to carry on

They were not busy when we arrived, the staff were welcoming and a wide range of food was on offer. In this respect, it shows up as a twin to the same company's bar in Clerkenwell, the Dove Tail in Jerusalem Passage. However, the Dove is, as stated, larger, does British beers as well and is altogether to be preferred.

What are the disadvantages of this apparent paragon of alehouses, then? If you are not a local, in a word – transport. The nearest railway station of any sort is Cambridge Heath, though there are many buses up and down Cambridge Heath Road/Mare Street, passing Bethnal Green or Hackney Central stations (Routes 48, 55, 106, 254). The up-side is that, if you cycle, it is less than 100metres from the E-W section of the Regent's Canal, and the towpath.

Greg Tingey



Dear Editor

Greg Tingey's article on the Wheatsheaf, Borough Market, brought back memories. When the farmers' market was in its early days, I wrote a review of the whole market for you and included my experiences of the Wheatsheaf. I would often meet Greg and his wife, Rhona Neil, there for lunch after a hard day's market shopping.

In those days, the pub seldom offered meals on a Saturday afternoon and so, cheeky so-and-so that I am, one day I asked if we might bring in some food from the market. Permission was readily granted; so we did just that. As I reported, we were looked at askance by the other customers but I assured them that all they had to do was follow our example and ask permission. I never heard of anyone being refused.

In its latter days as a Young's pub, food was usually available on Saturdays including, at least once, my recipe for wild boar in Young's Double Chocolate Stout, which recipe you had recently published.

My most recent news on the pub is that although it is now boarded up, pending serious construction work, it will reopen in due course, at which time the space between the pub and the adjacent railway bridge will become a courtyard for

the pub.

Richard Larkin

(Both Young's and Network Rail sources confirm the good news we did not have to hand back in January. Young's have retained the lease on the site and this will revert to a new Young's managed house, much larger than before and with a garden, following completion of the new viaduct above, in late 2011/early 2012. The existing pub is meanwhile closed to remove the top storey necessary to allow the four-tracking of the current two tracks over Borough Market. It was not proposed or planned to be demolished by the Thameslink Programme nor any other Network Rail arm. - Ed)

Dear Editor

Like Greg Tingey, I too have fond memories of the Wheatsheaf in Borough Market in the '80s and '90s. Working in the City, I would form a posse for safety before venturing into sarf London. A mild outlet was a very rare beast in those days AND the Wheatsheaf sold Imperial Russian Stout. I drank their 'last bottle' many times.

Ian Collinson

London W10

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MONTHS**

Dear Editor

As a caveat, rider, whatever, to Greg Tingey's piece on The Wheatsheaf, Borough Market, there was a time when owing money often ended up serving time in the 'nick'.

Being escorted down Stoney Street, the address of the Wheatsheaf, meant your luck was up and you were Clink Street debtors prison bound (down to the junction, round the corner). Clink Street and Stoney Street are therefore inextricably linked with the immortal expression 'stoney broke'. Of course, being in Carey Street meant much the same thing. But that's the other side of the Thames.

Tom Watt

Dear Editor

Regrettably, (as I wish that it was otherwise with the current CAMRA organisation – especially having been around in their formative years and being one of their original supporters and members frequenting the Lamb in Leadenhall Market in 1965), I have to commend Brian Sheridan's editorial in the last issue.

But if CAMRA really wanted to continue their original objectives then they should have long ago sought to lobby Parliament to outlaw the 'tied trade' practice in relation to pubs. The current law

of the land, which has existed in this country for many years, generally outlaws restrictive practices. Why let the tied trade be an exception and thereby in effect condone a pernicious business that was generated illegally by the bootleggers during the Prohibition era in the USA? Like the bootleggers, these breweries and pubcos not only collect rents from their pubs but they also stipulate the beers that must be purchased, often at inflated prices. Thankfully they do not kill people like the bootleggers but it does appear that they are unwittingly committing an 'own goal' – unless they envisage capitalising on the real estate value of their premises! The tied trade is a national disgrace which must change if the UK is not to lose the unique culture of traditional communal pubs and the dedicated small brewers who struggle to supply them (in the face of an expanding national 'closed shop' which CAMRA appear to have been impotent to challenge).

On a regional basis, and especially in the current economic climate, I would also like to see CAMRA improve their criteria for their local pub awards by including the merit of offering customers value for money in providing ales from micro-breweries. Furthermore CAMRA's petty campaign for *The Full Pint* (opposing the loss of a fraction of a pint of



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beer) should be replaced by a campaign for *The Cool Pint* (opposing the loss of a whole pint being spoiled by being served in a hot glass). The small minority of ale drinkers that surprisingly enjoy warm pints of ale can then request a hot glass or otherwise warm their pints on the pub radiator, as endorsed by one previous correspondent!

Tony Bell
London SW6

Dear Editor

Every March in the run-up to St Patrick's Day, we are bombarded by advertising to enjoy 'A pint of the Black Stuff', meaning, of course, Guinness. Indeed, I have just received an email from the Queens Arms in Pimlico offering me a free pint of the fizzy, pastured example of what at some point in its life might have been a decent stout.

Every May is 'Mild Month'. Next year, maybe we should think about encouraging our pubs to promote real stout for St Patrick's Day and make March, 'Stout month'.

Kimberly Martin

Dear Editor

The BBC2 'Oz & James' show has brought brewing, distilling and winemaking to a wider audience but whether it's serious documentary or an attempt at third-rate college style humour isn't quite clear. Basically parts of the show are very good and informative, but this gets balanced against really corny attempts at humour which don't quite come off and, on one occasion in my household, brought about my reaching for the off-button. Most of us who appreciate the licensed profession's efforts are serious about our passion and, while humour may encourage casual non-committed viewers to stick with the show, sometimes it gets just a bit too much.

Dave Ainsworth
Romford

Dear Editor

What about this for an idea?

Turn our fast diminishing pubs into clubs. Many already exist. We, in Merton, have at least four. Details could be worked out but, basically, some people avoid pubs as they regard them as potentially dangerous places to go to.

Every pubco could sell a yearly membership card for a nominal fee, say £12, which would allow members entrance into any of their pubs. Non members MAY be allowed in by paying a daily membership fee.

It would be a way of keeping out the lager louts etc!

Mike Lucas
Mitcham

Dear Editor

Very recently I walked into my least favourite JDW pub, Baxters Court opposite Hackney Town Hall, where all the staff talk about 'ambient' lighting because you can't see a thing let alone read because it is so dreary and dim, and to my amazement I read the breast plate of the man behind the bar. It said Dirty Manager. I couldn't believe my eyes. Later I did suss it out to mean duty manager. When will JDW drop this incredible notion that poor lighting makes us linger longer and drink more? Shoot the psychologist who pronounced the idea good for business, I say.

