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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.

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How can we stop this abuse?

A couple of months ago, a London CAMRA branch officer showed me the following email from a publican who had signed up to the LocAle scheme:

"About 12 months ago I joined SIBA... Initially I thought it was a great idea and to a degree I still do. But upon further investigation I discovered that Enterprise and SIBA have agreed to charge the publican approx £30/cask to use this service. I find this fee outrageous and yet another example of how destructive Enterprise is towards its tenants. I don't understand why either party believes this is a good idea let alone a reasonable one. Is CAMRA aware of this extremely high fee? If so, what is CAMRA's opinion?"

My colleague commented, "How Enterprise can justify adding £30 a firkin for a phone call and a small amount of admin is beyond me, other than of course to boost their profit." My reaction, following previous conversations with other pub tenants and with my son, a small brewer and SIBA member, was somewhat cynically to express surprise that Enterprise were taking only £30 a firkin, by comparison with the extra £45 or more that I knew some South West London pubs were having to pay to their pubcos, even on a firkin of Sambrook's delivered directly from just down the road. But I didn't think it was a case of Enterprise and SIBA agreeing to rip off the publican, rather SIBA reluctantly accepting that Enterprise were bound to rip off the publican who wanted to get the extra trade by stocking more attractive beers - well they would, wouldn't they?

But I do believe that this practice should be a matter of concern to

CAMRA, because it must mean that pubs are having to charge their customers so much more than they would otherwise need to do. It is all very well for us to be bemoan the maintenance of the last Government's evil beer duty escalator, but Ministers can see that the extra £1 that a small brewer might now be charging on a £65 firkin of session beer as a result of the latest turn of that screw is trivial by comparison with the surcharge that a large pub company will typically be imposing on its tied tenant for that firkin.

In this issue, David Todd's letter makes the telling point that the whole idea of advertising guest ales is defeated if they are priced at a level when no-one will buy. "The likely outcome is that sales will be slow, resulting in beer going stale and the company deciding that there is no demand."

A pub in my branch area that charges £3.80 a pint for Sambrook's Wandle (3.8% ABV) is now asking to be considered for the LocAle scheme. I have asked our representative for that district to give the beer there another try; I'd had a half that was OK but I wasn't going to fork out for a pint.

Even if the beer there is consistently good though, should we be comfortable with opening LocAle accreditation to criticism as endorsement of rip-off pricing? Indeed I could see a sound campaigning reason for withholding such accreditation from pubs that charge much more for their LocAles than their regular pubco beer range. What do readers think?

Geoff Strawbridge

Campaigning

CAMRA Members' Weekend, Sheffield 2011

celebrating 40 years of campaigning, more CAMRA members registered to attend this year's Members' Weekend, held in Sheffield on 16 and 17 April, than ever before. Formal business comprised the AGM and fourteen conference motions. A special resolution that would have allowed the National Executive, as opposed to the members in General Meeting, to decide the membership subscriptions from time to time was heavily defeated at the AGM, but here are some of the campaigning conference motions that were carried:

Motion 4. This Conference condemns the growing practice of breweries selling beers under a different brewery name, giving the impression that the beers are from a separate independent brewery. Conference instructs the National Executive to campaign against this misleading practice. CAMRA beer festivals should be encouraged not to sell such beers.

Motion 5. This Conference supports the Government's plans to place a moratorium on sales of valued pubs to developers to allow the community time to raise funds to buy the pub. Conference instructs the National Executive to lobby the Government to extend these plans to

prevent owners unreasonably rejecting community bids and to work to enhance the legal, business and financial support available for community pub ownership.

Motion 8. This Conference welcomes the reintroduction of guest beer rights by Enterprise Inns and Punch Taverns for some of their tied lessees but believes further change is necessary. Conference calls on Government to pursue its clear commitment to introduce a statutory code of practice requiring pub companies with more than 500 tied pubs to provide every tied lessee with a guest beer right and a free of tie option.

Motion 11. This Conference believes that higher strength drinks (spirits) should be taxed at a higher rate per alcohol unit than lower strength products (beer) and deplores the alcohol tax policy of the last UK Government which increased beer duty by 60% but only increased spirits duty by 25%. Conference instructs the National Executive to oppose calls from Diageo plc and others to equalise duty rates on beer and spirits and calls upon the National Executive to campaign for an alcohol tax system that encourages the responsible and sociable consumption of beer in pubs.

Elections were held for vacancies on the







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Campaigning

National Executive following the annual retirement of existing members by rotation. Christine Cryne of North London Branch was one of those elected. Although representation is not geographically-based, it is good to have someone who understands London's unique situation at the top table.



Most readers will know Christine, pictured left, as organiser of the London Drinker Beer Festival. Christine is the chief executive of a children's charity and, in the view of her many supporters, has just the right mix of skills and experience that CAMRA needs. This will be Christine's second spell on the National Executive. Last time around she became well known for wearing a leather miniskirt. She wore it again this time around; it still fits!

Also elected was Julian Hough, who appeared on the cover of the last issue, but Paula Waters, CAMRA's first female Chairman and Christine's successor as organiser of the Great British Beer Festival, missed out. It should be acknowledged that Paula has played a very significant part in getting CAMRA to where it is today.

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Campaigning

Pub closures, business failures and beer ties

In recent months the British Beer and Pub Association has highlighted pub closures taking place at the rate of 25 per week but the Fair Pint Campaign, which is pressing for substantial reform of the so-called 'beer tie', maintains that with the much larger number of business failures in the industry, jobs, homes and investments are being lost at an ever more alarming rate and that immediate action by government is called for.

The BBPA's figures, and those of others, rely on information given by research consultants such as CGA, and accountants such as Wilkins Kennedy. The Campaign has pointed out that the CGA figures make no provision for failures amongst the tenants of the big pubcos – Enterprise Inns, Punch Taverns etc – where those tenants are quickly replaced by others or by management companies, and that the figures given by Wilkins Kennedy are drawn from those given by the Insolvency Service for companies only and take no account of bankruptcies amongst sole traders.

Campaign members contacted the Insolvency Service which provided more information: in the first three quarters of 2010, the total number of bankruptcies recorded amongst sole traders operating pubs and bars was in excess of 400.

Simon Clarke of the Fair Pint Campaign said, "The level of failure, particularly amongst tied tenants of the main pubcos, is totally unacceptable. Including our estimates of 'churn' amongst pub company tenants, the rate of failure could be as high as five per day which dwarfs other estimates claiming a closure rate only of 25 pubs per week - which is worrying enough!

We have no doubt that the continued abuse of beer tying arrangements by pubcos and some brewers is leading to unsustainable rents and wholesale pricing that is costing the industry dearly, causing the loss of jobs. livelihoods and community assets.

Part of the answer is for the Government to insist on a free of tie option for all tied tenants and for the exercise of that option to be accompanied by an open market rent review properly utilising the new RICS guidelines. That action will help to slow the rate of closure by promoting real competition, better wholesale pricing and realistic rental levels."

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



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Not much change

he Budget was much as forecast last issue. No doubt readers have noticed the effects on beer prices already. Earlier this year, Prime Minister David Cameron visited the Fox Inn at Leafield in his Witney constituency. Having been closed by Admiral Taverns, the Fox had just reopened following a campaign by locals. Possibly seeing this as part of the 'Big Society', Mr Cameron commented, "Our pubs are often the heart of our villages and this is a great example of a community coming together to save something they value. The high rate of pub closures is a serious issue." Well said.

According to a story in the Daily Telegraph, during a pre-election visit to Fuller's Brewery last April, Mr Cameron had a discussion with Michael Turner, Fuller's executive chairman and reportedly a dyed-inthe-wool Tory who said that they 'talked about the treatment of the beer and pub industry – he listened and

seemed aware of the issues'. However when it came to the duty escalator – the Labour policy designed to raise beer duty by 2% over inflation – Mr Turner commented, "He said it was in the Red Book and difficult to change. Well, they're in charge now so they can change things." Also well said.

It isn't just the big items like duty that we need to watch out for. One of the tax relief provisions that have been abolished is the one covering taxi fares etc paid to staff who work unsocial hours. This discourages good employment practice and penalises employees if their employers cannot afford the full cost. One of a pub's most valuable assets is good staff. It all serves to put more pressure on the viability of a pub.

Big problems with the Big Three

Just as we went to print for the last issue, the country's three biggest pubcos all decided, to some

degree or another, to implode.

Following a loss of £160 million last year and now with debts of £3 billion, Punch have decided on radical action. The company is going to be split into two separate stock market listed companies. One will own the more profitable managed houses, including the Spirit and Chef & Brewer outlets some 1,300 pubs. 'Punch A' will trade as Spirit. 'Punch B' will take ownership of the 6,000-odd tenanted houses. At the same time, the book value of the pubs has been reduced by £367 million and £81 million of 'goodwill' has been written off. Shares will be apportioned accordingly and the restructuring will cost a staggering £30 million in fees to merchant bankers and other advisers.

You will recall that most of Punch's outstanding debt is in the form of bonds totalling £2.6 billion and these are secured against the tenanted pubs. According to trade analysts, the company's options



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here are limited. They would prefer the bond-holders to agree to a restructuring of the debt but if they won't, Punch will either have to sell off up to a half - 2,200 to 3,000 of the pubs or default on the bonds, described as the 'nuclear option'. This would effectively transfer ownership of the pubs to the bond holders. Speaking on the BBC Radio 4 'Today' programme on 12 April, a spokesman for one of the bond holders, Schroders Asset Management, made it quite clear that they had no interest in pubs as such and would happily see them go to housing or other uses. The only hope here is that there is friction amongst the bond holders between the traditional City investors and the hedge funds.

Enterprise are reported to have now completed their 'sale-and-leaseback' programme. Notable amongst the last two batches was the Atlas gastropub in West Brompton which sold for £1.21 million against a guide price of £950,000. In all, the programme has involved 176 pubs and has raised £274 million, a profit of £51 million above the book value. The company's short-term bank debt has been reduced by 27% but it still stands at around £600 million.

I have heard from a reliable source that some of the freeholds that Enterprise auctioned off have been purchased by the pub's tenants themselves. This means that the tenants are paying rent to Enterprise who in turn are paying rent back to them, although a lesser amount. This could lead to some interesting developments.

Enterprise sent a Royal Wedding Celebration pack to each of its 6,800-odd pubs, including bunting and 30 Union Jacks. Alas, the flags are upside down which is, of course, a recognised distress signal. As my informant said, you couldn't make it up. What was the Stevie Smith poem: not waving but drowning? Despite all this, an analyst quoted in the Morning Advertiser has forecast that the company could return to like-for-like net income growth in 2012/2013. It still

has a long way to go however.

I reported last time that M&B's chairman, John Lovering, was leaving. He was followed shortly after by chief executive Adam Fowle. Mr Fowle, who had been with M&B since 1984, is well regarded in the trade and was seen as the architect of M&B's recent trading improvements. Again, analysts speculated that disputes with main shareholder, Joe Lewis, were behind the departure. There have now been 33 changes in board membership and senior management posts in less than four years.

Meanwhile, the Irish financiers and race horse owners, J P Mc-Manus and John Magnier, have increased their shareholding in M&B to 19.09%. This caused a 6.6p rise in the share price. These gentlemen have a reputation for being pretty ruthless businessmen as, as some of you may recall, Sir Alex Ferguson can testify. M&B are also now moving their 135-strong Ember Inns operation to a more food-oriented format. Some 20 pubs have been converted to date.

Some analysts put the decline in M&B's fortunes down to their abortive plan for a property trust, the architect of which was Robert Tchenguiz. Following his R&L Properties Group going into administration, 126 pubs have been put on the market. Most have long-term tenants so they should remain pubs.

Planning blight lifted, we hope

'think tank' called the Policy AExchange – 'centre-right', according to the BBC - recently proposed a change to the planning procedures which the Government would be considering. Technically (bear with me here) this was a reform of the Use Classes Order to make it much easier to move buildings and land from Class A (retail) and Class B (employment) to Class C3 (dwelling houses). At face value, this would mean that turning pubs into houses or flats would become that much simpler which, if there were going to be a lot of pubs coming on to the market, had worrying consequences for us real ale drinkers.

However, at CAMRA's AGM, Chief Executive Mike Benner was able to announce that the Department of Communities and Local Government had confirmed to CAMRA that this applied only to offices and that pubs would not be affected. Indeed, the consultation document now "seeks views on a plan to amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to grant permitted development rights for change of use from class B1 (Business), B2 (General Industry) and B8 (Storage and distribution) to class C3 (Dwelling houses) without the need for planning applications". The consultation will run to 30 June 2011.

Furthermore CAMRA has secured a commitment that the Localism Bill will be amended to extend planning control over demolition of any pub included on a list of valued community assets. CAMRA would prefer that it gave planning protection for change of use of pubs or protected all pubs from inappropriate demolition but this is a start. Mr Benner said that, while it offered some reassurance, a close eye would be kept on the situation.

Deadline approaches for the tie

Just to remind readers, the debate on the beer tie is due to resume shortly when the Parliamentary Business, Innovation & Skills Committee reviews the progress made by the pubcos towards self-regulation. This could be interesting given that in a recent survey of its tiedtenant publican members, the Federation of Small Businesses found that 91% of them believe that the tie stops them from making a fair profit.

A new development is a private member's bill introduced by Martin Horwood, MP for Cheltenham, which aims to create a statutory code of practice including guest beer rights, free-from-tie options and open market rent reviews.



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The bill is set for debate on 10 June although Mr Horwood concedes that the odds are against his bill becoming law. The pubcos' representative body, the British Beer & Pub Association is against the bill, believing that it 'jumps the gun'.

Meanwhile in Parliament

nother private member's bill, this time from Dr Sarah Wollaston, MP for Totnes, is seeking to introduce a ban on all advertising of alcohol. It is supported by Professor Gerald Hastings of the British Medical Association but the Portman Group, the drinks trade's 'watchdog' has come out against it. Their chief executive. David Polev. commented, "A recent study found no association between children's awareness of alcohol marketing and either the onset of drinking or the volume of alcohol they consumed. Professor Hastings should know this - it was his research".

Greg Mulholland MP, recently re-elected as Chair of the All-Par-

ty Parliamentary Save the Pub Group, has called upon Ed Miliband, leader of the Labour Party, to appoint a shadow pubs minister to continue the work started by John Healey in the last government.

Health and welfare

n the face of various health campaigns, the drinks industry has very much relied on its self-regulatory operations, not least the Portman Group as mentioned above. These however may be beginning to unravel. In an interview on 18 April on the BBC Radio 4 'Today' programme, Mark Turner, UK managing director of Molson Coors. made the interesting admission that the Portman Group made no submission to the Government on the minimum pricing of alcohol policy because of internal disagreements between the beer and spirits producers. This watchdog looks pretty toothless.

Mr Turner said that his compa-

ny favoured differential pricing in favour of beer against stronger drinkers. Then again, whatever the merit of that view, I suppose he would. Mr Turner incidentally was once thrown out of the St Mirren Boys Club football team by the aforementioned Mr Ferguson.

Having noticed an increase in deaths from acute alcohol poisoning, Norfolk coroner William Armstrong has urged people to stop drinking cheap alcohol at home and instead to drink in the 'sensible and sociable' surroundings of the pub.

I very much sympathized with Dave Houston's excellent letter in the last issue and it occurred to me that, given that a record obviously must be made in A & E Units as to whether an attendance is alcohol-related, how long has this been the case? When was this particular tick-box introduced and on whose authority was it done? If any of you know, do please let me know. I think that we have a right to know this

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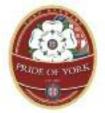
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Local brewery news

We have another new brewery in London. The Moncada brewery opened in March at the Grand Union Centre in Kensal Green, W10. I don't know any more than this at present so watch this space.

John Roberts, the Managing Director of the Fuller's Beer Company, left the company at the beginning of March. John has been a great supporter of CAMRA so we say many thanks and wish him all the best for the future. It is rumoured that his post is no longer considered to be needed now that Fuller's have created the post of Group Managing Director, held by Simon Emeny.

