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Vol 35
No 2



Apr/May
2013

Battersea Beer Festival 2013

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London Drinker is published on behalf of the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and edited jointly by Tony Hedger and Mark Davies. Tel: 07790 750024.

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TODAY'S YOUTH

Earlier this year I turned thirty, as many of you will also have done at some point in the past, and found myself feeling rather too old to be a young member of CAMRA, let alone being a branch committee member for young members. In South West London we classify anyone under thirty-five as a young member, and try to make them feel very welcome. In spite of this feeling, or perhaps because of it, I ran a special event for our young members, taking them into the cellar at the Hand in Hand on the Crooked Billet by Wimbledon Common.

In their replies to my email invitation, many were as astonished as I was to be classified as a young member. All of this made me consider what it is to be a young member, and what the future of CAMRA will be. With the average age of active members rising and few young members becoming active, I repeatedly hear the very pertinent question: 'so how do we get them to become active?' The entire future of the campaign must surely hang on the answer to that question. Encouragingly, more and more young people are finding that real ales have more taste and character than the fizzy alternatives that are heavily advertised, resulting in a resurgence of real beer drinking in the trendier pubs around the country and fuelling the increase in microbreweries. So there is a large number of young drinkers who might become active campaigners, if they could see more excitement in doing so than perhaps a less than inspiring programme of socials and meetings.

So far my answer has been to try to produce a series of events that are as close to 'one off' as I can. By far the most popular so far has been the cellaring event at the Hand in Hand. There are various reasons, I am sure, but a big part of it is enabling people to interact with the beer in the cellar and to understand what goes

on 'behind the scenes' at their pub. Very few pubs allow patrons into their cellars at all and practically none would allow them to tap and vent the barrels while they are down there. Even fewer would pour the porridge out of the bottom of an empty barrel for everyone to see. With its cellar, unusually, at ground floor level, Andrew at the Hand in Hand has given a unique experience to young CAMRA members rather than my taking them simply on pub crawls. Next time I would like to be able to arrange a weekend date for such an event, so that people don't have to leave early to be ready for work in the morning.

Some older readers may still be wondering why these young CAMRA members are really so important and why I am writing this editorial. I recently worked as a festival committee member and a staff volunteer at the Battersea Beer Festival (see page 30). It struck me, and many of the other workers, that we are getting older and finding it a lot of it harder than last year, and harder still than the year before, and that we needed more younger people to help especially with setting up. One local visitor's comment said it all: *"I know the staff are volunteers but why do they have to be so miserable!"*

With just a few more young members involved, it will be easier and more enjoyable to continue to run beer festivals in future that will in turn provide more enjoyment to more people. On that score alone, having more young members would help the campaign.

I will soon be arranging another cellar-ing event, a tasting event at a Nicholson's pub in Central London and something new and exciting at Sambrook's brewery. We have a network of local branch contacts working with Matthew Black of South East London Branch as our Regional Young Members' Co-ordinator. May I ask young members – and prospective members – of all ages please to let Matthew know (youngmembers@selcamra.org.uk) what opportunities you would like to see CAMRA offering you.

Mark Davies

**Young Members' Officer for CAMRA
South West London Branch**

Branch diaries

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

May – Wed 29 (7.30) London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk

Website: www.camralondon.org.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

April – Wed 17 Evening crawl of Wandsworth and Battersea: (7pm) Alma, 499 Old York Rd, Wandsworth; (7.50) Grapes, 39 Fairfield St, Wandsworth; (8.40) Cat's Back, 86-88 Point Pleasant, Wandsworth; (9.30) Spread Eagle, 71 Wandsworth High St; (10.15) Windsor Castle, 36 St John's Hill, Battersea; (10.40) Falcon, 2 St John's Hill. Public transport will be required at times. All welcome.

May – Wed 15 (7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All CAMRA branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.org.uk

LONDON CIDER GROUP

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

May – Thu 23 (7pm) Visit to the Golding Hop Plaxtol, Kent TN15; classic rural long term G&B pub selling ciders and ales. Meet Borough Green rail station, depart 7.10: 30 minutes walk. Please e-mail london_cider@btinternet.com to confirm attendance and more details.

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

Matthew Black, 07786 262798, youngmembers@selcamra.org.uk

April – Thu 18 Bethnal Green E2 crawl: (7.30) Camel, 277 Globe Rd; (8.15) Approach Tavern, 47 Approach Rd; (9pm) Sebright Arms, 31-35 Coate St; (10pm) Sun Inn, 441 Bethnal Green Rd.

May – Sat 18 Brewery crawl: (noon) Brew Wharf, Stoney St, SE1; (1.30) Kernel Brewery, Arch 11 Dockley Rd, SE16; (3pm) Partizan Brewery, 8 Almond Rd, SE16.

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

BEXLEY

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

April – Thu 4-Sat 6 Bexley Beer Festival, Old Dartfordians, Bexley (See page 9 and Beer Festival tab on website for further details). - **Wed 10** (8.30) Mtg. Olde Black Horse, Halfway St, Sidcup. - **Tue 23** (8pm) Soc. Robin Hood & Little John, Lion Rd, Bexleyheath. - **Wed 24** Northumberland Heath crawl: meet (8pm) Royal Oak, Erith Rd.

May – Wed 8 (8.30) Mtg TBA. - **Wed 22** Greenwich crawl: meet (8pm) Plume of Feathers.

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

BROMLEY

Stephen Osborn, inquiries@bromleycamra.org.uk

April – Mon 1 (1pm) Soc. Five Bells, Church Rd, Chelsfield BR6. - **Tue 9** Soc: (8pm) Crown & Pepper, 14 Masons Hill, Bromley BR2; (9pm) Richmal Crompton, 23 Westmoreland Pl, Bromley BR1. - **Thu 11** (7.30) Cider & perry tasting event for women (all ages) and all members under 30, accompanied non-CAMRA friends welcome, free entry. Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd, Bromley BR1. - **Mon 15** (7.30) Fest planning mtg. Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd. - **Wed 17** Biggin Hill TN16 crawl: (1pm) Flying Machine, Kings Rd; (2.30) Apherfield Inn, 311 Main Rd, and two others. - **Tue 23** (8pm) St George's Day soc. Jolly Woodman, 9 Chancery La, Beckenham. - **Sat 27**



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(7pm) CotY Award. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd, Orpington. - **Tue 30** (7.30) Mtg. Chelsfield, 1 Windsor Drive, Orpington.
May – Thu 2 (noon) Soc. Dulwich Real Ale & Cider Fest, Dulwich Hamlet FC (see page 21). - **Tue 14** Bromley Common crawl: (7pm) Crown, 155 Bromley Common BR2; (8.30) Bird In Hand, 82 Gravel Rd, BR2; (10pm) Black Horse, 318 Crofton Rd, Locksbottom BR6. - **Sat 18** (1pm) Soc. Bulls Head, Rushmore Hill, Pratts Bottom BR6. - **Mon 20** (7.30) Fest planning mtg. Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd, Bromley. - **Wed 22**: North Penge and Crystal Palace crawl: (1pm) Alma, 95 Church Rd, SE19; (2.30) Grape & Grain, 2 Anerley Hill, SE19 and four others. - **Sat 25** (noon) Soc. Kissingate Brewery SpringFest. Pole Barn, Church Lane Farm, Church La, Lower Beeding, Horsham RH13; minibus available from Bromley. - **Tue 28** (7.30) Mtg. Greyhound, Commonsidge, Keston BR2.
 Website: www.bromleycamra.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill, 07831 561296, pete_mcgill@hotmail.com
April – Wed 3 Sutton soc: (8.30) Moon on the Hill 5-9 Hill Rd; (9.30) Robin Hood 52 West St. - **Tue 23** Croydon St George's Day soc: (8.30) George, 17-21 George St; (9.30) Green Dragon, 60 High St. - **Tue 30** (8.30) Mtg and AGM. Dog & Bull (upstairs rm), 24 Surrey St, Croydon (membership card required to vote).
May – Wed 8 (8.30) Soc. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton. - **Wed 22** Croydon social: (8.30) Speadeagle, 39 High St; (9.30) Royal Standard, 1 Sheldon St. - **Thu 30** (8.30) Mtg and London Drinker pick-up, Windsor Castle (Cottage rm), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.
 Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

John Pardoe, 07757 772564, elacbranch@yahoo.co.uk; Branch telephone 07757 772564
April – Sat 6 (1.30) Brupond Brewery, 15 Argall Ave, Leyton Studios Unit 4. E10. Beers will be priced at £2.50 to £3, with Tip Top Hog, AiN'CHO Mum's Porter, and The Saison Experiment planned to be served from casks. - **Thu 18** (8pm) Soc. WFC&SC Beer fest, Forest Rd, Town Hall Complex, Walthamstow E17.
May – Tue 7 Branch AGM. Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, Leyton E10 - **Tue 14** Chingford E4 Soc: (7.45) Station House, 134-138 Station Rd; (9pm) Kings Head, 2B Kings Head Hill.
 Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Brian Willis, 020 8440 4542 (H), branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk, branch mobile 07757 710008 at events.
April – Wed 3 (8.30) Soc. JDW BF, Railway Bell, 13 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet EN4. - **Thu 11** (8.30) Winchmore Hill survey. Three Wishes, 749 Green Lanes, N21. - **Wed 17** (8.30) Hertford Road JDW BF Gilpin's Bell, Fore St, Upper Edmonton N18 then 279 to Picture Palace. - **Wed 24** (8.30) Finchley Central survey. Dignity, 369 Regents Park Rd, N3. **May – Wed 1** (8.30) Lamb, 52/54 Church St, Lower Edmonton N9 then W8 to Cart, Montagu Rd N9. - BH Mon 6 ramble of Enfield rural pubs: (10am) Moon Under Water, 115 Chase Side, EN2 (for optional breakfast); then Wonder, 1 Batley Rd, before the walk proper! - **Thu 9** (8.30) Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd, New Barnet EN5 - **Wed 15** (8.30) Club soc. Ponders End WMSC, 46 South St, Ponders End, EN3 (CAMRA members only). - **Wed 22** (8.30) Soc. Prince of Wales, 2 Church Hill Rd EN4 - **Thu 30** (8.30) London Drinker pick-up. New Crown, 80-84 Chase Side, Southgate N14.
 Website: www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor, 020 8949 2099, ctaylor2007@freeuk.com
April – Wed 3 (8.15) Mtg. Rising Sun, Heathcote Rd, Epsom. - **Sun 7** Walton on Thames to Weybridge wander: (1pm) Ashley Park (outside rail sta); (2pm) Otlands Chaser; (3pm) Prince Of Wales; (3.50) Alexander; (4.40) Jolly Farmer; (5.40) Hand & Spear. - **Sat 13** Aylesbury by train. Travel on

11.12 ex-Marlybone: (12.30) Queens Head; (1.30) Hop Poles and other pubs around the town. - **Wed 24** (8pm) Beer fest planning mtg. Willoughby Arms. - **Sun 28** Beer fest publicity crawl around Corston: come and help distribute posters in local pubs. Meet (12.30) Coronation Hall.
May – Wed 1 (8.15) Mtg. Ditton, Ditton Hill Rd, Long Ditton. - **Tue 14-Mon 20** Staff required for Kingston Beer Festival, set up, the actual festival and take down. Contact Colin Bayly (KBFI4staffing@camrasurvey.org.uk). - **Thu 23** Ashted crawl: (8pm) Woodman, then Leg of Mutton, Cauliflower and Brewery Tap.
 Website: camrasurvey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

Social contacts: Stephen Taylor, 07531 006296, Stephen3.Taylor@selex-es.com; John Adams, 07970 150707 jpa1260@gmail.com. Branch chairman: Catherine Tonry, 07793 547067, camra@tonry.co.uk
April – Tue 2 Cricklewood NW2 soc: (7.30) Queensbury, 110a Walm La; (8.30) Crown, 142-152 Cricklewood Bdwy; (9.30) Beaten Docket, 50-56 Cricklewood Bdwy. - **Tue 9** Wetherspoon beer festival soc: (7.30) Coronet, 338-346 Holloway Rd, N7; (8.30) White Swan, 255-256 Upper St, N1; (9.30) Glass Works, N1 Centre, Parkfield St; (10.15) Angel, 3 Islington High St, N1. - **Sun 14** (1.30) Roll Out The Barrel DVD showing. Mildmay Club, 34 Newington Grn, N16 (real ale available); followed by Newington Green pubs. - **Tue 16** (8pm) PotY presentation. Tapping the Admiral, 77 Castle Rd, NW1. - **Sat 20** (1pm) Bookworm soc. Magdala, 2a South Hill Pk, NW3. - **Tue 23** Canonbury and Newington Green N1 soc: (7.30) Lord Clyde, 340-342 Essex Rd; (8.15) Hops & Glory, 382 Essex Rd; (9pm) Alma, 59 Newington Grn Rd; (9.30) Cellars, 125 Newington Grn Rd; (10.15) Dissenting Academy, 92 Mildmay Pk. - **Tue 30** Upper Holloway soc: (7.30) Landseer, 37 Landseer Rd, N19; (8.15) North Nineteen, 194-196 Sussex Way, N19; (9.15) Shaftesbury, 534 Hornsey Rd, N19; (10pm) Old Dairy, 1-3 Crouch HI, N4.
May – Tue 7 West Hampstead soc: (7.30) Czech & Slovak Club, 74 West End La, NW6; (8.15) Railway, 100 West End La, NW6; (9pm) Lion, 295 West End La, NW6; (10pm) Wetherspoons, O2 Centre, 255 Finchley Rd, NW3. - **Tue 14** Holloway soc: (7.30) Torriano, 173 Torriano Ave, NW5; (8.15) Admiral Mann, 9 Hargrave Pl, N7; (9.30) Lord Stanley, 51 Camden Park Rd; (10.15) George Shillibeer, 1 Carpenters Mews, North Rd, N7. - **Tue 21** Stoke Newington N16 soc: (7.30) Rose & Crown, 199 Church St; (8.15) Lion, 132 Church St; (9pm) Daniel Defoe, 102 Church St; (9.30) Jolly Butchers, 204 High St. - **Tue 28** (8pm) Mtg. Sheephaven Bay, 2 Mornington St, Camden Town NW1.
 Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643(h), rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk
April – Tue 16 (8pm) Twickenham Beer Fest mtg (open to all members interested). Rifleman, 7 Fourth Cross Rd, Twickenham. (Note Branch AGM, originally shown on website as 25 April, now switched to next month).
May – Thu 16 (8pm) Branch AGM. Roebuck (upstairs room), 130 Richmond Hill, Richmond (please bring membership cards for voting). - **Thu 23** (8.30) Mtg. Admiral Nelson, 123 Nelson Rd, Whitton.
 Website: www.rhcamra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Neil Pettigrew, 07751 898310 (M), contact@selcamra.org.uk
April – Tue 2 SE1 Lambeth crawl: (7.30) Duke of Sussex, 23 Bayliss Rd; (8.20) Camel, 121 Lower Marsh; (9.15) Crown and Cushion, 133 Westminster Bridge Rd; (10pm) Three Stags, 67 Kennington Rd. - **Mon 8** (8pm) Mtg & soc. Prince Regent, 69 Dulwich Rd, SE24. - **Wed 17** W Norwood/W Dulwich crawl: (7.30) Bricklayers Arms, 1 Hamilton Rd, SE27; (8.20) Rosendale, 65 Rosendale Rd, SE21; (9.15) Alleys Head, 100 Park Hall Rd, SE21. - **Tue 23** SE1 Union St Crawl: (7.30) Prince William Henry, 218 Blackfriars Bridge Rd; (8.15) Lord Nelson, 243 Union St; (9pm) Union Jack, 225 Union St; (9.45) Charles Dickens, 160 Union St.
May – Thu 2-Sat 4 (12-10.30) SE London Beer Festival. Dulwich Hamlet Football Club, Champion Hill Stadium, Edgar Kail Way, SE22. - **Wed 8** (8pm) Mtg & soc. Crown & Greyhound, 73 Dulwich Village SE21. - **Mon**

Branch diaries

13 Greenwich SE10 crawl: (7.30) Rose & Crown, 1 Crooms Hill; (8.20) Kings Arms, 16 King William Walk; (9.15) Spanish Galleon, 48 Greenwich Church St; (10pm) Gate Clock, 210 Creek Rd. - **Tue 21** Forest Hill to Catford crawl: (7.30) Blythe Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, SE23; (9.30) Catford Bridge Tavern, Station Approach, SE6. - **Wed 29** Blackheath SE3 crawl: (7.30) Railway Tavern, 16 Blackheath Village; (8.40) Princess of Wales, 1a Montpelier Row; (9.15) Crown Hotel, 49 Tranquil Vale; (10pm) Hare & Billet, 1a Hare & Billet Rd.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Branch contact: Alan Barker contact@selcamra.org.uk; 07711 971957 (M) Evenings or Weekends only.