Feb/Mar issue, page 3 - What happened to the Watney desert of East Anglia when all you could buy in its pubs was Red Barrel and for a time Starlight. That must have been quite an estate of pub buildings to have on the books. Apart from Adnams, Greene King and McMullens I know of no decent brewers around Suffolk and Norfolk with the exception of the microbreweries. So who bought up Watneys? I can't remember; perhaps it was a lager lout!

The Bull at Horton Kirby brings back memories. When I grew up I did drink with my father in Horton Kirby because he had some friends who lived just up the hill leading towards Brands Hatch race track. I can't remember which pub it was or even if there was more than one pub in the village at that time. In fact I was born in Horton Kirby in a wartime emergency maternity home or hospital named Franks Hall. I have a 19th century print of it hanging on my front room wall. It never fails to impress visitors when I point it out to them that that was the house I was born in. I do come clean about it though. Only a couple of hundred metres away is the river Darent where we used to bathe as boys and share the water with the cows when they came to drink. Catching minnows and sticklebacks was easy with our jam jars on a string. At times we too would catch crayfish which resided in the river in those days. I'm sure they don't live there any more thanks to a water company up near Westerham draining the river dry especially in summer over the last two decades or so - I'd be surprised if the landlady of the Bull now served crayfish sourced locally!. These crayfish were incredible fighters with their pincers, fighting one another and grabbing minnows to devour. They didn't live long if we took them home and put them in a static tank because they survived best in chalky running water brought down from the North Downs upstream.

A pub which has always intrigued me is the Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty out at Heronsgate in Hertfordshire. I read in a recent *London Drinker* that a pub had been on the site since the late Middle Ages, or something like that. Back in the

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ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

mid '60s when I was training to be a teacher at nearby Newland Park College, Chalfont St Giles, our history tutor told us that the Land of Liberty pub got its name from someone who took it over. In the mid 19th century when people were fighting for the right to the vote and to gain a place in Parliament, a nearby settlement was developed by the Chartists and Quakers to gain admittance to the right to stand as an MP. You had to have land to become a member of the land owning class, thus people put their money together and bought up the land, but Quakers were teetotal and booze was forbidden on the site. The rest is history. A man couldn't stand it any longer, sold his share in the settlement, bought the pub next to it and named it thus, as a place where others could sneak out for some light relief. And so it became known as the Land of Liberty. I'm pretty sure this is gospel as the history tutor didn't go around inventing fantasy. I suppose I could visit the hostelry or phone them up as they must have its history somewhere. Or, if you know the facts, let me hear them.

Finally for now, somewhere in the latest edition Leman Street E1 is in Aldgate, not Whitechapel as printed.

Roger Hughes
London E5

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

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

A relatively uneventful period, but with real ale encouragingly reinstated or introduced for the first time in a sprinkling of pubs across London. A handpump has even appeared on board the Tattersall Castle, anchored off the Victoria Embankment, SW1. A number of other pubs are highlighted where London micros or other more unusual guest beers have been noted. The credit crunch appears to have slowed down the conversion of pubs to other uses although at last count there were 530 closed pubs in the pipeline (out of 5,580 pubs in Greater London) whose future remains uncertain.

A new pub guide, *The Clapham Omnibus*, covering SW4 Clapham and SW8 South Lambeth was produced by CAMRA South West London Branch in February this year. It updates the coverage of those districts in the comprehensive 1997 *South West London Pub Guide* and, as from this Update, Capital Pubcheck includes cross references to it. Another new guide covering real ale pubs in N6 Highgate and NW3 Hampstead and some in adjacent parts of N19, NW6 and NW8 was published by North London Branch later in February. Cross references to *Real Ale in Hampstead and Highgate* will commence from the next Update.

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; CSL - Clapham & South Lambeth Pub Guide; E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; H - Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale, 2000 edition; HB - Holborn & Bloomsbury Pub Guide; IS - N1 Islington Real Ale Guide; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; KT - Kingston Pub Guide; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; 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 & 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, BAR RIA, 243 Old St. Reopened and renamed ROAD TRIP BAR, still no real ale. Formerly BAR 170, originally CROSBY HEAD. (E14, U94, U97, U174, U186, U189, U201)

EC1, HEADS & TAILS, 64/66 West Smithfield. Renamed DISTILLERS by September 2008. Varying real ales currently including Purity: Ubu and St Austell:

Tribute. Independent free house in former bank premises. Opens at 7am for market breakfasts. (U192)

EC3, O'NEILL'S, 31-36 Houndsditch. Renamed WHITE HORSE by September 2008. Fuller: London Pride; Taylor: Landlord. Reinstatement of real ale. M&B, ex-Bass. Originally RED LION. (E42, U119)

WC1, FULWOOD, 14 Fulwood Pl. No real ale. Independent bar opened by July 2008 in former Grayz Inn Wine Bar premises.

WC2, COPACABANA, 75 Charing Cross Rd. No real ale. Independent bar opened as GEISHA by June 2008 and since renamed, in former Ku Bar premises which never served draught beer.

WC2, PHOENIX ARTIST CLUB, Phoenix Theatre, 1 Phoenix St. No real ale. Previously unreported independent basement bar open to non-members between 5 and 8pm. Keg beers include Courage Mild.

W1(May), TERRACE BAR, Chesterfield Hotel, 35 Charles St. No real ale. Previously unreported independent hotel bar on ground floor behind reception

EAST

E1, GEORGE TAVERN, 373 Commercial Rd. Draught Bass. Modernised old pub with live music and door charge on occasions. Has retained huge tiled painted mural. (E66, U202)

E2, SUN, 441 Bethnal Green Rd. A Wychwood beer and a guest beer (@£3.20/pint). Refurbished pub with mood lighting and candles, soft furnishings, carpet and other chintz. Now independent, ex-Whitbread. (E85)

E3, BISTROTHERQUE, 23-27 Wadson St. No real ale. Independent bar in former commercial premises opened by April 2005 but not previously reported.

E3, BLUE ANCHOR, 67 Bromley High St. Courage: Best Bitter; Taylor: Golden Best (£2.20/pint). Reinstatement of real ale. (E89, U77, U141, U181, U203)

E4, FRANKIE & BENNY'S, Larkwood Leisure Complex, 175 New Rd. No real ale. One of a restaurant chain with a sizeable fizz bar open to non-diners

E4, FRONT ROOM, 122 Station Rd. No real ale. Independent bar in former shop premises opened by April 2005 but not previously reported. Now renamed ROOM.