Redemption have made Trinity, the 3.0% ABV pale beer made with three malts and three hops, a permanent addition to the range. It made its debut at London Drinker Beer Festival. Their stronger beer, Hotspur (4.8%), which was

launched at Christmas, is also proving popular. Andy Moffat is now brewing at least twice a week with a brew run of ten barrels and is also working with the Kernel Brewery, including casking some beer for them.

Sambrook's released their fourth beer, Celebration Ale, a 4.5% ABV blonde style beer using some New Zealand hops, in time for the Royal Wedding weekend. It will also be available in bottles. A further hoppy, golden beer may follow for the summer. Another fermenter has been installed and the brewery is currently producing some 350 firkins each week.

Twickenham enjoyed strong sales in February and are now supplying a number of Geronimo and Enterprise outlets. Consideration is being given to buying their own 'brewery tap'.

Ha'penny Brewery have produced a 7 % ABV IPA aimed particularly at festivals and a dark mild should have been available

during May. A large proportion of the brewery's output currently goes to Suffolk.

Shepherd Neame have taken advantage of the EU's Protected Geographic Indication rules by registering the terms Kentish Ale and Strong Kentish Ale. This is on the basis that certain of their beers are brewed with local ingredients such as artisan well water and hops. The 'Strong' designation is specifically for Bishop's Finger. A local microbrewer who was also interviewed on the same edition of Radio 4's 'Farming Today' programme, expressed the view that this was all very well but restricted the variety that could be achieved using, for example, foreign hops. Tradition versus innovation: always a good topic for debate.

The Florence Brewpub in Herne Hill, owned by the Capital Pub Co, has a new brewer in the person of Peter Haydon, a well-known figure on the London real ale scene. Peter is understood to be

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retaining his links with Meantime Brewery.

The London Brewers Alliance are planning another event similar to their previous one, to be held on Friday 16 September, again at the Brew Wharf in Borough Market. It will feature a traditional London IPA. As with the porter, this will be a collaborative effort, this time with the Camden Town Brewery in the lead. The LBA are also considering sponsoring a new CAMRA book on London pubs, being put together by well known beer writer Des de Moor with the help of CAMRA's London branches.

Greene King goes Real

reene King have opened their war chest and purchased the London-based Realpubs chain for £53.1 million. Thirteen of the 14 pubs are freehold sites. Realpubs was set up by Nick Pring and Malcolm Heap with private equity funding from Brockton Capital. According to one report, Messrs

Pring and Heap will pick up half of the sale price and will be retained by Greene King for at least two years, helping with GK's development in London. Nick Pring said, "We're genuinely very excited to be working with Greene King." GK's Chief Executive Rooney Anand also made a statement but it was in market-speak so I will not trouble you with it. GK currently operate some 1,100 pubs, of which 217 – almost 20% – are within the M25.

This all has strong echoes of the Young's/Geronimo deal. Realpubs make 33% of their income from food and a GK spokesman said that a significant number of existing Greene King pubs would be converted to the to the Realpubs premium 'urban local' concept, both in London and on a national basis. As John Cryne, chair of CAMRA's North London Branch observed, "this is less than good news if it leads to the removal of a large number of outlets for London's small brewers. We will have to see what happens

and hope some sort of distinctive style includes a range of non-GK beer brand availability".

What? No beer?

don't know if any London Drinker readers received an invitation to the Royal Wedding but you would not have got a beer there. A 'source' quoted by the Daily Mirror said. "There won't be any beer. Let's face it, it isn't really an appropriate drink to be serving in the Queen's presence at such an occasion." They were priding themselves in using locally sourced food but chose to ignore our national drink. What a sad attitude, especially given that the bridegroom's father sells beer under his Duchy Original label. Moreover, it is somewhat of an insult to those brewers who have gone to the trouble of brewing commemorative beers.

Still, Her Majesty went some way towards making amends by awarding William a well known pub name as a title. Also, I suspect that





this year's other Royal Wedding will redress the balance. I very much doubt that England rugby captain Mike Tindall will refuse his England and Gloucester team-mates the odd beer when he marries Zara Phillips.

Pub news

A fter a four-year fight, the Oak-dale Arms, a former CAMRA North London Branch Pub of the Year, has closed. This was despite the last-minute efforts of branch chairman, John Cryne, meeting with local MP David Lammy.

The former Whitbread Brewery in Chiswell Street, most recently being used as a conference venue, is to be converted into a hotel and two pubs. In a joint development by the ETM Group and Montcalm Hotels, the Grade II listed site, including the Porter Tun Room with its 60ft high timber King Post ceiling dating from 1782, will feature a 230-bedroom five-star hotel and a food-oriented pub.

The second pub is a development of the closed King's Head and will feature a charcoal grill and rotisseries. Both pubs will have private rooms and separate street access, not just via the hotel.

Having bought the Hansom Cab in Earl's Court, film director Guy Ritchie has now purchased the Album pub in Elystan Street, Chelsea. A 'source' told the Morning Advertiser that it was being refurbished 'at great expense'. Elsewhere, it is reported that disc jockey Chris Evans has been obliged to reduce the asking price on his pub, the Lickford Inn near Petworth Sussex, after six months on the market.

The Grade II-Listed Warrington Hotel in Maida Vale may be up for sale. The pub is jointly owned by 'celebrity chef' Gordon Ramsay and his father-in law, Chris Hutcheson. There has however been a falling out involving Mr Ramsay sacking Mr Hutcheson as chief executive of his company, GRH. Mr

Hutcheson has now put his share on the market although any deal will require Mr Ramsay's consent. Let us hope that whatever happens, nothing threatens one of London's most glorious pubs.

Residents in Wimbledon Chase are opposing plans to redevelop the site of the Emma Hamilton pub and have expressed an interest in reopening it as a pub, based on the example of the Hope in Carshalton. The pub has however had a chequered history leading to its closure, so this could be quite a challenge, especially as Merton Council has recently demonstrated its attitude to new licences by extending its 'Cumulative Impact Zone' covering Wimbledon town centre and village.

For those of you who may have wondered why the Royal Oak at Borough kept its Christmas decorations up well past Twelfth Night, I can reveal the answer. At the Royal Oak, Christmas does not end until the last of the Har-

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- Amateur theatre group
- Beer garden with smoking area
- Traditional unspoilt local with character
- Voted Top Ten Boozer by Time Out

vey's Christmas Ale has gone and they kept some back until March this year.

What's in a name?

he Cardinal, a Sam Smith's pub in Francis Street, Westminster, is being refurbished and possibly renamed. The proposal is that it should revert to its long forgotten original name, the Windsor Castle, although that is disputed in some quarters. Amongst the opponents of this change are Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster. The pub sign features one of his predecessors, Cardinal Manning, and in an interview on Radio 4's 'Sunday' programme on 10 April, the Archbishop said that he would like to see this tribute to a man who played a significant part in London's social history remain in place. The brewery maintains its characteristic silence.

I was very sad to see from the last Capital Pubcheck that another pub with, I believe, a unique name, the Grave Maurice was no more. The pub in Whitechapel which, like the nearby Blind Beggar, had certain gangland connections, was named not after someone who just looked serious but after Graf Moritz, a one-time Prince of Orange.

News from the pubcos

According to a report in the Times, Young's are planning to sell some 30 of their 99 tenanted pubs. One analysis of the move is that the company is looking to bring the rest of its estate into line with its 26 Geronimo pubs. So the 30 are all likely to be 'wet-led' pubs, i.e. ones whose income comes predominantly from drink sales. In due course some managed houses will also be brought into line with the Geronimo model. Being tenanted, the pubs cannot be sold for immediate redevelopment but their future very much depends on whether the new freeholders are in the trade or are property developers. It is understood that Young's would prefer to sell the pubs as a single block. Young's AGM is on 7 July and so I hope there will be more to report next issue.

Charles Wells, Young's partner in the Wells & Young's Brewery Company, have recently started a new guest beer scheme for their tenanted houses. Pubs can stock one guest real ale so long as it comes from a brewery that produces fewer than 15,000 barrels per annum, the sales do not affect sales targets for tied beers and the pub pays a fee of £65 per 36-gallon barrel. Sales also have to be monitored using the Brulines system, the operation of which is a source of some controversy in the trade.

A pubco that I had not previously heard of, the Surrey-based Healy Group, is operating a number of pubs on a 'tenancy-at-will' basis as opposed to having formal leases or agreements. They are taking pubs, mostly from Enterprise and Marstons and according to the report in the Morning Advertiser, the arrangement gives them relatively low rents and good discounts. Marion Healy, a partner in the family-run business, stressed that they were not just a holding company and would "only take on a business with a possible future". The tenancy-at-will arrangement gives them little security but does allow them to close a pub quickly should it not perform to expecta-

Following on from the fundraising reported last issue, the Capital Pub Company has restructured its management team ready to expand from its current 33 outlets to around 50 over the next two to three years. They have started the process by acquiring the Mansion in Gypsy Hill, Dulwich for £1.5 million. This is a very large site and Capital may still use an existing planning permission to convert the upper part into five flats but, by adding a conservatory, still have a decent-sized operation.

Marston's are looking to open some 25 new outlets in 2012, most of them 'new build'. The 15 new builds that they opened last year have outperformed the existing pubs in Marston's managed estate by a considerable margin. This is largely explained by their being food-oriented.

Other trade news

urther to my report last issue, off-licence chain Oddbins has gone into administration. The Company Voluntary Arrangement proposal was rejected by HM Revenue & Customs, to whom Oddbins owed some £8 million. have heard it said that following their merger, the harder attitude of the former HM Customs & Excise staff is prevailing over the traditionally more tolerant Inland Revenue stance. This is not the place to debate the merits of this but it is worth noting. The independent drinks company European Food Brokers, trading as Whittals Wines, has acquired 37 Oddbins shops, of which 20 are in London.

Financial problems are affecting everyone in the pub trade, it seems. The well known licensed trade accountancy firm, Milestone, has ceased trading and faces a winding-up petition, again from HM Revenue & Customs.

Harveys of Lewes are following Adnams' example and going green. They have agreed to allow the Ouse Valley Energy Services Company to install solar panels on the roof of the brewery warehouse in return for a supply of electricity which they will use for cooling. Any surplus funds made will go towards community projects.

Sharp's of Rock, Cornwall, sold 9,088 firkins of beer in the first week of April, the highest volume since the company started in 1994 and not far short of a 50% increase on the same week last year. Turnover increased 40% from 2009 to 2010 and new fermenters are being installed to increase capacity to 24,000 brewer's barrels (96,000 firkins) per annum. Molson Coors's investment is starting to look like a shrewd deal.

The renowned Rooster's Brewery of Knaresborough, Yorkshire has been sold in preparation for founders Sean and Alison Franklin standing down in 2012. The buy-

er is Ian Fozard, owner of the Market Taverns pub chain, although in this instance he is acting in his own right. The brewery will be run by Mr Fozard's sons, Oliver and Tom. Oliver has had experience with other Yorkshire breweries, Daleside and Copper Dragon.

The site of the former Archers Brewery in Swindon is to be redeveloped as a gastropub with an inhouse microbrewery. Following the brewery closing in March 2009, the premises were acquired by local publicans Anthony and Allyson Windle who are spending some £1.5 million on the project, to be called the Weighbridge Brewhouse. It will also feature its own bakery and butcher's shop.

Diageo are planning to introduce 'Mid-Strength', the 2.8% ABV version of Guinness, to the UK market. It has been on trial in Ireland since 2006 although a trial in Scotland in 2009 was not extended. Presumably the change in

beer duty rates makes it worth trying.

German brewer Krombacher also thinks that dark beers are in demand and has launched its draught 4.2% ABV Dark on to the UK market. The beer is brewed to the 1516 *Reinheitsgebot* Purity Law.

Over the water

would like to mark the passing at the age of 86 of Pierre Celis, the man who re-established the tradition of brewing the spiced wheat white beers of Hoegaarden. I will not go into detail here because his obituary by Roger Protz (in the Guardian and on his website) says all that needs to be said and I commend it to you accordingly, but it is sad to read how a decent man was so badly treated by the big brewers.

Goose Island, the prominent Chicago craft brewery, has gone into partnership with AB InBev to 'develop the brand'. Interestingly, an AB InBev spokesman said that they "recognise the potential within this market and appreciate that genuine craft beer brands cannot be 'invented' by a large multinational organization". Brewing will continue at Chicago under the current management. UK importers, James Clay, have said that they will continue to work with Goose Island but will closely monitor the impact of the link with Anheuser-Busch.

Michael Jackson remembered

was very pleased to see that whilst CAMRA celebrates its 40th birthday, the pioneering beer writer Michael Jackson has not been forgotten. The Brewery History Society dedicated an edition of its journal to him which was edited by Pete Brown and includes articles by Roger Protz and John Keeling of Fuller's amongst others. It was launched at the Rake, Borough Market, at the end of March. I'm



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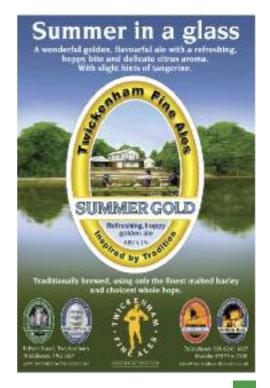
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'Delightful old free house' GBG 2011



sure that copies will still be available though the BHS's website: www.breweryhistory.com.

Michael, of course, lived in Hammersmith. That local authority area uniquely contains three football league teams, all of whom are now in the Premiership. One of them now houses a statue to a Michael Jackson but, in some people's opinion, it is of the wrong one. Congratulations incidentally to our QPR-supporting readers.

Dual columnists

Sadly, I was wrong and William Reed Business Media have merged the trade papers the Moming Advertiser and the Publican into the Publican's Morning Advertiser. Their respective star columnists, Roger Protz and Pete Brown, will take turns. Mr Brown said that he was 'honoured' to share with Mr Protz and despite rumours of 'tension' between them, they agree "about 90% of the time". Best wishes to those displaced by the move.

Which guide?

t is reported that a number of pub licensees are being contacted by an organisation called the British Real Ale Guide. This publication charges £75 for the inclusion of a pub. For what the lawyers call 'the avoidance of doubt', I want to make it clear that this publication should not be confused with CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. It has no connection with CAMRA. There is no charge for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide, the entries for which are decided upon entirely on a voluntary basis by CAMRA members up and down the country.

Cask Marque will continue to sponsor CAMRA's Good Beer Guide for 2012 but will be joined for the first time by SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers.

WC1/WC2 real ale guide

n the subject of guides, in reviewing the WC1/WC2 Guide last issue, it would have made

sense for me to tell you were to buy it; sorry about that. It is available from CAMRA HQ by 'phone or on-line and at *Bookmarks* bookshop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, WC1B 3QE. It is also being stocked by a number of pubs. Check CAMRA North London's website for details: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk/guide.html

...and finally

eineken UK have been fined over £10,000 after breaching the environment permit at their Tadcaster plant by disposing of 64,600 litres of beer and cider through an effluent treatment plant. I'm struggling to see what they have done wrong; surely, all they have done is cut out the middle man.

In these hard times, a publican in Lea, Lancashire wanted to boost business by running a car boot sale in his car park. Unfortunately, he can't because his local authority says that the pub, four miles

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A real pub in the heart of the West End

from Preston, falls foul of the 400year old law that says that no new market can be held within the distance that a man can walk to an existing market, buy his goods and walk back within summer daylight hours. This is normally taken as six and 2/3rds miles. A candidate for the Government's 'red tape' cull perhaps?

So-called 'product placement' is now permitted on commercial television. I wonder if the national brands will be vying with each other for a notional takeover of Newton & Ridleys so that their

products can appear on the bar of the Rovers Return in Coronation Street. The practice is not allowed on the BBC, however, so Fuller's bid for Luxford & Copley may have to wait.

Tony Hedger

E-mail to *ldnews.hedger@gmail.com*. Please use this address *only* for news about real ale and the pubs that serve it

MISSED A PREVIOUS ISSUE?

