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Dec
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How could Wetherspoons pay to give this pub to Tesco? (see page 26)



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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.

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Besides three new brewpubs, four new cask ale breweries have opened in London over the last six months: By the Horns, East London, London Fields and Moncada. There is a growing demand for local cask beers, which the burgeoning London CAMRA LocAle scheme continues to promote and which members of the London Brewers' Alliance celebrated with an impressive beer exhibition at Brew Wharf on 22 October. The London Branches marked CAMRA's 40th anniversary on 5 November at a party in the Counting House with a great range of Fuller's and London microbrewery beers. On 24 November we are presenting this year's John Young Memorial Award to Duncan Sambrook and David Welsh, recognizing the pivotal achievement of Sambrook's brewery in the rebirth of brewing in London.

But all is not well. A lot of pubs that might have survived as outlets for our new brewers have closed in the last ten years, and now, increasingly, we find cherished local community pubs suddenly closing or being sold to property developers in the absence of any effective safeguards. When Young's sold the freehold of the Queen Dowager in Teddington to a property company, the pub promptly closed. The Castle in Battersea, thankfully still trading, has also been sold to a property firm, and now so has the Charlie Butler in Mortlake.

A recent government

consultation advocates, not before time, a ban on 'restrictive covenants' that stop a pub that has been sold from being used again as a pub. Fine, but pubcos like Punch and Enterprise have already abandoned restrictive covenants. They do not need them when estate agents like AG&G can ensure that any struggling pub that comes on to the market with the faintest whiff of development potential is unaffordable to any pub operator who would otherwise be interested in making a go of it. As one company told me after they had enquired about a pub that would have been ideal for them, "They are asking an insane amount of money for it, so it is not one we are going to be able to pursue".

That is one reason why so many pubs are closing. It is a national scandal. And another scandal is the absence of any requirement for planning permission before converting a pub to offices or shops. The local community and their elected representatives are powerless to stop pubs turning into betting shops or supermarket convenience stores when there is no opportunity for consultation. So much for 'sustainable communities' and 'localism'.

And w(h)ither 'corporate social responsibility'? Tim Martin, chairman of JD Wetherspoon has given permission to publish his letter revealing that they actually paid Tesco to take over the lease of the Grid in Southfields. A local resident who organised a belated

petition wonders if the company had kept the closure of the Grid under wraps to avoid alerting regular users and so avoid any form of consultation process. *"This flies in the face of Wetherspoon's own mission statement, which states that customers are at the heart of 'everything we do'... The closure of the Grid to make way for a Tesco Express will also have negative economic implications for all the local businesses."*

Readers will be more encouraged by Hackney's reasons for rejecting the planning application for demolition and change of use of the Wenlock Arms. This is one battle won, at least temporarily, but the grim reality is that we have many more to fight, on several fronts, and we are as far as ever from winning our campaign. For so long as community pubs remain an endangered species, it will continue to be a challenge for breweries to find enough customers to make cask ale worthwhile.



Geoff Strawbridge

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Thinking of you...

There has been quite a lot of health-related news recently. Dr Ian Gilmour of the Royal College of Physicians has tried to clarify the use of Alcohol Units. Apparently, we should treat them as a rolling weekly guide and not exceed 21 to 28 units (14 to 21 for females) over a seven-day period. Quite why he is doing this is unclear, given that their value has largely been discredited – not least in these pages. It may of course have something to do with the investigation into the subject currently being carried out by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee.

CAMRA's submission to the committee was that an absolute upper limit is unrealistic and the current system did not acknowledge the gap between those limits and the point where drinking will have a severe health impact. Furthermore, not enough

is done to communicate the health benefits of moderate alcohol consumption, as indicated by recent research. No-one can doubt that this is a serious issue and we deserve appropriately pragmatic advice.

The Mayor of London is also getting in on the act. Boris Johnson has set up the London Health Improvement Board. Its initial priorities are childhood obesity, the early diagnosis and screening of cancers and, inevitably, alcohol although it isn't yet clear what it will be doing in this respect.

In Scotland the SNP government is trying again to introduce minimum pricing for alcohol and this time they are likely to get the legislation approved, although according to both the Law Society of Scotland and the Scottish Whisky Association there will almost certainly be a challenge in both the domestic and European

courts on the grounds of restraint of trade. The Westminster Government's Minister for Public Health, Anne Milton, has already said that the advice that she has received is that minimum pricing is illegal under EU law.

One line of thought is that if the new measure keeps to the previous proposal of 45p per unit, the effect on trade could be argued as being acceptable because it only affects the bottom end of the market. Then again, if you can only afford supermarket own-brand rather than a £30 top-quality malt or a visit to the pub, how fair would this be on you?

But then again...

According to a report by the Health Protection Agency, a third of the ice cubes used in Britain's pubs and restaurants contain hazardous levels of bacteria arising mainly from a failure to properly clean ice machines and trays. This has led



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to a 50% increase in gastric infections such as E.coli since the 1990s. I find the following numbers hard to believe but apparently the problem affected some 17 million people in 2010, leading to 19 million missed work and school days and 1 million GP visits. I wonder in how many of those cases the medical staff ticked the 'alcohol related' box on their form?

Signs and portents

The Cask Report for 2011-2012, partly funded by CAMRA, says that real ale now has a 15% share of the UK beer market and that its appeal to 'younger, affluent and sociable drinkers' is a lifeline for pubs during these hard times. Also, real ale drinkers are twice as likely to go to the pub as other drinkers. But if we want real ale, which is essentially a bulk project, we would have to, wouldn't we?

Alas, against that, research by CAMRA released in September indicates that because of tax and duty increases, cheap supermarket sales and the activities of the big pubcos, we are still losing two pubs a day. The British Beer & Pub Association – the pubcos representative body – reinforces this with a report that in the July to September period, beer sales in pubs fell 4.3% with some 45 million less pints being sold. We can't have all been on holiday. The GMB Union has also been doing its sums. Taking the price of a pint of lager in a pub in 1987 to have been 87p and applying the Retail Prices Index it should now be £2.18. They found it instead to be £3.09 as against the equivalent supermarket price of as little as 30p.

The GMB has incidentally stopped recruiting amongst pubco tenants because, as their national organiser, Paul Maloney,

explained, "*The interests of the tied tenants as directed workers currently appear too disparate for them to unite to take lawful action.*" He went on to say that the only solution that he could see was political action to introduce a free market in the pub trade.

Duty bound

Changes in beer duty rates came in from 1st October. The duty on beers, lagers and ciders stronger than 7.5% ABV has been increased by 25% whilst those of 2.8% ABV and below have had their duty cut by 50%. The catch here is that those breweries in receipt of Progressive Beer Duty do not qualify for the reduction, only the top-end increase. As VAT is levied on the price including duty, that element should go down as well. It will be interesting to see what effect this has because, according the BBPA research mentioned above,

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Britain currently pays 40% of all of the tax collected on beer in the European Union.

Greene King are trying a 2.8% cask ale called Tolly English Ale. The 50% reduction in duty will be passed on to publicans in full, giving them the choice of whether to increase their margins or offer their customers a cheaper beer. I suspect that the answer lies somewhere in the middle. Fuller's have also added a 2.8% ABV beer to their range – see Fuller's news below.

It may however be the mega-brewers who are best placed to take full advantage. For example, since October, Skol has been brewed to an ABV of 2.8%, down from 3.0%. Dr Isaac Sheps, chief executive of Carlsberg UK, said: *"We are responding directly to the Government's duty initiative to encourage the development of beers at lower ABV levels."* An interesting item on BBC Radio 4's Food Programme suggested that this may indeed be true. Low alcohol beers are often produced by methods such as freezing out the alcohol post-production but SABMiller are working with Nottingham University to develop a yeast that allows the normal full brewing process to be used and will give a low alcohol content in a better quality product.

The programme also included some interesting comments from Mark Holder, the CEO of Molson Coors. He pointed out that less than 5% of the beer produced in the UK is at 2.8% ABV or below and wanted the threshold raised to 3.5%. He also complained of the *'lack of interaction'* between the Treasury and other government departments, called supermarket loss-leader selling *'problem pricing'* and wanted the appointment of a *'Minister for Alcohol'*. He also gave the opinion that having a beer with friends was a simple pleasure to be prized. I'll certainly go along with him there

Local brewery news

We have another new pub-brewery in East London. Beer wholesalers Utobeer who already operate the Rake in Borough have opened a second pub, the Tap East at the Great Eastern Market in the Westfield Stratford shopping development (E20 1ET). The pub's brewing kit has been acquired from the Bitter End brewery of Cockermouth in Cumbria. Geronimo already have a pub in the development.

I am pleased to report that Greene King have indicated that the Florence brewpub at Herne Hill, acquired as part of the Capital Pub Co deal, will be staying in production. You may possibly see their beers in the historic George Inn in the Borough which Greene King have reopened after a refurbishment carried out in conjunction with the owners, the National Trust. The exterior of the pub, which dates from 1677, has been repainted cream and green, a colour scheme taken from early photos. Interestingly, a restaurant area has been converted into a bar.

Not quite local any more, I know, but interesting all the same. Wells & Youngs recently held a presentation for London CAMRA branches at which Head Brewer Jim Robertson explained, among other things, the company's recent purchase of the McEwans and Youngers brands. The aim of the £20 million deal with Heineken UK is to put some life back into these famous brands in much the same way as they did with Courage. Both cask and processed beers will be produced and this will give W&YBC a bigger stake in the Scottish market where the brands are still popular. No actual brewery plant was involved in the deal and, for now, beers intended for north of the Border will still be produced by Caledonian

under licence. The deal also included Heineken's remaining 17% stake in Courage.

W&YBC have revived another old Courage favourite: Russian Imperial Stout. Initially it is only being brewed for export to the USA but keep your fingers crossed. The sample that we tried at the presentation was magnificent.

Meanwhile, the strength of Bombardier has been reduced from 4.3% ABV to 4.1%. This is thought to be to put a bigger gap between it and Youngs Special at 4.5%. It looks as if I was wrong about Special being doomed and if so, I'm not unhappy. Similarly, Mr Robertson thought that it was very unlikely that Charles Wells would sell their controlling interest in the brewery and I'm happy to be wrong about that too.

Pub news

Congratulations are due to the Duke of Hamilton in Hampstead for winning *'Best London Pub of The Year 2011'* in the *'Fancyapint'* website reviewers' awards. The citation was, *"A new breath of life into this pub by the owners of the Barnsbury in Islington – a promise of well-kept ale, decent bar snacks is making this a superb local, as evidenced by winning the overall Reviewers' award."*

One of the owners mentioned is Steve Coxshall who is also an ambassador for the prostate cancer charity. Steve has come up with a wonderful fund-raising device. He has linked his donations to the number of different beers sold in the two pubs, with an initial donation of £1,000 once they had sold the first 100 different beers. Further donations are following as each further 100 different beers are sold. Having started in July 2010, the count in mid-September was 130. Speaking as a male of a certain age, I can only heartily agree with Steve's view that this



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charity is a very good reason to drink real ale in his pubs.

Craig Douglas of the Bree Louise has reopened the former Queen of England pub in Goldhawk Road as the Duchess of Cambridge. It is intended very much to be a sister pub to the Bree Louise in Euston with the customary wide range of both hand pumped and gravity served real ales and ciders. All being well it will also have its own six barrel brewery up and running in the next few weeks, supplying both pubs. As at the Bree Louise, members of CAMRA, the Armed Forces, NHS staff and students will all receive 50p off per pint of ale or cask cider on production of the appropriate ID.

Despite the celebrity support, Abigail Osborne and Tamsin Olivier have lost control of the Engineer in Primrose Hill to landlords M&B but happily they are staying in the trade. They have moved to the



Hampshire Hog – for a while recently the Ruby Grand – in Hammersmith, not that far from the Duchess of Cambridge as mentioned above. I used to live and work nearby and I always thought that this was a pub with untapped potential. Good luck to them.

The Rugby Tavern in Bloomsbury has been given a £120,000 refurbishment by

owners Shepherd Neame. In addition to redecorations and new furniture, the pub, which gets its name from being built on land owned by Rugby School, has been given new etched windows to complement the overall traditional look. Sheps retail director, Nigel Bunting, said, “The refurbishment has brought the Rugby Tavern into the 21st century, while retaining its traditional




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London roots." Shepherd Neame have also added two pubs to their estate in Kent but have already disposed of 28 of the 35 community pubs that they felt no longer fitted their requirements.

A small pubco that I had not previously heard of, Prestige Group Ltd has put six pubs in north and north-west London up for sale. The only pub name mentioned is the Castle Bar in Camden. Some of the pubs are vacant whilst the others have leases in place.

The battle to save the Morden Tavern continues, now with the support of London Mayoral candidate Ken Livingstone who has signed their petition. A complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about the deal has been rejected although not without some criticism of Merton Council, while the outcome of a referral to the Audit Commission is awaited. Merton's planning department

has announced that the revised plans, which had to be redrawn and resubmitted after the application was deferred at the July Planning Applications Committee meeting, are now out for consultation again, with comments invited until 5 December.

