

FREE

Vol 36
No 5

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2014

LONDON DRINKER



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



Bridget Walsh (photo by Mike Flynn)

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A CURIOUS ATTITUDE

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is a campaigning organisation. You will find in the following pages quite a few examples of our activity in this area, not least that regarding planning and pub preservation. I should state at this point that our doing so clearly makes us a political (small p) organisation; we are not however Party Political in that we do not unconditionally endorse all of the policies of any one party.

This campaigning is why we exist and why most of us joined CAMRA. Furthermore I would maintain that it is our right to do so. It is therefore disturbing that Mr Brooks Newmark, the MP for Braintree, who became Minister for Civil Society in the recent Government reshuffle, has been quoted as saying, "We really want to try and keep charities and voluntary groups out of the realms of politics. Some 99.9% do exactly that. When they stray into the realms of politics that is not what they are about and that is not why people give them money. The important thing charities

should be doing is sticking to their knitting and doing the best they can to promote their agenda, which should be about helping others." After a barrage of criticism, Mr Newmark clarified his comments, saying that he only intended to refer to party politics.

I have said above what I consider to be 'party politics'. If one party shares CAMRA's view on a subject but another doesn't, are we taking sides or are we actually doing exactly what Mr Newmark says we should in 'doing the best we can to promote our agenda'? It also raises the question as to why the Government invites participation in their various consultation exercises such as that on pubco reform or the one on planning law changes mentioned under the 'Campaigning for Planning Reform' section in this edition. We are encouraged to believe that the views of various representative groups are welcome but you do start to wonder.

Pub-goers, which by definition includes the vast majority of real ale drinkers, are particularly heavily subject to the law. We, like all of those specifically affected by particular laws, are entitled to have our voice heard. There are times when a vote every five years simply is not enough.

Tony Hedger

FAREWELL TO BINNIE

On Sunday 27 July the Harp in Charing Cross was even more packed out than usual as friends and regulars said their goodbyes to Bridget 'Binnie' Walsh who out of necessity rather than choice was retiring from the pub trade after 45 years.

Binnie started out south of the river and many South West London CAMRA members remember her well from her days at the Rose & Crown in Clapham and the Unity in Battersea. She moved to the Harp some twenty years ago and has turned it into a deeply loved institution. This was no mean achievement; it is a small pub and running a pub in central London always has its particular drawbacks. Binnie would always give full credit to her staff but it was her leadership, organisation and staff training that provided the solid base for the pub's success.

The pub has been voted CAMRA West London branch's Pub of the Year for an unprecedented five times in nine years. It could not have won it more often because the winning pub each year is not eligible for the following year's competition. In 2010 it went on to be CAMRA's Greater London Regional Pub of the Year and followed that by becoming CAMRA's National Pub of the Year, the only pub in London ever to win this award.

CAMRA's West London branch marked the event with the traditional certificate which thanked Binnie for 'dedication over many years to great beer, great service and great pubs'. And so say all of us. We wish her a long and comfortable retirement. She has earned it.

I know that some were concerned that the pub has been taken over by Fuller's. Given the amount that they have invested, it is understandable that they will want it to sell some of their beers but I understand that guest beers will be retained and they will do their best to preserve the pub's unique ambience. This is not a forlorn hope; as you will see elsewhere in this edition, Ye Olde Mitre in Holborn, taken over by the company a while back, is thriving.



Binnie with her certificate



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**CROYDON & SUTTON CAMRA
21ST BEER FESTIVAL**

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

LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

Secretary: Roy Tunstall, roytunstall.camra@gmail.com

October – Fri 31 (8.30) Greater London Pub of the Year 2014 Runner-Up presentation. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton.

November – Wed 5 (8pm) Greater London Pub of the Year 2014 presentation. Door Hinge, 11 Welling High St. - **Wed 26** (7.30) London Liaison Cttee (regional mtg for London branches). Royal Oak (upstairs), 44 Tabard St, Borough SE1.

Website: www.london.camra.org.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

Chair: Jane Jephcote, jane.jephcote@googlemail.com, 07813 739856

October – Sat 18 Cricklewood, Brondesbury & Kilburn crawl: (12pm) Crown (lounge bar off the modern hotel lobby), 142-152 Cricklewood Broadway; (1pm) North London Tavern, 375 Kilburn High Rd, Brondesbury; (2.30) Black Lion, 274 Kilburn High Rd; (3.15) Prince of Wales, 97-101 Willesden La, Kilburn; (4pm) Corrib Rest, 76-78 Salusbury Rd, Kilburn; (4.45) Salusbury, 50-52 Salusbury Rd, Kilburn; (5.30) Queens Arms, 1 Kilburn High Rd. Public transport will be required at times. All welcome.

November – Wed 12 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All CAMRA branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk

LONDON CIDER GROUP

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

October – Thu 9 Soc. Rising Sun, Berkhamsted: meet (6pm) Euston Stn by ticket office or make own way to pub. Regional Cider pub winner. - **Sun 12** (1pm) Apple pressing/cider making. One Tree Hill allotment, Honor Oak Park SE23. Come any time but will finish about 6pm. Wear old clothes as it is outdoors. -

Thu 16 (7.30) Soc. Antelope, Maple Rd, Surbiton. - **Sat 25** East London cider crawl: (12pm) Red Lion, 640 High Rd, Leytonstone; (1.30) Rose & Crown, 55 Hoe St, Walthamstow; (3pm) Pembury Tavern, Amhurst Rd, Hackney; (4pm) Cock Tavern, 315 Mare St, Kingsland; (5.15) Sebright Arms, 31-35 Coate St, E2; (6.30) Fox, 72 Kingsland Rd, E8. For full details, inc. travel info, see blog page. - **Fri 31** (5.30-7.30) Halloween cider pop-up bar and possible apple pressing. Albion, Millennium Green, Forest Hill SE23. Please confirm with organiser before attending.

November – Thu 2 (8pm) Cider Pub of the Year presentation. Sussex Arms, 15 Staines Rd, Twickenham.

For information and details, see <http://london-cider.blogspot.co.uk>

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

BEXLEY

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

October – Wed 8 (8.30) Mtg. Tailor's Chalk, 47-49 Sidcup High St. - **Sat 11** Festival volunteers trip: contact branch for details. - **Wed 22** Bexleyheath Soc: (8pm) Prince Albert; then Jolly Millers; Furze Wren.

we brew with style
we brew with imagination
we brew with passion
we brew A Better Glass of Beer



Branch diaries

November – Wed 5 (8pm) London PotY presentation soc. Door Hinge, 11 Welling High St.
Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

BROMLEY

Janet Freak, inquiries@bromleycamra.org.uk

October – Thu 2 Shoreham soc with West Kent and Gravesend & Darent Valley branches: meet (6.50) Bromley South Stn for 7.16 to Shoreham. (8pm) Crown, 84 High St; then Two Brewers, 30 High St; Kings Arms, Church St; and finally Old George Inn, Church St. 10.39 return train to Bromley South. - **Tue 7** Bromley soc: (8pm) Partridge, 194 High St; (9.15) Barrel & Horn, 204-206 High St. - **Thu 16** Soc. Wallington Beer Festival, Wallington Hall, 3A Stafford Rd: (8pm) meet at glasses stand. - **Tue 21** Beckenham soc. (7.30) Jolly Woodman, 9 Chancery La; (8.45) George Inn, 111 High St; (9.45) Bricklayers Arms, 237 High St. - **Sat 25** Cider soc: meet (10.35am) Bromley South stn for 10.57 to Victoria and tubes to Leytonstone; (12pm) Red Lion, 640 High Rd, then as in Cider Group diary entry above. - **Tue 28** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Graces, 1-3 Witham Rd, Birkbeck, Penge SE20.

November – Sat 1 Welling, Bexleyheath & Bexley crawl: (12pm) New Cross Turnpike, 55 Bellegrove Rd, Welling; (1pm) Door Hinge, 11 Welling High St; (2pm) Robin Hood & Little John, 78 Lion Rd, Bexleyheath; (3pm) Wrong 'Un, 234-236 Broadway; (4.30) Rose, 179 Broadway; (5.30) Railway Tavern, 38 Bexley High St; (6.30) Black Horse, 63 Albert Rd, Bexley; (7.30) Furze Wren, 6 Market Pl, Broadway Sq, Bexleyheath. - **Tue 4** (7.30) Soc. Pickhurst, Pickhurst La, Hayes. - **Mon 10** (8pm) West Wickham soc. Wheatsheaf, 135 High St; (9pm) Swan, 2-4 High St; (10pm) Railway Hotel, Red Lodge Rd. - **Tue 18** (7.30-10.30) Branch AGM, HG Wells Centre, St Marks Rd, Bromley (Labour Club). - **Tue 25** Cttee mtg. (7.30) Chelsfield, 1 Windsor Dr, Chelsfield.
Website: www.bromleycamra.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill, 07831 561296; pete_mcgill@hotmail.com

October – Wed 15 (8.30) Soc. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton. - **Thu 16-Sat 18** 21st Real Ale & Cider Festival, Wallington Hall, Stafford Rd, Wallington. See page 4 or website for details. - **Tue 23** (8.30) Soc. Joiners Arms, 52 Woodside Green, SE25. - **Tue 28** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey St, Croydon. - **Fri 31** (8.30) GL PotY Runner-Up presentation. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton. **November – Thu 6** (8.30) Soc. Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Rd, Croydon. - **Wed 19** Thornton Heath soc: (8.30) Lion, 182 Pawsons Rd; (9.45) Pawsons Arms, 69 Pawsons Rd. - **Thu 27** (8.30) Mtg. Windsor Castle (Cottage Rm), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.
Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch telephone 07757 772564, elacbranch@mail.com

October – Mon 6 (7.30) Pig's Ear mtg. Crosse Keys, 9 Gracechurch St, EC3. - **Tue 14** Aldgate E1 soc: (7.30) White Hart, 89 Whitechapel High St; then Dog & Truck, 72 Back Church St; Black Horse, 40 Leman St; Brown Bear, 139 Leman St; White Swan, 21 Allie St. - **Tue 21** City Road soc: (7pm) Masque Haunt, 168-172 Old St; (7.45) Old Fountain, 3 Baldwin St; (8.30) Royal Star, 220 City Rd; (9.15) Eagle, 2 Shepherdess Walk; (9.45), William IV, 7 Shepherdess Walk; (10.15) Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd.

November – Wed 11 (7.30) Mtg. Bell, 617 Forest Rd, Walthamstow. - **Thu 20** Bethnal Green E2 crawl: (7.30) Marksman, 254 Hackney Rd; then Albion, 94 Goldsmith's Row; Sebright Arms, 31-35 Coate St and others tbc.
Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,

branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk, branch mobile 07757 710008 at events.

October – GBG promo socs at 8.30: Wed 1, Bald Faced Stag, 69 High Rd, N2; **Wed 8**, Stag & Hounds, 371 Bury St West, N9, then (9.45) Beehive, 24 Little Bury St, Edmonton, N9; **Wed 15**, Black Horse, Wood St, Barnet EN5; **Wed 22**, Alfred Herring, 316-322 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13; **Tue 28** Railway Bell, 13 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet EN4

November – Wed 5 (8.30) GBG promo soc. Picture Palace, Hertford Rd/Lincoln Rd jct, Ponders End EN3. - **Sun 9** (3pm) Wonder, 1 Batley Rd, Enfield EN2. - **Wed 12** (8.30) GBG promo soc. Elephant Inn, 283 Ballards La, North Finchley N12. - **Tue 18** (8.30) Mtg. Bohemia, 762-764 High Rd, N12. - **Tue 25** (8.30) GBG promo soc. Dog & Duck, 74 Hoppers Rd, Winchmore Hill.
Website: www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

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

October – Wed 1 (8.15) Mtg. Watchman (Wetherspoon), High St, New Malden. - **Sat 11** Visits to London micro breweries and pubs, including Beavertown Brewery, Unit 4, Stour Rd, E3, Peoples Park Tavern 360 Victoria Park Rd, E9, Mother Kelly's 251 Paradise Row and Sebright Arms, 31 Coate St, E2. Meet (12pm) at Tottenham Hale rail stn, Victoria line entrance. Details from Adrian Palmer, 07774 859871 or akpalmer@talktalk.net. - **Wed 15** (8pm) Beer festival mtg. Willoughby Arms, Kingston. - **Sat 18** (1pm) Club of the Year presentation. Walton Rowing Club (including a beer festival), Sunbury La, Walton on Thames. - **Wed 22** (8pm) Pub of the Year presentation. Lamb, Brighton Rd, Surbiton.

November – Tue 4 (8.15) Mtg. Ditton, Ditton Hill Rd, Long Ditton. - **Thu 13** (8pm) Pub of the Year presentation. Running Horse, Bridge St, Leatherhead. - **Wed 19** Epsom visit to reopened and changed pubs: (8pm) Albion, High St; then to include Faraday's; Rifleman.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

Social contacts: John Wilson, 07840 111590,

jgwnw3@hotmail.com; Stephen Taylor, 07443 473746, stephen.taylor500@gmail.com

October – Tue 7 (8pm) Cider tasting and soc. Pineapple, 51 Leverton St. NW5. - **Tue 14** (8pm) LDBF mtg. Plough, 27 Museum St, WC1. - **Tue 21** Cider PotY and Runner-up: (7.30) Cider Tap, East Lodge, NW1; (9pm) Bree Louise, 65 Cobourg St, NW1. - **Tue 28** Dartmouth Park NW5 soc: (7.30) Lord Palmerston, 33 Dartmouth Park Hill; (8.15) Dartmouth Arms, 35 York Rise; (9pm) Bull & Last, 168 Highgate Rd; (10pm) Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd.

November – Tue 4 St John's Wood NW1 soc: (7.30) Salt House, 63 Abbey Rd; (8.15) Lords Tavern, Lords Cricket Ground, St John's Wood Rd; (9.15) Windsor Castle, 98 Park Rd; (10.15) Volunteer, 245 Baker St. - **Tue 11** WC1 soc: (7.30) Friend at Hand, 2 Herbrand St; (8.15) Swan, 7 Cosmo Pl; (9pm) Dolphin Tavern, 44 Red Lion St; 9.45 Enterprise, 38 Red Lion St; (10.30) Old Red Lion, 72 High Holborn. - **Tue 18** (8pm) LDBF mtg. Old Red Lion, 72 High Holborn WC1. - **Tue 25** (8pm) Mtg. Hanbury Arms, 33 Linton St, N1.

Website: www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643(H), rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk

October – Tue 7 Isleworth pub walk: (7.45) Coach & Horses, 183 London Rd, then (8.45) Rising Sun; (9.15) Bridge Inn; (9.45)

ADVANCING ACROSS LONDON



AWARD WINNING GOLDEN BEER

To find **TROOPER** go to IronMaidenBeer.com

Branch diaries

Woodlands Tavern; finish (10.15) Red Lion, 92 Linkfield Rd. - **Tue 14** (8.30) final Beer Festival planning mtg. Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd, Hampton Hill (all interested members welcome). **November - Thu 13** (8pm) Mtg and Beer Festival 'wash-up'. Cabbage Patch (tbc), 67 London Rd, Twickenham. Website: www.rhcama.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Neil Pettigrew, 07751 898310, contact@selcamra.org.uk
October - Wed 1 (7.30) Mtg and soc. Ship, 68 Borough Rd. SE1. - **Wed 8** (7pm) Honor Oak, 1 Gorman's Rd, SE23; (8pm) Chandos, 56 Brockley Rise; (8.30) London Beer Dispensary, 389 Brockley Rd, SE4; (9pm) Brockley Mess, 325 Brockley Rd; (10pm) Wickham Arms, 69 Upper Brockley Rd. - **Fri 17** Wallington Beer Festival, 3A Stafford Rd: meet (7pm) at glasses stand. - **Thu 23** (7.30) Commercial, 212 Raiton Rd, SE24; (8.45) Crown & Greyhound, 73 Dulwich Village SE21; (9.45) Plough, 381 Lordship La, SE22; (10pm) Castle, 280 Crystal Palace Rd, SE23; (10.30) Great Exhibition, 193 Crystal Palace Rd.
November - Sat 1 Redhill Beer Festival, Merstham Village Hall: meet (12pm) top of escalators, London Bridge (Southern). - **Mon 3** (7.30) Mtg and soc. Telegraph at the Earl of Derby, 87 Dennett's Rd, SE14. - **Tue 11** (7pm) Hobgoblin 272 New Cross Rd SE14; (7.45) New Cross House, 316 New Cross Rd; (8.30) Old Haberdasher, 44 Lewisham Way; (9pm) Amersham Arms, 388 New Cross Rd; (9.30) Royal Albert, 466 New Cross Rd; (10.30) Job Centre, 122 Deptford High St, SE8. - **Wed 18** (7pm) Fox, 316 Lewisham High St. SE13; (7.45) Watch House, 198 Lewisham High St; (8.45) Joiners Arms, 66 Lewisham High St; (9.30) Dacre Arms, 11 Kingswood Pl, SE13; (10.30) Duke of Edinburgh, 394 Lee High Rd. SE12. - **Tue 25** SE1 crawl: (7pm) Wheatsheaf, 6 Stoney St; (7.45) Sheaf, 24 Southwark St; (8.30) Gladstone, 64 Lant St; (9.15) Lord Clyde, 27 Clennam St; (10.30) Goldsmith, 96 Southwark Bridge Rd.
Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker, swessex@essex-camra.org.uk, 07711 971957
evenings or weekends only. Bookings for minibus trips to Graham Platt: 020 8220 0215 (H)