You can find copies of *London Drinker* since October 2004 online at www.londondrinker.org.uk

London LocAle pubs - recent additions

Snooty Fox	75 Grosvenor Avenue, Canonbury	N5 2NN	Usually Redemption or other
Three Compasses	62 High St, Hornsey	N8 7NX	Fuller's, Redemption at least
Victoria Stakes	1 Muswell Hill	N10 3TH	Camden Town, Fuller's, Sambrook's
Wibbas Down Inn	6-12 Gladstone Rd, Wimbledon	SW19 1QT	Varies

A complete list is maintained at www.londondrinker.org.uk

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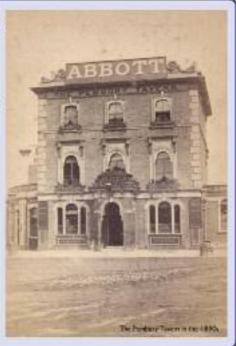
Open 12–11 every day and later on Friday/Saturday

Next beer festival 20th-24th July

Modern Italian kitchen serving main dishes 12-9pm, stonebake pizza 12-10pm (and to 11pm Thu/Fri/Sat).

http://www.individualpubs.co.uk/pembury/

SPBW London Pub of the Year 2010



WHAT'LL IT BE THEN?

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

Allow us to introduce you so 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 happing reunion of your life.



The Great British Beer Festival 2011

2-6 August, Earls Court

'Win free entry to the World's Largest Pub!'-25 pairs of tickets up for grabs

The Great British Beer Festival 2011 (GBBF) at Earls Court is drawing ever closer, with CAMRA hoping for another record-breaking event. In 2010, over 66,000 people attended the 5-day extravaganza, with over 1,000 CAMRA volunteers giving up their time to make the Festival the biggest to

This year, festival-goers should expect more than 700 real ales, ciders, perries and foreign beers from around the world, with CAMRA claiming to have something to suit every drinker's taste buds! To accompany this heady range, the festival offers a great choice of food from traditional cuisine to classic pub

snacks, unforgettable live music, a wide variety of pub games to occupy your time and an array of tutored tastings from some of the leading authorities in the beer world.

Tickets for the event are now available and can be pre-ordered for a discounted price from the ticketing website at *www.seetickets.com/gbbf*. With such demand at the door of Earls Court for tickets, pre-ordering is a great way of ensuring you do not miss out on the Festival fun!

While the British real ale, cider, perry and foreign beer lists are being finalised in time for this year's Festival rope drop on Tuesday 2 August,

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL – PUBLICITY

West London Branch is hosting four publicity events for the GBBF. Members from all branches are invited to help us distribute advertising material to local pubs. The dates are:

Tuesday 28 June from 6pm – Albion, 121 Hammersmith Road W14.

Wednesday 13 July from 6pm – Buckingham Arms, 62 Petty France SW1.

Thursday 21 July from 6pm – Ship & Shovell, 1-3 Craven Passage WC2.

Saturday 30 July from 12 noon – Cleveland Arms, 28 Chilworth Street W2.

A free buffet will be provided at each event. We look forward to seeing you all.

CAMRA is looking to give away 25 pairs of tickets to GBBF to beer drinkers old and new. To be in with a shout of winning a pair of tickets, please answer the following question correctly and submit

your answer, name and address to jon.howard@camra.org.uk by Friday 8 July 2011. Entries can also be posted to Jon Howard, GBBF Comp, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW.

Competition question:

This year, CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale is celebrating its 10th birthday? 40th birthday? 70th birthday? Winners of the tickets will be notified by Friday 15 July 2011.

Festival opening times:

Tuesday 2 August: 5pm-10:30pm Wednesday 3 August – Friday 5 August: 12pm -10:30pm

Saturday 6 August: 11am -7pm

For further information on the festival, visit www.gbbf.org.uk

POWPOWPOW

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POWPOWPOW

The Great British Beer Festival 2011

Family brewer provides a day to remember

When John Cryne from North London bid for the Brewer for the Day at the 2010 Great British Beer Festival, he knew he was in for a treat and he was not disappointed.

Family brewer, Harveys, hosted John and his wife, Christine, for a day's brewing at their iconic

Victorian tower Wharf Bridge Brewery in Lewes, Sussex. The adventure started the night before with a visit to the Lewes Arms, where, of course, a pint of the award winning Sussex Best Bitter was consumed and the evening finished with a visit to the Brewery's sampling room with Miles Jenner, Head Brewer and Joint Managing Director.

Miles (or Mr Jenner as he known by everyone at the brewery), is a historian by training, coming to brewing as a second career to follow in his father's footsteps at Harveys. He combines his love of both by a detailed knowledge of Lewes and its brewing history. Harveys have started to experiment with some of their past recipes and it's perhaps not surprising that many of Harveys' beers are named after people who have an association with Lewes. They include Georgian

Dragon Ale, named for Dr Gideon Mantell, known as the Father of Palaeontology; Tom Paine Ale and the Kiss. The last is a surprising story. Edward Warren, an Anglo-American antiquarian, commissioned the Kiss from Rodin in 1900. When Warren left Lewes, he offered the statue to the Lewes Town Hall on loan but it caused so many objections that it had to be covered by a sheet!

The day itself was the conventional early start for brewing but, fortunately, accommodation was provided at the nearby inn, the Dorset, which dates from the 1800s although there has reputedly been a pub on the site since 1640. Working with a small friendly brewing team, the first mash (hot water mixed with the malted barley to release the sugars) was with Harveys' best seller, Sussex Best Bitter (4.0% ABV), a traditional brown best bitter with English hops. For Christine, this was a delightful coincidence as she was on the final panel that gave the beer the runner's up place in CAMRA's 2006 Champion Beer of Britain competition.

The next beer to be mashed was the Porter. This is a rich black beer at 4.8% ABV and based on a recipe found in Henry Harvey's brewing journal dating back from 1859. It is mostly bottled and can be found in both pasteurised and bottle conditioned form.

After the mashing, the beers were pumped

across to the two coppers, where the hops are added. Although no longer in use, by the side of the brewing area is the steam engine which at one time drove the pumps; it was built by Pontifex and Wood of Shoe Lane, London.

From there the beers are put into open fermenters where the yeast is pitched. The yeast is unique to

Harveys and is the same strain that has been used for 50 years. The technique of getting the yeast up from the fridges on the ground floor is also unique: it is hoisted up in buckets!

Once the beer has finished its fermentation and has been conditioned, it is either bottled or hand filled into casks. The observation was that synchronised swimming had nothing on this!

The day for the Crynes was interspersed with a hearty breakfast round the corner at Bill's, lunch at the John Harvey Tavern and a final pint of the day in the Gardener's Arms with Miles and the brewer, Peter Yarlett. Peter fell in love with Harvey's when he worked there as an undergraduate but her has a link to London as, once he graduated, he worked for Meantime for a spell.

The two one-off brewers summed up the day, "The warmth and hospitality we received from everyone at the brewery, whoever they were, was second to none. There was a clear pride that was taken in working for this family brewer, who is definitely part of the local community – something that other brewers could aspire to, whatever their size. We enjoyed every minute of it but of course sampling the end product was the best bit! A day to remember for a lifetime and we hope that Harveys will be here for several lifetimes to come."

Harveys have one pub in London: the Royal Oak, Tabard Street near Borough tube, but if you would like to visit Harveys for yourself, tours take place in the evenings between June and November excluding August. There is a nominal charge of £2.50 per person that should be paid in advance as a deposit on confirmation of a tour date. Ring 01273 480209.

Or if you fancy being a Brewer for the Day, the 2011 auction, which will take place on the Thursday evening at the Great British Beer Festival, is for the holder of CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain, Castle Rock in Nottingham. If you can't make it, postal bids are accepted c/o Bill Austin: 01923 211654 or baustin@supanet.com.

Christine Cryne Photographs by Charlotte Boulton







CAMRA PRESENTS



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Website: www.essex-camra.org.uk/swessex/index.html

2012 BEER FESTIVAL DATES 22nd - 25th MAY





CAMRA West Middlesex Branch is pleased to announce that the 22nd "Ealing Beer Festival" will be held from

6th-9th July 2011 Walpole Park

Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5BG

200 Cask Beers, Ciders & Perries, Draught & Bottled Foreign Beers Open from 12pm till 10.30pm Wed / Fri Sat 12pm till 6pm

Wide range of hot and cold foods

Admission £3, CAMRA members £2 (free before 4pm)
Pub games and stalls stocking a variety of merchandise

More details from Graham Harrison on 07535 878996 or www.ealingbeerfestival.org.uk

CAMRA GREATER LONDON 2011 PUB OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

This year's competition for the award of CAMRA's Greater London Pub of the Year includes two previous winners: the Bricklayer's Arms in Putney and the Robin Hood & Little John in Bexleyheath, and four other previous entrants: the Fox, Hanwell; the Olde Mitre, High Barnet; the Red Lion, Isleworth and Woodies, New Malden.

The other six local CAMRA Pub of the Year winners are new to the competition: the Bar, Gants Hill; the Cask Pub & Kitchen, Pimlico; the George, Croydon; the Grape & Grain, Crystal Palace, the Old Fountain in Baldwin Street (off the City Road, just north of Old Street) and the Southampton Arms, Gospel Oak.

The current, 2010 Pub of the Year, the Harp, Covent Garden, is ineligible to defend its title as West London Branch rules do not allow the same pub to win Pub of the Year two years running.

Contact your local CAMRA Branch (see pages 38 and 39) if you would like to join its travelling judges' panel to help decide the 2011 winner.



Rebecca Newman and her colleagues at the Bricklayers Arms, Putney received their South West London Pub of the Year award from Martin Butler, branch chairman, on 4 May.

VICTORIA STAKES WINS PUB OF THE SEASON

The Victoria Stakes in Muswell Hill, N10 has won CAMRA North London's Spring Pub of the Season award and at the same time has signed up to CAMRA's LocAle scheme. The award recognises pubs that are looking to promote cask beer in areas previously poorly served.

The picture shows the pub's manager accepting the award certificate from Branch Chairman John Cryne. It's a single-bar pub nestling in the foothills of Alexandra Palace, on the main Finsbury Park to Muswell Hill bus route. Its name comes from a horse race and the theme is reinforced throughout the pub. Like several real ale outlets in the area, it describes itself as a 'bar and dining



rooms', looking to specialise in fresh, seasonal produce. All three cask beers come from London brewers: Fuller's ESB, Camden Town Pale Ale and Sambrook's Wandle.



'Free from' beer!

This is not quite what it sounds! The 'Free From' Awards took place in April with sixteen categories celebrating food that was free from wheat, gluten or dairy.

Gluten-free products are designed for people

with a low tolerance to gluten such as those with coeliac disease. The number affected is greater than you would think, with an estimated half a million people in Britain alone. Unfortunately, if you are one of these, then beer is usually one culprit food that you have to restrict, but brewers are seeing a lucrative niche for beers that use other ingredients such as sorghum or treated malts. This year's Awards, sponsored by Asda, saw a significant increase in the beer category with 12



bottled beers being judged. The judges included a London brewer and three CAMRA judges, all of whom were pleasantly surprised at the drinkability and variety of the beers. These included lagers, golden ales, bitters and even brown ales and they came not just from the UK but also Spain, Belgium,

Germany and the Netherlands.

The overall winner was a bottle-conditioned 5.8% ABV Blonde Ale from Green's. Although based in Yorkshire, their beers are brewed for them in Belgium. Using 'deglutenised barley malt', this

golden coloured winning beer had a smooth mouthfeel with fruit and some creamy caramel in the flavour. There was a pleasing bitterness that grew on drinking and lingered into the aftertaste with a little dryness.

Another Green's bottle-conditioned, beer, their Dark Ale, again 5.8% ABV, was also liked. The judges from CAMRA rated 'Against the Grain', from Wold Top Brewery in Yorkshire as the best British brewed beer. This 4.5% ABV pale yellow

beer, with citrus and a hint of malt, had a gluten content of less than 20ppm.

For details of all the beer tasted, comments on each beer and where to buy them, visit www.freefromfoodawards.co.uk.
Christine Cryne

LOSC SCORES WITH 200+ REAL ALES

eyton Orient Supporters Club has been given the award of East London Club of the Year for an astonishing ninth time. This recognition of its beer excellence comes from the East London and City (ELAC) Branch of the Campaign For Real Ale (CAMRA).

ELAC Chairman, John Pardoe, says, "In 2010 LOSC served more than 200 different real ales from the length and breadth of Britain. It also always provides artisan ciders and even a farmhouse perry to its members and visitors. No wonder a trip to the Orient Supporters Club is eagerly anticipated by fans of other football clubs. And this excellence results entirely from the work of volunteers. Up the OS!"

Since 1998 LOSC has been voted nine times as East London Club of the Year, five times as Greater London Club of the Year and in 2008 as



joint National Club of the Year. It has also received two special CAM-RA awards and been listed four times in the Good Beer Guide.

John Pardoe (left) presents the ELAC Award to Malcolm McCarthy (right) of LOSC, surrounded by other ELAC members. – Photo by Steve Jenkins.

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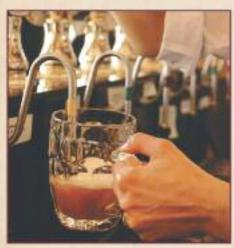












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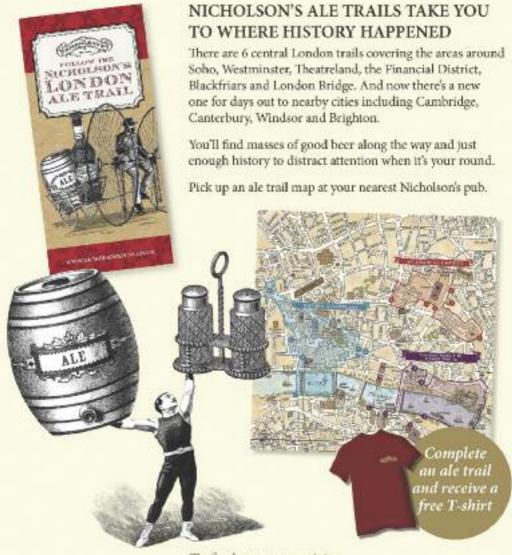
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London's Riverside Pubs

Published by New Holland. Cover price £14.99.

As 2012 approaches and we get ready to welcome international Olympic beer drinking teams, we can expect a number of new London pub guides to hit the bookshops.



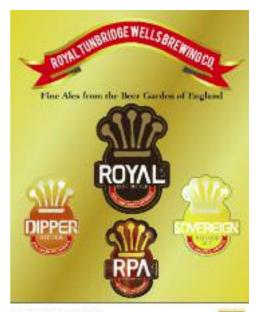
The latest one is London's Riverside

Pubs by Tim Hampson, a 208 page paperback, full colour, glossy guide to pubs from Walton in the west to the Isle of Dogs in East London covering 100 of London's best waterside pubs in between.

Each pub is covered in detail. Tim Hampson is one of the country's most eloquent and experienced beer writers and the colour photographs on every page break up the text perfectly, making the book very readable. The maps are also extremely clear and show the location of each pub. There is even a suggestion of what beers you are likely to find on each visit.

It is a perfect guide to the Thames and its pubs, whether you know London or not, whether you live here or are visiting, and interested in the pubs, the river or just rambling along its bank.

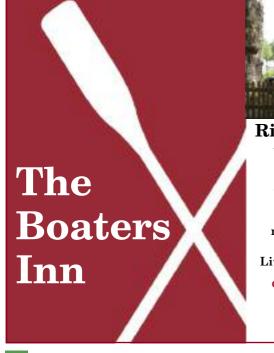
Steve Williams



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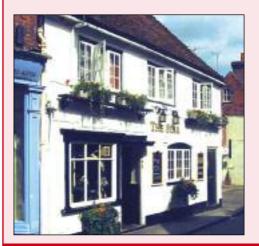
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Dear Editor

Further to David Houston's letter (London Drinker April/May 2011), there is one recent development which will, I feel, inevitably make problem drinking, in particular underage drinking worse. I refer to the growth of self-service tills in supermarkets. This will render almost impossible the already loose controls on the sale of alcohol in supermarkets. How can one attendant for anything up to a dozen such tills control underage or already drunk customers from purchasing more drink? Supermarkets are already the easiest way of avoiding drink controls, in particular as the authorities seem terrified of taking on these big chains, and, unless measures are taken, such as requiring drink sales to be made only at a manned till, such sales will become effectively uncontrolled. Mark Austin

Dear Editor

With all the recent correspondence about BrewDog I thought I'd throw my opinion into the mix for what it's worth.

