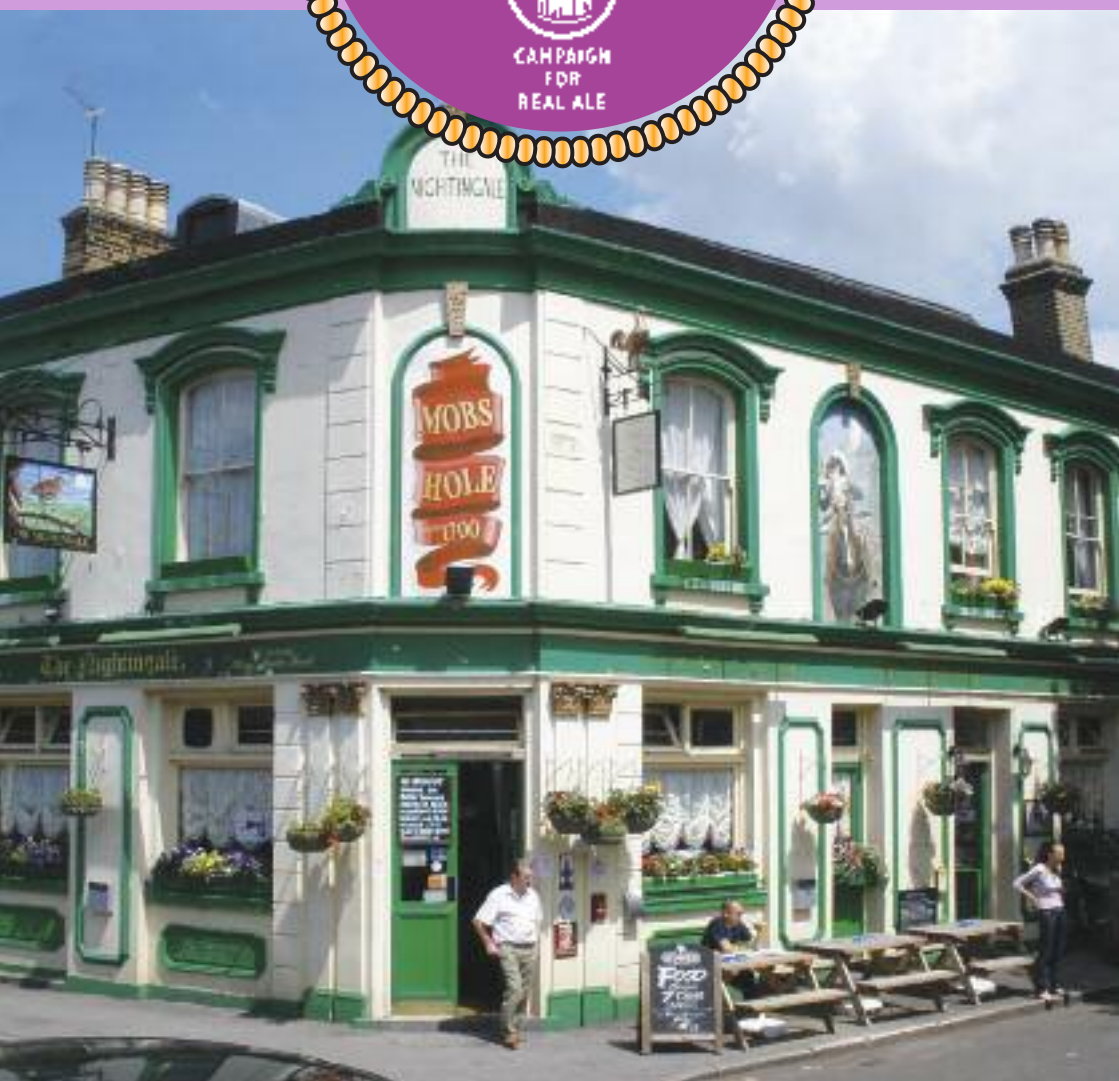


Vol 31
No 5

LONDON DRINKER

CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Oct
Nov
2009



The Nightingale, Wanstead (see page 24)

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London Drinker is published by Mike Hammersley on behalf of the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and edited by Geoff Strawbridge.

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

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Let's drink to London pubs!

From 7 to 15 November, the London Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) will be celebrating our first London Pubs Week. It's not that we won't be visiting our local pubs every other week of the year as well, but we'd like to publicise our appreciation of their beer and our thanks for their hospitality.

The new (2010) Good Beer Guide includes 293 entries for Greater London – the maximum 'quota' the Branches collectively are allowed. This is the first year for a long time that that number has been reached, and we could have submitted more entries if we had been able to do so. Last year we could muster only 276 that we could feel confident would achieve consistently top beer quality.

Readers of the Good Beer Guide will search in vain, I suggest, for any bias within CAMRA in favour of or against particular brewers or pub operators. Of our current top 293 pubs, 99 are owned by one of a dozen brewers (including both Wells and Young's, in case you ask) and 50 are independent free houses. The rest, nearly half, are tied to or managed by one of sixteen pub companies, with Enterprise, Punch and Wetherspoon between them accounting for more than 100.

Not only do we seem to have more good pubs in London these days, but we certainly have more local beers available. A year ago the popularity of the London Branches 'LocAle' scheme could not be con-

fidently predicted. Fuller's London Pride was already an established national brand, and what other London breweries had most people ever heard of? With the London Pubs Week in view, we can now identify pubs all over London that are likely to be serving either permanently or as guest beers cask ales from Brodies, Meantime, Sambrook's, Twickenham or other microbreweries just outside London. And the larger pub companies, as well as smaller operators such as Antic, Geronimo and Renaissance – to name three in south west London by way of example – are helping to promote these beers.

So what are we campaigning for now? Well, too many pubs are still closing because their licensees cannot make a living. And that's mainly because their beer is too expensive. If I may quote from Roger Protz's introduction to the Good Beer Guide, "*Pubs are being throttled by the Chancellor, who ignores the blindingly obvious fact that he is losing revenue – duty, income tax and VAT – as a result of his taxation policy that sends drinkers into the arms of the vendors of cheap alcohol in supermarkets*".

But too many licensees are at the same time being throttled by the terms of their company ties. Tony Hedger exposed the complexity of this topic in the last editorial, and CAMRA has now submitted the case for reform in its 'super-complaint' to the Office of Fair Trading. In this context I do

not think it is fair for any pub owning company with no interest in brewing to tie its tenants' beer supplies. Nor do I think it is fair for any brewery to charge its tenants more for the supply of its beers than it charges the free trade. And surely no publicans should be tied to paying their brewers or pubcos more for their

supplies than the prices they'd be charged in their local supermarkets.

Our publicans do a great deal for us. Let us now campaign to get a better deal for them!



Geoff Strawbridge

The 2010 Good Beer Guide may be ordered by telephone (01727 867201) from CAMRA HQ @ £15.99 (CAMRA members £11.00) plus £2.50 postage & packing (£1 for each additional copy).

LONDON PUBS WEEK, 7-15 NOVEMBER 2009

For those wishing to celebrate London Pubs Week by drinking beers from our local breweries, an ale trail/passport scheme is planned involving those London pubs, now more than 30, that are participating in the CAMRA London Branches' LocAle scheme. The idea is for visitors to have a pint of a local ale in each of these pubs during the nine day period and for one of the bar staff to sign and date their passport, and for those submitting fully stamped passports then to be eligible for prizes!

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The tie

A typo crept in last month. My editorial was supposed to be called 'Tied (not 'Tired') and emotive?'. Anyway, CAMRA's super-complaint has been submitted; it can be read at www.camra.org.uk/page.aspx?o=305998

The issue needed to be forced because, as CAMRA's chief executive, Mike Benner says, "The status quo is no longer an option". This view is supported by the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers, the representative organisation for pubs, but the British Beer and Pub Association are more cautious. They are worried that the Office of Fair Trading investigation will be a distraction during the economic downturn. More reason then for making a positive contribution to the discussions now taking place within the trade.

The OFT has started its work by asking licensees for their

experiences of the tie. The Family Brewers Association has already said that an end to the tie would leave the market open for the global brewers and consequently lead to the closure of more pubs and traditional breweries, a view also held by CAMRA.

Let us all hope that some serious and sensible discussions are taking place which will form the basis of the eventual settlement. Significantly, both Enterprise Inns and Punch Taverns have already volunteered to stop putting restrictive covenants on sites that they sell. There is hope.

The campaign to reform the beer tie neatly coincides with Government consultation on the reform or repeal of the Land Agreements Exclusion and Revocation Order 2004, which currently excludes agreements such as the tie from the Competition Act 1998 Chapter 1 prohibition on anti-competitive

behaviour and was justified at the time for largely practical reasons of not placing an excessive burden on the OFT. Consultation, open until 4 November, follows a recent Competition Commission investigation into the grocery sector and evidence of 'land-banking' by supermarket chains. The Government's view now is that the Order is an aberration in the enforcement of competition law and ought to be repealed altogether, subject to the results of the consultation, and that businesses should be expected to examine the individual competition effect of land agreements, like any others, to ensure their compatibility with competition law.

Meanwhile, three London MPs: Sadiq Khan (Tooting), Kate Hoey (Vauxhall) and Martin Linton (Battersea) are joining the first of a series of workshops with members of the anti-pubco group, Fair Pint, to 'discuss the

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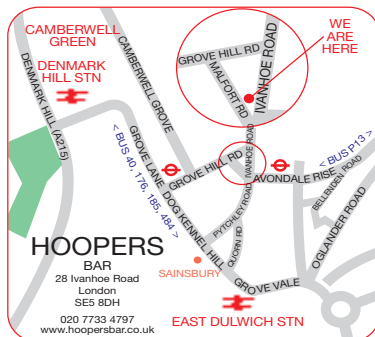
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value of the pub to the local area and how the pubco model is putting that at risk'. Perhaps this is something that they could pass on to their Treasury colleagues.

Law and order

The Home Office has decided that our traditional pint beer glass needs replacing with a safer version, made most likely from polycarbonate material. Several alternative designs will be considered over the next four months. By whom, may I ask? More worryingly, the reasoning behind this, according to the newspaper article I saw, is because of the "87,000 injuries caused every year by glasses from the country's pubs and bars." Think on that number; are 238 people 'glassed' every day in this country? Sorry, I don't believe that – or are we actually counting every single glass dropped by bar staff? I think that we are having our intelligence insulted here.

It seems strange to me that

when CAMRA suggested changing to lined glasses, we were told that it was logistically and economically impossible. Do the same conditions not apply here? I also wonder about hygiene; can anyone tell me if you can clean a polycarbonate 'glass' as well as you can actual glass?

September saw the introduction of 'drinking banning orders', described in some quarters as 'alcohol asbos'. They were not universally well received with the Magistrates Association being particularly critical, saying that they simply duplicated existing powers. Oddly enough, two organisations to offer their support were the Wine and Spirit Trade Association and Alcohol Concern.

There have been significant developments in Scotland as well but these merit looking at in depth at a later date. After all, what happens in Scotland may well come south: remember the Poll Tax.

New chairman for Portman Group

The Portman Group, the drinks industry self-regulatory body, has appointed its first external chairman, Seymour Fortescue, previously chief executive of the Banking Code Standards Board. On appointment, Mr F said: "Self-regulation based on a tough code of practice that is rigorously monitored and enforced is the right way forward". No disrespect intended, but is that what happened in the banking industry then?

Around the trade

Before I get on to the good news, let us not forget what we are up against. In a recent poll conducted through Facebook, the most popular beer was Corona Extra followed by Heineken, Guinness, Stella Artois and Budweiser. But then it was Facebook...

Given the economic climate

prince of wales

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THE ELEANOR ARMS



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460 Old Ford Road, Bow, London E3 5JP Tel: 020 8980 6992

and falling beer sales, it is encouraging to report that Dark Star Brewery are relocating a few miles south west to a 16,000 square foot site at Partridge Green which will allow them to triple production. Someone else here who is obviously doing something right...

Business is picking up again for Adnams. Trading in the first six months of 2009 rose by nearly 7% over the same period in 2008. Adnams have also agreed a marketing deal for Purity Beers from Warwickshire to be sold in both the Adnams tied and free trade.

Hertford brewers McMullens are looking to buy more pubs. They looked at some 200 sites in 2008 but only made offers on five. However, with prices becoming, in their view, more realistic, they see more opportunities. Meanwhile, despite beer sales falling by 8% in 2008, pre-tax profits rose 11% to £8.12 million.

Shepherd Neame have reduced the ABV of their leading brand, Spitfire from 4.5% to 4.2%. The change is intended to boost the nationwide appeal of the brand although SN did concede that there would be some tax savings.

Mitchells & Butlers reported improved trading following the June heatwave, especially in their Community Pubs division, which covers 'locals' and is 77% of their trade. Having seen a gradual rise of 2% for most of previous eight months, in the eight weeks ended 11 July sales increased 3.1%.

Archers of Swindon have been rescued again, this time by the Buckley family, owners of the Evan-Evans brewery of Llandeilo, West Wales for an undisclosed sum. Their plan is to extend their operations to new markets in the South West and along the M4 corridor into London. This will see the creation of a new company, to be known as Wiltshire Ales, which will extend the production at the South

Wales brewery to capacity. New jobs will be created at a new distribution centre near Swindon and there will be additional production facilities set up in Wiltshire. Simon Buckley, Managing Director of Wiltshire Ales, said: "*Wiltshire Ales is a new cask ale specialist brewer, which will be based in Swindon. We will be revitalising some of the famous Archers brands and adding new Wiltshire Ale seasonal beers. We will not be rebadging Evan-Evans beers as Archers!*"

Batemans have added a new 'core beer' to their range. This is GHA (Good Honest Ale) which is a 4.2% 'lighter-coloured' beer described as having a citrus taste and a lovely spicy aroma.