October - Fri 3-Tue 7 Branch Weekend: Newcastle (by train) including visits to Tyne Bank and Jarrow Breweries. - **Tue 14** (8.30) Soc. Thatchers Arms, Warley Rd, Gt Warley. - **Wed 22** (8.30) Soc. Rising Sun, Church Hill, Stanford-le-Hope. - **Sun 26** (late morning and afternoon) 4th Spa Valley Beer Festival, Tunbridge Wells West Stn, by train from London Bridge to Eridge Stn. - **Thu 30** (8.30) Soc. 3rd South Woodham Ferrers Beer Fest, Champions Manor Hall, Hullbridge Rd, South Woodham Ferrers.
November - Wed 5 (8.30) Soc. Railway, Station La, Hornchurch. - **Thu 13** (8.30) Soc. Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd, Woodford Green. - **Tue 18** (8pm) Soc: 35th Rochford Beer Festival, Freight House, Rochford SS4. - **Thu 27** (8.30) Soc and GBG nominations. New Fairlop Oak, Fencepiece Rd, Fulwell Cross, Barkingside.
Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk;
Cycling: Geoff Strawbridge, 07813 358863, geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk
October - Mon 6 Clapham SW4 Cider month social: (7.30) Prince of Wales, 38 Old Town; (8.30) Craft Beer Co, 128 Clapham Manor St. - **Wed 15** (7.30) Open cttee mtg, inc. Pub of the Year 2014 shortlisting. Wibbas Down Inn, 6-12 Gladstone Rd, Wimbledon.
November - Tue 11 Southfields/Earlsfield SW18 soc: (7.30) Park

Tavern, 212 Merton Rd; (8.15) Earl Spencer, 260-262 Merton Rd; (8.45) Gardeners Arms, 268 Merton Rd; (9.20) Pig & Whistle, 479-481 Merton Rd; (10pm) Wandle, 332 Garratt La; (10.30) Country House, 2-4 Grotton Rd. - **Thu 20** (7.30) Open cttee mtg, inc. Good Beer Guide 2016 long listing. Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way, SW8.
Website: <http://swl.camra.org.uk>

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H), branch@watford.camra.org.uk
October - Tue 7 (8pm) Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre, Local Board Rd, Watford. - **Fri 17** (8.30) Cider Month soc. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate. - **Mon 27** (8pm) Mtg, West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford. - **Wed 29** (8pm) 'Anti-social' to promote Watford Beer Festival. Estcourt Arms, St Johns Rd, Watford.
November - Thu 6-Sat 8 20th Watford Beer Festival. West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford. - **Thu 13** (8pm) Post-festival mtg, West Herts Sports Club, Park Avenue, Watford. - **Mon 24** (8pm) Mtg. Glenn Club, Victoria Rd, Watford.
Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton, 07835 927357, paul@paulcw4.plus.com; Social secretary Alanard Boyd: 020 7930 9871 x 143 (2.30-3.30 and 6-9.30 pm Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk, fax 020 7839 4768
October - Thu 2 Fitzrovia W1 soc: (7.30) Kings Arms, 68 Gt Titchfield St; (8.30) King & Queen, 1-2 Foley St; (9.30) Duke of York, 47 Rathbone St. - **Wed 8** WC2 soc: (7.30) George IV, 28-30 Portugal St; (8.30) Newton Arms, 31 Newton St; (9.30) Shakespeare's Head, 64-68 Kingsway. - **Thu 16** (7/7.30) Mtg. Truscott Arms, 55 Shirland Rd, W9. - **Thu 23** W9 surveys: meet (7/7.30) Prince of Wales, 351 Harrow Rd. - **Wed 29** Fitzrovia W1 soc: (7.30) Green Man, 36 Riding House St; (8.30) Charlotte (Draft House) 43 Goodge St; (9.30) Hope, 15 Tottenham St.
November - Thu 6 Marylebone W1 soc: (7.30) Golden Eagle, 59 Marylebone La; (8.30) Tudor Rose, 44 Blandford St; (9.30) Gunmakers, 33 Aybrook St. - **Wed 12** SW1/WC2 soc: (7.30) Lord Moon of the Mall, 16-18 Whitehall (bring JDW vouchers); (8.30) Harp, 47 Chandos Pl. - **Thu 20** Marylebone W1 surveys: meet (7/7.30) Windsor Castle, 29 Crawford Pl. - **Tue 25** (7/7.30) Mtg. Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews W, SW1.
Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

Roy Tunstall, 020 8933 4934 or 07909 061609, info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk
October - Thu 9 (8pm) Wheatsheaf Beer Fest. Wheatsheaf, 41 Haven La, Ealing W5. - **Fri 17** JDW Fest: (7.30) Good Yarn, 132 High St, Uxbridge; (9.30) JJ Moons, 12 Victoria Rd, Ruislip Manor HA4. - **Wed 22** JDW Fest: (7pm) Man in the Moon, 1 Buckingham Parade, Stanmore; (8.30) Moon and Sixpence, 250 Uxbridge Rd, Hatch End; (10pm) Moon on the Hill, 373-375 Station Rd, Harrow. - **Thu 30** (8pm) Branch Club of the Year and Beer Fest soc. Questors Grapevine Bar, 12 Mattock La, Ealing.
November - Wed 19 (8.30) Mtg. Venue tbc. - **Fri 28-Sat 29** 8th Heathrow Beer Festival, Concorde Club, Crane Lodge Rd, Cranford TW5.
Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the December/January edition is Monday 10 November.
Please send entries to ldnews.hedger@gmail.com.

100+ REAL ALES

25 CIDERS

Come over to the dark side - Expect the unexpected

Wandsworth
Common

HALLOWEEN
beer 2014
festival

29th October to
1st November

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www.wandsworthbeerfestival.eventbrite.com**

BREWERY EXPANSION CONTINUES

A salient statistic from CAMRA's newly-launched Good Beer Guide 2015 is that there are now 1,285 breweries operating in Britain, with 170 of them having opened in the last year. This is the largest number since before the take-overs and mergers that decimated the industry in the Sixties and Seventies. Editor Roger Protz commented, *"Real ale is the only success story in a declining beer market. New breweries, making hand-crafted beers continue to come on stream while many long standing regional and family brewers are expanding with new equipment and brands."*

There is a review of the guide later in this edition.

THE TIE

The committee stage of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill which, of course, includes the provisions for the reform of the tied house system, begins in mid-October. Among the well known MPs on the committee are Andrew Griffiths, chairman of the All-party Parliamentary Beer Group, Shadow pubs minister Toby Perkins and Jo Swinson, who launched the proposals. Greg Mulholland of the All-party Parliamentary Save the Pub Group is not on the committee because the Liberal Democrats were only allocated two places and Ms Swinson and the party's spokesman on the subject, Stephen Gilbert, outranked him. I am sure however that one way or another, his views will still be heard. He has already made it clear that he believes that the provisions of the bill fail to ensure fairness for tied tenants. Sadly, Jim Dobbin, the MP for Heywood and Middleton, who had been named as co-chairman, passed away suddenly on 6 September.

GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

New community pubs minister Kris Hopkins has promised that the long-awaited outcome of the consultation on restrictive covenants on pub sales will be published 'in the coming weeks'. Mr Hopkins, a former soldier, is the MP for Keighley and Ilkley – home of CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain. His predecessor, Brandon Lewis, was promoted to Minister of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and promised that the pub industry will remain 'well looked after'. At least one prominent pubco reform campaigner went on record as saying that Mr Lewis was overly-influenced by the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA)

and is hoping for a new start. The BBPA's chief executive, Brigid Simmons, however described him as having been a '*hugely successful pubs minister*'.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

I spotted this in the Metro's 'Good Deed Feed' column and thought that it was worth repeating here. A lady from West London offered 'massive thanks' to the staff of the Gun pub on the Isle of Dogs whose quick thinking in calling an ambulance saved her brother's life after he had a stroke. As she says, he could easily have been mistaken for a drunk. Mind you, I would not be surprised if because it happened in a pub, it was still recorded as an alcohol-related incident.

PUB COMPANY NEWS

Punch are inching their way towards the finalisation of the restructuring of their £2.3 billion debt. It requires 75% approval and had reached 72% on 5 September. Some bondholders who are in favour of the plan have reportedly been buying up the bonds of those who were undecided. The deadline is 17 September. If the plan goes through, shareholders will be left owning just 15% of the equity. One person who will be anxious to see the deal completed is Punch's finance director. According to the Daily Telegraph he is in line to receive a one-off bonus of a year's basic salary, £275,000, if it goes through. The proposals will be put to shareholders at a general meeting scheduled for 17 September, after we went to print.

Punch appear to be down to just 183 sites in Greater London. Ten years ago, the combined Punch and Spirit estate in London was over 600.

Meanwhile, the Spirit Pub Company had a very successful last quarter to their financial year. Sales rose by 2.1% and by 4.4% over the full year. Much of this was attributed to their Taylor Walker branded pubs. They are looking to make a pre-tax profit of nearly £60 million, a £6 million increase on last year. For the first time since the 'demerger' from Punch three years ago, they are buying pubs, having acquired 22 new sites over the year. Spirit, who also operate the food-led Flaming Grill, Chef & Brewer and Fayre & Square brands, are looking to extend the Taylor Walker brand to other large cities across the country.

Spirit may get the opportunity to buy some of its own pubs. Cerberus, the American private equity operation that owns Admiral Taverns, has put 16 pubs on the market, most of which are in London. They are part of a portfolio of 63 pubs

leased to Spirit and M&B (ex Orchard Pub Company).

Young's like-for-like sales over the thirteen week from 31 March increased by 7.3%. Young's are continuing their association with Berkeley Homes and will be opening new pubs in two new developments at Nine Elms and Woolwich Arsenal, where it already has one pub.

SPLITTER

I didn't think that I would be able to include anything about the Scottish independence referendum in this column but Tim Martin, the chairman of JD Wetherspoons, has come to my rescue. JDW have over 70 pubs employing 3,000 people in Scotland. His view, expressed on BBC Radio 5Live on 12 September is that he sees no reason why Scotland should not survive as a separate country, so long as they reduce VAT changed in pubs to the same rate as that in supermarkets. Then, said Mr Martin, 'we would be laughing'. I suspect that this issue may be slightly more involved than that.

As you may gather, Mr Martin still supports Jacques Borel's VAT Club initiative. There was another Tax Equality Day on 24 September, the day this magazine was published. The intention was to reduce the cost of all food and drink by 7.5% to demonstrate the effect that a cut in VAT from 20% to 5% would have on prices. Fuller's (managed houses) were reported to be among the 40-odd companies participating.

In the year ended 27 July, JDW posted a pre-tax profit of £79.4 million, up 3% on last year. Sales were up by 6.3%. They currently have 927 pubs and plan to add another 40 in the coming year.

OTHER TRADE NEWS

Marston's have recruited two former senior managers at Tesco's, Carolyn Bradley and Catherine Glickman to their board. They will bring brand management and HR experience to Marston's 'Four Fs' (females, forties-to-fifties, food and families) programme.

Greene King report a slowdown in sales. In the first 18 weeks of the year sales only increased by 0.4% although trading in its 'high end' London pubs was better. Some of this was put down to there being more pub-goers in London who supported the teams that did progress beyond the group stage of the football world cup. Sales of Old Speckled Hen, the former Morlands brand, are growing, possibly because of an extensive advertising campaign.

Sussex brewer Harvey's is changing a number of its pubs from tenancies to



FROM OUR LOVE OF HOPS

Since 2004 Twickenham has been creating well hopped beer. From Amarillo to Willamette, hops from around the world are used to create such drinkable beers.



direct management under a new offshoot, Sussex Hospitality Services Ltd. The new pub company will eventually run as many as half of its 48 pubs. Chairman Hamish Elder explained, *"The introduction of the new statutory code is driving us reluctantly into pub management."* He added that it was an ironic result of the law of unintended consequences that legislation designed to help pub tenants was likely to reduce their opportunities to run pubs.

Meanwhile Harvey's have introduced a new beer. Harvey's 'R' is described by the brewery as *"ruby in colour, it has a slightly hoppy aroma with pleasant bitterness on the palate which combined with our own spring water and yeast strain ensures that the brew has the distinctive Harvey character. The alcohol content is 2.8% by volume."* I wasn't expecting to like it but I did.

Adnams saw sales rise over the first six months of 2014 by 15% to £30 million. Pre-tax profits however fell 35% and the company are looking to sell up to seven pubs, most 'struggling' rural outlets. They aim to settle on around 50 pubs.

Innbrighton, the company behind the Laines breweries, of which there are now three in London, have renamed themselves the Laine Pub Company and have obtained additional financing from private equity sources. At least five more pubs are planned over the next four years, almost certainly in London although they still remain attached to their Brighton roots.

I mentioned in the last edition that the people behind the Convivial London Pubs operation had started up again with the Brewhouse & Kitchen chain. Backed by Enterprise Investment Scheme funding, they have now acquired three former Orchid Pub Company sites, two of them in London: the Arc in Islington and the Junction at Highbury Corner. Both have been closed for refurbishment. It is not yet known if breweries will be installed.

Redcomb Pubs Ltd has merged with Broken Foot Inns under their own name. The new company operates four freeholds, two free-of-tie leaseholds and six partly tied leaseholds in and around London. Both companies have been trading well and the new company hopes to expand by three to five outlets a year. One of the freeholds is the Theodore Bullfrog, once the St Martin's Tavern, at Charing Cross. I didn't realise that we still had pubs with names like that.

A new name to watch out for is New Zealander Gus Evans and his Butcher's Hook gastro-pubs. The original was in Fulham and this has now been joined by the Butcher's Hook Ravenscourt Park, on which he has taken a tenancy from

Young's. This was formerly the Thatched House which at one time was run by the Fulham football legend Bedford Jezzard.

The Old Diary Brewery in Tenterden, Kent, has raised £600,000 through the Enterprise Investment Scheme to finance their expansion to a 30 barrel brewing capacity. Leading these plans as chairman will be John Roberts, the former managing director of the Fuller's Beer Company, the brewing arm of Fuller, Smith and Turner. Mr Roberts is also a non-executive director of the City Pub Company.

Carlsberg have been obliged to issue a profits warning following a drastic fall-off in sales in Russia which normally accounts for a third of their trade. In contrast, Heineken, who still trade heavily in Western Europe, saw an increase in sales of 3.1% in beer volumes.

SAB Miller have appointed Jan du Plessis as their chairman. He is currently chairman of Rio Tinto, the metals and minerals group and is a non-executive director of Marks & Spencer. He takes over next July. The current chairman, John Manser, described Mr du Plessis as having *"a deep understanding of international consumer business"*. I suppose that he probably doesn't need to know anything about beer.

Robert Tchenguiz has appeared as a villain in these pages for his property speculation activities involving pubs but fair's fair and I ought to report that he has been exonerated of any fraud in connection with the Icelandic bank Kaupthing and is being compensated accordingly by the Serious Fraud Office. It was the need to finance his defence that caused him to sell his portfolio of pubs.

According to BBC Radio Four's *Farming Today*, the UK barley harvest came early and with an above average yield. Prices were expected to fall so hopefully the customary price increase attributed to raw materials will be kept to a minimum this time around.

The new Good Pub Guide reports that the average price of a pint in Britain has risen from £3.20 to £3.31. In London, the average price is £3.79 while in Herefordshire it is £3.03.

EXPRESS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

The same team who operate the award-winning Sussex Arms in Twickenham and the Antelope in Surbiton have acquired the Express Tavern by Kew Bridge. They will be refurbishing it and reopening it as the Express Ale & Cider House, along the lines of their two other outlets. Originally famous as a Bass house,

the Express Tavern has been privately owned for many years by the Aldington family. Gordon and Liz Rough moved in to manage it for them in 1994 and their son, also Gordon, was born the night that the pub reopened after refurbishment. In 2000 they took a lease and have run it on that basis ever since, until deciding to retire. Their last day was 17 August. They will be returning to Scotland. We wish them well.

MY GOODNESS

Guinness are moving into the 'heritage' bottled beer market with the release of two beers from their Brewer's Project range, based on recipes from their archives. These are Dublin Porter (3.8% ABV) and West Indies Porter (6% ABV). Owners Diageo describe the project as *"a small innovative brewery with a team given licence to reinterpret historic recipes and bring to life new ones"*. The beers are being brewed using a separate small plant in the company's main plant in Dublin. The prices for a 500ml bottle will be £2.20 and £2.65 respectively, although some supermarkets may offer 'three for £5' deals. They will also be available in the on-trade and the Dublin Porter may be made available on draught.

THE RAM BREWERY SITE

The development of the former Young's Brewery site at Wandsworth is finally going ahead. There are now adverts appearing in the London press for what the developers are calling the Ram Quarter. The Wandsworth Council planning website gives the following information: *'A mixed use development comprising alterations and change of use of retained former brewery buildings, demolition of non-Listed Buildings and the construction of new buildings 2 to 12 storeys in height and a tower of 36 storeys in height. Provision of 10,114sqm of retail (Class A1 to A4), 661 residential units, continued small scale brewery use (Class B2), museum (Class D1), ancillary gym. The creation of public areas and river walkway; new and repositioned vehicular and pedestrian access points and provision of servicing areas, energy centre and basement car and cycle parking'. The application number is 2014/3561.*

CZECH MATE

There has been another twist in the interminable saga of the trade name dispute between Anheuser-Busch InBev and Budejovicky Budvar. AB InBev have taken over the Sampson Brewery in Ceske Budejovice, thus giving them a base in

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Budvar's home territory. They seem to think that this will strengthen their right to use Budweiser brand name. A spokesman for Budvar did not agree, "The change of ownership of Samson has no relevance to our trademarks and ongoing court cases between Budejovicky Budvar and AB InBev."

VEGFESTUK

Apologies that this gives you little notice but it is an area that we do not cover much. This vegan-friendly food and lifestyle show will be held at Olympia (West Hall) on September 27 and 28. It features talks, cookery demos, workshops, and entertainment. There will also be beer. Pitfield Brewery will be serving 100% vegan beers and ciders. All Pitfield beers are certified Organic by the Soil Association and all of their bottled and unfiltered cask beers are suitable for vegans and are certified by the Vegan Society. For more information check the website: london.vegfest.co.uk.