CAMRA is actively campaigning at both local and national level to reform the planning rules as they relate to pubs and do away with the loopholes that allow pubs to be demolished or converted to other uses without consultation. This is a complicated subject which I – or hopefully someone who really knows what they are talking about – will return to in detail soon.

News from Fuller's

Fuller's are continuing to buy pubs, paying Marstons £16 million for four pubs in London and one in Wendover – see

Capital Pubcheck for further details. One of the pubs, the Hand & Flower is opposite Olympia so is handily placed for the Great British Beer Festival when it returns there for 2012. Another, the Wellington by Waterloo Station also has 26 hotel bedrooms, reflecting Fuller's continued interest in that area of the trade. Fuller's now have 365 pubs and more acquisitions are planned.

Fuller's have also added two new beers to their range. Mighty Atom is their contribution to the 2.8% ABV experiment and is described as having 'a rich, light caramel character, while a heady dose of five different hops brings in floral grapefruit and plum notes, with a spicy overtone'. Fuller's Brewing Director John Keeling commented: "Creating a lower strength beer that still has tons of flavour has been a real challenge for our brewers. Clever use of hops has been the key – by combining

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five different varieties at different stages of the brewing process we have managed to create a depth and array of flavours and aromas which allow Mighty Atom to stand side by side with stronger beers." Here also the duty saving will be passed on to the trade and the retail prices will be set by the individual pub company or licensee.

The second new arrival is their seasonal beer for November and December, a 4.2% ABV stout called Black Cab. John Keeling explained that the idea for a draught stout had come when they brewed the double stout for the Past Masters series and added, "Stout is one of the stand-out beer styles of the UK beer scene, and it's been some time since Fuller's made one in draught. I'm delighted with the results, the beer is complex, lighter on the palate than its dark appearance may suggest and very tasty." I thought that it was very good as well. My only worry,

living in SW19, is that it won't come south of the river after dark.

We should not forget the old favourites. The now well-established Bengal Lancer IPA is back in cask form and ESB, like CAMRA, is celebrating its 40th birthday this year. London Pride will be featured on a new 'When in London' outdoor advertising campaign.

Finally, the beers have a new man to look after them. Fuller's have appointed a new managing director for their beer division. Ian Bray has joined the company from the Swiss food and agricultural business, Bunge SA and his responsibilities will cover production, distribution, sales and marketing.

News from Young's

The situation as regards Young's disposing of their pubs may not be as clear as I thought last issue. They have sold the Castle

in Battersea High Street which is odd because it was one of the first Youngs pubs to feature good food so it would have seemed to fit their profile perfectly. It has been sold to developers, so perhaps it was another of those 'too good to refuse' offers. An application is expected any day by Wandsworth's planners although for now at least the pub continues to trade free of tie. It is featuring the very local Sambrook's beers and is reportedly doing well.

In Teddington, Young's have sold the much loved Queen Dowager to property developers and it closed on 1st October. All fixtures and fitting – including the sign – were gone by 3rd November. Against that, Young's have kept their promise to open an outlet in the development on the site of the Plough near Clapham Junction station. The Plough Bar and Kitchen is styled as an American Bar – a new food-

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led concept intended to resemble a Manhattan loft – and has guest beers from London independent brewers and some American craft beers as well as Young's brands.

Another Young's pub, the Alma, recently featured in a Sunday supplement article about 'boutique' hotels. The hotel annexe was converted from former metalworks behind the pub and has a separate entrance. Young's also own the famous Putney music venue, the Half Moon. This is being transferred to the Geronimo side of the company after a brief refit but happily there is no threat to the music.

Young's Property Director, David Turner, said, "We recognise that the pub commands a special place not just in the local community but in the wider music community as well." He also paid tribute to outgoing tenant James Harris. This was originally reported to me by erstwhile editor Geoff Strawbridge after he

attended a Hank Wangford and the Lost Cowboys gig. Will cowboys still be welcome with Geronimo in charge?

Wetherspoon news

Despite an increase of 2.1% in sales, JDW's annual results to 24 July showed a fall in pre-tax profits of 5.9% to £66.8 million, the fourth consecutive year's drop. For the first time gross sales passed £1 billion but £325 million was taken by the Government in VAT and Duty. Chairman Tim Martin made it quite plain what he thought of this, saying that Britain was now 'uncompetitive in relation to neighbouring countries' and blamed the tax regime directly for pub closures. Mr Martin is a great supporter of the campaign to reduce VAT in the 'hospitality' industry to 5%. This is an issue that I hope to cover next issue.

I should add that along with the company's other senior

directors, Mr Martin took a cut in salary. His £375K per annum is still not bad however.

The results might also explain why JDW are actually paying people to take pubs off of their hands – see Capital Pubcheck for the SW18 – the Grid and the letters page. This is a great shame because ironically it was JDW that turned the building back into a pub and the Grid was a contender for inclusion in the next Good Beer Guide.

JDW are doing some things right however. Congratulations to the GBG-listed Edward Rayne in Raynes Park which has been awarded five stars in the Loo of the Year awards. Manager Dean Kelly said: - "Staff at the pub work hard to ensure the toilets are in first-class condition at all times and it is great that this has been recognized by the inspectors." We can only hope that others follow his example.

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M & B latest

On rolls the Mitchells & Butlers saga, courtesy of the 30-odd press cuttings that I have collected since the last issue. As soon as Joe Lewis who currently owns 22.8% of the shares, turned up in London on his luxury yacht it was clear that he wasn't here just to watch his beloved Tottenham Hotspur. He put forward a bid through his Piedmont company of £941million which would have taken the company into his private ownership with no stock market listing. This was however pitched at £25 million below the company's market value and the board rejected it. The head of UK Equities at Standard Life, David Cumming, described the offer as '*insulting to all other shareholders*'. Had it gone through, it was more than likely that to help reduce the company's £1.9 billion debt,

some brands, most likely Nicholsons and Harvester, would have been sold off. In the event, Mr Lewis did not make a further bid before the deadline automatically imposed by Stock Exchange rules.

This might however just have been a kite-flying exercise to see how the market might react. I am not alone in suspecting that the serious bid is still to come and that it will come from Elpidia, the company owned by Irish horse-racing tycoons JP McManus and John Magnier who have now conceded that they are working with another shareholder, Derrick Smith. Their total shareholding of 24.2% just outguns Mr Lewis. Some investors believe that both Mr Lewis and the Irishmen – who all have links to the Bahamas – are acting in concert and want the Takeover Panel to investigate, although they were cleared of this last year. Let's not kid ourselves here. All of these

people are extremely shrewd investors, not pub operators, and they are in it for the money. There is more to come, I'm sure; perhaps from an unexpected angle.

Despite this, the company is rolling out its plans. I mentioned a while back that M&B were setting up some Asian food outlets and the first will be in Ealing, replacing the former *Edwards* bar in New Broadway. It will be called Tuk Cho – a reference to tuk-tuk auto-rickshaws – and will present '*authentic street food in a vibrant atmosphere inspired by Asia's amazing street kitchens*'. M&B have also bought eight 'Old Orleans' sites from Regent Inns for conversion to various food outlets.

Other trade news

I'm encouraged by how pubs are still looking to diversify. The Colonel Fawcett pub in Camden



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is holding women-only football screenings when Sky Sports presenter Charlotte Jackson will, according to the *Evening Standard*, explain the game to new female fans 'without being intimidated by men'. The move is being sponsored by Arsenal sponsor, Indesit whose research has apparently found that 30% of women believe that a good knowledge of the game will lead to them spending more 'quality time' with their partners. Will this however be in the pub?

The boys are not forgotten should they want to play with toys. The Stamford Arms in Southwark is installing iPads on its tables that customers can use to order food and drink. The device also controls a beer tap which means that customers do not have to go to the bar. And there's me thinking that going to the pub was largely about talking to people. Beep! *'Unexpected item in the drinking area...'*.

BT have now extended their Wi-fi service to some 100 Heineken pubs in London. Words of warning however; keep an eye on your bags. In a recent column in the *Publican's Morning Advertiser*, beer writer Pete Brown describes how he had his laptop very skillfully stolen from under a table in a local pub. Alas for him it contained drafts of the three books that he was working at the time and – haven't we all done this – he had not recently backed up his data.

Schooner than later...

The first pub in London reported to be serving beers in so-called 'schooners' – 2/3rds of a pint glasses – is the Magdala in Hampstead. Heineken and Carlsberg are however said to be introducing a stemmed version of the glass across the trade for their premium 'world beer' lager brands – Staropramen, Mahou and Poretii. Mr Lawson

Mountstevens, a director of Heineken UK, said, *"Does Starbucks only serve one size of coffee? No it doesn't."* That comment, I think, gives us a deeper insight into more than just glass sizes. CAMRA's Jon Howard commented, *"Although a two-thirds pint might allow drinkers greater choice, we have seen no market research showing demand for this measure. It remains to be seen whether such a new measure will benefit drinkers or simply cause confusion."*

I should make it clear that just because it is now a legal measure, you do not have the right to demand to be served a 'schooner'. Their use is entirely at the discretion of the licensee or, for that matter, beer festival organiser. I would be interested to hear of any curious pricing policies regarding their use. The same rule applies as for half-pints – see the letters page.

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The big boys

Carlsberg appear to getting the cold shoulder out East. You will recall that their chief motive for partnering Heineken in taking over Scottish & Newcastle was to secure access to the Russian market and in particular the *Baltika* brands. Unfortunately, following a large tax increase intended to deter binge drinking, sales in Russia have fallen by 22% with a consequent drop in profit of £245 million and a reduction of over £1.19 billion in the company's value.

Despite a lot of huffing and puffing, Fosters have accepted a £6.5 billion take-over bid from SABMiller. The original bid in June brought a declaration that Fosters would fight for their independence but a 5% increase in the bid seems to have persuaded them otherwise. The deal was accepted by the large institutional shareholders but small individual shareholders were said to be very unhappy. This does not affect the UK where the Fosters brand is owned by Heineken.

Over the water

Allow me to introduce you to the *Vereins Gegen Betrugerisches Einschenken* – the League Against Fraudulent Pouring. They are concerned that the six million visitors to Munich's Oktoberfest are being cheated out of sometimes as much as a quarter of order with the traditional litre 'Mass' glasses being just topped up with froth. In a sample involving 12 beer tents and 100 drinks, the average content was around 0.9 of a litre with some as short as 0.7. Jan-Ulrich Bittling, the president of the league, called the findings 'sobering'. I know what he means but was that quite the right word?

We are all in favour of LocAle but what about this? SABMiller are brewing a beer for

their African markets called Impala lager which is made from 70% cassava and 30% barley. Cassava is the traditional base for home-brewed beer across the continent but this is thought to be the first time that it has been used commercially. Impala will be sold at 75% of the usual price of beer and it is hoped that this will attract people away from the usually illicit home-brew which can be a health hazard. It will also benefit some 1,500 smallholders from whom SABMiller will buy the crop but, given that it is a cheap ingredient, I'm sure that they won't do too badly out of it rather.

Fun and games

There is, as I am sure some of you may have heard, a large sporting event taking place in London in 2012. I have got no intention of mentioning it unless it is directly relevant to beer drinkers or I can get a cheap laugh out of it. Make your own mind up as to which category the following comes under.

The Commissioner for Transport for London, Peter Hendry, told the London Assembly's Transport Committee that *"On one or two of the days [London Bridge] will be very, very crowded and the best thing to do if you happen to be here on the day of the equestrian event in Greenwich is to have a beer before you go home because you won't be able to get into the station before then."* I wonder what Boris's Heath Improvement Board made of that?

...and finally

I speculated last issue that David Bruce might return to the trade but he may be too busy. I have since found out that he was recently elected President of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust in time for their 50th anniversary in 2012. Together with his wife, Louise, David has also set up the Bruce Trust, a registered charity

which provides purpose-built boats on the K&A for disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people and their carers.

Celebrities acquiring pubs is not a new innovation but the oddest combination of owners that I have come across so far is that of the Grapes in Limehouse which consists of Evgeny Lebedev, the Russian newspaper magnate, actor Sir Ian McKellen and theatre director Sean Mathias.

I have more news of the Slubbing Billys Morris dancers, who, you will remember, were banned from a Sam Smiths pub for excessive jingling. They have found a new home at the Sportsman in Huddersfield and the licensee of the pub, would you believe, is called Samantha Smith.

To return to the beginning and to reinforce last issue's story about anti-beer media bias, I am informed by our Regional Director, Kim Martin, that recently in *Coronation Street* one character who had had a heart attack was given a diet sheet restricting him to 10 units a week. Another character insisted that wine was better than beer. Forty years on, CAMRA still has work to do.

I hope that you enjoy the forthcoming festivities in whatever way you prefer and wish you all a Happy New Year for 2012.

