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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 jointly by Sarah Bleksley and Mark Davies. Tel: 07747 494840.

Material for publication should preferably be sent by e-mail to ld@daviessolutions.co.uk.

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A warm welcome from your new editors

any readers will have reservations about changes at the helm of our esteemed organ and wonder what sort of people lie behind the decisions we have taken. To increase those fears we have decided to use our first editorial to say something about ourselves and, having drawn the short straw, I (Mark) shall go first.

I moved to London for work a little less than a year ago. Chester and South Clwvd CAMRA I had been bundled into the dormant 'young members' representative' position and, when I attended a South West London branch meeting, I was again coopted into the analogous vacant office. Since my election I have tried to provide interesting, active events for local young members. When I expressed an interest in editing, Geoff was looking for successors and teamed me up with Sarah, another young member who shared my passion for CAMRA and beer as well as correct use of English.

I like light, hoppy beers in the summer, particularly IPAs, and I tend to drink darker ales in the winter. I love mild and stout. This is not a hard and fast rule and I drink bitters all year round. Handle or straight glass? Handle not for the 'look' but because it stops my hand warming up the beer. I will freely admit to having asked a barmaid of a particularly poorly pulled pint if it came with a flake.

What do the editorial team do together when not editing? We

spend hours creating fiendish cryptic crossword clues for each other, often full of jokes at our own expense.

Sarah takes over at this point.

Having been something of a fan of London Drinker for rather a long time, I felt very much honoured, not to mention excited, when Geoff Strawbridge approached me with the challenge of stepping into his shoes in the role of Editor. These are not easy shoes to fill, even with such a capable co-editor as I have in Mark, and regular readers will surely have recognised what an outstanding job Geoff has done over the years in this role.

My two main passions in the world of real ale are, quite simply, good pubs and good beer. straightforward wish list, but one that as we know requires a good deal of work from a huge number of people to get both these things This publication, as London's CAMRA voice, has a history of promoting recognising excellence in both the product and the environment. I am determined to continue this proud tradition, perhaps from a slightly different perspective as a young female member. Geoff has set the bar very high (pun almost intended!); Mark and I have no intention of altering anything in London Drinker that is obviously working well, but at the same time hope to avoid that old 'we do it that way because we've always done it that way' chestnut.

There are few things I love

Editorial

more than a good pint of mild, although I will rarely turn down something a little more light and fruity on a warm summer's evening. My favourite of all ales is Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild, although at 6% abv, it is hardly what you would call a session beer; it is, however, a great one for a beer festival. I enjoy sampling new beers at festivals, but beer festivals cannot come close to discovering a traditionally run, friendly boozer tucked away in a quiet corner and offering a variety of beautifully kept real ales and a comfortable atmosphere.

We enjoy constructive criticism and are happy to make changes based on someone else's ideas, so long as those ideas are grounded in practical measures. It is rather hard for us to make changes based on "I don't like the article on the Red Lion", but "It would look better if you did X to article layout" or the like can, and hopefully will, lead to improvements in the magazine. *London Drinker* can only get better with your help. If you want to know how to bribe us you haven't been reading closely enough!

Mark Davies, Sarah Bleksley ld@daviessolutions.co.uk

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





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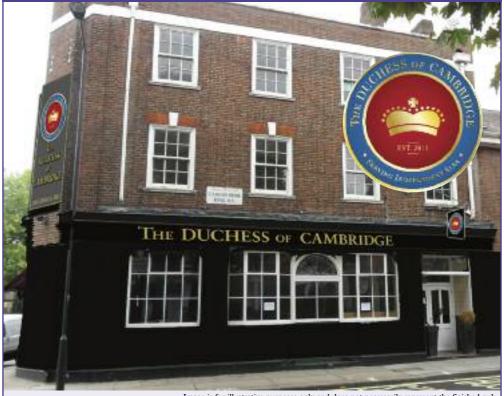


Image is for illustrative purposes only and does not necessarily represent the finished pub.

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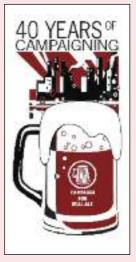
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TWO BIRTHDAYS, A FREE PINT AND A PUB QUIZ

ralling all CAMRA members to come and celebrate CAMRA's 40th birthday on Saturday 5 To be held in the November. Counting House, 50 Cornhill, this promises to be the best all-London CAMRA shindig this year. To help everyone get in the mood, thanks to Brodies, Fuller's, Redemption, Sambrook's, Twickenham Windsor Eton, anvone preregistering will get a get a free pint. And to add to the fun, there will be a beery pub quiz with some great beery prizes.

But CAMRA is not the only thing celebrating a 40th birthday this year. Fuller's famous ESB is also 40 years old this year. It was launched as a winter brew in 1971 to replace a beer named Old Burton



Extra. Its success quickly led to it becoming a permanent brew. At that time, it was one of the strongest regularly brewed draught beers in the country (at 5.5% abv). A complex strong bitter with distinctive orange marmalade notes, the beer has deservedly won CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain on a number of occasions. To celebrate the birthday, ESB will be one of the beers available to attendees to choose from for their free pint.

The event starts at noon and continues until 5pm. Register at www.eventsbot.com/events/eb373042066

This event is exclusively for

This event is exclusively for CAMRA members. To join, visit www.camra.org.uk or complete the membership form on page 61.

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





Landmark pub under threat

An iconic North London pub and three-time winner of the local Branch's Pub of the Year award faces closure and subsequent demolition. The Wenlock Arms in Hoxton has been under a cloud for a while as owners Steve Barnes and Will Williams have pondered its (and their) future. Local scrutiny of Hackey Council's website has discovered an

application by someone called Wenlock LLP to demolish the building and replace it with five flats and non-pub commercial space on the ground floor.

When Steve and Will took over this run down street-corner boozer many years ago, they turned it into a destination free-house. It was admired for its range of real ales and ciders, being one of the first pubs in London to stock unusual imported bottled beers; its trademark doorstep sandwiches and last, but not least, its commitment to live jazz. It showed what could be done when licensees had the freedom to stock beers of their own choosing and in some ways can be seen as a torch-bearer for more recent cask ale and cider specialist pubs.

In doing what it did, it attracted not only



customers from far and wide but also those from its own doorstep and, through supporting darts and cricket teams, it was a part of its local community. Ironically many of the newer residents in the flats that have been created from former commercial premises in the area might have considered the Wenlock Arms one of the

attractions of moving into the area. Now the housing juggernaut has the pub in its sights, threatening a local amenity that adds to the wellbeing of citizens.

If you wish to object to the application use the web address:

http://easteight.com/plappshow.php?param=158243 and, on the left-hand side, the 'Click here to comment' link opens up an easily completed form. Alternatively write to: The Planning Inspectorate, London Borough of Hackney, Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA quoting reference 2011/1996 and the site address 26 Wenlock Road London N1 7TA. Comments must be submitted by 10 October. John Cryne

• Winner S.E. London branch New Star Award 2010 • Good Beer Guide 2011

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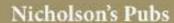
If so, then we have a challenge for you – brew a beer and submit it for judging by some of the beer world's finest palates. If your beer is chosen, it will be brewed by award-winning Thornbridge Brewery and sold across the country in Nicholson's pubs.

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Campaigning

DISPLAYING PRICE LISTS

One of the campaigning tasks of local CAMRA branches is to complain to the local Trading Standards Department where public houses do not display price lists required by law.

Drinkers might have assumed from their general absence nowadays that price lists were no longer a legal requirement. However, the law still requires pubs to provide customers with pricing information before they order a drink, which in most cases means a price list.

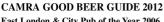
This requirement is now part of the Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, by which a pub's failure to display a price list may be actionable as a misleading omission under Regulation 6(4)(d)(i). Look it up!

Moreover, if the legally required price list does not display the so often disproportionately higher price of the half pint measure, then that rip off becomes illegal, doesn't it?

Geoff Strawbridge

Pe Olde Mitre

Ely Court, between Ely Place and Hatton Garden London EC1N 6SJ 020 7405 4751



East London & City Pub of the Year 2006, 2008 and 2010

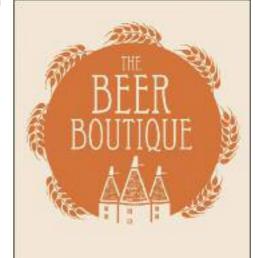
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Young's end involvement in brewing

n a move that they gave no hint of at their AGM, Young's have sold their 40% stake in the Wells & Young Brewing Company (W&YBC), thus ending 180 years of involvement in brewing. Some long-time Young's aficionados will see this as the final betraval of all that John Young stood for but it fits in with, if you will excuse the expression, the company's stated 'direction of travel' over the last five years towards being а premium pub company. Not all of us may feel comfortable about this but the board's responsibility is to its shareholders - as no doubt the likes of Guinness Peat constantly remind them - and it is difficult to argue with their results, as reported in the previous issue.

The £15.1 million raised from the sale will be invested in

more pubs, although the cash will not be available immediately; £5.1 million will be paid in February next year with further instalments of £5 million in February 2013 and February 2014. The book value of the holding was £15.3 million. In 2010/11, the investment earned Youngs £2.6 million before tax. Profits were however expected to fall because W&YBC have lost the licence to manufacture Corona.

Young's chief executive Stephen Goodyear said, "We are pleased to retain good supply agreements and our customers will therefore continue to enjoy their customary array of quality cask ales and lagers throughout our estate." The agreements have actually been rewritten and there are now two separate ones, one for beer and cider and the other for wines and spirits. Both are on a two-year rolling basis with an initial minimum period of two

vears. The licences granted in 2006 to W&YBC to brew the Young's brands continue, and Mr Goodyear described Young's beers as the company's 'USP' (marketing term: unique selling point), but what influence will Youngs now have on the range available? With the recent reduction in strength of Wells Bombardier, not to mention the fortune being spent advertising it, what future can there be for Young's Special? At least, being unique in the W&YBC portfolio, we will hopefully still have Winter Warmer.

The buyer was Young's partner in the five year old venture, Charles Wells. It should not be assumed that Wells will absorb the brewery back into the main company and return to being a vertically integrated operation. My guess is that they will opt to remain a pubco and float W&YBC as a separate



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October 31 at 7.30pm

Now under the ownership and management of Dan Fox, former general manager of the White Horse on Parsons Green, the Bull has been saved from 18 months dereliction and restored to its original charm, offering a wide selection of world beers and a carefully selected menu.

It is also home to the fledgling London Brewing Company, which has already produced its first two beers for the bar: Beer Street, so named for the pub's links to Hogarth and the second. Nervous Energy, christened for how everyone felt brewing it!

> W: thebullhighgate.co.uk E: dan@londonbrewing.com Tw: @bull highgate

> > T: 020 8341 0510

Five minutes walk from Highgate tube

company, possibly even a management buy-out.

One project that Wells are very keen on is their John Bull Pub Co chain in France. Anthony Wallis, currently managing director of their pub company, will take over the enterprise in October, looking to increase outlets from seven to twenty within five years.

Young's pub sales

'm not going to reopen the debate from the last edition. but as customers I don't think that it is unreasonable for us to ask Young's what their plans are and in particular whether the pubs that they are selling will be offered to the tenants first. The question was duly asked at their AGM and it is understood they will only be looking to sell ten to twelve sites that don't fit their master plan and that they would be happy to sell them individually, even going concerns to small pub chains or breweries. That said, early word has come through of the sale for redevelopment of a pub in south west London.