AUTOMATIC DISPENSE

Readers Timothy Kermode has added that while working in Yorkshire in the late sixties/early seventies he was put up in a local pub. He says, "The first evening I sat at the bar in front of what I thought was a plastic block advertising Guinness. A few moments later the barman placed a 'straight' behind it, flicked something and walked away. Much to my surprise a half pint was dispensed via the block. Passing the other way the barman repeated the action and the other half poured out at high speed. At home in Berkshire, I related this to my drinking compatriots only to be roundly disbelieved. 'You can't pour a Guinness like that' was the common response. Even today I find people doubtful! I'm so glad to read that it wasn't a figment of my imagination, or a surfeit of alcohol!"

Obviously you can pour Guinness like that but the question is, should you! It can't have been good.

GOING BOLDLY WITH PRIDE

Don't ask why; just be amazed. In conversation with rocket scientist Chris Smith, Pete and Ros Bangs, the tenants of the White Swan, a Fuller's pub in Whitechurch, Hampshire, asked if it was possible to send beer into space. Chris, who has worked on many rocket launches as part of scientific and commercial programmes, rose to the challenge.

Rather than a rocket, Chris used a 200g balloon. The first attempt was spoiled because the cameras malfunctioned but the second attempt was a success with the balloon reaching up 24.3 km into the stratosphere. At this point its payload, a pint of London Pride, froze.

As Ros remarked, "We were tired of seeing every village pub go 'gastro' so we decided to go 'astro!'"



Tony Hedger

Great British Beer Festival

CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival was held at Olympia from 12 to 16 August. The organiser, Ian Hill, reported that despite attendance being slightly down, the event was still a success and that initial feedback was very positive indeed with lots of nice comments about helpful volunteers. He particularly thanked all those volunteer staff who gave their time to achieve this.

Volunteer staff numbers were also slightly down, particularly among those who come to work for just one or two sessions. It is hard work but it can be fun. You can make friends – this year I worked with people from as far away as Cornwall and Paisley – and there are rewards. You do not necessarily have to do bar work. For instance, CAMRA's Games & Collectables Section would more than welcome help on their pub games stalls.

Dates for your diary: the Great British Beer Festival 2015 will again be held at Olympia from Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 August 2015. If you are a CAMRA member, please have a think about the possibility of working because such contributions are vital. If not, at least come along to enjoy the beer.

If you do you may be in good company. This year the festival

received a visit from Prince Harry. He was reported to have spent around two hours at the event with a group of friends. He used a baseball cap to retain his anonymity although he was recognised by CAMRA North London chairman, John Cryne, who helped the prince with his attempt at playing 'Shut the Box'. John added that, *"Prince Harry was here to have a good time like the other 20,000 visitors to the festival so far this week. He just wanted to be treated like a normal person."* We are expecting the Royal Warrant for CAMRA's Games & Collectables Section to come through any time now. The visit was not known to the organisers in advance, as is the way of these things, but organiser Ian Hill commented, *"He certainly seemed to be having a good time with his friends, enjoying the real ales on offer and even trying his hand at some traditional pub games. We would happily invite him to visit the festival again in the future."*

There was a slight controversy when in commenting on CAMRA's pub campaigning, National Chairman, Colin Valentine singled out Tesco's who had actually taken an advert in the festival programme. These things happen and as I'm sure Tesco's would agree, business is business.

Champion Beer of Britain

As usual, the final judging for CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain took place at the Great British Beer Festival. The overall winner this year, stepping out of the shadow of 'big brother' Landlord, was Boltmaker, the recently renamed Best Bitter (ABV 4%) from Timothy Taylor's of Yorkshire.

Congratulations to Duncan, Sean and all at Sambrook's Brewery in Battersea who won London's only award with their Wandle Ale.

The full list of winners is as follows:

Supreme Champions: Gold - Timothy Taylor, Boltmaker; Silver - Oakham, Citra; Bronze - Salopian, Darwin's Origin.

Mild: Gold - Bank Top, Dark Mild; Silver - Branscombe Vale, Mild; Bronze - Castle Rock, Black Gold.

Bitter: Gold - Timothy Taylor, Boltmaker; Silver - Mighty Oak, Captain Bob; Joint Bronze - Flowerpots, Flowerpots Bitter and Sambrook's, Wandle Ale.

Golden Ales: Gold - Oakham, Citra; Silver - Hawkhead, Cumbrian Five Hop; Bronze - Salopian, Hop Twister.

Best Bitter: Gold - Salopian, Darwin's Origin; Silver - Redwillow, Directionless; Joint Bronze - Langton, Inclined Plane Bitter and Purity, Mad Goose.

Strong Bitter: Gold - Church End, Fallen Angel; Silver - Blue Monkey, Ape Ale; Bronze - Loch Ness, HoppyNESS.



Speciality: Gold - Saltaire, Triple Chocoholic; Silver - Offbeat, Way Out Wheat; Bronze - Peak Ales, Chatsworth Gold.

Champion Bottled Beer: Gold - Marble, Chocolate Marble; Silver - St Austell, Proper Job; Bronze - Spire, Prince Igor Imperial Russian Stout.

The successful brewers will be presented with their awards at CAMRA's Awards Lunch which will be held at the Kettering Hotel in Northamptonshire on 25 October. The guest speaker will be Stuart Bateman, managing director of Bateman's Brewery. For more information go to: www.camra.org.uk/awards-lunch.

One last thought; the new champion beer takes its name from one of the brewery's flagship pubs, the Boltmakers Arms, in



their home town of Keighley. I was told by a fellow volunteer from those parts that two of the company's other pubs in the town still insist on selling it as Best Bitter because they refuse to advertise a rival pub.



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REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS

The CAMRA Greater London Regional Pub of the Year is the Door Hinge in Welling, Kent. The runner-up, by a very close margin, was last year's winner, the Hope in Carshalton. The Regional Club of the Year was the Leyton Orient Supporters Club. We offer our congratulations accordingly. More coverage will be provided when their respective awards are presented.

EAST LONDON AND CITY PUB OF THE YEAR

Each year CAMRA's East London and City Branch selects both a City and an East London pub of the year. They then vote on which should be the overall winner. The overall winner this year was the City winner, the historic Ye Olde Mitre in Ely Place, EC1.

Licensee Scotty Scott commented, "Winning a Campaign for Real Ale award is always special. Ye Olde Mitre has been serving beer since 1546 so it's good to know we're still getting things right. My wife Kathy and I have won eight awards from CAMRA – four in London and four in Hull – and we treasure every one. To be chosen by CAMRA members above 800 other pubs in the City and East London is heartening. We're passionate about real ale and have always supported CAMRA's efforts. We offer a rotating choice of seven real ales, often from emerging breweries, and see appreciation growing."



Scotty at the bar of Ye Olde Mitre

The East London Pub of the Year and overall runner-up was the Dispensary in Aldgate. Around the corner from Aldgate East Underground Station and Whitechapel High Street, the Dispensary Pub and Dining Room is a surprising gem of a pub. The pub is situated on Leman Street. The building, now Grade II listed, was constructed in 1858 to house the Eastern Dispensary, which had been started by a group of doctors in 1782. With the Duke of Wellington as its president, it was one of the first attempts to provide medical treatment to the poor of the area. The dispensary closed in 1940 owing to wartime difficulties and was used post-war as a factory. Better days lay ahead however and it was converted into a public house in 1998. The building brims with historical references and the entire site is now owned by Annie Smith and husband David. It is furnished in a style almost reminiscent of a country estate. In November 2013, it was extensively redecorated and much of the artwork currently on display was painted by staff member Charly.

The pub caters for a every taste, enabling casual drinkers to mingle with fine diners. The real ale drinker is kept strongly in mind. The pub is free of tie and four or five hand-pumped beers



ELAC Branch Chair, Marion Robbens (centre) leads the celebrations with Annie Smith holding the certificate.

are rotated. Sussex ales, particularly from Burning Sky, Harvey's and Dark Star, are regularly available and are always in excellent condition. While David looks after the catering, Annie and her all female team of assistants keeps a well maintained cellar, clean lines and refreshing beers. The pub was named as the City and East London Pub of the Year in 2009.

The branch gathered there on 12 June to present the award to the pub. This recognition is highly deserved for all the hard work put in by all involved. The pub is an example of how to combine great service with excellent food and drink. East London has many fine pubs, but the Dispensary stands tall among them. East London and City branch is rightfully proud of all who own, run and work at this pub. We are so lucky to have them.

Bill Green and Paul Whelch

TWENTY YEARS AT THE WILLOUGHBY

There were celebrations at the Willoughby Arms in Kingston on August Bank Holiday Monday in honour of landlord Rick Robinson, his wife Lisa and their family who have been running the Willoughby Arms for twenty years. Despite the inclement weather many people had ventured out to join in the celebrations and enjoy Rick's good selection of real ales, other beverages and the very popular barbecue that was taking place in the covered garden.

Rick came to the Willoughby in 1994 when it was a Whitbread owned pub serving just two real ales, and now there are normally seven ales available. In his twenty years Rick has won the CAMRA Kingston & Leatherhead Branch pub of the year four times, and has held fifty beer festivals.



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Everyone enjoyed themselves on this wet bank holiday, and even the pub dogs Shady and Holstein didn't seem to mind all these people descending on their pub. Here's to the next twenty years.

Clive Taylor

NORTH LONDON BRANCH PUB OF THE SEASON

Highgate has a growing reputation for its real ale pubs, boasting four pubs in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. Now another pub is giving them a run for their money. The Duke's Head in Highgate High Street has just scooped CAMRA North London Branch's Autumn Pub of The Season award.

John Cryne, North London Branch Chairman, said, "It's been amazing to see so many pubs selling good real ale in Highgate. This pub reopened last year after a refurbishment and now offers a large range of real ales (and a real cider), all listed on a chalk board behind the bar. It clearly welcomes locals and visitors alike as well as dogs. Entertainment includes a dart board, something that seems to be disappearing from so many pubs. The pub beat five others that were shortlisted from the hundreds of pubs we have in the branch area. We hope that this award will raise the profile of the pub and encourage others to pop in for a pint".

The Duke's Head is a former coaching inn with courtyard. It

was certainly in existence by 1768 and was one of a number of pubs built to satisfy the increasing number of travellers who used the road into and out of London. Today the pub still continues to offer food at lunchtime and evenings but some facilities, such as free Wifi, are a new addition!

The award ceremony took place on 19 August. A few pints were raised to celebrate.



Left to right: Lottie Judge (Bar Manager), Tom Harrison (General Manager), John Cryne and the owners, Tarik Nashnush and Martin Aberdeen, with Steve Taylor in the background

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www.london.camra.org.uk

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Small but perfectly formed

Last edition we mentioned that the Door Hinge in Welling, Kent, had been voted CAMRA Bexley Branch's Pub of the Year. As reported elsewhere, I am pleased to say that it has gone on to be voted CAMRA's Pub of the Year for Greater London.

The Door Hinge is a micropub, so this is a good moment to take a look at this relatively new phenomenon, although the Butcher's Arms in Herne, considered by most aficionados to be the pioneer, opened as long ago as 2005. Most early openings were in the east of Kent and they are still largely confined to the South East, although my colleague Geoff Strawbridge recently found two in Mansfield and one in Nottingham. This year so far the number in the South East has risen from 44 to 52. Two recent openings have been the Paper Mill in Sittingbourne and the Heritage in Sheppey. I visited two in Whitstable on August Bank Holiday and, despite the incessant rain, was very impressed with both.

There is now one in Surrey, set up by the owners of Cobbett's Real Ales off-licence in Dorking. To quote Tim Sullivan, co-owner with wife Helen, "We had the space, the beer and the stock – it was all there." They have on average six to seven beers on cask, with two ciders on draft. As is usual, opening hours are limited so check their website: www.cobbettsrealesales.com.

So how do micropubs work? Most are former shop premises, including ex florists and dog-grooming parlours. The name of the Four Candles in Broadstairs acknowledges its former life as a hardware shop – qv 'The Two Ronnies'. This means that rents are at standard high street rates, not those ingeniously concocted by pubcos. They also have correspondingly low overheads. Most do not have TV, music or gaming machines, so there are no subscriptions or licence fees to pay. Most serve locally-sourced

cask beers and sometimes ciders which, being free of tie, they can buy in at proper market prices and the prices they charge in turn to customers generally reflect this. Many do not serve popular brand lager or similar 'national' products simply because it is easier to buy locally.

One drawback is that opening hours tend to be limited but given that they are usually operated solely by the owner(s) and are only viable because they are, this is inevitable. They are also small; 20 people will often be a full house and you may find that conversation with strangers cannot be avoided. Then again, after a chat, whoever you are talking to may no longer be a stranger. You will not usually find cooked food being served; snacks such as pork pies and scotch eggs – often home or locally produced – is the norm. Perhaps part of the attraction of micropubs is that they are not food-led. The décor tends to be rough and ready, 'car boot chic' as someone put it but they are usually comfortable.

Kae Mendham, CAMRA's regional director for Kent, said: "The micropubs' success is largely due to their ethos. They're particularly attractive to single women and men – they're not isolated as a single person. Micropubs treat you as a new and welcome friend. They're very much a growing trend whereas the big pubs that closed had to some extent lost that customer feel."

The problems of the pub trade are many, deep and complicated and I'm not going to suggest that micropubs are the solution. They certainly do not offer any substantial competition to the big pubcos but perhaps they are not intended to. Those running existing 'traditional' pubs may well both resent and envy their existence. They have created their own particular niche in the trade and I welcome that.

Tony Hedger

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PIG'S EAR BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

The 31st Pig's Ear Beer and Cider Festival, organised by CAMRA's East London and City Branch, will take place from Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 December at the Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, Hackney, E5 0PU. This magnificent English Heritage-restored venue, complete with gallery seating area is easily accessible by eight bus routes and from two railway stations. On offer will be over 400 beers, including 230 in cask, unique festival brews and beers from excitingly new local microbreweries.

Festival Organiser, Derek Jones, comments, *"There's been a remarkable renaissance of brewing in London and especially in the East. Twenty-plus innovative producers now operate here when there were none but five years ago! We will feature notable ones such as Hackney Brewery and Truman's but we're spoiled for choice. There will, of course, also be beers from the rest of Britain plus a full range of foreign and bottled beers, artisan ciders and speciality food stalls."*

A proud feature of the Pig's Ear Festival is the effort to raise money for local charities. Over £5,000 has been donated since 2006. The charities are ones nominated each year by the Speaker of Hackney, the Borough's ceremonial head. In 2014 this happens to be Councillor Sharon Patrick who says, *"I'm a long-standing CAMRA member and, indeed, always work at Pig's Ear Festival. I'll especially enjoy helping in the happy alliance of beer fun and charity fundraising. My three charities are Alzheimer's Society and two Hackney projects – the youth-related Laburnum Boat Club and the Sharp End, a resource centre dedicated to the health and wellbeing of older people."*

The festival is open each day from noon to 11 pm. Admission charges are £3.00 for CAMRA members or £8.00 for a season ticket. For non-members the price is £5.00 per visit.

If any CAMRA branch is arranging a group visit, entry is free for parties of more than twelve. For details of this offer and anything else, call Bill Green on (020) 8806 6517 or e-mail: chummic@talktalk.net.

Volunteers are needed; contact staffingpigsear@gmail.com or leave a message on 07813 622938.

Bill Green

WALLINGTON 2014

The 21st Croydon & Sutton Beer and Cider Festival will take place from Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 October 2014 at the Wallington Hall Stafford Road SM6 9AQ. It will be the 18th event at the hall but could turn out to be the last because Sutton Council have announced that this venue, together with two theatres in the borough, are to be closed. At the time of writing the future is very uncertain; our 'key of the door' logo may be used to lock the door after this year!

We intend to go out with a bang, so our usual selection of beers from LocAle breweries will be available, together with ciders, perries and foreign beers.

You can also win a couple of pints by submitting the best anagram of Wallington Beer Festival to us. Tweet @CroydonCamra #wallingtonbeerfestival2014 or post on the Wallington 2014 event on facebook.

Our festival charity this year will be SCILL (Sutton Centre for Independent Living & Learning).

Visit <http://wallingtonbeerfestival.org.uk> for further information.

Dave Lands

SELLOUT SUCCESS AT RAIL ALE WEEKEND

With the ale running out just before closing time on the Sunday, the organisers of the Epping Ongar Railway's second annual Real Ale Weekend declared the event a success. From 1 to 3 August, North Weald Station saw crowds enjoy a range of 40 ales and eight ciders, with many sourced from local breweries. As a special treat on the Saturday night, members of Loughton Folk Club entertained the crowds on the train and around the bar marquee until the sun went down.

Brentwood Gobbler, a light golden beer brewed specially for the event, was one of the first to sell out. Alan Perryman, the organiser, explains, *"When the festival team learned that the Holden F5 society were working to build an authentic steam locomotive for the line, we were keen to support their efforts by promoting them - through a special beer of course."* Steve Cooper, Chairman of the Holden F5 Society, added, *"This type of engine worked the trains to Ongar until 1957 which is why we are keen to build a new one. The nickname Gobbler comes from their appetite for the black stuff - in this case coal!"* Despite Gobbler's popularity, visitors chose A Mild With No Name, a collaboration brew by Billericay Brewery and the Dominion Brewing Company, to be beer of the festival.

Following the beer festival, the railway has constructed a purpose built bar within one of its classic carriages so that the railway can serve draught and bottled conditioned ales at special events. Easily accessible by Routemaster bus from Epping Underground, London's local heritage railway is striving to put ales on the rails. Keep an eye on their website www.eorailway.co.uk for news of the events which will feature beer.