BrewDog unarguably make some cracking beers. Indeed Punk IPA is one of my 'desert island' beers. I also acknowledge that they have some clever marketing. But that's what it is – marketing. For all the blurb on the website and bottles about being 'an intrepid David in a desperate ocean of insipid Goliaths' and a 'beacon of non-conformity' as well as being anti-corporate and anti-mainstream etc, they are available in Tescos, Morrisons and Sainsburys. Very rebellious, boys!

They have been reported recently as saying CAMRA members are all "guys in their 50s with beer bellies and sandals who spend weekends at train stations". I see, so attack us – not the aforementioned huge supermarkets they are quite happy to do business with. As we all know these supermarkets have done so much good for the British beer industry over the last 40 years.

BrewDog are not the 'rebel king' as Tim Webb would have it. They are not the 'doctor to the sick UK beer scene'. They are not the saviour of the real ale/craft beer movement, which was doing very well before they came along.

BrewDog are a good brewery who are starting to believe their own overhyped publicity just a little too much. They're in it for a pound note – nothing wrong with that, but can we have a bit less of the pretentious, hypocritical waffle whilst you're at it please?

Tim Sullivan

PS For the record I'm not in my 50s, don't have a beard or sandals and am not a trainspotter. I will admit to a slight paunch though!

Dear Editor

On the face of it Young's are showing initiative in holding a mini beer festival, featuring guests from smaller breweries. Bath Ales have featured recently and at present they are carrying, in my area, products of Sambrook's and of Twickenham Fine Ales.

The drawback is the price: for such guest ales they charge a premium of 30p or 35p above the (already expensive) Young's Special. Twickenham 'Naked Ladies' is excellent, but not at £3.70 for a pint.

This could be intended to give the impression of supporting smaller brewers without making too much impact on the sales of their own products, or they may wish to convey the impression that their opponents' beers are so much better that they justify a premium price! Alternatively (as put to me by an anonymous member of the bar staff) if people are stupid enough to pay these prices then the company will continue to charge them.

Whatever the reason, the whole idea of advertising a festival of guest ales is defeated if they are priced at a level when no-one will buy. The likely outcome is that sales will be slow, resulting in beer going stale and the company deciding that there is no demand.

David Todd, Hanworth

Dear Editor

Your feature on the Morden Tavern (LD Vol 33, No 1) awoke memories of the age of the motor scooter, whose social function was to give easy access to roads where bus stops do not go. The scooter also provided the fair sex with a means of cheap two-wheeled transport when wearing a skirt.

The Surrey Lambretta Club was founded in 1956 and eventually outgrew its HQ at Wimbledon Conservative Club and moved to the Morden Tavern. Here they had the use of a large room at the back every Wednesday evening with all the usual facilities, darts etc.

This was never a Mod Club, but had a written constitution with officials in the traditional manner, viz Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee, all elected annually. I joined in 1959 when I was 18 years old and relatively inexperienced at beer consumption. I recall drinking bottled light ale having given up both brown ale and cider.

Of course at that age I had ulterior motives and kept a close eye on the talent available. Each year a fresh bunch of young females would become old enough to drive a scooter and arrive on the forecourt of the Tavern. Would I meet my future wife here? Hardly she was only 13!

M J Stevens

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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 June and July are listed below. Meetings and socials are open to all – everyone is welcome to come along.

LONDON REGIONAL EVENT

July - Wed 20 (8pm) London Liaison Committee (Regional coordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

Chair: Jane Jephcote, jane.jephcote@googlemail.com, 020 7720 6327 or 07813 739856

June – Sat 11 Daytime crawl of Cheam, Sutton, Carshalton and Wallington: (12 noon) Railway, 32 Station Way, Cheam; (1pm) Prince of Wales, 28 Malden Rd, Cheam; (2.30) Olde Red Lion, 17 Park Rd, Cheam; (3.45) Plough, 155 Gander Green La, West Sutton; (5pm) New Town, 7 Lind Rd, Sutton; (6pm) Greyhound, 2 High St, Carshalton; (6.45) Duke's Head, 6 Manor Rd, Wallington. Public transport will be required at times.

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

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.org.uk

LONDON CIDER GROUP

Co-ordinator: Ian White, london_cider@btinternet.com or text 07775 973760 (10-4 Mon-Fri)

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

June - Thu 9 Greenwich SE10 crawl: (7.30) Old Brewery, Old Royal Naval College; (8:30) Gate Clock, 210 Creek Rd; (9.30) Richard I, 52-54 Royal Hill; (10pm) Greenwich Union, 56 Royal Hill. - Thu 16 Euston crawl: (7.45) Carpenters Arms, 68-70 Whitfield St, W1; (8.15) Prince of Wales Feathers, 8 Warren St, W1; (9pm) Bree Louise, 69 Cobourg St; (10pm) Euston Tap, 190 Euston Rd. July - Sat 2 Surbiton to Kingston riverside ramble: (12.30) Lamb, 73 Brighton Rd, Surbiton; (1.30) City Arms, Portsmouth Rd, Thames Ditton: (2.15) Fox & Hounds, 60 Portsmouth Rd, Surbiton: (3pm) Ram, 34 High St, Kingston; (3.30) Woody's, 5 Ram Passage, High St; (4pm) Druids Head, 3 Market Place; (4.30) Bishop Out of Residence, 2 Bishops Hall, Thames St; (5.15) Boaters Inn, Canbury Gdns, Lower Ham Rd. - Thu 14 Highgate crawl: (7.30) Wrestlers, 98 North Rd; (8pm) Red Lion & Sun, 25 North Rd; (8.30) Gatehouse, 1 North Rd; (9pm) Flask, 77 Highgate West Hill; (9.30) Angel Inn, 37 Highgate High St; (10pm) Prince of Wales, 53 Highgate High St. Email group: http://groups.google.com/group/london-camra-ym

BEXLEY

Graham Austin, 07939 145429, contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk June – Wed 8 (8pm) Branch AGM. Crayford Arms, Crayford. July – Wed 13 (8.30) Mtg. Black Horse, Bexley. Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill, 07831 561296, pete_mcgill@hotmail.com
June – Wed 8 (8.30) Social and PotY presentation. Windsor Castle,
Carshalton Rd, Carshalton. - Tue 14 (8.30) Social and PotY
presentation. George, George St, Croydon. - Wed 22 Evening trip to
Sambrook's Brewery. Contact for info and to book place. - Tue 28
Mtg. (8.30) Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey St, Croydon.
July – Thu 14 South Croydon social: (8pm) Woodman, Upland Rd;
(9.15) Crown & Sceptre, 32 Junction Rd. - Wed 20 (8.30) Social.
Tamworth Arms, Tamworth Rd, Croydon. - Thu 28 (8.30) Mtg.
Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.
Website: www.croydon.camra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

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

June – Tue 7 E3 crawl: (7.45) Beehive, 103 Empson St; (8.30) Blue
Anchor, 67 Bromley High St; (9.15) Bow Bells, 116 Bow Rd; (10pm)

Little Driver, 125 Bow Rd. - Tue 21 EC4 crawl: (7.30) Sea Horse, 64

Queen Victoria St; (8.10) Horns Tavern, 29-33 Knightrider St; (8.50) Baynard Castle, 148 Queen Victoria St; (9.30) Cockpit, 7 St Andrews Hill; (10.10) Shaws Booksellers, 31-34 St Andrews Hill. July – Tue 5 (7.30) GBBF publicity material dissemination. Old Fountain, 3 Baldwin St, EC1. - Tue 19 Stoke Newington crawl: (7.30) Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, E8 for bus (c8pm) to Rose & Crown, 199 Stoke Newington Church St and Defoes, 102 Stoke Newington Church St N16; (10pm) Jolly Butchers, 202-204 Stoke Newington High St. - Sat 23 Pete Roberts memorial ramble; train from Liverpool St to Billericay or Rochford: details available nearer the date.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Brian Willis, 020 8440 4542 (H), branch mobile 07757 710008 at event

June – Wed 8 (8.30 sharp) Branch AGM (CAMRA members only). Ye Olde Mitre (Stable Bar), 58 High St, Barnet EN5. - Sat 11 Welland Valley Beer Festival. Contact Owen Woodliffe, 020 8529 4454 for details - Thu 16 (8pm) Garden social. Adam and Eve, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill NW7. - Sat 18 (from noon) Gibberd Garden Beer Festival, Harlow. Contact Ron Andrews, 020 8524 4239 for details - Wed 22 (8pm) Club social. Botany Bay Cricket Club, East Lodge La, off Ridgeway, Enfield EN2. Bring CAMRA membership card. - Tue 28 (8pm) Garden social. Ye Olde Cherry Tree, 22 The Green, Southgate N14.

July – Wed 6 (8pm) Garden social. Cock & Dragon, Chalk La, Cockfosters EN4. - Tue 12 (8pm) Garden social. Griffin, 1262 High Rd, Whetstone N20. - Thu 21 (8.30) London Drinker Pick up. Old Mitre, 58 High St, Barnet EN5. - Sat 23 Peter Roberts memorial ramble; train from Liverpool Street to Billericay or Rochford. Contact Ron Andrews for details - Wed 27 (8pm) Garden social. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. Website: www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor, 020 8949 2099, ctaylor2007@freeuk.com
June – Tue 7 (8.15) Mtg. Griffin, Common Rd, Claygate. - Thu 9
Thames Ditton crawl: (8pm) George & Dragon, then Red Lion,
Swan and pubs to Hampton Court station. - Sat 25 (1pm) Branch
visit to open day of new Surrey Hills Brewery at Denbies Vineyards,
Dorking. Meet at the brewery.

July – Sat 2 Young members crawl from Surbiton along the river to Kingston: (12.30) Lamb, Brighton Rd, then as shown in Young Members diary above. - Tue 5 (8.15) Mtg. Running Horse, Bridge St, Leatherhead. - Sat 9 Coach trip to Ardingly traction fair. Pick up 10.30 at Surbiton station. Fare £18. Contact Adrian Palmer 01932.850624 to book before 10 June. - 28at 16 Trip to Alton for the bus day to GBG pubs in the area. Travel from Surbiton on a train about 11.00. - Thu 21 Epsom crawl no.2: (8pm) Assembly Rooms, then Albion, Marquess of Granby, Cricketers and Jolly Coopers. - Sun 24 (1pm) Lunch time beers at Boaters, Canbury Gdns, Kingston.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

Social contacts: Stephen Taylor, 07531 006296, stephen.taylor2@selexgalileo.com; John Adams, 07970 150707, jpa1260@gmail.com. Branch chairman: John Cryne, 07802 174861,

john.cryne2@googlemail.com

June – Tue 7 (8pm) LDBF washup mtg. Wenlock Arms (upstairs room), 24 Wenlock St, Nl. - Tue 14 (8pm) PotY presentation. Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd, NW5. - Tue 21 Longest day Highgate N6 garden social: (7.30) Wrestler, 98 North Rd; (8.30) Red Lion & Sun, 25 North Rd; (9.15) Flask, 77 Highgate West Hill; (10pm) Gatehouse, 1 North Rd. - Tue 28 Hornsey N8 social: (7.30) Victoria Stakes, 1 Muswell Hill, N10; (8.30) Hornsey Tavern, 26 High St; (9pm) Three Compasses, 62 High St; (10pm) Toll Gate, 26-30 Turnpike Ln.

July – Tue 5 Harringay N4 social: (8pm) Old Ale Emporium, 405 Green Lns; (9pm) Garden Ladder, 501 Green Lns; (10pm) Salisbury, 1 Grand Pde, Green Lns. - Tue 12 Crouch End N8 social: (7.30) Railway Tavern, 23 Crouch End Hill; (8.15) Kings Head, 2 Crouch End Hill; (9pm) Henry Reader, 22 Topsfield Pde, Tottenham La; (9.45) Queens, 26 Broadway Pde, Tottenham La; (10.30) Devonshire House, 2 The Broadway. - Tue 19 (8pm) Branch AGM. Calthorpe

Branch diaries

Arms (upstairs room), 252 Grays Inn Rd, WC1. - Sun 24 Joint social with West Middlesex branch: (1pm) JJ Moon's, 551-553 Kingsbury Rd, NW9; (3pm) New Moon, 25-26 Kenton Park Pde, HA3; (4pm) Windermere, Windermere Ave, HA9; (5pm) Preston, 161 Preston Rd, HA9; (6pm) Bear, 379a High Rd, HA9; (6.30pm) JJ Moon's, 397 High Rd, HA9. - Tue 26 Holloway N7 social: (7.30) George, 9 Eden Gro; (8.30) Swimmer, 13 Eburne Rd; (9.15) Tollington, 115 Hornsey Rd; (10pm) Coronet, 338-346 Holloway Rd Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk Email list: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/camranorthlondon/

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Brian Kirton, 020 8384 7284 (H), brian.kirton@yahoo.co.uk June - Thu 9 (8pm) Social, Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Rd, Brentford (venue for many early CAMRA meetings). - Thu 16 (8pm) Mtg. Beehive, 333 Staines Rd, Bedfont. - Wed 22 St Margarets crawl: (7.30) Ailsa Tavern, 263 St Margarets Rd; (8.30) Turks Head, 28 Winchester Rd; (9pm) St Margarets Tavern, 10 St Margarets Rd; (9.45) Marble Hill, 277 Richmond Rd; (10.15) Crown, 174 Richmond Rd.

July - Sun 3 (2pm-5pm) Social. Friends of Twickenham Green Fete, Twickenham Green, TW2. - Thu 14 (8pm) Mtg. Old Anchor, 71 Richmond Rd, Twickenham. - Thu 28 CAMRA's 40th Anniversary 'Watney Memorial' crawl of Mortlake pubs within sight of the brewery: (7.30) Ship Tavern, 10 Thames Bank; (8.30) Jolly Gardeners, 36 Lower Richmond Rd; (9.15) Charlie Butler, 40 Mortlake High St; (10pm) Railway, 11 Sheen La. Website: www.rhcamra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

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

June - Mon 6 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Hoopers Bar, 28 Ivanhoe Rd, SE5. - Wed 15 (8pm) Social. Dial Arch, The Warren, Royal Arsenal Riverside, SE18. - Mon 20 Summer Solstice crawl of Bromley Common and Hayes BR2: (7.30) Bird in Hand, 62 Gravel Rd; (8.15) Two Doves, 37 Oakley Rd, leaving 9pm for cross country walk, arriving (9.30) George, 29 Hayes St; (10.30) New Inn, 59 Station Approach. - Mon 27 Lewisham crawl: (7.30 m) Ladywell Tavern, 80 Ladywell Rd, SE13; (8.30) Jolly Farmers, 354 Lewisham High St, SE13; (9.30) Ravensbourne Arms, 323 Lewisham High St, SE13 or, if not yet opened, London & Rye, 109 Rushey Green, SE6. July - Thu 7 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Telegraph at the Earl of Derby (upstairs room), 87 Dennetts Rd, New Cross SE14. - Sun 10 Brighton pub crawl Part 2: (9am) breakfast at George, George St, East Croydon. Leave East Croydon Station for Brighton approx 10.15. See website for further details. - Thu 14 Borough SE1 crawl: (7.30) George, 77 Borough High St; (8.15) Old Kings Head, 47-49 Borough High St; (9.15) Market Porter, 9 Stoney St; (10.15) Wheatsheaf, 24 Southwark St. - Wed 20 Leaves Green Road BR2 crawl: (8pm) Crown Inn; (9.30) Kings Head. - Mon 25 New Cross SE14 crawl: (7.30) Royal Albert, 460 New Cross Rd; (8.30) Amersham Arms, 388 New Cross Rd; (9.30) Walpole, 407 New Cross Rd; (10.15) New Cross House (formerly Goldsmith's Tavern), 316 New Cross Rd.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH-WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker, swessex@essex-camra.org.uk, 07711 971957 (M) evenings or weekends only.