The AGM was the last to be chaired by Christopher Sandland. He has been replaced by an existing board member, Nicholas Bryan. Rupert Clevely, formerly of Geronimo, was voted on to the Board unanimously.

Young's are keeping to their plan of retaining Gerinomo as a separate operation, and a new pub, the Oyster Shed, will open shortly under their imprint as part of the Nomura Bank building at 1 Angel Lane, EC4, near Cannon Street station. The Home Cottage in Redhill, however, now reopened after a £1 million refurbishment, remains branded as a Young's house.

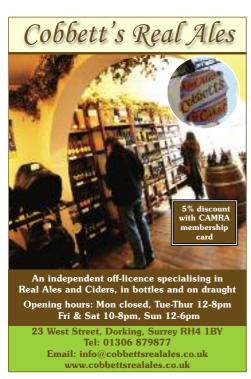
Finally, in the last issue I mentioned the only Young's pub that does not sell real ale. As I have been asked, it is the Fire

Stables in Church Road. It is not badged as a Young's pub.

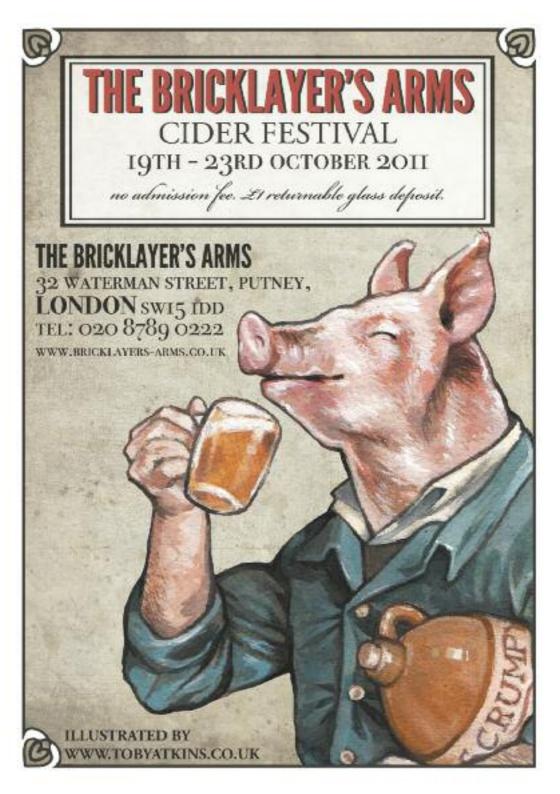
Capital offence

s I speculated last edition, Ahaving put the Capital Pub Company (CPC) 'into play,' as they say in big business circles, Fuller's have been gazumped by Greene King (GK) who now seem certain to end up owning the 35-strong pub chain, all of which are in Greater London. GK initially denied any interest but presumably this was a tactic to avoid share speculation: not nice perhaps but that's business. They bid £2.35 per share against Fuller's bid of £2.00, and Fuller's have said that they will not make another offer.

The bid has been recommended to shareholders by CPC's board. We should not accuse them of taking the money and running; at the price on offer – a premium of 70% – they had no real choice. Co-founder Clive







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REEBOK STADIUM, BOLTON - 20TH OCTOBER
THE RIVERSIDE, LUTON - 25TH OCTOBER
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Watson has however said that he would have liked the company to have remained independent for a while longer and that he intends to return to the business in due course. Given his track record, it would be no surprise if his partner, David Bruce, likewise. Both are innovators, so this would be welcome. GK's Chief Executive, Rooney Anand, described £70 million representing 'a fair price for a high quality, largely freehold pub estate' although he did also mention 'attractive cost and revenue synergies'. That is 'businessspeak', of which, to my mind, Mr Anand is overly fond, for cuts.

As for the pubs, we can only hope that GK will have the sense to follow the precedent set by Young's with the Geronimo estate, and keep them operating as a separate entity with a varied range of beers. Early reports as to what has happened with GK's RealPubs acquisitions are

promising as regards beer range. Indeed, it was reported in the trade press that they might be considering converting some of their existing pubs into the RealPubs format.

GK have, of course, acquired a small brewery as part of the deal. The Florence Brewery at Herne Hill was part of the CPC operation. Again, I hope that they have the imagination to retain this venture.

Mr Anand, incidentally, currently receives a salary of £984,000 excluding pension payments and share awards. He also received a bonus for 2011 of £473,000. To use the measure so beloved of certain tabloids, this is 9.7 times the salary of the Prime Minister

Finally, I note that the Sow & Pigs in Toddington, Bedfordshire – the non-driving drinker's alternative to the motorway services – is now closed and GK may be selling it for

redevelopment. This would be a very sad end for a perennial Good Beer Guide pub of which I have fond memories.

Fuller's and the future

don't claim to be an expert in stock market business, but Fuller's seem to have handled the CPC business somewhat hamfistedly and the longer term implications for them could be serious. Alarmingly, according to the Guardian. aforementioned Guinness Peat the corporate investors who forced the changes at Youngs, have been buying shares in Fuller's. I'm not sure what the development potential of the Griffin Brewery site might be in the current market, but if history repeats itself, moving to a new purpose-built brewery away from one of London's worst permanent traffic jams must be tempting. Thwaites of Blackburn are taking a similar course. Then again, with





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Great hot specials between 12noon and 2.30pm lunchtimes and a different early evening menu. Terrific choice of hot and cold sandwiches.

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East London and City CAMRA Pub of the Year 2011

'Delightful old free house' GBG 2011

no disrespect intended to those involved, the prospect of the Wells, Young's and Fuller's Brewery Company does not bear thinking about.

Results are still good, however. Like-for-like sales in the 16 weeks to 23 July 2011 were up 3.2% in managed houses and by 1% in the tenanted estate, with beer volumes up by 2%.

Fuller's have released the third batch of their Brewer's Reserve. This 9% abv bottled beer has been matured for 800 days in old Auchentoshan whisky barrels and each limited-edition numbered bottle costs £7.50. Fuller's did however make it available in draught form at this year's GBBF, one firkin each day, with the proceeds, some £2,000, going to the GBBF charity, the Sue Ryder Care.

The company's Master Cellarman award for 2011 has gone to Jim and Laura Ross of the Swan Hotel in Staines. The Red Lion in Ealing, a frequent winner of the local CAMRA branch's Pub of the Year award was attacked during the riots but the customers fought back and helped keep damage to a minimum.

More new breweries

There has been a veritable rash of new breweries in East London. We welcome the East London Brewing Company in E10, the London Fields Brewery in Hackney, E8 and the Redchurch Brewery in E2.

The East London Brewing Company, owned by Stuart and Claire Lascelles, is a ten barrel plant on an industrial estate just off Lea Bridge Road. Most of the work on the brewery was completed during August, ready for their first brews in September. Their first beers will be Foundation Bitter and Pale Ale. They have a website: www.eastlondonbrewing.com.

With thanks to Richard Pearce for the information.

The London Fields Brewery, the first commercial brewery in central Hackney for more than 100 years, had its launch over the August Bank Holiday promising up to five beers in bottles and cask. Look out for their Hackney Hopstar. Again, there is a website:

www.londonfieldsbrewery.co.uk. Thanks to Stephen Harris for the information.

The Redchurch Brewery is up and running. This is another ten barrel plant, based in a railway arch formerly used for roasting coffee. It is run by Bethnal Green residents Gary Ward – a former solicitor – and Tracey Cleland, who are looking brew mostly bottleconditioned beers, which they describe interestingly as in 'not quite traditional British beers'. The beers were launched at the Mason & Taylor pub in Bethnal



AWARDED



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our unfined beer, for an enhanced aroma, flavour and mouthfeel



Green Road, but I do not know if this is a regular arrangement. Again, there is a website: www.theredchurchbrewery.com.

Finally, we also have a new brew-pub. Dan Fox, formerly of the White Horse, Parsons Green, is re-opening the Bull in North Hill, Highgate as a brew-pub under the name London Brewing Company. Mr Fox, who has negotiated a 25 year lease with Tonstate Group, who own the Grade II-listed building, said, "We're pleased to offer one of London's oldest pubs a new lease of life. We have a strong offer and can't wait to show residents their new-feel local." The pub opened early in September, and their first beers are Best Bitter and West Coast IPA.

Success to them all.

Other brewery news

Meantime Brewery have appointed a new chief executive. Nick Miller will join

North Greenwich-based company in September. He was previously the managing director of Miller Brands UK, the UK part of SABMiller. Mr Miller said,"I am sad to be leaving a great company and team, but also very excited by my new challenge." Meantime Brewmaster founder. Alastair Hook, commented, "The craft beer sector is growing rapidly, and the most exciting developments have been encapsulated by the huge diversity in beer styles championed by brewers like Meantime. When I started up Meantime, I was happy to grow organically, with little use of conventional marketing techniques but with a passionate and sound production orientated philosophy that focuses on the intrinsic qualities of great beer. Nick Miller's appointment marks a considered and considerable change in this approach. There is no point in brewing great beer if you don't have the distribution

marketing in place to get your product and your message to the consumer."

Although sales increased by 2.5% in the first half of the year, Adnams report that the take-over of Geronimo, RealPubs and Capital has seen a serious fall-off in their free-trade sales and the effect will be felt in due course. Their 'Kitchen and Cellar' retail outlets, of which there are now ten, are however doing well, with a 14% increase in sales.

McMullens are also following the trend towards food-pubs. They are planning to convert three more of their pubs into their 'Chicken & Grill' format, making five in total. They are also expanding their 'Baroosh' café-bar concept but only on newly-acquired sites. The company aims to add four or five new sites to its estate each year.

Shepherd Neame have refurbished the Crown in Blackheath at a cost of £700,000.

The Fox

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Email: thefox@oldehanwell.fsnet.co.uk

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Weekday lunch available 12 - 3pm

Monday night PIZZA NIGHT 6 - 9pm Evening menu available Tues - Sat 6 - 9.30pm Biryani Night Sunday 6 - 10pm and Tuesday 6 - 10pm Saturday Brunch 12 - 4pm Sunday Roasts 12.30 - 3pm

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The main feature is a new first-floor bar, the King's Room, with views across Blackheath.

'Craft beer'

■hich leads us on nicely... I V thought that it might be useful to clarify the term 'craft brewing'. As far as I can find, the only definition that exists is that drawn up by the Brewers' Association in the USA. The main points here are that the brewery should produce no more than 6 million barrels (156 million Imperial gallons) of beer per annum, and if they are partowned by another company that is not a craft brewer in its own right, the holding should be less than 25%. There is also a 'tradition' qualification which requires that the brewery produces 'at least 50% of its volume in either all malt beers or in beers which use adjuncts to enhance rather than lighten flavor'.

The term 'craft beer' is not

synonymous with 'real ale'. The definition of real ale that currently appears in the Oxford English Dictionary, based on what CAMRA's founders came up with in the 1970s, is 'caskconditioned beer that is served traditionally, without additional gas pressure'. Modern keg beers may well be worthy products in their own right, but the effect that CO2 gas has on the flavour of beer has not changed over these last forty years. We must not allow the distinction to be blurred.