Bookings for Minibus Trips to Graham Platt: 020 8220 0215 (H)

April - **Sat 6** Denise's Brewpub (& Pub) crawl of Hackney & East: meet (noon) Cock Tavern (Howling Hops brewpub), 315 Mare St, Hackney, E8 (Near Hackney Central Overground); then Pembury Tavern; Crate and Tap East; for further details see Website. - **Wed 10** (8.30) Soc: Maldon BF, Town Hall, Market Hill, Maldon CM9 by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford-Le-Hope. Contact Graham Platt (as above). - **Tue 16** (8.30) Soc. Barking Dog, 61 Station Parade, Barking IG11. - **Fri 26** (8.30) Soc. Theobald Arms, 141 Argent St, Grays RM17.

May - **Wed 1** (8.30) Soc: Ale House, 24-26 Viaduct Rd, Chelmsford. - **Thu 9** (8.30) Soc. Optimist, Little Gayness La, Upminster. - **Wed 15** (8.30) Soc. Rising Sun, Church Hill, Stanford-Le-Hope, SS17. - **Wed 22** (8.30) Soc. Sutton Arms, 14-16 Station La, Hornchurch. - **Tue 28** (8.30) Soc. Colchester BF, Colchester Arts Centre, Church St, Colchester.

Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex



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SOUTH WEST LONDON

Branch contact: Mark Bravery, 020 8540 9183 (h), 07969 807890 (m), mark.bravery@camraswl.org.uk.

April - **Wed 10** (7.30) Mtg. Sultan, 88 Norman Rd, S Wimbledon SW19.

May - **Wed 1** (7pm) PotY presentation. Eagle Ale House, 104 Chatham Rd, Battersea SW11 - **Tue 14** SW19 Mild month soc: (7.15) Wibbas Down, 6-12 Gladstone Rd, Wimbledon; (9pm) Trafalgar, 23 High Path, Merton. - **Tue 21** (7.30) Mtg followed (8pm) by Branch AGM, Spread Eagle, 71 Wandsworth High St, SW18; cttee nominations to Branch Contact by 6 pm, 20 May.

Website: www.camraswl.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Branch contact: Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H) 07854 988152 (M)

April - **Sat 6** (1pm) Essex Arms, Langley Way, Watford - **Mon 8** (8.30) Southern Cross, Langley Rd, Watford; (9.45) Nascot Arms, Stamford St, Watford. - **Wed 17** (5.30) Euston soc. Doric Arch, Eversholt St, NW1. - **Mon 29** (8pm) Mtg. Oxhey Conservative Club, Lower Paddock Rd, Oxhey.

May - **Sat 11** (12.30) Mild soc. Sportsman, Scots Hill, Croxley Green. - **Fri 17** (8pm) Mild soc. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate. - **Fri 24** (8.30) PotY presentation. Sportsman, Croxley Green. - **Tue 28** (8pm) Mtg. West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

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

April - **Tue 2** Marble Arch soc: (7.30) Tyburn (Wetherspoons), 18/20 Edgware Rd. W2; (9pm) Carpenters Arms, 12 Seymour Pl. W1 - **Wed 10** St. James's Park SW1 soc: (7.30) Feathers, 20 Broadway; (8.30) Adam & Eve, 81 Petty France; (9.30) Buckingham Arms, 62 Petty France. - **Thu 18** (7pm) Mtg. Moncada Brewery, Unit 1, Buspark, Middle Row, W10. - **Tue 23** SW10 surveys: meet (7pm) Chelsea Ram, 32 Burnaby St, SW10. - **Tue 30** Marylebone W1 soc: (7.30) Kings Head, 13 Westmoreland St; (8.30) Gunmakers, 33 Aybrook St.

May - **Wed 8** Oxford Circus W1 soc: (7.30) Old Explorer, 23 Great Castle St; (9pm) Argyll Arms, 18 Argyll St. - **Tue 14** (7pm) Branch AGM. Hock Cel-lar, Fullers Brewery, W4 (bring CAMRA card) - **Wed 22** SW6 surveys: meet (7pm) Eight Bells, 89 Fulham High St (nr Putney Bridge Stn) - **Thu 30** Soc: (7.30) Duchess of Cambridge, 320 Goldhawk Rd, W6; (9pm) Defector's Weld, 170 Uxbridge Rd, Shepherds Bush Grn, W12 (bring CAMRA card).

Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

Social secretary: Jason Lansbury 07740288332, socials@westmiddx-camra.org.uk

April - **Fri 5** (8pm) Angel Beer fest, 697 Uxbridge Rd, Hayes, UB4. - **Sat 20** Wetherspoon bus crawl: (noon) JJMoons, 553 Kingsbury Rd, NW9; (1pm) New Moon, 25-26 Kenton Pk Rd, HA3; (2pm) Moon on the Hill, 373-375 Station Rd, HA1; (3.30) William Jolle, 53 Joel St, HA6; (5pm) JJMoons, 12 Victoria Rd, HA4. - **Tue 23** (6pm) St George's soc. Windermere, Windermere Ave, HA9.

May - **Thu 2** (6pm) East Dulwich Real Ale fest, Meet at product stand (see page XX for details). - **Wed 8** (8pm) Branch AGM, Southall Conservative & Unionist Club, Fairlawns, High St, Southall UB1 (please show membership card for entry). - **Fri 17** (8pm) Beer fest, Foresters, 2 Leighton Rd, W13. - **BH Mon 27** Harmondsworth and Heathrow crawl: (1pm) Crown, High St, UB7; (1.45) Five Bells, High St, UB7; (2.45) White Horse, 530 Bath Rd, UB7; (4pm) Three Bells, Terminal 5; (5pm) Globe, Terminal 3; (6pm) Sky-lark, Terminal 1 (1st floor).

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the June/July edition: Monday 13 May. Please send entries to ldnews.hedger@gmail.com (please note change of address)

Master Cellarman of the Year 2012...

winner



Officially the best kept pint of Fuller's beer, The Harpenden Arms, winner of Fuller's master cellarman of the year 2012.

The Harpenden Arms 188 High Street,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2TR



www.fullers.co.uk



GLA acknowledges property price threat to pubs

On 8 March, the Conservative Group within the Greater London Authority issued a report titled *'Keeping Local: How to save London's pubs as community resources*, drawing on *Capital Pubcheck* statistics and advice from LB Lewisham and CAMRA's Dale Ingram among others. The Catford Bridge Tavern, the Hope, Carshalton and the Castle, Battersea were noted as case studies.

On 13 March, following a parallel initiative with CAMRA headquarters from Assembly Member Tom Copley and the GLA Labour Group, a 'Pub Protection Summit' was held for local councillors at City Hall. Speakers comprised Geoff Brandwood on London's heritage pubs, Dale Ingram on pub protection, Jonathan Wade from RB Kensington & Chelsea, Tessa Blunden from the Save the Ivy House campaign, Cllr Liam Curran from Lewisham, CAMRA chief executive Mike Benner and beer sommelier Marverine Cole introducing the range of five London beers provided for the evening.

Dale has allowed the Editors to publish her text:

"Good evening. My name is Dale Ingram, I'm an historic buildings and planning consultant specialising in pubs and breweries amongst other things. Within CAMRA, I sit on the national Pubs Heritage and Planning Advisory Groups. I'm also CAMRA SW London branch Pubs Preservation Officer, working to prevent the loss of much-valued community pubs in Merton, Wandsworth and Lambeth. As CAMRA's London Region Pubs Protection Adviser I support local campaigners fighting unwanted pub losses as well as working with London boroughs' planners to improve pubs protection.

The scale of the problem

CAMRA statistics show that 18 pubs a week are closing. If London's 2012 statistics are anything to go by (217 closures and 30 reopenings), the majority of those will never reopen. A number of new pubs opened in London last year, but these are simply adapted 'retail spaces'.

The impact on both the built pubs heritage and communities' social hubs is staggering. Thankfully both RBKC and Lewisham decided in 2012 that enough is enough and have put in place local plan policies to defend their remaining pub stocks. Merton, Camden, Lambeth and Islington already have pubs protection policies to a greater or lesser extent. Islington's is especially robust.

As I was leaving this afternoon to come here, came welcome news that the Golden Lion in New College Street NW1 has been saved by a refusal by Camden, using their pubs protection policy, of a scheme of conversion to flats, so there is hope yet for the Crown & Goose Tom [Copley].

But in London the problem of pub losses is particularly acute. The chief cause of pub losses is redevelopment for residential schemes, by far and away statistically the most significant. Because sites command much higher prices for new build, they are very often not placed on the open market as pubs but sold, as Young's have done with developers Languard Investments in Battersea at the Castle and the Charlie Butler in Mortlake, previously on CAMRA's National Inventory of important interiors, which is scheduled for demolition, under the radar without the knowledge of the local community who only find out once a property has changed hands or receive notice of a planning application. Registration as Assets of Community Value will prevent this happening and is being actively promoted by CAMRA as a key campaigning tool.

In addition, the Pubs Minister is promoting the use of Article 4 Directions which remove the ability of an owner to change the use of a pub to offices or retail without a planning application under the Permitted Development rules. This has been done several times in recent months, most notably in Lewisham.

Pubs campaigners talking to me in smart drawing rooms in Chelsea, in middle class dining rooms in the suburbs and in working class

kitchens – as well as many pubs – across London talk about how their campaign has shown what strength of feeling there is for local pubs and how it has pulled them together.

Tonight's event is the perfect opportunity to introduce you to some hand-picked London pub campaign chairs, who were chosen for their leadership, articulacy and resilience, and as great ambassadors for pubs campaigning. They have been invited specifically to impress on you all the very real impact of pub losses on their local communities. Please seek them out and ask them to tell you about their experiences. They are:

David Smith, Chair of Save Morden Tavern campaign, nominated by our branch for the national CAMRA Campaigner of the Year award in 2012;

Nicola Whyte and Jon Davis, Deputy Chair and Chair respectively of the Defend the Castle Campaign in Battersea. The campaign saw off two plans before a third application was consented but with a pub replacement and its use as a pub protected by a planning Condition. Jon has applied for Asset of Community Value registration following the developer putting the Castle site up for sale. The decision is due next Wednesday (fingers crossed);

Tessa Blunden, Chair of the Save Ivy House Campaign, a Grade II-listed building protected by a concerted local campaign led by Tessa. ACV status was achieved in record time, the first pub to be protected by registration in England following its rumoured sale to a developer. Her community interest group are buying it and expected to complete on 21 March;

Michael Bach of the Chelsea Society. At least six pubs in RBKC are protected by robust planning advice and campaigns by Michael and colleagues, including the hugely significant Cross Keys dismissed planning appeal, and he is a key contributor to RBKC's new pubs protection policy;

Stephen Kenny, Chair of the Grove Park Community Group and Conor Rutledge who successfully defended the Baring Hall Hotel through a Judicial Review, injunction, two refusals, two demolition applications and a planning appeal hearing and achieved the third ever pub ACV in the country. The Baring Hall has been acquired by pub operators Antic and is expected to reopen;

James Watson, Pubs Preservation Officer from East London and City CAMRA, who has recently secured the latest Asset of Community Value registration, the Chesham Arms in Hackney, to defend it against an unwanted and imminent flats conversion;

David Parmee, who could sadly not be here this evening, from CAMRA Kingston & Leatherhead branch, who has capably seen off several pub threats.

Here's what I want you to know, and to remember. Campaigns come in all shapes and sizes and, like pubs, are as unique as snowflakes. They are not, however, as ephemeral. A key factor of every successful campaign is that those involved are truly committed to achieving the objective of keeping a local pub.

1. Campaigners are passionate about their local community pubs.
2. Government has ensured, with the National Planning Policy Framework and ACVs, that we have more ammunition. We need Local Plans and the London Plan to have Pubs Protection Policies.
3. Campaigners are prepared to go to great lengths to protect their pubs, including buying them under the Right to Bid.
4. A well organised and orchestrated campaign, like a well run pub, is an amazing tool of community cohesion.
5. The battle is long, and the warriors sometimes get weary, but they never give up.

In the words of that old warhorse Churchill. "Give us the tools and [campaigners] will finish the job". They (we) deserve your support.

Thank you for your time."



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Saturday 6th April

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POLITICS

In a letter in the last issue, reader Ron Elder described *London Drinker* as 'one of the more political' CAMRA magazines. I took that as a compliment but it may need some clarification to others. CAMRA is not 'party political' in that it does not align itself to any one political party, thus supporting their full programme. It is however not non-political; any organisation that arranges for over 1,000 of its members to lobby their MPs can hardly be said to be that. It is, incidentally, our political campaigning that disqualifies CAMRA from being a charity.