Greene King have launched a new cask ale, Royal London, aimed at us London Drinkers. Or is it? Their Operations Director for London and the South East said: "*A beer dedicated to London is of course a great pull for the city's many tourists and visitors here on business*". At 4.2% ABV, the beer seems intended to compete directly with Fuller's London Pride.

Innovative Scottish brewers, BrewDog, have been branded 'irresponsible' after launching what they claimed was the UK's strongest beer. Tokyo, at 18.2% abv, contains six units of alcohol per 330ml bottle, twice the recommended daily limit. BrewDog's founder, James Watt, responded that the brewery encourages sensible drinking by promoting taste and education. Furthermore, a bottle of Tokyo costs £9.99, the same price as 24 cans of lager or a bottle of spirits in a supermarket.

C&C Group, the owners of the Magners brand, have acquired A-B InBev's Scottish and Irish operations, including the Tennents brand, which apparently accounts for half of the lager sales in Scotland, and the Wellpark Brewery in Glasgow. C&C will become distributors of A-B InBev's

products in Scotland and Ireland.

The European Beer Consumers Union (EBCU), of which CAMRA is a leading light, is concerned that brewers define different beer styles in different ways and is therefore campaigning for what Chair Terry Lock calls 'clarity and honesty' in the descriptions used. To support this, the group has established a list of approved beer judges to help at beer competitions around Europe. Sounds like a tough job that... Meanwhile, sales of beer in Germany fell by over 5% in the first half of 2009. This is the biggest drop ever recorded.

News from Fuller's

The Gales Seafarers Ale has proved to be a successful addition to Fuller's range and has now sold over 1,000 barrels. To celebrate this milestone, a cheque for £3,000 was due to be presented recently to Seafarers UK, the UK's leading maritime charity. Fuller's however



increased their running donation from £3 to £5 per barrel and made the donation up to £5,000 instead. Commodore Barry Bryant, the Director General of Seafarers UK, said it was a: "*fantastic, and very welcome, surprise*".

Fuller's have also achieved success with their bottled organic Honey Dew brand which is now among the top 20 premium bottled ale brands in the country.

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Brewery revivals

Joule's Brewery, up until now a pubco, has obtained planning permission for a brewery in Market Drayton, Shropshire. They hope to be up and running by the end of the year. The beer was last brewed in its original home in Stone, Staffordshire in 1972, four years after being acquired by Bass. The company, which acquired the trading name from Coors, has also been acquiring pubs, the latest of which, the Duke of York in Lichfield, is back in Joules' old home territory. Many canal boaters will remember the fading red cross trademark on the warehouse wall at Stone.

Meanwhile, in a very interesting development, the Thorne Brewery in South Yorkshire has started brewing again. The *Morning Advertiser* article describes it as being in Doncaster but I am assuming that

this is the former Darleys Brewery, closed by Vaux in 1986. The new company was set up with a grant from Key Fund Yorkshire and is a Community Interest Company, which means that any profits will be invested in the local community. A further investment of £100,000 is planned, hopefully with 1,000 local people each contributing £100 and getting their dividend paid in beer. The Head Brewer is Mike Richards, formerly of the well-respected Abbeydale Brewery.

News from Wetherspoons

As well as real ale, JDW sell a lot of lager, and so the contract to supply them must be substantial. Coors, with whom JDW were thought to have a close relationship, have lost it to Carlsberg so that Tuborg and Carlsberg will be replacing Coors Light and Carling. JDW had been the UK's largest retailer of

Coors Light, whose introduction a year ago was hailed by chairman Tim Martin who said: "*people have tried it and they like it*". Well, they will have to like something else now, won't they? Curiously, the brand that Coors Light replaced, the 4% Stella Artois, has been enjoying a sales boom.

Meanwhile, in Blackpool, JDW have run into problems with a new development. Despite their having obtained planning permission and cleared the site in Market Street, the land has been put back on the market. JDW gave 'commercial reasons' as the explanation and said that they were still looking for other sites in the town. This should not be taken as indicating any fall-off in JDW's expansion plans. They have acquired six new sites, mostly in the Midlands, which interestingly are existing pubs rather than conversions or new builds. There will be a £600,000 bill for refurbishment but some

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200 jobs should be created. 33 staff each? Doesn't sound like any Wetherspoons I know.

Punch

Having reported, it seems, endlessly on their pub sales, I ought to make it clear that Punch remain a considerable force in the trade with something like 8,000 pubs. It was estimated by Deutsche Bank in mid-August that Punch had raised £220 million from the disposal of 298 pubs this year.

Punch are reported to have extended their deadline for allowing licensees to acquire their pubs until the end of September because of a significant level of interest. The view according to a recent poll conducted by the Association of Valuers of Licensed Property (AVLP) at the end of July was that that pub property prices had bottomed out, with a third of those polled believing that an improvement in

prices would occur in the next 12 months.

Pub news

Wandsworth-based Geronimo Inns have acquired six London pubs from Punch's Spirit Group, including the Prince Albert in Battersea Bridge Road and the Elgin in Maida Vale. Full details will be in Capital Pubcheck. Several of the pubs have been or will be closed briefly for what Geronimo call 'a nip and tuck'. Sambrooks Wandle will be a regular beer in several of them and all will have guest beers.

London-based pubco Realpubs now have 13 outlets, also having recently added to their estate with purchases from Punch. Handy for Fulham and Chelsea football grounds respectively, they have reopened the Crabtree by the River Thames and the Hand & Flower on the Kings Road. The Mitre

near Holland Park is another of these acquisitions.

Another London pub chain to look out for is Father Ted Pubs & Bars which now has nine pubs in North and North-West London. According to their managing director, Andrew Connor, they: "look to specialise in rundown local sites that we can improve and add our personal touch to". Happily they believe that community pubs will survive the current conditions. There is however some doubt as to their policy regarding real ale.

How about this? Father and son, Arthur and Liam O'Leary recently bought the Cross Inn in Llanbethian, South Wales. They immediately called an open village meeting to find out what the locals wanted from the pub. Arthur said: "The night was very well attended. People talked about the types of food and drink that we serve and in particular, the type of environment that they wanted for



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the village and how the pub can fit in with this". That's got to be better than being told what sort of theme pub you have to drink in by some brewery or pubco marketing person.

Diversity

I'm pleased to have spotted several reports of pubs being very imaginative in the services that they provide for customers. Most practical to my mind is the UseYourLocal scheme for having post and parcels delivered to a nominated pub instead of having to wait in at home. Participating pubs include the Nightingale in Balham and the Dartmouth Arms in NW5. See the website useyourlocal.com for more information.

Also very practical is the scheme being introduced in Wokingham, Berkshire where, under the Council's 'Local Loos' scheme, pubs are making their toilets available to the public in place of the Council's own facilities. Participating pubs are being paid a maintenance grant of £600 per annum.

In Totland, Isle of Wight, the local postmaster, David Filby, has moved his business into the Broadway Inn, which just happens to be run by his wife, Kim. Both say that the move has benefited both businesses with the pub/post office becoming a focal point for the community.

Many pubs are now having their own beer festivals now but I would like to especially congratulate the Falcon at Clapham Junction for their first effort.

I'm not sure however about the tactic being used at the Milton Arms in Cambridgeshire. The landlord has already put up a tree, fairy lights and tinsel and is taking bookings for Christmas lunch.

End of an era

Sadly, June saw the passing of Flossie Lane who at 94 was thought to be the oldest working

publican in the UK. Born on the premises, Flossie ran the Sun Inn in Leintwardine, Herefordshire for 74 years. The Sun is one of the last parlour-pubs in the land with a beer and wine licence and beer kept in barrels on the kitchen floor. There was no till; customers served themselves and put the money into jam jars and it was said that Flossie could tell the coin proffered by the chink it made. The Grade II listed pub is now up for sale but villagers are running it in the meantime and, with the help of the local CAMRA branch, are hoping to keep it out of the hands of developers.

Great British Beer Festival

CAMRA's flagship event, the Great British Beer Festival, has come and gone, more successful than ever, with CAMRA reaching 100,000 members being a particular point of celebration. Numbers through the doors rose 7.5% to 64,000 with the roll call of volunteer staff rising to a record 1,200. The Champion Beer of Britain was Rudgate's Ruby Mild from York.

As has been reported over the months, all of London's local beer festivals this year have done very well and, from talking to friends at the GBBF, this has been the picture across the country. Given the recent economic climate, we must be doing something right. It makes you wonder if some of the professionals in the pub trade might have something to learn from us amateurs.

Alas, future GBBFs at Earls Court are under threat. The owners of Earls Court and Olympia, Capital & Counties, have put forward plans to redevelop the Earls Court site into a development of 10,000 homes in tower blocks. The local authority, Hammersmith & Fulham, is reported to be against this and prefers an alternative plan for a £400 million international convention centre. Either way, once it has hosted the

2012 Olympic volleyball tournament, the building that we have now come to know so well may well be demolished.

A few 'Well dones'

Excuse my being a touch parochial but arising from the GBBF some members of CAMRA's South West London branch merit a mention. Our esteemed editor, Geoffrey Strawbridge celebrated his 60th birthday on the Friday – working, of course. He has already got his Freedom Pass but that won't mean the end of his marathon cycling stints.

Meanwhile, Geoff's son Martin, the brewer at Downton Brewery, just happened to be working on the Real Ale in a Bottle stand at GBBF on the Friday when it sold out of the Honey Blonde...

Congratulations also to John Barker who completed his CAMRA Bar Manager's Training Course. Our star performer however is Harry, John's son, who swam the English Channel at the end of July to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. It took him 11 hours and 37 minutes. Let's not forget proud mum Jenny who swam the last few yards with him.

And finally...

Who was responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Union? Author Victor Sebestyen and Mark Almond, a lecturer in modern history, have put forward the theory that rather than the hard-line policies of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, the credit for the fall of the iron curtain should go to Premier Gorbachev who tried to combat drunkenness and as a result of alcohol duties being set too high, reduced the tax intake and paved the way for the growth of the Russian mafia. Similarly let us not forget the lessons of prohibition in the United States.

Spare a thought for the landlord of the Lamb in Yapton,

Sussex who recently woke up to find his beer garden full of some 50-odd gnomes. He suspects his locals may have had something to do with it. He plans to raffle the little chaps for charity although if anyone thinks that one of these mysterious visitors might belong to them, they should report to their local Gnomeless Persons Unit. Unless, of course, it was a photo opportunity for President Sarkozy...

The next meeting of the CAMRA Conspiracy Theory Discussion Group has been cancelled but no-one will tell me why.

Tony Hedger

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Voted Pub of the Year 2008 by CAMRA's Richmond & Hounslow Branch.

THE BRICKLAYER'S ARMS WINS AGAIN

The Bricklayer's Arms at 32, Waterman Street, Putney SW15 has beaten all of the real ale pubs in London for the second time to win the CAMRA Greater London Pub of the Year award for 2009, a remarkable tribute to hard working licensee Becky Newman and her staff.

Kim Martin, CAMRA's London Regional Director, said *"We are all delighted for Becky. She runs a warm and welcoming pub with excellent beer and traditional community values. With over 50 pubs shutting each week, CAMRA is actively campaigning to keep our community pubs open; pubs that welcome people from all backgrounds and are the centre of the neighbourhood. The Bricklayer's Arms is an outstanding example of this and one of which all Londoners should be proud"*.

The Bricklayer's Arms dates from 1826. It was rescued from closure in 2005 and since then has gone from strength to strength. The pub regularly sells the full range of Timothy Taylor's beers from Yorkshire (the only free house in the country to

do so), including, unusually, two milds, Dark Mild and Golden Best – as a light mild, a beer style that is under threat. The pub is participating in CAMRA's LocAle scheme, stocking one local London brewer, Sambrook's, as well as three guest beers from micro-breweries and a real cider. Many of the local Fulham football supporters who use the pub now drink the real ale.

The traditional feel of this back-street local is enhanced by the availability of traditional pub games: shove ha'penny and bar skittles. The outside patio has Yorkshire stone flags and decorative ironwork and is used twice a year for beer festivals. The pub also has its own cricket team.

The award will be presented on Becky's birthday, Monday 5 October at 8pm. The Bricklayer's Arms will now join 15 other CAMRA Regional Pub of the Year winners in the next round of CAMRA's National Pub of the Year competition.

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

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19 TROPHIES IN 12 YEARS FOR LEYTON ORIENT

The trophies are actually awards and the Leyton Orient is Leyton Orient Supporters Club (LOSC). The most recent trophy is the 2009 CAMRA Greater London Club of the Year award.

Since 1998 LOSC has been voted eight times as East London Club of the Year, five times as Greater London Club of the Year and in 2008 joint National Club of the Year. It has also received two Special CAMRA awards and been listed three times in the *Good Beer Guide*, including the new 2010 edition.

John Pardoe, Chairman of the East London and City Branch (ELAC) Branch of CAMRA says: *"We're so proud to have LOSC as the East London representative for real ale at its very best. The keeping and serving of this great British drink are impeccable at LOSC. In addition, LOSC promotes those other superb national products, real cider and perry. The Club always has two artisan ciders and one farmhouse perry available. Congratulations!"*

The 2009 Greater London Club of the Year Award will be presented by CAMRA's London Regional Organiser, Kimberly Martin, at 9pm on Thursday 15 October.

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LOCAL GOLDEN BITTER WINS CAMRA GOLD

Ranmore Ale, brewed by the Surrey Hills Brewery based in Shere near Guildford, won Gold this year in the Bitter category of the Champion Beer of Britain competition at the Great British Beer Festival at Earl's Court.

A straw coloured session beer that has a surprisingly full flavour for its strength, Ranmore

Ale has a pleasant and distinctive aroma followed by a moderate hop bitterness. The fresh finish always leaves you wanting another one of the same. Around Kingston and South West London, it is certainly a very popular bitter and is regularly seen in our pubs.