In passing, two clarifications. Firstly BrewDog did not take up their stand at the Great British Beer Festival. They failed to pay the balance of the fee by the required date, so their booking was cancelled. Why they did not pay is the subject of debate but the bottom line is simply that if they ever thought that CAMRA were ever going to allow them to serve keg beer, craft or otherwise,

at the GBBF, they were wrong. I might also add that, despite numbers being slightly down, sales held up and I didn't see any evidence of it needing BrewDog's help to 'breathe new life into the GBBF to get more young people excited about great craft beer' with anything new and exciting'.

Secondly, in the June/July issue I mentioned Shepherd Neame using *artisan* well water. This could, of course, come from an *artesian* well but if it is used to make a craft beer then perhaps I was right the first time. Oh, what a bore...

Health and welfare

AMRA seeks to encourage responsible drinking. Most of our criticism is rightly aimed at the big brewers and large retailers but, as the two items below testify, sometimes the individual has to take responsibility.

This is a sad story because it has left a young person damaged

THE ALMA

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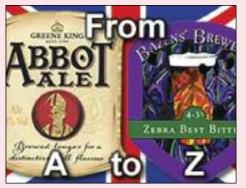
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preparation for our
December Beer
Festival from
1 December to
New Year's Eve

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Not only do we sell the ales but we also take our customers to the breweries. In the last 12 months we've visited Hogs Back, Surrey Hills, Triple fff, Itchen Valley, Ringwood, Dark Star and Harveys.

For fear of being early, prepare yourselves for our Halloween Beer Festival commencing Friday 28th of October.

for life but it serves as a cautionary tale. A young woman tried to slide down a banister at a Wetherspoons pub in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Unfortunately, she fell and fractured her spine leaving her paralysed. She sued Wetherspoons, but the High Court ruled that the pub had no duty to protect her from the obvious risk that she had taken.

In County Tipperary, Ireland, charges of manslaughter were brought against a hotel bar manager and a barman following the death of a customer who drank eight 'shots' of spirit in one go as part of his birthday celebrations. The prosecution argued that the bar staff had breached a duty of care to the customer, but the judge held that negligence was not the cause of the victim's death.

News from the pubcos

The Antic Pub Collective is now expanding rapidly, having

taken over the former Walkabout site, once the first Jongleurs comedy club, in Battersea, just opposite where the beer festival is held. It is called the Battersea Mess and Music Hall. follows their acquision of the Grey Goose (King's Head) in Clapham and the Goose in Streatham. Antic now have some 20 pubs, all operated in their unique style. As an example of this, the Goose is going to be renamed Pratts and Payne to commemorate respectively a former local department store and Cynthia, who was, how shall we put this, one of Streatham's more colourful former residents. I wonder if they will take Luncheon Vouchers? I hope that they remember the port for the judges as well. Puzzled? Just 'Google' Cynthia Payne.

Renaissance Pubs are also expanding. They have added the Rosendale in West Dulwich to their existing five pubs. The Victorian coaching inn has been completely refurbished and features a garden, a 65-cover dining room, plus two first-floor private dining rooms.

Faucet Inn are another expanding operation. They have acquired the Catcher in the Rye in Finchley and the historic Warrington in Maida Vale, the latter from Gordon Ramsay (see June/July issue), bringing them up to 25 pubs. The asking price was quoted as around £5.5 million. Interestingly, the privately funded company is looking to open two 'new build' pubs later in the year, in Hampton Hill and in the Southampton area. Referring to the recent deals involving pub chains, chief executive Steve Cox commented that the London pubs market remained "very interesting" and that "we have looked at opportunities and I am sure we have been looked at ourselves."

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The Barracuda Group, which operates the 161 'Smith & Jones' pubs, is completing a £16 million rebranding exercise. Chief Executive Mark McQuater said that the company wanted "Smith & Jones to be that special place for white-collar workers to eat and have fun. We will work it up so it's as valid a pub brand as any other pub brand." The rebranding will also include a new website and a new loyalty card scheme.

Wetherspoons continue to do well. Sales have increased year-on-year by 2.2% but if you add their new pubs into the equation, this rises to an amazing 7.5%. Despite this, they gave a warning to the Stock Market that this might not continue because of 'rising costs for a wide range of goods and services, combined with a reduction in disposable income for many customers'. Following 14 openings in July alone at a cost of £20 million, the company now has 822 pubs – half-way to Tim

Martin's target of 1,600 – and is valued at £578 million.

Following the launch of its first site in Clerkenwell the Craft Beer Co, set up by Martin Hayes of the Cask Pub & Kitchen fame, is looking to expand and is looking for sites both in London and further afield. Mr Haves "There's craft-beer а revolution out there and it only shows signs of gaining further momentum, putting the brand in a great spot to showcase the wonderful craft brewers we have in the UK, as well as many more stunning beers from around the world. We're not just selling beer here, we're fuelling a movement."

Latest on the Big Three

The Punch-Spirit demerger went through as planned and predictably, early results for Spirit, which now owns the 900-odd managed houses, are promising with sales up 3.8% in the 12 weeks to 20 August.

Punch sales fell 5% and they are still grappling with trying to balance debts of £2.36 billion against equity of £63 million. Punch had to take most of the old company's bond debt at the split because the bonds are secured against the tenanted pubs that Punch now own. Pub sales and some sort of refinancing deal seem inevitable.

One promising note is that Punch are increasingly allowing tenants to use the SIBA Direct Delivery Scheme to stock beers brewed within a 30-mile radius and their 'Finest Cask' scheme will see 12 former CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain winners being made available. They are also still investing some money in refurbishing pubs, particularly their Chef & Brewer outlets.

Enterprise have reported a fall-off in sales of 5% over the 44 weeks ending 30 July 2011 although they are confident that





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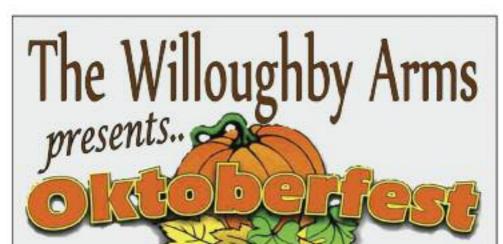
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the situation is improving. Their 'sale and leaseback' programme is now complete and large-scale disposals are expected to end this financial year although they expect to continue to sell 150 to 200 pubs a year thereafter which Chief Executive Ted Tuppen describes as 'normal estate chum'. Half of recent disposals have seen pubs go for 'alternative use', including two which have become mosques.

The curse of the deadline struck again with care home company Southern Cross ceasing trading before the last issue was published thus making my comments out of date but not, I think, inappropriate.

Despite their relative prosperity, the boardroom conflict continues at Mitchells & Butler with yet another change at the top. In July Simon Burke resigned because, according to the Guardian, certain shareholders blocked the

appointment of independent non-executive directors, who are generally seen as essential to good corporate governance and the protection of the interests of the smaller shareholders. Bob Ivell, who joined the board in May as a non-executive director and is described as an industry veteran, has become the company's sixth chairman since 2008, although only on an interim basis. This turnover is believed to be a record for a FTSE250-listed company.

Mr Ivell has previous links with John Magnier and JP McManus who, through their investment company, Elpida, currently own 20% of M&B shares. Rumours persist of a takeover bid from them. The *Irish Independent* newspaper gives a price of £1.7 billion and speculates that the two Irishmen are working with Bahamas-based Joe Lewis who owns 23% of the shares and – STOP PRESS – has

put in an initial bid.

A touch of luxury

ancy a treat? Brown's Hotel in Mayfair - described in the press release as 'London's most auintessentially British hotel' is now providing spa treatments using beer and beer ingredients. You have a choice of a barley body wrap, a pale ale pedicure or a honey and barley facial. The barley is Maris Otter supplied by Warminster Maltings, mixed with East Kent Golding hops and the beers include Hooky Gold and St Austell Tribute. The spa manager, Shareen Stokes, said, "Barley has countless health benefits, and is deeply nourishing, healing and It's also high in comforting. vitamins such as B1, B3 as well as selenium, iron, magnesium, zinc, phosphorus and copper all of which help to keep the skin and body healthy, so it makes sense to use it in our treatments." The General Manager, Stuart Johnson, added,



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"We are big supporters of all things British. Our HIX at The Albermarle restaurant is renowned for its impressive British cuisine and our beer list numbers 18 distinctive home-grown beers. Since beer is our national drink, we were interested in looking at how else we could back British produce whilst giving customers something supremely different." Nice idea but I think I will stick to drinking it.

Staying up-market, the Michelin-starred restaurant, Quilon, now has a range of top class bottled beers to go with its famous south west coast Indian cuisine. Their Vintage Beer List includes eight vintages of Fuller's Vintage plus 2008 Vintage Gale's Prize Old Ale. The beers are presented in large brandy-style glasses and cost around £12 to £14 a bottle.

Parliamentary Beer Group awards

By coincidence, Quilon's chef, Sriram Aylur, was recently given the 'Beer Drinker of the Year' award by the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group. At the presentation Mr Aylur commented, "As beer is Britain's national drink, with over 90% of it produced in the UK and grown by our hop and barley farmers, I wondered why so many of my fellow restaurateurs were holding vast and expensive stocks of fermented foreign grapes? Wouldn't customers enjoy the chance to drink beers to suit my delicately spiced south-west coast Indian cuisine? This is why I developed the Quilon beer list and it has proved to be a huge hit with customers."

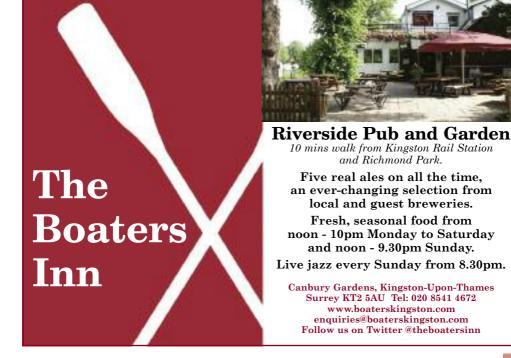
The APPBG's Brewer of the Year award went to Stuart Howe, head brewer of Sharp's. The judging is done on behalf of the APPBG by the Institute of Brewing & Distilling who praised Mr Howe's commitment to 'education and development of technical competence'.

The presentations were made by the Group's chairman,

Andrew Griffiths. appropriately MP for Burton upon Trent. He admitted that politicians had failed the pub and brewing industry and should be doing much more. He said that the community pub encapsulated the Government's 'Big Society' policy and that "We all talk about binge-drinking and the scourge of alcohol in society. The community pub is not the problem, it is the solution to solving binge-drinking". He then called upon MPs to consider working a shift in their local. The mind boggles...

Other trade news

The Government has asked Mary Portas, the so-called 'Queen of Shops', to conduct a review of Britain's high streets with a view to identifying what Government and local authorities can do to promote the development of more prosperous and diverse high streets. CAMRA see this as an opportunity to remind all concerned that pubs are very





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much part of our high street scene and are more than just place to enjoy a drink. They raise funds for local charities, provide additional services to the community and provide meeting spaces for local groups, not least CAMRA branches who have been asked to use it accordingly. There was an on-line survey which closed on 31 August and it will be interesting to see what comes out of it.

Roger Protz has started a new series of monthly features in the trade paper the *Publican's Morning Advertiser* which spotlights genuine free houses. I was pleased to see that he started with the multiple award-winning Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty in Heronsgate.

