

FREE

Vol 37
No 1

Feb/Mar
2015



John Young Memorial Award – see page 22

**The Only Pub in
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Beer Guide 2015**

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Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all. Looking forward to what remains of 2015 I see reason to be both happy and cautious. Incidentally, no, the latter wasn't Snow White's eighth dwarf. Although it defies my admittedly very limited understanding of economics, the growth in the number of breweries in London seems set to continue as you will see from our London Brewery News section. One concern however must be the availability of outlets. We await with interest to see whether Greene King will install their beers in the pubs that they acquire from Spirit, especially the Taylor Walker chain ones. This will however be offset to a small degree by the coming of more micro-pubs that are more likely to take locally brewed beers than anyone else. The closure of existing and traditional pubs does however remain at a disturbing level and CAMRA will continue to do what it can to fight closures where appropriate but planning is essentially a local matter and CAMRA can only help where the local community want it and will take the lead. Nationally, CAMRA will continue to lobby for changes to the planning laws which make it just too easy for speculators to cash in on the value of pubs as properties for development, ignoring their community value. That said, the price of our beer plays a not inconsiderable part in the viability of a pub and we seem to have hit the £4 mark in a lot of pubs now, especially in central London.

Some of you may not want to be reminded but in 14 weeks from this edition's publication date there will be a general election. I thought that now would be the time to remind readers of CAMRA's political stance. Yes; CAMRA is a political organisation. Anyone who lobbies MPs and opposes planning applications and the like cannot be defined as anything else. What CAMRA is not however is party political. It does not matter whether a party includes in its ranks the most active pubs campaigner in Parliament or if its leader is nearly always seen with a pint in his hand, CAMRA does not support any one party over any other. I take the view that a magazine such as *London Drinker* should simply highlight the issues, draw attention to the mixed messages that are given out from all sides and leave readers to make up

their own minds. This is what I will try to do.

I will start with this. A number of active pub preservation campaigners have expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of Kris Hopkins, the minister whose responsibilities include community pubs. Despite initially encouraging noises, he is thought to have done little, especially in terms of what we see as necessary changes to the permitted development regulations. To be fair to him, given the list of areas for which he is responsible, community pubs may well be some way down his list of priorities. He was, I noted, the minister who had to announce the local government funding arrangements for the coming year. That said, if he can't find time for the role then why not just drop the pretence? We will then all know where we stand.

There may also be consequences from the funding arrangements that Mr Hopkins announced. Further cuts in local government budgets may well affect the operation of services such as planning. If I correctly understood a recent report in the local press, my own borough, Merton, will reduce the number of planning officers from four to two. What I fear will happen is that as the inevitable backlog builds up, the Government will start to give general dispensations which will severely damage any attempt to object to developments. The Department for Communities and Local Government under Eric Pickles has already shown itself capable of some curious changes of policy such as the permitting of temporary change of use for office accommodation, as featured in the Chesham Arms case. As we try to take planning regulations forward, we could instead see them slip backwards by stealth.

One last thought. A few years ago we came quite close to having some sort of 'joined up' government for pubs. I'd like to see the incoming government have another attempt at this. Responsibility is currently split between the Department for Communities and Local Government (mainly planning), the Department for Business, Skills and Innovation (business matters) and the Home Office ('law and order'). Given the contribution that pubs make to our tourism industry (both domestic and foreign) as mentioned in the last edition, how about relocating overall responsibility for pubs to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport?

Tony Hedger

2nd Bromley CAMRA Cider Festival



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MAD March CIDER FESTIVAL

Friday 6th – Saturday 7th March, 12 noon – 11pm

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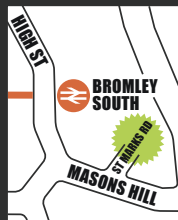
FOR FURTHER INFO VISIT:
www.bromley.camra.org.uk



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Branch diaries

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA contacts and events where branches say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for February and March 2015 are listed below. Meetings, visits and socials are open to all – everyone is welcome to come along.

LONDON REGIONAL EVENT

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

March – Wed 25. (7.30) London AGM and Liaison Committee (regional co-ordination mtg for London branch reps). Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St, Borough SE1.

Website: www.london.camra.org.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

February – Sat 21 Daytime crawl of Bexley, Bexleyheath, Welling and Shooters Hill: (12 noon) Kings Head, 65 High St, Bexley; (1.15) Robin Hood & Little John, 78 Lion Rd, Bexleyheath; (2.45) Royal Oak (Polly Clean Stairs), 66 Mount Rd, Bexleyheath; (3.45) Door Hinge, 11 High St, Welling; (4.30) Rose & Crown, 15 High St, Welling; (5.30) Bull, 151 Shooters Hill Rd, Shooters Hill; (6.15) Red Lion, 6 Red Lion Pl, Shooters Hill. Public transport will be required at times.

March – Wed 18 (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 07712 122402 – Note new number – (10-4 Mon-Fri)

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

An apology

On page 36 of the last edition I mentioned the winner of Fuller's Griffin Trophy. Unfortunately I gave the wrong pub name; it is the Andover Arms, not the Anglesey Arms. This dates back to the days when I lived in Hammersmith and always muddled up the two names. My apologies to all involved.