CAMRA's promotion of the rights of pub-goers and beer drinkers is more complicated than for most 'single issue' pressure groups because it involves government policies that affect the economy, trade, planning and health. Consequently we will support any political party or individual MP who has a policy that contributes to our aims. At face value just 'cherry-picking' policies like this might seem a soft option but it takes some organisation. I don't believe in the old adage that your enemy's enemy is neces-

sarily your friend but in the current climate, we need all the help we can get.

BEER DUTY CAMPAIGN

The Beer Duty Escalator petition closed with 108,828 signatures and, to reinforce the message delivered in December, CAMRA has been getting many of its members to write to their MPs in advance of the budget on 20 March. I will report on what happens next issue but I suspect that the aforementioned beer drinkers and pub goers will get nothing out of it. In the meantime, the TaxPayers' Alliance has joined the debate. You may already have seen their 'Mash Beer Tax' campaign beer mats. They want the escalator to be abolished or, at least for this year, the rate of duty to be frozen.

Another intriguing angle has emerged. According to the Daily Mirror in December, the most recent increases in beer duty have had such an adverse effect on sales that rather than bringing in an extra £35 million, the 'inflation plus two percent' system will see revenue fall in the coming year by £200 million. Mike Benner, CAMRA's chief executive, com-

mented, "This is a failing policy. Demand is going down because people are drinking less and that hits tax revenues" whilst Brigid Simmonds of the British Beer and Pub Association added, "Treasury policy is out of date. They still get revenue from other escalators but that is clearly no longer true of beer."

Just for context, the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) now has 651 members who last year produced 393 million pints – an increase of 9% on the previous year – and employ some 5,000 people. Similarly, the Independent Family Brewers of Britain (IFBB) report that their member firms bought 58 pubs in the year ended July 2012 and have invested some £450 million in their pubs over the last three years. However 5,800 pubs have been lost since the introduction of the escalator in 2008 and 18 pubs continue to close each week.

One way of getting some money back would be for the Government to take the advice of the Royal Medical Colleges and Faculties and, as they propose in their report on dealing with obesity, put a 20% tax on sugary soft drinks.

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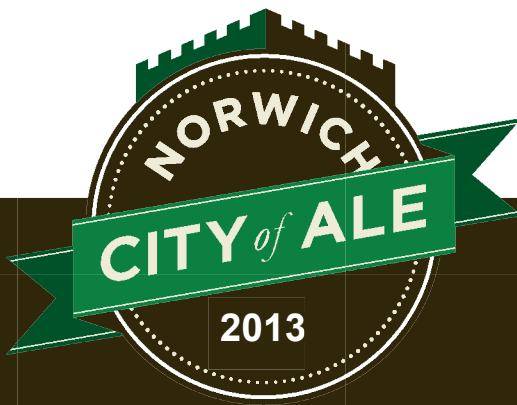
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VAT RATE DEBATE REOPENS

I've mentioned before that there is a movement in the hospitality trade, as it is known, to reduce VAT on entertainment. It has been going for some time but is set to be revived this year, hence its recent mention in the *Sun*. The Wine and Spirit Trade Association are calling for the rate to be cut from 20% to 5% on food and accommodation provided by pubs, restaurants and hotels. The article quotes an unnamed independent report that says that the move would create 78,000 jobs and bring in £2.6 billion to the Treasury over ten years.

Ireland cut its rate from 13% to 9% in 2011 and estimates are that even in their troubled economy, 6,300 new jobs have been created. The Swiss have had a lower rate of 3.5% against the basic rate of 8% since they introduced VAT in 1996.

I suspect that in the short term this move might be more successful than our campaign to reduce beer duty but it will, of course, not help the traditional 'wetted' pubs that are most in danger.

PUB COMPANIES AND THE TIE

You might not be surprised to learn that the Government's plans for a statutory code of conduct for tied houses are not quite as simple as they first looked. The proposed arrangements – upon which consultation is currently taking place – will only apply to pubcos that operate more than 500 pubs with tied leases. Relatively big companies such as Spirit who have 479 leased pubs will be exempt. What is to stop some of the bigger pubcos restructuring so as to become groups of companies with less than 500 leases? I know that whenever you set a precise limit like this there will always be anomalies, so perhaps there should not be a limit at all. I certainly feel that the code should apply to any non-brewing company that wants to operate the tie, irrespective of however many pub leases it operates.

The British Beer & Pub Association, the pubcos' representative body, continue to champion the self-regulation plan and are warning of 'unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy' if statutory regulation is introduced. Judging from what has appeared in the trade press, the issue has polarised the pub industry with accusations flying as to who is to blame for the failure of self-regulation and indeed, whether it has failed at all. The consultation process will be interesting. The Parliamentary Business, Innovation and

Skills Committee, who very much started the process, will be holding an 'evidence session' to formulate their own submission to the consultation. Chairman Adrian Bailey will also be taking 'grass roots' soundings from licensees in his West Bromwich West constituency.

CAMRA is not, as such, against the tied house system where operated fairly. It makes sense for small breweries to secure sales for their own products but I repeat my previous point; why should a company that does not brew its own beer be allowed to operate a beer tie?

One interesting thought on the brewery tie comes from a member of the Fair Pint Campaign who suggested that while accepting the tie, if publicans find that they can buy their brewery's beer cheaper in the free trade than from the brewery itself, then they ought to be allowed to do so. If the guiding principle is parity between tied and free-of-tie pubs, then similar parity between tied pubs and the free trade seems reasonable.

The arrangements will not apply to managed pubs because these are part of the pubco's direct business, or to franchises. The latter deserve a deeper look because some see them as an alternative to 'free-of-tie' arrangements.

CAMRA NATIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR

This year's winner is the Baum in Rochdale (33-37 Toad Lane, OL12 0NU). I mention it because I was struck by the view taken by owners Simon and Heidi Crompton. Mr Crompton has been involved with the pub since joining as a barman in 1993 and purchased it in 2005. He said, "*People don't go out every night any more, so we try to make it a bit of a treat to come here. We don't have a jukebox, just background music, because coming here is about people getting together. We are about keeping tradition going, so we run a traditional boozer, offering eight handpump beers and good quality food.*" Mrs Crompton added, "*We are a family-run pub with our values influencing every aspect of the business in relationships with our staff and suppliers. We are dedicated to the 'buy local, shop local' initiative, always willing to support independent businesses.*" That sounds appropriate for a pub next door to the site of the original Co-Operative Movement shop.

The other pubs on the final shortlist were last year's winner the Bridge End Inn in Ruabon, North Wales, the Con-

queror Alehouse in Ramsgate, Kent, and the Tom Cobley Tavern in Spreyton, Devon.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

As we go to print, I am hearing press reports that following internal disagreements, the Government will abandon its plan to introduce minimum pricing. The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has come out against the policy, some Liberal Democrats reportedly see it as 'illiberal' and the likely legal problems appear never to have been addressed. From the trade, Ted Tuppen, chief executive of Enterprise Inns, also could not see it working. More next issue, although I am concerned that the alternative will be more taxation or, certainly, no reduction.

As it happens, there has been a recent upsurge in press coverage of alcohol abuse and I wonder if those in the know were making a late attempt to forestall the Government's change of mind. I have a collection of press cuttings which are all so contradictory and confusing that it is a relief that I don't have to try to make sense of them for you but one point worth mentioning is that apparently a 'binge' is now classified as the consumption of more than eight units of alcohol – or six for a woman – in one session. Four pints of ordinary bitter? Is that credible? The Alcohol Health Alliance also want a ban on advertising and sponsorship related to alcohol. Taken to its fullest extent, that would mean that pubs could not even have a website and it would put this magazine out of business. Still, I would then have more time to spend down the pub on a binge...

LAW AND ORDER

The Borough of Merton is consulting on making the entire borough a controlled drinking zone. You could understand this tactic being used on areas with a large number of pubs and bars such as the centres of Wimbledon or Mitcham but the whole borough? It seems lazy to me. Instead of identifying and tackling actual problems, the Council is 'carpet-bombing' the entire borough. Their letter to residents, giving less than a month's notice, says that "*the powers to prohibit and confiscate are not intended to prevent the responsible consumption of alcohol, nor do they extend to the cartilages of licensed premises or any private property.*" That is all very well but the enforcement of the current licensing legislation

has been marked by the authorities taking actions that they were not supposed to. Merton is my home borough and they will be hearing from me.

In Croydon the Council is looking to introduce what are called 'cumulative impact zones' across 17 wards. Although applications for new alcohol licences can still be made and they will, the Council says, continue to be considered on their individual merits, the presumption is that all new applications or requests to vary existing licences will be refused. According to the *Morning Advertiser*, the areas have been chosen by using crime figures, health-related statistics such as hospital admissions linked to binge drinking and violence, environmental health issues and complaints from residents and businesses. The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR) described the policy as 'disproportionate and unhelpful' and claimed that it went beyond government guidelines. They suggested that the Council try initiatives such as the Best Bar None scheme.

Islington Council are reviewing their plans to introduce a 'late night levy' after they found out that 70% of the fees paid will have to be paid over to the Greater

London Authority as the overall police authority for London, rather than being spent specifically in the borough.

COMMUNITY PUBS MONTH

After a successful launch last year, CAMRA's Community Pubs Month will again be held in April. Throughout the month CAMRA branches will be working with pubs to hold events that showcase the important part that pubs play in villages, towns and cities around the UK. For posters, beer mats and other promotional material please contact www.communitypubsmonth.org.uk.

PUB PRESERVATION NEWS

A property company has been prosecuted by a local authority under the Building Act for failing to issue the proper notices when it demolished the Red Lion in Chestnut Lane, Amersham, just days after it acquired it from Spirit Group. Magistrates fined Clearview Homes £1,500 with costs of £1,410 awarded to Chiltern District Council. The Chairman of the Mid-Chilterns Branch of CAMRA, David Badminton, said, "It's good they've been fined. It's a pity it wasn't a little bit more, but that's probably all they could

fine them. It's not really a lot of money when you think of the money involved." The development consists of seven houses and two flats so I think we can all agree with Mr Badminton on that. I'd guess that it is less than 1% of their profit on the deal.

A curious situation now surrounds the Phene Arms in Chelsea. The Planning Inspectorate upheld Kensington & Chelsea Council's decision to refuse permission for it to be turned into a single house but the trust that owns the pub still insists that it is not viable as a pub and will not reopen it. Their calculations are however disputed by the Council, and the planning inspector said that they had not made their case either. A representative of the trust commented, "Residents chose not to frequent the pub and complain about the noise so it is frustrating to go for change of use then have the residents wanting the pub preserved." Let us hope that this deadlock can be broken. It does however serve to demonstrate that while campaigning to save pubs is right and proper, campaigning to get people using pubs so as to stop this sort of situation arising is just as important, if not more so.

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In the wake of the Catford Bridge Tavern campaign, Lewisham Council has agreed that pubs will have to have been marketed for three years before any change of use is permitted and that rooms in pubs can be included on the Council's register of community venues. The chairman of their Sustainable Development Committee, Councillor Liam Curran, wants all of the borough's pubs 'locally listed' and has also called on the Mayor of London to amend the London Plan to enable local authorities to protect pubs. In this context, Mr Johnson might also want to think about the effect that TfL's cycle lane plans might have on deliveries to pubs, especially where extra kerbs are installed.

The Blythe Hill Tavern in Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, largely unchanged since the 1920s, has been added to CAMRA's National Inventory of pubs with historic interiors.

According to property information company EIG, the number of pubs put up for auction in 2012 fell; 541 were offered and 363 actually sold. I hate to think what has happened to the other 178. The most active market was in the north-west of England while in London 17 were offered and 13 sold. Comparing these numbers with 2010 and 2011 is however distorted because of Enterprise Inns' 'sale-and-lease-back' operations.

Well done to Morrisons who have decided to use existing, disused shop units – mostly former HMV and Blockbuster outlets – for the expansion of their 'M Local' convenience store chain.

A firm specialising in managing empty buildings has warned owners of empty pubs that they are particularly at risk of metal theft. Criminals, often brazenly dressed in high visibility jackets and parking on-site, are stripping pubs of copper wiring, piping and water tanks as well as lead and slate from roofs. At least, this would deter squatters who are reportedly also targeting empty pubs following the criminalisation of squatting in residential properties. It might be simpler just to keep the pub open...

Something is at last happening with the Crocker's Folly pub in Maida Vale although it may not be good. Work has started on the ground floor which is listed but no consent has been granted. This has been reported to Westminster City Council accordingly.

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

You may recall the advice from Dale Ingram, CAMRA's pub preservation advisor for Greater London, in our December/January issue. I'm pleased to say that the Chesham Arms – mentioned in the last edition – has now been given ACV status by Hackney Council, their first such registration. To recap, as well as being a consideration in future planning applications, being listed as an ACV allows the local community to request a delay in any sale of the building of six months to give them time to put together a bid to buy the property. Congratulations to the 'Save the Chesham' campaign. Speaking on the Campaign's behalf, local resident Martyn Williams said, *"We hope the owner will now think again about his plans. It is clear the local community want the building kept as a pub and that the Council value both its social function and its importance in the local streetscape. If the new owner doesn't want to operate the building as a pub, we hope he will sell it on to someone who does."*

CAMRA's South West London Branch launched a campaign to use this measure across its branch area at Battersea Beer Festival and the first target, supported by the local MP, is the Castle in Battersea.

BREWERY NEWS

Fuller's new showcase pub, the Parcel Yard at Kings Cross station, recently had some distinguished visitors. Following their trip on the Underground as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations, their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall dropped in. It was apparently their idea, thus maintaining a tradition touched on below, although it was the wrong time of day for a drink.



The Chiltern Brewery, founded in 1980 by Richard and Lesley Jenkinson and now run by their sons, George and Tom, have produced their latest 'limited edition' beer, Bodgers Reserve. It is a version of their Bodgers Barley Wine, matured for

five months in whisky casks then left to condition in the bottle for a further seven months. Production of the unpasteurised 8.9% ABV beer has been limited to 500 half-litre bottles. The tasting notes, provided by beer writer Jeff Evans, describe it as *"dark golden ale with abundant aromas of strawberry and a creamy oak character which leaves a pleasant glow."*

Shepherd Neame are relaunching their advertising for Spitfire, this time featuring comedians Armstrong and Miller as two RAF officers. This plot line seems familiar; read very carefully, I will write this only once. Sheps were another company for whom the bad weather spoiled their Olympic expectations but, all the same, sales rose 2.6% in the six months to December although profits slipped slightly from £4.8 to £4.5 million.