Bookings for minibus trips (+ all brewery trips) to Graham Platt: 020 8220 0215 (H)

June - Thu 2 (8.30) Essex area PotY presentation and social. White Hart, Kings Walk, Grays. - Tue 7 (8pm) Beer Fest social. Thurrock Beer Fest, Thurrock Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays. - Thu 16 (8pm) Social, 7th Braintree Beer Fest, Braintree Institute, Bocking End, Braintree. - Sat 18 (12 noon) Social. 4th Gibberd Garden Beer Fest, Marsh La, Old Harlow. - Tue 21 (8.30) Social. Rising Sun, Church Hill, Stanford-Le-Hope. - Tue 28 (8.30) Social. Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd, Woodford Green

July - Wed 6 (8.30) Social. Eagle, Ongar Rd, Kelvedon Hatch. - Tue 12 (8pm) Social. 33rd Chelmsford Summer Beer Fest, Admiral's Park, Rainsford Rd, Chelmsford. - Thu 21 (8.30) Social, White Hart Summer Beer Fest, Swan La, Margaretting Tye. - Thu 28 (8.30) Social. Colley Rowe Inn, 54/56 Collier Row Rd, Collier Row.

Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mark Bravery, 020 8540 9183 (H), 07969 807890 (M), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk

Cricket contact: Tom Brain 07796 265972. tbrain@havsmacintvre.com June - Sat 4 Cycle tour. Meet (10am) Raynes Park Station, south side. - Wed 8 (7.30) Open cttee mtg. William Morris, 20 Watermill Way, Merton Abbey SW19 - Tue 21 Streatham SW16 crawl: (7.15) Leigham Arms, 1 Wellfield Rd; (8.15) Holland Tringham, 107 Streatham High Rd; (9pm) Manor Arms, 13 Mitcham La; (10pm) Earl Ferrers, 22 Ellora Rd.

July - Sat 2 Cycle tour. Meet (10.30) Raynes Park Station, south side. - Wed 6 Vauxhall and South Lambeth SW8 crawl: (6.45) Vauxhall Griffin, 8 Wyvil Rd; (7.45) Fentiman Arms, 64 Fentiman Rd; (8.30) Canton Arms, 177 S Lambeth Rd; (9.15) Mawbey Arms, 7 Mawbey St; (10pm) Cavendish Arms, 128 Hartington Rd. - Sat 9 GBBF publicity crawl of Wimbledon SW19: meet (12 noon) Alexandra, 33 Wimbledon Hill Rd, then to include (1.45) Rose & Crown, 55 High St, Wimbledon Village. - Mon 25 (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Draft House Westbridge, 74 Battersea Bridge Rd, SW11. Website: www.swlcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H) 07854 988152 (M) June - Thu 9 (8.30) Black Boy, 19 Windmill St, Bushey Heath. -Mon 20 Rickmansworth Mill End crawl: (8.30) Whip & Collar, 367 Uxbridge Rd; (9.15) Tree, 166 Uxbridge Rd; (10pm) Halfway House, 91 Uxbridge Rd. - Mon 27 (8pm) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, 2 St Johns Rd. Watford.

July - Sat 9 Sarratt stumble: (12.45) Plough, Dunny La, Belsize; (1.30) Boot, The Green, Sarratt; (2.20) Cock, Church La, Sarratt; (3.10) Cricketers, The Green, Sarratt. - Thu 14 (8pm) Petanque. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate. - Mon 25 (8pm) Mtg. West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford. Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton 07835 927357, paul@paulcw4.plus.com; Social secretary Alasdair Boyd: 020 7930 9871 x 143 (2.30-3.30 and 6-9.30pm Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk, fax 020 7839 4768 June - Thu 2 (7.30) PotY presentation Cask Pub & Kitchen, 6 Charlwood St, Pimlico SW1. - Tue 7 (7.30) PotY 2nd place presentation. White Horse, 1-3 Parson's Green, SW6; (9.30) 3rd place presentation. Edgar Wallace, 40 Essex St, WC2. - Wed 15 (7 for 7.30) Mtg. Cleveland Arms (rear lounge), 28 Chilworth St, W2. Wed 22: SW1 Guide surveys: meet (7 for 7.30) Paxtons Head, 153 Knightsbridge. - Tue 28 GBBF publicity crawls: (6pm onwards) Albion, 121 Hammersmith Rd, W14. July - Wed 6-Sat 9 Working socials. Ealing Beer Festival, Walpole

Park, W5. - Wed 13 GBBF publicity crawls: (6pm onwards) Buckingham Arms, 62 Petty France, SW1. - Thu 21 GBBF publicity crawls: (6pm onwards) Ship & Shovell, 1-3 Craven Passage, WC2. -Tue 26 (7 for 7.30) Mtg. Albion (upstairs), 121 Hammersmith Rd, W14. - Sat 30 GBBF publicity crawls: (12 noon onwards) Cleveland Arms, 28 Chilworth St. W2.

Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

John Bush, 07739 105336, info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk June - Wed 8 (8.30) PotY presentation. Fox, Green La, Hanwell -Tue 14 Ealing Beer Festival publicity crawls: (7pm onwards) Questors Theatre Grapevine Bar, Mattock La, Ealing. - Wed 22 Ealing Beer Festival publicity crawls: (7pm onwards) Queens Head, 33 Windsor St, Uxbridge. - Mon 27 Ealing Beer Festival publicity crawl: (7pm onwards) Tabard, 2 Bath Rd, Chiswick. - Tue 28 GBBF and Ealing Beer Festival publicity crawls: (6pm onwards) Albion, 121 Hammersmith Rd. For those joining Ealing Beer Festival publicity crawls late, please ring 07960 031399 to find out where we are! July - Wed 6-Sat 9 Ealing Beer Festival, Walpole Park, Mattock La, Ealing (see page 29) - Wed 20 (8.30) Mtg, venue TBC - Sun 24 Joint crawl with North London (see North London diary). Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the August/September edition: Wednesday 6 July. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

What makes Antic tick?

An interview with Anthony Thomas of the Antic Pub Collective

recently noticed that a number of pubs in Lewisham appear to have undergone a miraculous transformation. One which I visited after a long absence was the Royal Albert, New Cross Road, SE14. It is a fantastic Victorian Grade II listed building and one which I had often passed and thought 'nice building but shame about the beer'. At one stage known as the Paradise Bar, its use was even officially changed to a nightclub, much to the dismay of local residents. However, my visit there in 2009 revealed a traditional pub serving real ale and good food, with home made pork pies and sausage rolls displayed under glass bells on the bar. It was now the sort of establishment which anyone would welcome at the end of their street.

At about the same time I noticed that the Alpha Club in Brockley Road, SE4, which I always assumed was a private members club in a pair of converted Victorian shops and very unlikely to



stock real ale, had become the 'Jam Circus'. It was now a proper, if unusually named pub, offering real ale, Belgian bottled beers and stand up comedy in a quirky 1960s themed room at the rear of the bar. I discovered that the company associated with the remarkable transformation of these two licensed establishments was called Antic.

Then, earlier this year, I found that the vacant and boarded up Coach & Horses in Lewisham High Street, SE13 wasn't as I feared going to be demolished and replaced by a block of flats. The original tiled front of this 1930s pub had suddenly been exposed by the removal of later cladding, while a large banner on the building proclaimed the fact that the pub had been acquired by Antic and would soon be opening as the Ravensbourne Arms.

Checking out their Website at www.anticltd.com, I saw that they're based in Camberwell and style themselves a Pub Collective rather than a Pub





Company. They currently have an impressive collection of 16 pubs spread across London, but mainly south of the river, with four more in addition to the Ravensbourne Arms in the pipeline as well as a new brewery in Camberwell. I then made the startling discovery that Antic was run by someone I knew, although I never suspected that he was involved with reviving the fortunes of ailing London pubs. His name is Anthony Thomas.

Realising, that many other CAMRA members would want to know more about Antic, I approached them to see if I could get an interview with Anthony. I soon got a message asking me to meet him at the Rising Sun in Tottenham Court Road at 6.30 on a Wednesday evening. I arrived early and after a short while I saw the distinctive figure of Anthony approaching. He is tall, slim, with longish black hair and beard. After we greet, I notice Anthony casting an eye over the interior of this opulent Victorian gin palace, no doubt thinking of how it could be improved should Punch Taverns ever decide to sell it! Just as I only recently made the connection between Anthony and Antic, he did not know of my active involvement with CAMRA's

South East London Branch, so I fill him in on this. As the pub is by now getting quite crowded we decide to take our pints of Shepherd Neame Spitfire into the street to continue the interview in the fading sunlight of a warm spring evening.

One of my first questions for Anthony was about the origin of the name. superficially a pun on his own name he refers me to the dictionary definition of 'antic' which can mean any one of a number of things such as 'odd, ludicrous, whimsical, a merry-Andrew or a buffoon'. While the company, like any other, can only survive if it makes a profit, it is also about having fun and the Antic name is intended to reflect this. Similarly, Antic prefer to be called a Collective and not a Company. This is not just because of the negative connotations associated with pubcos but because the organisation comprises a collection of very disparate pubs, all run with that objective of having fun and providing fun. Wetherspoons, Antic do not have a brand image. Instead they have pubs such as the Jam Circus with its stand up comedy and 60s retro look and the Royal Albert where real ale is served in jugs as opposed to the now ubiquitous straight glass. Anthony also admitted that he would like to introduce metal tankards if he could be sure they wouldn't be stolen. In terms of entertainment, Anthony is a traditionalist and would like to secure

the involvement of local Morris sides to entertain customers with dancing on summer evenings. He particularly likes brass bands and would very much like to find a local one to sponsor. They could certainly provide the required razzmatazz for the launch of new pubs!

We now turn our attention to real ale and I ask Anthony whether he would expect all Antic Pubs to stock real ale. His answer is an unequivocal 'ves'. However, some pubs have restricted cellar space which limits the numbers of real ales which can be sold to only two or three. On the other hand, pubs, such as the newly acquired Red Lion, High Road, Leytonstone, E11, have the potential to supply real ale from a large cellar serving a large number of handpumps. I ask Anthony whether any manager of an Antic pub has ever said to him that he or she was unable to sell real ale because 'there was no demand'. Anthony assures me that this has never happened and if it did he would clearly need to take a look at the pub in question to see what it was doing wrong. Anthony is certainly aware of that vital statistic that real ale is the only sector of the brewing industry currently exhibiting growth.

On the subject of whether any pubs in the collective have ever failed, Anthony admits that since its foundation in 1999 some mistakes were made in the early days. At that stage they were still finding their way and they didn't always get it right.



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He recalls a pub in Peckham which they acquired on a three year lease from a pubco. He can no longer remember the name but all their attempts to turn it round failed. The lease was not renewed and the pub use of the building subsequently ceased. However, with the passage of time comes experience. Anthony does not consider they would make that sort of mistake again.

Following local concerns that the Forest Hill Dartmouth Road, SE23, may redeveloped and knowing that one of the new Antic pubs will be a conversion of the Forest Hill Post Office in Dartmouth Rd, I asked Anthony if he had looked at the possibility of taking on the existing pub. Anthony replies that they did and that taking over a vacant pub is normally always preferable to creating a new one. While they obviously wanted a presence in Forest Hill, the size of the premises and its position in the town centre and cost of acquisition are important considerations. In this case the owner had had planning permission refused for a residential conversion of the upper floors of the building. However, even expectations of residential development can sometimes put pubs beyond the reach of genuine pub operators. Antic therefore considered that the best option for the collective in this case was to establish a new pub to be called the 'Sylvan Post' which should open this

One of the other new Antic pubs will be the Greyhound, Kirkdale, Sydenham, SE26, which local residents fought hard to ensure was retained as part of a proposed redevelopment scheme. I asked Anthony if he knew anything about the Victorian wall tiles which the developer has told residents are in storage and will be reinstated on completion of the development. Anthony confirms that this is his understanding but he has not seen the tiles and does not know what condition they are in. However, Antic would always fully support the retention of original internal features and fittings.

This now brings me to the only hint of controversy linked to an Antic pub which has come to my attention. The Old Red Lion, Kennington Park Road, SE11, is a Grade II listed building included in the CAMRA London Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. I had heard complaints about internal alterations being carried out without listed building consent. Anthony is surprised that the refurbishment works at the premises, which he thought had been minimal, would have needed listed building consent. However, if any harm has been done to the listed building, Antic would of course co-operate fully with the local authority in rectifying this.

Turning from selling real ale to making it, I ask Anthony about Antic's recent purchase of brewing equipment from Meantime. Yes, the Collective proposes to make its entry into the microbrewery sector towards the end of the year with a new brewery located at their Camberwell HQ. A brewer who started his career with the Firkin chain has been recruited. According to Anthony, it is not intended to limit production to the supply of Antic pubs. Instead, production will be of a scale which will enable a number of real ales to be offered on the open market to other outlets, including, of course, beer festivals. One of Anthony's ambitions would be to brew a good quality, popular real ale which would sell, at current prices, for about £2.40 a pint in Antic pubs.

With the sun now setting over the West End and the football on the television inside the pub giving rise to quite a sizable crowd, the interview draws to a close and we say our goodbyes. I leave the Rising Sun with a feeling that it is not all doom and gloom on the pub front in London and that not every pub that closes is destined to become a block of flats or a betting shop. Anyone with any further queries or suggestions for the Antic collective could always try the 'Bosses' Ear' section of their Website. No doubt there will be quite a few CAMRA members with boarded up pubs near them in need of a sympathetic new owner who appreciates real ale!

Jan Mondrzejewski South East London CAMRA





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

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

This time we welcome the second Pubs of Distinction outlet with cask ales from micros in EC1 Smithfield. We catch up on four stylish modern bars opened by Drake & Morgan in EC2 and EC3 City, E14 Canary Wharf and SE1 Southwark near Tate Modern, and on the availability of real ale at a local food boutique in St Pancras International Station. Two more pubs, in NW5 Kentish Town and SE3 Chelsea, have been added to Young's Geronimo pubs estate; we highlight the full list of these pubs and also those pubs acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. Guest beer policy in these former small Pubco pubs is currently uncertain. Capital Pub Co have acquired two pubs in SE15 Peckham and SE27 Gipsy Hill.

Marston's continue to dispose of their diminishing London estate and more pubs across London are targeted for conversion to convenience stores for which planning

permission is not needed.

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; BSM - Brixton, Streatham & Mitcham 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; 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 (2KT - second edition); N -North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; RHP - Richmond, 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; WC - WC1 and WC2 Real Ale Guide; X - Essex Beer Guide, 9th edition.

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

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, BAR CAFE, Travelodge London City Road, 1-23 City Rd. No real ale. Ground floor cafe and bar area attached to new chain Travelodge hotel in former Singer Sewing Machine building. Open to non-residents.

EC1, NO 1 SPORTS BAR, 1 City Rd. No real ale. Corner bar and restaurant attached to new Travelodge chain hotel open to general public.

EC2, ANTHOLOGIST, 58 Gresham St. Fuller: London Pride. Large bar and restaurant opened on ground floor of office block in April 2010 by small expanding Drake & Morgan pub company. Mixture of seating, separate restaurant area and open-to-view kitchen. Open 8am-11pm Mon-Wed, 8am-1am Thu/Fri, 9.30pm-1am Sat with soul music, closed Sun.

EC2, CITY BOOT, 7 Moorfields High Walk. Davys wine bar now with keg Old Wallop and lager. Add to pub database. EC3, FOLLY, 41 Gracechurch St. Fuller: London Pride; Woodforde: Wherry (£4.20/pint). Spacious and stylish bar and restaurant occupying ground floor and basement of office building. Opened November 2010 by Drake & Morgan pub company. Has in-house deli, wine shop and flower shop. Open-to-view kitchen and potted plants throughout. Open 7.30am-11pm Mon-Wed, 7.30am-1am Thu/Fri, 10am-midnight Sat, 10am-7pm Sun.

EC3, HEMINGWAYS, 19 Bevis Marks. No real ale. Independent wine bar, restaurant and function room with keg beer in former commercial premises.