Tony Hedger

**All issues of
London Drinker since
October 2004 are**

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Branch diaries

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

BEXLEY

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

February – Wed 11 (8.30) Mtg. Yacht, 167 Long La, Bexleyheath. - **Wed 18** Shooters Hill 89 Bus Soc: (8pm) British Oak, 109 Old Dover Rd, Blackheath, then Red Lion; Bull. - **Wed 25** (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Furze Wren, Broadway, Bexleyheath.

March – Wed 11 (8.30) Mtg. Tailors Chalk, 47-49 High St, Sidcup. - **Thu 26** Dartford Soc: (7.30) Paper Moon, 55 High St, then Dartford Working Men's Club
Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

BROMLEY

Norman Warner, inquiries@bromley.camra.org.uk

February – Tue 3 Cider Festival SE20 publicity crawl: (7.30) Maple Tree, 52-54 Maple Rd, Penge; (8.30) Goldsmiths Arms, 3 Croydon Rd; (9.30) Moon & Stars, 164-166 High St. - **Sat 14** Cider Festival BR3 publicity crawl: (12.30) Bricklayers Arms, 237 High St, Beckenham; (1.15) White Horse, 215 High St; (2pm) George Inn, 111 High St; (2.45) Coach & Horses, Burnhill Rd; (3.30pm) Chancery, 90 Bromley Rd; (4.30pm) Jolly Woodman, 9 Chancery Lane. - **Sat 21** (12.30) Beer Festival Social. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd. Tickets must be purchased in advance (See <http://orpingtonliberalclub.co.uk/beer-and-cider-festival/>). - **Tue 24** (6.30) Pre-mtg soc. Jolly Woodman, 9 Chancery La, Beckenham; (7.30) Cttee mtg. Chancery, 90 Bromley Rd, BR3. - **Sat 28** Cider Festival BR1 publicity crawl: (12.30) 31 Freelands Tavern, Freelands Rd, Bromley; (1.20) Red Lion, 10 North Rd. BR1 3LG; (2.30) Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd; (3.30) Railway Tavern, 45 East St. BR1 1Q; (4.20) Compass, 10 Widmore Rd; (5pm) Partridge, 194 High St; (6pm) Barrel & Horn 204-206 High St; (7pm) Swan & Mitre, 260-262 High St.

March – Fri 6 (7.30) Soc. Mad March Cider Festival, H G Wells Centre, St Marks Rd, Bromley. - **Thu 12** (12pm) Lunchtime soc. London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1. - **Sat 21** Tramlink soc: (12.30) O'Neill's, 9 High St, Beckenham BR3; (1.15) Claret, 5 Bingham Corner, Lower Addiscombe Rd; (2.45) Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Rd, Croydon; (3.45) George, 17-21 George St; (5pm) Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey St; (6pm) Green Dragon, 58 High St. - **Thu 26** Green Street Green BR6 Soc: (7.30) Rose & Crown, Farnborough Way; (8.30m) Royal Oak, High St; (9.30) Queen's Head, 73 High St. - **Tue 31** (6.30) Pre-mtg soc. George & Dragon, 26 High St, Downe; (7.30) Cttee mtg. Queens Head, 25 High St, Downe.
Website: www.bromley.camra.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill: 07831 561296; contact@croydoncamra.org.uk

February – Thu 5 (8.30) Soc. Wallington Arms, 6 Woodcote Rd, Wallington. - **Wed 18** (8.30) Soc. Cricketers, 47 Shirley Rd Addiscombe. - **Tue 24** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull, Surrey St, Croydon.

March – Wed 11 (8.30) Soc. George, 17 George St, Croydon. - **Tue 17** (8.30) St Patrick's Day Soc. Ye Olde Clocktower, 35 Whitehorse Rd, Croydon. - **Thu 26** Mtg. Windsor Castle

(Cottage Rm), 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton SM5.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch telephone 07757 772564, elacbranch@mail.com

February – Thu 5 Isle of Dogs E14 crawl: (7pm) Gun, 27 Coldharbour; then Great Eastern, 1 Gleanaffric Ave; Lord Nelson, 1 Manchester Rd; George, 114 Glengall Gro; Pepper St Ontoid, 21 Pepper St. Timings are flexible and we may stop in at the Ferry, if it's open again. Buses may be needed. - **Fri 27** Walthamstow E17 crawl: (7pm) Castle, 15 Grosvenor Rise East; (7.45) Queen's Arms, 42 Orford Rd; (8.30) Village, 31 Orford Rd; (9.15) Nags Head, 9 Orford Rd; (10pm) Wild Card Brewery, Unit 7 Ravenswood Ind Est.

March – Thu 12 Clapton E5 crawl: (7.30) Royal Sovereign, 64 Northwold Rd; (8.30) Crooked Billet, 84 Upper Clapton St; (9.30) Clapton Hart, 231 Lower Clapton Rd. - **Wed 25** Winstead & South Woodford crawl: (7.30) George, 155-159 High St, E11; (8.15) Cuckfield, 31 High St, E11; (9pm) Nightingale, 51 Nightingale La, E11; (10pm) George, 70 High Rd, E18.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,

branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

February – Wed 25 (8pm) Final 2016 GBG selection. Old Mitre, 58 High St, High Barnet.