Also courtesy of Mr Protz, I see that David Bailey, owner of the Hardknott Brewery in Cumbria and a 'passionate advocate for British beer' has registered a complaint with OfCom against the BBC for what he sees as the manner in which the corporation in his words, 'studiously ignores beer and gives so much coverage to wine – primarily an imported drink'. He quoted in particular the Saturday Kitchen programme which has experts recommend wines but beer is never mentioned. He also mentioned a BBC2 series on new industries which did not mention brewing despite the recent boom in small breweries. It will be interesting to see what comes of this.

...and finally

ne of New Zealand's up and coming craft breweries, Three Boys, was heavily damaged in the Christchurch earthquake earlier this year. Although most of their brewing equipment was damaged, they are now back in production and each bottle of their first beer, Aftershock, has a small lump of rubble from the brewery stuck to its cap. That has a certain style. Thanks to *Beer in Bed(s)* for the story.

A Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £2.4 million has been made for the improvement of Walpole Park, the current home of Ealing Beer Festival.

One of London's uniquelynamed pubs is the Tom Cribb in Panton Street, near Piccadilly. It is named after a famous 19th century bare-knuckle boxer who became landlord of the then Union Arms upon his retirement. It recently featured in the BBC television series 'Who Do You Think You Are?' when Eastenders actress June Brown found out that her great great grandfather had been involved in the dubious sport. The pub is now owned by Shepherd Neame and still features boxing memorabilia.

One man has found a novel way of dealing with pub closures. When M&B sold his local, the Whitmore and it was demolished, Frank Fox from Coventry salvaged the pub furniture and at the cost of £5,000 and a year's hard graft, built a replacement in his back yard. The 20-seat pub is now even hosts wedding receptions and funerals.

Sam Smiths are in the news again. One of their pubs in Durham refused service to the Slubbing Billys morris side because the management claimed that the bells that they were wearing contravened the pub's no-music policy. What can you say?

Finally, an apology: I was determined to get a reference to Gerard Depardieu into this column but I have failed. Any (printable) contributions?

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. Sorry but I am really am not interested in financial deals originating in West Africa.

LONDON CAMRA LOCALE SCHEME

Recent additions			
Albion in Goldsmith's Row	94 Goldsmith's Row, Haggerston	E2 8QY	Brodies or other local micros
Black Heart	3 Greenland Place	NW1 0AP	Redemption
Defectors Weld	170 Uxbridge Rd, Hammersmith	W12 8AA	Redemption, Sambrook's or Twickenham
Dog & Bell	116 Prince St, Deptford	SE8 3JD	Fuller's London Pride, ESB
Draft House Northcote	94 Northcote Rd, Battersea	SW11 6QW	Sambrook's
George	17-21 George St, Croydon	CR0 1LA	Dark Star/Dorking/Sambrook's/
			Surrey Hills/Twickenham
Kings Arms	25 Roupell St, Waterloo	SE1 8TB	Sambrook's
Old Sergeant	104 Garratt La, Wandsworth	SW18 4DJ	Sambrook's
Peasant	240 St John St, Clerkenwell	EC1V 4PH	Brodies, Camden or Redemption
Prince of Wales	38 Old Town, Clapham	SW4 0LB	Sambrook's
Ravensbury	Croydon Rd, Mitcham	CR4 4JA	Sambrook's and/or others



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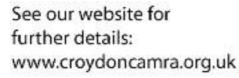
Mon 3rd October - Meet the Brewer - Andy Moffat of Redemption Brewery

18th Croydon & Sutton Real Ale & Cider Festival

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FOR REAL ALE

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12 Noon - 4pm FREE

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Friday 14th October

12 Noon - 4pm FREE

4pm - 10:30pm £4

£3 (members)

Saturday 15th October

11am - 6pm FREE

Last evening admission 10pm Right of admission reserved





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For further information: www.pigsear.org.uk

WOKING BEER FESTIVAL

The 18th Woking Beer Festival will take place on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 November at Woking Leisure Centre, organised by Surrey/Hants Border CAMRA, Woking Leisure Centre and Woking Borough Council, with more than 70 real ales available over the course of the event, plus ciders and perries and imported bottled beers.

There are three sessions: Friday and Saturday evenings (6-11), and Saturday lunch time (11-3.30. Entrance is strictly by ticket only, price £8.00. Tickets are available in advance from 22 August at Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA. Cheques, payable to 'Woking Borough Council' + SAE please, or phone the credit card hotline (£1 booking fee) 01483-771122 (9am-7pm) seven days a week.

The admission price includes a pint lined glass

with a commemorative logo and also a festival programme. CAMRA members get a free pint (up to 5% ABV) on presenting their current membership card at the membership stand.

Woking Leisure Centre is less than 15 minutes walk from Woking Railway Station, which has rail links to just about everywhere, and there's even a map of the area on the back of the ticket to show you how to get there!

Volunteer staff should email wbfstaffing@yahoo.com, complete the form at www.thelinehans.me.uk/wbfstaffing or write to: WBF Staffing, Manor Side East, Mill Lane, Byfleet, Surrey. KT14 7RS.

Read the Beer Festival web page at www.woking.gov.uk/leisuretourism/leisurecentrepool/events/beerfestival or visit www.wokingbeerfestival.co.uk.

HISTORIC ROUND CHAPEL TO HOST PIG'S EAR BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL AGAIN IN 2011

The annual Pig's Ear Beer and Cider Festival was triumphantly held at Hackney's historic Round Chapel in 2010 with record attendances. The festival is to be held there for a second time from 6 to 10 December.

East London and City CAMRA festival organiser, Derek Jones, says, "English Heritage has magnificently restored this Grade II* building, and attendees were impressed by its splendour."

The Festival will offer over 200 real ales, 100 quality foreign beers, craft ciders, pub games and food stalls.

Built in 1871, the Round Chapel is in Powerscroft Road and next to the main Lower Clapton Road. It once attracted thousands to church services and now is attracting devotees of the barley and the hop.

For further information contact Bill Green, 020 8806 6517, chumnic@talktalk.net



MISSED A PREVIOUS ISSUE?

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









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CAMRA in Bromley

Revival of CAMRA Bromley branch

Meeting held on 14 September 2011 passed a motion to de-merge the Bromley Branch from the South East London Branch by a unanimous vote in favour by 75 attending members.

The meeting will now be followed by an AGM, to be held at the HG Wells Centre, St Marks Road, Bromley BR2 9HG (near Bromley South Station) at 8pm on 24 October 2011, when the Bromley Branch will be constituted by election of the required committee positions: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Pubs Officer.

Nominations can also be made for Beer Festival Organiser, Pubs Preservation Officer, Social Secretary. Press and Publicity Officer, Local Newsletter Editor/Local Guide Editor, Web Master, APPLE/Cider Representative, 18 to 30 Representative, Women's Officer, Branch Contacts (ideally one for each Bromley postal district) and general committee positions (without portfolio).

Please obtain nomination forms and position descriptions from the South East London CAMRA website (www.selcamra.org.uk) or from Colin Brand, Interim Chair, at 5 Highland Road, Bromley BR1 4AA, cmbrand@aol.com and return completed ones to him before the meeting.

The first pint, for Bromley Branch members, after the meeting, is on us, together with a buffet.

LIKE TO OWN AN ANDY CAPP?

The wonderful thing about CAMRA's National Breweriana Auction is the opportunity to own something special as well as a slice of history. This year's auction is returning once again to Burton on Trent's Town Hall.

Among the lots this year are a number from London including two lovely Toby jugs: one from Charrington and the other from Hoare. Hoare brewed in Lower East Smithfield, where a brewery had existed on the site since 1492. The Hoare's Brewery came into existence in 1894 but the family had owned the brewery since the beginning of the century. It was taken over by Bass and closed in 1934. The Hoares' trademark was the Toby jug, which formed part of Bass Charrington the trademarks.

Other items up for auction include an Andy Capp/Manns Brown Ale paperweight, a lovely water jug from the Star Brewery in Eastbourne which closed in 1967, a Trumans wall sign and an old Ind Coope Allsopp mirror.

But if you are looking for something more unusual, then maybe an old wallet advertising Reid's Stout and Watney's Ale or a pocket-sized Bass world atlas from the 1920s/30s is up





vour street.

If you have never been to the National Breweriana Auction before, the auction is great fun to take part in and is an opportunity to get some great bargains. Many of the items on sale can appreciate in value. And, of course, like any CAMRA event, there is some good beer on sale all day, in this case provided by the local Old Cottage Brewery.

The event takes place on Saturday 15 October at Burton Town Hall, King Edward Place, Burton on Trent, DE14 2EB and so there are plenty of good pubs to sample too. Burton on Trent is easily accessible by train and the Town Hall is walkable from the station. The event starts at 11am with the opportunity to view the lots and browse the breweriana stands that will also be there. Bidding starts at 12.30pm.

Entrance is by catalogue (£2.50), available on the day, or £3.50 in advance, by post from Bill Austin: 01923 211654 (answerphone) or baustin@supanet.com. If you

can't get there, postal bids are

accepted: just contact Bill.

Christine Cryne



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Dear Editor An old man writes

Long, long ago there was such a thing as Licensing Hours. All pubs in any licensing authority's area had to open the same hours. Basically all pubs opened a long lunchtime, shut in the afternoon and reopened at the end of the working day. Sunday opening was noon till two followed by the bleak expanses of the Great British Sunday afternoon.

In those dear, dead days there was always great excitement at discovering a pub that opened different hours, usually something to do with a market. Nowadays, things are in almost all regards better. Pub owners judge their markets and clientele and open when they think it is best. But that does leave one problem. How do you know when the pub is actually open?

The need to post the opening times on the front door was brought home when we arrived at the Grapes in Limehouse at three on a weekday afternoon to find they were about to shut for a couple of hours. Not everybody is online and able to check the website beforehand of every pub that might crop up on a pub crawl. Not everybody thinks to spy out all options in the area on 'fancyapint' or whatever. Adverts in *London Drinker* are also an unreliable source of this info. Our good little local, the Camel in Bethnal Green, opens

lunchtime only at the end of the week but its advert in the August/September edition doesn't mention this. Many of them give food service times but not beer service times. The clearest are the central ones that don't open weekends, the Edgar Wallace, the Old Mitre and the Speaker.

So a small word of advice to the owners of good pubs like these. Put your opening times on the door and on your adverts or you risk losing custom. Nik Wood, E9

Dear Editor Curiosity Corner

The lion's share of pub names (by far) goes to the Red Lion. There are 518 Red Lions in England alone, according to the Daily Mail online. Although closures mean there are probably fewer since that article was posted, they are so numerous there's no danger of Lions becoming extinct. The eponymous Fuller's pub opposite Ealing Studios is a deserving recipient of several awards from CAMRA. The one in Linkfield Road, Isleworth serves a range of ales fit for a (lion) king. Another, in Parliament Street SW1, boasts a division bell to summon MPs to vote in the House.

I have a pair of local Red Lions, though I'm not sure if that qualifies as a Pride. One, dating from the 1840s, is in Harlington High Street near Hayes

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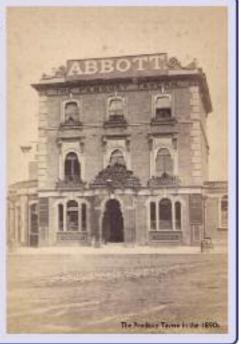
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THE HOOP & GRAPES, FARRINGDON

Letters

and has been tastefully renovated. It still sports an array of etched glass windows, terracotta finials on the rooftop, and serves real ale.