McMullens have put five pubs up for sale, including the Farriers Arms in St Albans, which played a key part in the early development of CAMRA. McMullens say that they have cut average pub rents by 20% since 2008 in response to market conditions but some pubs are still unviable.

Adnams have dropped Regatta, their 4.3% ABV golden ale, from their standard range. More one-offs and seasonals can now be expected however with the installation of a new in-house micro brewery. A recent example was Kristal White, a German-inspired clear wheat beer in cask with the banana and clove notes typical of the style. Also, in collaboration with the brewer from the Dunganvan Brewing Company, a special beer is being brewed for Wetherspoons to mark St Patrick's Day.

The 2012 vintage of Adnams TallyHo, first brewed in 1880, is now also available in bottle. Adnams Master Brewer, Fergus Fitzgerald, said that for the 2012 brew (7.2% ABV) he used a variety of pale ale malt called Concerto which gives the beer more roast malt notes and less fruit than last year's, adding, *"I think it's smoother which may be down to a slightly longer maturation period before bottling. I think it's really lovely!"*

A panel of head brewers has judged Fuggles hops grown by James Rickards of Canterbury, Kent to be Britain's Top Hop for 2012. They were chosen for their 'delicate, minty, grassy, slightly floral aroma'.

GETTING TANKED UP – NICELY

In what could be an interesting experiment, the Meantime Brewery is going



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to install beer tanks in three Young's pubs. The five hectolitre tanks will serve what is called 'brewery fresh' beer in that it is unpasteurised, unfiltered, and naturally carbonated with yeast and does not come into contact with air. According to the Times, the beer will be Meantime London Lager (4.5% ABV). The three pubs are the Plough near Clapham Junction station, the Windmill on Clapham Common and the Grove in Balham. Young's chief executive Stephen Goodyear said, *"We already sell some of Meantime's other beers and it's nice to see something a little different. These tanks will be visible from the bar so it creates a bit of theatre. Not all our pubs will be suitable for this, but we'll try it and if it works we'll do some more."*

MORE NEWS FROM YOUNG'S

Young's are looking to find a tenant for the Queen's Head in Limehouse, said to be the inspiration for the Queen Victoria in *Eastenders* and where the late Queen Mother was famously pictured with a pint of Special. This hopefully confirms that the pub has a future, after some doubt when the London Borough of Tower Hamlets put the freehold up for sale.

Young's have acquired the Bull and Gate in Kentish Town from private owners. While it is good news that the property has been saved from other development, their plan to refurbish it as a pub rather than as a music venue has not been well received among music fans and musicians. Over the last thirty years, the venue helped launch the careers of such luminaries as Coldplay, Nirvana and Blur – bands that even I have heard of. A spokesman for Young's said, *"We don't feel that having a live music offering alongside our plans to serve food is viable"*. It is due to reopen in the summer.

The Ship at Wandsworth has been refurbished. The horseshoe-shaped bar has been brought back to its original 1950s condition, the dining room has been extended and there is a completely new outside bar. The beer quality here was often disappointing so let us hope that this has solved the problem. There are also three Thames-side cabins for private parties and events.

Young's are moving into the cocktail bar business. They are to spend £100,000 refurbishing the downstairs of the Brook Green Hotel and will do something similar at the Mitre Townhouse in Bayswater, to be called Old Mary's. The company

said that they were not looking to expand into the cocktail market as such but were looking for innovative ways to use redundant space and to 'add to the existing offer'.

Rupert Cleverly, who founded the Geronimo chain and joined the board of Young's when they took over Geronimo, is standing down as managing director. He will stay involved on a non-executive basis and will be replaced by Young's current commercial director, Ed Turner.

The Charlie Butler, sold by Young's some time ago, is finally to be demolished, a fate that has already befallen the Queen Dowager in Teddington.



Gone but not forgotten: the Queen Dowager

OTHER PUBCO NEWS

London has a new pub company called Gregarious Limited. According to the Morning Advertiser, this is a sister company to Antic and has been formed by Max Alderman who is operations director at Antic. The project is backed with funds managed by Downing LLP who also finance Antic. Gregarious has acquired the leaseholds of 12 pubs previously operated by Antic's subsidiary, Antic Ltd, which went into administration with tax and rent arrears debts. It all seems a bit convoluted but it means that we still have the pubs.

The Spirit Pub Company is the latest pubco to try a 'premium' offering along the lines of M&B's Nicholson's brand. The first example, set to open in the spring, is the George in Haverstock Hill.

Wetherspoons had a happy Christmas, reporting an 11% increase in 'like for like' sales in the eleven weeks to 13 January. They have opened five new pubs in the current financial year and have a further twelve under development.

Roger Whiteside, formerly chief executive of Punch Taverns, has moved onto the bakery and fast-food chain, Greggs. In a valedictory article in the *Morning*

Advertiser, Mr Whiteside warned that statutory regulation and easier access to free-of-tie leases will lead to an increase in pub disposals. There was no suggestion that the accumulation of unmanageable debts by pubcos might have any effect. While I'm sure that he had his own particular vision for Punch as a company, he seems to boast, *"when I joined Punch we owned 7,500 pubs. As I leave we are down to 4,500 and the disposals will continue until we reach our target of 3,000 core pubs."* Let's hope for Greggs' sake that he is as good at shifting pasties as he has been pubs.

Meanwhile, Punch's finance director is confident that their debt restructuring will be successful and their debt will be reduced by £463 million over the next five years. Already some bondholders have agreed to accept cash and new bonds at a lower value to their current holdings. Profits were reported currently to be stable.

Marstons, in a move already made by other pubcos, have set up a special division to deal with pubs that it wants to dispose of. There are apparently around 400 of them and the programme will take several years, raising between £30 to £40 million per annum. In contrast, the company is looking to open some 20 to 25 'new build' pubs in 2013 with that programme also continuing over the coming years.

Greene King report that sales increased by 3.7% in the 36 weeks to 6 January, with a particularly strong festive period. Sales on Christmas Day itself were up 6.8% to £2.7 million. Presumably everyone had wine with their Christmas dinners because sales volumes of their own beers dropped by 2%. So far this financial year GK have opened 22 new pubs but sold 65.

GASTROPUBS COMPETITION

The *Morning Advertiser* has announced the winners of its gastropubs competition for 2013 (bit early?), as sponsored by Budweiser Budvar. There are 11 London pubs in the 50 winners with London's top three being the Harwood Arms in Fulham (5), the Anchor & Hope in Waterloo (7) and the Bull & Last in Highgate (11).

LONG MAN BREWERY

Although not a London brewery, Long Man's beers have started to appear in London pubs, and so I thought that readers might like to know a bit more about

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them. Named after the chalk figure cut into the nearby hillside, the brewery is based at Church Farm in Litlington at the heart of the South Downs National Park. Interestingly, records show that during the mid 19th Century the farm possessed a malthouse of its own whilst an inventory of Church Farm House in 1538 shows the premise to have a 'brew-house chamber'. Founders Duncan Ellis and Stephen Lees are both local, whilst the third partner, Jamie Simm, had experience brewing with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Brewery. Building work started in 2011, with the 20 barrel-length brewing plant being installed in February last year. More information can be found on their website: www.longmanbrewery.com.

Sadly, local information is that the Royal Tunbridge Wells Brewery has now closed.

NORWICH CITY OF ALE

Following the success of the previous two year's events and with the help of a £5,000 grant awarded by Norwich Business Improvement District to help with publicity, this year's Norwich City of Ale promotion is set to be bigger and better than ever. Described as a 'beer festival with a difference' because it is pub-based, the event is focused on local, green, sustainable produce crafted by local brewers from largely local ingredients, including the world-renowned Norfolk malting barley. The intention is both to encourage local people to use their local pubs and to welcome visitors to what many regard to be a beer-lover's paradise. See page 11 for dates etc. Many CAMRA members will get an early taste of what is on offer in April because CAMRA's AGM and Members' Weekend is being held there this year.

...AND FINALLY

Alex Arkell, head brewer of the brewery of that name, has created his own wedding ale called Ball and Chain Ale. The name was, the *Morning Advertiser* assures us, agreed with his future wife first.

Congratulations to Cathy Price, a member of the female beer enthusiasts' group Dea Latis, who is attempting to visit every Red Lion pub in the country. In January she reached number 300, in Oxford, which is around the half-way point in her journey. Good luck for the other half.

To celebrate St Patrick's Day, the 48-strong O'Neills chain of pubs attempted to set a new Guinness World Record for people doing a jig at the same time. The current record was set in 2007 at the Dublin Irish Festival in Ohio, USA, when 10,036 people dancers took part. Jiggers are expected to dance for five minutes and the proceeds go to the charity Cash For Kids. The event took place on Thursday 14 March because St Patrick's Day falls on the following Sunday.

A final, serious, thought from beer writer Pete Brown: "Some brewers believe that beer is an FMCG – fast-moving consumer goods – product that can be marketed like dog food but it can't be. People feel that there is a magic about beer that we need to keep". Amen to that.

Tony Hedger

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Like tasting beer and like to describe it?

If this is you and you are a CAMRA member then why not join CAMRA's London Tasting Panel?

The Panel is responsible for tasting all the beers that are regularly brewed in London. With the growing number of micro breweries, we are looking for more help. The information is used for the descriptions in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. The Panel is also responsible for putting beers forward for inclusion in CAMRA's prestigious Champion Beer of Britain Competition (CBoB), the finals of which take place each year at the Great British Beer Festival.

So what is required? Everyone can taste beer and everyone's palate is different so we need a cross-section of people on the panel. Those on the panel fill in tasting cards on any London beers that they come across. The card covers all of the beer's attributes eg aroma, taste etc and is used to objectively score the beer against set criteria. You will be expected to submit tasting cards on a regular basis.

Yes, there is a serious side but tasting beer is fun. During the year, the Panel visit a London brewery or two, as you will see elsewhere in this magazine. This is so that as many beers are described as possible and the Panel can understand what the brewer is trying to do with their beers. It also gives an opportunity to standardise scoring and panel members can gain some support during the year.

If this is of interest to you, the next training session for the Panel will be held on Saturday 22 June. The event is kindly being hosted by Fuller's in their Hock Cellar, at the Brewery in Chiswick. Brewer Derek Prentice will also be joining us at some point to talk about Fuller's beers. The training will start about

noon and is likely to finish no earlier than 3.30pm. There is a £10 charge per person to cover the costs payable on the day but we can guarantee that you will get your money's worth!

Please contact Christine Cryne at c.cryne@btinternet.com to book a place. Places are limited to ensure that help and guidance can be given to potential panellists.

Christine Cryne

Chair of CAMRA's London Tasting Panel

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The Botanist flowers in Kew Green

The London Tasting Panel recently popped into the Botanist brew-pub to meet the brewer and talk about the beers. Located on Kew Green, it is one of the Convivial London Pub Group of pubs and has been operating for over seven years although the brewery is much younger, having been set up in September 2011.

The current brewer, Connor Donoghue, has been brewing since May 2012. Connor comes from Dublin but was trained at Heriot-Watt and his first job was as an environmental researcher at Campden BRI, the brewing research centre.

The Botanist has a number of different seating areas, each with a different feel from unpainted brick walls to wall-papered ones with a wooden floor throughout. There is a garden at the back for the summer months. As well as the beer, the Botanist prides itself on its food, describing itself as a gastro pub and you can book a table online: <http://thebotanistkew.com>.

The brewery is situated on a raised platform opposite the bar and is available for anyone visiting the pub to see. It is a gleaming little plant, 2.5 barrels in size, with four fermenters. Connor brews around four times a week. The beers spend about a week in the fermenter with at least 4 days in the cellar in cask to condition before it is sold. Connor inherited a range of beer recipes and has tweaked a couple as well as introducing one or two new ones. There are now ten regular beers that change throughout the year. He likes extreme flavours but believes in a balanced beer and is looking for drinkability in his session beers.

Currently, ten different malts are used, the mainstay being Maris Otter plus a variety of hops. The beers are supplied to the other six pubs in the Convivial chain: two in Chiswick and one each in Greenwich, Knightsbridge, King's Cross and St John's Wood; see conviviallondonpubs.com for details. One of the pubs in Chiswick, the Lamb, also has a micro brewery, which produces a number of beers including a pilsner and gueuze (lambbrewery.co.uk).

The Botanist usually has six real ales on sale from both their regular range and seasonals. The pub promotes the beer to take away and at the time of writing, it ranged from £1.53 per pint, making it great value. So what to choose? The following might help; during the visit, the following beers were tasted:

65 Mild - (3.4% ABV). A light drinking traditional dark ruby red mild with roasted malt notes throughout. The name comes from the nearby bus route.

Humulus Lupulus - (3.8% ABV). The fruity American hops are pronounced on the nose, palate and finish, which is slightly dry. The bitterness grows on drinking this golden ale.

391 Brown Ale - (4% ABV). A sweet chocolate roast nose with faint fruit. The flavour is roast, biscuity with a little bitterness and fruit fading in the aftertaste, which is dry.

OK Bitter - (4.2% ABV). Pale brown refreshing best bitter with malt and delicate fudge notes and a dry mildly bitter finish.

Q Gold - (4.5% ABV). This beer was designed to tempt lager drinkers to try an ale. It is easy drinking with a biscuity sweetness and low bitterness. There is a gentle lager hop character throughout.

Nemophila Stout - (4.7% ABV). A rich full flavoured creamy black stout with a roasted biscuity nose. Caramelised fruit and coffee linger in the aftertaste.

Night Porter - (5.0% ABV) Dark brown porter with red hues. Creamy mouthfeel but easy drinking. Dark roast is present with some fruit. Slightly bitter finish.

Christine Cryne

Chair of CAMRA's London Tasting Panel



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Hackney Brewery – well worth the wait

It is not unusual for a brewery to be a dream for some time before it becomes a reality and Hackney Brewery was no exception. The London Tasting Panel found out more on their visit to the Brewery in Haggerston in January.

The two owners, Jon Swain and Peter Hills, met a decade ago while working at the Eagle, Farringdon Road. They then went onto the Charles Lamb in Islington for a few years and were home brewing until, in 2011, they started putting their plans together for a brewery. They finally moved into their premises in April 2012. Their back-grounds could not be more diverse. Peter originally worked in IT and Jon has a music background.

Hackney is a 6 barrel brewery with hot liquor (water) tank, mash tun and copper in the main body of the Brewery. In a separate room are four 5.5 barrel fermenters. The beer remains in the fermenters for seven days before being conditioned in the casks for two weeks before being sent to the trade. They use ground malt, whole hops in the copper but hop pellets with the beers they dry hop to improve the consistency of the hop delivery. Jon does most of the brewing, usually twice a week although three days is not unusual at busy times and as the demand for the beer continues to grow. They recently bought another 100 casks.