March – Thu 5 Bus 125 crawl: meet (8.30) York Arms, 310 Oakleigh Rd North, N20. - **Wed 18** 'spoons BF Soc: (8pm) Gilpins Bell, Fore St, Upper Edmonton N18, then 279/349 for (9.45) Picture Palace, Hertford Rd/Lincoln Rd jct, Ponders End. - **Thu 26** (8.30) 'spoons BF Soc. Railway Bell, 13 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet EN4.

Website: www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

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

February – Tue 3 (8pm) Winter Pub of the Season presentation. Antelope, Maple Rd, Surbiton. - **Tue 10** (7.30) Soc. King's Tun, Clarence St, Kingston. - **Thu 19** (8pm) Branch AGM. Willoughby Arms (upstairs rm), Willoughby Rd, Kingston. - **Sat 21** (2pm) Beer festival soc. Lamb, Brighton Rd, Surbiton. - **Thu 26** (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Willoughby Arms (upstairs rm).

March – Wed 4 (8.15) Mtg. King's Tun (upstairs), Kingston. - **Tue 10** New Malden Korean evening. Meet (7pm for 8) Fountain, Malden Rd, then to a nearby Korean restaurant.

Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

Social contacts: John Wilson, 07840 111590,

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

February – Tue 3 (8pm) Winter Pub of the Season presentation. Beehive, Stoneleigh Rd, N17. - **Tue 10** (8pm) LDBF mtg. Bull, 13 North Hill, Highgate. - **Tue 17** Crouch End N8 soc: (7.30) Harringay Arms, 153 Crouch Hill, London N8 9Q; (8.15) Railway Tavern, 23 Crouch End Hill; (9pm) King's Head, 2 Crouch End Hill; (9.45) Devonshire House, 2 The Broadway. - **Tue 24** Canonbury soc: (7.30) Smokehouse, 63-69 Canonbury Rd, N1; (8.15) Canonbury,



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Rose & Crown 2 Old Park Lane W1K 1QN / **Shakespeares** Head 29 Great Marlborough W1F 7HZ / **Shepherds Tavern** 50 Hertford St. W1J 7ST
Spread Eagle 8 Woodstock St. W1C 2AD / **Three Crowns** 19 Babmaes St. SW1Y 6HD / **Three Tuns** 1 Portman Mews South W1H 6HR

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Branch diaries

21 Canonbury Pl; (9pm) Alwyne Castle, 83 Saint Paul's Rd; (9.45) Snooty Fox, 75 Grosvenor Ave, N5.

March – Tue 3 A400 NW5 soc: (7.30) Junction Tavern, 101 Fortress Rd; (8.15) Pineapple, 51 Leverton St; (9pm) Lion & Unicorn, 42 Gaisford St; (9.45) Oxford, 256 Kentish Town Rd; (10.30) Abbey Tavern, 124 Kentish Town Rd, NW1. - **Tue 10** Camden Market NW1 soc: (7.30) Ice Warf, Units 1-2 Suffolk Wharf, 28 Jamestown Rd; (8.15) Oxford Arms, 265 Camden High St; (8.45) Lock Tavern, 35 Chalk Farm Rd; (9.30) Tapping the Admiral, 77 Castle Rd. - **Tue 17** Essex Road N1 soc: (7.30) Marquess Tavern, 32 Canonbury St; (8.15) Lord Clyde, 340 Essex Rd; (9pm) Hops & Glory, 382 Essex Rd. - **Sat 21** (1.30) Six Nations Finals soc. Bree Louise, 69 Cobourg St, Euston NW1. - **Tue 24** (8pm) Mtg. White Hart, 69 Stoke Newington High St, N16. - **Tue 31** Hampstead Heath NW3 soc: (7.30) Freemasons Arms, Downshire Hill; (8.15) Magdala, 2a South Hill Pk; (9pm) Garden Gate, 14 South End Rd; (9.45) White Horse, 154 Fleet Rd.
Website: www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

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

February – Tue 10 Brentford pub walk: (7.30) Express Tavern, 56 New Bridge Rd; (8.15) One Over the Ait, + 5 others finishing (11pm) Magpie & Crown.

March – Thu 19 (8.30) Mtg, Three Kings, 42 Heath Rd, Twickenham.

Website: www.rhcamra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Neil Pettigrew, contact@selcamra.org.uk

February – Mon 2 (7.30) Mtg & soc. Allyn's Head, Park Hall Rd, SE 21. - **Wed 11** Greenwich SE10 crawl: (7.30) Mitre, 291 Greenwich High Rd; (8.15) Rose & Crown, 1 Crooms Hill; (9pm) Old Brewery, Old RN College; (9.45) Gipsy Moth, 60 Church St; (10.30) Lord Hood, 300 Creek Rd. - **Mon 16** (7.30) GBG selection mtg. Ship, 68 Borough Rd, SE1. - **Sat 21** Trip to Leigh on Sea, meet (10.45) ticket office, Fenchurch St for (1pm) Crooked Billet, 51 High St, Old Leigh; (2pm) Peter Boat, 27 High St; (3pm) Ye Olde Smack, 7 High St; (4pm) Mayflower, 6 High St; (5pm) Ship, New Rd. - **Wed 25** SE18 crawl: (7.30) Plume of Feathers 282 Plumstead High St; (8.15) Volunteer, 130 High St; (9.15) Old Mill, 1 Old Mill Rd.