The Red Lion, Harlington

The other is the Red Lion Hotel, a Fuller's house in Hillingdon village. King Charles I reputedly called in on his way to Oxford and, by the early 1900s, it was a popular overnight stop for cyclists touring leafy Middlesex. When one licensee, Ann Ashton, died in 1903, the undertakers found it impossible to get the corpse downstairs as it weighed 20 stone. According to a local historian, they had to lower it out of an upstairs window on to the hearse roof below. Thirsty work, but there's no record of them having had a respectful pint or two before proceeding. Bob Barton

Dear Editor

A pity that Tony Hedger should put his anti-smoker prejudices (or misplaced sympathy for the anti-smoking fascists) above common sense: does he imagine that the smokers huddling outside pubs prefer it that way? Of course the smoking ban has affected pub-going.

As for his jibe about 'putting back the clock', this merely reflects the total belief in the writer in the rightness of the smoking ban. CAMRA would hardly have got off the ground if its founders had worried about the 'can't turn the clock back' argument.

There is no reason the law should not allow a publican who so wishes to furnish comfortable indoor accommodation to smokers.

Nigel Hall, Levtonstone

Dear Editor

You may perhaps have noted on page 7 of the July What's Brewing a feature headlined 'Just the Ticket' sourced by Tim Hampson from an article in Sussex Drinker about the Royal Oak at Friday Street, which has won the inaugural 'Sussex Bus to the Pub' Pub of the Year.

Bus to the Pub (BTTP) started as an informal CAMRA Arun & Adur branch group in 2008 when I reduced my working week to three days prior to eventual retirement, determined to use my

concessionary bus pass to maximum effect visiting pubs throughout West Sussex during the daytime. Since then it has gone from strength to strength attracting a wide mix of participants from all over Sussex, but also from wider afield, hence my writing to you. Although the group is predominantly retired CAMRA members, it has also proved to be a welcome recruitment tool.

Imagine our surprise when we arrived at the remote Royal Oak on 13 July for the presentation, having walked a couple of miles over the fields from the nearest bus stop at Kingsfold. Already there was David Charlton, a regular in the group who travels down from Harrow but also two guys, faces I recognise from London beer festivals, who had travelled by bus from South West London via Kingston and Dorking having read the WB feature! A link to Sussex Drinker can be found at www.aaacamra.org.uk.

Stuart Elms

Sussex Bus to the Pub coordinator and *London Drinker* distributor

Editors' note. We were grateful also to receive four vigorous letters supporting Bob Steel's criticisms of Young's recent record of pub refurbishments. We have forwarded them to Sue Hart who has taken over from Peter Sutcliffe as CAMRA's pubco liaison officer for Young's.



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Trad ale house wins London Pub of the Year

The Southampton Arms in Gospel Oak has beaten thousands of pubs to be named as CAMRA's best pub in London. This small long narrow Victorian pub is a return to the traditional ale house. Music in the background does not distract from the main thrust of this pub, which is conversation and good beer (or cider) and the set up of tables makes it almost impossible not to make new acquaintances.

You might expect that the bare wooden floors and furniture might give the pub a basic feel but rather it adds to the ambience of something a little bit special, and many people agree. The Southampton is a pub with a truly mixed clientele, from students to granddads and grandmums, for it is not unusual to see women, as well as men, with age lines consuming a pint or two of good ale here.

When so many pubs in London are turning to the gastro route to survive, the question arises why this pub decided to buck the trend. Peter Holt who, with his partner, Jo, are the drivers behind the venture explained that he had tried all that before. Although Peter's background was in web design, before coming to the Southampton, he ran the Star in N19 for five years, which was very much a pub with a food bias. Fed up with the hard work and



temperamental chefs plus thinking of his two young children, he decided to look to do something different; something smaller and easier to manage.

The family decided that they would like to remain in North London and so Peter started to trawl to find a suitable pub. Peter and Jo saw the Southampton, which was 'pretty awful'. The previous landlady had been ill and so the pub had not been maintained. Peter recounted the sticky



Wanted

Volunteer to Coordinate Staffing London Dricker Boer & Cider Festival 7-9 March 2012

Family helping out at one of London CAMRA's leading beer feativals? The fun and friendly North London Branch are looking for someone to coordinate the hardworking volunteer staff at our next Festival (near ling's Cross).



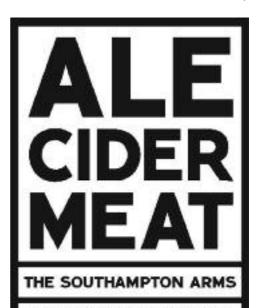
No experience is required and all necessary training will be given but you must have access to email. Being able to use Eacel spreadsheets would be useful.

Time commitment is only:

- Two to three evening meetings in a decent pub with the rest of the team liftey last about 2 hours).
- A minimum of 4 days at the Festival including 3 when the Festival is open.
- Collation of staffing forms in advance of the Festival.

In return, you will get an opportunity to try some of the 70 beess and ciders at the Festival - all of which you can drink for free plus % priced food.

Contact Christine Dyne for more details: c.cryne@btinternet.com. See www.careanorthioedon.org.uk for more details on the Festival.



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Pub of the Year

carpets, fruit machines and woodchip wallpaper with a grimace. He walked away initially but then gave it some more thought. "It was a lovely building. I love old pubs and small pubs are better; you don't need many people to give it atmosphere," he said. The other thing in the pub's favour was that, although the lease is with Enterprise, it is free of tie. The pub was originally part of the Unique Group that was taken to court, and was released from tie.

Peter and Jo decided they wanted a different pub, to downplay the spirits, lager and wine and concentrate on real ales and ciders from small independent producers. They also wanted the food to complement the pub and came up with the memorable description: 'Ale, Cider, Meat'. The next step was to refurbish the pub with help from their friends. They left the old wooden bar intact, painted and decorated and adorned the walls with old memorabilia. They also recaptured the garden away from wheely bins and rubbish dump.

So how did it all go? They thought they might have three ales during the week and maybe seven at the weekend. These days, they have ten real ales and seven ciders and usually one perry, which won them the London Cider Pub of the Year Award in 2010. They do sell two 'lagers' but one is a keg wheat beer and both are from local Camden Brewery and they stock three wines: red, white and rosé.

So what next? Peter isn't keen on setting up a chain of pubs. He feels that it would lose its uniqueness and be 'a bit naff'. If you would like to see what the fuss is about, you can find the Southampton Arms at 139 Highgate Road, NW5 1LE, 10 minute walk up the hill from Kentish Town Station.

One final thing, if you don't want to upset Peter, don't feed Fred the dog. He is trying to keep his weight down!

Christine Cryne

THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2012

Now in its 39th edition, CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2012 is fully revised and updated, with details of more than 4,500 pubs across the country serving the best real ale.

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Peter Tonge's Pub Profiles

The Bar. Gants Hill

scending Gants Hill tube escalator I saw the ads for 'The Bar'. Now that's a first: an individual watering hole parading itself on the underground. Even the 'Big W Chain' doesn't do that. I was early for my visit and the guv'nor was bedecking the outside area with flags of the armed forces; patriotic then and perhaps a hint to past exploits? I also couldn't miss the enormous banner proclaiming 'CAMRA SW Essex London Area Pub of the Year 2011'. Seems I wasn't the first beer lover to discover the place then!



Introductions over, in we went. It's a fairly small bar with a discreet pool and machine area top left. A huge wall mirror is cleverly placed to give an impression of depth, size and light. comfortable seating for 32 around the tables, with a further six stools at the bar. The outside 'smokers only' area seats another twenty. Those smokers should feel quite honoured, as the council charges £4,000 for the privilege.

Now to the beer selection. There are three real ales on at any one time, and today all three were Mighty Oak offerings: Sand Dune (4%), Captain Bob (3.8%) and Toe Wrestler (4.4%). Prices average £3 per pint depending on the strength, which I reckon is pretty good value for anywhere in London. I'd guess that's three real ales more than the huge Harvester type pub I spotted up the road. Also there's always some kind of promotion on. This month's was a free pint for every four bought (not necessarily on the same day). Now that might be considered a flashing red light in some pubs I know, but not in the Bar.

Ale in hand, we retired to a corner window table and chatted. The owner, Darren Bullman, is the archetype 'hands-on' type of guv'nor. His enthusiasm for real ale and his business brims over in excited pools of energy. He is constantly darting off and attending to business. He left the Royal Marines (40 Commandos) in 1997 and originally started the business with his brother and now runs solo, completely refurbishing the place last year. Over to you, Darren. "I love traditional ale supped in

a traditional atmosphere and served in the good, old fashioned, friendly way."

The regular clientele is all-important to Darren. "The people I've got coming in are people I myself feel comfortable with. I always say, 'From road sweepers to lawyers, you work hard; you deserve to drink in a place like mine. Come on in, you're more than welcome'." Darren is very proud of his local customer mix

My host shot off on another errand and so I sidled up to the bar; my round, you see. The lovely Magda was charm itself. Oh, and the quality of the beer was superb, too! Darren bounded across the road to bring in fish and chips - generally this is a non food bar. Apparently he often does this when there's a special function, and it's on the house, too.

He rejoined us to munch lunch and then rushed off again, leaving me to ponder my surroundings. There are five TV screens specialising in various sports and the place gets pretty busy on big event days. In addition to the real ale there are some quality lagers, a choice of five malts and always four or five house wines available by the glass. As if Darren and his staff aren't entertainment enough, on Friday nights there are small jazz combos, vocalist led, alternating with a soul-Tamla singer who is apparently a bit special. Saturday nights vary from indie rock bands to karaoke evenings. Darren is experimenting with Sunday jazz & blues jam sessions; all musicians and singers more than welcome.

Well, the man returns and we've just got time for a few more words: "I say I'm on a learning curve and I always will be. I like to support local craft breweries like Mighty Oak. Microbreweries in the UK have experienced something of a boom in the last ten years and, if trends in the US are anything to go by, places like mine will prosper. OK, this is not a traditional pub but, if I can accomplish what I've done with the Bar, I hope it will provoke others to do it. Enthusiasm is the key."

Many thanks, Darren. My two hours passed pdq despite my being marooned inside thanks to the torrential rain and having to remain cherootless. It was time for me to wend my way back to the Sarf East. As I went down the escalator, I was thinking that more bars like Darren's seemed to be cropping up in '50s and '60s shopping parades. If their owners have Darren's attitude, they're bound to succeed, which is good news for real ale. Looking again at the ad hoardings, I had a great idea: LT Advertising and the GLC or whatever they're called these days should plaster his adverts free on every Central Line station from Ruislip to Epping. Now what do you think, Boris? Peter Tonge

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.



Branch diaries

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA contacts and events. This is where branches can say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for October and November are listed below. Meetings and socials are open to all – everyone is welcome to come along.

LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

October – Mon 17 (8pm) Greater London Pub of the Year Award presentation. Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd, NW5. - Thu 20 (8pm): Regional Club of the Year presentation. Questors Theatre Grapevine Bar, 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing W5.