E14, LORD NELSON, 1 Manchester Rd. Wells: Bombardier. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (E146)

NORTH

N1, MARIE LLOYD, 24 Chart St. Adnams: Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale. (N51, U184, U198, U200)

N1, NORTH ONE CAFÉ BAR, 1 Tolpuddle St. Renamed SILVER SPOON after refurbishment. Taylor: Landlord. Reinstatement of real ale. Note corrected address. (N53, U184)

NORTH WEST

NW1, MORNINGTON ARMS, 2 Mornington St. Renamed SHEEPHAVEN BAY. Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement of real ale. (N170, U157)

NW1, SPORTSBAR & GRILL (MARYLEBONE), Marylebone Main Line Station, Melcombe Pl. No real ale. New independent bar and restaurant, with sports theme, in former restaurant premises: restaurant area on ground

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floor with pool bar in basement. Main entrance at front from street with small exit on to concourse at rear.

WEMBLEY (HA0), CHEQUERS BAR & GRILL, 242A Ealing Rd. No real ale. Independent bar in former shop unit opened mid 2008. No relation to former Chequers pub opposite (see 'Deletions' below)

SOUTH EAST

SE8, DUKE, 125 Creek Rd. Fuller: London Pride; Taylor: Landlord. Reinstatement of real ale. Now Enterprise, ex-Whitbread; same operator as Dartmouth, SE23 and Dolphin, SE26. (SE79, U187)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), ROYAL COURT CAFÉ BAR, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Sq. No real ale. Independent basement bar and restaurant with entrance at side of theatre, open to non-ticket holders.

SW1(B), ROYAL COURT TAVERN, 8 Sloane Sq. Reopened and renamed **BOTANIST**. No real ale. Primarily a restaurant, but retaining a bar with keg beers, available to non-diners. (SW39, U195)

SW1(P), DOLPHIN BAR & GRILL, Dolphin Sq, off Chichester St. No real ale, H unused. Independent bar and restaurant.

SW1(SJ), TATTERSALL CASTLE, anchored in Kings Reach, Victoria Embankment. Fuller: London Pride. Available only in the Ward Room bar on the lower deck, towards the bow. The other four bars serve only fizz beer. Now Tattersall Castle Group (TCG), ex-Spirit. (SW46, U179)

SW1(W), KINGS ARMS, 77 Buckingham Palace Rd. Reopened by September 2008. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: IPA; Wells: Bombardier; Young: Bitter. (SW48, U188, U201)

SW4, LA RUEDA, 66/68 Clapham High St. No real ale. Long established independent Spanish tapas bar and restaurant with fizz lagers.

SW8, NOLANS FREEHOUSE, 33 Wilcox Rd. Real ale varies, but not regularly available. Independent free house, ex-Intreprenuer. Reinstatement of occasional real ale now confirmed, contrary to the correction to U199 in U204. (SW78, U167, U199, CSL32)

SW11, DUSK. Renamed **LOST ANGEL**. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Fuller: London Pride and Taylor: Landlord initially but with a view to stocking two microbrewery beers alongside one of those three. Reinstatement on pub database after reopening in March 2009 as a 'style boozer' by new operators who also run Lost Society, SW8. Formerly **GEORGE II** and **LEGLESS LADDER**. (SW89, WB29, U201)

WEST

FELTHAM (TW14), GREEN MAN, Green Man La, Hatton. Courage: Directors; Wells; Bombardier. Reopened. (W135, U204)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, ALL BAR ONE, 91/93 Charterhouse St, M&B, converted to 'Groucho' restaurant with small bar but no draught beer; delete from pub database. (U132, U191)

EC1, BARLEY MOW, Free, ex-Whitbread. Now

converted to restaurant use. (E9, U121, U189, U197, U198)

EC1, HOLBORN COLONY, Free, converted to 'Brookes Brothers' wine bar with no draught beer; delete from pub database. (U184)

EC1, PLAY, Free, closed by September 2008. Formerly **CENTRAL BAR**, originally **GOLDEN HIND**. (E17, U75, U113, U118, U164)

EC2, SCOTTISH POUND. Renamed **POUND** by April 2005. Greene King, converted to beauty clinic by December 2008. (E35)

WC1, GOLDEN LION, Free, closed, future uncertain. (N22, U171, U179, W18)

WC2, MARQUEE BAR & CLUB, Free, now demolished by January 2009. Formerly **ROSE & SPRINGBOK**, **BABELAAS** and originally **SLUG & LETTUCE**. (W41, U191, U199, U201)

W1(Mar), ALL BAR ONE, 5/6 Picton Pl, M&B, H removed. (W50)

W1(May), PIT BRASSERIE, Free, closed and for sale. (W61)

W1(May), STONE HORSE. Renamed **JAMIES** in 2007 and now renamed again to **GOODMAN** by January 2009. Now an independent bar and restaurant, ex-Puzzle, H removed. Primarily a restaurant, but retaining a bar with keg beers, available to non-diners. (W62)

EAST

E1, BLACK HORSE, Free, closed again in December 2008. Formerly **BAR BED** for a while. (E61, U110, U163, U201, U204)

E1, CARPENTERS ARMS, Pubs 'n' Bars, H unused. (E62, U108, U163, U201)

E1, CHARLIES, Free, closed, future uncertain. Formerly **PRINCE OF WALES**. (E71, U108)

E1, PRINCE REGENT, ex-Truman, now converted to offices named 'Windsor House'. (E71, U181)

E1, RAILWAY ARMS, ex-Watney, now demolished. (E72, U156)

E2, PRINCE OF WALES, 76 Bishop Way, ex-Wells, previously reported as converted to property agency, now converted to residential use. (E84, U89, U110, U158)

E4, FREDDIES, Free, confirmed as now demolished. Formerly **ROYAL OAK (VENNERS)**. (E97, U73, U153, U178, U189, U202)

E4, WISHING WELL, Enterprise (not Free). Renamed **ARTESIAN**, H removed. (U140, U169)

E5, SWAN, Punch, ex-Bass, closed January 2009 and in process of being sold, possibly for a non-pub use. (E101)

E8, CAREYS 3, Free, now demolished. Formerly **PAGET ARMS**. (E114, U119, U159, U187)

E15, LEMON TREE, Free, closed as part of station redevelopment, future uncertain. (U166)

E17, NEW ANGEL, Free, now being converted to residential use. Formerly **FAT SIDS**, **FEAR**, **WILD ROVER**, **TAP** and originally **ESSEX BREWERY TAP**. (E167, U105, U125, U152, U153, U160, U194)

E17, JD'S, Free, now converted to hotel named **COMMONGATE HOTEL**. Formerly **COUPLES**, **SPORTSMAN** and originally **COMMON GATE**. (E168, U92, U97, U110, U155, U168)

E18, WHITE HART, Enterprise, ex-Bass via Unique,

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closed. (E171, U67, U133)