EAST

E14, PARLOUR, Park Pavilion, 40 Canada Sq. Fuller: London Pride. Large Drake & Morgan bar and restaurant opened October 2009. Mixture of seating and lighting, grey decor, separate restaurant area with open-to-view kitchen. Outdoor eating/drinking area. Open 8am-11pm Mon-Wed, 8am-midnight Thu/Fri, 10am-midnight Sat, 10am-7pm Sun.

CRANHAM (RM14), GOLDEN CRANE, 117 Avon Rd. Reopened. Wells: Eagle IPA, Bombardier. Now Charles Wells, ex-Bass, since c2004. (X44, U215)

NORTH

N1, AS GOOD AS IT GETS, 125 Packington St. Reopened and renamed ZENITH in 2008. No real ale. Now independent, ex-Shepherd Neame. Formerly PACKINGTON ARMS. (N54, U171, U190)

N12, ERRIS TAVERN, 359 Ballards Lane. Reopened and renamed MIST in November 2010. No real ale. Now an independent Middle Eastern bar. Formerly TILTED GLASS. (N112, U155, U204)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CAMDEN BAR & KITCHEN, 102 Camden High St. No real ale. Independent bar and restaurant in former restaurant premises.

NW1, SOURCED MARKET, 28A/28B St Pancras International Station, Pancras Rd. Two varying guest beers from micros served direct from the cask (e.g. Sambrook's, Tunbridge Wells), not always available. Beers can be consumed in small seating area next to beer section of independent food and drink market with goods drawn from carefully screened suppliers. Good range of bottled beers also available, supplied by Utobeer of Borough Market. Located opposite National Rail ticket office at rear of station. Open 7am-9pm Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm Sat, 10am-8pm Sun.

NW5, LION & UNICORN, 42/44 Gaisford St. Five real ales including Adnams Bitter, Purity Pure Ubu, Sharp's Cornish Coaster, Wells Bombardier. Beers may vary. Renovations completed at this newly acquired Young's (Geronimo) gastropub. Gardens front and back. Formerly ROYAL. (N200, U156, U184, U217)

NW6, PRIORY TAVERN, 250 Belsize Rd. Taylor: Landlord. (N206, U109, U214)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, LOVAGE, 13/15 Queen Elizabeth St. No real ale. Independent Indian bar and restaurant with keg beer in former 'Circle Bar' which had no draught beer products.

SE1, ESCAPE, 96 Southwark Bridge Rd. Reopened and renamed GOLDSMITH (THE) by July 2010. Tetley: Mad Trumpet; Wells: Banana Bread Bitter. Beers may vary. Believed no longer leased to LFB Welfare Fund. Formerly

GOLDSMITHS ARMS. (SE18, U208, U211)

SE1, REFINERY, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark St. Fuller: London Pride; Woodforde: Wherry. New large Drake & Morgan bar and restaurant opened March 2008 on ground floor of new office development. Mixture of seating, grey decor, separate restaurant area, open-to-view kitchen, smoking corner. Outdoor drinking and eating area including deck chairs. Open 12-11 Mon-Wed, 12-1am Thu/Fri, 10-7 Sat/Sun. CROYDON (CR0), CR0 BAR, 125 High St. Reopened and

CROYDON (CR0), CR0 BAR, 125 High St. Reopened and renamed DABSY'S. No real ale. Now independent, ex-SFI, originally LITTEN TREE. (U153, U186, U191, U202) CROYDON (CR0), WAREHOUSE CAFE BAR, Warehouse

CROYDON (CR0), WAREHOUSE CAFE BAR, Warehouse Theatre, 62 Dingwall Rd. Shepherd Neame: Bitter, Spitfire; changing Westerham beer. Theatre bar open to general public. Open 12-3, 5-11 Mon-Thu, 12-11 Fri and only when theatre open Sat/Sun.

SOUTH WEST

SW3, SURPRISE (IN CHELSEA), 6 Christchurch Terr. Now reverted to simply SURPRISE (THE). Sharp: Doom Bar; Young: Bitter: rotating guest beer (e.g. Windsor & Eton). Reopened after 4 years' closure and now leased for 10 years from Cadogan Estates by Young's as part of its Geronimo estate. Formerly M&B, ex-Bass. Traditional English food menu including Sunday roasts. Open 11-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. (SW58, U125, U192, U216)

SW8, GLADSTONE, 1 Wilcox Rd. Reopened with new Enterprise tenant. Unaltered but NRA, H unused. (SW78, CSL29, U214)

WEST

GREENFORD (UB6), RAILWAY, 390 Oldfield Lane North.

Fuller: London Pride; Sharp: Doom Bar. (W142, U197, U204, U205, U215)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), COACH & HORSES, 684 London Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch (leased), ex-Spirit. (W167).

TWICKENHAM (TW2), RIFLEMAN, 7 Fourth Cross Rd. Twickenham: Sundancer (£3.50/pint); two varying beers. Reopened and refurbished. Dartboard retained. Simple English menu and Sunday roasts planned. (W204, U191, U217)

UXBRIDGE (UB8), OSTLER, 9 Belmont Rd. Brains: SA. Freehold for sale by TCG. (W211, U216)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC2, PITCHER & PIANO, 200 Bishopsgate, Marston, closed by April 2011 and site acquired by Boots. (U133, U197) EC2, WHITE HART, 24 Crown Pl, ex-M&B. Already reported demolished in 2005 along with neighbouring properties. Site now developed for offices. (E36, U66, U181, U183)

WC2, BOX, Free, converted to 'Kopopa' cafe/restaurant. (W29)

W1 (May), BLACK LION & FRENCH HORN, M&B (Nicholson). Now converted to '5 Pollen' Italian restaurant after some four years'closure. The loss of yet another traditional pub, these becoming a rarity in the West End. (W58, U192)

W1 (May), DUKE OF ALBEMARLE, M&B (Nicholson). Now converted to a clothes shop, having been closed in late 2006 in the same tranche as the Black Lion & French Horn.



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Another traditional community pub lost. (W59, U191) W1 (May), NELLS, Free, already reported converted to pizza restaurant, now converted to 'Mahiki' celebrity nightclub. Formerly PITCHER & PIANO. (W234)

W1 (May), PITCHER & PIANO, 10 Pollen St. Marston. Confimed now converted to 'Pollen Street Social' restaurant run by Jason Atherton. (W61, U217)

W1(S), BORDER, Free, converted to 'Movida' private members club c2006. (W64)

EAST

E8, VILLAGE BAR, Free, now converted to flats. Formerly BAR 512 and previously VILLAGE AT DALSTON. (E117, U67, U192, U202)

NORTH

NI, DUKE OF YORK, 33 Downham Rd. Enterprise. Now planning permission granted for conversion to flats and work in progress. (N42, U184)

N1, EQ, Free, converted to grocery shop. Formerly Y BAR. (U184, U190)

N4, OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH, ex-Wetherspoon. Part already reported as converted to betting shop, remainder now converted to estate agents office, neither use requiring planning permission. (N76, U170, U184)

N20, BLACK BULL, M&B (Ember Inns), already reported demolished. Now a brand new Travelodge built on the site. (N147, U151, U165, U187, U197, U200, U205)

N20, SAFFIRE LOUNGE. Independent Indian bar/restaurant, closed in late 2010 and now sold and converted to Tesco Express store. Formerly RISING SUN, M&B (Sizzling Pub Co) until 2009. A typical example of how the lack of the requirement to seek planning permission for change of use to a restaurant or a shop results in sale to the highest bidder. (N148, U184, U189, U209)

NORTH WEST

PINNER (HA5), STARLING. Independent, ex-S&N. Renamed SYNC after refurbishment, H removed. (W181)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, HERCULES TAVERN (MADIGAN'S), Free, already reported converted to Indian restaurant, now a Chinese restaurant. (SE20, U102, U158)

SE1, NINE, Free, closed and boarded up. Formerly LAZY, LIAM OG'S, DOCKHEAD and originally DOCKHEAD STORES. Note: not NINE BAR; correction to U205. (SE13, U102, U193, U205)

SE6, PLOUGH & HARROW, ex-Enterprise, already reported as converted to barbers shop, now an African restaurant and beauty parlour. (SE68, U188, U210)

SE6, RUTLAND ARMS, Free, now being converted to residential use. The campaign to save this former GBG regular now finally lost. (SE68, U192, U195, U198)

CROYDON (CR0), CARTOON, Free, reopened briefly and renamed CLUB (THE), but now closed again. Was COOL ROOM for a while. (3SE237, U52, U55, U114, U131, U149, U192, U197)

CROYDON (CR0), CRESCENT ARMS, Enterprise, now converted to 'Raza Lodge' flats. (3SE238, U56, U210)

CROYDON (CR0), CR0, 28/30 St Georges Walk. Free, now converted to "Taberners Lounge Bar' open only for functions, after several years closed. Formerly WIG & PEN. Delete from pub database. (U115, U177)

CROYDON (CR0), ROCKWELLS DINER (CRAZY H). Converted to 'Fish & Grill' restaurant with bar for diners only. Delete from pub database. (U108, U185) CROYDON (CR0), SUN, Free, already reported demolished. Now replaced by new building with estate agents on ground floor and flats above. Formerly RISING SUN. (3SE249, U87, U181, U184, U196, U216)

CROYDON (CR0), STAR, 101 Southbridge Rd. Enterprise, closed. (3SE250, U60, U98, U189)

PURLEY (CR8), BRASS MONKEY, Free, closed. Formerly RYANS BAR. (U185, U191)

SOUTH WEST

SW16, ROSE & CROWN, Punch Pub Co, confirmed now converted to Tesco Express. (SW108, BSM35, U215) SW19, HOUSE BAR, Orchid, closed since mid-2010; future uncertain. Formerly BROADWAY & DRAGON, DRIFT, JIM

THOMPSON'S FLAMING WOK and originally BROADWAY. (SW116, BM27, U193, U201, U208)

WEST

FELTHAM (TW13), SWAN, Hanworth, Admiral, ex-Marston, closed after revocation of licence due to antisocial behaviour despite attempts by new landlady to redeem its reputation. (W137, U187, U200)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), LORD CLYDE, Free, no real ale. (W170, U206)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), ROSE. Independent, ex-Larkin Inns, H removed. Formerly LARKINS CELLAR BAR, previously LARKIN INN. (W170, U195, U198, U210)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, ANGEL, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Wells: Bombardier. Now Orchid, ex-Taylor Walker via Spirit. (E9)

EC1, BLEEDING HEART TAVERN. Address is 19 Greville St. (U143)

EC1, FOX & ANCHOR, -beers listed; +five guests (e.g. Adnams, Purity, Sharp's (c£3.90/pint). (E16, U83, U151, U192, U198)

EC1, OFFSIDE. Renamed NEW RED LION in October 2010, H unused, run by Red Lion Theatres. Formerly PROGRESS BAR, STICK & WEASEL and originally CITY ARMS. (E24, U73, U165, U180)

EC1, OLD RED COW, 71/72 Long Lane, -beers listed; +four rotating guests (e.g. BrewDog, Dark Star, Oakham, Redemption, Sambrook's). Also 12 numbered keg taps (including British and continental beers and one rotating US guest craft beer and house lager from Belgium) and bottled beers. Independent pub now operated by small pubco 'Pubs of Distinction' which also runs the Dean Swift, SE1. Grey decor, mixture of tables and high stools, chandelier, pine flooring. Upstairs drinking/dining area. Simple English food. Formerly LONG LANE for a while, originally RED COW (YE OLDE). Open 12-11 (12 Fri/Sat, 10.30 Sun). (E22, U73, U76, U121, U189, U198, U203)

EC2, GLOBE/KEATS AT THE GLOBE, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +Taylor: Landlord; +guest beers. Now M&B (Nicholson), ex-Bass. KEATS AT THE GLOBE formerly JOHN KEATS AT THE MOORGATE and originally MOORGATE. (E31, E33, U119, U134, U201)

EC2, MAGPIE, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Leeds: Best; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +up to seven guests. (E33, U82, U151, U210)

EC2, WHITE HORSE. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly BROADGATE EXCHANGE. (E30, U106, U215)

EC3, DEPARTURE. Renamed 11AD, still no real ale. Formerly MARKET BAR. (U191)

EC4, OLD BANK OF ENGLAND, +Fuller: Discovery, seasonal; beer. (U95)

WC2, PORTERHOUSE. Now has six handpumps, including two in the basement bar; +two guest beers (e.g. Purity, West Kerry Cul Dorcha). (W37, U202)

W1(F), ADAM & EVE. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly BEN CROUCH'S TAVERN. (W43, U208, U211)

W1(Mar), MARYLEBONE TUP. Now just MARYLEBONE. (W53)

EAST

E3, CROWN. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly MAR I TERRA, originally CROWN HOTEL. (E89, U155, U188, U194, U201, U208))

E4, LUSH. Renamed McQUEENS, still no real ale. Now an independent Steve McQueen-themed bar. Formerly GIO'S. (U191,U210)

E14, WATERMANS ARMS. Renamed GREAT EASTERN after refurbishment, -beers listed; +Greene King; Abbot; +up to three guest beers. Now Punch, ex-Taylor Walker (E149, U167)

HAROLD WOOD (RM3), KING HAROLD, -beers listed: +Wells: Eagle IPA, Bombardier. Now Charles Wells, ex-Spirit via Punch (leased) in 2009. (X65, U185)

NORTH

N1, BETJEMAN ARMS. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly SHIRES BAR and in NW1. (N174, U179, U200, U213)

N1, CASTLE. Independent pub acquired by Geronimo by

October 2009 and now acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly PINT POT. (N55, U175)

N1, MUCKY PUP, -beers listed; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +Taylor: Landlord. Now Enterprise, ex-Whitbread. Formerly RAM BAR, originally RAM & TEASEL. (N56, U121, U176, U178)

N2, BALD FACED STAG. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (N65, U161, U163, U197, U198, U208)

N4, GARDEN LADDER, +guests (e.g. Caledonian, Hartley). (U196)

N4, OLD DAIRY. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (U130, U168, U195)

N4, SALISBURY, +Fuller: Gale's Seafarers, seasonal beer; +guest (e.g. Castle Rock). (N77, U170, U178)
N7. DUCHESS OF KENT. Geronimo pub acquired by

N7, DUCHESS OF KENT. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly FOX & FIDDLE. (N87, U178, U208)

N21, KINGS HEAD . Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (N152, U176, U188)

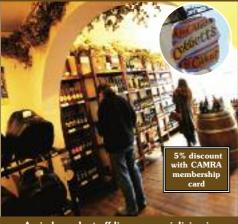
BARNET (EN5), ARKLEY, -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; +Fuller: London Pride; +Sharp; Doom Bar. Now M&B, ex-Ind Coope via Bass. (N249, H14)

NORTH WEST

NW1, BEATRIX. Renamed TOMMY FLYNNS by July 2002 and renamed again WHEELBARROW by December 2010. Still no real ale. Formerly O'NEILLS, originally PRINCESS BEATRICE. (N173, U133, U164)

NW1, CELLARS, Regent Hotel . Renamed 222 with hotel renamed Landmark Hotel. Still no real ale. (N163, U195) NW1, ENGINEER, -beers listed; +St Peters: Best; +Wells:

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Bombardier. Now M&B (leased to Tamsin Olivier), ex-Bass. (N165, U160)

NW1, LANSDOWNE, -beers listed; +Adnams: Old; +Wells: Bombardier. Now M&B (leased to Handmade Pubs), ex-Bass. (N169, U152)

NW1, PRINCESS OF WALES, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +guest (e.g. Brains). Now Enterprise, ex-Whitbread. (N173)

NW3, SIR RICHARD STEELE. Now dropped subtitle STEELES. (N189, U144, U174)

NW5, LORD PALMERSTON. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (N199, U205)

NW5, OXFORD. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. Formerly JOLENE CELESTE, previously VULTURES PERCH. (N201, U155, U158, U188, U208, U215)

NW5, TORRIANO, 71 Torriano Ave, -beers listed; +Adnams: Broadside; +Marston: Pedigree. Owned by property company Design Spaces since 2008, ex-Enterprise via Admiral, but still trading. Formerly ROSE & CROWN. (N200, U192, U197)