March – Mon 2 (7.30) Mtg & soc. Beer Rebellion, 128 Gipsy Hill SE19. - **Wed 11** SE15 crawl: (7.30) Waverley Arms, 202 Ivydale Rd; (8.30) Beer Shop, 40 Nunhead Green; (9.15) Old Nuns Head, 15 Nunhead Green; (10.30) Rye, 31 Peckham Rye. - **Tue 17** Catford crawl: (7pm) Black Horse & Harrow, 167 Rushey Green SE6; (7.45) Catford Constitutional, Catford Broadway; (8.45) Blyth Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, SE23. - **Wed 27** SE1 crawl: (7pm) Founders Arms, 52 Hopton St; (7.45) Doggetts Coat & Badge, 1 Blackfriars Bridge; (8.45) Mad Hatter, 7 Stamford Rd; (9.30) Prince Albert, 76 Colombo St; (10.30) White Hart, 22 Great Suffolk St.
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)

February – Tue 3 Soc: (8pm) Ship, 16 Dock Rd, Little Thurrock RM17; (9.30) Bell, High Rd, Horndon-on-the-Hill SS17. - **Fri 6** (1pm) 22nd White Cliffs Beer Fest soc. Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Biggin St, Dover. DLR from West Ham/Stratford to Stratford International, then 'Javelin' train at 11.44 taking just 57 mins. Group Train Tickets: 3 or more travelling together get a third off. - **Wed 11** Soc: (8pm) Colley Rowe Inn, 54/56 Collier Row Rd, Collier Row RM5; (9.30) Moon & Stars, 99/103 High St, Romford. - **Mon 16** (8.30) Soc. Cricketers, 299/301 High Rd, Woodford Green IG8. - **Wed 18** (7.30) 16th Chelmsford Winter Beer & Cider Fest soc. King Edward VI Grammar School, Broomfield Rd (not far from Chelmsford Rail Stn). - **Wed 25** (8.30), GBG selection mtg. Rising Sun, 144 Ongar Rd, Brentwood. - **Sat 28** (12pm). 6th Chappel Winter Beer Fest soc. East Anglian Rly Museum, Chappel & Wakes Colne. NB: Free admission for CAMRA/EARM members until 5pm. (Admission after 5pm by prepaid ticket only; book via website: www.chappelbeerfestival.org.uk/winter/ticket.php).
March – Wed 4 Shenfield soc: (8pm) Eagle & Child, 13 Chelmsford Rd; (9.30) Ye Olde Green Dragon, 112 Shenfield Rd. - **Wed 11** (7.30) Soc. 31st London Drinker Beer Fest, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1. - **Tue 17** (8.30), Soc. Optimist Tavern, Little Gaynes La/Hacton La, Upminster. - **Sat 28** (11am) 'Bermondsey Mile' crawl: details on Branch Website nearer the date.
Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk;

February – Mon 16 (7.30) Open cttee mtg. White Hart, 350 London Rd, Mitcham.

March – Sun 1 (12.15) GBG 2016 selection mtg. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon. - **Mon 23** Lavender Hill/St John's Hill soc/crawl: early starters: (7pm) Fox & Hounds, Latchmere Rd; then (7.30) Four Thieves, Lavender Gdns; (8.15) Falcon, (8.50) Junction; (9.30) Powder Keg Diplomacy; (10.15) Beehive.

Website: <http://camraswl.org.uk>

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H),

branch@watford.camra.org.uk

February – Thu 12 Watford soc: start (8.30) White Lion, 79 St Albans Rd. - **Wed 18** Rickmansworth soc: start (8.30) Pennsylvanian, 115-117 High St. - **Tue 24** (8pm) Mtg. Sportsman, 2 Scots Hill, Croxley Green.

March – Wed 11 London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough St. Meet at products stand (6pm) and every hour. - **Thu 19** (7pm) Annual Breweriana Auction. West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave, Watford: viewing from 7pm. - **Wed 25** Bushey Heath soc: start (8.30) Royal Oak, 42 Sparrows Herne. - **Mon 30** (8pm) Branch AGM. Estcourt Arms, St Johns Rd, Watford.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton, 07835 927357, paul@paulcw4.plus.com;

Social secretary Alasdair Boyd: 020 7930 9871 x 143 (2.30-3.30 and 6-9.30 pm Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk, fax 020 7839 4768

February – Thu 5 W1/W2 soc: (7.30) Carpenters Arms, 12

Seymour Pl; (9pm) Tyburn (W'spoon, bring vouchers), 18-20 Edgware Rd. - **Tue 10** WC2 soc: (7.30) Edgar Wallace, 40-41 Essex St; (8.30) Temple Brew House, 46 Essex St. - **Thu 19** (7/7.30) Mtg. Gunmakers (upstairs), 33 Aybrook St, W1. - **Thu 26** W1 surveys: meet (7/7.30) Kings Arms, 2 Shepherd Mkt.