Steve Allen

GETTING THE TASTE AT BRODIE'S

One of the delights of the last year has been the return to brewing at the William IV pub in east London. Brother and sister, Lizzie and James Brodie, began brewing at the old Sweet William Brewery in Leyton in June 2008, starting with Brodie's IPA. Since then they have extended their range, experimenting with new beers to suit the seasons.

On a Sunday lunchtime in July, the Brodies hosted an event for CAMRA. It started off as a joint social between the North and East London branches but such was the grapevine and Brodie's draw that there were some six branches represented.



James gave a short tour of the brewery and then the tasting started. Mild was first on the agenda, a wonderful dark brown mild, 3.6% ABV, with roast notes on the nose and palate and a little burnt bitterness on the aftertaste. The flavour has a pleasant fruity raisin character.

Next up was their English Best, 3.9% ABV and, like the Mild, one of their regular brews. As you would expect from the name, the ingredients are totally English: Pale Maris Otter and Crystal malt with Fuggles hops and you can certainly smell and taste the hops in this beer. The hoppy bitterness lingers but is balanced by some malty sweetness.

In contrast to the English, Brodie's also produces an Irish style beer, Red (4.3%ABV). Ruby red in colour, this beer uses, unusually, Styrian Golding hops. The result is a fruity, light

drinking beer with a touch of roast on the nose.

Slightly stronger at 4.5% ABV is Brodie's Special, which has a real potpourri of ingredients: six different malts and six different hops. It is a smooth, full bodied beer with the malt and hop flavours well balanced. The finish is dry and bitter.

When we visited, it was quite a warm day, so Brodie's Sunshine (4.0% ABV) was a welcome refreshment. This golden beer had lots of citrus character thanks to the American Cascade hops that linger into the bitter aftertaste.

All in all a wonderful hospitable lunchtime thanks to the Brodie family, and a chance to meet the next generation: Lizzie's new daughter who, you never know, may become a Brewster just like her mum!

The brewery tap, King William the Fourth is at 816 High Road Leyton, London, E10 6AE. For more information visit www.brodiesbeers.co.uk.

Christine Cryne





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www.williamthefourth.net

CAMRA USES SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT TO FIGHT PUB CLOSURES

The East London and City (ELAC) Branch of the Campaign For Real Ale is fighting vigorously against pub closures. Driving forward this fight, it initiated a deputation to Hackney Borough Council on 22 July under the procedures of the 2007 Sustainable Communities Act. This Act gives central government a legal responsibility to assist councils in 'encouraging the economic and social wellbeing' of localities.

Leading the deputation, Hackney resident and CAMRA member, Bill Green declared: *"There is growing concern over the accelerating closure of pubs in Hackney as nationally. These are central to local fellowship. Yet, if current attrition continues, there will be no British Pub by 2037!"*

Hackney Borough Council was asked to make representation to central government on four policy areas:

- ◆ extend Small Business Rate Relief for pubs
- ◆ outlaw restrictive covenants whereby pub sellers can prevent the property continuing as a pub
- ◆ set in law a *Guest Beer Right* so that every pub can source one beer from a local brewer
- ◆ amend planning law so that full planning permission is necessary before a pub can be demolished or converted.

Hackney Borough Council agreed to give ELAC CAMRA ways to present its case on pub preservation. It will provide opportunities for it to participate in discussions relating to the Borough's *Local Development Framework*.

The July 22 Hackney Borough Council meeting was also attended by members of the Hackney Society, an association working to preserve Hackney's heritage. Present in addition were campaigners from two groups fighting to save two threatened Hackney pubs: the Swan and the Lord Cecil. All were supportive of CAMRA's initiative.

ELAC Chairman, John Pardoe, comments: *"It's to its great credit that Hackney Council received the deputation and we welcome the support of others in our fight to save the British local – the core of any sustainable community."*



Hackney residents demonstrate in favour of threatened Hackney pub, the Swan, before attending the 22 July Council meeting



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Friday 9th

Noon – 4pm
4pm – 10.30pm

FREE
£3
Members £2

Saturday 10th

11am – 6pm

FREE

Last evening admission 10pm. Right of admission reserved

THE OTHER NIGHTINGALE

An ordinary back-street local, but not quite. Wanstead is, in fact an old settlement, which was much altered when the great Wanstead House was built, on East India Company proceeds, in the years following 1715. No trace of this great mansion now remains, but much of the parklands do, and the character of the area is much influenced by the pattern of land-parcels sold off when the estate was in decline.

Between two arms of still-open land is modern Wanstead and at 51 Nightingale Lane, E11 2EY is the Nightingale, almost impossible to find without a map and postcode! The current building, pictured on the cover, is a high 19th century Victorian public house, but it seems that there was an alehouse on the site before the present one since there is a sign on the outside: 'Mobs Hole circa 1700'. In strong contrast are the ghastly 1960s flats on either side of the pub, especially since all the other adjacent buildings are 19th century vernacular.

Inside, although there is a single island bar, the pub is in effect divided into four separate areas: 'front' of bar, the main drinking and serving space; 'back' of bar, decorated with sporting (London Irish) and local memorabilia; a rear-room where pub quizzes and other events are held; and a little side room, originally a snug, now decorated with excellent pencil drawings of famous 1940s/50s film stars. All the surrounding seating is comfortable, and the beer selection can be very varied. The only constant seems to be Courage



Best (now brewed by Wells & Young's), and there is often a beer from Chatham on tap as well. Also, for a London pub, the Nightingale has a truly remarkable selection of whiskies – more the sort of variety you would expect in Edinburgh, or the better bars in Glasgow!

Other things of note are the excellent and very varied food available, from fish-&-chips to pies and 'chef's sizzlers'. The latter are interesting as they are Chinese-based, because the cook is Chinese, who with the Irish landlord make an excellent sales team for their pub! The latter also explains the excellent live Irish music sessions on Wednesday evenings from 8pm onwards.

Altogether an excellent alehouse – if you can find it through the back streets from either Snaresbrook or Wanstead tube stations.

Greg Tingey

THE PRINCESS OF WALES, MERTON

Terry and Debbie Urwin have left the Princess of Wales, Morden Road, SW19 after over 23 years. During their time there the pub built up a reputation for its Young's beer being served at the highest quality and was a regular Good Beer Guide entry. The pub is at the centre of the local community, with locals successfully fighting off an attempt to close it in 1997.

Leaving parties were held over the weekend of 10 to 12 July with the pub packed with customers past and present, from near and far, including two who flew over from the its twinned pub, the Horse Brass, Portland, Oregon. Terry and Debbie will be retiring to their native New Zealand. We wish them well and thank them for their years of service.

A video of Debbie's leaving speech can be found on the South West London branch's website: www.swlcamra.org.uk/

We now welcome Paul and Amanda to the Princess of Wales. They come with a varied pub background, with Paul coming back into the trade after a five year break spent managing a security company in South Wales, and Amanda coming out of the care industry and into the pub trade (*not much change there then – Ed*)

They are committed to keeping the traditional community feel of the pub and also making it family friendly. Various events are organised, including quiz nights, poker nights, pensioners dining etc. A very successful family day was held in August with the Young's horse-drawn dray taking people for rides. Most importantly of all, the beer is excellent.

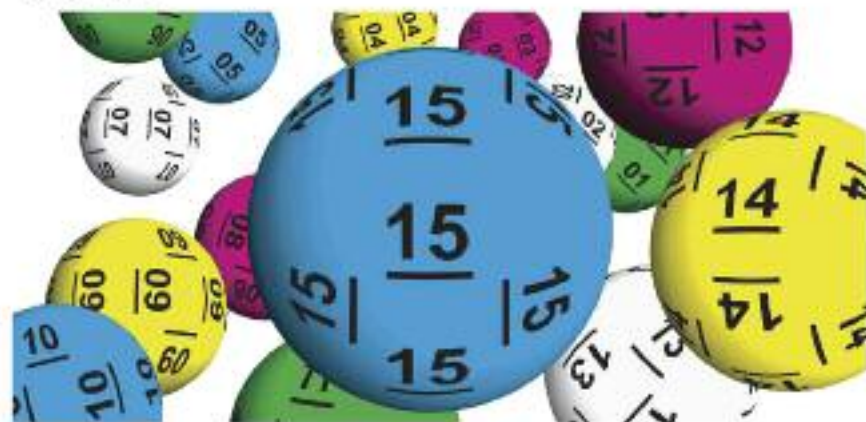
For more details see the pub's extensive website: <http://pouwmerton.co.uk/>

Martin Butler



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www.watfordcamra.org.uk

It's a fair bit better in Fairfield

The renovation and reopening of the Fairfield Tavern (previously the Malborough and the Newt and Ferret) and the Cocoonut, have increased the availability of real ale in the revitalised Fairfield area of Kingston. New landlord at the Fairfield Tavern, Douglas Crowley, who has family connections with the Honest Cabbage (formerly the Six



The refurbished interior of the Fairfield Tavern.





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Bells), has overseen the refurbishment of the Fairfield Tavern and in the past run the Bricklayers Arms and the late Kelly Arms down the road.

The Fairfield Tavern has had on Courage Best Bitter (a much better beer than of old) and Caledonian Deuchars IPA, the Best at around £2 a pint, but needs to be encouraged to take on some rarer beers. The Bricklayers Arms and the Albion are also offering Greene King IPA for a similar price.

Open after refurbishment, the Cocoonut in Mill Street, with landlord Dominic Stormont, is another renewed pub, serving London Pride now and soon a guest ale from Fullers/Gales. If you're a staff member for the police, fire brigade, NHS or Kingston College or University you can get a 20% food discount and something off your beers as well!

So, with the Cricketers, an area that has had its ups and downs in the past is becoming a good area for real ale pubs, and as we know the traditional pub needs our support more than ever now.

Steve Allen

pig's Ear



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For further information: www.pigsear.org.uk



Cider by various authors

Here is a delightful book on all aspects of cider, with a mass of photographs. Quite often we consume without knowing the background to products; this book is a great introduction to the world of cider, giving a real taste of the subject.

Written by over a dozen knowledgeable people including a number of CAMRA individuals, it covers the history of cider, cider making, cider regions and cider houses – public houses retailing cider only – and also details museums of cider! A number of notable cider makers are each given a couple of pages explaining their own history, experiences and production.

There is a section on CAMRA activities such as the National Cider and Perry awards, Cider Pub of the year and Pomona Award, and also a small section on cider in food and cooking. Turning from a reference book to a guide book, it has a great section of cider making countries in Europe, covering Spain (Basque and Asturias country), France (Normandy and Brittany), Austria and Germany, plus a section on Canada's Ice Cider. Interestingly it does cover other places where cider is made such as the USA and New Zealand – perhaps another book!



The book ends on the important subject of conservation, with a piece on Museum orchards and the campaigning organisation Common Ground, which designated 21st October as Apple Day to celebrate apples and orchards.

With glorious photographs of all things cider throughout, this book has a lot of information in it without being too heavy going. It is well laid out, making it a great read whether cover to cover or just to dip in and out. I have found it most enjoyable and informative; it has even inspired me to put together an escapade to visit the cider houses. For anyone with an interest in cider it is thoroughly recommended. October is cider month, so get a copy!

ISBN 978-1-85249-259-5. CAMRA Books. 200 pages full colour. £14.99 (discount for CAMRA members).

Ian White

Gateway to Kent

It seems to have been a long while in coming but real ale drinkers can now head to the Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells area of Kent with confidence carrying the new CAMRA guide to this part of the country.

With around 500 pub reviews across West and Mid-Kent, in full colour throughout, this is an impressive companion for the real ale and cider drinker. It really is an indication of how CAMRA local pub guides have improved beyond all recognition since their first steps.

With its generous use of photographs and colour illustrations, the guide is a treat on the eye and the full descriptions used for the pub entries provide readers with all the information needed to plan a visit.

Thanks to sponsorship from bus transport operator Arriva, the use of public transport is heavily promoted and there is a full section covering a guide to pub walks in various areas, a guide to cycling pub tours and, for those who need, touring by car with your designated, and non-alcohol drinking driver. With all this to help you there are many ways to plan your trips around this lovely part of England.

At £4.99, this represents excellent value for money and, with rail connections to all the main towns, an easy place for those of us living in the capital to visit.

The Guide can be bought from the CAMRA website in the Beer and Pub Guides section at <http://shop.camra.org.uk/> with a post and package charge of £2.50. Or look out for it local CAMRA events.

John Cryne





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Played at the Pub

The Freemasons Arms in Hampstead, home of London's only surviving skittles alley, was an appropriate venue for the launch of Arthur Taylor's *Played at the Pub*, the new book in the English Heritage Played in Britain series on sporting heritage. This one is a definitive record and entertaining examination of the games played in Britain's pubs, historic and contemporary, popular and obscure.



Skittles has been played at the Freemasons since at least the 1890s, and the current alley dates from 1936. On Tuesday nights, the Hampstead Lawn Billiard and Skittle Club offers a unique glimpse of the once mighty game of London skittles, played by hurling a 'cheese' of lignum vitae at nine hornbeam skittles down a 21 ft. alley. Thirsty work!

As pubs are threatened with closure, many of this country's unique games, often only played in pubs, come under equal pressure. Some publicans and breweries argue that pub games help to build a loyal clientele. Others have got rid of their games, turning skittle alleys into bars or restaurants, and bowling greens into beer gardens or car parks. Needless to say, CAMRA sits firmly in the former camp and this publication is a welcome (14th) addition to the series, full details of which can be found at www.playedinbritain.co.uk

John Cryne

World's Best Beers

by Ben McFarland

I was wondering how I might approach this review as I was sipping from a bottle of Little Creatures Pale Ale in the Dartmouth Arms, Kentish Town. Having never heard of the beer or the brewery, I flipped open Ben's new work and learned all about this Aussie newcomer inspired by the US brewing revolution and Sierra Nevada Pale Ale especially. Spot on, I thought. Always nice to have your views (some may say prejudices) confirmed.