Alan Perryman

Editor's note. For you steam enthusiasts, the Holden F5 was a 2-4-2 tank engine, originally built by the Great Eastern Railway. If you want to see what they looked like, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Wt3RFXf2Tw>. The picture of one standing next to a Standard Stock tube train is particularly evocative.

BATTERSEA BEER FESTIVAL

South West London branch would like to confirm that, sadly, there will be no Battersea Beer Festival in 2015. As many of you may have already have heard, the refurbishment of the Battersea Grand Hall is scheduled to start later this year, following – at long last – Battersea Arts Centre's successful application for funding from the National Lottery (or whatever it is called now).

**Check the
Beer Festival Calendar
and visit the
London Events Calendar
at
www.london.camra.org.uk**

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Admission £3.00 (£2.00 Thu & Fri lunchtime)

CAMRA members £2.00 (FREE Thu & Fri lunchtime)

www.rhcamra.org.uk - www.facebook.com/TwickenhamBeerFest

Families welcome until 6.30 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Beer festival news

Works will include new toilets and kitchen, replumbing, rewiring and general improvements.

As much as we all love this fine building, I think that we would all agree that the refurbishment is much needed. It is likely however that the works will involve the loss of the Lower Hall.

The hall management have made it clear that they will welcome us back and it may be that we will be the first large event to be held in the newly-refurbished hall in 2016. The pipe organ should also be fully restored by then; now there's a thought...

One alternative venue has been investigated but sadly it was not suitable. We cannot find another.

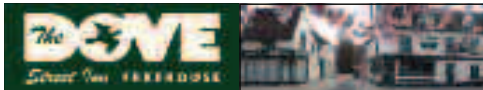
Tony Hedger

Letters

All readers – not just CAMRA members – are invited to contribute to this column but please remember that it is intended for debate and constructive criticism. The editor reserves the right not to print any contributions that are otherwise.

Please e-mail letters to: ldnews.hedger@gmail.com. If you do not have e-mail, letters may be sent to: London Drinker Letters, 4 Arundel House, Heathfield Road, Croydon CR0 1EZ.

In both cases, please state 'letter for publication' so as to avoid any misunderstandings.



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October is CAMRA's cider and perry month, so here is a roundup of some recent news. A number of CAMRA branches will be holding cider and perry themed events during the month. These are listed in our Branch Diaries section at the front.

CAMRA APPROVES FREEZE ON CIDER

CAMRA has welcomed the Government's decision in the Budget to freeze cider duty. In making the announcement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer highlighted that some cider producers in the West Country had been hit hard by recent weather conditions so needed additional support.

The duty freeze applies to cider with a juice content of 35% or higher but does not apply to sparkling cider between 5.5% and 8.5% ABV. Andrea Briers, Chair of CAMRA's Apple Committee commented, "Cider is a traditional British product and I welcome the Chancellor's decision to freeze cider duty to help those who keep this tradition alive. I would encourage you to help real cider or perry makers thrive by visiting a pub and trying some."

Small cider producers (those making below 70 hectolitres each year) already pay no duty so the benefit of this duty freeze will primarily benefit the slightly larger producers. For more information on real cider and perry, visit www.camra.org.uk/cider

BROMLEY CIDER TRIP

We in the Bromley Branch of CAMRA finally managed to catch up with our last branch cider representative, Julian Barrett, who has now moved to the Derbyshire area. Following our Westcombe Park Beer & Cider Festival, Julian was able to present the cider and perry winners of the festival awards.

The Cider of the Festival award went to Paul Johnson from Sheppey in Kent for his Marsh Monkey Dry cider. Amazingly, this was Paul's first cider of the festival win; he had achieved runner up awards before but hadn't got first prize.

The Perry of the Festival was Simon Boarer's Double Vision Medium from Staplehurst, also in Kent. Double Vision was also Perry of the Festival at the Mad March Cider Festival, giving Double Vision a 'double whammy, as it were. Simon's new certificate from us was the latest addition to his collection of many previous CAMRA awards that decorate the walls of Double Vision HQ. Other highlights of the day were travelling around in style in Chris Crowther's Bentley and visiting the splendid CAMRA award winning pub, the Flower Pot in Maidstone.

Geraldine Rolfe



Simon (left) receives his certificate from Julian

LONDON GLIDER SOARS

The Cider of the Festival at last year's Pig's Ear Beer Festival was London Glider, produced in Woodford Green in East London using fruit gathered from suburban gardens and orchards – the perfect environmental activity. London Glider was created by a partnership of husband and wife, Peter Newton and Rochelle Schwarz, and John Burgess. They remark, "We're proud that since 2010 we've made use of an available natural product. Fruit that would otherwise go to waste now results in an award-winning product."

Presentation of the award was made at the Sebright Arms in Bethnal Green. Assistant manager, Lea Aleydis, commented, "This pub reopened in 2012 and has thrived by providing acknowledged real ales and artisan cider. London Glider is high on the approval list of our customers. They increasingly appreciate the tangy taste of freshly pressed apples employing an organic yeast in the flesh and on the skin. Being a local London product also appeals."

Bill Green



Pictured left to right: John Burgess, Mick Lewis, Lea Aleydis, Rochelle Schwarz and Peter Newton

CAMRA'S NATIONAL CIDER AND PERRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The final round of judging for the above took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend at Reading Beer Festival. The results were as follows:

Cider: Gold – Sheppy's Medium; Silver – Dove Syk, Ribble Valley Gold; Bronze – Wilce's Cider

Perry: Gold – Oliver's Perry; Silver – Kent Cider Company Perry; Bronze – Raglan Cider Mill Snowy Owl

Sheppy's Medium was described by the judges as having 'a rich apple aroma, dry yet well-balanced flavour and a clean, refreshing, moreish finish'. Oliver's Perry was described as 'initially sweet with a dry aftertaste; well balanced with great body'.

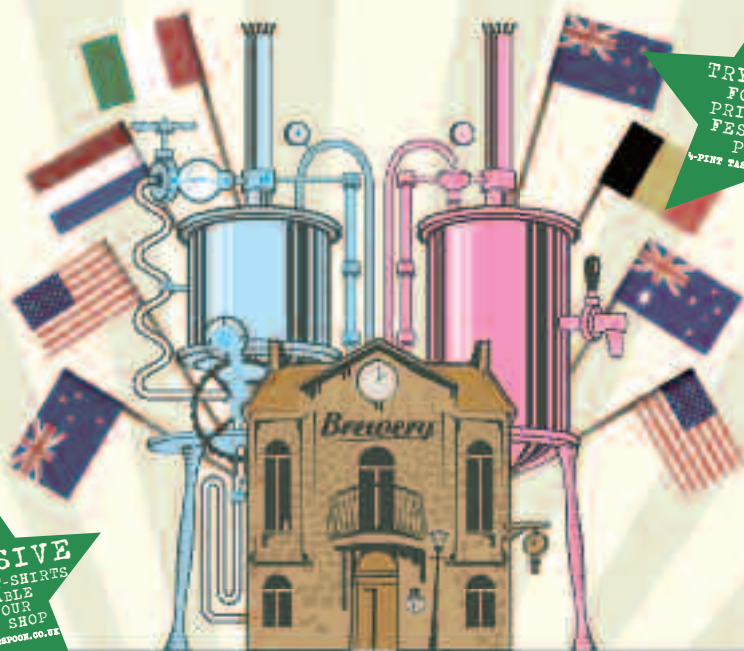
Andrea Briers, the chair of APPLE, CAMRA's national cider and perry committee, commented, "Real cider and perry continue to grow in popularity and by the quality of this year's entrants it is easy to see why. With such a fantastic range of quality ciders and perries now being produced all over the UK, the standard of this year's competition was higher than ever. The overall winners should be extremely proud of their achievement as picking a champion from such an accomplished field proved very difficult."

There may however be lean times ahead for cider and perry drinkers. After last year's record crop, the subsequent wettest winter on record has left some 17,300 acres of orchard in Somerset and Herefordshire under threat. It only needs an apple tree to be under water for 14 days for its root system to

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be severely damaged. Farmers were left anxiously waiting through May to see if their trees blossomed. Paul Bartlett, chairman of the National Association of Cider Makers said, "We hope for the best, though recognise that the potential impact could seriously affect the income of growers this season and for several years to come." Even the big firms such as Bulmer's are worried because they source 90% of their apples from local farms.

Ten years ago, the cider industry used 110,000 tons of UK sourced apples a year; this has risen to 250,000. There are some 480 small producers across the country and consumption of cider and perry in the UK last year was around 1.5 billion pints, some 9% of all alcohol consumed. The industry is currently worth some £3 billion per annum to the economy.

Tony Hedger

Opinion: George's generosity – who really benefits

Chancellor George Osborne has announced in two successive Budgets the lowering of duty on beer by the equivalent of a penny a pint on an average strength beer. On the face of it, this is mildly good news for drinkers. Guess what? I don't think it is. Why? Because, in the majority of cases, I doubt whether it will be the drinker who gets to enjoy this munificence.

Here's how it works. First up, this measure will take the form of a reduction in the duty paid by the brewer. So, will the brewer pass this reduction on? Well, brewers might be tempted to collar some or all of the benefit by not making price adjustments commensurate with the reduction in duty. Such an outcome would be good news for small breweries, although micros would only benefit by one penny instead of two because of Small Brewery Duty Relief (SBDR). It would be very good news for the multinationals who operate on narrow margins in much of their trade.

However, apart from brewers with tied estates, brewers have to sell to pubs, most of which are owned by big pubcos. These big pubcos have a huge monopolistic buying position *vis a vis* brewers. For example, it is generally recognised that they are the major beneficiaries of SBDR as they extort lower prices out of those brewers who qualify for it. So why should they not screw down the prices they pay to brewers to reflect those brewers' reductions in cost resulting from the Budget? Perhaps they should expect wholesale prices to reflect duty reductions; otherwise they would have nothing to pass on to the consumer.

The trouble is that most of the big non-brewing pubcos are in a financial mess. That is why they charge tenants unwarranted sums of money for the privilege of ordering beer. That is why many publicans end up earning peanuts even when their pubs do good trade. So why should anyone expect them to pass on anything to publicans? The form book doesn't suggest it.

The final stage is the publican. Imagine (and it's already a stretch) that the price of beer delivered to the cellar reflected the 2p duty reduction (1p in the case of a micro). Will publicans pass that on? Well, given the straitened circumstances of many in the trade, this is not exactly a racing certainty.

The problem is that reductions of 1p a pint get lost in the noise. The price of a pint will tend to rise annually because of increased costs of raw materials, energy, labour costs, business rates etc etc so when your local puts a few pence on a pint it may be impossible to tell whether that increase is a penny less than it would otherwise have been. (The chances are that it isn't)

My guess is that the biggest beneficiaries of Chancellor George's generosity will be the big pubcos, with brewers running second. And odds-on favourite for last place will be the poor bloody drinker. When you break it down, the Chancellor has, whether by accident or design, pulled off a political masterstroke. He has given a concealed, taxpayer funded, subsidy to his mates

in the big pubcos and, instead of attracting criticism, has seen it welcomed by the unthinking as a gesture towards beer drinkers and a measure which will help make drinking in pubs more attractive. Isn't self delusion a wonderful thing? A 2p reduction, (which probably won't actually materialise) in the price of a pint costing over £3 is going to get drinkers back into pubs. Right, and I've just spoken to the Tooth Fairy who told me that she had recently encountered a pig flying overhead, carrying Elvis on its back.

Perhaps the next time someone from CAMRA goes to the Conservative Party Conference to thank Osborne, they should preface their remarks with "On behalf of Punch Taverns and Enterprise Inns ..."

Oh, and it should be the pubcos, and not CAMRA, who pay for the sycophantic beer mats!

Brian Sheridan

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BREWED BESIDE THE THAMES



London's own tsunami

Many Londoners may have heard about the beer flood that happened 200 years ago in which people died. Like many things associated with beer, there a myth developed that people ran to the deluge of beer with containers of all type to help themselves, started a massive party and severely hampered the rescue work. Another rumour was that when the injured arrived at the nearby Middlesex Hospital other patients, smelling the beer on the incomers, almost started a riot when they wanted to know why they weren't involved in the party!

So what did happen? The best account I have read is by Martyn Cornell in his Zythophile Blog who set about dispelling a lot of the myths but all accounts agree that the tragedy took place just off Tottenham Court Road in the Horseshoe Brewery owned by the Meux family. Does the name sound familiar? This business merged with Friary to become Friary Meux, eventually being part of the Allied empire in the 1960s.

At the beginning of the 1800s, porter was an exceptionally popular drink. To get economies of scale, and to meet the demand, breweries started to brew in large quantities and used huge vessels to mature the beer. At that time, it was usual for customers to ask for a blend of matured and fresh porter, varying the combination to suit their own tastes. The Horseshoe Brewery was no exception and stored some of its porter for many months before releasing to the trade; the porter that caused the flood had sat in a 22 foot high vat for some 10 months. This vat was reported to contain 3,555 barrels - if true, this would have been over a million pints (1,023,840 to be precise).

The problem that caused the tsunami started on 17 October 1814 when one of the vessel's 22 iron hoops, which secured the wooden staves, broke. Although the hoops weighed 56 stone, this happened several times a year and so no one lost any sleep about it other than the duty clerk writing a note to one of the brewery partners to ask for it to be mended. But that turned out to be a bad idea because sometime between 5.30 and 6 pm, the vat burst. The porter came out with such force that it knocked down a wall 25 feet high. The beer, combined with flying staves from the vessel, smashed several hogsheads of porter (432 pints each) and knocked the peg out of another vat containing over half a million pints, some of which added to the deluge.



The Meux Brewery

The 15 foot wave of beer rushed down the street. It filled cellars, knocked down the backs of houses and washed people from first floor rooms. There were some reports that the noise could be heard 5 miles away. An anonymous American wrote

about being snatched from the 'jaws of death': *"All at once, I found myself borne onward with great velocity by a torrent which burst upon me so suddenly as almost to deprive me of breath. A roar as of falling buildings at a distance, and suffocating fumes, were in my ears and nostrils. I was rescued with great difficulty by the people who immediately collected around me, and from whom I learned the nature of the disaster which had befallen me".*

Reports vary as to how many people actually died. The initial tally was up to 30; others reported 21, taking into account post event deaths, but the figure reported by the coroner was eight: three small children, one teenager and four women. Five of the deaths were in one household where a wake was taking place. This remarkably small number was mainly because most of the people in the surrounding area were still out working. The *Times*' report two days later confirms the number and reported on a macabre fixation of the Victorians with death, *"In the end there were eight fatalities and many more severely injured. Rescue workers were literally up to their waists in beer while attempting to find and retrieve the dead and the hurt, some of them injuring themselves in the process. Some of the bereaved displayed the bodies of the dead in their front rooms, charging the curious to take a look. Such was the crowd in one such house, that the floor collapsed, causing further injuries."*

Money was collected and it is hoped that this went to the families affected, although that was not the only charitable activity. A fund was set up to compensate those who had had their belongings ruined and one donation came from Florence Young, whose family later owned Young's Brewery in Wandsworth.

Despite the disaster and the estimated £23,000 loss that Meux said they sustained, the brewery carried on producing porter and was reportedly the last porter only brewery in London. Today, there is no sign of the brewery; the Dominion Theatre stands in its place. But if you happen to be in a pub on Friday 17 October at 5.30 pm, raise a glass to those who died in the one and only beer tsunami and, if porter is available, it would seem appropriate to do the toast with that!

If you would like to find out more about this incident, Martyn's article can be found at <http://zythophile.wordpress.com/2010/10/17/so-what-really-happened-on-october-17-1814/>

Christine Cryne

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Email

The Shifting Spirit

They are not to everyone's taste, I know, but I really like those pubs with the bottle green tiled exteriors. I'm pleased to say that ceramic artist, Matthew Raw, agrees with me but he has the talent to do something about it.

Matthew, who comes from Manchester but these days is a regular at the Pembury Tavern, has created a full-size installation called the Shifting Spirit. He explains, "The Shifting Spirit is my response to the gentrification that is happening across the country. I chose 'the pub' to discuss this, as they are the weather vane for an area."

The project was originally on display at the 'Jerwood Makers Open' exhibition at the Jerwood space. Unfortunately, this has now ended but, if you are around and about, you can see it at Hannahs at Seale-Hayne, Newton Abbot, South Devon TQ12 6NQ from 6 September until 19 October and then at the Gallery Oldham, Oldham Cultural Quarter, Oldham OL1 1AL from 15 November to 1 March 2015.

If you can't get to see it 'live', here is what it looks like.

Tony Hedger





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Campaigning for planning reform

Among the plethora of entertainments at the Great British Beer Festival this year, you might have missed the launch of CAMRA's latest planning campaign. Full details are at www.pubsmatter.org.uk. This campaign builds on our long unheeded calls for the 'loopholes' that allow pubs to be demolished or converted into places like supermarkets or betting shops to be closed. In 2012, we were told by erstwhile pubs minister Brandon Lewis that there were no plans to amend the General Permitted Development Order; a bolt-on document to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 which outlines which changes of use and minor extensions can be implemented without planning permission. However, now that Mr Lewis has taken over as planning and housing minister, things seem to have changed. A technical consultation on planning reform has been a running between July and September. CAMRA has responded to this consultation at a number of levels, as doubtless many individual members have.

The key proposal is to bring new betting shops and pay day loan shops under planning control. On the positive side, this means that pubs will no longer be able to turn into betting shops without permission. However we would like to see a reciprocal measure whereby no change of use of a pub is allowed without the grant of planning consent. This way, local planning authorities and the communities they represent get a fair say in the process. The CAMRA Greater London regional response calls for exactly that and you can read it in full on our website: www.london.camra.org.uk.