NW5, VINE. Independent pub acquired by Realpubs in December 2010, and now acquired by Greene King in April. (N201, U158, U174)

NW6, GOLDEN EGG. Now J W Bassett, ex-Bass. Formerly GOOSE, GOOSE & GRANITE, originally EARL DERBY. (N204, U119, U173, U187)

NW6, NORTH LONDON TAVERN. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (N205, U157, U173, U187, U193, U208, U215)

NW8, CROCKERS FOLLY. Still closed after 9 years but now this Grade II-listed pub on CAMRA's National Inventory of histroric pub interiors is for sale for £4.25 million. (N213, U142, U152, U167, U177, U200, U209)

NW10, MASONS ARMS. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (N223, U151, U152, U194, U208)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, FILM CAFE, National Film Theatre. Renamed RIVERFRONT BAR and NFT now called British Fiolm Institute, -beers listed; +Sharp: Red Ale but beers may vary. Bar area is in same location but bar itself has been repositioned along the west wall. (SE27, U131, U166, see also correction to U214 below)

SE1, WELLINGTON. Now subtitled (AT WATERLOO), -beers listed; +Wychwood: Brakspear's Bitter; +Marston: EPA, Pedigree. Beers may vary within the Marston-owned breweries' range. Acquired by Marston's from Wizard Inns in 2004. Formerly WELLINGTON TAVERN. (SE37, U102, U168)

SE3, ROYAL STANDARD, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +three guests (e.g. Cottage, Whitstable). Now Orchid, ex-S&N via Spirit. (SE49, U107, U168)

SE6, GOOSE (ON THE GREEN), -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +Marston; EPA; +Wells: Bombardier. Formerly BLACK HORSE & HARROW. (SE65, U160, U217) SE7, WHITE SWAN, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +Young: Bitter. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (SE74)

SE10, HA HA (BAR & GRILL). Renamed HARVESTER, still no real ale. (U198, U212, U217)

SE10, YACHT, -beers listed; +Greene King: Royal London; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: London Gold. Now Punch Pub Co, ex-S&N via Spirit. Formerly YACHT TAVERN. (SE103, U107, U175)

SE15, RYE (THE). Independent pub, ex-Taylor Walker, acquired by Capital Pub Co in late April to become its 34th pub. Formerly RYE HOTEL. (SE139, U179)

SE27, MANSION. Independent pub in same ownership as

the Rye SE15, ex-Bass, acquired by Capital Pub Co from Late Night Leisure in early April for £1.58 million. Has planning permission for conversion of upper floors to five flats and is to close temporarily for refurbishment. Formerly PAXTON. (SE229, U216)

BROMLEY (BR1), GREYHOUND. Former Whitbread pub, closed for 4 years, acquired by Wetherspoon and due to reopen in early July. Was TOWNHOUSE for a while. (3SE218, U86, U158, U186, U199)

CROYDON (CR0), E BAR. Renamed SCREAM LOUNGE. Predominantly a music venue but has a bar open to all. Formerly LAURENS. (U108, U185)

CROYDON (CR0), SANDROCK, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Old Speckled Hen. Now M&B (franchised), ex-Bass. Formerly SANDROCK HOTEL. (3SE249, U83)

CROYDON (CR0), SHIRLEY INN, <u>158</u> Wickham Rd, -beers listed; +Black Sheep: Bitter; +Wells: Bombardier; +Wychwood: Hobgoblin. Now Orchid, ex-Taylor Walker via Spirit.. Note correct address. (3SE250, U55)

KENLEY (CR8), KENLEY HOTEL, -beers listed; +Greene King: Abbot; +White: Dark Mild. Now S&N PC, ex-Ind Coope via Punch. (3SE258, U50, U142)

ORPINGTON (BR6), BO PEEP, Chelsfield, +Adnams: Bitter; +Harvey: Sussex Bitter. Now Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique. (3SE265, 8K61)

ORPINGTON (BR6), FIVE BELLS, Chelsfield, -beers listed except Courage; Best Bitter; +Cottage: Viking; +Otter: Bitter; +Sharp: Doom Bar. Beers may vary. Now Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique. (3SE266, 8K62)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(SJ), CLARENCE. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (SW45, U208)

SW1(W), HA HA (BAR & GRILL). Confirmed renamed BROWNS in April, +Sharp: Doom Bar. Refurbished by M&B with polished wooden flooring, period lighting and a grand piano; upstairs restaurant. Formerly HA! HA! (BAR & CANTEEN). (U190, U207, U217)

SW1(W), PHOENIX. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010, ex-S&N via Spirit. (SW49, U190)

SW3, BUILDERS ARMS. Geronimo pub sold and leased back by Enterprise; lease sold on to Young's in December 2010. (SW55, U133, U144, U150, U159, U215)

SW3, PHOENIX. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly RESIDEN'T. (SW58, U171)

SW5, DUKE OF CLARENCE. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Was BRAM STOKER TAVERN for a while. (SW62, U144, U170, U207)

SW5, PEMBROKE. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. Formerly COLEHERNE. (SW62, U207)

SW6, HAND & FLOWER. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. Formerly JIM THOMPSON'S (ORIENTAL BAR, RESTAURANT & BAZAAR) for a while. (SW68, U197, U202)

SW8, FENTIMAN ARMS. Geronimo pub leased from Enterprise; lease sold on to Young's in December 2010. (SW78, CSL28, U215)

SW8, INIGO. Renamed TONKI GORILLA, a bar & restaurant and music venue. Formerly SW8 BAR CAFE, originally VICTORIA. (SW80, CSL31)

SW11, NORTHCOTE. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (SW89, WB35, U208)

SW11, PRINCE ALBERT. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (SW89, WB36, U208)

SW15, COAT & BADGE. Geronimo pub leased from Enterprise; lease sold to Young's in December 2010. (SW100, BRP18, U209)

SW18, EAST HILL. Geronimo headquarters pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. Formerly 21 ALMA ROAD, previously SLUG & LETTUCE. (SW114, WB9)

SW19, BREWERY TAP. Planning permission perversely granted by Merton Planning Committee on 14 April for conversion of upstairs kitchen and staff accommodation to self contained flats, allowing Enterprise potentially to render the pub non-viable in pursuit of alternative prospects. The leaseholder may meanwhile be taking Enterprise to court over their refusal to renew his tenancy. (SW116, BRP30, U217)

SW19, DOWN SOUTH. Renamed DURBZ IN LONDON and very much a South African pub. Still no real ale. Formerly JENNY LIND. (SW117, BRP34, U210)

CHEAM (SM3), BELL, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Sharp: Doom Bar. Now Enterprise, ex-Bass via Unique. (SW131)

CHEAM (SM3), HARROW, -beers listed; + any three of Fuller: London Pride, Marston: Pedigree, Sharp: Doom Bar, Taylor: Landlord, Wells: Bombardier or Young: Bitter. (SW131, U151, U165, U198, U217)

RICHMOND (TW 9), BULL. Renamed 1 KEW ROAD after refurbishment. Formerly EDWARDS, originally BULL & BUSH. (SW155, U157, U197, RHP20)

SUTTON (SM2), BELMONT, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Sharp: Doom Bar. Now Orchid since 2006, ex-S&N via Spirit. (SW164)

WEST

W2, PRINCE BONAPARTE. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (W75, U208)

W4, DUKE OF SUSSEX. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. Was DUKE for a while. (W88, U202, U208)

W6, CRABTREE. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (W101, U208)

W11, ELGIN. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (W119, U208)

W11, METROPOLITAN. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (W120, U213, U215)

W11, MITRE. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (W120, U208, U210)

W12, BULL. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (U210)

W12, EAGLE. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (W122, U199, U204)

W12, QUEEN ADELAIDE. Acquired by Greene King from Realpubs in April. (W123, U208)

W14, CURTAINS UP. Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (W128, U208)

HAMPTON (TW12), JENNY LIND, Hampton Hill. Freehold now sold since November 2009 and planning application to convert to a KFC takeaway turned down by Richmond Council. (W143, U208, U209)

HEATHROW AIRPORT (TW6), FIVE TUNS, Terminal 5 (Landside). Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (U209)

HEATHROW AIRPORT (TW6), THREE BELLS, Terminal 3 (Landside). Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (U194)

HEATHROW AIRPORT (TW6), TIN GOOSE, Terminal 1 (Airside). Geronimo pub acquired by Young's in December 2010. (U185)

TEDDINGTON (TW11), KINGS HEAD, -Adnams: Bitter; +Twickenham: Naked Ladies (£3.70/pint). Now Cask Marque approved. (W196, U191, U212, U214)

TEDDINGTON (TW11), TIED END COTTAGE, -Greene

King: Ruddles County; +Greene King; Old Speckled Hen. Refurbished. (W197)

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 202

OTHER CHANGES ETC

N8, MOLLY MALONES, renamed GRANVAILE. Should read GRANUAILE.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

W4, SHACKOLOGY reverted to CROWN & ANCHOR. Is Convivial, not independent.

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 214

NEW PUBS ETC

SE7, RIVERFRONT BAR. Delete entry. Is **FILM CAFE** renamed (see Other Changes etc above).

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 215

PUBS CLOSED ETC

SE27, JACK STAMPS. Should read: Formerly G.E. ALDWINKLES and THURLOW ARMS.

CROYDON (CR0), BODEGA. Now restaurant called 'Apatura'.

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 216

PUBS CLOSED ETC

SOUTH CROYDON (CR0), STAG. Asda should read Aldi.

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 217

NEW PUBS ETC

SW20, APOSTLES. Add: 'No real ale'.

W5, THYME. Delete 'Independent'; add 'Chain'...

PUBS CLOSED ETC

GIDEA PARK (RM8), SQUIRRELS. Should read (RM3). ILFORD (IG1), QUE PASA. Add refs: (U212, U213)

N8, GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY TAVERN. Is Punch, ex-Taylor Walker.

SW19, SPORTSMAN. Refs should read: (SW119, BM40).

OTHER CHANGES ETC

NW1, BLACK CAP. Is M&B, ex-Bass.

NW3, DUKE OF HAMILTON. Add ref: (HH11).

NW3, GOLDEN GATE. Is M&B, ex-Bass. Add ref: (HH13). NW3, HAVERS. Add ref: (HH14).

NWS, HAVERS. Add let. (HH14).

NW3, HORSESHOE. Add ref: (HH15).

BEXLEYHEATH, DANSON STABLES. Should read: -beers listed.

CRAYFORD, ONE BELL. Is Spirit, ex-Ind Coope.

ST PAUL'S CRAY, BROOMWOOD. Ref should read 8K<u>1</u>47. SW8, WHEATSHEAF. Should read <u>renamed</u> TIA MARIA

CORRECTIONS TO WC1 & WC2 REAL ALE GUIDE

WC2, CROSS KEYS. Postcode is WC2H 9BA

WC2, MARQUIS. Last part of description, opening times, public transport details and map number omitted in error as follows: "room with small bar attached, open at lunchtme. Food is mostly traditional British favourites, burgers, omelettes, salads, etc., plus Thai curries served 12.00-15.00 Mon-Sat, 17.00-23.00 Mon-Fri (20.00 Sat). Tube – Charing Cross, Leicester Square. Map 4-13"

WC2, SHAKESPEARE'S HEAD. Map ref should read 3-31. MAP 5. Pub nos 13 and 29 should be transposed on the map.

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Nine good reasons to visit Tooting

Pack last September I took myself over to Tooting to visit two heritage pubs in the area. I didn't actually get to either, or rather I did but the Little House had been closed and by the time I was getting near the other, the Kings Head, I had run out of time because I had found too many pubs serving good beer, so I had to go back a second time. After my second visit in January I decided to organise a joint visit with SW London branch.

So on Saturday 19 March 11 a handful of various members gathered together in the Gorringe Park before one o'clock to kick off with halves of Young's Bitter, Special being the other choice. This pub is still a traditional local with two bars, the public at the front and lounge to the rear, all quite mellow for a start and a chat, until the volume for the football was turned on: time to move on.

We by-passed the Railway Bell on the other side of the road to carry on towards to main centre along Mitcham Road, the next port of call being the Long Room, a good size pub that sits back off the road at an angle, with outdoor seating in front. It's a shame a grand looking pub like this has been given such a plain name; it used to be called the Mitre but, looking on the bright side, it now does a real ale. Only one, mind you, Sambrook's Wandle but that is enough so in we went. More halves all round and it was all right in this sort of modernised interior as we sat around one of the high tables on our high chairs. As one enters the door there is quite a long facing bar that opens out at either end with more seating: all quite dark with the wood floor at the bar, black/brown soft seating and the 'gastro green' panels on the wall, but altogether not bad.

A few minutes walk further on brought us to the **Antelope**, until recently a Jack Beards and



before that the Foresters Arms. Another good old traditional looking pub with curved windows at the front. Immediately inside, the centre three-sided bar facing us presented a choice of six beers: Adnams Mild and Lighthouse, St Austell Tribute, a Purity beer, Brains Bitter and Caledonian 80/-, but unfortunately the last one had to be sent back as it had gone sour. I went for the Mild which was good;

in fact I had another one as we stayed here for two drinks. The front bar area has had a modern makeover with more gastro green painted wall panels, and on the other side bright green with plates attached to it, but if one ventures to the rear you will find two large rooms which are still more or less untouched and make a very pleasant area to sit with one's drinks or have a meal.

Leaving the Antelope we by passed the Tooting Tram and Social (as something different I was leaving this one to last) to head to the underground to board the train one stop to Tooting Bec. Crossing over the road we entered the Wheatsheaf, a large Victorian corner pub that thankfully is now seeing better days than it had done previously. Inside there is basically one high ceilinged bar area that has had a makeover in a dark wood fashion, with lots of fifties and sixties furniture, plus various household implements and oddments from about that era, including a wall covered with a collection of 'wooden sporks'. This was recently a non-real pub and so having the choice of five beers seemed rather good to me; the others probably agreed. There were Purity Goose and Pale, Harveys Best Bitter and Adnams Lighthouse and Broadside. I had the Pale, it was pretty good and so were the others.

Back on the road again heading towards the Broadway we walked for about eight minutes to find the CAMRA National Inventory pub, the Kings Head, a magnificent looking place from the outside and equally good inside with its centre horseshoe bar serving areas at either side. There are wood and carpeted floors, lots of dark varnished woodwork and etched windows and mirrors about the pub. On at the bar were London Pride, Doom Bar, Wells Bombardier and Young's Gold. I tried the Pride which was OK.

Leaving the Kings Head we carried on for a few hundred yards before turning right into Selkirk Road and, walking for a few more minutes, we came to the pub called the Selkirk, an impressive looking



Victorian corner pub that was originally a Hodgsons house and still has the signs attached to the wall to prove it. Inside it is a little bit gastroey but retains

Nine good reasons to visit Tooting

some traditional feel about it in its two bars. On offer were four ales, Moorhouse's Blonde, Sambrook's Wandle, Spitfire and Old Hooky, not a bad little range for a tucked away side street pub. I think most of us went for the Blonde which was good. I've actually been to this pub three times now and I've been very impressed with the vibrant feel about it.

Doubling back to the main road we carried on in the same direction for a few minutes to bring us to the Young's pub, the Castle, still very much in the Young's traditional style with carpeted floor, bench seating and wood panelling. The bar goes back quite deep to the rear, with Young's Bitter, Special and Bath Gem available. It was quite busy here with Ireland beating England on the screens, and so after a half we carried on a short walk to the Wetherspoon's, JJ Moons.

This is a shop conversion that is quite narrow, going right back to the rear, with the usual good range of beers on. I went for a glass of Woodforde's Nelson's Revenge. It was also rather busy here with the rugby being shown but we found a vacant table near the back away from it all.

Leaving here we crossed over the road to walk past Tooting Broadway station covering the ground we had previously covered, continuing for a hundred yards or so to find the Tooting Tram and Social. If you reach the Antelope you've gone to far; the entrance lies down a short, narrow approach and doesn't seem to be signed at all on the outside. But once through the entrance it is all very impressive inside. Originally a tram shed, it has a very high ceiling, tiled walls and a wooden floor. There are lots of framed pictures around the walls and other old odds and ends. At the bar were two Purity beers, Pale Ale and Gold, and Adnams Gunhill, and the ones we tried were all good.