And really, that's what the book is all about, with a listing of 1,000 beers that "every discerning beer lover should try". We have, of course, been down this path before, with Roger Protz's *300 Beers to Try Before You Die* and Tim Hampson's *The Beer Book*. The latter, indeed, manages to cram in some 1,700 listed beers but the presentation is quite regimented. McFarland's is much easier on the eye and shows the guiding influence of editor Jo Copestick's direction in its overall look and feel.

And that look and feel is of a large 'coffee table' book, one that you can dip into when you want to find out about a beer style, the rudiments of brewing, hop types or what beer goes with what food. But really the front and back-end sections, as entertaining as they are, are very much the bread surrounding the meat in the sandwich.

In the end, the meat is a big list and, like all lists, depends upon the quirks and choices of the writer. McFarland certainly has the credentials (see his *Good Beer Guide to West Coast USA* with Tom Sandham), having been voted Britain's Beer Writer of the Year in both 2004 and 2006. He also, as they say, has age on his side!

So, if you are into long lists, are likely to travel so need to know about beers in your destination or just know someone who is looking to expand their knowledge of beer (especially around Christmas), then this is a good reference work. In particular, it looks good with great use of photography. It is published by Jacqui Small in hardback with a jacket cover price of £25. www.aurumpress.co.uk

John Cryne

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visit the Travel Pages at
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the Canny Toon*

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**Thanks folks for your support...
we're in the
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Dear Editor

I would like to give you an update on the Victorian stained glass windows at the Crown public house, Twickenham, that were illegally removed last year (it is a listed building and also in a conservation area). You may recall that I asked for help in finding a photo of the windows prior to their removal, which was most kindly provided by George Gimber.

Since then, a Listed Building Consent application was submitted (refused), followed by an appeal to retain the clear glass, which was dismissed. We took enforcement action to reinstate the original coloured glazing, which has most fortunately resulted in the original glazing being reinstated in the two front windows. This was despite the applicant's assertion that they had been disposed of and could not be retrieved. So this is a real success story and we hope will be a disincentive to other listed public houses who are tempted to remove details and thus harm the character and appearance of the buildings.

The glazing was put back in March 2009. White painted timber battens had been attached without permission, but I agreed that although they were not visually desirable, they would help to preserve and stabilise the glazing, which had already suffered

being taken out and replaced. Also, because it is a pub, the windows will be cleaned regularly and the battens will help to prevent movement while this happens. However, I have insisted that the battens



be painted pale green, to match the window frames.

The view of the windows from the interior shows how beautiful they look from the inside. Out of interest, when I

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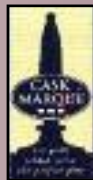
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inspected the windows in March, I noted that there are a number internal doors and fittings with plain etched glass, which are attractive. We have now documented these.

Many thanks to you all for your interest and support.

Rowena Scrimshaw

*Conservation Officer, Environment Directorate,
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames*

Dear Editor

Curiosity Corner

With the nights drawing in, lights start coming on ever earlier and our thoughts turn to pub lanterns (well, mine do). In centuries past, when streets were lit sparingly if at all, a large external lamp powered by oil or gas would be a powerful advertisement, its warm glow inviting drinkers inside. The capital has some wonderful examples of all shapes and sizes (now all electric, sadly) but where is the biggest lantern of them all?

The superbly restored St. Stephen's Tavern opposite the Houses of Parliament, a Victorian gem, has not one but two globe-like lanterns, each about three feet tall, which extend to nearer six feet if you include their swirly wrought-iron decorations and nameplates above. Inside, big brass lamps on the bar are equally impressive and Badger beers from Hall & Woodhouse are served.



I thought my search for London's largest pub lantern was over on discovering the Jamaica Wine House, hidden in narrow St. Michael's Alley off Cornhill, in the shadow of St Michael's parish church and a stone's throw from the Bank of England. Its giant lantern, some 4ft 6in tall, almost dwarfs one of the entranceways. Here stood London's first coffee house (circa 1652) and its successor is now a pub in all but name, with a range of Shepherd Neame ales.

The largest lamp I've found so far, a true behemoth, can be found at the Warwick Castle, Warwick Place near Little Venice. It hangs gracefully from an ornate iron bracket, a warm,



glowing beacon on a dull evening. This Victorian hostelry also has some fine engraved and stained glass, among other decorative features to observe while drinking your Adnams or Sharp's Doom Bar. But is this the biggest lantern in town? I throw the question open to *London Drinker* readers who may – excuse the pun – be able to shed further light on the matter.

Bob Barton

Hayes, Middx

Dear Editor

As it kicks off again in downtown Wimbledon on a Friday night I turned my thoughts to the current round of pub closures. What we have in town centres are not public houses as we know and love them. What we have are huge drinking sheds designed to extract the maximum amount of profit from irresponsible young (and older) people as soon as possible.

When I first started drinking it was in the company of my dad and various uncles. You sat in the corner and supped your half (which was horribly bitter but you totally refused to admit that you did not like it!) and kept quiet or else! Today you don't drink with your family, you drink with your peers and tend to show off. The name of the game is to get bladdered on Friday and Saturday nights.

John Grover

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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 October and November are listed below.

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

October - Mon 5 (8pm) 2009 London Pub of the Year presentation. Bricklayer's Arms, 32 Waterman St, Putney SW15. - **Thu 15 (9pm)** 2009 London Club of the Year presentation. Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Matchroom Stadium, Oliver Road, Leyton E10. **November - Wed 25 (8pm)** London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. *Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk*

LONDON CIDER GROUP Co-ordinator Ian White: *whiteik@talk21.com; 0845 223 5265 6-7pm Mon-Fri*

October - Fri 23 (9pm) 2009 London Cider Pub of the Year presentation. Wenlock Arms, 26, Wenlock Rd, N1. See also under SE London below for trips to Kent Museum of Life, apple pressing and cider pub crawl.

LONDON PUBS GROUP

Jane Jephcote: jephcote@waitrose.com; 020-7720 6327 or 07813 739856

October - Sat 24 Daytime crawl of Bow E3 and Docklands E14: (12 noon) Coborn Arms, 8 Coborn Rd, Bow; (12.30) Morgan Arms, 43 Morgan St, Bow; (2pm) Palm Tree, 129 Grove Rd, Bow; (3.15) Little Driver, 125 Bow Rd, Bow; (4.15pm) Widow's Son, 75 Devons Road, Bow, E3; (5.30) George, Glengall Grove, Isle of Dogs; (6.30) Star of the East, 805A Commercial Rd, Limehouse E14; (7.15) Grapes, 76 Narrow St, Limehouse, E14. Public transport will be required at times.

November - Wed 11 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.co.uk

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

October - Tue 27 (7.30) Meet the brewer: Robert Wicks from Westerham. Grape & Grain (by Crystal Palace roundabout), Anerley Hill SE19

November - Sat 28 (6pm) Winter Ales Festival Social. White Horse, 1-3 Parsons Green SW6

Email group: http://groups.google.com/group/london-camra-ym

BEXLEY

Graham Austin: 07939 145429 (H), contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk

October - Wed 14 (8.30) Mtg. Tailor's Chalk, Sidcup.

November - Wed 11 (8.30) Mtg. Furze Wren, Bexleyheath.

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill: 07831 561296; pete_mcgill@hotmail.com

October - Thu 8 - Sat 10 16th Real Ale & Cider Festival. Wallington Hall, Stafford Rd, Wallington SM6 (see page 23). - **Wed 21 (8.30)**

Social (commemorating 35th anniversary of Barmley Bitter demonstration) Skylark, 34-36 South End, Croydon. - **Tue 27 (8.30)** Mtg. Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey St, Croydon.

November - Sat 7 London Pubs Week Central Croydon crawl: (10am beer and breakfast) George; (12 noon) Spreadingale; (1pm) Green Dragon; (2pm) Royal Standard; (3pm) Half & Half; (4pm) Skylark. All times approximate! - **Wed 18** Autumn PotS social (8.30) Railway Hotel, 32 Station Way, Cheam SM3. - **Thu 26 (8.30)** Mtg. Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

John Pardoe: 07757 772564; elacbranch@yahoo.co.uk

October - Mon 5 (8pm) Pig's Ear mtg. Ye Olde Rose & Crown, 53 Hoe St, E17. - **Sun 11 (4pm)** Out of area social. Wonder, 1 Batley Rd, Enfield EN1. **Thu 15** Leyton Orient Supporters' Club presentations and ale night. - **Mon 19 (8pm)** Pig's Ear mtg. Venue tba. - **Fri 23** EC4 crawl: (7pm) Black Friar, 174 Queen Victoria St; (7.45) St Bride's Tavern, 1 Bridewell Pl; (8.15) Albion, 2/3 New Bridge St; (8.45) Punch Tavern, 99 Fleet St; (9.15) Crown & Sugar Loaf, 26 Bride's

Lane; (9.45) Old Bell, 95 Fleet St; (10.15) Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, 145 Fleet St.

November - Mon 2 (8pm) Pig's Ear mtg. Venue tba. - **Tue 10 (8pm)** Mtg. Golden Fleece, 166 Capel Rd E12. - **Mon 16 (8pm)** Pig's Ear mtg. Venue tba. - **Sat 21** Social to Rochford beer festival and nearby GBG pubs: meet (12 noon) outside Stratford station.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

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

All events are GBG 2010 promotions starting at 8.30 unless stated otherwise

October - Tue 6 +London Drinker pick up. Old Wheatsheaf, 3 Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2. - **Thu 15** Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd, New Barnet EN5. - **Sat 17** from noon, Greyhound, 52 Church End, Hendon NW4, then Elephant Inn, 283 Ballards Lane, North Finchley N12. - **Wed 21** Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - **Thu 29** Social. Bush Hill Park Bowls Social Club, Abbey Rd (entrance by Longleat Rd), Enfield EN1: *card carrying CAMRA members only.* - **Sat 31** Four Wetherspoons GBG 2010 promotions during their 30th anniversary beer festival: start (10am) Gilpins Bell, 50-54 Fore St, Upper Edmonton N18 (use branch mobile to join later).

November - Tue 3, Sebright Arms, 9 Alston Rd, Barnet EN5; (10pm) Lord Nelson, 14 West End Lane, Barnet EN5. - **Thu 12** Prince of Wales, 2 Church Hill Rd, EN4. - **Sat 14** Ramble: (11am) Wonder, 1 Batley Rd, Enfield EN2, then King & Tinker, Whitewebbs Lane, EN2. - **Wed 18** Old Monken Holt, 193 High St, Barnet EN5. - **Thu 26** +London Drinker pick up. Old Mitre, 58 High St, Barnet EN5

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

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor: 020 8949.2099; ctaylor2007@freeuk.com

October - Fri 2 (7pm) Social. Sultan beer festival, De Burgh Rd, South Wimbledon. - **Sat 3 (12 noon)** Surrey liaison meeting. Keep, Guildford. - **Tue 6 (8.15)** Mtg. Richmond Park, Kings Rd, Kingston. - **Thu 8 (7pm)** Social. Wallington beer festival. - **Wed 14 (8.30)** Kingston pub guide mtg. New Prince, Ewell Rd, Surbiton. - **Fri 16 (7pm)** Social. Talfaral beer festival, High Path, South Wimbledon. - **Sat 24 (1pm)** PotY presentation. Royal Oak, High St, Great Bookham, then some other pubs in the area. - **Wed 28 (8pm)** PotY presentation. Willoughby Arms beer festival, Willoughby Rd, Kingston.

November - Wed 4 (8.15) Mtg. Kings Tun (upstairs), Clarence St, Kingston. - **Thu 19** Surbiton evening to celebrate 400 branch meetings: (7pm) Coronation Hall; (7.45) Victoria followed by meal in East India restaurant. - **Thu 26** Kingston evening: (8pm) Ram, then Druids Head; Bishop.

Advance notice: Fri 4 December (3pm) Visit to Fuller's Brewery. Names by 4 November please.

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@gmail.com

October - Tue 6 (8pm) Autumn PotS presentation. Old Ale Emporium, 405 Green Lanes, N4. - **Tue 13 (8pm)** LDBF mtg. Kings Arms, 11a Northington St, WC1. - **Tue 20 (7.30)** Joint social and cider tasting with W London branch. Green Man in Fitzrovia, 36 Riding House St, W1. - **Fri 23 (8pm)** Joint social with W London and **Fri 23-Sat 24** Branch bar. Wenlock Arms beer and cider festival, 26 Wenlock Rd, N1. - **Tue 27** Canonbury N1 social: (7.30) New Rose, 84-86 Essex Rd; (8.30) Myddleton Arms, 52 Canonbury Rd; (9pm) Marquess, 32 Canonbury St; (9.45) Canonbury, 21 Canonbury Pl; (10.30) Alwyne, 83 St Paul's Rd.

November - Tue 3 Hampstead Village NW3 social: (7.30) Holly Bush, 22 Holly Mount; (8.30) Horseshoe, 28 Heath St; (9.30) Flask, 14 Flask Walk. - **Tue 10** London Pubs Week Stoke Newington N16 social: (8pm) Daniel Defoe, 102 Church St; (8.30) Three Crowns, 175 High St; (9pm) Coach & Horses, 178 High St; (9.30) White Hart, 69 High St;

(10pm) Rochester Castle, 145 High St (for JDW beer festival). - **Mon 16 (8pm)** LDBF mtg. Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd, N1. - **Tue 17** Camden Town NW1 social: (7.30) Dublin Castle, 94 Parkway; (8pm) Spread Eagle, 141 Albert St; (8.30) Earl of Camden, 55 Parkway; (9.15) Crown & Goose, 100 Arlington Rd; (10pm) Edinboro Castle, 57 Mornington Terr. - **Tue 24 (8pm)** Mtg. Pineapple (upstairs room), 51 Leverton St, NW5.