Our new community pubs minister is Kris Hopkins and he has made the usual public statements about how important

pubs are. Along with other DCLG ministers, Mr Hopkins continues to advise communities to 'list their local' if they want to save it. The *Pubs Matter* campaign recognises the obvious disconnect between localism and planning, in that registration as an Asset of Community Value does not affect the permitted development rights of the pub owner. So ACV pubs, clearly valued by those who have gone to the effort of registering them, can be turned into other uses e.g. a Tesco Express (other supermarkets are available) without the pub users having a say. This is what we are trying to bring to an end. Jonathan Mail and Matt Brown of CAMRA HQ met with DCLG officials in September to hammer our message home and Mr Hopkins has agreed to speak at CAMRA's fringe event at the Conservative Party conference.

James Watson

The Oxford English Dictionary defines real ale as:
"Cask-conditioned beer that is served traditionally, without additional gas pressure".



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Editor's note: as you would expect, I have received several responses to Martyn Cornell's contribution about pub preservation, although not as many as I expected. Martyn certainly had some support but here are two correspondents taking the opposite view.

It is difficult to know where to begin in addressing the confusion of thought evidenced in Martyn Cornell's letter (LD Aug / Sept '14) on the subject of Assets of Community Value (ACVs). Let's start with his assertion that "You cannot tell me what I can do with my property, if that use is legal". That might sound like robust common sense, at least if you believe that property rights trump all other interests. Yet two paragraphs earlier, we are told that "If I own a house, or a shop, I can't knock it down and build a factory on the site". So replacing a private house with a factory is right out, and the requirement to gain permission before doing so infringes nobody's property rights but replacing a public house with a supermarket is perfectly OK, and the slightest attempt to regulate such proceedings would shake the very foundations of Western democracy. A more blatant example of double standards would be hard to imagine.

Later, Mr Cornell caricatures CAMRA's policy as the belief that "all pubs must remain open as pubs for ever". That would imply that CAMRA was pushing for all pubs currently open to be designated as Assets of Community Value, just in case there's ever a threat to their future. That is nonsense, and such a well-informed commentator as Mr Cornell must know that it is nonsense. In fact, early experience reveals ACV applications to have been highly selective and targeted, with CAMRA branches very sensibly encouraging communities to take the initiative and CAMRA acting as facilitator rather than instigator. I believe communities are best placed to know which pubs matter to them – perhaps Mr Cornell does not.

Your editorial footnote to the effect that Martyn Cornell is not, in fact, a thwarted property developer is well taken. That only makes it the more regrettable that such a respected writer should have misread the issue so egregiously.

Rhys Jones, Aberystwyth

In case you are wondering, Mr Jones is a subscriber to *London Drinker* although he picked up the August/September edition in a pub following a visit to the Great British Beer Festival.

It's heartening to see *London Drinker* stimulating debate by publishing provocative articles that challenge assumptions held within CAMRA and the wider beer-drinking community. We've had Brian Sheridan's broadside against new London micro-breweries. And in the August/September edition there was Martyn Cornell's salvo against the pub preservation movement. There have been responses to Brian; this is one to Martyn.

Martyn objects to campaigners seeking to dictate what pub owners can and can't do with their property. In my view his argument founders on the following grounds.

He exaggerates CAMRA's position on pub preservation. CAMRA has never said that "all pubs must remain open as pubs for ever". CAMRA's External Policy Document sets out (at section 14.3) its objectives as "maintaining a healthy and varied choice of pubs as a social asset to serve the needs of different communities" and "conserving pub buildings and pub interiors of special historic or architectural interest". Whereas CAMRA may regret the loss of any pub, it is simply not feasible to campaign to save every pub under threat.

Martyn relies too much on the legal concept of ownership. Although he recognises that a business's 'stakeholders' include its

customers, he doesn't acknowledge that people who use a particular pub regularly have a stake in that pub that transcends title to the property. Many regulars have an attachment to their local that they won't have to a nearby taxi firm, laundrette or take-away. They spend time and money in the pub not because they need to but because they want to. Permanent closure of their pub is not just an inconvenience; it can cause genuine sadness and anger.

Martyn refers to pub owners as if they are all individuals. But the large majority of the UK's pubs are actually owned by limited companies, whose shareholders will not usually have any personal involvement in those pubs. Companies, particularly the big 'pubcos', see pubs essentially as pieces of real estate to be bought or sold according to profitability. The "right to enjoy property", which Martin so strongly supports, does not apply to these corporate owners.

In saying "if a pub isn't working, it should shut", Martyn fails to appreciate that pubs may change. There are plenty of examples of failing pubs that have had their fortunes revived by enterprising new owners. A pub that 'isn't working' can start to work again. But if you shut that pub, and it is then converted to another use, it is unlikely ever to be a pub again. Lose a pub once and the chances are that you lose it forever.

The pub is a great British institution; nowhere else in the world has pubs quite like ours. But the nation's stock of pubs has been severely depleted by the many thousands of closures over the last ten years. Every pub closure reduces the number of actual or potential outlets for cask-conditioned ale. If you campaign for real ale then it follows that you should also campaign for pubs.

Mark Bravery



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Pub campaigning

ADMIRAL MANN, HOLLOWAY

Many CAMRA branches in London celebrate their 40th anniversaries this year, so it is sad to learn that a pub where the North London branch held early meetings has closed. The Admiral Mann in Hargrave Place off Brecknock Road is to be sold by the Hertfordshire brewery McMullen's to a property developer and served its last pint after 133 years of trading on Sunday 24 August.



The closure has met with strong protest from the local community and a 'Save the Admiral Mann' committee has been formed, chaired by Richard Lewis, who commented, *"The trend of closing local pubs is worrying in itself, but the imminent closure of the Admiral Mann is a particularly cruel blow as there are precious few traditional pubs of its kind left. The Admiral Mann has a vibrant customer base with an age group stretching from the late teens to nearly ninety. It supports various clubs and organisations, including local darts and women's football – and even a vegan festival. Its closure will hit the local community hard as it will have lost an important part of its fabric. There has been barely three weeks between the announcement to close the pub and the actual closure. While local people have mobilised themselves magnificently against the move, time has been against us. Nonetheless there remains optimism that it may reopen one day as a pub. The emphasis now moves to potential planning applications that might be made relating to the property. I envisage any plans by a property developer will be closely scrutinised and be a test of Camden Council's policy in matters such as this."* It is important to note that this is not a failing pub.

An on-line petition has been set up and supporters are being urged to sign it: <http://tinyurl.com/k2vm4ah>. CAMRA's North London Branch are supporting the campaign.

CROCKER'S FOLLY, ST JOHN'S WOOD

This iconic Grade II* listed Victorian gin palace which features no less than 50 kinds of marble, along with Romanesque columns, cut glass chandeliers and carved mahogany, will reopen at the end of October as a restaurant and bar. The owners, the Maroush Group, who acquired the site in 2014, report that they have succeeded in 'bringing a contemporary feel to this unique building, whilst simultaneously respecting its history and treasuring its unusual architectural and design features.'

It has been closed since 2004 after trading since 1898. The pub will be divided into distinct spaces; a large front bar which will offer its own separate menu, a restaurant in the middle and a more intimate dining room at the back. There will also be terrace area. The varied menu will include steaks and a selection of contemporary Lebanese dishes.

The pub has, incidentally, only been called Crocker's Folly since 1987. It was originally called the Crown Hotel and was built by entrepreneur Frank Crocker to serve the then projected

terminus of the new Great Central Railway. Following a bout of Victorian nimbysism, this was eventually built in Marylebone but the story that as a consequence Crocker committed suicide by jumping out of one of the pub's upper floor windows is not true. He died of natural causes in 1904 and his ghost does not haunt the pub.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON, SPITALFIELDS

Another unspoilt traditional East End pub has fallen into the clutches of a developer. In the heart of historic Spitalfields, between the famous old market and Commercial Street, the Duke of Wellington is welcoming, traditional, diverse and relaxed. Think of an East End version of the Blue Posts on Berwick Street and you are not far off in appearance, feel and tone. A campaign launch took place on 18 September in the pub, with the aim of seeing off the developer. This is another one worth fighting for. The tenants have secured very sound professional advice but will need widespread support from pub users and their local community. Further details will follow as the campaign grows.

GOLDEN LION, CAMDEN

The appeal by the owners, Norrey's Barn, against Camden Council's refusal of planning permission was heard in front of a planning inspector on 3 September. An impressive array of local residents, local politicians, including a Greater London Assembly member, and publicans gave evidence against the proposal to reduce the size of the pub and convert the upper floors to accommodation. Many made the point that they wished to protect one of the area's last remaining 'traditional watering holes'. Henry Conlon, the chairman of the Camden Inner London Licensees Association and landlord of the Dublin Castle was quoted in the New Camden Journal as saying, *"Here we are again, with the community actively defending a family-run business. This developer should not be permitted to railroad over the will of local people."* The landlord of the Golden Lion, Dave Murphy, said, *"I run a very successful business. Since 2011, the way my family and I have been treated has been disgraceful. We have had our insurance increase by 90 per cent and they have sent in the bailiffs. We have had to put our plans to improve the business on hold, because of the uncertainty."* London Assembly member Tom Copley, who lives in Kentish Town, told the inspector that the *"dysfunctional nature of the property market"* was leading to developers taking over pubs and *"cashing in"* by shutting them down. He added, *"It is important that the local authority is willing to step in and stop this."* On a more prosaic but essentially valid note, Shaun Pollard, the chairman of the Save the Golden Lion Committee – a Camden resident for 15 years – said that the Chalk Farm Pool League, the biggest league in London, would suffer because it held its meetings in the upstairs function room.

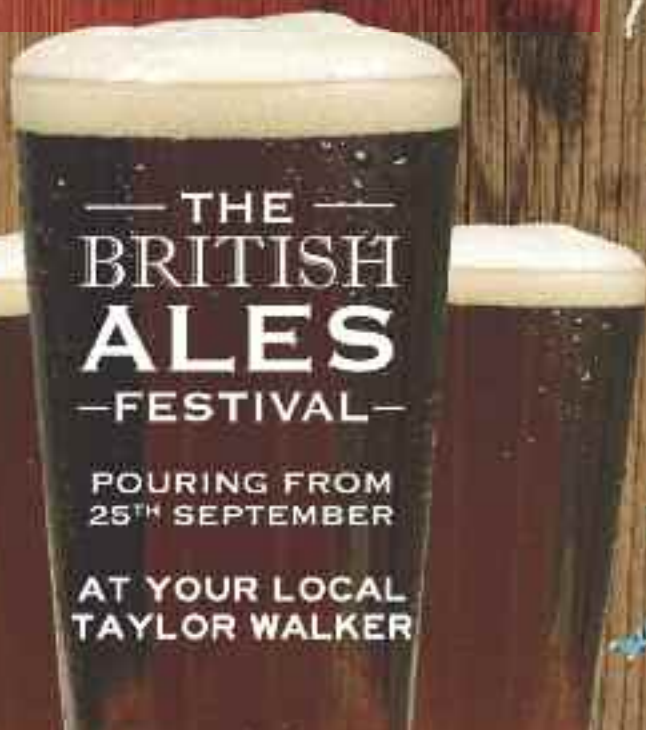
A decision is expected around the end of September and will be reported in the next edition.

HALF MOON, HERNE HILL

This Grade II* listed Victorian pub, included in CAMRA's regional inventory of historic pub interiors for London because of its painted mirrors, appears to be in a sorry state. It was reported in the local press recently that since being flooded from a burst water main last August (reported here at the time) it has been closed and is now being squatted. The owners, the Dulwich Estate, are instigating legal proceedings but as it is not



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Pub campaigning

– yet – a residential building, squatting there is not a criminal offence. The chief executive of the Dulwich Estate, John Major (no, not that one) was quoted in the South London Press as saying, *“the Dulwich Estate is to refurbish the building, retaining the historic pub on the ground floor and we are working on plans to convert the upper floors into flats, subject to obtaining planning permission.”* Given the views of some local residents quoted in the same article, they could have a battle on their hands.

HARE & HOUNDS, LEYTON

The Waltham Forest Civic Society organised a public meeting on 24 July at the pub with the aim of showcasing CAMRA's 'List your Local' campaign to members of the society and regulars at the pub. James Watson of East London & City Branch and Claire Cain of CAMRA HQ spoke at the meeting. The civic society is working on an application to register the Hare & Hounds as the first ACV pub in Waltham Forest. And not before time...

NORTH POLE, ISLE OF DOGS

Although we reported in the last *London Drinker* that the North Pole had been demolished, it is in fact still standing although currently closed. An application was submitted for demolition and replacement with... have a guess... yes, a stunning development of studio, one bedroom and two bedroom apartments, within easy reach of Canary Wharf. What else. This application was withdrawn due to the applicant overlooking the requirement to provide some 'affordable housing' but we fully expect another application soon. We feel that this pub, as one of the last true unpretentious boozers reminiscent of the rich industrial past of the Island, ought to be saved. Even Canary Wharfers fancy a change from All Bar One every now and then. We understand Enterprise Inns were just waiting for the pub to retire before the usual and predictable asset conversion.

OLD PARR'S HEAD, WEST KENSINGTON

Hammersmith and Fulham Council have refused the planning application for conversion into flats. Sadly, a CAMRA member who just happened to be passing by at the end of July witnessed workmen cutting up the bar tops. Even if they do not have permission to develop the site, nothing stops owners from gutting the building and making it even more difficult for anyone who might try to return it to use as a pub. Indeed, they could go as far as demolishing it.

PACKHORSE & TALBOT, CHISWICK

In early August a notice appeared on this landmark pub saying that the owners had asked Hounslow Council to make 'a determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required to the method of demolition and any proposed restoration of the site.' It appears that the Spirit Group are operating the pub on a rolling one-year lease from a firm called Sillus Investments SA to whom apparently they sold the pub some time ago but they would not respond to enquiries and neither would the agents for Sillus.

Local residents are organising to prevent any development of the admitted highly desirable site. Their initial enquiries have confirmed that the pub is trading well with revenues rising. CAMRA's West London Branch is supporting the campaign.

One possibility that may help save the pub is that Hounslow

Council are considering creating a conversation area in that part of Chiswick. This was envisaged in the Council's Local Plan in 2013. Being in a conservation area would impose more robust conditions on any development.

PORCUPINE, MOTTINGHAM

A group of individuals local to Mottingham Village have formed a collaborative association with the intention of rebuilding and vitalising local community life. Their initial focus is to ascertain what residents and others who visit or pass through the village feel might benefit them in terms of a community hub that might be able to offer a genuine, inclusive space for people to interact and at the same time provide refreshments and services based on real community needs.

As has been reported previously, the Porcupine, the main public house in the village has been closed but the group has persuaded Bromley Council to list it as an 'Asset of Community Value'. In short and very simple terms, this means that the community now has a say in what happens to the pub should it become available. For that reason the group have adopted the title of the Porcupine Development Group.

The group now want to hear from as many local residents as possible as to what use could be made of the facilities provided. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PZZVCHN> and complete the online questionnaire.

Norman Warner

TOTTENHAM, OXFORD STREET

There were 38 pubs along Oxford Street in 1852; today there is just one left: the Grade II* listed Tottenham, at the far eastern end of this famous shopping street. The Nicholson's chain (part of Mitchells & Butlers) operate the pub on a lease arrangement subject to annual renewal. The alarm was raised in mid-August when eagle-eyed London pub expert Dominic Pinto spotted an application for a certificate of lawfulness from the owners of the pub, Marchill Management Ltd. Essentially, the owners are asking Westminster Council to give them a legally binding confirmation that it would be permissible to change the use of the Tottenham from a pub to a shop and that such a move would not require planning permission. This is an unusual application given that the change of use would be covered by their permitted development rights (see the adjacent article 'Campaigning for Planning Reform' for more information). The suspicion is that given the iconic nature of the building, its Grade II* listing and its presence on CAMRA's National Inventory of historically significant pub interiors, they might be trying to insulate themselves against any future attempts to restrict their rights as property owners. We are unaware of any serious plans to operate a shop from the premises at this time, but such enquiries with the planning authority are usually the first stage. Working together, the sections of CAMRA involved have set a number of initiatives in motion.

Paul Charlton, the Pub Protection Officer for CAMRA's West London Branch has formally written to Westminster Council requesting that an Article 4 Direction be issued. This would remove permitted development rights at the site. James Watson, CAMRA's Regional Pub Protection Advisor, has also written to the Council to reiterate the importance of protecting the last surviving public house on Oxford Street and echoing the local Branch's request for an Article 4 Direction.

Paul Ainsworth, who chairs CAMRA's National Pub Heritage Group, has written to the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles,

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outlining the significance of the Tottenham, not least its very special interior and its rich history on that busy street. Paul has asked the Secretary of State to use his own powers to issue an Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights at the site. Paul has backed up this request with examples of English case law and other significant planning and appeal decisions that have secured the protection of special interiors and recognised that the historical importance of such buildings is inextricably linked to their continued use and enjoyment as a public house.

Paul has also requested that the Secretary of State insists on a listed building application for any change of use and has written to English Heritage, asking them to lend their support to our calls for an Article 4 Direction.

The continued and sustained use of public houses on established sites is precisely what our regional pub protection strategy aims to achieve. Notwithstanding the protection for pubs at Paragraph 70 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Pub Campaigning sections of *London Drinker* over the last few years are testament to the holes and flaws in a complicated system that sadly is still skewed in favour of developers and land owners and away from the communities who rely on pubs for their social needs. When we find that iconic pubs in the heart of the West End come under threat, just like our treasured backstreet boozers, it shows that we still have much to do.

In this instance there can be absolutely no doubt that the Tottenham is entirely viable and indeed very profitable, but instead the proposed alternative use stands to be more profitable in the short term. Once the pastime of sipping pints in the sumptuous Victorian ceramic splendour of this 1892 Baker Brothers masterpiece is replaced by browsing through, for example, racks of designer clothing, it will be very difficult, if not impossible to get back what we've lost. *Pubs Matter* – so why can't we have a say?