November – Thu 24 (7.30) John Young Memorial Award presentation to Duncan Sambrook and David Welsh. Armoury, 14 Armoury Way, Wandsworth. - Wed 30 (8pm) London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

October – Sat 22 Daytime crawl of outer South East London: (12 noon) Blythe Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, SE23; Forest Hill Tavern, 108 Forest Hill Rd, SE22; Herne Tavern, 2 Forest Hill Rd, SE22; lvy House, 40 Stuart Rd, SE15; Crown & Greyhound, 73 Dulwich Village, SE21; Half Moon, 10 Half Moon La, SE24. Public transport will be required at times.

November – Wed 16 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: londonpubsgroup.org.uk

LONDON CIDER GROUP

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

October – Sat 1 (1pm) Apple pressing/cider making. One Tree Hill Allotments, Honor Oak Park SE23. See

www.othas.org.uk/opendays.html. - Sat 15 (12-5pm) Social. National Collection of Cider & Perry at Middle Farm for the cider festival. Make own way to/from festival. Please notify organiser if you intend to come: email london_cider@btinternet.com or call/text 07775 973760 10am to 5pm M-F. - Sun 16 (1-4pm) Cider making and cider tasting session. Centre for Wildlife Gardening, Peckham SE15. See

thelondonorchardproject.org or email david@thelondonorchardproject.org - Tue 18 (7pm) Cider pub social. Red Lion, Linkfield Rd, Isleworth TW7. - Sun 22 (3-4pm) Cider tasting session. Camley Street Natural Park, King's Cross N1. See thelondonorchardproject.org or email david@thelondonorchardproject.org

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

October – Tue 12 Hoxton N1 crawl: (7.30) Howl at The Moon, 178 Hoxton St; (8.10) Stags Head, 55 Orsman Rd; (8.50) Rosemary Branch, 2 Shepperton Rd.

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

BEXLEY

Rob Archer, camr@rcher.org.uk

October – Wed 12 Wetherspoons pub crawl inc. 8.30 branch mtg at the Wrong 'Un: (7.30-8pm) New Cross Turnpike, 55 Bellegrove Rd, Welling; Wrong 'Un, 234-236 Broadway, Bexleyheath; finally Furze Wren, Market Place, Bexleyheath. - Wed 26 Bexleyheath DA6 crawl: start (8pm) Prince Albert, 2 Broadway.

November - Wed 9 (8.30) Mtg. Royal Oak (Polly's), Mount Rd, DA6. - Wed 23 Crayford pub crawl (8pm) starting at the Charlotte, 38-40 Station Rd, DA1.

Website: camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill, 07831 561296, pete_mcgill@hotmail.com
October - Wed 12 (8pm) 2011 Beer of the Festival award
presentation. Hope, 48 West 5t, Carshalton (see page 64). - Thu 13-Sat
15 Wallington Beer Festival. See page 38. - Thu 20 Croydon CR0
social: (8pm) Bull's Head, 39 Laud 5t; (9.30) Surrey Cricketers, 23
West 5t. - Tue 25 (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull, Surrey St, Croydon CR0.
November - Wed 2 Carshalton SM5 crawl: (8pm) Coach & Horses, 12
High St; (9pm) Sun, 4 North St; (10pm) Hope, 48 West 5t. - Thu 17
Shirley CR0 social: (8.30) Shirley Inn, 158 Wickham Rd; (9.45)

Crown, 28 Wickham Rd. - **Thu 24** (8.30) Mtg. Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), 378 Carshalton Rd, SM5. Website: croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch telephone 07757 772564, elacbranchyahoo.co.uk
October – Tue 11 Leytonstone E11 crawl: (7.45) North Star, 24
Browning Rd; (8.45) Walnut Tree, 857-861 High Rd; (9.45) Red Lion,
640 High Rd. - Tue 25 EC1 crawl: (7.45) William Blake (was Litten
Tree), 174-180 Old St; (8.45) Masque Haunt, 168-172 Old St; (9pm)
Artillery Arms, 102 Bunhill Row; (10pm) Old Fountain, 3 Baldwin St.
November – Thu/Fri 3/4 'Piglet' real ale festival: (5-11pm) Leyton
Orient Supporters' Club, Oliver Rd, E10. -Tue 8 (8pm) Mtg: Mason &
Taylor, 51-55 Bethnal Green Rd, E1.
Website: pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Brian Willis: 020 8440 4542 (H), branchcontact@ camraenfieldandbarnet.orguk, branch mobile 07757 710008 at event All events are 2012 GBG promotion socials. unless otherwise stated.

October – Wed 5 (8pm) Picture Palace, Hertford Rd/Lincoln Rd junc, Ponders End En3then (9.15) 191 bus to Moon Under Water, 115
Chase Side, Enfield En2. - Thu 13 (8pm) Dignity, 369 Regents Park Rad, Finchley Central N3 then bus to (9.45) Elephant Inn, 283 Ballards La, North Finchley N12. - Tue 18 (8.30) New Crown, 80-84 Chase Side, Southgate N14. - Wed 26 (8pm) George, 5 The Town, Enfield Town EN2 then bus to (9.45) Beehive, 24 Little Bury St, Edmonton No

November – Wed 2 (8.30) Greyhound, 52 Church End, Hendon NW4. -Tue 8 (8.30) Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - Sat 12 (12noon) Cock & Dragon, Chalk La, Cockfosters EN4 via Jester (not GBG), 150 Mount Pleasant, EN4 to Builders Arms, 3 Albert Rd, New Barnet EN4. - Wed 16 (8.30) Dog & Duck, 74 Hoppers Rd, Winchmore Hill N21 - Thu 24 N9 social: (8pm) Rising Sun, 240 Winchester Rd, N9 then walk to (9.30) Lamb, 52/54 Church St, Lower Edmonton.

Website: camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020 8949 2099, ctaylor2007@freeuk.com
October - Tue 4 (8.15) Mtg. Fountain, (upstairs) Malden Rd, New
Malden. - Fir 7 (6.30) Social. Grape & Grain beer festival, 2 Anerley
Hill, Crystal Palace, SE19 (nr rail stn). - Tue 11 (8.30) PotY
presentation. Jolly Coopers, 84 Wheelers La, Epsom. - Thu 13 (6.30)
Social. Wallington beer festival. - Tue 18 (8pm) PotY presentation.
Woodies, New Malden. - Thu 20 Kingston to Surbiton crawl: meet
(8pm) Fighting Cocks (or 7pm Kings Tun), then Albion, Cricketers and
other pubs to finish in Coronation Hall. - Thu 27 (5pm) Social.
Twickenham beer festival.

November – Thu 3 (8.15) Mtg. Green Man, (upstairs) High St, Ewell. - Wed 23 Visit to Twickenham Green (Strawberry Hill rail sta): (8pm) Kings Arms, Albion Rd, then Prince Blucher and Sussex Arms (see R&H diary below).

Website: 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

October – Tue 4 N1 Essex Road social: (7.30) Wenlock & Essex, 18 Essex Rd; (8.15) Mucky Pup, 39 Queens Head St; (8.45) Kings, 59 Essex Rd; (9.15) New Rose, 84 Essex Rd; (10.15) Lord Clyde, 340 Essex Rd. - Tue 11 (8pm) PotS presentation. Snooty Fox, 75 Grosvenor Ave, N5. - Wed 12 Young Members' N1 Hoxton social: (7.30) Howl at the Moon, 178 Hoxton St; (8.10) Stag's Head, 55 Orsman Rd; (8.50) Rosemary Branch, 2 Shepperton Rd; (9.30) Baring, 55 Baring St. - Sat 15 Bookworm social: (2pm) Prince of Wales, 53 Highgate High St, N6, then other pubs. - Mon 17 (7.30) London PotY presentation. Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd, NW5. - Tue 18 (8pm) London Drinker BF mtg. Plough, 27 Museum St, WC1. - Tue 25 (8pm) London

Brewing Co. brewery visit. Bull, 13 North Hill, N6.
November – Tue 1 Kentish Town social: (7.30) Tapping the Admiral, 77
Castle Rd, NW1; (8.30) Lion & Unicom, 42 Gaisford St, NW5; (9.30)
Bull & Gate, 389 Kentish Town Rd; (10.15) Assembly House, 292
Kentish Town Rd. – Tue 8 Bus 106 social: (7.30) King's Head, 126
Blackstock Rd, N4; (8.15) Woodbine, 215 Blackstock Rd, N5; (9pm)

Brownswood Park Tavern, 271 Green Lanes, N4; (10pm) Jolly Butchers, 204 Stoke Newington High St, N16. - Tue 15 (8pm) Mtg. Pineapple, 51 Leverton St, NW5. - Tue 22 NW3 Hampstead South End social: (8pm) White Horse, 154 Fleet Rd; (9pm) Magdala Tavern, 2a South Hill Pk; (10pm) Garden Gate, 14 South End Rd. - Tue 29 (8pm) London Drinker BF mtg. Duke of Wellington, 119 Balls Pond Rd, N1. Website: camranorthlondon.org.uk

Brian Kirton, 020 8384 7284 (H), brian.kirton@blueyonder.co.uk October - Thu 13 (8pm) Mtg incl. Beer festival final planning. Victoria, 56 Worple Rd, Isleworth.

November - Tue 8 (8pm) Social and Beer festival 'wash-up'. Sussex Arms, 15 Staines Rd, Twickenham. - Wed 23 Twickenham crawl with Kingston & Leatherhead Branch: (8pm) Prince of Wales, 136 Hampton Rd; (9pm) Prince Blucher, 124 The Green; (9.30) Sussex Arms, as above.

Website: rhcamra.org.uk

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

October - Mon 3 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Hoopers Bar, 28 Ivanhoe Rd, SE5. - Thu 13 (8pm) Beer festival social. Sovereign of the Seas, 109-111 Queensway, Petts Wood BR5. - Thu 20 (8pm) Beer festival social. Moon & Stars, 164-166 High St, Bromley SE20. - Mon 24 (8pm) Bromley Branch AGM. H G Wells Centre, St Marks Rd (off Masons Hill), BR2. See page 44. - Thu 27 Lewisham SE13 crawl: (7.30) Bridge House (Anchor), 165 Lewisham Rd; (8.15) Joiner's Arms, 66 Lewisham High St; (9pm) Watch House, 198-204 Lewisham High St; (9.45) Ravensbourne Arms, 323 Lewisham High Street. November -Thu 3 (8pm) Cttee mtg and social. Blythe Hill Tavern (upstairs), 319 Stanstead Rd, SE23. - Mon 7 Downe BR6 short crawl: (8pm) George & Dragon, 26 High St; (9pm) Queens Head, 25 High St. - Mon 14 Southwark SE1 crawl: (7.30) George Inn, 77 Borough High St; (8.15) Wheatsheaf, 24 Southwark St; (9pm) Barrow Boy and Banker, 6-8 Borough High St; (9.45) Rake, 14 Winchester Walk. - Wed 23 Bellingham/Bromley crawl and social: (7.30) Fellowship Inn, Randlesdown Rd, Bellingham SE6 (next to Bellingham Stn); train to Bromley South, (8.15) Slug and Lettuce, 3-5 Bromley High St, BR2; (9pm) Richmal Crompton, 23 Westmoreland Pl, BR2. - Mon 28 Blackheath SE3 crawl: (7.30) Railway, 16 Blackheath Village; (8.15) Crown, 49 Tranquil Vale; (9pm) Princess of Wales, 1a Montpelier Row; (9.45) Zero Degrees, 29 Montpelier Vale. Website: selcamra.org.uk

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)

October - Fri 7-Sun 9 branch weekend. Exeter by train from Paddington, staying at the Great Western Hotel and including a Brewery Visit to Teignworthy. - Wed 12 (8.30) Beer festival social. JJ Moon's, 48/52 High St, Hornchurch. - Wed 19 (8.30) Beer festival social. Moon & Stars, 99/103 South St, Romford. - Fri 28 (from 8pm) social. 5th Hebfest Beer Festival. Memorial Hall, Forebury, Knight St, Sawbridgeworth. Further info: www.heb-camra.org.uk/hebfest. November - Thu 3 (8pm) Social. 13th Piglet Beer Festival: Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, Leyton E10. - Wed 9 (8.30) Social. Cricketers, 299/301 High Rd, Woodford Green. - Tue 15 (8.30) Social/GBG 2013 nominations. Eastbrook, Dagenham Road, jct Upper Rainham Rd, Dagenham. - Tue 22 (from 8pm) Social. 32nd SE Essex Beer & Cider Festival. Freight House, Rochford (by railway stn). Further info: seecamra.org.uk.