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

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Brian Kirton: 020-8384 7284 (H); brian.kirton@blueyonder.co.uk

October – Thu 15 (8.30) Mtg. Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Rd, Brentford, TW8. - **Wed 28** SW14 Two pub social: (8pm) Halfway House, 24 Priests Bridge; (9.45) Hare & Hounds, 216 Upper Richmond Rd West.

November – Thu 19 (8.30) Mtg. Old Goat, 241 Hampton Rd, Fulwell TW2. - **Fri 27** (8pm) Social, particularly to welcome new members with a free beer. Kings Arms, 40 Albion Rd, Twickenham TW2.

SOUTH EAST LONDON

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

October – Sat 3 Cider pub crawl: (1pm) Harp, Chandos Pl, Covent Garden WC2; (2.15) Doggetts Coat & Badge, Blackfriars Bridge, SE1; (3.15) New Forest Cider bar, Borough Market SE1; (4pm) Market Porter, Borough Market SE1; (4.45) Brindisa, Borough Market SE1; (5.35) Wheatsheaf, 24 Southwark St, SE1. (6.40) Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. Itinerary may be subject to change, so if coming along later, telephone organiser on 07775 973760. - **Tue 6** (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Watch House, 198-204 Lewisham High St, SE13. - **Sat 10** Out of branch social. Apple & Cider Festival at Kent Museum of life, Maidstone (see www.kentmuseum.co.uk) Apple pressing, cider, activities and entertainment. Meet (10.50) Bromley South for 11.04 train; cost of train, bus fare and festival admission to be paid by individual. Event finishes at 6pm, so either return on 17.34 train or stay in Maidstone and visit a few pubs. Please notify organiser if you intend to come: whiteik@talk21.com or 07775 973760 (text pref) 6-7pm Mon-Fri. - **Wed 14** West Wickham BR4 social crawl: (7.30) Coney, 35 Croydon Rd; (8.45) Swan 2-4 High St; (9.45) Railway Hotel, Red Lodge Rd. - **Mon 19** SE1 Social crawl: (8pm) Albert Arms, 1 Gladstone Rd; (8.45) Duke of York, 47-48 Borough Rd; (9.30) Windmill Tavern, 86 The Cut. - **Sat 24** (1pm) Apple pressing/cider making. One Tree Hill Allotments, Honor Oak SE23. More info www.othas.org.uk/opendays.html. - **Tue 27** Peckham SE15 social crawl: (7.30) Cadeleigh Arms, 43 Lyndhurst Gro; (8pm) White Horse, 20 Peckham Rye; (8.45) Rye Pub, 31 Peckham Rye; (9.30) Gowllett, 62 Gowllett Rd SE15. - **Sat 31** (1pm) Cider and Beer Festival social. Bull, Lombard St, Horton Kirby, Dartford, Kent.

November – Wed 4 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Old Mill, 1 Old Mill Rd, SE18. - **Mon 9** Eltham SE9 social crawl: (7.30) Rising Sun, 189 Eltham High St; (8pm) White Hart, 2 Eltham High St; (8.30) Bankers Draft, 80 Eltham High St; (9.15) Park Tavern, 45 Passy Pl. - **Mon 16** St Pauls Cray BR5 social: (8pm) Broomwood, Sevenoaks Way; (8.45) Bull Inn, Main Rd. - **Wed 25** Greenwich SE10 social crawl: (8pm) Trafalgar Tavern, Park Row; (8.45) Plume of Feathers, 19 Park Vista; (9.15) Pelton Arms 23-25 Pelton Rd. Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH-WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker: swessex@essex-camra.org.uk

October – Thu 1 Hornchurch double-header social 1: (8.30) Harrow, 130 Hornchurch Rd, RM11; (9.45) JJ Moon's, 48/52 High St, RM12. - **Fri 9-Sun 11** Branch Weekend: Barnstable, visiting Keystone and Country Life breweries by Minibus (sorry full-up). - **Wed 14** (8.30) Out of area social. Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, Hackney E8. - **Fri 23** (8pm) 3rd HEBFest beer festival social. Memorial Hall, Forebury/Knight St, Sawbridgeworth CM21. - **Wed 28** Hornchurch double-header social 2: (8.30) Chequers, North St/Billet Lane, RM11; (9.45) JJ Moon's, 48/52 High St, RM12.

November – Tue 3 (8.30) Social. Eva Hart, 1128 High Rd, Chadwell Heath RM6. - **Wed 11** (8.30) Out of area social. Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St, SE1. - **Tue 17** (8pm) 30th Rochford beer festival social. Freight House, Rochford, SS4. - **Thu 19** (8pm) 9th Piglet beer festival social. Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, Leyton E10. - **Thu 26** Orsett RM16 double-header social: (8.30) Kings Arms, Stifford Clays Rd, Baker St; (9.45) Foxhound, 18 High Rd. Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

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

October – Mon 12 (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Grapes, 39 Fairfield St, Wandsworth SW18. - **Wed 21** Local guide research and cider crawl of Brixton: meet (7pm) Duke of Edinburgh, 204 Ferndale Rd SW9. **November – Fri 6** (7pm) Battersea beer festival volunteers social.

Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8. - **Tue 10** Local guide research crawl of Mitcham: meet (7pm) White Lion of Mortimer, 223 London Rd. - **Thu 12** London Pubs Week Clapham Jct LocAle tour including: (7pm) Falcon, 2 St John's Hill; (8pm) Eagle Ale House, 104 Chatham Rd; (9pm) Northcote, 2 Northcote Rd; (10pm) Roundhouse, 2 Wandsworth Common North Side. - **Thu 19** (7.30) Mtg (GBG2011 long listing, PotY shortlisting). Priory Arms (upstairs), 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8.

Website: www.sulcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

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

October – Thu 1 St Albans Beer Festival, Alban Arena: meet at products stand 6pm and every hour thereafter. - **Sun 18** (8.30 for 9pm) Quiz night. Southern Cross, Langley Rd, Watford. - **Thu 22** Anti-social to promote Watford Beer Festival: meet (8pm) Escourt Arms, St. Johns Rd, Watford. - **Mon 26** (8pm) Mtg. Escourt Arms. - **Fri 30** (8pm) Cider social. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long Lane, Heronsgate WD3.

November – Thu 19-Sat 21 Watford Beer Festival, West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave, Watford (see page 25). - **Thu 26** (8.30) Post-beer festival social. West Herts Sports Club.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Kimberly Martin: 07717 795284, kimberlymartin@yahoo.com; Social secretary Alasdair Boyd: 020 7930 9871 x 143 (2.30-3.30 and 6-9.30pm Mon-Fri), banqueting@ncl.org.uk, fax 020 7839 4768

October – Tue 6 (7.30) Mtg, Harp (upstairs), 47 Chandos Pl, WC2. - **Thu 8/Fri 9** (8pm) Working socials. Wallington Beer Festival (cider bar). - **Sat 17** Dick Whittington Trail, buy a pint in all five pubs for a free T-shirt: (1pm) Old Shades, 37 Whitehall; (2.30) Marquis of Granby, 41 Romney St, SW1; (4pm) Feathers, 18-20 Broadway, SW1; (5.30) Clarence, 4 Dover Street, W1; (7.30) Red Lion, 2 Duke of York St, SW1. - **Tue 20** (7.30) Cider tasting with N London. Green Man, 36 Riding House St, W1. - **Fri 23** (7.30) Joint social with N London at Wenlock Arms beer festival (upstairs).

November – Tue 3 (7.30) Mtg, George & Devonshire (upstairs), 8 Burlington Lane, W4. - **Mon 9** London Pubs Week tour of SW1 and WC2: (7pm) Westminster Arms, 9 Storey Place, SW1; (7.45) St. Stephens Tavern, 10 Bridge St, SW1; (8.30m) Red Lion, 48 Parliament St, SW1; (9.15) Lord Moon of the Mall, 16 Whitehall; (9.45) Ship & Shovel, 1-3 Craven Passage, WC2; (10.15) Harp, 47 Chandos Pl, WC2. - **Sat 14** London Pubs Week tour of WC2 and W1: (1pm) Nell of Old Drury, 29 Catherine St, WC2; (3pm) Cross Keys, 31 Endell St, WC2, (5pm) Old Coffee House, 9 Beak St, W1. - **Mon 23** SW1 Social: (7.30) Speaker, 46 Great Peter St; (8.45) Old Monk Exchange, 61-71 Strutton Ground; (9.30) Cask Pub & Kitchen, 6 Charnwood St.

Website: www.west.london-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

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

October – Tue 6 Pinner social: (8.30) Oddfellows, 2 Waxwell Lane; (9.30) Queens Head, 31 High St. - **Wed 14** Hanwell crawl: (8.30) Viaduct, 221 Uxbridge Rd; (9.15) Dolphin, 13 Lower Boston Rd; (10pm) Fox, Green Lane. - **Thu 15** (8.30) CotY presentation and Club beer festival. Questors Grapevine Bar, 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing. - **Tue 20** (8.30) Social. Woodman, Brakspear Rd, Ruislip. - **Fri 23** (7pm) Brentham Club beer festival social, 38a Meadvale Rd, Ealing. - **Wed 28** Harrow on the Hill crawl: (8pm) Half Moon, 1 Roxeth Hill; (8.45) White Horse, 50 Middle Rd; (9.30) Kingsfield Arms, 111 Bessborough Rd; (10.15) Castle, 30 West St.

November – Wed 4 (8.30) Social. William Jolle, 53 Joel St, Northwood Hills. - **Sat 7** (tbc) Beer Festival Staff Trip, contact John Bush (see above) for more info. - **Wed 11** (8.30) Mtg. - Harfield, 41 High St, Harfield. - **Fri 13** (7pm) Harrow Borough Football Club beer festival social, Earlsmead, Carlyon Avenue, South Harrow. - **Thu 19** (8.30) Social. Plough, Tentelow Lane, Norwood Green, Southall. - **Wed 25** (8.30) Social. T J Duffys, 282 Northfield Ave, Northfields. - **Fri 27** (6pm) 3rd Heathrow beer festival social. Concorde Club, Crane Lodge Road, Cranford.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the December/January 2010 edition: 11 November 2009. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

'Four superb community pubs'

Besides the winner, four other pubs have been recognised by CAMRA's East London and City (ELAC) Branch as finalist 2009 Pubs of the Year. They are the Nag's Head in Walthamstow, the Old Fountain close to Old Street, the Pembury Tavern in Hackney and the Ye Olde Rose and Crown, also in Walthamstow.

ELAC Chairman, John Pardoe, says: "There are 800 Pubs in East London and the City. Dozens are splendid hostleries as is to be expected – East London was for centuries the most vibrant and populous area in Britain. These four are, therefore, exceptional in being chosen by CAMRA members. All are notable as superb community pubs that serve as lively centres of local life. And the real ales are splendid in all! The ELAC Pub of 2009 was the Dispensary in Aldgate but it was hard to select one from the five finalists."

John Pardoe, ELAC Chairman, presents ELAC 2009 Pub of the Year Finalist certificates in July:



Nag's Head – received by Flossie and Roger Carter (Licensee)



Old Fountain – received by Jim Durrant and Paul Daly (Licensee)



Pembury Tavern – received by Steve Early (Licensee)



Ye Olde Rose & Crown – the five operators: Bun Constantinou, Jo Barrett, Viv Barrett, Andrew Yon, Aaron Clingham.

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- Beer garden
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- And of course, a great atmosphere

— wetherspoon —

THE RED LION, EALING

The West Middlesex branch pub of the year is once again the Red Lion, St Mary's Road, Ealing. On 16 June branch vice-chairman Graham Harrison presented the award certificate to delighted licensees Jonathan and Victoria Lee. The Red Lion had previously won the West Middlesex award six times since they arrived in 2001.

The evening coincided with the end of the Red Lion's first beer festival which took place in the atmospheric secluded garden. Despite the festival selling out, branch members celebrating on the night were very well looked after, thanks to the generosity of the licensees, with a free pint each of draught London Porter that they had bought especially for the occasion.



A WINNING CLUB AT PONDER'S END

Earlier this year members of CAMRA's Enfield & Barnet Branch voted the Ponders End Working Men's Club as the Branch Club of the Year.

A presentation was held at the Club on Wednesday 16 September to commemorate this achievement. Seen in the photograph is CAMRA's London Regional Director, Kim Martin, presenting the club steward, Mrs Diane Drane with the Club of the Year certificate. Club Secretary Sean Belton looks on.

Kim said that members voted for the club not only because of the quality of its beer but also for the warm welcome they always received. The club, situated at 46 South Street, Ponders End EN3, admits CAMRA members, asking them to sign in with their CAMRA membership number in the affiliates book at the door.

Derek Smith





46 GREAT PETER STREET, VICTORIA SW1P 2HA

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Capital Pubcheck - update 208

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.

More Punch and former Spirit pubs are reported sold to former leaseholders or small pubcos including Geronimo and Realpubs. We also catch up on some acquisitions by the latter from M&B last year.

A further 15 pubs are listed for the first time as closed or converted to other uses but there are some slight indications of pubs that may have been closed for prospective residential development reopening again as pubs, given the state of the housing market.

Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are provided to enable easy

updating. The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to the page numbers in the following guides: BM - Balham to Morden Pub Guide; BRP - Barnes to Raynes Park Pub Guide; CE - Camden & Euston Real Ale Guide; 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; HH - Hampstead & Highgate Real Ale 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, 26 SMITHFIELD, 26 Smithfield St. Adnams: Bitter. Formerly NEW MARKET, was FROG & FIDDLE for a while. Reinstatement of real ale. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (E21, U83, U121, U152, U169, U195, U197)

EC2, CUBAN (THE), City Point, 1 Ropemaker St. No real ale. New independent bar and restaurant with extensive outdoor terrace area with separate servery.