Occasionally, Hackney produce some real ale in a bottle. They send a tank of beer to Cumbria Bottling, where the beer is bottled and labelled. Whether they progress into doing bottled beer themselves is not yet decided. The next step is that they anticipate that they will have to buy another fermenter to keep up with demand. Then they think they will need another body (at least a part time one) to help with the cleaning and the delivery. At the moment, Peter does most of the sales and distribution.

Their beers are available in a lot of outlets in East London and quite a bit in the City as well. Further afield, there are pubs in Twickenham, Carshalton, Crouch End and Colchester that take Hackney's beers. The Colchester link is due to Peter originally living there.

Hackney look to produce beers that are approachable but distinctive. Their core range of beers is fairly traditional but they like to experiment with their 'seasonals'. All of the recipes are complex, often using a blend of three or four hops and a similar number of malts. This creates a taste that blends together rather than one distinctive flavour such as in single hop variety beers.

The core beers are:

Gold - (4% ABV). A light fruity yellow coloured ale with a malty

biscuit quality. A touch of dryness and a pleasant bitterness in the finish. The beer uses a combination of hops from three countries and a German malt, which helps to give the beer a smooth mouthfeel.

Best Bitter - (4.5% ABV). Malty sweetness is present on the nose, palate and finish with a slight touch of toffee. There is a little hop and a fruit cocktail flavour (from four English hops) that diminishes in the aftertaste to leave a dry finish that lingers. Pale brown in colour.

American Pale Ale - (4.5% ABV). Copper brown beer with a rich sweet citrus aroma and full smooth mouthfeel. The citrus notes are present on the palate with some floral hops and some fudge character. Finish is slightly bitter, malty and dry.

Christine Cryne - Chairman of CAMRA's London Tasting Panel



**Check the Beer Festival Calendar
and visit your LocAle pubs at
www.camralondon.org.uk**

Mad March Cider Festival

Bromley CAMRA's one-day-only Mad March Cider Festival on Saturday 9 March was a massive success with the festival having to close early because the 400 litres of real cider and perry were finished by 7.30pm. As soon as the doors opened at noon thirsty real cider fans and curious newcomers came from far and wide and flocked into the HG Wells Centre, Bromley, to sample the thirty real ciders and perries on offer. The demand at the bar was constant and the hard-working bar staff didn't get any down time until the very last drop had been squeezed out of the boxes.

This was Bromley CAMRA's first cider and perry only festival and, as only a handful of pubs in the borough sell real cider, it was an attempt to introduce the people of Bromley to these fine drinks. Initially quite a few people were sceptical of the idea of a cider and perry only festival in Bromley and in March. Many pub landlords made comments such as 'Got a box of the stuff in once and nobody drank it' and 'cider's a summer drink' and the branch were even asked why

they were even bothering? Fortunately a core of Bromley branch members had faith and with the help of a good publicity campaign, sponsorship from one of the few pubs in the area that fly the flag for real cider and perry - The Grape & Grain in Crystal Palace - and backing from some cider producers themselves, the festival became a reality.

With the festival, Bromley CAMRA more than achieved their goal. The feedback from visitors to the festival has been nothing but positive, with new converts to real cider and perry and existing drinkers impressed by the good range of ciders on offer and just the general good vibe of the festival. There's no stopping Bromley CAMRA now as on top of the branch's second beer and cider festival which is in planning at the moment, there are plans for a second real cider and perry only festival which will be even bigger and better! Watch this space.

Julian Barrett



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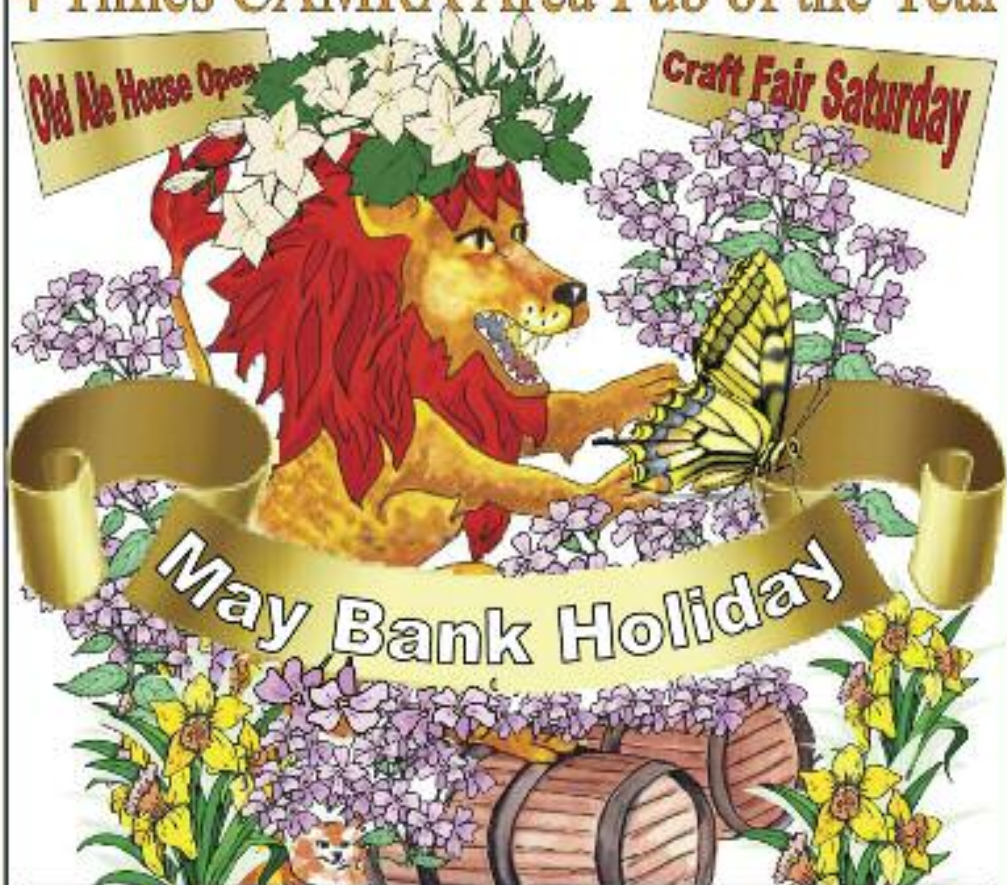
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The Rifleman at 7 Fourth Cross Rd Twickenham, a small back street community pub, got its day in the spotlight on 27 October 2012. The occasion was the dedication of a repainted pub sign to commemorate Frank Edwards, known as 'The Footballer of Loos'. London Irish Rifleman Frank Edwards (1893-1964), who lived locally, was the 1st Battalion's football captain who dribbled a football across No Man's Land toward the German trenches during the 1914 Christmas Truce. The Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Rita Palmer made a speech and members of the Irish Rifles Association with their bagpipes added to the occasion.

It is good to see a pub sign that commemorates local history. So many pub signs nowadays are being replaced by either plain text or have the name changed to something that has no historic relevance.

A YouTube video of the event by Alan Benns can be viewed at http://youtube/0_a_fVTIGyU


George Gimber – CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow Branch



Licensee Mick Laker is at the back in the white shirt.

Editor's note: my apologies to George because I lost this item when he originally submitted it. As the son of a rifleman from Twickenham I did very much want to include it. I was also a member of London Irish RFC for many years – non-playing I must add – and part of their folklore related to a similar incident that was said to have taken place on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916, only with a different shaped ball.

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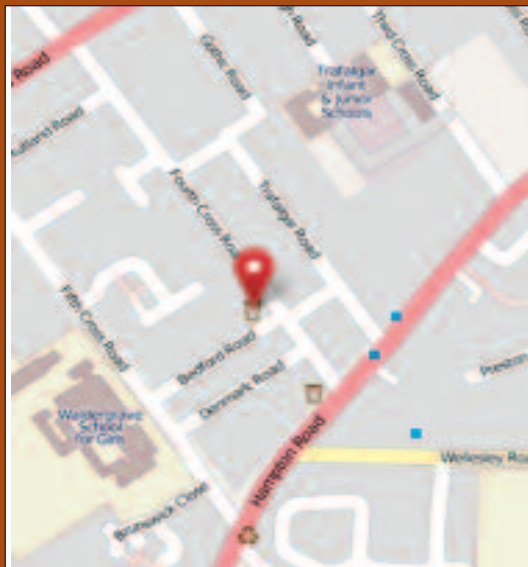


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Highgate pub beats hundreds to award

After several years of running the award-winning White Horse at Parsons Green, Dan Fox came north and took on the Bull in North Hill, Highgate in August 2011. Now he can say he has run two award winning pubs as the Bull has scooped CAMRA North London Branch's Pub of the Season award for Winter 2012/2013.

Catherine Tonry, Chairman of CAMRA's North London Branch said, 'The Bull, of course, is the home to the London Brewing Company, and this is the first time we have ever given the award to a brewpub. The fact that this has happened just reflects the growth of interest in brewing in the Capital after many years of decline. We now have over 30 breweries and pub breweries in London from just a handful five years ago.'

But it's not just the beer that gave the Bull the edge over other pubs in North London. The pub looks to add something different to their neighbourhood. Besides the Monday Pub Quiz, Tuesday has a knitting group and the pub also provides a 'post box' service for its customers. If you are out and about during the day, you can arrange to have your parcels delivered to the pub and pick them up from there. They also provide a dry cleaning service. For further details on the pub go to <http://thebullhighgate.co.uk>.

The award ceremony took place in February and a few pints were raised to celebrate. The North London branch has 1700 members and they are all eligible to vote for the Pub of the Season.

The London Brewing Company brews a number of regular beers including Highrise (3.9% ABV), which is a golden ale; Beer Street (4% ABV), a brown traditional best bitter; Vista (4.4% ABV), a copper coloured beer and Skyline (5% ABV), similar to Highrise but stronger.

Christine Cryne



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Battersea Beer Festival

I am pleased to report that this year's Battersea Beer Festival (6 to 8 February) went off well. We had 4,831 people through the door and they consumed some 22,677 pints of beer and cider, not including imported beers. Alas, statistically, this means that they were all binge-drinking. The beer ran out 15 minutes before the festival was due to end. A healthy donation to CAMRA's campaigning funds has already been made.

We were delighted that Miles Jenner, Joint Managing Director and Head Brewer of Harveys Brewery, who sponsored our glasses, was able to open the festival for us. We were equally pleased to be joined for our trade session on Thursday afternoon by the Mayors of Wandsworth and Lambeth and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Merton. Greg Mulholland MP also joined us as a very welcome customer.

The Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Adrian Knowles, announced the winner of our Pub of the Year ballot for 2012. I'm pleased to say that, after two years as a close runner-up, it was the Eagle Ale House in Chatham Road, Battersea SW11. Congratulations to Dave and Simon accordingly.

Our Beer of the Festival was Quadhop from Downton Brewery. Our congratulations go to brewer Martin Strawbridge. Father Geoff was suitably proud and before anyone wonders, I carefully checked all of the ballot papers!

We were very pleased to be able to put on beers from the new Belleville Brewery from Wandsworth Common. It is the first time that I have seen beers marked 'Gyle No. 1!'. They all sold and we wish Adrian and his partners continued success after this good start.

On Thursday we hosted the South-East preliminary judging round for Golden Ales for CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain competition and were pleased to have amongst our judges Jane Ellison, the MP for Battersea and Ken Don, the former Head Brewer at Young's who, I'm pleased to say, was in good form. The winner was Dark Star's American Pale Ale with their Hop-head second. Wayland's Sixpenny Gold was third.

I'm pleased to report that our charity, the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home were delighted with the £2,000-plus that they collected. In turn, I would like to thank their volunteers for their help with running the cloakroom.

As ever, I am deeply grateful for the efforts of all who worked at the festival, both members of the South West London Branch of CAMRA and our many good friends from other CAMRA branches, far and near. I never fail to be impressed by the time, skills and experience that people are prepared to contribute, all on an entirely voluntary basis. Thank you all.

I would also like to record my thanks to the staff of the Battersea Arts Centre. I'm pleased to say that the venue's long-term future has recently been secured and I look forward to working with them again.

No promises but keep 5 to 7 February 2014 clear in your diaries. . .

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

An interesting issue arose at Battersea Beer Festival concerning electronic cigarettes. One customer put in a very strong comments form expressing concern that they were illegal in public places and emitted nicotine fumes. There are now, apparently, several thousand regular users. Consequently I thought that I ought to do some research on the subject and I'm pleased to say that the BBC came to my rescue.

Electronic cigarettes were discussed in the 28 February edition of Radio Four's consumer programme *You and Yours* and

again on Radio Five on 14 March. It is not illegal to smoke an electronic cigarette in a public place. Arguably, this may only be because they were not in common use when the legislation involved was drawn up. They are said to emit water vapour which is why using them is known as 'vaping' as opposed to smoking. Their advocates claim that they do not put nicotine into the atmosphere. The health service is now carrying out research into their use generally and in due course is thought likely to classify them as medicine.

Vivienne Nathanson of the British Medical Association – usually heard defending alcohol units – said that electronic cigarettes were undisputedly safer than real ones but the main problem as they saw it was one of perception and reinforcement of a habit. It looks as if people are smoking and so others may be encouraged to light up real cigarettes. The medical lobby want them classified as consumer products rather than a medicine and want them regulated on that basis. If I understood correctly, they want them banned immediately, even though the research has barely begun.

The programme also canvassed various train operating companies and airlines to see what their policies were. Nearly all TOCs had no policy and left it to the discretion of their staff – in marked contrast, I have to say, to their stance on enforcing their often bizarre ticket rules. Ryan Air permit the smoking of electronic cigarettes provided that, again if I understood correctly, they had been brought from Ryan Air.

So, beer festival organisers, it looks like it is down to your discretion. Good luck. For my part, never having been a smoker, I'll wait to see what comes out of the research.

Tony Hedger, Organiser – Battersea Beer Festival



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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.

We welcome Greater London's very first 'micropub' in Welling, and the long awaited opening of Oakham Brewery's first London pub in SE11 Kennington. Another pub has reopened after long term closure in East London, this time in E2 Bethnal Green. Also in E2, Redchurch Brewery have opened a small bar on the premises, albeit with only keg and bottled beers on Thursday evenings. We list the 12 former 'Antic Ltd' pubs across London that now belong to the new company, Gregarious, and record a new opening for 'Antic London' in E17 Walthamstow. The sad end for two former Young's pubs is noted. More conversions to convenience stores are reported including two Stonegate 'Slug & Lettuce' pubs in N10 Muswell Hill and Bromley and another in NW10 Neasden, once a Wetherspoon. Work has started at the famous 'listed' Crockers Folly in NW8 to convert upper floors to flats.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC2, GOW'S (OYSTER BAR), 81 Broad St. No real ale. Long established independent bar and seafood restaurant with keg beer.