BARKINGSIDE, CHEQUERS, S&N PE, H unused. Was **INVESTIGATOR (YE OLDE)** for a while. (X12, U165)
ILFORD, BLACK HORSE, ex-Whitbread, H removed. (X72, U188)

ILFORD, CRANBROOK, ex-S&N, closed in July 2008 and for sale. (X72, U159)

ILFORD, OVERDRAFT, Free, previously reported as absorbed into cinema, confirmed in November 2008 now converted to an Indian restaurant. (U172)

ILFORD, STOP OUT, Free, confirmed in November 2008 now converted to an Indian restaurant. (X73)

NORTH

N1, DUKE OF YORK, Platform 8, Kings Cross Station, Free (Select Service Partners), closed and boarded up along with whole parade of retail units. Formerly **COOPERS**, originally **YORK TAVERN**. (N62, U109, U182, IS9, U184)

N1, MACBETH, Enterprise. No real ale. Was renamed **HOXTON DISTILLERY** for a short while. (N50, IS16, U182, U183)

N1, MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, 64 Freeling St, ex-Belhaven, originally Truman, now demolished and flats built on site by January 2009. (N51, U147, U181)

N1, OXFORD ARMS, Enterprise, ex-Belhaven, originally Truman, closed, future uncertain. (N54)

N1, TROLLEY STOP, Free, closed and being converted to flats. (N60, U184)

N6, BULL, Meredith Group, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (N81, U156, U174, U185)

N6, DUKES HEAD, Punch, ex-Bass, H unused. (N81)

N7, HOLLOWAY, ex-SFI, closed. Formerly **LITTEN TREE**. (U104, U165)

N9, ROSIES (OF EDMONTON), Greene King, closed.

Was **RAT & CARROT (ROSIES)** for a while. (N100, U117, U158, U194, U195)

N11, DUCK, Greene King, now converted to restaurant. Was **RAT & CARROT (THE DUCK)** for a while. (N109, U109, U117, U154, U160, U189)

N17, BOOTPLACES, ex-Bass, closed. Formerly **CHEQUERS**. (N133, U160)

N20, BLACK BULL, M&B, now demolished. (N147, U151, U165, U187, U197, U200)

BARNET (EN5), AFTER OFFICE HOURS, Camelot Inns, closed. Formerly **XCALIBAR**, **BUENA VISTA**, **BAR TEN** and originally **JUG & TRUMPET**. (N250, U157, U164, U166, U170, U180, U189)

NORTH WEST

NW1, BAR 113, Free, still closed and under conversion for use as an Italian restaurant. (N169, U156, U172, U180)

NW1, GLOUCESTER ARMS, ex-Spirit, now mostly converted for school purposes but not yet in use. Pub name retained and still very prominent. (N167, U184, U201)

NW1, GOAT IN BOOTS, ex-Taylor Walker, now

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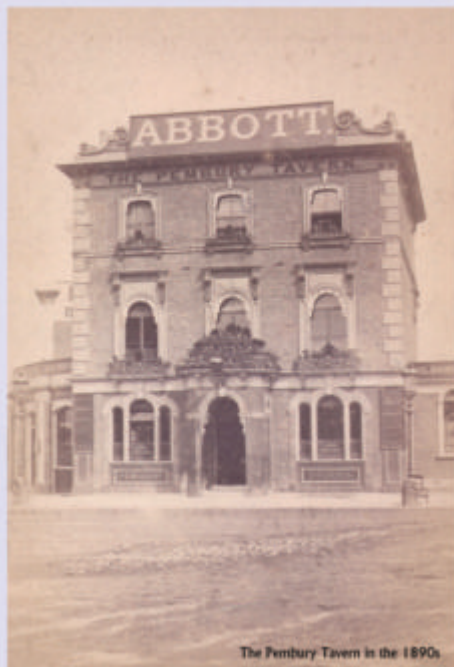
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demolished along with the whole of the old University of Westminster buildings. (N167, U182)

NW1, OH! BAR, ex-Watney, closed. Formerly O'BAR, SPORTS DOME and ROYALES. (N174, U132, U138, U165)

HARROW WEALD (HA3), LEAPING BAR, Free, closed by early 2008, planning application submitted to Harrow Council for demolition and replacement with nine houses. (W217)

PINNER (HA5), WOODMAN, Eastcote, Enterprise, closed following bankruptcy of tenant. (W181)

WEMBLEY (HA0), CHEQUERS, ex-S&N, closed and awaiting demolition. (W219)

SOUTH EAST

SE5, WICKWOOD TAVERN, Young, now converted to residential use. (SE63, U154)

SE8, BIRDS NEST, Free, no real ale. (SE77)

SE11, ELEPHANT & HIPPO, Admiral Taverns, ex-Bass via Pyramid Pub Co, still closed and now boarded up.

Previously unreported renamings were to CASTLE TAVERN, an antipodean pub c2000 and HOOPS BAR, a Celtic pub by 2002. Originally CARPENTERS ARMS. (SE106, U202)

SE11, ROYAL VAUXHALL TAVERN, ex-Courage, no real ale. A gay pub. (SE110)

SE11, SURREY TAVERN, ex-Watney, now demolished in 2008 as part of the Oval redevelopment scheme. The site will become an open concourse leading to the pavilion.

(SE110, U202)

BELVEDERE, BELVOIR TAVERN, ex-Courage, closed. (3SE206, K31, U150)

BELVEDERE, CHEQUERS, ex-Courage, closed. (3SE206, K31, U185)

BELVEDERE, PRINCE ALFRED, Phoenix, now being converted to flats. (3SE207, U85, U112, K32, U163)

BEXLEY, OLD MILL, Spirit, ex-S&N, converted to residential use. (3SE210, U59, U107, U149, K33, U164)

CROYDON, CROWN, 90 Stanley Rd, Enterprise, confirmed now converted to flats. (3SE239, U52, U55, U184, U198)

CROYDON, GRADISCA, Free, converted to African/Caribbean grocer's shop. Formerly BARELLOS. (U181, U186)

CROYDON, HALF MOON, ex-Taylor Walker, contrary to U197, demolition was only to the extent of making good after fire damage. Still closed with shell largely intact. Keep on pub database for the time being. (3SE243, U181, U197)

CROYDON, HARP ROCK BAR, ex-Bass, confirmed now demolished and flats under construction on site. Formerly HARP. (3SE243, U192, U200)

CROYDON, NOWHERE INN PARTICULAR, Free, ex-Allied in 1990, confirmed now converted to flats. Formerly CANTERBURY ARMS. (3SE237, U58, U192)

ERITH, NORDENFELT, ex-Watney, closed and to let. (3SE255, U64, U85, K65, U164)

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Capital Pubcheck - update 205

closed. (3SE273, U60, U149, K72)