EC2, DIGRESS CITY, City Point, 1 Ropemaker St. No real ale. New independent bar and restaurant with extensive outdoor terrace area with separate servery.

NORTH

N1, CANONBURY, 21 Canonbury Pl. Taylor: Golden Best (£3.45/pint), Landlord (£3.90); guest beer (e.g. Black Sheep). Reopened after prolonged closure. Now a bar and restaurant following refurbishment. Open 12-11.30 every day. Formerly CANONBURY TAVERN. (N39, U170, U192)

N4, FINSBURY, 336 Green Lanes. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Abbot. Now Punch leased, ex-Spirit. Formerly FINSBURY PARK HOTEL. (N75, U151)

N7, MINI BAR, 20/22 Holloway Rd. No real ale. Reopened (U196)

NORTH WEST

NW2, CRICKLEWOOD HOTEL, 301 Cricklewood Broadway. Was just CRICKLEWOOD before closure. Reopened and renamed HERITAGE INN, a pub and Caribbean restaurant. No real ale. Now independent, ex-M&B. (N179, U151, U202)

NW4, WHITE BEAR, 56 The Burroughs. Reopened and renamed DON FERNANDEZ. No real ale. Now independent, ex-Bass. Maty have been reprieved, since last reported in hands of a property developer. (N195, U120, U151, U161, U180, U199)

SOUTH EAST

SE9, BEEHIVE, 365 Footscray Rd. Young: Special. Reinstatement of real ale. (SE85, U107, U207)

SOUTH WEST

SW6, BLUE BAR, Blue Elephant Restaurant, 4-6 Fulham Broadway. No real ale. Small bar inside Thai restaurant, formerly shop premises.

SW6, SUBURBAN, 486 Fulham Rd. No real ale. Independent bar with keg lagers opened in 2007 in premises believed previously occupied by a cocktail bar.

SW10, GOAT IN BOOTS, 333 Fulham Rd. Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. Reinstatement of real ale. Now leased by RBH from Enterprise, ex-Intreprenuer via Unique. (SW85, U168).

SW11, DUCK, 110 Battersea Rise. Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement of real ale in this Orchard pizza pub by new ex-M&B (Nicholson) licensees after summer 2009 refurbishment. Formerly DOG & DUCK. (SW87, WB29)

SW17, JACK BEARD'S, 76 Mitcham Rd. Renamed ANTELOPE, St Austell Tribute, Taylor Landlord, guest beers. Now leased from Enterprise by the Antic pub company, refurbished and reopened July 2009. Interior painted green (a subtle reference to the pub's former Irish associations?) and decorated with stuffed animals and china plates. Now attracting a younger and more affluent clientele. (SW109, BM14)

SW19, LAMBOURNE, 263 The Broadway. No real ale. New 'bar & grill' opened by owners of Antoinette Hotel in area formerly occupied by hotel swimming pool.

WEST

W12, QUEEN ADELAIDE, 412 Uxbridge Rd. Harvey: Best Bitter; Sambrook: Wandle. Grade II listed pub acquired by Realpubs from M&B in September 2008. Refurbished. (W123)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, LIQUID LAB, Free, already reported as converted to Indian restaurant, now closed. (U164, U186)

EC3, SLUG & LETTUCE, 1 America Sq, Bay Restaurant Group, ex-Laurel, no real ale. Formerly HOG'S HEAD, originally HOGSHEAD. (U131, U171, U196)

Capital Pubcheck - update 208

EC4, KINGS & KEY, M&B, ex-Six Continents, now converted to café use. Was MAHONEY'S and SCRUFFY MURPHYS for a while. (E50, U102, U131, U164, U170, U176, U197)

WC1, OPORTO. Renamed RUDY'S REVENGE, Punch, no real ale. (N26, U171, U178, W22)

EAST

E3, KINGS ARMS, Punch, ex-Taylor Walker, closed and shuttered. (E90, U191)

E4, PRINCE OF WALES, M&B, ex-Six Continents, still closed and application for demolition now withdrawn, future uncertain. (E96, U169, U202)

E5, ROBIN HOOD, ex-Courage, already reported demolished, site now occupied by 'Heron Court' flats. (E100, U158)

E8, GREEN MAN, S&N PE, now demolished. (E104, U191, U195)

E8, KINGS ARMS, Free, now demolished and whole area cleared for railway construction work. (E113, U112, U187, U197, U201)

E13, GREYHOUND & HARE, Unique, ex-Watney, closed since 2004, future uncertain. (E136, U78, U85)

E16, THREE CROWNS, ex-Bass, now converted to flats. (E161)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CAMDEN TUP, Innventure, closed. (U165, CE8, U202)

NW1, FEATHERS. Renamed SWAN & EDGAR, Enterprise, H unused. (N166, U192)

NW7, JEREMIAH BULLFROG, Free, closed and boarded up late 2008. (N209)

NW9, GREEN MAN, Independent, ex-Truman, no real ale. Was subtitled DE BURGO'S BAR & RESTAURANT for a while in the early 2000s before reverting. (N217, U151)

NW9, RED PEPPERS, Free, now demolished. Formerly RED LION. (N218, U151, U153, U192, U204)

NW11, CHARLESTONS, Free, closed and boarded up. (N227, U109)

SOUTH EAST

CROYDON (CR0), BLACK SHEEP BAR, Free, now a members only club; delete from pub database. (U135)

CROYDON (CR0), HUB, Free, closed. Formerly SVELTE, ESCAPADE and originally McCLUSKY'S. (U131, U184, U197, U205)

CROYDON (CR0), MOJAMA, Independent, ex-Whitbread, closed. Formerly TOWN HOUSE, originally TAVERN IN THE TOWN. (3SE251, U98, U185)

CROYDON (CR0), POP WORLD, 7-9 Park St, M&B, ex-Bass, closed. Formerly RELEX, FLARES and originally BAR COAST. (U120, U167, U177, U191)

CROYDON (CR0), WALKABOUT, Regent Inns, closed. (U176)

THORNTON HEATH (CR7), GRANGE, ex-Whitbread, closed with shutters and a sign saying 'pre-demolition'.

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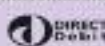
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(3SE282, U56, U195)

THORNTON HEATH (CR7), INDIAN QUEEN @ PLOUGH & HARROW, Enterprise, ex-Bass via Unique, closed and boarded up. (3SE283, U98, U153)

THORNTON HEATH (CR7), MCKENZIE BROS, already reported demolished, now residential block on site with ground floor commercial unit to let. Formerly **PRINCE OF WALES**. (3SE283, U160, U177, U188)

SOUTH WEST

SW3, AUSTRALIAN, ex-Spirit, now converted to furnishing shop. 1852 building extended 1883 and named after the first Test played nearby in 1878. (SW55, U184, U192)

SW11, GREYHOUND, Independent, ex-Marr Taverns, closed. Was **BUZZE BAR** for a while. (SW109, WB33)

SW18, BOX BAR, Independent, converted to 'Carluccio's' restaurant; delete from pub database. (U199, WB6)

SW20, APOSTLES BAR, Independent, converted to 'Luna Rossa' Italian restaurant; delete from pub database. Formerly **WINNERS WINE BAR**. (SW125, BRP36)

MITCHAM (CR4), BURN BULLOCK, Punch, ex-Spirit, ex-Allied (Festival Inn), closed, future uncertain. (SW145, U149, U207)

WEST

FELTHAM (TW13), MANSION (THE), Regent Inns, closed and boarded up. (W137, U195)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC3, JAMIES. Now operated by Kornicis (formerly Mainpaint), ex-Hartford, still no real ale. (U191)

EC3, MINORIES, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wells: Bombardier. Now Town & City, ex-Laurel. (E41, U192)

EC4, CASTLE. Now a Red Car free house since October 2007. (E47, U76, U193, U200)

WC1, BAR MOSKO. Renamed **BROWN SUGAR**, still no real ale. Formerly **THREE COMPASSES**. (N31, U153, U171, U178, W16)

W1(F), BEN CROUCH'S TAVERN. Acquired by Geronimo from Punch (Spirit) in July 2009. Temporarily closed for renovation and due to be renamed **ADAM & EVE**. (W43)

EAST

E5, ELDERFIELD, -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; +Fuller: London Pride; +Harvey: Best Bitter; +Taylor: Landlord. Formerly **ECLIPSE**, originally **PRIORY TAVERN**. (E100, U198)

E16, ORDNANCE ARMS. Now Admiral Taverns, ex-Greene King since 2005. Was **ORANGE KIPPER** for a while. Still no real ale. (E160, U98, U117, U142, U153, U182)

RAINHAM, PHOENIX, -beers listed except Courage: Directors; +Greene King: Abbot; +John Smith: Bitter;

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Capital Pubcheck - update 208

+Wells: Bombardier. Now Enterprise, ex-S&N. (X97)

NORTH

N1, AGRICULTURAL. Renamed **ROUND MIDNIGHT (JAZZ & BLUES BAR)**. Retains real ale. Admission charge after 8pm Fri/Sat for live bands. (N37, IS7)

N2, BALD FACED STAG. Former Punch leased pub acquired by Realpubs in June 2009. (N65, U161, U163, U197, U198)

N7, DUCHESS OF KENT, -beers listed except Adnams: Broadside; +Adnams: Best Bitter; +Bateman: XB; +Purity: Mad Goose; +Sharp: Cornish Coaster. Free house acquired by Geronimo. Formerly **FOX & FIDDLE**. (N87, U178)

N7, SHILLIBEERS. Renamed **WOODSTORE**, -beers listed; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. Free house run by Alphabet Bars. (U159)

N19, OLD CROWN, -beers listed; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire, Bishops Finger. Now subtitled **TOC**, a bar, restaurant and tearoom. (N144)

NORTH WEST

NW1, QUEENS HEAD & ARTICHOKE. Acquired from Punch by lessee, Michael Kittos, and now an independent free house (N173, U109, U184, U194, CE14)

NW5, OXFORD. Leased by Realpubs from Enterprise. Formerly **JORENE CELESTE**, previously **VULTURES PERCH**. (N201, U155, U158, U188)

NW6, NORTH LONDON TAVERN. Leased by Realpubs from Enterprise. (N205, U157, U173, U187,

U193)

NW9, GEORGE, -beers listed; +Wadworth: 6X; +Wells: Bombardier. (N217)

NW9, GREAT EASTERN. Renamed **JEWEL**, now an Indian bar/restaurant, ex-Taylor Walker; still no real ale. Originally **PLOUGH**. (N218, U203)

NW10, MASONS ARMS. Now franchised to Realpubs from M&B. (N223, U151, U152, U194)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, GOLDSMITHS ARMS. Renamed **ESCAPE (THE)**, -beers listed; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA, not always all available. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (SE18)

SE1, RING, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Sharp: Doom Bar. Now Windmill Taverns, ex-Friary Meux via Punch. (SE30)

SE7, BUGLE HORN, -beers listed except Young: Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier; +varying Greene King beer. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (SE71)

SE11, TANKARD. Now leased by Punch to Grand Union pub group, ex-Bass; still no real ale. (SE111, U152, U195, U202)

BARNEHURST (DA7), RED BARN, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter. Now M&B, ex-Bass. (3SE212, U64, K30)

CROYDON (CR0), EAGLE, 52 Tamworth Rd, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride not always available. Now Enterprise, ex-Whitbread and freehold for sale in mid-2009. Note correct address. (3SE241)

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CROYDON (CR0), TAMWORTH ARMS, -Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Sold by Young's to developers Merlin Securities in 2007 but still trading. (3SE251, U154, U157, U199)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), PIMLICO TRAM. Renamed **CASK (PUB & KITCHEN)**, -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +Greene King: Abbot; +guest beers (e.g. Dark Star). Features fresh food and a selection of German and Belgian beers. (SW44, U142)

SW1(SJ), CLARENCE, -beers listed; +Sambrook: Wandle; +Sharp: Cornish Coaster, Doom Bar. Beers may vary and likely to include Adnams; Bitter. Acquired by Geronimo from Punch (Spirit) in July 2009. (SW45)

SW1(W), OLD MONK EXCHANGE, +Sambrook and Twickenham beers. (U130, U181)

SW3, ADMIRAL CODRINGTON, -beers listed; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch leased to Longshot, ex-Bass. (SW55, U184, U192)

SW5, DRAYTON ARMS, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +two guest beers (e.g. Adnams: Broadside and Batemans). Now M&B, ex-Bass. (SW62, U153)

SW6, COCK & HEN, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter, Special. Formerly **COCK**. (SW66, U158, U188, U199)

SW6, ELK BAR. Now Mint Group, ex-M&B, ex-Bass; still no real ale. Formerly **ALL BAR ONE**. (SW65, U173)

SW6, HAND & FLOWER. Acquired by Realpubs from Punch in June 2009. Was **Orchid** for a while. (SW68, U197, U202)

SW6, LARRIK. Reverted to **KINGS ARMS**, -beers listed; +Florence: Beaver, Weasel, from Florence brewpub in Herne Hill SE24. Refurbished with white tiled back bar, colourful orbs dangling from ceiling, retro pub mirrors and seating booths. Now classed by Capital Pub Co as 'pub and dining'. Foreign bottled beers include Brooklyn lager from New York and Little Creatures from Western Australia. Open 12-11 Sun-Thu, 12-12 Fri/Sat. (SW68, U132, U161, U162, U188)

SW6, SLUG @ FULHAM. Now Town & City, ex-Laurel; still no real ale. Formerly **SLUG & LETTUCE**. (SW71, U158, U161)

SW8, DUCHESS, -Greene King: IPA, Abbot; +Downton: Honey Blonde; +Sambrook: Wandle. Retains a Greene King seasonal beer. Formerly **DUCHESSE OF YORK**. (SW76, CL26)

SW11, LIGHTHOUSE, -beer listed; +Sambrook: Wandle; +one or two guest beers (e.g. Butcombe, Rooster's). Now an independent free house, ex-Punch. Formerly **DOVEDALE HOUSE, BAR ROOM BAR** and originally **CLOCK HOUSE**. (SW87, WB34)

SW11, NORTHCOTE, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Sambrook: Wandle; +Sharp: Cornish Coaster, Doom Bar or guest beer (e.g. Hogs Back, Twickenham) and a real cider. Acquired by Geronimo from Punch (Spirit) in July 2009. (SW89, WB35)

SW11, PRINCE ALBERT, -beers listed; + Adnams: Bitter; +Hogs Back: TEA; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +Young: Bitter; +guest beers (e.g. Purity, Twickenham) and a real cider. Beers may vary. Acquired by Geronimo from Punch (Spirit) in July 2009. (SW89, WB36)

SW12, BEDFORD, -beers listed except Fuller: London

Pride; +Sambrook: Wandle; +Westerham: Summer Perle; +Wychwood: Hobgoblin. (SW91, BM6)

SW15, JIM THOMPSON'S. Renamed **WEST PUTNEY TAVERN**, still no real ale. Formerly

NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS. (SW102, BRP20)

SW19, BROADWAY & DRAGON. Renamed **HOUSE BAR**, still no real ale; now a South African cocktail bar with keg lagers. Formerly **DRIFT, JIM THOMPSON'S FLAMING WOK** and **BROADWAY**. (SW116, BM27, U193, U201)

KINGSTON (KT2), BOATERS INN, -beers listed; +varying guest beers (e.g. Surrey Hills, Twickenham).