Tony Hedger

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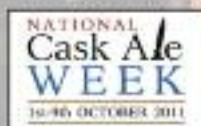


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Dear Editors

I have noted the concern of some local CAMRA members about the closure of the Grid Inn. We sincerely regret the closure, as previously stated. We are pleased, as we've also said, to be able to offer alternative employment to our staff at nearby pubs, and that the Grid will be put to immediate use as a Tesco shop generating additional work in the area. It is not true, as some CAMRA members have said, that Tesco paid Wetherspoon for the pub. We paid Tesco to take over the remainder of our lease. Wetherspoon has opened over 150 pubs in the last 4 years and closed a very small number of unprofitable ones. It is disappointing to close the Grid Inn but I believe the outcome has been a reasonable one in the circumstances.

We haven't yet decided what to do with the artwork but may decide to place it in a nearby pub.

I hope this answers the points which have been raised.

Best wishes, Tim

*(Written by **Tim Martin** and issued on his behalf)*

Dear Editors

Following your comments on smoking in pubs, and some useful features in the Evening Standard, I offer the following thoughts.

Riding in a bus through South West London, just the other day, we passed a number of pubs that looked quite presentable. But, outside most of them was the mandatory sentry, with the compulsory fag tucked into the palm of his hand. If that's what it's like inside then we won't be getting off the bus to see it.

It's back to basics - keep the bad side of your business inside and out of sight.

A mere furlong from the Royal Mail Sorting Office, here in Epsom, is a small corner pub that goes way back into history. There's just room for a few tables and chairs - no question of family parties... They open at nine, for the guys who have worked early shifts.

There is absolutely no reason why the posties and their mates shouldn't have a fag at the bar. They're not going to upset anyone. Keep up the good work.

Mike Pink

Dear Editors

Relating to Geoff Strawbridge's piece in the Oct/Nov *London Drinker* about displaying price lists, there are a couple of observations I would like to make.

Although the pub trade does seem to be almost unique in not displaying prices at the point of display and sale of its goods, I tend not to ask for the price of an ale before I order. However there are now considerable margins between the prices of ales; instead of the 5p-10p range we used to have, it



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is now not unusual to be looking at 20p-50p in some cases. This can lead to quite a shock when facing the bill!

Price lists, if they do exist, are often behind a pillar in a dark corner of the pub, and are probably not up to date. On being questioned, managers tend to use the excuse that they are always changing the beers available and can't keep lists up to date. Suggestions about displaying prices on chalk boards, pump clips, or in beer menus (as used in the USA), fall on stony ground.

My other observation is that many pubcos, including my local Young's pubs, do offer a guest ale. The problem is that they are often at a considerable cost premium to the regular ales and, of course, the price is not displayed. I expect this leads to slow sales with the pubco claiming, "We tried it, but there was no demand!"

I expect that the buying power of the pubcos would command a pretty good price from the brewers and wholesalers, and can only assume that they put a big mark-up on the ales in their pubs.

What I would like to do is to walk into a pub and immediately see the price of the ales on offer without scrabbling around the pub or questioning the bar staff ... is that too much to ask?

Bob Cook
Worcester Park

Dear Editors

I feel that I must reply to your article by Geoff Strawbridge entitled *Displaying price lists*.

I am amazed that your voluntary organisation has the audacity to state that they are on a mission to report licensees to Trading Standards that we are all flouting the law.

My prices are in line with my costs and I will not take criticism lightly; we are all very proud to be part of the Edgar Wallace and give nothing more than the best to our great customers.

My half pints are priced in accordance with the many free tasters that we give away.

John Girling
The Edgar Wallace, WC2

Iain Loe at CAMRA Headquarters reports, "*The 2011 CAMRA prices survey found that only 68% of pubs showed prices at or near the point of display via price lists or other forms of price indication.*"

I am certainly hearing more cases of pubs rounding up substantially the price of a half compared with that for a pint, and often where there is little or no indication of what the customer would be expected to pay for said half."

Kimberly Martin, CAMRA London Regional Director comments, "*However irritating this practice may be, it is not illegal if the prices for half pints are*

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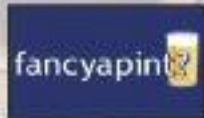


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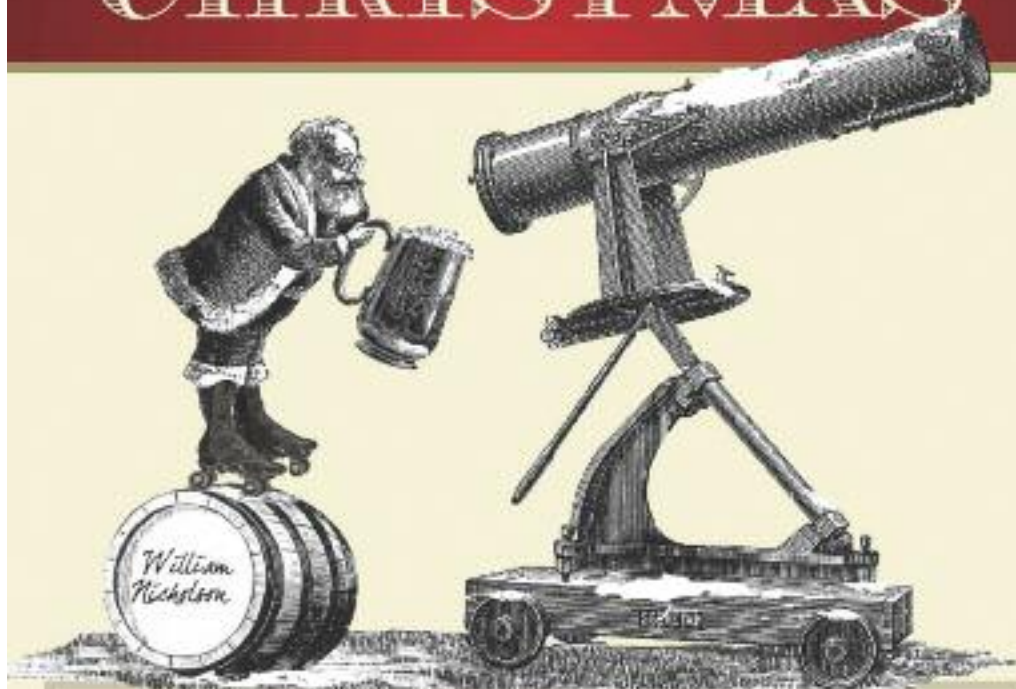
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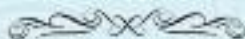
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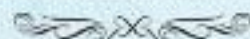
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shown on the pub's price list. If, however, the only price shown is that of a pint, then the customer is entitled to assume that the price of a half is half that of a pint, subject to any necessary rounding, and if no price list is displayed in a pub, then the licensee is clearly in breach of the law.

If customers cannot encourage licensees to remedy these abuses, then they may and arguably should inform their local Trading Standards authorities, but I agree with John that such complaints should not be part of CAMRA branches' official remit."

Dear Editors

So many mice, so little time!

It hasn't been a good year for pub cats. Last year, the much-loved Pebbles from the Forest Gate in Epping died, and now I've been told of two more. It is reported that the apparent-fixture at the Seven Stars in Carey Street, Tom Paine has died. He was often to be seen on chairs or stools by the bar of this historic and ancient pub, keeping a careful watch, not only on any stray rodents that were daft enough to venture on to his territory, but also the vile London pigeons on the pavement outside. He will be much missed.

Meanwhile my own local, the Nag's Head in Walthamstow village is well known for its feline population, but one, Tetley has just died of cancer. He was-

n't officially the pub cat. In fact he was-n't anyone's cat, but he was one of the best fed strays ever seen, since his life revolved between the pub, the Vestry House Museum around the corner, and the cottages of Church Path. He was given a New Orleans-style Jazz funeral, and T-shirts bearing his picture were sold, with the inscription, *Tetley Puss, Owned by no-one, Fed by everyone.*

Meanwhile said pub still has its own cat, Wilhelmina, plus the two visiting Norwegian Forest monsters, Harvey and Elvis.

What other pubs in London are feline-friendly?
G N G Tingley



Wilhelmina



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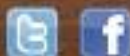
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25 Watling Street, EC4M 9BA

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CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

There was a double presentation on 20 October at the Grapevine Bar in Questors Theatre, Ealing. The club bar, which is run entirely by volunteers, was presented with the branch Club of the Year award by chairman David Bender followed by the Greater London award given by CAMRA Regional Director Kimberly Martin.

"I could not be happier with the result. Competition for this year's award was fierce. Questors Grapevine Bar epitomizes everything CAMRA are looking for in a Club of the Year. The beer is always festival quality and the welcome, warm and friendly. The judging panel are also looking for alignment with CAMRA aims and the Club ticks that box, too. It is a regular meeting place for the local branch and regional committees, they hold regular beer festivals and you always get a measure that is full to the brim. It's a proper neighbourhood local!"

Chairman of the bar committee Jon Webster thanked local CAMRA members for once again voting for the club and the regional surveyors who arrived the day after the Ealing riots! He hoped that any future presentations would be received by the normally reticent keeper of the beer, Nigel

Bamford.

The presentations took place amongst the throng of the bar's Autumn Beer Festival which as usual consisted of winners of the various Champion Beer of Britain categories announced at the Great British Beer Festival. One addition was a mystery beer from Fuller's that had been labelled as Double Stout but was very unstoutlike. A phone call to the brewery actually revealed it to be the previous Past Master brew - XX Strong Ale!



WINTER PUB OF THE SEASON

The Snooty Fox (75 Grosvenor Ave, N5 2NN) has been named as CAMRA North London's Winter Pub of the Season. The pub has made quite a name for itself in the last year or so. At first the draw was its music and DJ majoring on northern soul, but recently the real ale and cider offerings have also come to the front. The regularly changing beers are an interesting mix alongside a LocAle (the pub is an accredited scheme member) and a cider from a box. Beer festivals have been held a number of times and card-carrying CAMRA members get 20p off a pint of the guest beer. During festivals all beers are categorised as guests. Branch Chairman John Cryne presents the award to Licensee Nicole Gale and manager Jonathan Tingle.



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East London and City CAMRA Pub of the Year 2011

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W: thebullhighgate.co.uk

E: dan@londonbrewing.com

Tw: [@bull_highgate](https://twitter.com/bull_highgate)

T: 020 8341 0510

Five minutes walk from Highgate tube

The Wenlock Arms: reasons to be cheerful!

Some good news reached us on 27 October. Hackney Council had refused the application for replacement of the Wenlock Arms, N1 with a five storey mixed-use commercial and residential block, giving the following reasons.

Reasons 1 The proposal would result in the unacceptable loss of an operational public house which performs an important role providing a valuable amenity as a social and cultural centre for the local community. As such, the proposal would be contrary to policies 3.1 (Ensuring Equal Life Chances for All), 3.16 (Protection and Enhancement of Social Infrastructure), 4.8 (Supporting a successful and diverse retail sector) and 7.1 (Building London's neighbourhoods and communities) of the London Plan 2011.

Reasons 2 In line with policy HE8 of PPS5 - Planning for the Historic Environment, as The Wenlock Arms Public House building has been identified by the Local Planning Authority as an

undesigned heritage asset, which has both historical value and architectural character and adds positively to the local distinctiveness of the area. Inadequate justification has been provided for the demolition of the existing building, and as such its demolition would result in an unacceptable loss of a heritage asset and consequently would result in unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area, including the adjacent Regent's Canal Conservation Area. Therefore, the proposal is contrary to policy CSP25 (Historic Environment) of the Hackney Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2010; policies 7.4 (Local Character) and 7.8 (Heritage Assets and Archaeology) of the London Plan 2011 and the guidance provided in PPS5 - Planning for the Historic Environment.

The Wenlock Arms is now on the market strictly as a pub. Potential buyers should contact Will Williams on 020 7608 3406.

Making CAMRA better - Greater London speaks

The report submitted to CAMRA's National Executive from the London Branches' regional conference held at Questors Grapevine Bar, Ealing on 3 September is now available online at www.londondrinker.org.uk

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ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.

CAMRA's 40th birthday bash

Saturday 5th November saw 222 CAMRA members from all over London and the South East came together at the Counting House near Bank to celebrate CAMRA's 40th birthday. Beers from Brodie's, Fuller's, The London Brewery, Redemption, Sambrook, Twickenham and Windsor and Eton were supped and London RD, Kim Martin, led a rousing singing of 'Happy Birthday'. The assembled guests also heard from National Director and the event Organiser, Christine Cryne and Fuller's Director, Richard Fuller, speaking about the impact that CAMRA London has had on CAMRA nationally, the beer drinking scene in London and on Fuller's.

More photos can be found on the London Drinker website and at www.flickr.com/photos/selcamra/.

For those who did not see them, here are the answers to that beery pub quiz at the birthday bash.