SIDCUP, BLACK HORSE, Enterprise, closed. Was **BLUE ROSE** for a while. (3SE272, U107, K127, U193, U196)

WELLING, INFERNOS, ex-Whitbread, closed. Formerly **NEW MOON (SHOTZ)**, **MOON & SIXPENCE** and originally **STATION**. (3SE287, U74, U149, K146, U168, U180)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), MUSE, ex-S&N, already reported converted to office use, now a hair and beauty salon. Formerly **HORSE & GROOM**. (SW38, U138, U158, U169)

SW1(W), PUZZLE SW1, Puzzle Pub Co, closed. Formerly **OLD MONK**. (U150, U169, U171, U187)

SW9, LIVING, Free, closed and freehold for sale. Formerly **LIVING ROOM**, **ISOBAR** and originally **COACH & HORSES**. (SW82, U141, U149, U157, U182)

SW11, MISH MASH, Independent, closed; company now operates from former **OSMIUM** premises along the road opposite. Formerly **FRONT ROOM**, **NEW CRAVEN**, **HARVEYS** and **HARVEY FLOORBANGERS (BAR)**. (SW89, WB35)

WEST

W5, GRANVILLE, M&B, now confirmed demolished. A new pub/bar is planned for the ground floor of replacement flats, a common ploy to obtain planning permission. (W93, U202)

W11, DUKE OF CLARENCE, ex-Bass, already reported demolished, site now occupied by residential development named 'Duke of Clarence Court'. (W235)

FELTHAM (TW13), PRINCE OF WALES, ex-Courage, already reported demolished, now absorbed into 'The Centre' shopping complex. (W236)

GREENFORD (UB6), LITTEN TREE, ex-SFI, now demolished. (W142, U199)

HAYES (UB4), WILLOW TREE, Enterprise, demolished in early January. (W162)

UXBRIDGE (UB8), COWLEY BRICK, Enterprise, closed and lease for sale. (W206)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, OLD CHINA HAND. Was renamed **OLD GRINGO** for a short period in 2008 with a Mexican theme but has now reverted to its previous name. Formerly **MULLIGANS (LITTLE HOUSE)**, **O'HANLON'S** and originally **THREE CROWNS**. (E26, U90, U113, U154, U175, U185)

EC4, COCK TAVERN (YE OLDE), -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Wells: Bombardier; +guest beer (e.g. Batemans). Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (E48, U106, U162)

WC1, MABELS TAVERN, +Shepherd Neame: Kent's Best, seasonal beers. (N24, U165, HB9, W20)

WC2, CROSS KEYS, -beers listed; +Brodie: IPA, Special; +Harvey: Sussex Bitter; +guest beer. Pub is leased by Brodie family. (W31)

WC2, DALYS WINE BAR. The basement bar named Hemisphere, with a separate entrance at 46 Essex St, has been renamed 'Southerner', uniquely selling keg Speights beers from New Zealand, including Old Dark and

Distinction. A sign claims Speights Brewery is 19,100 km away. (W31, U199)

WC2, GEORGE IV, -Taylor: Landlord; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. The freehold was apparently acquired by the LSE in 2003 and since the demise of Massive, the lessee is unclear. (W33)

W1(F), GRAFTON ARMS, -beers listed except Greene King: Abbot; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; +guest beer (e.g. White Horse). (W45)

W1(F), O'NEILLS. Renamed **LUKIN**. Retains Fuller: London Pride. (W47, U194)

W1(S), BATH HOUSE, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Old Speckled Hen, Abbot. (W63)

EAST

E1, THREE CRANES. Reverted to **FORTY FIVE** by September 2008. Still no real ale, H now removed. (E65, U79)

E2, CAMEL, -beers listed; +Crouch Vale: Brewers Gold; +guest beer. (E79, U75, U89, U158, U188)

E2, FLORIST, -Fuller: London Pride; +Sharp: Doom Bar. (E80, U70, U112, U158, U170)

E2, MISTY MOON, -beers listed except Courage: Directors; +Greene King: Abbot; +guest beers (e.g. Jennings). Thatcher Heritage cider also on H. Formerly **CAMDENS HEAD**. (E79, U177, U179, U189)

E3, LITTLE DRIVER, -Adnams: Bitter; +Harvey: Sussex Bitter; +Taylor: Landlord. (E90, U69, U72, U79, U117, U121, U134, U143, U177, U199)

E4, LARKSHALL, -beers listed except Courage: Directors; +Adnams: Broadside; +Greene King: Abbot. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (E96, U106, U135)

E4, QUEEN ELIZABETH, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Now Orchid, ex-S&N via Spirit. (E96)

E4, ROYSTON ARMS, 83 Chingford Mount Rd. Now M&B, ex-Bass. Note correct address. (E97, U161)

E17, LORD RAGLAN, -beer listed; +Adnams: Bitter. (E167, U106)

E17, QUEENS ARMS, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Now Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique (not Free). (E168)

BARKINGSIDE, COUNTY ARMS. Now simply **COUNTY**, -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +guest beer (e.g. Jennings). (X12, U166, U190, U197)

ILFORD, BELL. Right hand bar now completely in use as Indian restaurant named 'Glenkie', integral to pub, left hand bar as normal. (X72, U164)

NORTH

N1, HUNTINGDON. Renamed **CUCKOO**, -Fuller: London Pride; +Adnams: Explorer; +Taylor: Landlord. Originally **HUNTINGDON ARMS**. (N48, U123, U144, IS10);

N1, ISLINGTON (THE). Renamed **KINK**. Formerly **RALPHS**. (N56, U120)

N7, GEORGE, -beer listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Shepherd Neame: Spifire. (N87, U145)

N19, SETTLE INN. Renamed **CHARLOTTE DESPARD**, -beers listed; +varying real ales. Quiz night on Tuesdays, jazz on Sundays. Formerly **DOG**. (N143, U138, U162)

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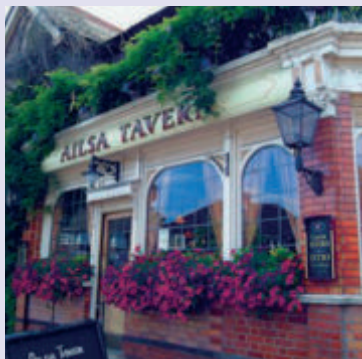
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N21, DOG & DUCK. Now Enterprise, leased to the Inch Pub Co, ex-Whitbread. (N151, U188)

N21, SALISBURY ARMS, -beers listed; +three guest beers including seasonsals from micros. (N153, U165)

NORTH WEST

NW5, LORD PALMERSTON, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter, Broadside; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +guest beers. Now Geronimo Inns, ex-Courage. (N199)