The Tottenham's sumptuous interior

TURNER'S OLD STAR, WAPPING

We have pleasure in announcing the very first registration of a pub as an ACV by Tower Hamlets Council. They added this pub to their register following an application from an East London Children's Charity which meets regularly at the pub. Unfortunately, we understand the decision was made days after the freehold sale of the pub was completed, Punch Taverns having sold the freehold for £1.2 million. In the meantime, the registration of Turner's Old Star is still of significance. Not only is Tower Hamlets Council becoming more enlightened about pubs by the week, it has added a further layer of protection to the pub because it stands in the idyllic Wapping Pierhead Conservation Area. The publicans, Paul and Bernice, run a very friendly community pub with traditional entertainment,

outdoor barbecues in summer and the occasional beer festival. Once again, the ACV registration in this case demonstrates the flaws in the practicality of the community right to bid provisions. The majority of the 500 pubs on ACV registers were put there after the horse had bolted! Having paid a price based on its development potential, it is unlikely that any developer would sell the freehold at a price which the community could afford. Only the planning system can protect pub use at this historic Georgian building.

The property developer in question appears to have a track record of buying viable – and we must stress viable, not failing – pubs from Punch Taverns and developing them for alternative uses. We believe that the same developer has been involved with the Alexandra in Muswell Hill which is currently being touted around the usual agents for £950,000 despite a strong campaign to oppose the change of use and conversion into two houses, and the Winchester in Highgate which has had its upper floors converted into separate flats although the pub has been retained.



Turner's Old Star – note the Taylor Walker lanterns which predate the current use of the name by Spirit

WALTHAM FOREST PUBS

As we go to press, the tally of Waltham Forest pubs which have closed recently or are about to close stands at five. This is in a borough that has lost 62% of its pub stock in the past 30 years. The Lord Brooke was sold to a developer for £740,000 following the loss of its premises licence. The Royston Arms in Chingford was sold by Stonegate pubs to a developer and we understand that new flats are planned on the site. The Antelope, E10, The Northcote Arms, E11, and the Heathcote Arms, E11, all closed during the summer with the Heathcote Arms serving its last pint on 7 September. Details on the future of these pubs are sketchy at this time. The rumours of flats are quick to start and quicker to spread but some online social media discussions suggest the Heathcote Arms might be refurbished and relaunched with a more 'gastro' theme. Regrettably, as previously reported, the Council lost an appeal over the Waltham Oak.

Waltham Forest Council is openly concerned about the number of pub closures in the borough and they have acknowledged that too many pubs have been lost to residential use in the last few years. Their planning officers have requested a meeting with CAMRA's National Planning Advisor, Matt Brown. In the meantime, a local group *Hands off our Pubs!* (HOOPS) which was engaged in the appeal over the Waltham Oak is keen to work with CAMRA to save what is left of Waltham Forest's pub stock. The East London and City Branch and HOOPS will be meeting shortly with a view to assisting the Council in protecting pub use through the planning system.

Pub campaigning

HOOPS have an aspiration to list every pub in the Borough as an ACV! We will of course support this, in spite of its practical limitations. After all, our new pubs minister Mr Kris Hopkins MP says “the best way to save your treasured local is to list it as an Asset of Community Value”. If only that were true, Minister...

TESCO SHOWS THAT PUBS MATTER

The proposed further amendments to the capital's regional planning policy, *The London Plan 2011*, have now been examined in public by planning inspector Mr Anthony Thickett. One of the questions he asked was “Should public houses be specifically mentioned in Policy 4.8Bc?” CAMRA Greater London Region had recommended that they should be and, with one exception, other bodies and individuals who responded agreed with us.

However, Tesco Stores Limited wrote, ‘The ‘Assets of Community Value’ legislation, which falls outside of the scope of the *London Plan*, provides the mechanism through which such assets can be identified and protected from changes of use, demolition and/or redevelopment. London Boroughs are making effective use of these arrangements to identify and protect valuable local facilities, and to ensure the planning system is able to effectively assess more sensitive proposals.’

Sadly, under existing planning legislation, Assets of Community Value are not exempt from the exercise of ‘permitted development rights’, so that in practice London Boroughs often find themselves powerless to protect valuable local facilities such as community pubs.

Tesco's statement continued, ‘We have brought a number of

disused former public houses back into active use by transforming them into local convenience stores. . . We consider public houses that are closed or unviable. Buildings that are empty or derelict and fall into disrepair offer no benefit to communities.’

At the hearing on 11 September, CAMRA London Regional Director Geoff Strawbridge said, ‘That statement ignores the much larger number of pubs that became disused only after Tesco bought them and destroyed their interior fittings. Since 2010, CAMRA has recorded 37 London pubs that were popular and viable before Tesco closed them. The Prince of Wales in Garratt Lane, Summerstown, SW17 is one good example. The Prince of Wales in Battersea Bridge Road is now going the same way. The George IV Music Bar on Brixton Hill, despite registration as an Asset of Community Value, is another Tesco Express.’

He added, ‘Tesco is not the only supermarket chain to have taken advantage of permitted development rights under planning legislation to convert cherished community pubs into convenience stores, with no opportunity for public consultation or local planning policy consideration, but their tally of ‘stealth conversions’ exceeds that of any of their competitors, both in London and nationally.’

Tesco's actions underline the importance of CAMRA's ‘Pubs Matter’ campaign, urging the removal of permitted development rights for pubs so that any proposal to demolish them or change their use is subject to planning controls.

James Watson and Tony Hedger, except where otherwise credited

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THERE IS NOTHING RUFF ABOUT HOP STUFF – BUT THERE IS A DOGGED DETERMINATION!

The canine association is to the brewery 'worker' with probably the best head of hair I have ever seen. Barley is a lovely black spaniel who was acquired the same day as the brewery and, with his big dark eyes, is guaranteed to melt everyone's heart.

Fortunately, Hop Stuff's beer is more than a match in taste to get equal attention as the spaniel. The Hop Stuff Brewery is on a small trading estate in Woolwich's historic Royal Arsenal area. This is an amazing military complex with a history of making ammunition since the late 1600s and contains some majestic buildings, mainly dating from 19th century. For football fans, it was also the original home of Arsenal Football Club (founded 1886) so now you know where the Gunners got their unusual name.

Designated the Tap Room, the light and airy area is open on a regular basis each month offering visitors an opportunity to sample the draught beers at a modest (for London) price of £3 per pint and to take away a bottle or two of their bottled range.

Hop Stuff began life in 2013 and like so many of London's new brewers, is struggling to keep up with demand. They have a ten barrel plant, acquired from Oban Ales and Oban also helped with the fitting out. Lack of fermenting capacity restricts their supply, so the brewery sometimes has to disappoint possible outlets. Further investment in fermenters is planned to cope with the demand. The initial investment for the brewery came from a crowd funding initiative which attracted 72 investors and the personal savings of the young couple, James and Emma, who were mad enough to follow their dream. But the dream is still yet to be fully fulfilled. Although James gave up his full time job in the capital markets in the City, Emma is still working while the brewery finds its feet but she gives a hand weekends and evenings. James is helped by Alex who does sales and social media, and a volunteer who does a couple of days a week in return for beer.

Lots of thought has been given to the brewery's development and Hop Stuff aim to cater for all sorts of outlets. Their beer range covers cask, keg and bottles and the flavours are equally diverse. There are three core beers: Pale Ale, a golden ale at 4.5% ABV; Fusilier, a 4.3% ABV best bitter and Renegade IPA at 5.6% ABV plus some seasonal brews.



Barley is in there somewhere...

On our visit we sampled their bottle-conditioned beers (APA, Saisoniers, Renegade IPA and Gunners Porter) and tasting notes for them can be found at: <http://www.london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=1972>. No doubt that a pint of two can account for Barley's glossy coat – beer shampoo is always the best!

For more details on the brewery visit go to www.hopstuffbrewery.com.

Christine Cryne

FIVE POINTS

Five Points are looking for new premises with a view to tripling their capacity. Their managing director, Edward Mason, told the *Morning Advertiser* that the brewery has been 'expanding at a rate of knots. We have been brewing commercially since March last year and have expanded three times.' It is hoped that there will be room on the new site for a brewery tap.

FULLER'S

The George IV in Chiswick was due to reopen on 22 September after refurbishment. The main structural change is that the room at the back, previously used as a comedy club, has been opened up and renamed the Boston Room, as a space for live entertainment, family celebrations, business seminars and conferences. The menu has changed. To quote Fuller's press release, it now 'focuses on freshly cooked delicious dishes using carefully selected, high quality ingredients.'

The Red Lion in Barnes has won the Best Cellar prize for the London and the South East region in the Great British Pub Awards 2014, organised by the Pubman's Morning Advertiser. Congratulations go to managers Angus McKean and Claire Morgan and we wish them good luck in the national competition.

LATE KNIGHTS

The brewery's tap, the London Beer Dispensary, received a good review in *Time Out* recently. The reviewer particularly liked the informality brought about by there being no bar as such but still having a garden and serving food. The beers come straight from the cask at good prices and take-aways are available. Like micropubs, brewery taps are an interesting development in our pub scene. The London Beer Dispensary can be found at 389 Brockley Road, SE24 2PH. The brewery also run two other pubs. For details see <http://www.lateknightsbrewery.co.uk/bars.html>.

TWICKENHAM FINE ALES

Congratulations to TFA who celebrated their tenth anniversary in September.

Thinking back to the recent debate in these pages about microbreweries, I wonder if we need to coin a new term for breweries such as TFA, Sambrook's, Windsor & Eton and the like. They might be 'small breweries' in terms of the definition used for Small Brewery Duty Relief but I feel that a slightly pejorative angle has crept into the use of the term 'microbreweries' so perhaps some breweries should be called something different so as to recognise their longevity and consistency. I'll throw that one open to you.

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TOTTENHAM – A BREWING TOWN AGAIN

In the nineteenth century there were three breweries in Tottenham, all of which had closed by 1930. In 2010, Redemption Brewing opened near the football ground, and it has now been joined by Beavertown, which opened a brewery close to Tottenham Hale station in May this year.

The two breweries are not direct competitors. Redemption is a wholly real ale brewery, with English brewing tradition at its core (even if it is run by Scotsman Andy Moffat). Beavertown is American in its outlook and ownership. The beers are quirky, expensive, and normally served from key kegs after freeze conditioning (although they also have bottling and canning lines on the premises). They are big, with a 30 barrel kettle and over 250 barrels of fermenter and conditioning tank capacity, mostly brand new. Redemption is gradually moving up from 10 to 20 barrel vessels.

Beavertown was founded in 2011 by Logan Plant (the son of the singer) in De Beauvoir Town in Islington at the Dukes Brew & Que pub. It briefly moved to Hackney in 2013, still using a four barrel plant, which is now being recommissioned for experimental brews. They have now set up a much larger operation in a double-width industrial unit at 17-18 Lockwood Industrial Park, N17 9QP. This is open for visitors with a minimalist bar (or sometimes more) every Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. The first of these open days was very popular, with at least two hundred people there by the time I left, two bars running and three food stalls.

To give you some idea of the beer range, the offer includes Lemon Phantom (3.4% ABV), a sweet & sour beer intended as an alcoholic Fanta; Smog Rocket Smoked Porter (5.4% ABV); Rubus Maximus raspberry beer (5.6% ABV) and 'Spresso Imperial Coffee Stout (9% ABV). Food on offer included pulled pork, falafel and burgers, 'complemented' by at least three channels of music, and children's games. The new housing development next door at Hale Village includes two huge student halls of residence and many small flats for first time buyers, so they have a ready market on their doorstep.

Ian McLaren – CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer for Redemption and Beavertown.

MORE TO COME

There are at least two more microbreweries on the way. Some time ago we mentioned that the Battersea Mess & Music Hall had passed from Antic to Innbrighton. It has been renamed the Four Thieves and should open soon, microbrewery and all. The company have recruited Nic Donald from By The Horns to be the brewer. I wonder where the other 36 thieves have got to.

Similarly, the ETM Group, already well established in London with eleven pubs including the Gun in Docklands, have acquired the Ealing Park Tavern in South Ealing Road, W5. It is currently being refurbished and will feature a microbrewery at the back of the pub brewing a range of four beers for sale in the pub. It is scheduled to reopen towards the end of October.

LITTLE BREW

We reported about a year ago that Stu Small had upped sticks and taken his Little Brew brewery to York. Having acquired a new – to him anyway – ten barrel brewing kit from Stewart's Brewery in Loanhead who were expanding, he has made a significant impact on the real ale scene in York, especially with his Gold (4.2 ABV). Of his days in London, Stu says, "I try not to look at London too much, with either regret

or pleasure but there are 70-plus breweries there now and it seemed the right thing to do, to relocate the business."

FAIRY STORY

The beer itself, sadly, has now come and gone but this is such a fascinating story that it is well worth telling, especially at this time because of its World War One connection. Crafted & Distilled is a company set up to brew limited edition beers in collaboration with small breweries, financed by crowd funding. In July they teamed up with Peter Haydon, beer writer and brewer at the Florence/A Head in a Hat brewery in South London. The beer was a 5.5% ABV brown ale flavoured with chestnuts. It was called Fairy Feller's Master Stroke, named for a painting by Richard Dadd (1817 to 1886), now in the Tate Gallery. The master stroke in question is the blow needed to crack open a chestnut.

Dadd murdered his father and, being judged criminally insane, was committed to the Bethlem Royal Hospital where Peter's great-great-grandfather, George Henry Haydon, was the head steward. He commissioned the painting in 1855 but sadly, Dadd was transferred to Broadmoor before the painting could be completed. It eventually came into the ownership of Siegfried Sassoon who presented the painting to the Tate in memory of his friend and fellow officer Julian Dadd (a great-nephew of the artist) who was killed in the First World War along with two of his brothers.

The beer was brewed on 28 July, the centenary of the start of the war. The painting is stunning and quite beyond my descriptive abilities. Have a Google: <http://www.tate.org.uk> or, better still, go and look at the real thing.

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MORE TASTERS TRAINED!

On 12 July nineteen CAMRA members got together to learn a bit more about the complex flavours in beer as part of CAMRA's London Tasting Panel training.

Kindly hosted by London Fields Brewery in their Tap Room, attendees were taken through the procedure for tasting and recording beer flavours and then given the chance to try out their newly gained knowledge on a range of London Fields' beers. Now they have gone away to practise!

The London Tasting Panel is one of many CAMRA Tasting Panels across the UK. They are responsible for tasting all the beers that are regularly brewed within their particular region, and for submitting the descriptions to the compilers of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. They also put forward beers to CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain Competition.

Training takes place about once a year but if you are interested in getting involved, see <http://www.london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=7672> for more details.



The Tap Room at London Fields Brewery

AGING BEER

Many people think that a 'best before' date on a bottle of beer means that a beer is undrinkable after that date. Far from it. These days, brewers have to put a date on their bottles to comply with food labelling regulations but it doesn't mean that the beer isn't good after that date, it just depends on the beer.

All beers will change as they age, developing wine characteristics if aged for years. Some stronger beer will often benefit from aging, becoming more mellow and complex. Recently, I had a bottle of Harvey's 1859 Porter which was over four years old. This 4.8% ABV beer was brewed to a Henry Harvey recipe of 1859, a time when porters were often aged before drinking.

There was black treacle flavour throughout,

balanced by a little sweetness that lingers in a dry finish and overlaid with some caramelised fruit and roast notes. The initial strength of taste becomes more subtle on drinking but is still full flavoured. A good beer for desserts and I teamed it with fresh strawberries. Try it – if you can succeed in keeping a bottle that long!

Christine Cryne



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CAMRA's online pub guide, **WhatPub?** is our repository of current information on London's pubs, as well as being a big part of our online presence for the general public.

WhatPub? Update publishes news items collated by Branch Pubs Officers, often from information supplied by CAMRA members using the 'Submit Update' button displayed to members on each page. We aim to report all openings and closures of places that satisfy the CAMRA definition of a pub (including those selling draught beer but not real ale); all places that add or remove real ale; as well as changes of name, ownership and (significant) changes of beer policy.

The 'crowd power' of a 165,000-strong member organisation will ensure that WhatPub? is kept as up-to-date as reasonably possible, and that it will be the country's leading source of pub information on an enduring basis. Readers are encouraged to visit www.whatpub.com for additional details on these and other pubs, and to 'Submit Update' when they find incomplete or out-of-date entries.

This edition sees the continuing spread of cask beers from smaller breweries, introduced by reopened pubs and those returning to our fold, e.g. in E9, N1, NW5, SE15, SE23, Crayford and SW4. Late Knights have opened their third bar, in SE15, while Antic have taken over a pub in Bromley. More good news in Corrections, where the reported demolition of a recent GBG pub in the Isle of Dogs has proved to be premature – for now at least. Pubs in Harrow Weald and Locksbottom have been taken over by chef Raymond Blanc, operating as dining-oriented White Brasseries but offering cask beers. Sadly the steady flow of closures also continues, on the part of pubcos as diverse as Enterprise, Greene King, M&B, Marston, McMullen, Punch and Stonegate, in EC2, E4, E7, N1, N7, N19, Kingston, New Malden, Hayes and Uxbridge.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, ASK FOR JANICE (Urban Leisure Group), 50-52 Long Lane. Opened in May, a converted commercial building, with several previous incarnations as a bar with no draught beer. No cask beer. Keg beers from Brewers Union, Camden, Freedom, Fuller, London Fields, Meantime plus forty bottled beers.

WC1, HOLBORN DINING ROOM. Part of the Chancery Court Hotel (Rosewood Hotels), a restaurant with attached bar area. No cask beer. Two draught beers from Camden.