1. The four founding fathers of CAMRA were Michael Hardman, Graham Lees, Jim Makin and Bill Mellor.
2. Graham Greene is associated with the Greene King brewery.
3. The average price of a pint of real ale in the UK in 2001 was £1.86.
4. The Great British Beer Festival first went to Leeds in 1981.



5. Fuller, Smith and Turner set up their brewery in 1845.
6. The Bucket of Blood pub is in Cornwall.
7. 'The pint that thinks it's a quart' was Whitbread Trophy.
8. Three London members have been CAMRA's National Chairman since 1982 (Jim Scanlon, Rob Walker and John Cryne).
9. Richard Boston wrote for the Guardian.
10. JW Lees sponsors Oldham Athletic.
11. Pitfield now brew in Essex.
12. Nine breweries with London postcodes were listed in the 1981 Good Beer Guide as producing draught real ale (Bruce's breweries at the Goose & Firkin, Southwark and the Fox & Firkin, Lewisham; Courage, Horselydown; Fuller, Smith & Turner, Chiswick; Godson's, E3; Simon Hosking's Tower Bridge Brewery, SE1; Trumans, E1; Watney, Mortlake; Young's, Wandsworth).
13. Madonna stated that Timothy Taylor's Landlord was her favourite beer.
14. The Princess Louise won CAMRA's 2008 best refurbishment award.
15. Coriander is the spice in Nethergate's Umbel Ale.
16. The JD Wetherspoon pub chain started off in North London.
17. 'Olutpanimo' means brewery in Finnish.
18. Mr R Wilkins of cider fame is Roger.
19. Watney produced the infamous Red Barrel.
20. Roger Protz has edited 19 Good Beer Guides (1978-83; 2000-12).



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2005-2012*

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2009, 2010, 2011, 2012**

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Wells and Young's take Courage

CAMRA London's branches met with Jim Robertson, Head Brewer at Wells and Young's, and a number of Wells and Young's staff to talk about their beer range and future developments. John has been brewing for over three decades, starting his career at Courage as the summer brewer in Plymouth to cope with the summer surge. He joined Charles Wells in 1989 and became a director ten years later. The main thrust of the evening was Courage beers and the audience was treated to some history.



Courage Best (4% ABV) was originally brewed in London, Reading and Plymouth. The recipe dates from just after WWII but over the years the recipe has changed slightly to take advantage of the development of various ingredients. In the 1970s, the malt was Maris Otter, in the 80s it was Triumph and now it is Perle. The hops too have changed with today's recipe using Target for bitterness and Styrian Goldings for aroma. Hops are a large component of the nose and flavour and John uses some hop essence to give a little boost to the beer rather than dry hopping, which has proved to be problematic in cask cleaning.

Courage Directors was a beer designed at the Alton Brewery which Courage bought in the 1950s but the beer wasn't launched until the 1960s. Legion has it that, before then, it was just kept for the directors. It uses similar ingredients to Courage Best but is a separate brew; Wells say would not normally parti-gyle for cask beer. This is a richer, maltier, fruitier beer than the Best and there is more smoothness to the mouthfeel as befits a stronger beer (4.8%ABV).

But the highlight of the evening was a chance to try Imperial Russian Stout (10%ABV). It was a beer I first tasted in the mid 1970s when it was then

served in a 'nip' sized bottle. The history behind the beer is long. In the early nineteenth century, the Russian Royal Family spent some time in London. They were friends with Thrale, whose wife ran the brewery. When the husband died, she tried to continue and even had the support of friends such as Samuel Johnson but unfortunately, the brewery was eventually sold to Barclays who, coincidentally, was also setting up a bank at the time. The head brewer for Mrs Thrale was a Mr Perkins and it was the stout that the Russians fell in love with, hence the 'Imperial Russian'.

The beer is matured in two stages: one month for the yeast to drop and then a cold maturation when it is dry hopped. In total, the beer is conditioned between 3 and 6 months. The brew uses amber and chocolate malts and Styrian Goldings hops and the end result is a beer that is full of black treacle, caramelised fruit and roast notes; rich and warming with a burnt bitter finish. Enticed? The beer is currently only being sold for export and John reported that they had five times the number of customers they could supply which is not really surprising with a beer as unique and flavoursome as this. One to watch out for!

THE BULL IS BREWING UP A LONDON STREET

For those of you who missed the London Brewery's Beer Street at the 40th Birthday Bash, you can pop along to the Bull in Highgate to taste it from the brewery tap. The tiny little brewery is brewing in the kitchen of the pub! The two and a half gallon plant is tucked to the side of the kitchen with the fermenters in the cellar below. All of the beer they are brewing is going through the pub but they may consider expansion in due course. Fortunately the kit can easily be doubled with little difficulties.

Steve Gray started as a home brewer but spent time up at Brew Lab in Newcastle and with Andy Moffat at Redemption in North London getting some practice before getting going at the Bull. There are three fairly regular beers: Golden (3.7% ABV), which is a fruity golden ale with some bitterness balanced by a biscuit sweetness; Beer Street (4.0% ABV), named after the Hogarth painting, is a brown beer with pineapple/citrus notes and a roast character; and the stronger pale golden Nervous Energy, which has a sweetish malt character with citrus, peach and tropical fruits.

The Bull is at 13 North Hill, Highgate, N6 4AB; www.londonbrewing.com



ELAC Branch



ILLUSTRATION: JOHN CROCKFORD

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254, 425, 488



For further information:

www.pigsear.org.uk

Bromley branch revived

On Monday 24 October, 19 years after its merger with South East London branch, a revived CAMRA Bromley Branch enjoyed a well attended (73 members present) inaugural AGM to elect its new 15-member committee. The process to devolve from SEL Branch has taken about 3 and a half months to complete and has been supported all the way by the SEL Branch and the CAMRA hierarchy. Bromley Branch has about 800 members and the new committee will begin work soon on plans for a repeat of its highly successful Beer Festival at Beckenham Rugby Club in early summer next year and for many other events.

To cap it all, on Thursday 27 October, several of the committee met Bob Neill, our local MP and Pubs Minister in the Partridge in Bromley High Street. Apart from serving behind the bar as part of the "pull a pint" initiative to get MPs into local pubs, Bob took the opportunity to sign on as CAMRA's latest recruit. We hope he will find time to come out on the odd pub crawl in the borough in the future.

With Bob Neill in the centre at the bar, the accompanying photograph shows Bromley CAMRA Branch Committee members (from left to right) Peter Rolfe, Geraldine Rolfe, Colin Brand (Chair) and Wayne Smethurst.



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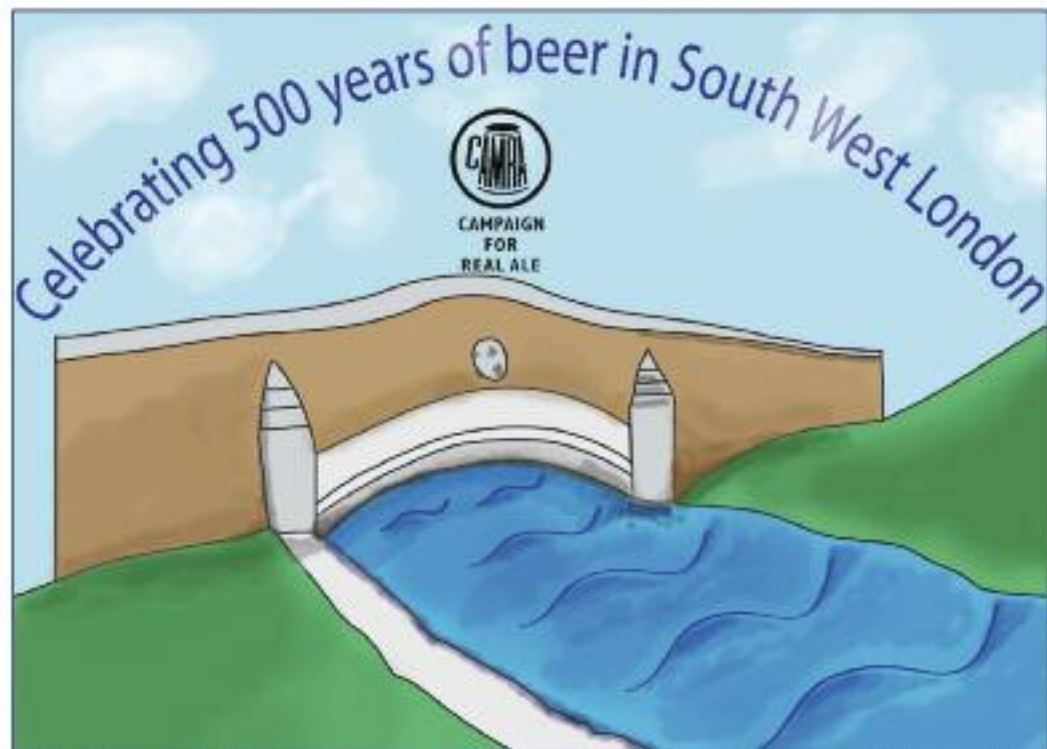
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CAMRA South West London Branch presents



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**Wednesday 8th ~ Friday 10th
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Admission £4 (£3 before 5pm Wednesday)

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Latest News: batterseabeerfestival.org.uk, [Facebook.com/CAMRASwl](https://www.facebook.com/CAMRASwl) or @CAMRASwl

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENT

January – Wed 25 (8pm) London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1.
Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

December – Wed 7 Evening crawl of Pimlico: (7pm) Rising Sun, 44-46 Ebury Bridge Rd, SW1W; (7.45) White Ferry House, 1a Sutherland St, SW1V; (8.30) Constitution, 42 Churton St, SW1V; (9.15) Queens Arms, 11 Warwick Way, SW1V; (9.45) Jugged Hare, 172 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, SW1V; (10.20) Windsor Castle, 23 Francis St, SW1P.

January – Wed 18 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.org.uk

LONDON CIDER GROUP

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

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

December – Thu 8 (6.30) Pig's Ear Beer Festival social (see *Festivals section*). Meet outside venue.

January – Thu 19 Liverpool Street EC2 crawl: (7.30) Lord Aberconway, 73 Old Broad St; (8.15) White Hart, 121 Bishopsgate; (9pm) Stone Horse Paper Cow, 128-148 Bishopsgate; (10pm) Magpie, 12 New St.

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

BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

December – Tue 6- Sat 10 Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival, Round Chapel, Powerscourt Road, E5. See page 43.

BEXLEY

Rob Archer, camr@rcher.org.uk, contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk

December – Thu 8 Xmas meal at Bexley Greek Taverna. Meet (7pm) Railway Tavern, 38 Bexley High St, DA5. Contact Martyn Nicholls for booking. - **Wed 14 (8.30) Mtg.** Jolly Millers, 111 Mayplace Rd W, Bexleyheath DA7. - **Tue 27 (Noon)** Twixtmas Social. Robin Hood & Little John, 78 Lion Rd, Bexleyheath DA6.

January – Wed 11 (8.30) Mtg. Charlotte, 38-40 Station Rd, Crayford DA1. - **Wed 18** Bexleyheath social: (8pm) Great Harry, Parsonage Manorway, Belvedere DA17 then Earl Haig, Little Heath Rd, Bexleyheath DA7. - **Wed 25 (8pm)** Burns Night social. Robin Hood & Little John (see above).

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

BROMLEY

Chair: Colin Brand, 020 8249 0189 or 07712 357873, cmbrand@aol.com.

December – Sat 10 (7pm) Branch launch and Xmas party. Beckenham Rugby Club, Balmoral Avenue, Beckenham BR3.

January – Thu 5 (8pm) Cttee mtg. Tea Room, Greyhound, Commonsidge, Keston BR2. - **Mon 9 (8pm)** Social. Red Lion, 10 North Road, Bromley BR1. - **Wed 18** Social: (8pm) Oakhill Tavern, 90 Bromley Road, Beckenham BR3, then (9.30) Jolly Woodman, 9 Chancery Lane, BR3. - **Sun 29 (8pm)** Social. Railway Hotel, West Wickham BR4.

Website: www.bromleycamra.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill, 07831 561296, pete_mcgill@hotmail.com

December – Thu 1 (8.30) London Drinker pickup. Hope, West St, Carshalton SM5. - **Tue 6 (8pm)** Joint Xmas social with C.R.A.P.S. Green Dragon, High St, Croydon CR0. Snacks provided! - **Wed 21**

(8.30) Open committee mtg & social. Cricketers, Shirley Rd, CR0 (No branch mtg this month).

January – Wed 11 West Croydon social: (8.30) Old Fox & Hounds, London Rd; (9.30) Ship of Fools, London Rd (both CR0). - **Tue 17** East Croydon crawl: (8.00) Alma, 127-129 Lower Addiscombe Rd; (9.00) Builders Arms, 65 Leslie Park Rd then (10.00) either Glamorgan, 81 Cherry Orchard Rd (if open) or Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Rd (all CR0). - **Thu 26 (8.30)** Branch mtg and London Drinker pickup. Windsor Castle (Cottage Room), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton SM5.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

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

December – Tue 6- Sat 10 Pig's Ear Beer and Cider Festival (see *Festivals section*). - **Tue 20 (8pm)** GBG selection mtg. Craft Beer Co., 82 Leather La, EC1N.