EC3, NATURAL KITCHEN, 7 Pepys St. No real ale. New independent bar and restaurant underneath Hilton Doubletree Hotel. Has a separated bar area with keg beers.

EAST

E2, BIRD CAGE, 80 Columbia Rd. Everard: Truman's Runner, plus second Truman branded beer. Reinstatement of real ale. (E77)

E2, REDCHURCH BREWERY BAR, Poyser St. No real ale. A small bar dispensing the brewery's KeyKeg and bottled beers was installed in January, open from 6.30pm on Thursday evenings only.

E2, STICK OF ROCK, 143 Bethnal Green Rd. Reopened as a pub and reverted to its original name **WELL & BUCKET** in February after 20 years, mostly in use as a shop. Varying beers from four handpumps (e.g. Buxton, Marble, Moor and Windsor & Eton). Now operated by Barworks pub chain, originally Truman and later Belhaven and Ascot. Extensively renovated with vestiges of its famous internal tiling surviving. (E85, U70,89,99,113)

E17, CHEQUERS, 143 High St. Varying beers from micros (e.g. Buxton, Clarence & Fredericks, East London, London Fields and Redemption) on 10 handpumps. Reopened after refurbishment by Antic in early March. 'Distressed' decor with bare brickwork, wonky floorboards and mismatched furniture. Open 4-12 Mon-Thu, 4-1am Fri, 12-1am Sat, 12-11 Sun. (E165, U226)

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

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

NORTH

N16, BABBLE JAR, 176 Stoke Newington High St. No real ale 'bar and diner' and music venue in former shop premises, opened by September 2012.

N18, LTS, 56 Upper Fore St. No real ale. Reopened by June 2012. Formerly PHOENIX. (N139, U167,192,203,204,209,216,219)

NORTH WEST

NW2, OX & GATE, 341 Oxgate Lane. Greene King: Abbot; Sharp: Doom Bar. Real ale reinstated by August 2012. (N180, U199)

NW5, GRAFTON ARMS, 20 Prince of Wales Rd. Now simply **GRAFTON (THE)**. Jennings: Grafton Best Bitter (house beer - 4.2%); Taylor Landlord plus 4 rotating guests from SIBA list (e.g. Hackney, Redemption and Rebellion beers besides Sharp's Doom Bar). Reinstatement of real ale. Enterprise, ex-Bass via Unique. (N199, U154)

NW9, McDONAGHS BAR, 2 Slough Lane. Shepherd Neame: Spitfire. (N218)

SOUTH EAST

SE10, KING WILLIAM IV HOTEL, 155 Trafalgar Rd. Reopened in summer 2012 and now simply **KING WILLIAM HOTEL** after refurbishment. Fuller: London Pride; Tetley: Cask Ale. Restaurant towards rear with open-to-view kitchen, and hotel rooms on upper floors. Retains 'WILLIAM IV' on swinging sign outside. (SE103, U125,175,217)

SE11, MANSION HOUSE, 46/48 Kennington Park Rd. Oakham: JHB, Inferno, Citra, Scarlet Macaw, Bishops Farewell on a regular basis plus five varying Oakham cask ales (e.g. Preacher 4.3%, Black Hole Porter 5.5%, Green Devil IPA 6%, Dream Catcher 6.9%, Attila 7.5%), Westons Traditional Cider, Country Perry. Choice of one third, two thirds and pint

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hoppiness to create a rich, full
tasting Old Ale of times gone by



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triple-hopped APA has
a pleasant citrus fruit aroma and
characteristic robust bitterness

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glasses. Reopened early March as Oakham's long awaited first London pub after 6½ years closure and acquisition from Shepherd Neame, during which time the upper floors (with mansard roof extension) were converted to flats. Decorated in a mixture of modern and oriental styles with low lighting, variety of furniture, Thai 'gong' to call time, brick walls and wooden flooring, tiled around bar. Mash tun plates (from Highgate Brewery) at entrance and brewing taps, with running water (from original Oakham Brewery) on left hand wall, emphasise the brewing connection. Keg lagers include Camden Town Helles, Williams Scottish and Krombacher from Bavaria. The separately operated 'Oaka' restaurant is partially screened off towards the left and rear serving pan-Asian cuisine. (12½% discretionary service charge), with a TV screen showing the kitchen, open 12-2.30/5.30-10pm Mon-Thu, 12-2.30/3.30-11 Fri/Sat, 12-11 Sun. Bar open 11-12.30am Sun-Thu, 11-1.30am Fri/Sat. A very welcome addition to the London beer scene, a short hop from Kennington tube station and next door to the Old Red Lion, an Antic pub. (SE108, U165,190,191,202,213,220)

WELLING (DA16), DOOR HINGE, 11 Welling High St. Four varying ales (e.g. from Adnams, Kelham Island, RCH, Triple fff), soon to increase to six (@£2.90 to £3.20/pint) direct from the cask [G]. Greater London's first self-styled 'micropub', opened mid March in a former shop unit, previously a corn chandler and more recently an electrical wholesaler's store-room. Independently operated by Ray Hurley, it is similar in concept to East Kent micropubs initiated by Martyn Hillier at the Butchers Arms, Herne. Etched glass windows display the pub name and 'old traditional ale house'. The pub's name is a play on Ray's mother's maiden name. Inside, the red and gold painted front room will accommodate a maximum of 40 customers, including 22 seated at wooden tables. The beers are kept on stillage in a glass fronted chilled room, with space for 12 casks at a time. A 'quiet room' at the rear with comfy furniture including a sofa is planned. Open 12-9 Tue-Thu, 12-10 Fri/Sat, 12-3 Sun, closed Mon. Another very welcome addition!

WELLING (DA16), ROSE & CROWN (AT WELLING), 15 Welling High St. Wells: Bombardier. Note correct address. (3SE287, U132, K146, U150)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), ORIEL, 50/52 Sloane Sq. Reopened and renamed **COLBERT** after 5 years closure in October 2012. No real ale. An independent bar and French restaurant with bar area to right dispensing French keg beers including Meteor. Tables in bar area given priority to eaters at busy times. (SW38, U213)

SW3, LA BRASSERIE, 272 Brompton Rd. No real ale. 'Pierre's Bar' attached to well established restaurant, open to drinkers.

SW6, MANSON, 676 Fulham Rd. Renamed **BROWN COW**. Greene King: IPA; guest beer (e.g. Oxfordshire: Churchill Honorary IPA). (U217)

SW6, ONE, 541 Kings Rd. Renamed **JAM TREE**. Fuller: London Pride. Wellington Pub Co, ex-Inntrepreneur. Formerly INK BAR (unreported) and previously COME THE REVOLUTION. (SW66, U161)

SW6, ZULU'S, 4 Fulham High St. Reopened and renamed **LOW COUNTRY**. No real ale. A bar and American smoke-house restaurant. Independent, ex-Bass via Albar. Formerly KINGS HEAD. (SW68, U163,166,199,213)

SW10, CHELSEA RIVERSIDE BRASSERIE, Wyndham Grand Hotel, Chelsea Harbour Drive. No real ale. Bar with keg beers attached to hotel but open to non-residents. Part of Hilton Hotel group. Bar formerly named 'Conrad' and previously 'Aquaasia' but unreported.

SW11, ANCHOR, 61 Holgate Ave. Wells: Courage Best Bitter. Real ale reinstated in 2012. (SW86, WB24)

WEST

W9, LORD ELGIN, 255 Elgin Ave. Now simply ELGIN. Adnams: Ghost Ship; Purity: Gold dispensed through the last two taps in a bank of keg beer taps with small metal tags declaring them to be 'cask ale'. It is unclear how the ales are pumped to the bar and therefore whether they qualify as 'real ale'. Unsurprisingly with such low key presentation, they are not always available. Refurbished in modern cafe bar style. Now leased from Enterprise by Urban Leisure pub group. (W114)

W11, BAR 128, 126/128 Notting Hill Gate. Fuller: London Pride; Sharp; Doom Bar. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly ALL BAR ONE. (W118, U217,222)

HAYES (UB3), BROOK HOUSE, 238 Kingshill Ave, Yeading. Fuller: London Pride installed in 2011 in this Enterprise pub. (W156)

UXBRIDGE (UB8), BRUSHWOOD INN, Harlington Rd. Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement of real ale. Formerly TURKS HEAD. (W215, U220-222,227)

PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC3, CHARLIE'S, Free, closed June 2012, premises still empty in February 2013. (U131)

EAST

E11, LORD ROOKWOOD, Enterprise, closed. (E129, U100,163,168,209)

E17, WALTHAM OAK, Punch, closed with planning application submitted for change of use to 'place of worship'. Formerly CHESTNUT TREE. (E166, U165,168,199,215,226)

E20, CALF, Young (Geronimo), closed by December 2012 following expiry of Olympics-related 'pop-up' temporary licence. Now a vacant unit. (U225)

DAGENHAM (RM10), BEACON, Punch, confirmed converted to Tesco Express in October 2012. (X44, U171,226)

DAGENHAM (RM10), RAILWAY, Punch, confirmed converted to Tesco Express in October 2012. (X45, U165,226)

ROMFORD (RM7), MARLBOROUGH, Colliers Row, Star (formerly S&N PC), ex-Ind Coope, closed for yet another uncontrolled conversion to a Tesco Express convenience store, despite local objections. (X43)

NORTH

N7, CASTLE BAR, Independent, ex-Bass via Punch, closed by April 2012. Formerly HOLLOWAY CASTLE. (N88, U202)

N7, RED ROSE, Independent, closed and boarded up by June 2012. (U202)

N9, GOLDEN FLEECE, Punch, converted to a Turkish restaurant, 'Capital Restaurant'. Formerly BAR 271 for a while. (N99, U152,158,212)

N10, SLUG & LETTUCE, Stonegate, ex-Laurel via Bay



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Restaurant Group (Taylor Walker), closed and converted to a Waitrose convenience store by October 2012. Formerly HA! HA! BAR & CANTEEN, originally CAFE TOTO. (N103, U143,197)

N11, BANK, Barracuda (Smith & Jones), closed March 2013. Formerly BANKERS DRAFT. (N107, U110,145,166,181)

N12, GK II, Free, closed by November 2012. Formerly PUZZLE, originally YATES'S WINE LODGE. (N113, U144,154,170,184)

N17, SWAN, Punch, confirmed now converted to a restaurant by August 2012. (N136, U202,219)

N18, THREE CROWNS, ex-S&N, converted to a Paddy Power betting shop by March 2012. (N139, U150)

N19, ANGIES VII (OF HOLLOWAY ROAD), Free, now converted to furniture shop. Formerly MARLBOROUGH. (N144, U165,214)

N22, HENLEYS. Renamed STEP by July 2012, Free, H removed. (N155)

NORTH WEST

NW3, WALKABOUT, Cavendish Bars, ex-Regent Inns, closed by December 2012. (U197)

NW6, BIRD IN HAND, ex-Magic, closed and boarded up by January 2013. (N203)

NW8, CROCKERS FOLLY. Work has commenced to convert the upper floors to flats and, in view of its listed status, Westminster Council have been alerted accordingly. (N213, U142,152,167,177,200,209,218,220,222)

NW9, BLARNEY STONE, Enterprise, now demolished. (N217, U194,220,223)

NW10, MISTY MOON, Three Wishes, now converted to Tesco Express convenience store by August 2012. Formerly OUTSIDE INN, a Wetherspoon pub. (N224, U175,211,219)

PINNER (HA5), KING GEORGE IV, Independent, ex-M&B, closed with planning permission to convert to offices granted on appeal, but an application has also been submitted to transfer the licence to a new tenant, future uncertain. Formerly GEORGE. (W179, U185,199,204)

RUISLIP (HA4), LAURELS, Free, closed reluctantly by landlord in early March following termination of sub-lease and apparent refusal of freeholder to allow him to carry on trading pending sale. Formerly WEST(THE) and originally LISTEN INN. (W182, U216,217,225)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, LAMBETH WALK, ex-Courage, now converted to residential use with an extension, completed in 2011. (SE23, U201,223)

SE3, BITTER EXPERIENCE OFF LICENCE, now converted to Thai restaurant by 2012. (SE45, U193)

SE4, JAM CIRCUS. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration), still closed. (U200,216,228)

SE10, AMARI, Free, closed by February 2013. Formerly POLAR BAR, WHITE SWAN HOTEL and originally WHITE SWAN. (SE103, U102,120,155,164,177,184,202)

SE13, SIR JOHN MORDEN, ex-Bass, ground floor still vacant and now boarded up. (SE122, U197)

SE16, ST GEORGES TAVERN, ex-Courage, closed. (SE152, U202)

SE18, DIRECTOR GENERAL, Independent, ex-Admiral, confirmed site absorbed into new civic office complex in April 2010, but without the promised replacement pub or restaur-

rant. (SE167, U193-195,198)

BROMLEY (BR1), SLUG & LETTUCE, Stonegate, ex-Bay Restaurant Group, closed for conversion to another Tesco Express convenience store. Formerly PARISA. (U149,157,213)

ORPINGTON (BR6), BRITISH QUEEN, Locksbottom, Spirit (leased), ex-S&N via Punch and Spirit (managed), closed. (3SE265, U107, 8K115)

SOUTH WEST

SW4, CLARENCE, Admiral, demolished. (SW59, CSL11)

SW4, DUKE OF YORK, ex-Pubs 'n' Bars, closed, future uncertain. (SW60, CSL11)

SW5, BROMPTONS, Independent, ex-S&N via Spirit, closed and to let by 2011. Was WARWICK for a while. (SW62)

SW6, COTTAGE, Spirit, ex-S&N, closed and converted to residential use, named 'Cottage Apartments' by December 2012. (SW66)

SW6, LUNASA, Free, confirmed originally converted to 'Vamos da Tapas' restaurant in 2007 and latterly a lamp shop by 2012. Formerly ADELAIDE. (SW65, U134,158,196)

SW6, MORRISON, Greene King, closed c2010. Formerly BABUSHKA HOUSE, PALMERSTON (BLUE ROOM) and originally LORD PALMERSTON. (SW69, U143,155,168,174,191)

SW6, QUEEN ELIZABETH, Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur via Unique, no real ale, H unused. Now run mainly as a hostel. Was SANDS END TAVERN (unreported) for a while c2005. (SW70)

SW8, PAVILION, Independent, closed, future uncertain. (SW79, CSL32)

SW8, PLOUGH INN, Young, sold and now converted to 'Mist on Rocks', a cocktail bar with only bottled beers. Reportedly leased by the operator of the Artesian Well opposite, after the late licence for that establishment had been withdrawn following protests. Delete from pub database. (SW79, CSL33, U223,224)