WEMBLEY (HA9), GREYHOUND. Glasshouse TMA have gone into administration, pub still operated with temporary tenant by S&N. (W219, U202)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, LAZY. Renamed **NINE BAR** by November 2008. Formerly **LIAM OG'S** and **DOCKHEAD**. (SE13, U193)

SE4, WICKHAM ARMS, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Harvey: Sussex Bitter; +Taylor: Landlord. Now Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique. (SE52)

SE5, CAMBRIA, -beers listed; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +guest beer (e.g. Batemans). Now Punch, ex-Bass. (SE56)

SE5, SUN & DOVES, -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Now S&N PE, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SE56)

SE11, HANOVER ARMS, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter. (SE107)

SE13, DACRE ARMS; -Courage: Directors; +Greene King: IPA; +guest beers from SIBA (e.g. Banks Bitter, Harveys Sussex Bitter and Taylor Landlord. Now Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique. (SE118)

CROYDON, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter. Now Admiral Taverns, ex-Labatts via Enterprise. (3SE241, U98)

CROYDON, SVELTE. Renamed **HUB.** Formerly **ESCAPADE**, originally **McCLUSKEY'S**. (U131, U184, U197)

CROYDON, SHIP OF FOOLS, -beers listed except Courage: Directors; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot; +Marston: Pedigree; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +four guests. (U127)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ), TWO CHAIRMEN. Renamed **NANCY'S** by January 2009, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord. Now Spirit, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SW46, U157)

SW2, HOPE & ANCHOR. Renamed **GRAND UNION BAR & GRILL.** One of a chain of four appealing burger bar/restaurants, 'Grand Union Brixton' still operates from the Young's freehold and remains tied to Young's for draught beer: Young's Bitter and a seasonal guest. (SW53)

SW4, ANGELL ARMS, ex-Inntrepreneur, now confirmed converted to flats. (SW59, U170, U178)

SW4, COACH & HORSES. Beer range now includes two of Sambrook: Wandle Ale, a Twickenham or a Westerham beer. Was **ACRE TAVERN** for a while. (SW59, CSL11)

SW4, ROSE & CROWN is a Greene King pub (typographic correction to CSL guide). (CSL18)

SW4, SAND, Free, now empty commercial unit; delete from pub database. Formerly **CLOCK HOUSE**. (SW59, U153, U204).

SW8, MARKET TAVERN, Free, now empty commercial unit; delete from pub database. (SW78, U141, U185)

SW8, ROYAL ALBERT, independent free house owned by D C Beer Brothers, not 'D C B Brothers': correction to CSL guide. (SW79, CSL36)

SW9, PRINCE ALBERT, -beer listed; + Greene King seasonal beers. (SW82, U172)

SW11, MEYRICK ARMS. Renamed **PEACOCK**, still no real ale; rebranded in February after major refurbishment as a coffee/cocktail bar with a range of keg lagers and foreign beers on draught. (SW89, WB35)

SW11 OSMIUM. Renamed **MISHMASH.** An independent bar, still no real ale (U198, WB35)

SW13, BROWN DOG, -beers listed; +guest beers on two handpumps. Formerly **ROSE**, Gouramys fish restaurant and originally **ROSE OF DENMARK** (SW95, BRP7)

SW16, EARL FERRERS, +Sambrook: Wandle Ale. Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur via Unique. (SW105, U201)

WEST

GREENFORD (UB6), RAILWAY. Now reverted to Spirit management from Orchid following the latter's administration. Note correct name (not **RAILWAY HOTEL** as reported in U204). (W142, U197, U204)

SOUTHALL (UB2), PLOUGH, 10 Tentelow La, Norwood Green; +guest beer (e.g. Adnams, Brains, Caledonian, Everards, Moorhouse, Wychwood etc). (W188)

UXBRIDGE (UB9), QUEENS HEAD. Was Orchid for a while, now reverting to Spirit following Orchid's administration, -beers listed except Young: Bitter; +Draught Bass; +Brains: SA; +Wadworth: 6X; +guest beer. (W214)

TWO DOVES

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DAVID HUMPHREYS

The death of David Humphreys at the turn of the year saw the sad loss of an influential figure in the early development of CAMRA in London.

David hailed from Manchester and was a great fan of Boddington's before it all went wrong. He joined CAMRA during the early expansionary period of 1972/73. When it became apparent that one Branch for the whole of London was unworkable because of the large numbers attending meetings, it was decided that there should be two Branches: North and South London. David was a pioneer member of the South London Branch committee under Andrew Cunningham's chairmanship. The branch only lasted for a few months before further splits became necessary to accommodate the still growing numbers. When South West and South East London Branches were created, Andrew stood down as chairman to concentrate on his national executive duties. David was the natural choice to be the first chairman of SW London, while Mostyn Lewis took the chair of SE London.

Early meetings of the Branch, held at the George in Balham and the Spread Eagle in Wandsworth, were memorable affairs. Attendances typically exceeded 100 people and, as with any new organisation, meetings were hectic with a fair amount of heated discussion as to how the Branch locally, and CAMRA nationally, should operate. David handled these meetings with great skill, and had the vital facility of allowing good discussions to flow while cutting short the silly stuff. In private discussions afterwards, a common topic was how well the meeting had been chaired.

At the time, David was working in the Arts and Recreation department of the now defunct Greater London Council. Little did the leaders of the GLC realise that the most important recreational activity which they were promoting (albeit unofficially) was campaigning for real ale.

David was among those who helped gain SW London Branch the reputation as an 'awkward squad'. He had strong ideas about how CAMRA should be run, and those ideas often conflicted with the conventional wisdom. Some wise individuals at the centre realised that the Branch's seemingly negative attitude was anything but; the Branch may have had criticisms of what was being done, but only because David and others had sound, positive ideas of their own. Unfortunately, a majority did not, so advantage was never fully

taken of David's talents.

By the late 1970s David had become somewhat disillusioned with CAMRA for what he saw as lack of real campaigning zeal and his involvement tailed off. He turned his attention to the SPBW (hardly a campaigning organisation!) and over the years occupied various offices, including that of national chairman. With the late Peter Smith, David was instrumental in the founding of the SPBW's Commons Branch which met in the Windmill on Clapham Common and held its meetings at a table in the centre of which reposed a sheep's skull. (Please don't ask...)

David later moved to work as a messenger in the City of London and from there to Lincoln's Inn as an office factotum. Although he occupied a very junior grade, several senior figures in the legal profession recognised that he had considerable talent and it was not unknown for senior judges and QCs to ask him to run an eye over their often hurriedly prepared written opinions and suggest improvements in drafting.