March – Thu 5 W6/W12 soc: (7.30) Raven, 375 Goldhawk Rd; (8.30) Duchess of Cambridge, 320 Goldhawk Rd; (9.30) Defector's Weld, 170 Uxbridge Rd, W12 (CAMRA disc). -

Tue 10 (from 7pm) Portobello Brewery evg. Unit 6, Mitre Bridge Ind. Est, Mitre Way, W10 (possible charge). - **Thu 19** (7/7.30) Mtg. Plough & Harrow (rear of pub) (W'spoon, bring vouchers), 120-124 King St, Hammersmith W6. - **Tue 24** W1 surveys: meet (7/7.30) Rose & Crown, 2 Old Park La.

Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

Roy Tunstall, 020 8933 4934 or 07909 061609, info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk

February – Wed 4 (8pm) 26th Ealing Beer Festival 1st meeting. Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, W13. - **Mon 9** (8pm) Black Horse, 1018 Harrow Rd, Sudbury HA0. - **Thu 19** South Ruislip HA4 Soc: (8pm) Black Bull, Victoria Rd; (9.30) Middlesex Arms, Long Drv. - **Wed 25** (8.30) GBG final selection mtg. Venue TBC.

March – Wed 11 London Drinker soc: meet (7pm) at products stand.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May edition is Monday 9 March.

Please send entries to 1dnews.hedger@gmail.com.

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nwa.org.uk

NATIONAL WINTER ALES FESTIVAL

CAMRA's National Winter Ales Festival 2015 (NWAf) will be held at the Roundhouse which is located beside the Pride Park exit of Derby Railway Station. It runs from 11 to 14 February.

The iconic Roundhouse has been transformed into a paradise for beer and cider lovers. There will be over 400 of Britain's best winter beer styles (porter, stout, old ales, strong milds, strong old ales and barley wines), real cider and perry, bottled world beers and mead available. For entertainment, a range of fantastic live bands will be there to entertain you, starting at 8pm.

The judging for CAMRA's Champion Winter Beer of Britain (CWBoB) 2015 will be held on the Wednesday. The announcement of the winning beers will be made around 3pm during the festival's trade session.

See the poster above for website and social media addresses.

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

This is a nice story with which to start the year. Five pubs from competing pub companies have teamed up to make a joint donation to the 'Tower of London Remembers' project which supports six UK service charities: Cobseco, Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Families Association (SSAFA). A total of £38,000, to be split equally between them, has been donated from the Hung, Drawn and Quartered (Fuller's), the Oyster Shed (Young's), the New Moon (Greene King), the Liberty Bounds (Wetherspoon) and All Bar One, Byward Street (Mitchells & Butlers).

This was an acknowledgement of the increased trade that the pubs enjoyed during the life of the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' installation. Simon Emery, Fuller's Chief Executive said, *"The Tower of London project is no less than a phenomenon. It has gripped everyone's imagination this summer and we, along with the other four pubs, have seen a large increase in the number of customers. We have benefitted from this spectacle so it is an honour to be able to give something back and share that benefit with the six deserving charities."* My thanks to Fuller's PR Department for alerting me to this.



From left to right: Kathryn Harvey from the New Moon, Jacek Jaremek of the All Bar One, Magda Wojtun from the Hung, Drawn and Quartered, Jay Blowers from the Liberty Bounds and Hannah Almond from the Oyster Shed.

THE TIE

Let us get one point straight. The tied house system has not been abolished and it is deeply sad in my view that parts of the national press chose to report the matter so sloppily as to give that impression. That is not to say however that what has happened is not significant.

On 18 November the House of Commons

voted by 284 votes to 259 to insert into the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment bill a clause allowing the 13,000 tenants (i.e. those who lease their pubs) of pub companies and breweries who own over 500 pubs to have the option of changing from their current 'tied house' arrangements to one whereby they simply pay a market rent for the pub and are free to source their stock for themselves and not from lists – and more importantly at the prices – dictated by their pubco.

The decision to make the change is entirely the licensee's own choice and their landlord cannot refuse an application, although no doubt some will try to devise obstructions. It will be a business choice. Tied licensees are reported to pay some 50 to 70% more for beer supplied through the tied system so they have to work out whether the increase in rent will be sufficiently covered by their savings in buying beer on the open market. The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA), the pubcos' representative body, insists that the tied house system works well for licensees so there will be few if any takers for this Market Rent Option (MRO). We will see. It is said that many licensees are earning less than the minimum wage. Let's hope that the new arrangements will enable them both to have a comfortable living and to reduce prices for their customers.

CAMRA has always supported the notion of the 500 pub threshold. It is seen as important to protect the family brewers who, generally but not always, act fairly and are vital to the continued success of the cask conditioned beer market. It was also tactically important in securing support from some politicians, especially the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group who are very supportive of the family brewers.

It is understood that the Government will not seek to have the amendment reversed in the later stages of the bill. As we go to print the bill has reached the committee stage in the House of Lords. There is no reason to believe that it will not become law before the general election.

I'm sure that many of you are wondering what is to stop the big pubcos and breweries from avoiding the Market Rent Option by splitting into smaller operations owning less than 500 pubs. The Bill gives the adjudicator the power to regard a group of related companies as a single company for the purposes of deciding whether or not the provision applies and it is thought that the Government will further amend the bill so that the 500 threshold can be amended as an administrative measure in order to react easily should any such stunts be attempted. Also, in order to comply with competition law, any small companies formed from bigger

ones would have to be so clearly legally separate from each other that it would most likely be more damaging to the pubco than accepting the MRO.