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

Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

October - Mon 10 (7.30) Branch pub awards discussion mtg. Old Sergeant, 104 Garratt La, Wandsworth SW18. - Wed 19 Putney SW15 Cider Month social: (7.15) Bricklayers Arms, 32 Waterman St; (9.15) Rocket, Putney Wharf. - Wed 26 Mtg: (7.30) Le Gothique, Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, John Archer Rd, Wandsworth Common

November - Fri 4 (7pm) Battersea 2012 festival staff recruitment social. Priory Arms (upstairs), 83 Lansdowne Way, Stockwell SW8. Mon 21 (7.30) Mtg. (Good Beer Guide long-listing, PotY shortlisting), Antelope (back room), 76 Mitcham Rd, Tooting SW17.

Website: swlcamra.org.uk

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H) 07854 988152 (M) October - Sat 1 Cask Ale Week social: (2.40) Oaks, Coppermill La, West Hyde; (3.40) Halfway House, 91 Uxbridge Rd, Rickmansworth; (5pm) Sportsman, 2 Scots Hill, Croxley Green. - Tue 4 (8.30) Cask Ale Week social. Swan, 25 Park Rd, Bushey - Thu 6 Watford Cask Ale Week social: (8.30) West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave; (10.30) Nascot Arms, 11 Stamford Rd. - Sat 8 Cask Ale Week social: (1pm) Cock, Church La, Sarratt - Thu 13 Anti-social to advertise Watford Beer Festival: meet (8pm) Estcourt Arms, 2 St John's Rd, Watford - Fri 28 (8.30) Cider Month social. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long Lane, Heronsgate - Mon 31 (8pm) Mtg. West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave, Watford.

November - Thu 3 Watford High Street: (8.15) Bar Bodega, 151 High St; (8.45) Molloy's, 66 - 68 The Parade; (9.15) Modello Bar & Kitchen, 46 The Parade; (9.45) Moon Under Water, 44 High St. - Thu 17-Sat 19 17th Watford Beer Festival. Function Room, West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave. - Wed 23 (8.30) Post-beer festival social. West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave. - Mon 28 (8pm) Mtg. Venue tbc. Please check branch website or What's Brewing.

Website: watfordcamra.org.uk

Paul Charlton 07835 927357, paul@paulcw4.plus.com; Social Secretary Alasdair Boyd: 020 7930 9871 x 143 (2.30-3.30 and 6-9.30 pm Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk, fax 020 7839 4768

October – Tue 4 WC2 social: (7.30) George, 213 Strand (during beer festival); (9pm) Edgar Wallace, 40 Essex St. - Tue 11 Mtg. (7pm for 7.30) Harp (upstairs), Chandos Pl, WC2 - Wed 12 SW1 Guide surveys: meet (7pm for 7.30) St. Stephen's Tavern, 10 Bridge St. (opposite Big Ben) - Mon 17 Wetherspoon beer festival social (bring vouchers): (7.30) Montague Pyke, 105-107 Charing X Rd, WC2; (8.30) Moon Under Water, 28 Leicester Sq, WC2; (9.30) Lord Moon of the Mall, 16-18 Whitehall, SW1 - Tue 25 Social: (7.30) Cow, 89 Westbourne Park Rd, W2; (8.30) Prince Bonaparte, 80 Chepstow Rd, W2; (9.30) Cock & Bottle, 17 Needham Rd, W11.

November - Tue 1 SW1 social: (7.30) Plumbers Arms, 14 Lower Belgrave St; (8.30) Victoria, 1 Lower Belgrave St; (9.30) Wetherspoons, Victoria Station (above WH Smith) - Tue 8 (7pm for 7.30) Mtg: Defectors Weld (upstairs), 170 Uxbridge Rd, W12 - Tue 15 WC2 social: (7.30) Salisbury, 90 St. Martin's La; (8.30) Round Table, 26 St. Martin's Ct; (9.30) Lamb & Flag, 33 Rose St. off Garrick St. - Wed 23 SW1 Guide surveys: meet (7pm for 7.30) Walkers of St. James's, 32 Duke St. - Tue 29 W1 Marylebone social: (7.30) Golden Eagle, 59 Marylebone La; (8.30) William Wallace, 33 Aybrook St.; (9.30) Barley Mow, 8 Dorset St.

Website: westlondon-camra.org.uk

John Bush 07739 105336, info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk October - Mon 3 Ruislip crawl: meet (12noon)J J Moons, 12 Victoria Rd, Ruislip Manor. - Tue 11 Wetherspoons Festival Social: (8pm) Red Lion & Pineapple, 281 High St, Acton W3; (9.30) Sir Michael Balcon, 46-47 The Mall, Ealing W5 - Sat 15 Wetherspoons Festival crawl: (12noon): Moon on the Hill, 373 Station Rd, Harrow; (1.30) New Moon, 25-26 Kenton Park Parade, Kenton Rd, Harrow; (2.30) JJ Moons, 553 Kingsbury Rd, Kingsbury NW9; (4pm) Man in the Moon, 1 Buckingham Parade, Stanmore; (5.30) Moon & Sixpence, 250 Uxbridge Rd, Hatch End; (7pm) Village Inn, 402-408 Rayners La, Pinner. - Thu 20 Branch and Regional Club of the Year presentation (8pm): Questors Theatre Grapevine Bar, 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing W5. - Tue 25 Hillingdon Hill crawl: (8pm) Red Lion Hotel, Royal La, UB8; (9pm) Vine, 121 Hillingdon Hill, Uxbridge UB10; (10pm) Prince of Wales, 1 Harlington Rd, Uxbridge UB8. - Mon 31 Harrow crawl: meet (12pm) Moon on the Hill, 373 Station Rd, Harrow.

November - Wed 9 (8.30) Mtg. Old Actonians Sports Club, Gunnersbury Drive, W5 - Tue 15 Hayes End UB4 social: (8pm) Wishing Well, 1250 Uxbridge Rd; (9pm) Angel, 697 Uxbridge Rd; (10pm) Carpenters, 1370 Uxbridge Rd. - Fri 25 (7pm) Heathrow Beer Festival social. Concorde Club, Crane Lodge Rd, Cranford TW5. - Mon 28 Pinner and Eastcote crawl: meet (12noon) Queens Head, 31 High St Pinner

Website: westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the December/January edition: Wednesday 16 November. Please send entries to ld@daviessolutions.co.uk

Capital Pubcheck - update 220

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.

Owing to time and space constraints it has not been possible to include the regular Capital Pubcheck update in the printed copy of this magazine. Update 220 will instead be published as soon as possible on our website, www.londondrinker.org.uk. The following paragraphs summarise the highlights.

Probably the busiest period ever reported in Capital Pubcheck for new happenings on the beer scene in London - the real ale revolution is at last underway in earnest! Rather like buses, none come along for a long time and now four brewpubs come at once. The Bull, Highgate N6 is already brewing, to be followed by the Botanist, Kew (TW9) the Tap East, Westfield Stratford City, E20 and the Duchess of Cambridge, Stamford Brook W6, early next year. In addition, the number of microbreweries operating or planned in London continues to grow, including East London (E10), London Fields (E8) and Redchurch (E2), all now believed open, plus Antic (SE5), By the Horns (SW17), Hackney (E8), Moncada (W10) and Rye Lane (SE15) to follow. Information on pubs selling beers from these breweries would be welcomed by Capital Pubcheck.

Record numbers of pubs majoring on real ale from micros or increasing their cask ale offers, both

RED LION ROARS AGAIN!

The Red Lion in Leytonstone High Road, Ell opened on 15 June after several months of work repairing the damage left by the previous company. The work will be completely finished by the end of August.

The pub is part of the Antic group and they were very pleased with the turnout for the opening night. Manager Mark Sprules estimated that between 300 and 400 people dropped in during the evening. There were five ales on sale - now up to seven - which include Redemption and Purity; the range will vary.

After years of no real ale at the Red Lion, it is good news for the area to have this pub back.

John Pardoe

from independent operators and pubcos across London. are highlighted. These include pubs in NW1 Camden Town, N4 Finsbury Park, N16 Stoke Newington, W2 Paddington and Twickenham. Wetherspoons have brought a pub back to life in Bromley but sadly lost one to fire in SE18 Woolwich during the riots. Antic and Faucet Inn continue to acquire pubs. Young's, having disposed of their 40% interest in Wells & Young's Brewery, have opened a replacement pub in SW11, Battersea and their Geronimo arm has opened a brand new pub in E20, Westfield Stratford City.

On the downside, one of the largest independent pubcos operating in London, Capital Pub Co, was acquired by Greene King in July. We list the 34 pubs acquired and await any effect this may have on beer choice. Greene King, Hall & Woodhouse and Marstons continue to dispose of pubs that don't fit the food-obsessed agenda or have development potential. We also report development proposals threatening pubs in W1 Fitzrovia, NW8 St John's Wood, Croydon, SW3 Chelsea, Cranford, and the famous Wenlock Arms in N1 Hoxton.

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.





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Sally Cruickshank

The White Horse at Parsons Green SW6 was probably the earliest pub in London to mix top quality beer and good food, well before the term 'gastropub' had come into use. In many ways it set the pattern for a lot of the pubs that we have today although, as is so often the case, most are pale imitations of the original. I am sad to report that the lady who brought about this change, the redoubtable Sally Cruickshank, has passed away at the age of 79.

Before coming into the pub trade, Sally had a busy and interesting life working on cruise liners, in catering and teaching in both the UK and Spain. I remember the White Horse in the late 1970s and it was a decent enough pub but the owners, at that time Vintage Inns, realised that it had unused potential and in a chance meeting their managing director found the person to take it forward. Consequently in 1981 Sally entered the pub trade at the age of 50 although I think that most who remember her will agree that she never quite lost her schoolteacher's manner. The pub quickly became popular with the more affluent young local residents, leading to it being nicknamed the 'Sloaney Pony' but there was ways a welcome for everyone. Importantly, you were just as welcome for a few beers as for a full meal.