David was always an entertaining drinking companion, with a dry and occasionally caustic wit and an ability to draw the best out of any joke he told. His drinking habits were, however, slightly odd. He had a habit of drinking slowly at first and, as rounds were bought, allowing an assembly of partly filled pint glasses to accumulate in front of him. Then, shortly before closing time, he would polish off the lot. I shall always remember how this habit spooked a waiter in Zum Uerige in Duesseldorf who simply could not understand why David was accumulating all those part filled glasses. The poor guy ended up shaking his head in bewilderment and muttering about how there was a whole brewery full of beer behind him and how "we do not have shortages in Germany anymore".

On retiring from Lincoln's Inn, David sold his by now rather valuable flat on Clapham Common and moved to Ramsgate. His flat there overlooked the harbour and had a pub with a good selection of real ales directly opposite. He still maintained contact with many of his friends in London although, ultimately, failing health meant that he could no longer travel up to town for a session with them. He will be greatly missed by many of those around in the early London CAMRA days as well as the many friends he made outside CAMRA.

BS

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

BERT FIELD



Bert died unexpectedly of a heart attack on 23 February, aged 76. 'Stalwart' is a word often used in CAMRA obituaries. The dictionary definition is 'sturdy, resolute and determined' and that certainly applied to Bert. Whilst most who knew him will

remember him for his unstinting efforts at Battersea, London Drinker and various other festivals, let us not overlook the man himself. He was the nicest and most decent of men. The following remembrance has been put together by his close friends Chris Cobbold and Roger Owen.

Albert Samuel Field was born in January 1933 at the Elephant & Castle although he spent some years in Devon as an evacuee. He left school at 14 and joined the Southern Railway as a messenger at Nine Elms depot. Apart from his National Service, split between Yorkshire and Benghazi in Libya, Bert spent his whole working life on the railway. In many ways, the railway was his life. He was amongst the last firemen to have the honour of having his name painted in the cab of his locomotive, 35019 French Line CGT. Bert was, however, a practical man and changed over to become a motorman at Peckham Rye in 1958. As an ASLEF shop steward he was given the nickname 'Keyhole Kate' for his campaign to have cab keyholes that caused draughts covered over.

Bert married Pat in 1955 – during a strike – and they had two sons, Brian and Phillip. Bert's main aim in life was to provide for his family and he secured their future in the form of a fine house in Herne Hill.

Bert had many interests which he shared with his many and various friends. He was particularly fond of German beer and Bavaria became his spiritual home. He visited every year for 20 years,

originally with Roger and latterly with Chris. Roger has particular memories of the Matteisa Beer Hall, alas now a shopping mall, where they would bribe the band with bottles of scotch. He was particularly fond of weisse beers, especially Karg Dunkelweisse from Munall. Bert was also in the various parties of 'ne'er do wells' – Chris's own expression! – that Chris led around Eastern Europe from time to time. Bert also had regular canal boat trips with some old railway colleagues and, in recent years, discovered the delights of the Isle of Man. Wherever he went, Bert collected beer mats for friends who did not have his opportunities to travel. He was also a great fan of Trad Jazz and was a member of Ronnie Scott's Club although his musical tastes were wide and he enjoyed a bit of Rock and Roll in the correct places: even pubs and beer festivals.

Bert joined CAMRA 11 years ago when he retired, to give himself something to do – and do he did! Although technically a member of South East London Branch, he met Chris early on and so became active in South West London Branch and in particular at Battersea Beer Festival. He organised the Glasses Stand for many years and he will be hard to replace. He was always amongst the first to arrive in the morning, having breakfast with Chris and Dave Plackett to look forward to the day's efforts. Bert also really enjoyed working at London Drinker Festival where, as well as helping with the glasses, he used to chop up the French bread with gusto, as marked by all the blue plasters on his fingers! The last time I spoke to him, he said how much he was looking forward to this year's London Drinker.

Through Chris and Dave Paterson, Bert signed up for the GLC Real Ale Society where, typical of the man, he comfortably made yet another set of friends. He enjoyed the monthly coach trips, even the one where he got left behind but, courtesy of his railway pass, beat the coach back home.

Our thoughts are with Pat, Brian and Phillip at this difficult time. Bert will be missed by so many people in different ways.

TH

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

More tales from the trade

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

44. Health & safety: manual handling

In the Netherlands, draft Heineken is now only available in 30L kegs, for the safety of the draymen handling them. Meanwhile, in the UK we still have brewers' barrels, i.e. 36 gallons or 168 litres, and our draymen seem able to handle them! Not that our British draymen are foolhardy: their trade union is currently in negotiation on the loading of drays to minimise hazards.

45. The Oliver Cromwell, St. Ives, Hunts

This Good Beer Guide listed pub is popular with the local diving community as witness the two engraved brass notices on the back bar: "St. Ives Sub-Aqua Club" and "Decompression Bar."

Other interest groups showing a liking for real ale include railway enthusiasts and computer types. The first group ever to affiliate to CAMRA was the North London Hobby Computer Club, back in the late 1970s.

46. Shepherd's Market pub

Long ago, a friend discovered a pub in Mayfair, and

thought that the rest of us would enjoy visiting it. As he wasn't too sure of the address, we met in a pub in Victoria, and, after one drink, set out across St James' Park and Green Park. En route, I asked him: "What's this new pub of yours like?" and he replied, "It's like a village pub in the middle of Mayfair ... full of village idiots." And it was! He swears he cannot remember giving such a description, but I do.

47. Redange 'Quaffit' stout

Some years ago I met the owner and head brewer of a brewpub in Luxembourg. He kindly introduced me to his beers, including the excellent 'Quaffit' stout. The name arose one day when a group of strangers arrived and placed their order in impeccable French. Later he heard them talking in English and deduced that they were interpreters from Brussels. While they were discussing the stout, one of them asked "but could you quaff it?" He decided that this would be a good name for it.

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THE ELEANOR ARMS

SHEPHERD NEAME



THE ELEANOR ARMS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 8 Pins in a Barrel
2. 4 Fingers on a Hand (and One Thumb)
3. 20 Quires in a Ream of Paper
4. 75 Lives Lost in the Tay Bridge Disaster
5. 2 West Central Postal Districts in London
6. 160 Stones in a Ton
7. 10 Provinces of Canada (and 2 Territories)
8. 5 Pieces of Wood in a Wicket
9. 50 Queen Annes Gate is the Address of the Home Office
10. 3 Change-Overs in a Relay Race

5BY4:

The Beatles' No. 1's were followed by these records:

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

10. Hello Goodbye – The Ballad of Bonnie & Clyde (Georgie Fame)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The world's largest astronomical observatory with approximately 25 telescopes is Kitt Peak near Tucson in Arizona.
2. The make and model of car found recently in the late Dr. Harold Carr's garage was a Bugatti Type 57S Atalante. It actually sold for £3,043,293 – at about the bottom of the estimated range.
3. The other two other cars found in the same garage were an E-type Jaguar and an Aston Martin (model not disclosed).
4. The London landmark with the postcode SW1A 1AA is Buckingham Palace.
5. And Broadcasting House is to be found at W1A 1AA.
6. The Wharncliffe Viaduct is at Hanwell, on the Great Western Railway. (You can see it behind the Fuller's pub, the Viaduct.)
7. The colours of the Olympic rings in order left to right are blue, yellow, black, green, red
8. The original name of Francis Drake's Golden Hind was the Pelican
9. The heavenly body, Ceres, bears the distinction that it is the largest asteroid.
10. The main title of the Gilbert & Sullivan opera subtitled "The Peer and the Peri" is "Iolanthe."