January – Tue 10 (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Birkbeck Tavern, 45 Langthorne Rd, E11. - **Tue 24** Crawl: (7.45) Exmouth Arms, 23 Exmouth Mkt, EC1R; (8.45) Wilmington Arms, 69 Rosebery Ave, EC1R; (10pm) Pakenham Arms, 1 Pakenham St, WC1X.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Brian Willis, 020 8440 4542 (H), branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk, branch mobile 07757 710008 at event

December – Thu 1 (8.30) London Drinker pick-up & branch mtg. Old Mitre, 58 High Street, Barnet EN5. - **Sun 4 (6pm)** "The Big Girls Blues Band," Dignity, 369 Regents Park Road, Finchley Central N3. - **Wed 7 (6pm)** Pig's Ear Beer Festival social (see *Festivals section*). - **Tu 15** East Finchley crawl: Start (8pm) Madden's, 130 High Rd, N2 then 3 others. - **Fri 23 (6pm)** Social. Leyton Orient Supporters' Club, Oliver Rd, E10.

January – Sun 1 (Noon) Cobweb social. Wonder, 1 Batley Rd, Enfield EN2. - **Wed 4** Southgate crawl: start (8pm) New Crown, 80-84 Chase Side, N14 then 3 others. - **Tue 10** Enfield crawl. Start (8pm) Moon Under Water, 115 Chase Side, EN2. - **Thu 19** High Barnet crawl: start (8pm) Sebright Arms, 9 Alston Road, Barnet EN5 then 3 others. - **Sat 21** NW crawl: start (Noon) Greyhound, 52 Church End, Hendon NW4, then buses to 4 others. - **Thu 26 (8pm)** London Drinker pick-up & 1st 2013 GBG selection. Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Road, N2.

Website: www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor, 020 8949 2099, ctaylor2007@freeuk.com

December – Thu 1 (8pm) Kingston Beer Festival planning mtg. Willoughby Arms, 47 Willoughby Rd, Kingston KT2. - **Sat 3** The Walton Winter Wander. Meet (12.30) Ashley Park (outside Walton-on-Thames rail stn), then (1.30) Wellington, 60 High St; (2.10) George, Bridge St; (3pm) Bear, 30 Bridge St; (3.50) Old Manor, 113 Manor Rd; (4.40) Swan, 50 Manor Rd; (5.25) Anglers, Towpath, Manor Rd; (6.15) Weir, Waterside Dr; (7.10) Regent, 19 Church St (all KT12). - **Tue 6 (8.15)** Branch mtg. Berrylands (back room), Chiltern Dr; Berrylands KT5, nr rail stn. - **Thu 15 (7pm for 8pm)** Xmas dinner. Woodies, Theford Rd, New Malden KT3. Names and choices to branch contact, £14.95 three courses. - **Tu 22** Pre-Xmas Kingston crawl: Meet (8pm) Ram, High St, then Woody's, Ram Passage; Brown's, 3 Jerome Pl; Druid's Head, 3 Mkt Pl; Bishop out of Residence, 2 Bishop's Hall, and King's Hall, 153-157 Clarence St (all KT1).

January – Wed 4 (8.15) Branch mtg. Bishop out of Residence (see above). - **Wed 11** Visit to EC1 area. Meet (6pm) Olde Mitre, Ely Ct, then (7pm) One Tun, Saffron Hill; (7.45) Hat & Tun, Hatton Wall; (8.30) Gunmakers Arms, Eyre St Hill, and (9.15) Craft Beer Co, Leather La. - **Tu 26** Curry evening in Surbiton. Meet (6pm) Victoria, 28 Victoria Rd, then (6.45) Black Lion, 58 Brighton Rd; (7.30) Lamb, 73 Brighton Rd (all KT6), then to a nearby curry house. *Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk*

NORTH LONDON

Social contacts: Stephen Taylor, 07531 006296, stephen.taylor2@selexgalileo.com; John Adams, 09790 150707, jpa1260@gmail.com. Branch chairman: John Cryne, 07802 174861, john.cryne2@googlemail.com

December – Sat 3 (1pm) Bookworm social. Tapping the Admiral, 77 Castle Rd, NW5. – **Tue 6** (7pm) Pig's Ear BF social (*see Beer Festivals section*). – **Tue 13** (8pm) Xmas party. Barnsbury, 209 Liverpool Rd, N1. – **Tue 20** WC1 King's Cross social: (7.30) Queen's Head, 66 Acton St; (8.30) Smithy's, 15 Leake St; (9.15) King's Cross Social Club, 2 Britannia St; (9.45) Union Tavern, 52 Lloyd Baker St; (10.15) Pakenham Arms, 1 Pakenham St. – **Wed 28** Euston Road social (subject to seasonal openings): (7pm) Bree Louise, 69 Cobourg St, NW1; (8pm) Royal George, 8 Eversholt St, NW1; (8.45) Mabel's Tavern, 9 Mabeland Pl., WC1H; (9.30) Betjeman Arms, St Pancras Stn, N1; (10.15) Euston Flyer, 83 Euston Rd, NW1.

January – Tue 3 Holborn social (subject to seasonal openings): (7.30) Old Red Lion, 72 High Holborn, WC1V; (8pm) Penderel's Oak, 286 High Holborn, WC1V; (8.45) Citty of York, 22 High Holborn, WC1V; (9.15) Old Mitre, 1 Ely Ct, EC1; (10pm) Craft Beer Co, 82 Leather La, EC1. – **Tue 10** (8pm) LDBF envelope stuffing. Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Rd, WC1. – **Tue 17** WC1 Bloomsbury social: (7.30) Swan, 7 Cosmo Pl.; (8pm) Queen's Larder, 1 Queen Sq.; (8.45) Rugby Tavern, 19 Great James St; (9.30) Duke, 7 Roger St; (10pm) Lady Ottoline, 11a Northington St. – **Tue 24** Mtg. (8pm) Vine, 86 Highgate Rd, NW5. – **Tue 31** NW1 Camden Town social: (7.30) Joe's, 78 Chalk Farm Rd; (8.30) Black Heart, 3 Greenland Pl; (9.15) Prince Albert, 163 Royal College St; (9.45) Constitution, 42 St Pancras Wy; (10.15) Colonel Fawcett, 1 Randolph St.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Brian Kirton, 020 8384 7284 (H), brian.kirton@blueyonder.co.uk

December – Thu 8 (8pm) Business mtg. Britannia, 5 Brewers La, Richmond TW9. – **Fri 16** (7.30 for 8pm) Xmas dinner. Clock House, 69 High St, Teddington TW11. 3 courses for £22.95; bookings to John Austin: tel 020 8892 6169, john.austin@blueyonder.co.uk, or via website.

January – Wed 11 (8pm) Social. Three Kings, 42 Heath Rd, Twickenham TW1. – **Thu 19** (8pm) Business mtg. Red Lion, 2 Castelnau, Barnes SW13.

Website: www.rhcamra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

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

December – Mon 5 (8pm) SE19 cttee mtg & social. East Dulwich Tavern (Red Room), 1 Lordship La, SE22. – **Wed 7** Outing to Pig's Ear Beer Festival: meet (6pm) Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, E8; arrive 7pm (*see Festivals section*). – **Mon 12** (7.30) Xmas party. London & Rye, 109, Rushey Green, SE6 (book through social_secretary@selscamra.org.uk by 5 Dec). – **Thu 15** (7.30) Quiz night and Winter Ale Festival. Hooper's Bar, 28 Ivanhoe Rd, SE5.

January – Wed 4 (8pm) Cttee mtg & social. Dog & Bell, Prince St, SE8. – **Mon 9** Elephant & Castle crawl: (7.15) Ruse, 280 Borough High St; (8pm) Ship, 68 Borough Rd; (8.45) Duke of York, 30 Borough Rd; (9.30) Elephant & Castle, 1 Newington Causeway; (10.15) Rockingham Arms, 119 Newington Causeway (all SE1). – **Wed 18** (8pm) GBG

selection mtg & social. Blythe Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, SE23. – **Mon 23** (7.30 for 8pm) Branch AGM. King's Arms, 25 Roupell St, SE1. – **Mon 30** Greenwich crawl: (7.30) Lord Hood, 300 Creek Road, SE10; (8.30) Gipsy Moth, 30 Greenwich Church St, SE10; (9.30) Mitre, 291 Greenwich High Rd, SE10.

Website: www.selscamra.org.uk

Please see also Bromley branch diary.

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker, suessex@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)

December – Sat 3 (12.30). Out-of-area social. 10th Harwich & Dovercourt Bay Winter Ales Festival, Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, Dovercourt CO12. – **Tue 6** (7.30) Out-of-area social. Pig's Ear Beer Festival (*see Festivals section*). – **Tue 13** (8.30) Runner-up PotY presentation & social. Rising Sun, Church Hill, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17. – **Mon 19** (7pm for 7.30) Branch Xmas dinner. Eva Hart, 1128 High Rd, Chadwell Heath RM6. Book with Graham Platt (*see above*). – **Thu 29** (Noon)

Out-of-area social: Terry's Post-Xmas Real Ale Stroll, with SE Essex

Branch. Starts from Pimlico stn: see website for details. **January – Thu 5** (8.30) Social. White Horse, 173 Coxtie Green Rd, Coxtie Green CM14. – **Wed 11** (8.30) Social. Crown & Anchor, 43 High St, Aveley RM15. – **Tue 17** (8.30) Social. Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd, Woodford GM IG8. – **Tue 24** (8.30) Social. Traitors Gate, 40-42 Broadway, Little Thurrock RM17.

Website: www.essex-camra.org.uk/suessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

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

December – Sat 17 (Noon) Mail-out to branch members. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, S Wimbleton SW19. – **Tue 20** (7.30 for 8pm) Xmas meal and social. Wheatsheaf, 2 Upper Tooting Rd, Tooting Bec SW17. Names to Branch Contact by 6 December; £5 deposit required per person.

January – Wed 4 (7.30) GBG 2013 short-listing meeting. Old Sergeant (upstairs room), 104 Garratt Lane, Wandsworth SW18. – **Wed 18** (7.30) Cttee mtg (national AGM motions). Prince of Wales, 98 Morden Rd, Merton SW19. – **Sun 29** (2.30) Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet Falcon, 2 St John's Hill, Battersea SW11. – **Mon 30** (8pm) Beer festival planning meeting. Battersea Mess & Music Hall, 57 Lavender Gdns, SW11.

Website: www.sulcamra.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

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

December – Tue 6 (8.30) Watford Town & Country Club, Rosslyn Road, WD18. 15 Xmas Curry. Venue tbc.

January – Mon 2 (1pm) Nascot Arms, Stamford Road, WD17. – **Fri 13** 'Pre-Xmas' London pub crawl. Contact branch for details. – **Tue 17** (8pm) Branch mtg. Sportsman, 2 Scots Hill, Croxley Green WD3. – **Thu 26** Crawl: (8.30) Railway Arms, Aldenham Rd, Oxhey; (9.15) Victoria, 39 Chalk Hill; (10pm) Villiers Arms, Villiers Rd (all WD19).

WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton 07835 927357, paul@paulc4.plus.com; Social secretary Alasdair Boyd: 020 7930 9871 x 143 (2.30-3.30 and 6-9.30pm Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk, fax 020 7839 4768

December – Tue 6 W6 social. (7.30) Raven, 375 Goldhawk Rd; (9pm) Duchess of Cambridge, 320 Goldhawk Rd (bring CAMRA card). – **Tue 13** (7.30) Branch Xmas party. Albion, 121 Hammersmith Rd, W14 (bring CAMRA card). – **Wed 21** (7.30) Alasdair's birthday party. Harp, 47 Chandos Pl, WC2.

January – Tue 10 (7pm for 7.30) Branch mtg. Plumbers Arms, 14 Lower Belgrave St, SW1. – **Wed 11** (7pm for 7.30) SW1 Guide surveys. Meet tbc. – **Tue 17** SW1 Pimlico social: (7.30) Gallery, Lupus St; (9pm) Cask Pub & Kitchen, 6 Charlwood St. – **Tue 24** Hammersmith W6 social: (7.30) Ram, 81 King St; (8.30) William Morris, 2 King St; (9.30) Salutation, 154 King St. – **Tue 31** (7.30pm, Paddington W2 soc, Pride of Paddington, 1 Craven Rd, 830pm Mitre, 24 Craven Terr, 930pm Cleveland Arms, 28 Chilworth St.

Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

John Bush, 07739 105336, info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk

December – Thu 8 Wembley HA9 crawl: meet (8pm) Greene Man Hotel, Dagmar Ave; (9pm) Bear, 397A High Rd; (9.45) J J Moons, 397 High Rd. – **Tue 13** (8.30) Social. Hare & Hounds, 229 Ruislip Rd, Greenford, UB6. – **Wed 28** South Ealing to Brentford crawl: meet (1pm) Ealing Park Tavern, 222 South Ealing Rd, W5; (2pm) Lord Nelson, 9 Enfield Rd, Brentford TW8; (2.45) Globe, 104 Windmill Rd, Brentford TW8; (4pm) Magpie & Crown, 128 High St, TW8; (5pm) O'Briens, 11 London Rd, TW8.

January – Tue 3 Ickenham UB10 crawl. Meet (8pm) Old Fox, 16 High Rd; (9pm) Coach & Horses, 1 High Rd; (9.45) Tichenham Inn, 11 Swakeleys Rd. – **Wed 11** (8.30) Branch mtg. Tommy Flynn's, 253 Ealing Rd, Alperton HA0. – **Tue 19** Northwood HA6 crawl: meet (8pm) Gate, Rickmansworth Rd; (8.45) Misty Moon, 27 Green La; (9.45) Sir William Jolly, 53 Joel St, Northwood Hills. – **Tue 31** Ealing W5 crawl: meet (8pm) North Star, 43 The Bdy; (9pm) Haven Arms, 33 Haven La; (9.45) Wheatsheaf, 41 Haven La.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the February/March edition: Wednesday 11 January. Please send entries to londondrinker@daviesolutions.co.uk

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

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

Beers from London microbreweries alongside those from micros outside London are recorded in an increasing number of pubs. Marstons continue to dispose of their core London pubs with four (plus one outside London) being sold to Fuller's for £16m. By contrast, in accordance with their policy they have opened a brand new pub in a new suburban development area in NW9 Beaufort Park. We also catch up on one acquired in N13 Palmers Green not previously reported. Young's and Charles Wells are continuing to off-load pubs in London, and Wetherspoons have disgraced themselves by transferring the lease of one of their smaller community pubs in SW18 Southfields to Tesco, who continue to target pubco pubs in high street locations for conversion to 'convenience' stores.

Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are provided to enable easy updating. The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to

the page numbers in the following guides: BM - Balham to Morden Pub Guide; BRP - Barnes to Raynes Park Pub Guide; BSM - Brixton, Streatham & Mitcham Pub Guide; CE - Camden & Euston Real Ale Guide; CSL - Clapham & South Lambeth Pub Guide; E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; H - Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale, 2000 edition; HH - Hampstead & Highgate Real Ale Guide; IS - N1 Islington Real Ale Guide; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; KT - Kingston Pub Guide (ZKT - second edition); N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; RHP - Richmond, Ham & Petersham Pub Guide; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; WB - Wandsworth & Battersea Pub Guide; WC - WC1 and WC2 Real Ale Guide; X - Essex Beer Guide, 9th edition.

If you would like to report changes to pubs or beers, please email capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com or write to Capital Pubcheck, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR. Single copies of Update 220, which could not be printed in the last issue of *London Drinker* but was accessible only online at www.londondrinker.org.uk, may be requested from this address - please send A5 SAE.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, BEDOUIN, 57-59 Charterhouse St. No real ale. Keg lager now installed in this cafe bar. Reinstall on pub database. Now Town & City, ex-Laurel. Formerly DOME. (U116,192)

EC2, WHISTLING SHOP, 63 Worship St. No real ale. Keg Camden Town and Meantime beers. Independent basement bar and formerly Pulpit, a Davy's wine bar with no draught beer, located under Hand & Bumper (now Vinum).

EC4, CORNEY & BARROW, 3 Fleet Pl. No real ale. Keg lager now installed in this chain wine bar and restaurant outlet.

EAST

E8, GREEN MAN, 71 Shacklewell Lane, renamed **SHACKLEWELL ARMS** by February 2004 but not previously reported. Two varying Adnams beers including seasonal, Meantime London Pale Ale (brewed by Adnams); Copper Dragon: Golden Pippin. Now Enterprise, ex-Watney via Unique and primarily a music venue. Open 5-midnight Mon-Thu, 5-3am Fri, 3-3am Sat and 3-midnight Sun. Admission charges often apply after 8pm weekdays or 10pm weekends. (E113)

E15, QUEENS HEAD, 5-7 West Ham Lane. Adnams: Lighthouse. Now Enterprise, ex-Bass. (E154, U124)

NORTH

N1, OLD QUEENS HEAD, 44 Essex Rd. Nethergate: Truman Summer Runner. Beer may vary. (N54, U121,165)

N7, METRO, 295 Holloway Rd. Thwaites; Original, Lancaster Bomber. Beers may vary in this Faucet Inn pub. Formerly SPOOFERS BAR, originally TAPPIT HEN. (N90, U168,193)

N16, MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, 48 Stoke Newington Rd. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Fuller: London Pride. (N129)

NORTH WEST

NW1, CIDER TAP, East Lodge, 188 Euston Rd. Sister to the Euston Tap (opposite), independent cider speciality bar due to open mid-November. Featuring 100+ ciders from UK and France on draught, from oak casks and in bottles.

NW9, DOVECOTE, Aerodrome Rd, Beaufort Park. Marston: Pedigree; 2 guest beers from the Marston range (e.g. Jennings, Ringwood, Wychwood). Brand new Marstons pub/restaurant opened early September 2011 on ground floor of apartment block in new development area built on the site of the former RAF Hendon aerodrome. Food and family orientated (children eating until 9pm). Large south facing outdoor patio. Open 11-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. Controlled parking area.

WEMBLEY (HA0), PLOUGH, 253 Ealing Rd, Alperton. Reopened and renamed **TOMMY FLYNN'S**, a bar and steakhouse. Greene King: IPA, OSH. Guest beer to follow. Leased by Greene King to same small pubco as in W13, West Ealing. (W221, U195,220)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BALTIC, 74 Blackfriars Rd. No real ale. Polish bar and restaurant in former commercial premises, opened in early 2000s.

SE5, FUNKY MUNKY, 25 Camberwell Church St. Renamed 'STORMBIRD' displayed only internally on blackboard with no external signage. Four varying cask ales on handpump including Brodie's and two Redemption beers, and 20 keg fonts including American, Belgian and German beers. Interesting collection of bottled beers. Now independent with free-of-tie lease, ex-Bass. Run by same operators as Hermits Cave opposite.

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Formerly BRAMBLES, originally ARTICHOKE. (SE56, U120,157)

SE11, LIAM OG'S (KENNINGTON), 140 Newington Butts. Reopened and renamed **BRASSERIE TOULOUSE LAUTREC** with ground floor restaurant and upstairs bar with keg beers. No real ale. Formerly **PLOUGH & HARROW**. (SE108, U120,165,191,197)

SOUTH WEST

SW11, POWDER KEG DIPLOMACY, 147 St John's Hill. Independent, two varying real ales, e.g. Dark Star. Bar and restaurant opened in late September as another sister pub to Lost Society, SW8 and Lost Angel, SW11 in former Indian restaurant premises. Quirky decor includes stuffed animals, antique furniture and mirrors. The rear conservatory dining area has an intricate glazed roof.

Open 12-11 Tue-Thu, 12-midnight Fri, 10-midnight Sat, 10-11 Sun but closed Mon; food served 12-3 and 5-10 Tue-Fri, all day at weekends until 10 Sat, 9 Sun.

SW19, KISS ME HARDY, Unit 5, Priory Retail Park, 131 High St, Colliers Wood. Spirit, ex-Punch Pub Co. One or two guest beers (e.g. Fuller's London Pride or Greene King OSH). Real ale reinstated after 7 years' absence. (U156, BM27)

MITCHAM (CR4), BURN BULLOCK, 315 London Rd. Phoenix Group. Fuller: London Pride reinstated by new tenants offering Caribbean menu choices. (SW145, BSM38, U215,217)

SURBITON (KT5), CASTLE, 108 King Charles Rd. Greene King: London Glory. An Enterprise pub. (SW161, U213, 2KT41)

WEST

W7, RYANS, 51 Boston Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Independent Irish bar with Thai food. Open 11-11 (midnight Fri & Sat). (W108)

HESTON (TW5), JOLY WAGGONER, 618 Bath Rd, Cranford. Brains beers. Now Tattersall Castle Group, ex-Spirit since 2005. (W163)

UXBRIDGE (UB8), PRINCE ALBERT, Pield Heath Rd. Wells: Bombardier. (W214, U212)

WEST DRAYTON (UB7), BRICKMAKERS ARMS, 1 Horton Bridge Rd, Yiewsley. Guest beer (e.g. Young: Bitter). (W222)

PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, BARLEY MOW, Free, already reported as converted to restaurant, now closed and disused. (E9, U121,189,197,198,205)

EC1, DRY BAR, Free, now converted to 'Native Tongue' comedy and live music club, confirmed delete from pub database. (U186,197,214)

EC1, SIMPSONS, Free, closed and converted to 'Tuffo's Place' cafe and sandwich bar by February 2001. (E24, U69)

EC1, SLUG & LETTUCE, 171-176 Aldersgate St, ex-Bay Restaurant Group. Now converted to 'English Pig' restaurant with a small bar area only for diners; delete from pub database. Formerly **HOGSHEAD**. (U158,197,211)

EC2, CITY HOUSE, Young, closed and demolished in 2011 along with surrounding office buildings. (U67,89,103)

EC3, MAILCOACH, Spirit, ex-Punch Pub Co, ex-Spirit, now demolished along with surrounding office block. (E41, U89,108,207,217)

EC4, DEACONS COFFEE HOUSE, M&B, now demolished along with surrounding buildings for Bucklersbury House redevelopment area. Formerly **DEACONS**. (E48, U162,207)

EC4, TEMPLE TAVERN, ex-Whitbread, now demolished for Bucklersbury House redevelopment area. Formerly **BENTLEYS (FORUM BAR)**. (E46, U69,70,76,120,212)

WC1, SWINTONS, Independent, ex-Punch. Renamed **NAVYA'S**, a Malaysian gastropub, for a short while in August but now reverted to **SWINTONS** and labelled a 'wine bar', H unused. (W26, WC27)

WC2, BELL & COMPASS, Marston, confirmed now converted to 'Cafe Rouge' restaurant with keg beer but no separate area for drinkers; delete from pub database. (W31, WC32, U219)

WC2, COVE BAR, West Cornwall Pasty Co. Confirmed now sold and converted to 'Ladurée' French patisserie shop and restaurant. (W31, U216, WC36, U217)

WC2, OPERA TAVERN, Independent, Spanish tapas bar now operating purely as a restaurant albeit with one keg beer; delete from pub database. Despite the retention of its original name, any pretence that this former historic M&B pub remains a pub no longer exists. (W36, U211,216)

EAST

E7, DUKE OF FIFE, Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique, closed. (E107)

COLLIERS ROW (RM5), PINEWOODS, Free, no real ale. (X43)

HAINAULT (IG7), ALFRED'S HEAD. Renamed **HYNEHOLT** by January 2009. No real ale. Now Enterprise, ex-Bass. (X61, U160)

NORTH

N1, CORLEYS TAVERN, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), now demolished. Formerly **KENILWORTH CASTLE**. (N48, U109,220)

NORTH WEST

NW1, NEPTUNE, Wells, closed since January 2010, future uncertain. (N170, U191,197)

HARROW WEALD (HA3), LEEFE ROBINSON VC, M&B, H unused. (W217, U204)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, LORD NELSON, 243 Union St, Free, no real ale. (SE24)

SE5, CORRIE BAR, Free, no real ale. Formerly **DUKE OF CLARENCE**. (SE57, U116,119)

SE20, HOP EXCHANGE. Renamed **HOP HOUSE**, Free, closed in 2007 and now converted to residential use. (SE189, U120)

SOUTH WEST

SW9, KELLYS (SHENANIGAN), ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), already reported closed by 2008, now converted to 'Mar Azul' seafood restaurant. Formerly **DORSET ARMS**. (SW82, BSM11)

SW10, IFIELD, Punch, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), closed by January 2009 and now converted to residential use in

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early 2011. Formerly DOWN THE IFIELD and NOT QUITE LIVE, originally IFIELD TAVERN. (SW85, U136,191)

SW10, **WORLDS END DISTILLERY**, Independent (Swandean Investments), no real ale. (Subtitle **SCENE (BAR & KITCHEN** now engraved on windows). (SW86, U192)

SW19, **HORSE & GROOM**, Enterprise, no real ale, H unused. (SW117, BM27, U214)

HAM (TW10), **ROYAL OAK**, Enterprise, closed and freehold for sale. (SW137, U171, RHP41, U217)

MITCHAM (CR4), **CROWN INN**, Enterprise, already reported closed, now converted to 'Casuarina' Sri Lankan restaurant. (SW145, BSM38, U213)

WEST

W7, **INN ON THE GREEN**, Enterprise, closed following failure to renew premises licence. Formerly **DOLPHIN**. (W107, U219)

W14, **KENSINGTON**, 54 Russell Gdns, Punch, ex-Spirit, closed, future uncertain. Famous jazz pub in the '60s. Note full address. (W128)