Now Capital Pub Co, ex-Broken Foot. Formerly **BOATERS INN & BRASSERIE**. (SW140, U172, KT19)

KINGSTON (KT2), KINGSTON TUP. Now Innventure, ex-Massive. Formerly **TUP (KINGSTON)** and **HOG & STUMP**. (SW143, U135, U173, KT24)

KINGSTON (KT1), RECTORY. Renamed **CROWLEYS FREE HOUSE** after sale by Hall & Woodhouse and now reverted to original name, **FAIRFIELD TAVERN** in 2009 and an independent free house. -beers listed; +Greene King: Abbot; +guest beer. (SW143, U172, KT26)

RICHMOND (TW9), SHAKESPEARE. Young's have submitted a planning application to convert the pub into flats. (SW158, RHP31)

WEST

W2, PRINCE BONAPARTE. Acquired by Realpubs from M&B in September 2008. (W75)

W4, DUKE OF SUSSEX. Former Punch leased pub (presumably Spirit) acquired by Realpubs in June 2009. Was **DUKE** for a while. (W88, U202)

W6, CRABTREE. Acquired by Realpubs from Punch (Spirit) in June 2009. (W101)

W11, ELGIN, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Sambrook: Wandle; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +guest beers (e.g. Purity, Twickenham); +Weston: Cider. Beers may vary. Acquired by Geronimo from Punch (Spirit) in July 2009. Grade II listed and on CAMRA's National Inventory of historic pub interiors. (W119)

W11, METROPOLITAN. Leased by Realpubs from Enterprise. (W120)

W11, MITRE. Acquired by Realpubs from Punch (Spirit) in June 2009. (W120)

W14, CURTAINS UP, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Sambrook: Wandle; +Sharp: Cornish Coaster; +guest beers (e.g. Sharp's Doom Bar; Twickenham). Beers may vary. Acquired by Geronimo from Punch (Spirit) in July 2009. (W128).

HAMPTON (TW12), JENNY LIND, Hampton Hill.

Enterprise have put the freehold up for sale with a covenant that it cannot sell draught beer or lager (i.e. it can't be a pub). (W143)

HILLINGDON (UB10), COACH & HORSES, -Draught Bass. Guest beers include beers from Bath and Smiles breweries. (W165)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 207

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC

NW2 HERITAGE TAVERN should read **HERITAGE INN**.

SW9, ATLANTIC 66 (now **SAINT FRANCIS**) was formerly a shop unit.

SW14, OLLYS. Address should read 501 Upper Richmond Rd West.

MITCHAM (CR4), THREE KINGS. Add ref: (U157).

MORDEN (SM4), ABBOT (now ROYAL SURREY PUB). Refs should read SW150 etc.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

E1, PUZZLE. Add: originally OLD MONK.

NW1, CONSTITUTION, 91 Bell St. Delete entry, already reported in U191 (confused with Constitution at 42 St Pancras Way).

SE26, DUKE. Add: originally DUKE OF EDINBURGH. Add refs (U149 and U197).

SW9, PLUG. Add ref U131.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

E1, WHITE HART. Address is 1/3 Mile End Rd.

NW1, ALLSOP ARMS. Add ref: (CE18).

NW1, EARL OF CAMDEN. Add ref: (CE10)

STANMORE (HA7), VINE (now RAW LASAN). Ref should read (W194)

SE26, FOX & HOUNDS. Delete reference to DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

MITCHAM (CR4), WINDMILL. Draught Bass rotates with Courage Directors.

TWICKENHAM (TW1), ST MARGARETS TAVERN. Add: Acquired by Greene King from Punch (Spirit) in June 2009.

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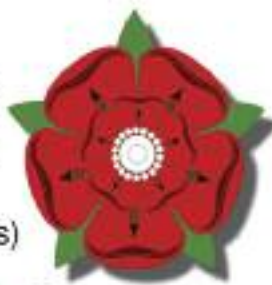


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Peter Tonge's Brewery Profile

The Hogs Back Brewery, Tongham, Surrey

Fifteen years ago I was treated to a one-man tour of the Hogs Back Brewery. Back then, CAMRA membership stood at about half the number it enjoys today, the big regional brewers had become fixated with lager and today's supermarket shelves full of bottle-conditioned beers were as much a future dream as landing men on the moon was in 1960.



Back then I was struck by the enthusiasm of the two main partners, Tony and Martin: you could smell the love of their product coming through every pore. Tony had nurtured a fondness for real ale which was spurred on by discovering a book entitled 'Starting Your Own Brewery' in his local library. Martin had already established a small home brewery, it was inevitable they should finally meet and the rest is history. The 18th-century farm houses were quaint and the original ten barrel plant was capable of producing 3,000 pints per week.

They'd had their problems. Tony reminds me: *"When we installed the very first brewing copper back in 1992 the access hatch was too small to fit the filter plates. We had to cut open a large hole along one of the welded seams to force them in. If someone had come in to watch, it looked like we were ripping open a whale's tummy or helping giving birth."*

From the very start, Tony's marketing background was a valuable asset. Naming their first, and still flagship ale 'TEA' (4.2% ABV) was a stroke of genius that was down to Martin. Like countless other devotees, I still enjoy going into pubs and asking for a pint of TEA, always reminding ourselves the 'T' stands for TRADITIONAL in this ENGLISH ALE. Another 'Martin First'

was the building of the famous Beer Bike – he was the 'biker' from his schooldays. It's a powerful looking beast complete with 'barrel' sidecar and glorying in the registration number 'A HO6 BAK', a talking point at all beer festivals.

In 1998, their on-site bottling plant coincided with the likes of Safeway, Waitrose and Sainsbury's supermarkets' burgeoning interest in bottle-conditioned beers. Expansion continued in 2005 with an entirely new plant, doubling the capacity to 40 barrels. More beers were added to the range: HBB, their 3.7% bitter, underwent several name changes before the current one and there's also HOP, a 4.6% Golden. Additionally there were seasonal ales like Santa's Wobble at 7.5%. Right now the Hogs Back turns out five brews, 60,000 pints, every week. Very special mention should be made here for dear old Maureen, Mo, the head brewer. Tony says, *"She's the one who does the real work around here!"*

The huge capacity increase was what prompted me to revisit in the first place. Wandering from pub to pub as one does, I couldn't help noticing the ever-increasing presence of TEA in particular throughout London. Hogs Back now has one thousand outlets including supermarkets and the rest of Europe. As one would expect, the awards and accolades have followed thick and fast since those early days and are now as long as your drinking arm, over 60 at the last count and far too numerous to mention here, so check the website: www.hogsback.co.uk

Now the facts and figures are all very well, but a visit to the brewery is such a great experience! They're fun, these Hogs Back folk! You can tell by the photo that the brewery itself is a far cry from some modern micro-brewery lockup on an industrial estate. A quick perusal through the Visitors' Book is also revealing: *"Do Hogs Back organise lock-ins at the brewery?"; "Three arrived on a tour but six of us left – is that double vision again?"*

Likewise the Brewery Shop at the end of the tour is quite an eye-opener. As well as their own



Peter Tonge's Brewery Profile

ales, draught and bottled, they stock hundreds of beers from around the world. And then of course there are the mugs, 'tea-shirts' and branded glasses. There's an online shopping service where draught can be delivered in 17 pint containers to your very doorstep. Again, I would suggest you visit the website for details of the tours and on-line shopping.

So, after a knockout day and cracking lunch with plenty of TEA, the time came to ask the lads how they saw the future. After all, Hogs Back was no longer a struggling microbrewery. I would go so far as to relabel it a 'successful *midi* brewery'. Over to Tony, "We intend to carry on much as before. Growth areas are obviously the brewery tours, which have been going



great guns, and the bottling side. We now export to Russia and most of central Europe and we plan to make inroads in the USA market. Of course we're rethinking our bottling facilities; there'll need to be some expansion there."

Well, all I can say is all this beer must be good for the lads: they don't look a day older than all those years ago. The humour's the same, there's more beer choice and the dedication to the cause is still there. One last quote from the Visitors' Book: "I have travelled the world but it's at Hogs Back Brewery I would like to hang my hat." Me? - I'll raise my panama to them any time!

Peter Tonge

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SPBW London Pub of the Year 2007



Historic Hogarth Roundabout

The famous (and often painfully busy) Hogarth Roundabout is, of course, the home of London's biggest real ale brewer, Fuller, Smith and Turner. But there is another brewery tower you can see from the Roundabout, the Lamb Brewery. Originally owned by Thales of Southwark, it passed to the Sich family and their name is on the building off Church Street.



The brick tower only dates from 1901 and by 1922 brewing had ceased but during the 19th century it was a great rival to Fuller's.

This was but one of the historic landmarks outlined by John Keeling, Fuller's Head Brewer, as he took around workers from the London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival. They were there to give Fuller's the Beer of the Festival Award for their delightful London Porter.

Also highlighted were the former maltings and a number of former pubs (there were originally six on the block), including the ex-Red Lion on Chiswick Mall, overlooking the Thames. Look out for the branded lantern. The other building of historic note was the brothel (exact whereabouts unknown), which served the dock workers who once frequented the area. Quite a contrast to the upmarket area that surrounds Fuller's Brewery today.

There were plenty of historic items inside the Griffin Brewery too and these can be seen by anyone attending a Fuller's Brewery tour. For more details see www.fullers.co.uk but do leave yourself some time to look at the area surrounding the brewery – it is well worth the effort.

Christine Cryne

THE GONG SHOW

Being the inaugural winner of CAMRA London's John Young Memorial Award, CAMRA founder Michael Hardman is used to the limelight. So adding an MBE to his sock drawer was no doubt taken in his normal, confident stride.

Only close family get the chance to go to Liz's place for the award ceremony, so it was with great enthusiasm that Fuller's, its CAMRA Brewery Liaison Officers (BLOs) past and present, former CAMRA chairmen and early leading lights in the Campaign came together in July to help celebrate the award, given for services to the Campaign for Real Ale and the brewing industry.

At a special lunch hosted by John Roberts, managing director of the Fuller's Beer Company, at the Star Tavern in Belgravia, Michael was joined by, amongst other friends and colleagues from the industry, fellow CAMRA founder Graham Lees, first CAMRA gong winner, Iain Dobson MBE, former Fuller's BLO and national chairman Jim Scanlon and current BLO, yours truly.

John Roberts said, "We were delighted for Michael when his MBE was announced late last year and when Jim Scanlon contacted me about this event I had no hesitation in agreeing to act as host. Where better to hold the lunch than the Star Tavern? It is the perfect place to celebrate Michael's honour as they both have incredibly strong CAMRA connections: Michael as one of the founding members

and the Star as one of a handful of ever-presents in 34 years of the CAMRA Good Beer Guide. To make the event that little bit special, we even arranged for a special cask of London Porter to be served with lunch, which proved to be a very popular accompaniment."



Those with good eyesight and even better memories might recognise the six former national chairmen in the photo – Hardman, Chris Hutt, Chris Holmes, Chris Bruton (clearly being a Chris was de rigueur in those days!), Jim Scanlon and myself. Michael Hardman is at centre, hand across chest, and John Roberts is immediately to his left. It was a great day and all those there expressed their warm thanks to Fuller's for hosting the lunch.

John Cryne

WHAT'LL IT BE THEN?

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

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



ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

Minimum unit pricing for alcohol - Will it really work?

The idea seems to have gained sway that the introduction of minimum unit pricing for alcohol will help get drinkers back into pubs. Earlier this year CAMRA's chief executive told the Commons Select Committee on health that a minimum unit price of 40p would, by reducing the relativity of the price of beer in a pub to that of beer purchased from supermarkets to 3 to 1, encourage drinkers to return to the pub.

This is dangerous thinking; to begin with, making beer from the off-trade a tad more expensive than it is at present would do nothing to persuade people back into the pub: indeed it might, perhaps only in a small way, have the opposite effect!

To illustrate the point, let us consider two fantasy worlds. In the first, people in the UK enjoy the levels of income they currently receive but beer from a supermarket costs just 1p a pint and beer in the pub just 5p - a relativity of 5 to 1. Would this keep people out of pubs and encourage them to stay at home to drink? Hardly; a gallon a night, seven nights a week in the pub would leave change from £3. So, since most drinkers get much more from a visit to a pub than simply the alcohol they drink, the extra cost would hardly be a major deterrent. More people would drink in pubs than do so now.