SW11, BAR CALVADOS. Independent. Renamed first RED MONKEY and now converted to 'Dime', a bar, diner and private karaoke venue with only bottled beer. Delete from pub database. (U203,207)

SW11, ESTABLISHMENT, Rising Sun Leisure, converted in summer 2012 to 'Cattle Grid' steak restaurant and takeaway. (U207)

SW19, PEPPI'S (BAR & RESTAURANT), Independent, now planning permission granted in November 2012 for demolition of closed, derelict pub/restaurant including ancillary residential accommodation and replacement with light industrial development. Formerly PRINCE OF WALES. (SW119, BM29, U195,212,225)

SW19, REHAB, now converted to 'Corleone' restaurant with keg beer but no dedicated bar area; delete from pub database. (U177, BM29, U216)

KINGSTON (KT1), FAIRFIELD TAVERN, Independent, planning application for conversion to flats rejected by Kingston Council. Formerly CROWLEYS FREE HOUSE, REFECTORY and NEWT & FERRET for a while. (SW143, U172,208, 2KT21, U224,228)

WEST

W3, ACTON ARMS, Enterprise, lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration) following closure in January. Formerly REDBACK. (W85, U225-227)

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W7, CLOCK, Free, converted to offices. (W107)
W10, COWSHED, Enterprise, now demolished c2011 and still a vacant site in December 2012. (W116, U216)
W11, PORTOBELLO STAR, Enterprise, H removed. (W121)
BRENTFORD (TW8), GEORGE & DRAGON, Punch, now demolished at end of February. (W131, U199,204,215,222)
TEDDINGTON (TW11), QUEEN DOWAGER, ex-Young, now demolished to make way for four houses. The pub had reportedly been bought by a former Young's estate manager. (W196, U221-223,228)
TWICKENHAM (TW1), CROWN, Enterprise, still closed but planning permission for refurbishment now approved. (W202, U227)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, PRIORY. Renamed **ARTISAN OF CLERKENWELL**, -beers listed; +Greene King: 'Artisan' (house beer) 3.9%; +Sharp: Doom Bar. A spacious 'Bar & Restaurant' in modern style on two floors with exposed ducting, inherited by Greene King from Capital Pub Co in 2011. (U178,220)
EC3, LIBERTY BOUNDS, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot; +guest beers; +4 ciders on a total of twelve handpumps in this spacious Wetherspoon pub. (U134) Wells: Eagle IPA, Bombardier; +guest (e.g. Cottage). Operated by Michael Belben, ex-Banks & Taylor in 1991. (E15)

EC4, WATLING (YE OLDE), -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +St Austell: Nicholson Pale Ale; +Sharp: Doom Bar; +5 guest beers from the M&B (Nicholson) seasonal list. (E55, U181)

WC1, BUNG HOLE CELLARS. Renamed **DAVYS OF HOLBORN**. (W16, WC13)

EAST

E2, FLORIST. Reverted to **FLORIST ARMS**, -beers listed; +2 guest beers (e.g. Dark Star); +cider on three handpumps. (E80, U70,75,112,158,170,205)

E14, PEPPER SAINT ONTIOD. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). Formerly **PUZZLE E14**, originally **HARRY'S BAR**. (U170,207)

E17, GOOSE, -beers listed; +4 varying guest beers from Marston stable; +2 guest beers. Recently refurbished Stonegate pub. Formerly **GOOSE & GRANITE** and originally **TOWER HOTEL**. (E169, U111,124,163,165,217)

NORTH

N4, STAPLETON TAVERN. Greene King, lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). Formerly **LARRICK, PIPPIN, DANZIBAR** and originally **STAPLETON HILL TAVERN**. (N73, U155,159,213,222)

N12, BOHEMIA. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). Formerly **O'NEILL'S**, originally **FRINGILLA & FIRKIN**. (U126, 151,160,225,227)

N12, MIST, Independent. Renamed **MIMOSA**, a bar and Turkish restaurant, by May 2012. Formerly **ERRIS TAVERN**

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and previously **TILTED GLASS**. (N112, U155,204,218)
N16, WHITE HART. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). Was **MURPHY TAVERNS** for a while. (N129, U166,216,222)
N19, ST JOHNS TAVERN, -beers listed; +Bath: Gem; +Redemption: Trinity; +Thatcher cider. Enterprise, ex-Watney. (N145, U164,213)

NORTH WEST

NW1, GOLDEN LION, Punch, ex-Bass, sold in 2007/8, planning application from freeholder to convert and extend for residential use refused by Camden Council, quoting lack of replacement facility or sufficient evidence to demonstrate it is no longer required. Still trading but tenant under duress. (N167)
NW5, BULL & GATE. Lease of this independent pub acquired from Lysneys by Young's and back room has been earmarked for a restaurant and kitchen. (N197, U174,202,212,222)
NW6, PICKLED NEWT (THE LORDSHIP). Reverted to **LORDSHIP** by May 2007, still no real ale, H unused. (N157, U109,113,167)
KENTON (HA3), CONWAYS. Renamed **BUCKLEYS** in 2011, still no real ale. (W216, U187)
KENTON (HA3), TRAVELLERS REST. Renamed **BEEFEATER GRILL**. (W218, U209)

SOUTH EAST

SE5, TIGER, Star (formerly S&N PC), lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). Formerly **SILVER BUCKLE**. (SE61, U102,209,212)
SE6, FELLOWSHIP INN, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. Admiral, ex-Courage pub leased from freeholder Lewisham Council. Grade II listed in early March, as a surviving example of an interwar estate pub. (SE67)
SE14, ROYAL ALBERT. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration) but freehold for sale, future uncertain. Formerly **SIX STRINGS BAR** and **PARADISE BAR** for a while. (SE128, U102,184,192,216,223,228)
SE16, PORTER. Should read **DEAL PORTER** (correction to U202), receiving this name c. August 2008 on acquisition by Brakspear pub co, ex-Bass. Renamed again to **COMPASS (THE)** following unreported reinstatement of real ale in April 2010 and now renamed **PIZZA LOUNGE**, a bar and restaurant with no real ale, in February 2012. Formerly **THREE COMPASSES**. (SE152, U202)
BROMLEY COMMON (BR2), TIGERS HEAD. Renamed **CROWN & PEPPER**, -beers listed; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Theakston: XB. Star (formerly S&N PC), ex-Taylor Walker. (3SE223, 8K51, U163,199)

SOUTH WEST

SW4, KINGS HEAD. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). Formerly **GREY GOOSE**, **SMOKE ROOMS** and **100**. (SW59, CSL14, U220,228)
SW6, FIESTA HAVANA. Now Stonegate, ex-Intntrepreneur via SFI, Laurel and Town & City. Still no real ale. Formerly **HAVANA**. (SW67, U168)
SW6, SO BAR. Renamed **KONA KAI**, a Polynesian theme bar, still no real ale. Formerly **BRITANNIA** and was **ROSIES** for a while. (SW70, U152,166,191)
SW6, PELICAN, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride; +Harvey: Best Bitter; +Oter: Bitter. Formerly **PICKLED PELICAN**. (SW70, U157,210)
SW7, ZETLAND ARMS, -beers listed; +St Austell: Tribute;

+Thwaites: Wainwright; +Woodforde: Wherry. Now Spirit (branded Taylor Walker), ex-S&N. (SW73)
SW8, INIGO, 642 Wandsworth Rd. Renamed **GRIND**, still no real ale and a bar and night club. Formerly **SW8 BAR CAFE** and originally **VICTORIA**. Was **TONKI GORILLA** for a while. (SW80, CSL31, U218,220,227)
SW11, BATTERSEA MESS & MUSIC HALL. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). Formerly **WALKABOUT**, **RISE**, **BAR RISA** and **CORNET**. (SW87, WB37, U214,220)
SW11, UNION ARMS. Now signed simply **UNION**. (SW90, WB39)
SW12, BBC BAR. Lease now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). (U192,228)
SW17, WHEATSHEAF. Lease, believed to be from Enterprise, now bought by Gregarious from Antic Ltd (in administration). (SW110, BM21, U198,215)
SW19, COLLIERS TUP. In process of being converted into a food-led pub, **CHARLES HOLDEN**, named after the architect who designed the tube station opposite. Will share an executive chef with the Glasshouse in New Malden and looking to have allotments, according to their Twitter feed. Formerly **VICTORY**. (SW120, BM25, U228)

WEST

W3, LEAMINGTON. Recently for sale by Greene King and due to close at end of April. (W84)
W3, MILL HILL, Orchid, sold to developers and due to close at the end of March. Formerly **MILL HILL TAVERN**. (W85, U226)
W6, SOUTHERN BELLE, -beers listed; +Sambrook: Wandle, Junction. Formerly **PUZZLE**. (W104, U198,202,203,220)
HAYES (UB3), GRAPES. Renamed **BEEFEATER GRILL**. (W160)
HAYES (UB3), THOMAS HENRY K. Reverted to **MUSIC BOX** in 2011. (W161, U202,220)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 228

NEW PUBS ETC

E9, HACKNEY PEARL is Independent.
N4, RAILWAY. Address is 11 Wells Terrace.
EDGWARE (HA8), MASONS ARMS. Should be under 'NORTH WEST'.
STANMORE (HA7), ABERCORN ARMS. Add ref: U213.
CROYDON (CR0), POP WORLD was originally **BAR COAST**.
WELLING (DA6), FORESTERS ARMS. Delete 'Upper'.
SW4, BODEANS is Independent.
SW18, KONNIGANS is Independent.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

E16, ORDNANCE ARMS. Should read 'now converted ...'
NW5, GRAND UNION. Add: Formerly **VINUM**, originally **HIGHGATE**.
SE15, CARLTON TAVERN is ex-Whitbread.
CROYDON (CR0), GUN. Delete 'FAT'.
HAMPTON (TW12), DUKES HEAD. Add: 'and not converted to a restaurant'.

OTHER CHANGES ETC

N1, 25 CANONBURY LANE. Reverted to **FOUR SISTERS**.
SE3, RAILWAY. Add: Formerly **FAIRWAY & FIRKIN**, originally **RAILWAY TAVERN**.
CRAYFORD (DA1), CHARLOTTE. Ref should read K52.

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SPBW London Pub of the Year – Ye Olde Mitre

The Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW) originally set up its annual London Pub of the Year award in 1980 as a response to a similar competition run by a London evening newspaper. The criteria for doing well in that competition didn't appear to cover tedious details like beer so we decided to do something to highlight 'real' pubs with 'real' beer.

The latest SPBW award has gone to Ye Olde Mitre in Holborn, which emerged as a narrow winner after a prolonged voting session. The Mitre is not just a genuinely historic pub, and thus on the tourist route, but it serves a mainly office-working local clientele and also manages to fit in beer and pub lovers from all over. Whoever the customer may be, they're guaranteed a genuinely friendly welcome. The pub is run by the legendary Eamonn Scott, known to all as 'Scotty', his wife Eileen and their highly efficient staff.

This pub was originally built in 1547 and was originally situated on land belonging to the Bishop of Ely so was in fact, technically, in Cambridgeshire until the 1930s. The pub was rebuilt around

1772 had a cherry tree which marked the boundary between the land given by Elizabeth I to Sir Christopher Hatton, and the diocese of the Bishop of Ely. This tree is still preserved in the front bar.

The pub has been through various ownerships over the years and fairly recently was acquired by Fuller's. However, you'll find more than just Chiswick brews here; Deuchar's IPA is a permanent offering alongside an Adnams or two and at least one handpump is set aside for a guest ale from a small independent. You can be assured that these beers will be served in prime condition. Food is limited to snacks such as pork pies, toasties etc.

Ye Olde Mitre is not at all easy to find, being tucked away in a narrow alleyway between Hatton Garden and Ely Place, close to Holborn Circus. The pub is divided into two rooms, both elegantly wood-panelled, with a small snug area off the back bar. Up the narrow staircase, past the ladies, is a cosy function room. Gents' 'functions' need to be performed in a rare outside loo. But they don't have to climb the stairs!

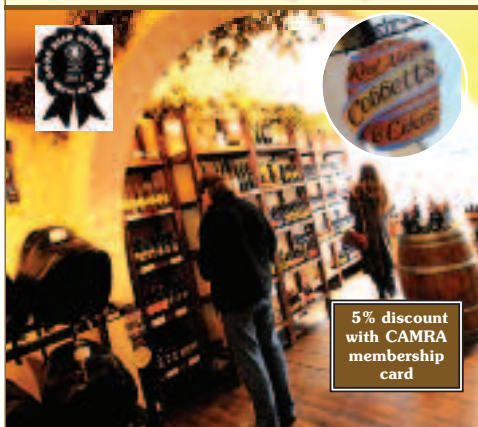
The SPBW's award was presented to Scotty and Eileen on 28 January, one of the first events in the year of the Society's 50th Anniversary.

I must mention the most worthy runner-up, namely the Blythe Hill Tavern in Forest Hill/Catford. This is a prime example of a superbly run community pub. Sited on the A205 it has some three bars (and a huge upstairs function room) which are expertly manned by Con Riordan and his staff. Dark Star Hophead is the main seller among a selection draught beers (CAMRA members get a 30p discount on a pint). It's a very different pub from Ye Olde Mitre but it's good to know that Londoners are blessed with such a fine variety of pubs these days, selling a substantial range of beers.