BUDGET IN VIEW

Andrew Griffiths, the MP for Burton on Trent and chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group, as mentioned above, has put forward the following Early Day Motion: *"That this House welcomes the ending of the beer duty escalator and the positive impact of two successive beer duty cuts in the 2013 and 2014 Budgets in supporting the growth of Britain's breweries and underpinning confidence in the UK's pubs; notes that beer duty is now 13 per cent lower than under the tax rises previously planned, a tax reduction that has been popular with pubgoers, leading to an additional 16,000 jobs and in the first six months following the Budget an extra £44 million in investment; and urges the Government to consider a further cut in beer duty in the 2015 Budget which would secure pub jobs, help keep pub pints affordable and support Britain's much-loved pubs."* The 13% figure is an interesting calculation but the aim is worthy.

Here are a few numbers to add some context here, courtesy of the BBPA. Pubs and breweries contribute £22 billion to the UK's gross domestic product and the trade employs some 900,000 people. 82% of the beer sold in the UK is produced in the UK.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

In what is thought to be a reaction to campaigns to stop corner shops stocking so called 'super strength' lagers, Carlsberg have announced that they will be making their Special Brew and Skol Super brands available only in cans containing less than four units of alcohol. This will be achieved by either reducing the strength or making the cans smaller. AB InBev have already reduced the size of cans of Tennent's Super from 500ml to 450ml. It isn't clear as to whether the price is being proportionally reduced.

Recent research has revealed that the Scots drink most spirits, people in Yorkshire mostly drink beer and cider is mostly drunk in the West Country. Our government spent our money on finding that out for us. I can't help thinking that it could have been used for something better.

CAMRA AND TESCO'S

CAMRA has made a deal with Tesco's to promote the sale of bottle-conditioned beer. In a trial expansion of the Real Ale in a Bottle scheme introduced in 2009, the CAMRA logo will appear above separate bays within the beer aisle in more than 50 stores Tesco stores. CAMRA will also provide

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educational point-of-sale material during the trial. CAMRA's press manager Neil Walker commented, "Tesco is putting together all its bottle-conditioned beers in one section with our logo saying it's real ale. Lots of supermarkets sell bottle-conditioned ales, but it's good to see them being separated out to help consumers try them. There are a number of things we wouldn't agree with Tesco's on about what it does, but on this one we definitely do." Not all CAMRA members are happy about this somewhat mixed message. Tesco's are seen to have the worst record of any of the supermarkets for converting pubs into mini-supermarkets and while bottle-conditioned beers certainly have their merits and we need to appreciate that not everyone can get out to the pub, getting people into pubs is more important than encouraging home drinking. Also, I suspect that the indiscriminating drinker may well compare the price of 'real ale in a bottle' with adjacent bulk packages of lager and settle for that instead.

Mind you, CAMRA are not the only group to have struck a deal with Tesco's. They have agreed with the British Hop Association to carry the BHA logo on some of their own-label beers. The first one will be Single Hopped Kentish Ale which Tesco's have produced in collaboration with Shepherd Neame. The name incidentally means that just one variety of hop has been used – in this case East Kent Goldings – and not that they have used just a single hop.

Ali Capper of the British Hop Association commented, "The American trend that has led to a worldwide resurgence of interest in craft brewing has been a double-edged sword at home in the UK. The interest in brewing with high quality raw ingredients has helped create jobs in the industry but unfortunately brewers don't always choose British grown hops. In copying the trend, many British brewers have sought to emulate not only the trend but also the exact beer style. Imports in New World hops have substantially increased in recent years."

Again, we have a mixed message here. I'm sure that all readers of this magazine will very much want to see the resurgence of our hop-growing industry but is supermarket bottled beer the way forward? Whilst I appreciate that many of our legion of small brewers take their inspiration from the American beer movement, it would be good if more of them could also try brewing some British style beers with home-grown ingredients.

PUBCO NEWS

Both Greene King and the Spirit Pub Company had general meetings on 13 January to agree formally their respective sides of the £774 million 'merge-over'. The deadline for the C & C Group to come back

with an increased offer came and went without any further developments. C & C reported disappointing sales in the three months to the end of November and is said to be re-focusing on returning its cider business to 'acceptable levels of profitability'.

In the first half of the year GK reported that sales increased by 3.3% to £614.9 million but pre-tax profit fell 3.5% to £82.6 million. Some of the fall was attributed to the disposal of 300 pubs.

One person who may find her hopes dashed by this event is Jane Peyton of Fulham who was recently appointed as the official ale tester for Spirit's Taylor Walker chain. Jane is also the author of several books and Britain's Beer Sommelier of the Year so if it does go wrong she has something to fall back on. Jane is also involved with the first Beer Day Britain, which is scheduled for 15 June this year. The Beer Day Britain project is supported by a number of industry organisations including the British Beer & Pub Association, the Society of Independent Brewers, Cask Marque, the Independent Family Brewers of Britain and CAMRA. More details are available on their website: www.beerdaybritain.co.uk.