In the second fantasy world, beer would cost the same price as it does now but everyone has a minimum income of £3,000 per week. Once again, would the price difference between beer in a pub and beer at home (a relativity of around 3 to 1) drive people away from pubs? Again, hardly: with the large disposable income enjoyed by drinkers in this fantasy world, the cost of a few pints in the pub, even at the level of around £3 a pint currently being observed, would not prove a deterrent. If drinkers in this fantasy world preferred the experience of a night at their local to a night at home, then they could easily afford to pay for it without having to make major sacrifices.

So price relativity doesn't seem to work in these fantasy worlds. So does it in the real world? At first sight it might seem that it does, since at the current relativity of around 3 to 1, more and more people are choosing to drink at home and pubs are closing at an alarming rate. However, the idea that this phenomenon is the result of price relativity is an illusion. What matters is the **absolute level of prices, taken in the context of individuals' disposable income** - the income they have left after paying for the essentials of life such as food, clothing and accommodation. Many people in the UK receive fairly low incomes and, after the basics are covered, have little disposable income. So when it comes to enjoying a drink, they may be able to afford the 90p or so it currently costs for canned

lager but cannot afford to drink down the pub at £2.50 a pint or more. So they drink at home.

Perhaps real ale drinkers lose sight of this: in order to enjoy real ale, we have to put up with pub prices. Fine if we can afford to do so, but just ask how many of those who prefer real ale are being priced out of their favourite brews and being forced to rely either on the limited range of RAiBs likely to be available to them or even the dreaded canned rubbish. Lager drinkers do not of course have this worry as canned lagers and keg lagers taste exactly the same (ie of nothing very much); but we still need them in our pubs to ensure that those pubs are financially viable. (Writing that last phrase caused me great pain!) (*So did reading it* - Ed.)

To introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol would make absolutely no difference to this situation. Raising the price of beer from supermarkets would not make visits to the pub any more affordable. The only way to get drinkers back into pubs will be if heavy downward pressure is brought to bear on pub prices so that more drinkers are priced back into the pub. Support for minimum unit prices is a dangerous distraction from that simple and unassailable message.

And there's more. The drinking population is not made up of those who drink exclusively at home and those who always drink in pubs. Many drink mainly at home because it is cheaper, but spend an evening in the pub when the budget will stretch to it. By increasing the cost of beer drunk at home, the effect is quite likely to be that drinkers can no longer afford as many visits to the pub, and may indeed cease to go there altogether.

Another danger is that we are just at the beginning. Sir Liam Donaldson's proposal for minimum pricing is aimed at reducing the consumption of alcohol among those who drink to dangerous levels. The price levels he proposes are not that far away from current supermarket levels, and so are unlikely to have a major effect. However, they may have some effect on reducing consumption. Should this prove to be so, we can expect the supporters of this measure to jump out and say that minimum pricing does reduce consumption but that the minimum price needs to be increased to get the desired effect. So, up goes the price of supermarket booze, doing nothing to make pub drinking more affordable, but strengthening the pressure on drinkers' budgets and, indirectly, pricing more of them out of the pub.

One further thought: is the genie out of the bottle as far as pubs are concerned? A lot of those who may have been priced out of the pub will probably have discovered that drinking at home isn't such a bad deal anyway. Your cheap canned lager tastes the same. You can smoke at home, you

can watch your favourite telly or a DVD, or listen to your favourite music; you can eat whatever food you prefer, and even have a bit of nookie with your partner. You can get as drunk as you want to without having to worry about getting home. So what exactly is the attraction of going to the pub where these pleasures are not available and where a pint costs three times as much?

For real ale lovers the answer is clear enough,

but for the majority, who do not drink real ale, it will require that pubs become much more attractive. One way for this to happen would be for pub prices to be a good deal lower than they are today, although even that may only provide a partial remedy. What is not going to work is simply raising off-sale prices to a level one third of that in the on trade!

Brian Sheridan

ALAN SPURGE, 1945-2009

Alan joined CAMRA in the late seventies and became a committee member of Bexley Branch at the 1981 AGM, first as Clubs Officer, then Membership Secretary, becoming Treasurer in 1987. In 1990 he was elected Chairman, a post he held for seven years whilst also being Treasurer, until 2000 when he became a committee member.

Alan represented Bexley at both Kent Liaison Meetings and Kent Regional Meetings over the years, holding the post of Treasurer for the Kent region for several years. He also worked on many committees that produced the Kent Guide, being Treasurer for the last one in 1999. He worked at the Kent Festival in Canterbury from 1988 – 2005 as Stage Manager, accompanied by his caravan which seemed to take longer to position than setting up the stage! At Gravesend festival he was Site Manager whilst also working on the Tombola. Alan also helped out at numerous other festivals.



Sadly his health deteriorated after a fall in July 2005. He then suffered a stroke in 2006, just before the First Bexley Beer Festival which he had helped get off the ground. After a stay in hospital he was moved to a care home in South Darenth and, following a further stroke died in early August 2009.

Within CAMRA, Alan especially supported the promotion of dark ales (his favourite being Sarah Hughes Ruby Mild), having developed a taste for the real stuff at his uncle's pub during holidays with his brother Pat. He was very distinguishable with his long beard and ponytail and was always keen to volunteer for various jobs, often forgetting that he had done so, but he did have a good sense of humour.

Alan will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Peter Trout, for Bexley Branch

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Idle Moments

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 4 Inns of Court in London
2. 9 Men's Morris
3. 36 Highest Number on a Roulette Wheel
4. 1 Over Par is a Bogey
5. 7 Sisters (on the South Coast of England)
6. 669 Mars Days in a Martian Year
7. 13 Players on a Cricket Pitch
8. 2 Only Even Prime Number
9. 53 Imperial Gallons in a Barrel of Oil
10. 3 Formula One World Championships of Jackie Stewart

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. Jane Seymour survived the birth of her son (who became Edward VI) by twelve days.
2. The Crown of Africa, the World's largest cut diamond at 530 carats, is in the Sceptre (part of the Crown Jewels, of course).
3. The Highway Code was first published in 1931.
4. The most southerly of the areas used in the Met. Office's shipping forecasts is Trafalgar.
5. Lambert Simnel was a pretender to the throne of England used by opponents of Henry VII.
6. The volume of 63 poems published by A.E. Houseman in 1896 which has become a byword for the English country idyll is "A Shropshire Lad."
7. The author of "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning" and "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner" was Alan Sillitoe.
8. The tea cake known as a "Sally Lunn" originated in the 18th century in Bath.
9. "Belisha" crossings only became called zebra crossings when the black and white stripes were added in 1950.
10. The house between Reading and Basingstoke bought by the Nation for the Duke of Wellington after his victory at Waterloo is called Stratfield Saye.

Hello again and welcome to the season of . . . well, you know how it goes.

I have been taken to task by a reader – one Peter Gunn who is the Chairman of Merton Croquet Club. He writes to say,

"I doubt many people got your June Number Puzzle answer 10 correct ? Croquet (like tennis) is played either on a COURT, sometimes referred to as a LAWN, but never as a PITCH !!! Imagine the reaction of the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club if you referred to the Centre Court at Wimbledon as a 'pitch'....."

So now we know. Now where did I put that tennis bat?

Here's some more number puzzles. Let's see if I can get any emails about these:

1. 5 TM of E
2. 7 S
3. 12 W on the FS
4. 2 N in a D
5. 177 SHNP with TD
6. 11 D in a LTN
7. 6 OO and HADOTO
8. 110 CF the SST

9. 3 H on a T
10. 23 P have been CJ

The revival of non-rhyming limericks last time has elicited a number of responses – including one from the great Barrie Pepper, no less, with this from his National Service days:

*There was a young man from Dundee
Who was stung on the neck by a wasp
When asked 'does it hurt?'
He said 'no, not at all'
It can do it again if it likes.*

Actually, though what I was really looking for was something like this from Drinker Crossword regular, Pat Andrews:

*There was an MP from Slough,
thought his property not big enough,
put his nose in the trough,
took out all the dough,
built a house for his ducks on the lough .**

(*He must have been of Irish descent). Topical too! Or at least as close as we can get in a bi-monthly publication.

Just space (I hope) for one more blast from the past. This one comes from my old mate (All right long standing mate – he's still nearly as old as I am though), Ron Pettit first published in the August 1988 Drinker. Blimey, that's over twenty one years ago!

*Fred Astaire, that great dancer and singer,
Has a song over which he won't linger:
When she says "Tomato",
He says "Potato -
Now let's call the whole thing off Ginger."*

Right – to finish off with, here's some Trivial Knowledge.

1. Which poet and novelist lived at Abbotsford, the home he built in 1817?
2. In the early 20th century which three countries formed an entente from which they were known as the ABC Powers?
3. Who wrote the play "Abigail's Party"?
4. Allopurinol is a drug usually prescribed for the suppression of what condition?
5. Who was (probably) the most famous native of the Ayrshire village of Alloway?
6. Alnwick castle is the ancestral home of what family - including the Dukedom?
7. Jeanette Altwegg was an Olympic champion in 1952; British champion from 1947 to 1950 and European champion in 1951 and 1952 - at what sport?
8. What metal is by definition always part of an amalgam?
9. Amalthea is the fifth largest moon of which planet?
10. Who was the inventor of the Analytical Engine in the 1830s (although a full working example was not built until the 1990s at the Science Museum)?

You might have noticed that all this month's questions are based on the initial letter A. But then again, you might not.

Well, that's it for another edition. See you next time (What a ridiculous thing to write – of course I won't see you) with the Christmas edition.

Andy Pirson

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WFC5&SC presents...

The Great Eastern Real Ale Festival - A celebration of the Beers of East Anglia, East London and Essex

November 12th - 15th

Thursday 12th (9pm - 11pm)

Friday 13th (12 noon - 12pm)

Saturday 14th (12 noon - 12pm)

Sunday 15th (12 noon - 5pm)

At the Waltham Forest Town Hall Social Club, Town Hall grounds, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF

20 + Real Ales, Ciders

Food available

Live Music Friday and Saturday evenings -

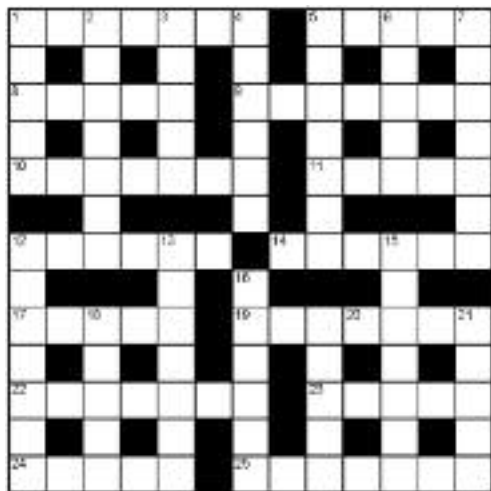
Please note that there will be an admission charge for non members of £2 from 7.00pm on Friday and Saturday evenings and £1 at all other times. Entry is free at all times for Cide and Camra members.

**Friday 13th November
Hard Road (Blues)
Saturday 14th November
The Coal Porters (Bluegrass)**

Normal club rules apply. Tel: 020 6607 3844

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name _____

Address _____

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

Prize winner will be announced in the February London Drinker. The solution will be given in the December 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.

AUGUST'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

ACROSS

1. Walter's off – the ne'er do well! [7]
5. To doctors: the bodies are here. [5]
8. Crew heading north, not east, in darkness. [5]
9. Leading clergymen are quick to punish. [7]
10. Develop alien tool. [7]
11. Author denied taking in host. [5]
12. Make crazy people imprison tot. [6]
14. Little evidence about new state of mind. [6]
17. She's excited daily. [5]
19. It's in the mouth, piece swallowed, and going round. [7]
22. Firm employing first man with social worker. [7]
23. World leader with no qualifications. [5]
24. Famous bowler died dissolute. [5]
25. Light seabird found on terra firma mostly. [7]

DOWN

1. It raises principal worry – short measure. [5]
2. Edward, show relief; it's seen! [7]
3. Some stretcher cases are sick. [5]
4. Find commander entering after time. [6]
5. Drink dear to the French master. [7]
6. Test alternative transport. [5]
7. As religious teaching it's straightforward. [7]
12. Beat up fat bird. [7]
13. Arise from Englishman getting worried. [7]
15. Fool to value fertiliser. [7]
16. Drink a lot initially in entrance. [6]
18. Drink before a play.
20. Windswept cattle cry in outer barn. [5]
21. Left to make, make discovery. [5]

Winner of the prize for the June Crossword:
Roger Knight, New Barnet.

Other correct entries were received from:

Pat Andrews, Hilary Ayling, A.Bird, Steve Block, Gladys Boyle, Jeremy Brinkworth, John Butler, John Cattermull, Michael Chewter, H.F.Cunnane, Joe & Carole Daly, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, C.J.Ellis, Brian Exford, Mike Fletcher, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Stuart Guthrie, John Hayes, John Heath, Graham Hill, David Hughes, Claire Jenkins, Les Jenkins, Stephen Kloppe, Pete Large, G.Lopatis, Judy MacRae & Basil, Marcus of Guildford, A.M.Miller, Al Mountain, Michael Oliver, Nigel Parsons, Mark Pilkington, John Redwood, Alph River, Richard Rogers, Lesley Smith, Lloyd Spank, Thamesmeado, Vic the Beard, Martin Weedon, Janet Wight, Carolyn Williams, Peter Wright & the Missus, Jenny Yuill.

There were also 15 incorrect entries and one incomplete.

Kingston & Leatherhead CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year 2009

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2009

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Noon-Midnight each day

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& Fest T-Shirts

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