EAST

E2, MOTHER KELLY'S (Moontide), 251 Paradise Row. Having opened this year, now serving 2-3 real ciders. Still no cask beer.

E9, JACKDAW & STUMP, 224 Homerton High Street. Taken over this year by Electric Star, who also run Star of Bethnal Green E2, Star by Hackney Downs E5 and Star of Kings N1. Renamed **JACKDAW & STAR**. Cask beer restored, one changing beer, e.g. Five Points Pale.

NORTH

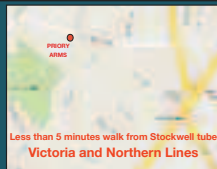
N1, LION & LAMB (Enterprise), 46 Fanshawe Street. Cask beer restored, three from Hackney. Part of the pub is now an art gallery.

N1, WATERLINE (Smithfields Operations), 46 De Beauvoir Crescent. Previously unreported bar & bistro, opened in February 2012 in a residential block. Renamed **RIBEIRA** in May 2013. No cask beer.

N15, DUTCH HOUSE (Admiral), 148 High Road. Cask beer introduced, Fuller London Pride.

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N19, PRINCE ALFRED (Enterprise), 139 Marlborough Road. Cask beer introduced.

NORTH WEST

NW6, ONE SIXTY (Onesixty Fahrenheit), 291 West End Lane. Opened in March, a 'smokehouse & bar'. No cask beer. Ten keg beers and many more bottles, e.g. Beavertown, Five Points, Kernel, Moncada, Pressure Drop.

NW9, FLYER'S LAST STAND, 45 Blackbird Hill. Previously unreported Irish pub in a converted shop, originally BLACKBIRD INN, then CHEERS BAR. No cask beer.

SOUTH EAST

SE3, MORDENS, 7-9 Montpelier Vale. Opened in May 2013. No cask beer. Previously Cave Austin wine bar.

SE5, OLD DISPENSARY, 325 Camberwell New Road. Cask beer restored, Greene King IPA and Sharp's Doom Bar.

SE10, BEERBOX (Meantime), Peninsula Square, at the O2. A bar in converted shipping containers, with covered seating on the roof. No cask beer. Usual Meantime offerings.

SE15, BEER REBELLION (Late Knights), 129 Queens Road. Converted betting shop, opened in July. Two cask ales from Late Knights, two guests, real cider and ten keg beers.

SE23, HONOR OAK (Punch), 1 St German's Road. Was ST GERMAIN'S HOTEL. Having closed last year, reopened in August 2014, refurbished and more food-oriented. Cask beers such as Brockley, Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar.

SE27, LONDON BEER FACTORY BREWERY TAP ROOM, 160 Hamilton Road. Opened in August, limited hours e.g. Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Any two of the brewery's three cask beers, Chelsea Blonde, London Session, Paxton Pale.

BEXLEYHEATH (DA6), MARRIOTT HOTEL BAR, 1 Broadway. Previously unreported chain hotel bar, open to the public. No cask beer.

CRAYFORD (DA1), PENNY FARTHING (independent), 3 Waterside. A new 'micropub', opened in September in a converted shop. Up to four cask beers, direct from the cask.

LOCKSBOTTOM (BR6), BRITISH QUEEN (Spirit lease), 427 Crofton Road. Having closed over a year ago, reopened in August after lengthy refurbishment as a White Brasserie, owned by Raymond Blanc. Drinkers welcome in separate bar. Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar and two guests.

WELLING (DA16), FANNY ON THE HILL, Wickham Street. Reopened. No cask beer.

WELLING (DA16), WINGS SPORTS BAR, Park View Road. Opened in July, attached to Welling United FC. Fuller's London Pride and a guest.

SOUTH WEST

SW2, GREMIO DE BRIXTON, (independent), St Matthew's Crypt. Opened in 2013, in the (very atmospheric) crypt under St Matthew's Church in the centre of Brixton. Premises occupied by various bars since 1997, the latest incarnation offers two Estrella beers on draught. No cask beer.

SW4, FROG (Enterprise), 32 The Pavement. Having closed in January, reopened in July as **NO 32 THE OLD TOWN**, the second outlet for Darwin & Wallace. Two cask beers from Redemption.

SW4, KINGS HEAD (Antic). Having closed in February, freehold sold by Punch to SW Pubs Ltd. Reopened on 12 September and renamed, **KING & CO**. Five cask beers and a cider on handpump.

SW10 BLACK BULL (independent). Renamed this year, **CHELSEA PENSIONER**. Cask beer introduced, Sharp's Doom Bar.

SW11, BREWDOG, 11-13 Battersea Rise. Converted restaurant. A friendly, unpretentious bar, opened 15 August. No cask beer. 12 BrewDog beers on tap and 12 exotic guest keg beers.

SW11, INK ROOMS, 14 Lavender Hill. Was MICROBAR. Having

closed in 2011, now reopened as **ASHANTI LOUNGE BAR** in a lower ground floor at the back, with Leilani restaurant at the front. No cask beer. Keg beers on draught.

WEST

W10, KENSINGTON PARK HOTEL (ex-Punch), 139 Ladbroke Grove. Subtitled KPH. Cask beer restored, Timothy Taylor Landlord.

W12, CONINGHAM ARMS (Enterprise), 191 Uxbridge Road. Cask beer introduced, Sharp's Doom Bar.

W14, LIVE & LET LIVE (Greene King), 35-37 North End Road. Cask beer introduced, Greene King Abbot.

PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, CENTRAL STREET BAR (Admiral). Was BRITISH OAK. Closed and demolished in 2012.

EC2, WHITE HART (M&B), 121 Bishopsgate. Closed in June, interior gutted, future uncertain.

EAST

E3 FAT CAT CAFÉ BAR. Changed hands and renamed in June, **EAST LONDON LIQUOR**, a new venture from former Barworks people. Cask beer discontinued. Draught beers from Camden. In-house gin distillery.

E4, ROYSTON ARMS (Stonegate). Closed and sold, future uncertain.

E6, EARL OF WAKEFIELD (Enterprise). Closed and boarded since December 2013, future uncertain.

E7, LIVE & LET LIVE (Enterprise). Closed in January 2014 and sold to a developer in June, future uncertain.

E10, ANTELOPE (Punch). Closed and boarded this year, future uncertain with rumours of redevelopment.

E14, ALL BAR ONE (M&B). Cask beer discontinued, one of the last of the chain to do so.

E14, HOPE & ANCHOR. Was JACK BEARDS. Closed and on the market.

E14, SPINNAKER (ex-Greene King). Having closed last year, now a Pret a Manger.

E17, LORD BROOKE (Enterprise). Having been sold in 2010 to Delisu Group, a small operator, closed in June 2014 when the licence was revoked, sold to a developer in August, future uncertain.

UPMINSTER (RM14), BAR 3 ZERO. Closed in June, now an Italian restaurant.

NORTH

N1, BACCHUS (Enterprise). Closed in July, future uncertain, after briefly hosting **MADE IN THE SHADE** pop-up.

N1, BLUU (Marston). Closed, now yet another Bill's cafe.

N1, FLORENCE (ex-Punch), 50 Florence Street. Having been sold by Punch and closed in June 2013, permitted development application has been approved for conversion to retail use.

N1, RATTLESNAKE OF ANGEL (Star). Was WALKABOUT, among other names. Closed, now a Brazilian restaurant.

N1, WAX JUMBO. Closed c.2012, now another Be At One cocktail bar with no draught beer.

N1, WHITE HORSE (Parch Limited). Closed, since Sept 2013 it's been White Lyan, a bar with no draught beer.

N1, ZENITH. Was PACKINGTON ARMS, AS GOOD AS IT GETS. Closed in February, future uncertain.

N4, RAILWAY (ex-Punch), 11 Wells Terrace. Having been sold c.2007, closed June 2013 for building works at rear and upstairs. Planning consent was based on retaining the ground floor as a pub, but it's now a Starbucks, a switch for which no consent was required.

BESTSELLER

The last two centuries have given us some great books. Many based in London. About Londoners. Like the pipe smoking sleuth from Baker Street, the nanny that preferred her umbrella to the Routemaster, and the boy that never grew up. OK, so he wasn't from London, but he did visit - probably flew over our brewery - and while those authors were busy writing their stories, we were writing ours. Brewing books, dating back to 1845. They're not famous, but like any good classic they're still being read today, by our brewers, who in turn continue our story with new recipes and tales of cask and keg. Not exactly populist, but to enjoy our story you don't have to read it, just take a sip.



Made of London

BREWED BESIDE THE THAMES

N5, WHITE HOUSE (Enterprise). Closed, future uncertain.
N7, ADMIRAL MANN (McMullen). Sold in August (by this 'family brewer') to a local developer. Despite announcing it would stay open until November, the pub closed August bank holiday weekend, presumably to deny local campaigners a place to meet. The campaign goes on.
N7, BAILEY (Punch). Cask beer discontinued.
N7, NAMBUCCA (Enterprise). Was COCK TAVERN. Closed, future uncertain, the interior has been gutted.
N8, KASSABA. Was PUMPHOUSE. Closed, from October 2013 it's been Riverside Lounge, an unlicensed restaurant.
N16, GATE (independent). Was CAVA BAR. Closed, now (from June) a tapas bar and restaurant.
N17, BRITISH QUEEN (ex-Punch). Having been sold c.2007, now closed and converted to residential use.
N17, PITCH & PINT. Was BANK. Closed in 2005, now a William Hill betting shop.
N17, RUDOLPH'S AT WHITE HART (ex-Punch). Having been sold in 2011, and latterly renamed VALENTINOS, now closed following compulsory purchase for Tottenham Hotspur redevelopment.
N19, CORNER FLAG (ex-Punch). Was RAILWAY HOTEL, BLARNEY STONE. Closed, freehold on the market, future uncertain.
N19, MAGNET (independent). Was LAST RESORT. Closed, future uncertain, a planning application for residential conversion has failed.
N19, PLOUGH (Enterprise). Sold in 2013, closed, permission granted to convert to a shop.
N19, WHITTINGTON STONE (Stonegate). Cask beer discontinued.
N22, LORDSHIP (Greene King). Renamed SUGAR CANE then closed. Planning application to convert to a betting shop (Paddy Power) has been refused.
N22, SKOLARS (ex-Punch). Was SEVEN OAKS. Having been closed and sold in 2010, converted to residential use in 2013.

NORTH WEST

NW1, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (Punch). Sold and closed earlier this year, future uncertain. All signage has been removed, and the interior has been gutted.
NW1, CROWN & GOOSE. Having closed last year, now demolished.
NW3, WHITE HORSE (Star). Closed in 2013, future uncertain.
NW10, JAMES JOYCE. Latterly renamed CLUB LATINO. Closed, now a restaurant.

SOUTH EAST

SE2, ABBEY ARMS (Enterprise). Cask beer discontinued some time ago.
BROMLEY (BR1), STAR & GARTER (ex-Punch). Having been sold by Punch in 2009, this pub continued to operate as the only gay venue in Bromley. Closed this summer, the operators are reportedly looking for a new venue, but this site's future is uncertain.
THORNTON HEATH (CR7), WHEATSHEAF (Stonegate). Closed August 2014, future uncertain.

SOUTH WEST

SW2, VERANDA (independent). Was FIESTA BAR. Closed earlier this year, future uncertain.
SW4, GLOW LOUNGE (independent). Closed, now an unlicensed restaurant.
SW4, PARK HOUSE. Was PERFECT BLEND. Having closed in 2012, now a Lebanese restaurant.
SW4, WHITE HOUSE. Was OXFORD ARMS, latterly a club. Demolished.
SW9, GROSVENOR (Golfrate, ex-Punch). Closed and boarded this

summer, future uncertain. Planning permission for upstairs residential conversion has been refused by Lambeth.
SW11, PEACOCK. Was MEYRICK ARMS. Closed in 2012, future uncertain.
SW15, HIGHWAYMAN (ex-Admiral). Having closed in 2009, this former Regional Inventory pub was finally demolished this year for residential development.
SW17, HONEY & VENOM. Was SMOKE. Closed in May, now Imperial Durbar, an Indian-themed coffee and cocktail bar with bottled beers only.
KINGSTON (KT1), PEEL (Punch). Was SIR ROBERT PEEL. Sold and closed earlier this year and demolished.
NEW MALDEN (KT3), MANOR (Enterprise). This Regional Inventory pub, having closed in June 2013, now bought by the Co-op and expected to be converted to a shop.
SUTTON (SM1), NEW TOWN (Young). Having closed in Sept 2013, planning application for demolition and residential construction has now been withdrawn. Young's is consulting residents about the future of the premises.

WEST

W3, KINGS HEAD (Fuller). Cask beer discontinued.
W9, WINDSOR CASTLE (independent), 3 Lanark Place. Cask beer discontinued.
FELTHAM (TW13), MANSION (Wellington). Was ROSE & CROWN. Closed in July, future uncertain.
HAYES (UB3), GOLDEN CROSS (Greene King). Latterly operating as APNI RASOI (incorporating Indian restaurant). Closed in Feb, planning permission granted in July for demolition to make way for housing.
TEDDINGTON (TW11), ROYAL OAK (independent). Closed in August, becoming a Côte restaurant.
UXBRIDGE (UB8), GRIDDLES BAR (Greene King). Was SPORTSMAN. Recently demolished, flats being built.

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, FOX & ANCHOR (Cunning Plan). Bought this year by Young's and little changed. Young's Bitter and Special, plus three guests, and a house beer from Stod Fold.

EAST

E1, PRINCESS ALICE (Enterprise). Was CITY DARTS. Renamed, CULPEPER.
E2, ROYAL OAK (Enterprise). Bought in 2013 by Young's for their Ram Pub Co leased estate, little changed. East London Foundation and Pale Ale, Sharp's Doom Bar.
E3, VICTORIA (Wells). Taken over by Yummy Pub Co, their third London site leased from Charles Wells. Expanded to seven Wells & Young cask beers, plus occasional guest (e.g. Castle Rock, York).
E8, BREWERY TAP (independent). Renamed, MOLLY BLOOM'S, little changed. Greene King IPA.
E8, MADDIGANS (independent). Was AMP, ANATOLIA BAR. Renamed, HEART OF HACKNEY. Still no cask beer.

NORTH

N1, STAR OF KINGS (Enterprise). Was BACKPACKER, CROSS KINGS. Now three cask beers, typically from the same brewery, changing monthly, e.g. Hackney, Hammerton, Redemption.
N4, EDINBURGH (Rosgoff Taverns). Renamed WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS.
N4, GARDEN LADDER (independent). Renamed BROUHAHA. Two changing beers from Redemption.
N16, BASE BAR (independent). Renamed KIMOS (wine bar and restaurant). Still no cask beer.

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WhatPub? update 4

N17, SAVANNAH'S PLEASURE (independent). Renamed, **PRIDE OF TOTTENHAM**.

N19, DUSK TILL DAWN (Enterprise). Was **ARCHWAY TAVERN**. Renamed, **INTREPID FOX**, a music venue relocated from WC2. Still no cask beer.

N19, NEW BRUNSWICK (Centrepont Taverns). Renamed, **CENTURION**.

NORTH WEST

NW1, HOBGOBLIN (Enterprise). Reverted to **DEVONSHIRE ARMS**.

NW5, TORRIANO (ex-Admiral), 71-73 Torriano Avenue. After a developer failed to get planning permission for residential conversion, taken over by Carouse London and reverted to **ROSE & CROWN** in July. A changing selection of cask and keg beers from London micros.

NW6, PRINCE OF WALES (Punch), 11a Cambridge Gardens. Renamed in June 2013, **SALTANAH**.

NW10, STONEBRIDGE PARK (Enterprise). Renamed late 2000s, **BRIDGE PARK HOTEL**. Presume still no cask beer.

ALPERTON (HA0), ASK LOUNGE (ex-Punch). Was **HEATHER PARK HOTEL**. Quickly renamed again, **GALA BAR**. Still no cask beer.

ALPERTON (HA0), PLEASURE BOAT (Star). Changed hands, refurbished and renamed, **BOAT**. Still no cask beer.

HARROW WEALD (HA3), HARE (ex-Punch). Purchased from independent operator by White Brasserie (owned by chef Raymond Blanc) for £1m with a further £400k spent on refurbishment. Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar.

SOUTH EAST

SE15, WAVERLEY ARMS (Punch). Refurbished this summer, now a wider choice of cask beers. Sharp's Doom Bar plus two guests, e.g. Brockley, Clarkshaws, and real cider.

BEXLEYHEATH (DA6), BANK Renamed **BAR269**. Still no cask beer. **BROMLEY (BR1), TP's** (Cavendish Bars). Was **PAMPHILION**, **WALKABOUT**. Sold and renamed **BAR SPORT**, the first London outlet for a small chain. Still no cask beer.

BROMLEY (BR1), RAILWAY HOTEL (Star), 45 East Street. Taken over by Antic in August, and renamed **RAILWAY TAVERN**. Several changing cask beers. The kitchen will reopen later in the year.

SOUTH WEST

SW4, UNDERDOG. Renamed **HONKY TONK**, an American-themed bar & restaurant. No cask beer. Two draught beers from Camden Town.

SW11, LATCHMERE (Enterprise). Lease taken over by Renaissance Pubs after the demise of Bramwell. Sambrook's Wandle, Sharp's Cornish Coaster and Timothy Taylor Landlord.

KINGSTON (KT2), NUMBER 88 (Enterprise). Was **THREE TUNS**, **KINGSTON TUP**. Change of tenant in May, since renamed **OLD MOOT HOUSE**. Purity Mad Goose and Sharp's Doom Bar.

WEST

W6, THATCHED HOUSE (Young). Renamed **BUTCHERS HOOK** by new tenant, who runs another pub of that name in SW6.