W14, **SEVEN STARS**, ex Fuller, now demolished except for facade by developer Yara. (W129, U213,214)

HESTON (TW5), **JOLLY GARDENERS**, Cranford, ex-Punch, closed and for sale freehold or leasehold. (W163)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), **JOLLY FARMER**, Enterprise, now converted to 'The Grill' halal American steak house restaurant. (W167, U212,213,214)

TEDDINGTON (TW11), **QUEEN DOWAGER**, Young, closed in early October and sold to a property developer

with holding managers given just nine days notice to vacate. All fixtures and fittings, and signage, removed. A pub has stood on this site since 1747 but there is clearly no room for sentiment at Young's any more. (W196)
WEST DRAYTON (UB7), FOX & PHEASANT, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. Rumoured to have been bought by Tesco for redevelopment as a store and petrol station. (W225)
WEST DRAYTON (UB7), SWAN, Enterprise, closed and boarded up. (W226, U199,204,209,220)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, **DISTILLERS**. Recent beers have been Caledonian; Deuchars IPA, Flying Scotsman. Now Pocket Pubs, ex-Hartford Group. Formerly **HEAD & TAILS**. (U192,205)

EC1, **LORD RAGLAN**, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: OSH; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +Young: London Gold. Now Spirit (branded Taylor Walker), ex-S&N. (E20, U106, U156)

EC1, **ORTEGA TAPAS**. Renamed **GRAND UNION** in February 2011, still no real ale. Now the eleventh pub in the Grand Union chain. Originally **ABBAYE**. (U121,201)

EC1, **SHAKESPEARE**, 2 Goswell Rd, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA; +Sharp: Doom Bar. Now Punch ex-Spirit. (E23, U75,113,188)

EC1, **SLUG & LETTUCE**, Unit 4, Cowcross Pl, 19-25 Cowcross St. Renamed **SPORTS BAR & GRILL (FARRINGTON)** in March 2011, -beer listed; +Greene King: IPA; +Ringwood; Best Bitter. Now part of small

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The Pembury Tavern in the 1860s

pub/restaurant chain, ex-Laurel via Bay Restaurant Group. Open 7.30am-11 Mon-Fri, 9-11 Sat, 9-10.30 Sun. Formerly HOG'S HEAD, originally HOGSHEAD. (U155,179,197)

EC2, BLUU. Acquired by Fuller's from Marston in early November, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride and one varying Fuller beer (e.g. Gales Seafarers Ale). (U212)

EC4, PAVILION END. Acquired by Fuller's from Marston in early November, -beers listed; +Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London Pride, ESB, seasonal beer (e.g. Bengal Lancer). (E52, U161,163,207)

WC2, GLOBE, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Oakham: Mompesson's Gold (5%); +Sharp: Cornish Coaster, Doom Bar; +Lilleys cider, Lilleys Crazy Goat (cider/perry blend, 6.8%). (W33, WC40)

W1 (S), ARGYLL ARMS, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +St Austell: Tribute; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +guest beers mainly from micros from seasonal list. Now branded Nicholson by M&B. (W63)

EAST

E14, HENRY ADDINGTON, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +St Austell: Tribute; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +guest beers mainly from micros from seasonal list. Now M&B (Nicholson), ex-Bass. (U69,193)

E14, YATES'S. Renamed LANGTHORNE in 2010, + Courage: Best Bitter. Formerly YATES'S WINE LODGE. (U152,169,207)

E20, TAP EAST. A permanent bar has now replaced the temporary one and an in-house 2.5 barrel brewery is now

installed at the rear. Six handpumps dispense varying real ales from in-house and other micros and 10 keg taps dispense American and continental beers. Now open 11-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10 Sun. (U220)

CHADWELL HEATH (RM6), WHITE HORSE, -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +Greene King: Ruddles County; +Sharp: Doom Bar. Now Orchid, ex-Ind Coope via Spirit in 2005. (X27, U185)

NORTH

N1, DUKE OF YORK, 33 Downham Rd, Enterprise, already reported closed with planning permission for conversion to flats. Rumoured to be reopening as a pub with in-house 'Beavertown' brewery. (N42, U184,214,218)

N1, LEXINGTON, -Adnams: Broadside; +Sambrook: Wandle Junction. Also US craft beers and Camden Town beer on keg and in bottle. In-house 10% discount card scheme. Formerly CLOCKWORK, previously FINCA TAPAS BAR (BAR TIEMPO). (N43, U113,179,204,206)

N1, NOBODY INN. Reverted to original name CLARENDON in November, -beers listed; +5 varying cask ales (e.g. Dark Star, Redemption, St Austell) and 3 real ciders. Still operated by Priory Pub Co. (N53, U157, IS18)

N1, WENLOCK ARMS. Planning application submitted speculatively by property developers Wenlock LLP to demolish and replace with a mixed use development refused by Hackney Council on no fewer than eight planning policy grounds (see page 38). Owners Steve and

The Hope

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www.hopecarshalton.co.uk – see 'beer cam' for what's on now.

Capital Pubcheck - update 221

Will have now put it up for sale as a pub; it is still trading. (N62, IS21, U214,220)

N4, BROWNSWOOD PARK TAVERN. Now simply **BROWNSWOOD (THE)**. Beers include Fuller: London Pride; Harvey: Best Bitter; Hop Back: GFB; St Austell: Tribute; Taylor: Landlord; one guest; plus Devon Farmhouse Scrumpy Cider, Perry; Thatchers Heritage Cider and Weston Old Rosie Cider. Open kitchen, first floor lounge, large beer garden, mirrors and etched glass. (N73, U192,220)

N4, KINGS HEAD, +Greene King: IPA. Enterprise, ex-Courage via Unique. (N75)

N5, WOODBINE, +Redemption: Pale Ale; +guests. (N79, U184,188,194)

N6, WRESTLERS, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Marston: Pedigree, +varying beer from Marston range (e.g. English PA); +3 guest beers (e.g. Adnams, Jennings, Woodforde). Punch, ex-Bass and run by same family as Jolly Butchers and Rose & Crown N16 and Brownswood N4. (N83, HH10)

N9, BEEHIVE, +Greene King: OSH; +Sharp: Doom Bar Now Punch, ex-Spirit. (N99, U188,197)

N9, CART OVERTHROWN. Now simply **CART**, +Greene King: OSH, St Edmund Ale. Now part of Greene King's 'Meet and eat' chain. (N99, U117,184)

N13, WOODMAN. Free House acquired by Marston c2003/4 but not previously reported, -beer listed; +Banks: Bitter. Part of Marston leased/tenanted estate. (N116, U119)

NORTH WEST

NW1, BLACK HEART, -beers listed; +Redemption: Pale Ale, Trinity; +Weston: First Quality Cider; +varying guest beers (e.g. BrewDog, Camden Town, Dark Star). Formerly CAMDEN TUP. (U165, CE8, U202,208,209)

NW1, SOMERS TOWN COFFEE HOUSE. Acquired from Wells by small Yummy Pub Co who have two other pubs in Kent and Surrey and are already working in collaboration with Charles Wells. (N174, U188, CE15)

NW1, TAPPING THE ADMIRAL. Beers include Adnams: Bitter, Brodie: Bethnal Green, Dark Star: Hophead and 5 guests. Formerly TAVERN INN THE TOWN. (N176, U157,197,220)

NW3, DUKE OF HAMILTON, +Fuller: London Pride. Guests include beers from Acorn, Cottage and Tring breweries. (N184, HH11, U209,210,212.213,217)

NW8, CLIFTON, +Sambrook's beers; +Botanist beer from Convivial brewpub in Kew. Now Convivial, ex-Bass via Capital Pub Co. (N213, U151, HH22)

EDGWARE (HA8), MASONS ARMS, Punch, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker). Freehold for sale but still trading in October. (N257, U109)

HARROW (HA2), STAR, Roxeth. Punch, ex-Spirit, -beers listed; +Greene King: London Glory. (W155)

HARROW WEALD (HA3), SEVEN BALLS, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. (W218)

PINNER (HA5), MANOR, Eastcote. Renamed **ASCOTT (THE)** following refurbishment. (W180, U201,210)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, HEELTAP, -Davy's beers; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire, Whitstable Bay. Formerly **HEELTAP & BUMPER.** (U139,193)

SE1, OLD THAMESIDE INN, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +St Austell: Tribute; +Sharp: Doom Bar;

+guests from the Nicholson list (12 handpumps available). Now M&B (Nicholson), ex-Bass. (SE28, U105,151)

SE1, SLUG & LETTUCE, 52/54 Stamford St. Renamed **DR INK'S,** -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot. Now Town & City, ex-Laurel. Formerly **HOG'S HEAD,** originally **HOGSHEAD.** (U150,177,197)

SE1, SOUTHWARK TAVERN, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +guest beers. Now M&B (Castle brand), ex-Bass. (SE34, U105,151)

SE1, WELLINGTON (AT WATERLOO). Acquired by Fuller's from Marston in November, -beers listed; +Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London Pride, ESB, seasonal guest beer (e.g. Black Cab). Formerly **WELLINGTON TAVERN.** (SE37, U102,168,218)

SE20, MAPLE TREE, -beers listed except Young: Bitter; +Young: Special. An independent free house. (SE189)

SE20, MOON & STARS, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: Ruddles Best, Abbot; +Ringwood: Fortyniner; +guests (e.g. Dark Star, Moorhouse, Oakham, Thornbridge Wild Swan). (U99,102)

BECKENHAM (BR3), WILLIAM IV, Elmers End, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA; +St Austell: Tribute; +Sharp: Doom Bar. Now Punch, ex-Allied (Taylor Walker), via Spirit. (3SE205, 8K81)

HAYES (BR2), GEORGE, -beers listed; +Brakspear: Oxford Gold; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +Young: Bitter. Now M&B, ex-Whitbread (Beefeater) since 2006. (3SE223, U55, 8K102, U111)

WEST WICKHAM (BR4), PICKHURST, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Adnams: Broadside; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. Now Orchid, ex-S&N via Spirit. (3SE288, U55, 8K181, U86,107)

SOUTH WEST

SW1 (W), FEATHERS, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Adnams: Bitter; +St Austell: Tribute; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +guests from Nicholson (8 handpumps available). (SW48, U181)

SW10, SPORTING PACE, -beers listed; +Adnams: Regatta; +Purity: Mad Goose; +Sambrook: Powerhouse Porter; +St Austell: Tribute; +Sharp: Doom Bar. (SW85, U212)

SW14, CHARLIE BUTLER, -Young's beers + Greene King: IPA. The 2008 planning application to Richmond Council to demolish and replace by flats was withdrawn, but Young's have now sold the pub, apparently to a property developer. Still trading but future uncertain. (SW97, RHP9, U200)

SW18, GRID INN. Lease transferred by Wetherspoon to Tesco and pub due to close on 18 November for conversion to a convenience store for which planning permission is not required. Its relatively small size and hence lower turnover than other pubs in the JDW estate may have influenced the sale, which does not bode well for other smaller Wetherspoon pubs. The sad loss of the one much appreciated and recently much improved community local in the Southfields pub desert which, ironically, can only encourage more supermarket take home alcohol sales which lead to pub closures, or so pubcos have been arguing! (SW112, WB11)

SW19, GROVE SW19, Independent. Planning application submitted by owners to Merton Council to demolish and replace by a retail unit with flats above. Objections lodged by SW London CAMRA and London

Capital Pubcheck - update 221

Pubs Group to potential loss of prominent late Victorian community pub. Formerly DOYLES for a while and originally GROVE TAVERN. (SW117, BM27, U210,211,212)

WEST

W5, BROADWAY BAR. Being refurbished and due to be renamed TUK CHO in December, a new South-East Asian cuisine concept 'Asian Market Eating' from M&B. Formerly EDWARDS. (W93, U219)

W6, HOP POLES, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +guest beers from SIBA list. (W103, U188,215)

W13, FORESTER, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +3 guest beers (e.g. Taylor Landlord, St Austell Tribute, Wychwood Hobgoblin) all currently on gravity. MC Bars have taken over Enterprise tenancy. (W126)

W14, HAND & FLOWER. Acquired by Fuller's from Marston (ex-W&D) in November, -beers listed; +Fuller: Gales Seafarers Ale, London Pride, ESB. (W128)

FELTHAM (TW3), GENERAL ROY, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Ringwood: Fortyniner. (W135)

HAMPTON (TW12), RAILWAY BELL. Guests include Brakspear Bitter, Shepherd Neame Spitfire, Skinner Betty Stogs and Wye Valley HPA. Enterprise (not Free). (W143)

HAYES (UB3), RED LION, Harlington, -Courage: Best Bitter; +Sharp: Doom Bar. (W161, U203)

TWICKENHAM (TW2), WINNING POST, Whitton, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Greene King; IPA. Now branded as a 'Fayre & Square' family pub restaurant by Spirit after major refurbishment. (W205)

UXBRIDGE (UB8), TURKS HEAD. Renamed

BRUSHWOOD INN in November. (W215, U220)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 220

PUBS CLOSED ETC

SE1, LORD NELSON. Address is 386 Old Kent Rd. Transfer to 'OTHER CHANGES' since no real ale already reported.