This brings us to the end of today's tour and I think all of us were pleasantly surprised with what Tooting has to offer: a pretty good range of good quality beers in a varied style of pubs – some good traditional ones mixed with some that have had the more modern touch put to them but all having one thing in common: good real ale.

Clive Taylor



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Saturday 5th November, 12–5pm at a central London venue See next issue for details

SOUTH WEST LONDON CAMRA WEBSITE IS NATIONAL WINNER

Awarded the accolade for the most improved branch website last time, South West London Branch webmaster Mike Flynn was honoured at this year's



Members Weekned in Sheffield with the Website of the Year award for 2011. Visit www.swlcamra.org.uk to find out all about the branch, its activities and its pubs.

Beer tasters wanted

Fullers kindly hosted a training session for CAMRA's London Tasting Panel recently in their hop cellar. The panel is looking for new members and hopes to run a training session for them later this year. If you are interested, please email c.cryne@btinternet.com



Fuller's explain all evils

One of the key things to understanding good beer is understanding some of the faults that can occur in beer and so the London Tasting Panel recently spent an evening talking about the bad side of beer. Fuller's Brewing Manager, Derek Prentice (aided by John Keeling), went through some of the finer (and not so fine) points of brewing ingredients and looking after beer and the resulting flavours.

Ingredients

Malt Whole malt can keep for up to 6 months if stored properly. Many smaller brewers will bring in the malt ready milled, but this malt then has a shorter shelf life. The best thing a brewer can do is to buy a mill. As malt ages it can develop a muggy flavour and so the beer will lack a clean character.

At one time, malt was delivered in hessian sacks, which are permeable. Malt will pick up water, particularly if it stored in damp conditions; it will go 'slack' and has the potential to have mould growth. Nowadays the sacks have a plastic lining but it doesn't stop the flavour deteriorating so malt has to be turned ie used, within a reasonable time. This can be a problem with malts that are not used frequently, such as dark malts where only a little is added to each brew.

Hops Many brewers use hop pellets as they have better keeping quality than whole hops. This is because there is less surface area to oxidise. Brewing with whole hops at three months tends to be better but, after nine months, pellets have the

edge as pellets degrade less. As hops age they lose their bitterness. Nowadays, the storage and packaging of hops is better; they are vacuum packed and cold stored. Fuller's buy fifteen months of hops at a time to ensure availability. They will last three years if stored well. Old, oxidised hops are unpleasant and flavours that develop can be anything from cheese to seat or musty notes.

A high level of hops can hide the performance of a poor yeast.

Yeast The biggest problem with beer in the 1800s was the control of the yeast. Documentation from daily logs reports off flavours such as stinky! The brewers would then bring in yeasts from other breweries. The National Yeast Bank was a useful development to ensure there is always a clean source of yeast.

If a brewer is top cropping the yeast, provided the hygiene is good, the yeast can keep going but it is a skill that has to be learnt. If cropped properly, then the yeast does not have to be cleaned. Acid washing of yeast is only needed if the technique is poor or there are bacteria present. The problem is that the washing will affect the yeast's performance. If the yeast is not well, then the beer will not drop bright.

Hydrogen sulphite (bad eggs) is produced in the brewing process. If the yeast is not vigorous, then it doesn't drive the aroma off.

Wild yeast infections can give cloves and phenol notes.

Water These days nearly all water is treated by adding salts according to the beer being brewed. Gypsum (calcium sulphite) is added at higher level for paler brews. Some beers are known for having sulphur on the nose but if gypsum is being added at too a high level it can give bad egg notes.

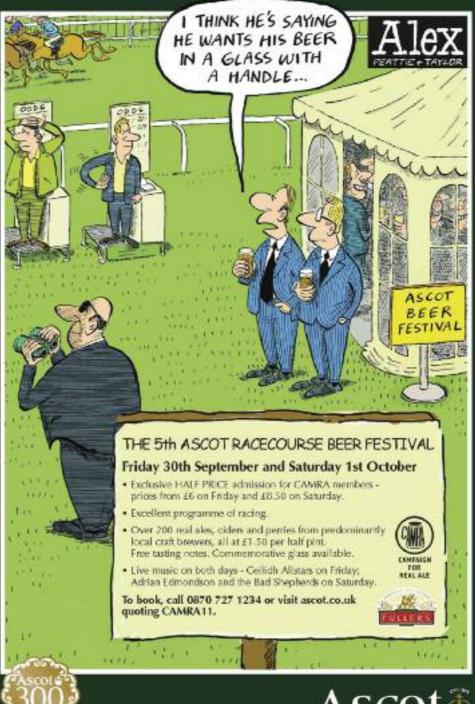
London water has a high level of carbonates. This can give bitter beers a phenolic harsh character but the addition of sulphite, e.g. gypsum, will counteract this.

There are more organic acids in the darker malts, which naturally reduce the acidity of the water. In some brews, a brewer might do a lactic fermentation to increase acidity.

Brewing

The mashing converts the malt into sugar, which the yeast needs to feed on. The pH and temperature affect the final taste of the beer. High pH in the sparging liquor (the water that is run over the malt to extract the sugar) means you tend to get harsher notes including tannins (a bit like stewed tea)

It is essential that the boiling with the hops is vigorous as it needs to boil off the volatiles. Failure to do so can result in harsh flavours and cabbage/vegetable notes. Boiling at too high a





Beer tasters wanted

temperature and for too long can equally give poor characteristics including tinned tomatoes, blackcurrant, sweetcorn (DMS) and cabbage rather than Horlicks and biscuit. A poor boil leads to a beer that lacks 'clarity of flavour'. Diacetyl (butterscotch) notes can be present if the temperature is too low or too short.

Fuller's do late copper hopping to give a light hop character, which is less intense and more rounded than dry hopping. Hop character will reduce with age. A beer will usually lose the fruit character after three days as it loses volatiles and the malt flavours develop.

Flat shallow fermenters tend to leave more yeast in the cask than conical fermenters. Lactics

are inhibited by yeast fermentation, which also tends to remove acetates and dialdehydes.

Hygiene

Poor hygiene will give lactic and phenol notes. Acetic bacteria need oxygen to develop and can develop when there is poor cleaning, including line and tap cleaning. Some wild yeasts can give a honey character.

Fortunately, there are not many bugs that grow in beer and those that do are not pathogens, i.e. they won't kill you.

So the next time you have a beer that is not quite right, it might be the brewer and not the pub! Christine Cryne

OBITUARY

Mr James Carew 1919-2011

We have sadly learnt of the passing of Jim Carew at the age of 92 after a long illness. Jim was for many years the company secretary at Young & Co's Brewery and worked quietly in the background modernising and strengthening the running of the company, thus giving John Young the platform from which he was able to do all he did.

Jim was born in Salford, Manchester and started work at a local brewery at the age of 14. After service in the Catering Corps, he joined Ruffles Brewery in Kent, moving on to Young's as Company Secretary and subsequently becoming a member of the main board of directors

Jim was a great sports fan and a life-long supporter of Manchester United, although whilst in London he was a season ticket holder at Arsenal. He served two terms as Chairman of the London Brewers' Amateur Sports Association, following in the wake of the likes of Colonel Whitbread.

After he retired in 1985, Jim took the chair of Hop Back Brewery PLC for ten years and I know that John Gilbert very much valued his advice and support in the company's early days. I had the pleasure of meeting Jim several times at Hop Back AGMs and I remember him as a true gentleman.

Our sympathy goes to Jim's son Paul and his friend Barry who cared for him in his final days. Thanks also go to Bob Ball for much of the above information.

Tony Hedger

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Idle Moments

s promised, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in April's Aldle Moments column.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 1 1415 Battle of Agincourt
- 3 Number One Hits by Frank Sinatra
- 5 Cards in a Poker Hand 3
- 12 Tourist Trophy Wins by Mike Hailwood 4.
- 1875 Captain Webb Swam the English Channel 5.
- 42 is the Lowest Possible Aggregate Score in a Game of 6.
- 518 Feet is the Height of Blackpool Tower
- 28 Pounds in a Quarter
- 23 Hours in the Last Sunday in March (the Clocks Go Forward)
- 10. 2 Equinoxes in a Year (One in Spring and One in Autumn)

5BY4 (50 Years Ago):

- Sailor Petula Clark
- 2. Well I Ask You - Eden Kane
- 3 Poetry in Motion - Johnny Tillotson
- 4. Moon River - Danny Williams
- 5. You're Driving Me Crazy - The Temperance Seven
- 6. You Don't Know - Helen Shapiro
- Walk Right Back Everly Brothers
- Surrender Elvis Presley Runaway - Del Shannon
- 10. Blue Moon The Marcels

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- Brighton became a city in 2000.
- And the town in the north east of England which was granted 2 city status in 1992 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's succession was Sunderland.
- A clepsydra (which uses water to perform its function) is a type of clock.
- Between 6th September 1944 and 27th March 1945, the number V2 rockets launched by Germany against England and other targets on continental Europe was about 5,000.
- In IQ ratings you would have to achieve a score of 145 to be rated in the top 1% of the population.
- Willard Frank Libby was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1960 for developing Carbon-14 (or radio carbon) dating - an invaluable aid to archaeology.
- We all know where Lhasa is (don't we), but a Lhasa Apso is a breed of dog (originally from Tibet, strangely enough).
- Referring back to 5BY4 above, the artist who became the first South African to reach No. 1 in the U.K. pop charts was Danny Williams.
- The common flower known in French as "pis-en-lit" is the dandelion.
- The Dandenong mountains are in Victoria (Australia), about 22 miles east of Melbourne.

ello again. As I write this it looks like summer is virtually here (and I've booked my tickets for the Proms – next season's ticket to the Quins to do next) so by the time you read it, it will probably be like winter again. So let's cheer things up with a little aphorism from William Arthur Ward (1921-1994) who, according to Wikipedia seems to be famous for being quoted (among other things): Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records.

Now, let's have some number puzzles:

- 4 FP and E on a T
- 3 C of H the E all S on the ET 2.
- 3. 9 P in a RT
- 27 B of the NT
- 2 M of the Y are N after RE (J and A)
- 32 ES on a CB (at the S of a G)
- 221 BBS (SHH)
- 3 PC (RBG)
- 136 T in a MJS 9
- 10. 6 P for T of a K in C

Sometimes I find it difficult to think of a subject for 5BY4 that will be interesting and a bit challenging while still being possible to sort out (as you've probably noticed). This time I thought (Yes, I do sometimes) I would do Other Capitals - not all in Europe or South America for example - but capital cities of countries scattered around the world a bit. So can you match the cities to the countries? (Can you be bothered?):

Malawi

Freetown

1.

2

3.

4.

9

- Lilongwe B. Lesotho
- Tallinn CNicaragua
- Managua D. Estonia Chisinau Morocco
- 5. 6 Macoria F Macedonia
- Rabat G. Moldova 8. Skopje H. Sierra Leone
- Port Louis I. Samoa 10. Apia J. Mauritius

Right, now let's have a few general knowledge questions - a bit of a mixed bag this time with no underlying theme:

- Which is the biggest of the Imperial ton, American ton and the metric tonne?
- 2 Who was the author of the book "A Pair of Blue Eyes," published in 1873?
- Erdington, Hall Green and Ladywood are parliamentary constituencies in which British city?
- An appaloosa is a breed of what type of creature?
- 5. The Henry is a unit of measurement in what branch of
- physics? What instrument did the jazz musician Jack Teagarden (1905-6. 1964) play?
- Who were Annie Chapman, Catharine Eddowes, Mary Jane Kelly, Mary Ann (or Polly) Nichols, and Elizabeth Stride?
- Haematite is the most abundant ore of which metallic
- element? Which British driver won the Formula One world championship in 1976?
- Newgate Prison in the City of London was demolished in 1902. What building was erected on the site?

And now, the bit you've all been waiting for. Byee! Andy Pirson



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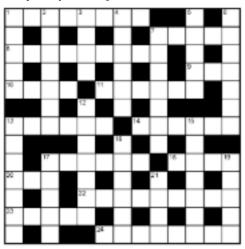
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Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name _			
Address .			

All correct entries received by first post on 13th July will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

APRIL'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

- 1. China's capital, excited, went on a bender. [8]
- 7. It's extremely important to put tea in container. [5]
- 8. Very point to justify. [9]
- 9. Barrel rolled over Hazel. [3]
- 10. North African sent back into space. . . . [4]
- 11. together with a football team. [6]
- 13. Get there after quiet lecture. [6]
- 14. Went along with a sin. [6]
- 17. Friend, expert on great house. [6] 18. Gather in an acre, approximately. [4]
- 20. Tip left off potter's tool. [3]
- 22. Bury girls in recesses. [9]
- 23. Large army battles through outskirts of sandstorm.
- 24. Make fortune, extremely riskily, in court. [8]

DOWN

- Caught a number of balls in fielding position. [5]
- 2. Price paid to redeem English author. [7]
- 3. First universal rule is containment of acid. [4]
- 4. Get out of embracing new woman. [6]
- 5. It's grand at the races. [5]
- 6. Planned to be put into beds. [7]
- 7. Green I turn, with giddiness. [7]
- 12. What's demanded on account, to great approval. [7]
- 13. Exact summary by egghead. [7]
- 15. Always time for Edna! [7]
- 16. Spirit of Caledonian church. [6]
- 17. It's punishing to put name in ring. [5]
- 19. Pie looking unhealthy? [5]
- 21. Article on King George's old lady. [4]

Winner of the prize for the February Crossword: Mike Jones, Watford.

Other correct entries were received from: Ted Alleway, Ken Adams, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Hilary Ayling, John Barker, Rob Barker, Michael Begg, Mike Belsham, William Blake, Steve Block, John Bowler, Deryn Brand, Jeremy Brinkworth, Sam Brown, John Butler, Eric Camfield, Eddie Carr, The Hopeless Caseys, John Cattemull, Tim Chard, Jon Christie, Michael Chewter, Alan Cockayne, Martin Coleman, Richard Conway, Charles Creasey, Ken Creighton, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Steve Downey, Glynn Downton, Tom Drane, C.J.Ellis, John Emery, Brian Exford, Mike Farrelly, Robert Ferrier, D.Fleming, Windsor Fortune, Arthur Fox-Ache, Sally Fullerton, Gillian Furnival, Christopher Gilbey, B.Gleeson, Marion Goodall, R.Goulding, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Caroline Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Dave Hardy, R.Harris, John Heakin, John Heath, Alison Henley, Andrew Hide, Graham Hill, William Hill, David Hough, Chris James, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Les Jenkins, David Jiggens, Gerald Jones, Mike Joyce, Stephen Kloppe, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Rosemary Lever, Andy Lindenburn, Mike Lloyd, G.Lopatis, Kevin McCarthy, Suzanne McCarthy, Derek McDonnell, Pete McGill, Steve Magin, Pat Maginn, MAP of Guildford, Allan Marshall, Olive Martin, Tony Martin, Terry Mellor, M.J.Moran, Bill Morrell, Mike Morrison, Al Mountain, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Mark Nicholls, Paul Nicholls, Gerald Notley, Michael Oliver, Jacqueline Owens, Nigel Parsons, Miss G.Patterson, Anthony Pearson, Phil & Saffron, G.Pote, Jeanette Powell, Derek Pryce, Tony Roberts, Paul Rogers, Richard Rogers, D.Shaftoe, Pete Simmonds, Nobby Slacktrouser, Lesley Smith, D.A.Swingler, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Mark Thompson, Steve Thornton, Paul Tiffany, John Treeby, Vic the Beard, Andy Wakefield, Mrs C. Ward, T. Watkins, Martin Weedon, Alan Welsh, Miss E.A. Whale, Nigel Wheatley, Tony Whitford, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, Dave Woodgate, David Woodward, P.Rick Knight, Peter Wright & the Missus, Ray Wright There were also 5 incorrect entries.

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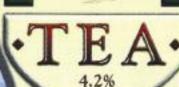




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