The slow process of pubs returning to proper names continues. The Richmond branch of Mitchells & Butler's O'Neills chain has been transferred to their Nicholson's chain and has reverted to being the Railway Tavern, the name under which it opened in 1855. M&B saw sales for the year to 27 September rise by 4% to £1.97 billion but pre-tax profits fell by 13% to £123 million, although that takes account of the purchase of the Orchid Group. Sales fell in both their O'Neills and Harvester brands. We may see more pubs moving from O'Neills to Nicholson's.

WETHERSPOONS NEWS

The JD Wetherspoon organisation has plans to invest more than £400 million over the next five years in opening around 200 new pubs. This will create around 15,000 new jobs. The pubs will be in all parts of the country and around 30 of them will be in the Republic of Ireland. This is a substantial increase on its current estate of 931 pubs. Chairman Tim Martin said, "We are looking forward to opening the new pubs, many of which will be in areas where Wetherspoon is not yet represented." I wonder if JDW will pick up any closed Tesco's!

Meanwhile, JDW have settled their dispute with Heineken. Heineken refused to supply lager and Murphy's stout to JDW's new pub near Dublin. JDW wanted Murphy's as a replacement for Guinness because of their on-going dispute with Diageo. JDW retaliated by refusing to stock any Heineken

brands in any of its outlets. It is thought that Heineken were unhappy with the effect that JDW's pricing policy might have on the market in the Republic of Ireland where their prices are reported to be 40% lower than those generally charged. The settlement is said to have revolved around Heineken supplying substitute products, Foster's lager and Beamish stout. Given that the value of their business with JDW is said to be around £60 million per annum, it is no surprise that some resolution was forthcoming.

On his dealings with Diageo, Tim Martin was reported in the Evening Standard as saying, "I had a good look through my Christmas cards and didn't find one from Diageo. My old man was a marketing manager for Guinness in Belfast so I know how they operate." What an interesting comment.

OTHER TRADE NEWS

According to a survey of family budgets carried out by the Office of National Statistics, we are spending less on eating out, hotels, alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. It was £18.20 a week in 2000 and is now down to £12.00 in 2013. More is being spent on rent, gas and electricity and home entertainment. 98% of households are now connected to the internet.

Oddly though, according to the 2015 edition of Harden's London Restaurants, in 2014 148 restaurants opened and 47 closed giving a net increase of 101.

Shepherd Neame, in partnership with tenants Darren and Janet Wellman, have refurbished the Princess of Prussia in Prescott Street, near the Tower of London. They have made great efforts to retain the historic styling of this former Truman's pub. The façade, a classic example of Victorian pub architecture, had fallen into poor condition and been covered by previous owners. Parts were beyond saving but as much as possible has been done, including retaining the Truman's green tiling.



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**CAMRA National
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Greene King have opened a nine bedroom 'boutique' hotel in up and coming SW2. The Tulse Hill Hotel has received a £1.5 million renovation to "recreate its former glory with great care, thought and sympathy towards its heritage". It also has a restaurant and a private dining room as well as featuring a reclaimed 1920s bar and a landscaped garden with seating area. The bar will serve up to six cask beers.

The Meantime Brewery in North Greenwich has secured funding for expansion from HSBC. This will enable them to almost double production to 175,000 hectolitres of beer per annum. That is equivalent to over 30 million pints.

The importance of pubs to our tourist trade has been recognised by VisitEngland (the English Tourism Board as was) who have included Gerry O'Brien, licensee of Fuller's Churchill Arms in Kensington, on the shortlist for their Tourism Superstar 2015 competition. The campaign recognises the dedication and passion of those working in the tourism industry, and is awarded to an individual who goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure visitors to England have an unforgettable experience. It is part of English Tourism Week which this year runs from 14 to 22 March. Gerry is the only pubman on the list.

There was a worrying report in the *Evening Standard* in November that the discount retailers, Aldi and Lidl, are contemplating opening high street convenience shops. Aldi have already opened in Kilburn and Lidl in Kentish Town, fortunately using a former Co-Op store. The possibility of their looking at pubs cannot however be ruled out.

NEW SIBA APPOINTMENT

CAMRA's Head of Marketing, Tony Jerome, is leaving to join former chief executive Mike Benner at the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA). He will take the newly-created role of director of communications and membership in March. SIBA chairman Guy Sheppard said, "Tony's first priorities will be to raise SIBA's profile externally, and to develop a market leading benefits and service offer for our brewer and supplier members. It's a large role for which Tony's previous experience and evident talent for communication equip him well." Tony himself said, "I have had a wonderful time working at CAMRA and I'm hugely proud of what I achieved there. I would like to thank all of the volunteers and my colleagues at CAMRA Head Office for all the support they have given me over the years. I leave an excellent marketing team in place and know they will continue to do great work."

AND FINALLY...

Very finally. Demolition work has started on Earl's Court, one time home of the Great British Beer Festival. But what of the development that will replace it? A Feng Shui expert has said that flats that overlook a cemetery on one side and four railway lines that carry nuclear waste on the other may not be popular with buyers from the Far East.