W6, TROUT (Greene King). Renamed, **YARDBIRD**.

GREENFORD (UB6), BAR SILVER (independent). Was **BELMULLET ARMS**. Quickly renamed again, **MULLET**.

CORRECTION TO WPU3

E14, NORTH POLE (Enterprise). Report of demolition was thankfully premature. This recent GBG pub has been sold by Enterprise and closed. The new owner intends to demolish and build residential. A campaign is forming.

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Good Beer Guide 2015

The 42nd edition of CAMRA's flagship publication was published on 11 September. As ever, it is invaluable to those for whom, with apologies to Douglas Adams, beer is life, the universe and everything.

I know that some people feel that the GBG tends to be the 'same old same old' but while the format is constant, each edition is totally revised and updated under the supervision of editor Roger Protz. The 4,500-odd pubs listed are all selected by the local branches of CAMRA and while it has to be conceded that the process can be inconsistent, no paid inspectors are involved and no fees are asked for. It is a truly independent assessment of those pubs throughout the UK which sell good quality beer.

Readers will also find the Breweries Section – unique to this guide



– a very useful source of information, especially when visiting any of the pubs listed as 'beer range varies'. Most of the beers listed have tasting notes which have been compiled by CAMRA's regional Tasting Panels – as mentioned elsewhere in this edition. The equally useful places index also helps those who are not quite sure where they are.

Concentrating on London, there are 293 pubs listed of which 87 are newly featured plus 16 breweries that are listed for the first time. 54 London breweries are listed in all.

For what we believe is the first time ever, a London pub appears on the cover, in the form of a sketch of the Eagle Ale House, CAMRA South West London's Pub of the Year in 2012. Congratulations to Dave and Simon accordingly. The pub, in Chatham Road, SW11, can be found on page 305 of the new guide.

The cover price of the Good Beer Guide 2015 is £15.99 but there is a discount for CAMRA members. The easiest way to obtain your copy is on-line at www.camra.org.uk/shop.

London LocAle scheme

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

Alma 95 Church Road, Crystal Palace
Beehive Stoneleigh Road, Tottenham

S19 2TA Westerham
N17 9BQ Clarence & Fredericks, Five Points, Redemption or Sambrook's
N6 5JG Brodies, Five Points or Hammerton
SE20 7QS Late Knights
BR5 1LA Beer range varies

Duke's Head 16 Highgate High Street
Moon & Stars 164-166 High Street, Penge
One Inn The Wood 209 Petts Wood Road, Petts Wood

The following pub has left the scheme

Admiral Mann 9 Hargrave Place, off Brecknock Road

N7 0BP Closed (see page 38)

The complete list is maintained at www.london.camra.org.uk

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Along the right lines

Websites and blogs that list pubs are no novelty these days but I thought that readers might be interested in this one because of the amount of work that is going into it. Sam Cullen started work on <http://insidetack.wordpress.com/> in March 2013 with the aim of finding a good pub near all 270 London Underground Stations. So far he has logged 135 stops. Also, because he includes historical information, he has been visiting the stations in the order that they opened.

Sam says, "I try and pick out pubs of historical merit and am keen to promote those with ales available on tap. I have visited several pubs so far that I know rank highly with CAMRA across London, including the Harp at Charing Cross and the Queens Head in Uxbridge. The pubs I visit for each station don't have to be the closest to that stop but they cannot be closer to any other tube station. However, as you might imagine, some outer stations pose more of a challenge, with decent pubs and ale in short supply! Please check out my website to see the reviews so far and tweet me your suggestions for stations I haven't done yet – @InnsideTrack."

Don't forget; CAMRA has its own on-line pub guide – *WhatPub.com* – which provides country-wide coverage.

Tony Hedger

wetherspoon

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BEER IN THE NETHERLANDS

Back in the day, 2002 to be precise, CAMRA published a guide to pubs and breweries in Belgium and the Netherlands. At that time I was visiting the latter more than the former, so that book, edited by Tim Webb, was something of a godsend. But then that was it. Everything that followed from CAMRA was Belgium-only and the poor old Netherlands sat on the shelf, sad and neglected.

Well, good old boy that he is, Tim Webb, working with Joanna Copestick and the Homewood Press, has commissioned Tim Skelton to lead us through the beery tracks from Amsterdam to Zwolle. As the author of *Around Amsterdam in 80 Beers* (Cogan & Mater), and a resident of the Netherlands since 1989, Tim is well placed to help us on our journey.

As with many publications having Webb's influence, a strong shaft of humour flows through the book, especially the bits before the beer. Frankly, the section on eating left me somewhat disinclined to try any Dutch food, or at least made it clear what to avoid! But the beer, that's a different story and there is a complete guide to some 180 plus breweries and their beers (with a star rating) together with a selection of hundreds of cafes, brewery taps, off-licences and beer festivals. Beer is back in the Netherlands

and this book tells you how and why.

An invaluable guide to the beer tourist visiting the Netherlands and as worthwhile a companion as CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* to Belgium.

Cover price £13.99; details from www.booksaboutbeer.com.

John Cryne



LONDON WALKING GUIDES & THE MONOPOLY BOARD PUBS

CAMRA member Barry Palmer, along with two colleagues, has published a set of five e-books which they hope will expand people's knowledge of London real ale pubs. These walking guides are based on the London Monopoly board layout. You can get to see some of London's famous landmarks, tourist attractions and some nice historic areas and visit many very interesting pubs situated on, or adjacent to, the London Monopoly board layout. For ease of access each walk starts and finishes near an Underground station. Walking directions and times between pubs are given.

For each pub the E-books give an explanation of the pub's name, its history,

and highlights any outstanding features by way of décor, style and any themed memorabilia plus details of the beer and food available. Exterior and interior photographs of the pub are also included.

The books are available on Amazon Kindle at between 99p and £1.64. Search under 'Monopoly Pub Crawl'.

BEER TRAILS

A series of e-book features on beer, somewhere in length between a magazine article and a book, called *Beer Trails* has been launched. The first one is called 'Beer Trails: The Brewery in the Bohemian Forest, by British Guild of Beer Writers member Evan Rail. It documents Evan's attempts to visit Pivovar Kout na Šumave, a cult Czech brewery, and learn the secrets of the brewery's historic brewing log, a mysterious manuscript that was allegedly once hidden inside the crumbling brewery walls. Helpfully, it includes a small glossary of Czech and German brewing terms.

This is an easy-to-download e-book available from most major online booksellers. If you want to learn more about the 'Beer Trails' series, including author guidelines, contact Evan Rail: evan@evanrail.com.



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Idle moments

Hello and welcome to autumn, the ideal time to start thinking about sitting down by the fire with a pint and a copy of Idle Moments – it should keep the fire alight for a few more seconds.

Before we start this month's fun (?) and frivolity (?) I have to make an apology. In the June Idle Moments I had a number puzzle with the solution "192 is AA in Hexadecimal." Unfortunately it isn't; 192 is C0 in hexadecimal. AA is 170 – A in hex. represents 10 so AA is 10 x 16 plus 10. I don't know what came over me apart from a brief moment of numerical madness. Sorry about that and my thanks to Ron Appleby who emailed our editor to correct me. No, sorry, there isn't a prize for identifying the deliberate error – it wasn't deliberate.

Anyway, here are some more number puzzles – let's see if you can find any more cock-ups (or should that be cocks-up?):

1. 1798 B of the N
2. 273 K is the MP of I
3. 15 S on a L
4. 8 B in a M
5. 2286 S in the LP
6. 80 DR is the BP of W
7. 1805 FPS
8. 404 F is the H of SCS
9. 1937 C of KG the S
10. 1 C is the L of a CW

Now, after last time's little diversion into funny words it's back to 5BY4 this month and I've decided to call it Melting Point. I was looking though an old materials science text book from my first year at college (as you do) thinking I might do a clever number puzzle with an atomic number in it (No, there isn't) and was looking through a table of properties of elements when it struck me. Why not have some melting points of metals? Ignoring all the very good reasons why not I boldly put pencil to paper, wrote down two lists and randomised their sequences to come up with what you see below. Can you match the metals with their melting points (to the nearest whole degree Celsius)? Can you be bothered to try?

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------|
| 1. Titanium | A | 1083 |
| 2. Sodium | B | 1539 |
| 3. Tin | C | 1063 |
| 4. Aluminium | D | 98 |
| 5. Silver | E | 327 |
| 6. Tungsten | F | 660 |
| 7. Gold | G | 232 |
| 8. Lead | H | 961 |
| 9. Copper | I | 3410 |
| 10. Iron | J | 1820 |

Don't worry, we're nearly finished – just the General Trivia to go, and here it comes:

1. He is the First Lord of the Treasury, but by what title is he more commonly known?
2. He was born on 23rd June 1894 in the White Lodge, Richmond Park. Who was he?
3. William Armstrong (1st Baron Armstrong), the founder of the engineering giant, Armstrong Whitworth, built the first house in Britain to be lit by hydroelectricity. What was it called?
4. By what name is the bird also called the philomel more commonly known?
5. A mythical bird this time – the martlet is like a swallow but without legs. Six of them appear on the coat of arms of what English county?
6. Still on birds, *milvus milvus* is the Latin name for what member of the accipitridae (hawks & eagles) family?
7. And talking of Latin names, what native British evergreen tree is *taxus baccata*?
8. Its school song is entitled "Forty Years On" and the sport of Squash was invented here. What school are we talking about?
9. She wrote the words to "In the Bleak Midwinter. Who was her brother (the famous one)?

10. Who sculpted the statue of Lord Nelson which stands on his column in Trafalgar Square?

Well that's about it. In case you are interested, when I bought that text book I wrote the date on the end paper (under my name). It was a little over 45 years ago!

Farewell from this old git until next time. Don't forget to come to Twickenham Beer & Cider Festival if you can make it.

Andy Pirson

IDLE MOMENTS – THE ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 3 Sons of Queen Elizabeth the Second
2. 3 Hearts of an Octopus
3. 3 Men on the Bummel
4. 3 Rs (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic)
5. 3 is the Atomic Number of Lithium
6. 3 is the Number in Every Number Puzzle in August Twenty-Fourteen
7. 3 Historic Ridings in Yorkshire
8. 3 Wheels on a Motor Cycle Combination (or Outfit)
9. 3 Sheets to the Wind
10. 3 Minutes is the Length of a Round in Boxing

NOT 5BY4:

Last time, you may recall, I asked you find the five words of five letters which were all the same apart from their initial letters which were the first five consonants B, C, D, F and G – and there were no others. Like I said, once you found one you had them all. They were Of course) BROWN, CROWN, DROWN, FROWN and GROWN.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. Charles Dickens' first novel was The Pickwick Papers (originally known as The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club).
2. The first of William Shakespeare's plays to be performed was Henry VI Part 2 (not part 1 for some reason).
3. And the first play that Shakespeare wrote (according to the Oxford Shakespeare Chronology) was Two Gentlemen of Verona.
4. The World's longest suspension bridge has a clear span of 1991 metres (1.237 miles). It is in Japan – between Kobe and Awaji Island.
5. By contrast, the UK's longest span bridge, the Humber Bridge at 1410 metres (0.876 mile) is ranked at No. 7 in the list of the World's longest span bridges. It was, however, the longest when it was opened in 1981 and until the Japanese one above was opened in 1998.
6. The longest suspension bridge in America (North or South) is the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in New York – and it is ranked at No. 12 (1298 metres – 0.806 mile).
7. The World's longest tunnel used for transport services is on the Guangzhou Metro system (line 3) in China. It is 37.5 miles long.
8. And the World's longest tunnel of any type is the Delaware Aqueduct (drilled through solid rock), completed in 1945 and providing New York City's main water supply. This one is 85.1 miles long.
9. The first seaside pleasure pier to be built in Britain is at Ryde, Isle of Wight. It was opened in 1814 and it is still in use.
10. The London Eye, at 443 feet was the World's tallest Ferris wheel from 1999 until 2006. The current tallest at 550 feet opened on 31st March 2014 and it is in Las Vegas, Arizona.

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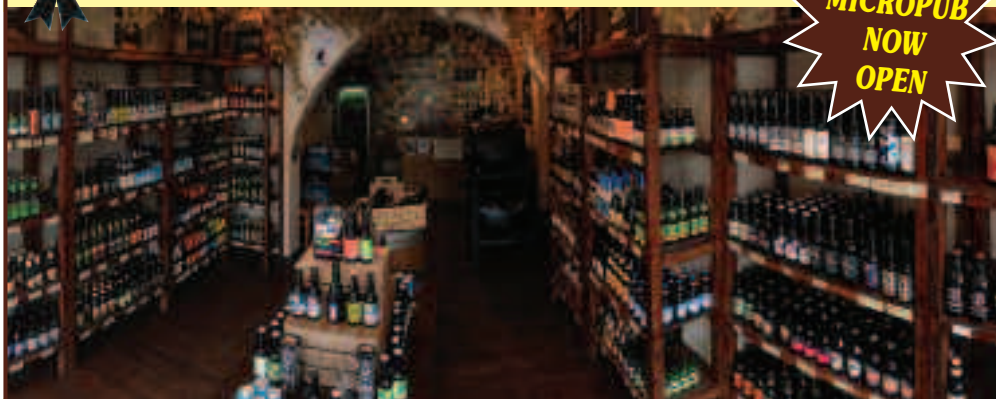
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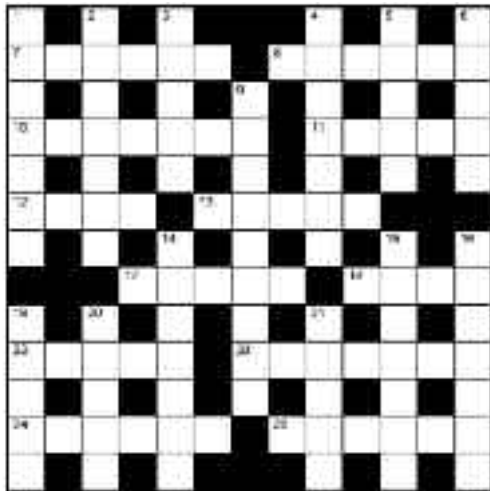
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Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name

Address

All correct entries received by first post on 19 November will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

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

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

AUGUST'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

7. Parched without the first sign of showers for days in June. [6]
8. Chasers before the first drink? [6]
10. Get better to match the stake again. [7]
11. Boozed, start dreadful row. [5]
12. Wind up? New boat! [4]
13. It's somehow no good, a pain. [5]
17. Spring tide announced. [5]
18. A number back the alliance. [4]
22. Musicians making row on river in Oxford, perhaps. [5]
23. See me reverse and try to circle round pub. Ban results. [7]
24. It's stupid swallowing small nuts. [6]
25. They're agreeable to top soldiers invading middle east country. [6]

DOWN

1. Looking very hungry? Not very. [7]
2. Reject girl's character. [7]
3. A score will cover it. [5]
4. Support fellow getting into shape. [7]
5. Tea service overturned on actor's head. [5]
6. Post providing small income. [5]
9. He has his claims put before nurse. [9]
14. State of Scotsman thanks to an upset. [7]
15. Great old model joins regiment. [7]
16. A noise outside theatre entrance brings surprise. [7]
19. Little Antoinette going on about medicine. [5]
20. Hide holy man's remains. [5]
21. Where all men are brothers. [5]

Winner of the prize for the June Crossword:
Mark Pilkington, Pinner.

Other correct entries were received from:

D.Abbey, Keith Adams, Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, R.Archer, Lorraine Bamford, John Barker, Rob Barker, Bill Benthams, Patricia Blakemore, C.Bloom, John Bowler, Norah Brady, Kelvin Brewster, Jeremy Brinkworth, Mark Broadhead, Alan Broves, John Butler, Margaret C, Eddie Carr, Hilary Clark, Mrs. Clark-Varua, Kevin Creighton, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Joe Daly, John Dodd, Tom Drane, G.G.Dunnit, Conor Fahy, Mike Farrelly, Sally Fullerton, Christopher Gilbey, B.Gleeson, E.Goobay, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Caroline Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, B.Hall, "Shropshire" Dave Hardy, Peter Haines, Graham Hill, William Hill, Pete & Deb Hodge, David Hough, John Howarth, Martin Jackson, Chris James, David Jiggins, Eric Johnstone, D.M.L.Jones, Mike Joyce, Steve Kloppe, Andrzej Korzeniowski, Pete Large, Tony Lean, Tony Lennon, Bill Linskey, Mike Lloyd, Donald MacAuley, Derek McDonnell, C.Maddox, Mrs. S.Maddox, Pat Maginn, John Mannel, John Marsden, Tony Martin, Dylan Masin, Terry Mellor, Jan Mondrzejewski, M.J.Moran, Al Mountain, Dave Murphy, J.Murphy, Brian Myhill, Bill Neville, Mark Nichols, Paul Nicholls, Andrzej Niemirow, Lucy Nickford, Ana-Liza Njolinjo, Gerald Nottley, M.Ognjenovic, Alan O'Brien, Michael Oliver, G.Patterson, Alan Pennington, Mark Pilkington, Robert Pleasants, G.Pote, C.F.Pottins, Gillian Price, Susan Price, Derek Pryce, James Rawle, Paul Rogers, Arthur Rous, Joan Rous, Alex Ryan, John Savage, Mary Scanlan, Pete Simmonds, Lesley Smith, Ruth Smith, Ian Sneesby, Ephraim Spitchurs, Ken Taylor, Mark Thompson, Roger Trvaskis, Mrs FVida, Andy Wakefield, E.Wallhouse, Constance Waring, David Watkins, T.Watkins, L.Watkinson, Martin Weedon, Elizabeth Whale, Nigel Wheatley, Venice Williams, Jane Willis, Sue Wilson, David Woodward, Peter Wright & the Missus, Paul Young..

There were also 7 incorrect and 4 incomplete entries.



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