Sally retired to Norfolk and the golf course in 1995, having seen the White Horse become a regular Good Beer Guide entry and winning two Evening Standard Pub of the Year awards. She left the pub – by then owned by Bass – in the safe hands of Mark Dorber, who had started work there when a student and with her encouragement subsequently gave up a career in economics to become one of the country's most influential publicans.

My personal memories of Sally's time at the White Horse are a bit vague because they centre mostly on the November Old Ale Festival when, fuelled by the traditional 'full English', we sampled much excellent if powerful beer. I also recall one Saturday afternoon when attending a Burton Ales festival my friends and I ended up as extras in an episode of Michael Jackson's seminal TV series 'The Beer Hunter.' Sally and Mark feature in that programme but for me the star was the Draught Bass.

I have taken most of the biographical detail above from the obituary that Sally's son Robert contributed to the Guardian (25 August 2011). We send our condolences to him and his family and give him the last word: "Sally's talent was to sustain her success, year after year, and inspire a team of enthusiasts ... which made the White Horse a byword for quality and service and set a benchmark for pubs that still holds good."

Tony Hedger





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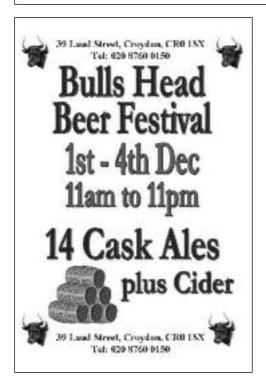
No music or machines. Large garden. Look at our "Beer Cam" on www.yourround.co.uk

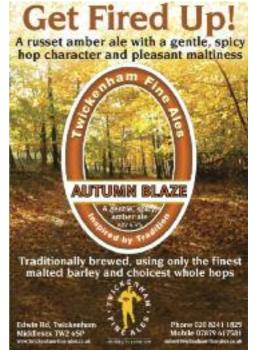
Meet the (Downton) brewer. Wednesday October 12th @ 8pm

Upcoming beer festivals: 20-22 October (Harvest), 17-19 November (Dark)

We source real ale locally (at least 2) and nationwide. Breweries we like to use:

Dark Star, Thombridge, Windsor & Eton, Marble, W.J. King, BrewDog, Titanic, Kent, Magic Rock, Redemption, Saltaire, Kissingate, Downton, Red Squirrel, Oakham, Brewsters, Brodie's, Crouch Vale, Acom and others that pass our quality control!





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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 1. 1792 Ounces in a Hundredweight
- 2. 1658 Death of Oliver Cromwell
- 1980 Last Great British Beer Festival Held at Alexandra Palace
- 4. 1982 Start of Channel Four Television
- 5. 1941 Japan Attacked Pearl Harbour
- 6. 1854 Charge of the Light Brigade
- 7. 2003 England Won the Rugby Union World Cup
- 8. 1865 Murder of Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth
- 9. 1925 Margaret Thatcher Born in Grantham
- 10. 4201 Miles is the Diameter of Mars

5BY4 (Books of the Fifties):

- 1. Billy Liar Keith Waterhouse
- 2. Lucky Jim Kingsley Amis
- 3. Saturday Night and Sunday Morning Alan Sillitoe
- 4. The Catcher in the Rye J.D.Salinger
- 5. Room at the Top John Braine
- 6. The Talented Mr Ripley Patricia Highsmith
- 7. The Long Goodbye Raymond Chandler
- 8. A Taste of Honey Shelagh Delaney
- 9. A Walk on the Wild Side Nelson Algren
- 10. The Magic Christian Terry Southern

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- It was Colin Cowdrey who scored more test runs 7624 against Don Bradman's 6996.
- When the first Royal Ascot race meeting took place on 11th August 1711 the monarch in attendance was Queen Anne
- 3. Also on 11th August, but in 1873, Bertram Mills, born August 1873, was famous for the circus that he ran.
- 4. America's first moon satellite, Orbiter 1, was launched on 10th August in 1966.
- John Flamsteed, who was born on 19th August 1646 near Derby, was the first Astronomer Royal.
- It was the Forth Road Bridge that was officially opened on 4th September 1964 by Her Majesty the Queen.
- On 5th September 1975 Lynette Fromme, a follower of Charles Manson, tried (unsuccessfully) to assassinate Gerald Ford.
- The ten mile long St Gothard road tunnel (the longest in the world) was opened on 5th September in 1980.
- Sir Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister to occupy 10 Downing Street on 22nd September 1735.
- 10. The coronation which took place on 22nd September 1761 was that of George III.

ello again – and if you are reading this in time for a reminder to be of use, don't forget that Twickenham Beer & Cider Festival is back again between Thursday 27th and Saturday 29th October. See the advert for more details. Right, plug over – how about a little aphorism from Herman Melville:

It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation Believe it or not, as you choose. Now, let's get on with the usual pain and suffering beginning as usual with the number puzzles:

- . 21 MS in a PH
- 2. 4 K in a G of C
- 3. 8784 H in a LY
- 4. 1 V in a SQ
- 5. 375 RTMS by BL
- 6. 1694 B of EF
- 7. 3 B to the B in a W
- 8. 72 is H of a G
- 9. 66 B in the B
- 10. 1066 D of KH at the B of H

I was struggling a bit for this time's 5BY4 so I thought I fall back on the old time waster of pop number 1's from the past. I did 1961 back in April so this time it's "Forty Years Ago." Sorry if they're too easy; but then some of you might not be as old as I am. Just match the songs to the artists:

- Grandad
- A. Dave & Ansil Collins
- My Sweet Lord
 Baby Jump
- B. Diana RossC. Mungo Jerry
- 4. Coz I Luv You
- D. T. Rex
- 5. Maggie May6. Knock Three Times
- E. Slade F. Dawn
- 7. Hey Girl Don't Bother Me
- G. George Harrison H. Rod Stewart
- 8. I'm Still Waiting 9. Hot Love
- I. Clive Dunn
 I The Tams
- 10. Double Barrel

Nearly there – just the General Trivia to go, then you can get back to enjoying life:

- From the first modern games in 1896 until the last in 2008, on how many occasions have the Summer Olympic Games been hosted by European cities?
- Apart from London (1908 and 1948), which three cities have hosted the Summer Olympic Games on two occasions?
- 3. It is well known that Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes of North America, but which is the smallest – and what is its area in proportion to that of Lake Superior?
- 4. And which is the only one of the Great Lakes situated wholly within the USA, the others forming part of the border with Canada?
- 5. On what loch does Fort William stand?
- 6. A Pair of Blue Eyes was the third novel by which writer (the first published under his own name)?
- Who wrote the music entitled "Fanfare for the Common Man"? No, it wasn't Emerson, Lake or Palmer.
- 8. Contrary to what some people will tell you, James Watt did NOT invent the steam engine. What did he invent which vastly improved the efficiency of the Newcomen engine?
- 9. What is the most famous work by the American sculptor Gutzor Borglum?
- 10. New London is a city on the Thames River (not River Thames) in which state of the USA?

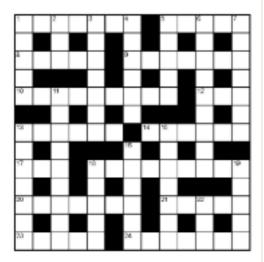
Yes, I admit it; I fell into Olympics mania – still it only lasted a couple of questions and they're probably not the most topical ones you will come across over the next ten months or so.

Until next time (that'll be the Christmas edition – Blimey!) And don't put Grannie on the bonfire by mistake.

Andy Pirson

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name			

All correct entries received by first post on 23rd November will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

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

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

AUGUST'S SOLUTION

Address _



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

- Wild man imprisoning traitor. [7]
- 5. Two men joined from birth. [5]
- 8. Being a seamstress is a drain. [5]
- Book of anaesthetics. [7]
- 10. Bridge opponents practised together and got on. [9]
- 12. Heard everyone is a bore. [3]
- 13. Stand out against crazy relative. [6]
- 14. Catch parent being negligent. [6]
- 17. Supporter taking some brandy. [3]
- 18. Lay spread about and very still. [9]
- 20. It's fast, revolutionary heat dispersal. [7]
- 21. Old folk come in twice nightly. [5]
- 23. Score a mark. [5]
- 24. Teetotal, sound medical man in the shipyard. [3,4]

DOWN

- Come after girl following directions, [5]
- Use a blade in fight? [3]
- This half studies materials. [7]
- Punishment around Northern Ireland given some teeth. [6]
- 5. Show agreement about mother being a traveller. [5]
- Sign about the man's in the reference book. [9]
- Final drink near the end of the race. [4,3]
- 11. A collection of good books is what may be left. [9]
- 13. Clean picture of a flower. [7]
- 15. Wipe out fully in riot. [7]
- Very dry, topless and bent over. [6]
- 18. Player's first irritation on the field. [5]
- 19. Daughter ice skating has a beer maybe. [5]
- 20. Say nothing on one's self image. [3]

Winner of the prize for the June Crossword: J.E.Green, St. Albans.

Other correct entries were received from:

Ted Alleway, J.C.Alexander, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Hilary Ayling, John Barker, Mike Begg, Doreen Bell, Mike Belsham, Steve Block, Martin Bonner, John Bowler, Norah Brady, Deryn Brand, Jeremy Brinkworth, Mark Broadhead, John Butler, Tim Chard, Jon Christie, A.Cockayne, Richard Conway, Carole Cook, Lauren B.Cool, Roger Corbett, Charles Creasey, J.A.Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Noel Cunnane, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Michael Davis, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Steve Downey, Tom Drane, Mark Dredge, Brian Exford, Robert Ferrier, M.Fletcher, Arthur Fox-Ache, Dudley Freeman, Christopher Gilbey, B.Gleeson, Paul Gray, James Greene & H.Hopkins, Alan Greer, Caroline Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie & Scott Onorox, Brian Hall, Dave Hardy, John Harmer, Roy Harris, Peter Haines, John Heath, Gothy Henjar, Graham Hill, William Hill, David Hughes, Ray Hunt, Chris James, Hugh Jarce, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Les Jenkins, David Jiggens, D.M.L.Jones, Mike Joyce, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Tony Lennon, Rosemary Lever, Andy Lindenburn, G.Lopatis, Peter Lovett, Kevin McCarthy, Pete McGill, Steve McQuade, Pat Maginn, Steve Maloney, MAP of Guildford, Allan Marshall, Tony Martin, Martine & Dave the plumber, Jan Mondrzejewski, M.J.Moran, Stuart Moult, Al Mountain, David Murphy, Brian Myhill, William Neville, Mark Nicholls, Paul Nicholls, Mick Norman, G.Notley, Mike O'Sullivan, Michael Oliver, Nigel Parsons, Michael Pigden, Mark Pilkington, Miss G.Pote, Jeanette Powell, Nicholas Priest, Derek Pryce, Anna Retsic, Richard, Joe & Dibley, N.P.J.Roe, Paul Rogers, Richard Rogers, Pete Simmonds, Lesley Smith, Neil Smith, Ian Sneesby, Ian Symes, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, John Treeby, Chrissie Uden, Andy Wakefield, Martin Weedon, Miss E.A. Whale, Nigel Wheatley, John Williams, Sue Wilson, Don Young. There were also 9 incorrect and one incomplete entries.

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