SW14, RAILWAY. Add ref RHP10 after U177.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

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and the New Year from
the London Drinker
production team to all our
advertisers, contributors,
distributors and readers.*

A girl walks into a bar

It's Saturday night and I'm at a friend's birthday party at The Market Porter in Borough Market. I hop over to the bar (I always hop with anticipation at what beers will be on, whether there are any I haven't had before, if there will have any exciting seasonals etc.). At the bar I choose a Mocne Piwo by George Wright Brewery, an ESB style beer inspired by Polish brewing methods. It's 5.1%. I'm excited as I look along the range available, there are a few on today that I've not tried and I'm enjoying a fun Saturday night with friends. Upon ordering my beer, a smiley chap next to me at the bar pipes up. *"I think that will be a bit strong for you, love"*. He grins.

Smiling sweetly, I explain that I knew that it was 5.1% when I ordered it. I agree with a nod that it is stronger than some beers available but quite manageable. I tell him that I drink quite a lot of beer (polite understatement) and in fact, that the night before I had even managed to handle an 8% French beer and have indeed tried the Sinking The Bismarck by Brewdog which comes in at a hefty 41%. I do say all this with a smile, in a sing-songy voice, trying not to give off any hint of irritation, after all, he is only trying to be helpful, he is only trying to give advice to a seemingly naïve young woman navigating her way through the overwhelming, confusing world of beer. Or that's the way he sees it. I suppose I shouldn't feel patronised and belittled- how is he to know I've been carrying a Good Beer Guide around in my hang bag for so long that I have a gorge in my shoulder? He isn't to assume that I've tried 2000 different British Real Ales. He's just a well-meaning gent who hasn't realised yet that there are some women- young, fun, attractive women, drink, enjoy and know

about real ale.

You are probably thinking 'Here we go- another feminist beer rant from a mouthy girl jumping about on her soap box.' However, the reason this event had such an effect on me is precisely the opposite. This sort of thing happens very rarely to me. Most of the time I get into conversations with interested, respectful geezers (and lo and behold! the odd woman) at the bar who ask about what my favourite beer is, how long I have been drinking real ale, what would I recommend. Most people love having a different sort of person talk about beer with. Most people see me as part of a new breed of discerning, adventurous young drinkers, some of whom happen to be female (much documented in the latest Cask Report, if you are interested.).

I think it's great that people talk about ale at the bar and I welcome conversations with anyone in a pub who shares my passion about beer. It is great to find a common interest and for strangers to come together over a mutual love. It just doesn't need to be patronising. Young people, even young women- shock horror, have a great deal to offer pubs and the world of ale in general. We are the future of real ale drinking, of CAMRA and of pubs. We need to make young ale drinkers want to go to the pub, to feel so welcomed that when they leave, they can't wait to get back inside. Young drinkers need to know that their custom is valued and that we are just as important, and deserve our place at the bar, just as much, as the man who has been there since the seventies. Try us- we might just know something about ale that you didn't know yet.

Shea Luke, www.realalegirl.blogspot.com

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CAMRA North London
Pub of the Season
Winter 2011

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 21 Maximum Score in a Pontoon Hand
2. 4 Knights in a Game of Chess
3. 8784 Hours in a Leap Year
4. 1 Viola in a String Quartet
5. 375 Record Test Match Score by Brian Lara
6. 1694 Bank of England Founded
7. 3 Beats to the Bar in a Waltz
8. 72 is Half of a Gross
9. 66 Books in the Bible
10. 1066 Death of King Harold at the Battle of Hastings

5BY4:

Number Ones from forty years ago

1. Grandad – Clive Dunn
2. My Sweet Lord – George Harrison
3. Baby Jump – Mungo Jerry
4. Coz I Luv You – Slade
5. Maggie May – Rod Stewart
6. Knock Three Times – Dawn
7. Hey Girl Don't Bother Me – Tams
8. I'm Still Waiting – Diana Ross
9. Hot Love – T. Rex
10. Double Barrel – Dave & Ansil Collins

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. From the first modern games in 1896 until the last in 2008, the Summer Olympic Games have been hosted by European cities fifteen times.
2. Apart from London (1908 and 1948), the three cities which have hosted the Summer Olympic Games on two occasions are Athens (1896, 2004), Paris (1900, 1924) and Los Angeles (1932, 1984).
3. It is well known that Lake Superior is the largest of the Great Lakes of North America, but Lake Ontario is the smallest; its area is 23% that of Lake Superior (7,340 square miles against 31,700).
4. And the only Great Lake situated wholly within the USA is Lake Michigan; the others all form part of the border with Canada.
5. Fort William stands on Loch Linnhe.
6. A Pair of Blue Eyes was the third novel (and the first published under his own name) by Thomas Hardy.
7. The music entitled "Fanfare for the Common Man" was written by Aaron Copland.
8. Contrary to what some people will tell you, James Watt did NOT invent the steam engine. He did invent the separate condenser (which vastly improved the efficiency of the Newcomen engine).
9. The most famous work by the American sculptor Gutzorg Borglum is the presidential statues at Mount Rushmore.
10. New London is a city on the Thames River (not River Thames) in Connecticut.

Blimey! Almost Christmas again already! I looked in vain for a new aphorism about the festive season so I thought I would settle on this little nugget from Oscar Wilde: *Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes.*

Right, on with the fun(?) stuff, but not before I wish a belated welcome to Mark and Sarah, our new editors and Geoff, our departing one.

You could try these on the visiting relatives – should help them drop off quite nicely after the turkey and pud. Let's start with some number puzzles for no better reason than I couldn't think of anything better to kick off with:

1. 36 P for a SCS
2. 1500 P in a RM
3. 3 V to the L of the R
4. 25 C in a Q
5. 9 Z in a B
6. 26 PNUOH
7. 744 H in J
8. 22 B on a ST
9. 7 SA-S
10. 3 TK of E

This time I thought I would make 5BY4 into 5BY3 but I ran out quite quickly after the Three Degrees and Three Dog Night so it turned into 3BY No Specific Number. See if you can match the hits with the performers:

1. Three Nights a Week
 2. Three Steps to Heaven
 3. Three Times a Lady
 4. 3 is Family
 5. Three Bells
 6. Three Little Birds
 7. 3 x 3
 8. Three Coins in the Fountain
 9. Three Little Words
 10. Three Little Pigs
- A. Frank Sinatra
 - B. Commodores
 - C. Green Jelly
 - D. Genesis
 - E. Eddie Cochran
 - F. Fats Domino
 - G. Brian Poole & the Tremeloes
 - H. Applejacks
 - I. Bob Marley & the Wailers
 - J. Dana Dawson

And to finish off with – you might detect a certain synergy between the trivia questions this time:

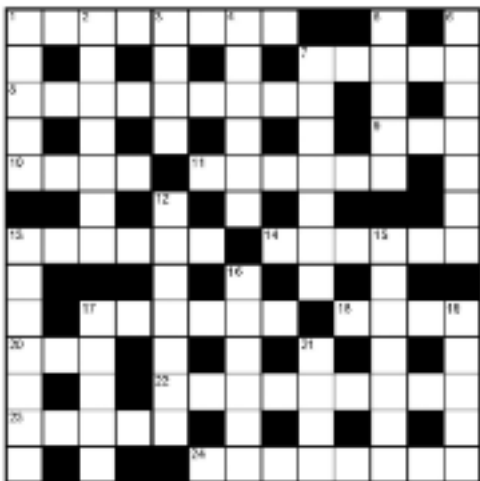
1. What can be found at 10°30' South, 105°40' East?
2. What is the common name of the type of Hellebore that produces large white flowers from midwinter to early spring?
3. What did Michael Faraday start in 1826 which still takes place every December in a building in Albemarle Street, London W1 (just off Piccadilly)?
4. Where is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held every Christmas Eve?
5. Under whose rule was the celebration of Christmas banned (for a period of 12 years) by act of parliament?
6. On what day was William I crowned king of England?
7. In the Muppet Christmas Carol (1992), who played the part of Ebenezer Scrooge?
8. What was "stolen" from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950?
9. In what year was the King's Christmas radio message to the Empire first broadcast? And – in what year was the Queen's Christmas message to the Commonwealth first televised?
10. Okay, so it had to come! Who wrote White Christmas and in what film did Big Crosby sing it?

So that's another year's Idle Moments over and done with. More next year if the new editors will put up with my inane ramblings.

Have a happy one!
Andy Pirson

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name _____

Address _____

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

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

OCTOBER'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Goes on about the Spanish clergymen. [8]
7. Go over to back horse. [5]
8. Chocolate tool? It'll fly! [9]
9. To begin with rats only enjoyed eggs. [3]
10. Frank is no writer. [4]
11. Lost heroin removed from dump. [6]
13. Very cold beer. [6]
14. Little donkeys deliver the goods. [6]
17. Relative has no right to cause trouble. [6]
18. Reverse flow is correct. [4]
20. Instrument left out also. [3]
22. Bad weather in Iran? [9]
23. Plump for a few drinks. [5]
24. Claimed to see darts thrown. [8]

DOWN

1. Quiet Scotsman in Post Office. [5]
2. Pledge to be whole-hearted. [7]
3. A member's current measures. [4]
4. Please turn round and slip away. [6]
5. Extreme spray engulfing vehicle is frightening. [5]
6. Comes into view while hiding shredded paper. [7]
7. It's a relief to put clothes on again. [7]
12. Gymnast's covering broken toe in fat. [7]
13. Bird is shattered on a road. [7]
15. Farthest mark doesn't interfere. [7]
16. Negligent concerning girl. [6]
17. Benefit of star former pupil turning up. [5]
19. Shy boy with basic desires. [5]
21. Man's beginning in sperm laden egg. [4]

Winner of the prize for the August Crossword:
M.J.Moran, Clapham Park, London SW12

Other correct entries were received from:

Pandy Aardvark, D.Abbey, Sheila Allen, Ted Alleway, Pat Andrews, Raymond Austin, Hilary Ayling, John Barker, Mike Begg, Mike Belsham, Steve Block, Cheryl Bloom, John Bowler, Kelvin Brewster, Mark Broadhead, Sarah Brown, Clive Buckman, John Butler, Eddie Carr, Timothy Chard, A.Cleminson, Peter Comaish, Richard Conway, Joe Corbett, Chas Creasey, J.A.Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Noel Cunnane, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Steve Downey, Tom Drane, Mark Dredge, Margaret Edgar, Jonathan Edwards, G.Elliott Jones, C.J.Ellis, Karen Ellis, John Emery, Elvis Evans, Kathryn Everett, Brian Exford, Robert Ferrier, D.Fleming, M.Fletcher, Dudley Freeman, B.Fritz, Sally Fullerton, Gillian Furnal, G.J.Geary, Christopher Gilbey, B.Gleeson, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, James Greene & H.Hopkins, Roy Greenhalgh, Alan Greer, Caroline Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Paul Hancox, Dave Hardy, Roy Harris, Alison Henley, Miss N.Hewitt-Hulin, Graham Hill, William Hill, David Hughes, Chris James, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Les Jenkins, David Jiggins, Jo Richard & Dibley, Brian Jowers, Mike Joyce, Dave Knell, John Knight, Roger Knight, Dick & Honor Krol, Mick Lancaster, Peter Large, Terry Lavell, Tony Lennon, Rosemary Lever, Martine & Professor Lever, Andy Lindburn, Pauline Lindburn, Mike Lloyd, G.Lopatis, Moses Lorne, Peter Lovett, Maryvonne Lumley, Donald MacAuley, Dave McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Derek McDonnell, Sheila McGrath, Tom McGuinness, Steve McQuade, Steven McQuade, Pat Maginn, MAP of Guildford, Allan Marshall, Tony Martin, P.R.Massey, M.Miller, Jan Mondzrejewski, Alec Moore, Bill Morrell, Al Mountain, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Mark Nicholls, Paul Nicholls, Mick & Marion Norman, Dave Norton, Alan O'Brien, Michael Oliver, Stuart Osgood, Nigel Parsons, Miss G.Patterson, Alan Pennington, Phil and Saff, Mark Pilkington, Barrie Powell, Jeanette Powell, Nicholas Priest, Derek Pryce, Tony Roberts, Bill Rodwell, Nigel Roe, Paul Rogers, Richard Rogers, Pete Simmonds, Lesley Smith, Ian Sneeby, Ivan Stevenage, Ed Stock, Ian Symes, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Colin Thew, Mark Thompson, Steve Thornton, John Treeby, Vic the Beard, Andy Wakefield, Mrs C.Ward, Martin Weedon, Miss E.A.Whalen, Nigel Wheatley, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, D.Woodgate, David Woodward, Ray Wright.

There were also three incorrect entries and one incomplete one.

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Christmas Cheers!