Roger Jacobson

Previous issues of *London Drinker* since October 2004 are now available on-line at www.camralondon.org.uk

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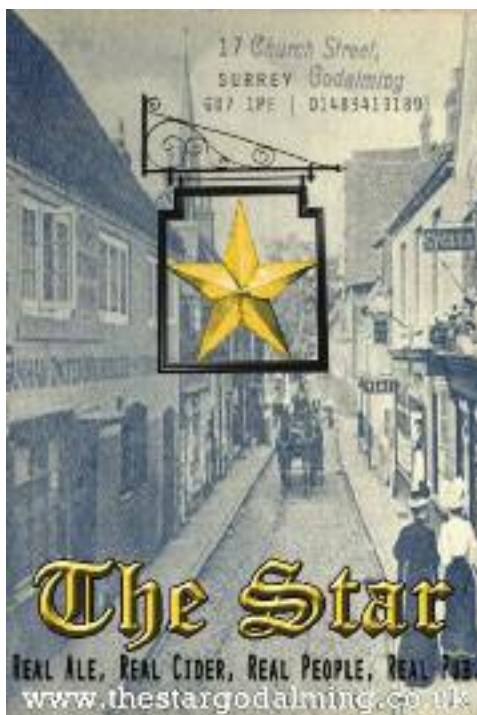


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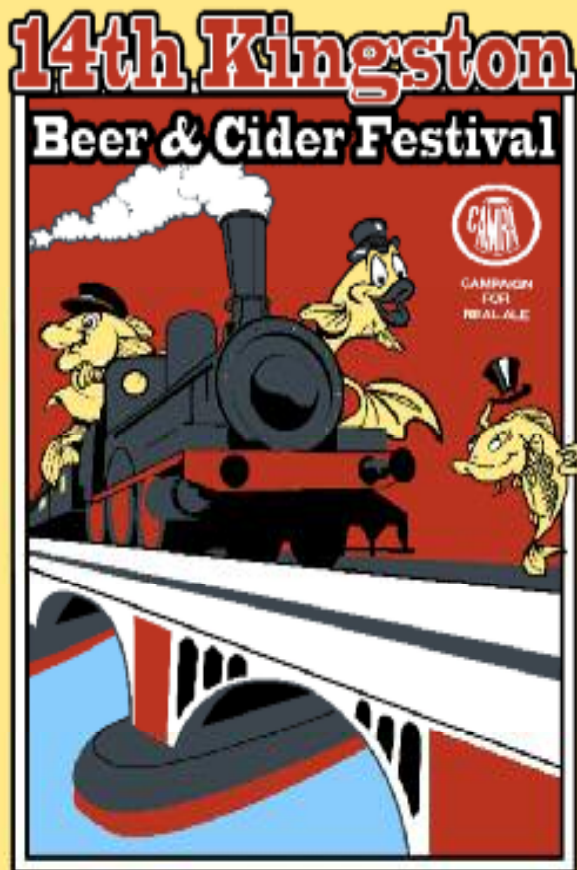
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This year at the Festival the Charity we will be supporting is Shootingstar CHASE [shootingstarCHASE.org.uk] – please be generous

More details including beers and ciders we plan to have available will be posted on our website – <http://www.camrasurrey.org.uk/festivals>

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01/06

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The following pubs have joined the London LocAle scheme since the last issue of London Drinker.

Bohemia, 762-764 High Road, North Finchley N12 9QH

Cricketers, 19 Chase Side Place, Enfield EN1 6QA

Colonel Fawcett, 1 Randolph Street, Camden NW1 0SS

Dissenting Academy, 92 Mildmay Park,
Newington Green N1 4PR

Hops & Glory, 382 Essex Road, Islington N1 3PF

Grafton, 20 Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town NW5 3LG

Kings Head, 1 The Green, Winchmore Hill N21 1BB

Lamb, 94 Lambs Conduit Street WC1N 3LZ

Moon Under Water, 115 Chase Side, Enfield EN2 6NN

New Rose, 84-86 Essex Road, Islington N1 8LU

Old Orchard, Park Lane, Harefield, Uxbridge UB9 6HJ

Ponders End Working Men's Club, 46 South Street,
Ponders End, Enfield EN3 4LB

Tollgate, 26-30 Turnpike Lane, Hornsey N8 0PS

Redemption; rotating London brewers

McMullen

Brodies, Redemption or others

ELB, Hackney, Moncada, Redemption

Brodies, ELB, Redemption, Windsor & Eton
various

Redemption, Sambrook's

Redemption, Sambrook's, Twickenham, Windsor & Eton

Brentwood, Redemption, Tring

various, e.g. Clarence & Fredericks, ELB, Sambrook's

Tring, and others as guests

Red Squirrel, Tring

Brodies, Redemption, Sambrook's

The following pubs have left the scheme.

King Charles I, 55-57 Northdown Street, King's Cross N1 9BL

Sebright Arms, 9 Alston Road, Barnet EN5 4ET

The complete list is maintained at www.camralondon.org.uk

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Dear Editors,

John Dodd's experience of keg ales taking over in Sam Smiths at Isleworth didn't surprise me. Their only hand pump "real ale" in any pub to my knowledge is the weirdly unpleasant Old Brewery and every other ale is either keg or bottled anyway. Bottled OB is much superior but nearly twice the price so the draught ale did at least have the advantage of a great price until Sam's upped the price by 38% a while back.

Sam Smiths have some great looking pubs and a priceless music-free policy (I will cast a discreet veil over their bar staff's obsessional spray cleaning activities - Windsor Castle aiming for gold in this department) but if you want excellent hand pump ales there is no great reason to patronise them even to save money.

Mick O'Connell

Dear Editors,

Capital Pubcheck 228

On recent receipt of *London Drinker* No1 Vol 35 I was annoyed to note that the above Pubcheck was not included as usual. As a result, not having access to a computer or websites, I was obliged to apply to your Capital Pubcheck operative for a written update, which was promptly and cordially provided. This is the second recent occasion when I have had to make a similar request (Capital Pubcheck 220).

Accordingly, can you please ensure inclusion in future editions of *London Drinker* for the many who, like myself, find the information invaluable and have no website access?

K L Whippy

Editor's note: *there are currently no plans to discontinue carrying Capital Pubcheck in the printed magazine. We appreciate the difficulty that its occasional absence causes readers such as Mr Whippy but, as was explained at the time, we experienced production problems. I hope that readers will not forget that the magazine is written and produced entirely by volunteers.*



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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 1 Rotten Apple in Every Barrel
2. 12 Faces on a Dodecahedron
3. 2000 Olympic Games Held in Sydney
4. 36 Quarts in a Firkin
5. 14 Players in a Seven-a-Side Rugby Match
6. 16 Black Pieces on a Chess Board
7. 2 Kippers in a Pair
8. 17 Number One Hits of Elvis Presley
9. 10 Years Between Censuses in Great Britain
10. 16 Tons (and What Do You Get?)

5BY4:

Olympic Medals (Women's)

1. Nicola Adams – Boxing – Flyweight (gold)
2. Charlotte Dujardin – Individual Dressage (gold)
3. Lizzie Armistead – Cycling – Road Race (silver)
4. Victoria Pendleton – Cycling – Sprint (silver)
5. Laura Trott – Cycling – Omnium (gold)
6. Karina Bryant – Judo – over 78kg (bronze)
7. Samantha Murray – Modern Pentathlon (silver)
8. Gemma Gibbons – Judo – under 78kg (silver)
9. Jade Jones – Taekwondo – under 57kg (gold)
10. Laura Bechtolzheimer – Individual Dressage (bronze)

Did you get them all correct? You may notice that I tried to make it a bit more awkward by not putting in Victoria Pendleton's gold medal (in the Keirin, of course)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. A chapter ring would be found on the face of a clock (it is a ring specifically with Roman numerals on it).
2. John Lennon and Yoko Ono were married on 20th March 1969; on Gibraltar.
3. And talking of John Lennon, the maiden name of his first wife was Cynthia Powell.
4. The last bank notes issued by a private bank in England were produced by Fox, Fowler & Co of Somerset in the 1920s (1921 to be exact).
5. In November 2011 the Bank of England issued a new design of £50 note with TWO people depicted on the reverse – they are Matthew Bolton and James Watt.
6. And the current Chief Cashier whose signature now appears on new notes is Chris Salmon (following Andrew Bailey whose signature you will see on most of the notes in your wallet).
7. Apart from the Bank of England, there are seven other banks in the UK authorised to issue bank notes (all in Scotland or Northern Ireland).
8. And of the above banks, the one which continues to issue bank notes of £1 denomination is the Royal Bank of Scotland.
9. A hundred years ago, on 1st March 1913 it was the governing body of lawn tennis that was set up at a meeting in Paris attended by representatives from 13 countries.
10. The singer Frank Paul Lo Vecchio, born in Chicago on 30th March 1913, is better known as Frankie Lane.



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*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.*

Oh how lyrical! Here's an extra question – where do those lines come from? I'll tell you at the end (if I remember). If you are reading this hot of the press, Happy Easter; if not, I trust that you had a happy Easter. In the meantime let's have a few number puzzles.

1. 100 C in a E
2. 4 QD in a Y
3. 7 B on a ST are not R
4. 2 BQ in the TC
5. 9 is the N of the CS by B
6. 5 AC have C on the M
7. 12 LT of I
8. 3 CT
9. 6 EM in the H of H
10. 31 C in the U of C

And while the muse is still with us, let's see if you can match these inventions with their inventors in 5BY4:

1. Multi fire tube boiler
2. Vacuum flask
3. Separate condenser
4. Chronometer
5. Steam engine
6. Hovercraft
7. Air conditioning
8. Steam turbine
9. Steam road vehicle
10. Gramophone

- A. Emile Berliner
- B. Thomas Savery
- C. John Harrison
- D. Christopher Cockerell
- E. Willis Carrier
- F. James Dewar
- G. James Watt
- H. George Stephenson
- I. Charles Parsons
- J. Nicolas Cugnot

And finally for the Trivia Bit I thought I would again pose some questions about anniversaries which fall within the currency of this edition of the Drinker.

1. How many moons does Saturn have?
2. And what is Saturn's largest moon called?
3. What (significantly) did John Bellingham do on 12th May 1812?
4. He was born on 16th April 1918 in Ahmaddnagar, India – who was he?
5. Also on 16th April, but in 1939, Mary O'Brien was born in Hampstead. By what name is she better known?
6. 30th April is the national day of which EU country?
7. Who were married on 26th April 1923 in Westminster Abbey?
8. Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki expedition set sail on its balsa wood raft from Peru heading for Raroia on 27th April – but in what year?
9. What horrific event which killed 36 people occurred on 6th May 1937?
10. On 16th May 1975 the first woman reached the summit of Mount Everest. Of what nationality was she?

And who penned those lines? It was A.E.Housman in "A Shropshire Lad." Have fun until next time. *Andy Pirson*

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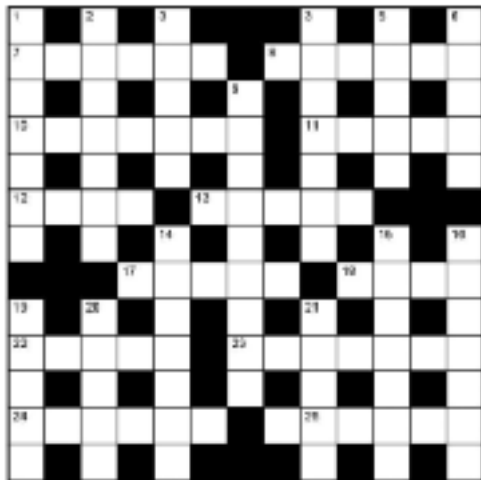
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Sutton Pub of the Year 2011

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name

Address

All correct entries received by first post on 22nd May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

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

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

FEBRUARY'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

7. Organ little Edward made. [6]
8. Elegiac poet getting names in a knot. [6]
10. Half of tree large enough to tread on. [7]
11. From old Peru. Not somewhere to find real beer. [5]
12. Boy and girl struggled together. [4]
13. Small duck is a bargain. [5]
17. National hero unknown on the box. [5]
18. Cut top off tree to make bow. [4]
22. Type of gas bottle? [5]
23. Hesitate twice to imprison traitor. Mistake! [7]
24. Hang dead fish. [6]
25. Drop in for a breather during exercise. [6]

DOWN

1. Break I have is uneasy. [7]
2. He imagines it's me in the gloom. [7]
3. Time for overtures of Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Mozart, Parry and Offenbach. [5]
4. First, say, to have row during exam. [7]
5. Disgusted about new cut. [5]
6. Songs men listened to. [5]
9. Unwelcome visitors emit false vibrations. [4,5]
14. Rings again and cancels. [7]
15. Good sailor under fire perhaps. [7]
16. Beaten at last, spit like a camel. [7]
19. A positive end for a poem. [5]
20. Caught foul eccentric. [5]
21. Practice of medical man ailing. [5]

Winner of the prize for the December Crossword:
Mark Nichols

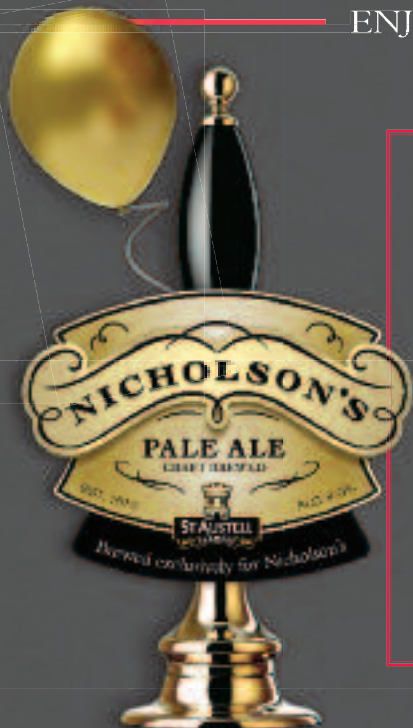
Other correct entries were received from:

Derek Abbey, Ted & Tilly Ahrens, Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Hilary Ayling, Mrs. L.Bamford, Rob Barker, John Barker, Steve Block, Kelvin Brewster, Jeremy Brinkworth, Mark Broadhead, John Butler, Eddie Carr, R.J.Casement, The Hopeless Caseys, John Cattemull, Alan Cockayne, Martin Coleman, Chas Creasey, Kevin Creighton, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Tamzin Doggart, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Tom Drane, Bat Ears, C.J.Ellis, Robert Ferrier, Arthur Fox-Ache, Sally Fullerton, G.J.Geary, B.Gleeson, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Caroline Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Brian Hall, Dave Hardy, L.Harmer, Beck Harvey, John Heath, Alison Henley, Lucy Hickford, Andrew Hide, Graham Hill, William Hill, R.Holt, Chris James, Hugh Jampton, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, David Jiggins, D.M.L.Jones, Mike Joyce, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Tony Lennon, Andy Lindenburn, Gerald Lopatis, Donald MacAuley, Kevin McCarthy, Derek McDonnell, Pete McGill, John Mannel, John Marsden, Tony Martin, Terry Mellor, Sally Morgan, Stuart Moul, Al Mountain, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Paul Nicholls, Andrzej Niemiro, G.Notley, Michael Oliver, Steve Palmer, Nigel Parsons, Liam Perryns, Mark Pilkington, G.Pote, Jeanette Powell, Derek Pryce, Robert Pryke, Paul Rogers, Richard Rogers, John Savage, F.A.Scott, Pete Simmonds, Lesley Smith, Kenny Stott, Ian Symes, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Mark Thompson, Paul Tiffany, John Treeby, Vic the Beard, Andy Wakefield, Alan Welsh, Martine Welsman, Elizabeth Whale, Nigel Wheatley, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, David Woodward, Peter Wright & the Missus, Paul Young.

There were also three incorrect entries.

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THE DOG AND DUCK
BATEMAN STREET W1
6.30PM

THE COAL HOLE
STRAND WC2
8PM

THE CLACHAN
KINGLY STREET W1
5.45PM

THE PORCUPINE
CHARING CROSS ROAD WC2
7.15PM

THE PRINCESS OF WALES
VILLIERS STREET WC2
8.45PM



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