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SUFFOLK CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR 2008

Hello again. Let us celebrate the coming of Spring with another definition stolen from the Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce. No, let me clarify that; the dictionary is by him, the theft is by me:

Cabbage (n): A familiar kitchen-garden vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head.

Right, let's get started on this month's ritual torment commencing, as ever, with the number puzzles:

1. 6 S on a ST
2. 12 is a H on the BS
3. 8 E on an AS
4. 75 LL in the TBD
5. 3 P on the MS
6. 32 M is the L of the CT
7. 10 P for the ZT in S
8. 1773 Y of the BTP
9. 30 OP in a HC
10. 6 TM of E (including LJJ)

And so with awful inevitability we come to 5BY4 which, for no real reason, I have subtitled, "Rivers of Europe - whose is longest?" – I'm sure it has something to do with latent smut. Anyway, all you have to do is match the rivers with their lengths and wait until June to see if you are right:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Thames | A. 220 miles |
| 2. Rhine | B. 625 miles |
| 3. Shannon | C. 626 miles |
| 4. Elbe | D. 1,776 miles |
| 5. Rhone | E. 820 miles |
| 6. Severn | F. 505 miles |
| 7. Volga | G. 706 miles |
| 8. Tagus | H. 2,194 miles |
| 9. Danube | I. 215 miles |
| 10. Loire | J. 240 miles |

If I were really in a thieving mood I would steal the term "General Ignorance" from the Excellent QI for the next lot of questions which bring this little farrago to a close but I'm not so I won't:

1. The centre of the city of Napier was completely rebuilt in 1931 in the Art Deco style following a major earthquake. In what country is it to be found?
2. Eli Whitney (1765-1825) was a firearms manufacturer but what was his first major invention?
3. And talking of inventions, what device was invented independently by Sir Joseph Swan and Thomas Edison?
4. Possibly the best known British actress of the fifties and sixties was Audrey Hepburn, but where was she born?



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5. What is the name of the river that flows through Moscow?
6. What capital city stands on the River Spree?
7. And talking of Spree, who appeared in a film of that name in 1967, shortly before her untimely death in a motoring accident?
8. The Riesenrad in Vienna featured in the film, the Third man. What is it?
9. How many moons does Saturn have?
10. In sporting terms, what do High Wycombe, Watford and Reading have in common?

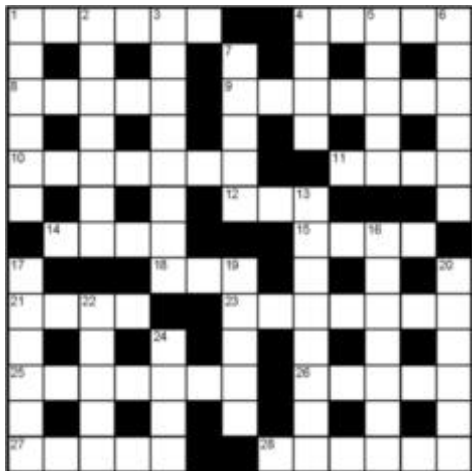
If you've got this far successfully, award yourself a pat on the back and a pint (at your own expense). You can always promise yourself not to waste your time on this rubbish when the June edition comes out (with this month's answers) – but you know you will!

In the meantime, have a good couple of months.

Andy Pirson

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name _____

Address _____

All correct entries received by first post on 20th May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

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

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

FEBRUARY'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Young woman to cut and run. [6]
4. Turn scarlet when run through. [5]
8. Points made by those against adopting daughter. [5]
9. Its reasonable for soldier to enter pub. [7]
10. I, apparently, fall down on refreshment for pupils. [3,4]
11. It's thought to be engaged in world-wide arms smuggling. [4]
12. Short way back for her. [3]
14. Fair but somewhat misleading? [4]
15. Port spilt finally in disturbance. [4]
18. Initiating raids on eagles to find eggs. [3]
21. Help with a wager. [4]
23. I get the pip about dog being fastened up. [7]
25. Unmarried drunk found on beach. [7]
26. They promote being married in a study. [5]
27. Born with extremely dangerous requirements. [5]
28. Rows follow top pilot's tricks. [6]

DOWN

1. Look at the bird. [6]
2. Loves snakes and . . . ? [7]
3. Someone looking at the paper. [8]
4. Have two attempts at dance. [4]
5. Expert in middle of road went fast. [5]
6. Toy soldiers waste my money. [6]
7. One's inclined to take short run. [5]
13. Church music follows member to resting place . . . [8]
16. . . . as Norma unravels bow maybe. [7]
17. On pyre start burning priest. [6]
19. Hesitate to allow woman into town. [5]
20. Handsome youngster causing trouble and evil to return. [6]
22. Choice of travel items. [5]
24. It's a long time starting and goes extraordinarily slowly. [4]

Winner of the prize for the December Crossword:
Charles Creasey, Balham, London SW12.

Other correct entries were received from:
Ted Allday, Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Hilary Ayling, Jack Bass, Steve Block, D.Brand, Jeremy Brinkworth, Ben Burfutt, Paul Curson, Eddie Carr, John Cattermull, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, Carole Cook, Kevin Creighton, Carole Daly, Dave the barman, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Kathryn Everett, Brian Exford, Mike Farrelly, Arthur Fox-Ache, Anthony Gdula & Jess the border collie, Chloe Gilbey, Malcolm Graham, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Virginia Grigovitch, Stuart Guthrie, Graham Hill, William Hill, Sheila Horncastle, Howard Izzett, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Les Jenkins, P.Kerrigan, Roger Knight, Pete Large, Mrs. M.Lopatis, Mike Morrison, Al Mountain, Paul Nicholls, Alan O'Brien, Michael Oliver, Charles Owens, Nigel Parsons, Mark Pilkington, Ms. G.Pote, C.F.Pottins, Derek Pryce, John Redwood, Richard the Thirst, Alph River, Richard Rogers, Bryan Smith, Lesley Smith, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Trevor Turner, Vic the Beard, Andy Wakefield, Leo Walsh, Martin Weedon, Sue Wilson.

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