Comedian Al Murray has announced that, in the guise of his best known character, the Pub Landlord, he will be standing against UKIP leader, Nigel Farage, in the South Thanet constituency. The Pub Landlord will be standing for the Free United Kingdom Party (FUKP). As for policies, Mr Murray said that "We in FUKP don't claim to have all the answers, or, indeed, any of them but what we do promise is that we will save the British pub." Mind you, he also said that he would slash the price of a pint to just a penny, brick up the Channel Tunnel, fight Germany if they are up for it, and burn down the Houses of Parliament for the insurance. Maybe this election isn't going to be quite so tedious after all...

Tony Hedger

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Admission free Wednesday & Thursday lunchtimes; £3.50 other times
(£1 off for CAMRA members). Last admission 10pm. Over 18's only.

Organisers reserve the right to refuse admission.

Wednesday lunch - Launch of the American bottle beers on the Imported Beer Bar

Wednesday evening - Free Pub Quiz

Thursday lunch - Announcement of CAMRA's Best Porter in London & the South East

Thursday evening - Announcement of CAMRA's North London Pub of the Year

Friday 12-5pm - Bring & Buy Second Hand Books in aid of children's charity, Brainwave

For more details see:

www.northlondon.camra.org.uk/

Follow us on Twitter:

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End of an era at the Olde Mitre

After eleven exceptionally successful years, Scotty and Kathy Scott have retired from the historic City of London Pub, Ye Olde Mitre, near Hatton Garden. Four times the CAMRA East London and City Branch City Pub of the Year, in 2006 the pub was runner-up as CAMRA's Greater London Pub of the Year.

On 12 January members of ELAC Branch visited Ye Olde Mitre to make a presentation to the Scotts. Vice-Chair of ELAC, John Pardoe, said, "Ye Olde Mitre is wondrous with a tradition of serving quality beers since mediaeval times. Scotty and Kathy have maintained that proud tradition splendidly. We're sorry to see them go to their Yorkshire retirement but wish them well with all our hearts."

In reply, Scotty said, "We've won many awards but those from CAMRA are the ones we treasure most. They're accolades from beer devotees. Good luck to ELAC and CAMRA and may the Branch always choose Ye Olde Mitre as a venue."



John Pardoe (second left) says farewell to Scotty and Kathy Scott (third and fourth left).

Where's my boozer gone?

Readers may be interested to know that the Geezers, a group of senior gentlemen who are running a project about the disappearance of pubs in the local area together with artist Lucy Schofield, are holding a conversational afternoon on Tuesday 17 February between 2pm and 4pm. They look forward to meeting you and sharing their stories and findings of how the disappearance of social focal points affects the Bow and Mile End area. The venue is the Art Pavilion, Clinton Road, Mile End, London E3 4QY. The event is free but voluntary donations to support the work of the Geezers are gratefully received.

You can find out more through their website: www.ourbow.com/category/the-geezers

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NORTH LONDON BRANCH 40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS END ON A HIGH

CAMRA's North London Branch ended its 40th year on a high with two events in December. First off was its annual Christmas party which marked an unusual concurrence of events. The party was held at Wetherspoon's Rochester Castle, now their oldest pub, on what was also the 35th anniversary of that company. John Cryne, Branch Chairman, said, "The North London Branch area is the original birthplace of Wetherspoon, so it was great to be able to celebrate two birthdays on the same night." A great time was had with Wetherspoon's providing a complimentary buffet and 50p off a pint for members all evening."



Photo Gillian Evans – gillian@cameraanddesign.co.uk

Another 'veteran' was celebrated at the Prince Arthur, Hoxton, one of Shepherd Neame's London pubs. The veteran in question was licensee Dixie Dean who retired earlier in the year after over 30 years running the pub. Long-standing licensees at one pub are now a rare breed and Dixie's expertise was clear in the pub's regular entry in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. Dixie was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his services to beer and pubs.



Dixie receives his award from John Cryne

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW PUB OF THE YEAR

The Rifleman, Fourth Cross Road in Twickenham, was the winner of CAMRA Richmond and Hounslow Branch's Pub of the Year award for 2014. The award was presented on 17 December in front of 25 or more CAMRA members and a group of faithful locals. Unfortunately, the event caused the postponement of the pub's planned carol concert.

The photo shows landlord Mick Laker and wife Paula accepting the certificate from Branch Chairman Charles Owens, with Colette, Fiona, and Dan, the enthusiastic bar staff, looking on.



WEST LONDON CELEBRATES THE GREAT DIVIDE

On 21 November, the Richmond & Hounslow, West London and West Middlesex branches of CAMRA met at the Express Tavern, Brentford, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the three branches out of the original West London Branch in 1974. There was a very good turn-out – some 65 to 70 members.

THE GREY HORSE, KINGSTON

On the evening of Saturday 3 January the Grey Horse was full to the doors with customers and musicians alike who had come along to say their farewells and to give their best wishes to Richard Fletcher, the landlord, and his wife June on what was their last night there. Having moved here in 2000 after running two pubs at Bradford on Avon in Wiltshire, they are retiring from pub management.

The Grey Horse has been a major music venue for many years, even before Richard and June came here. During their time they have kept it going in the same spirit with many different bands of various styles playing most nights of the week. Sometimes two bands could be playing here at the same time with the use of the Ram Jam Club, to the rear of the pub.

Over the years there have also been comedy nights and some of the performers of a few years ago are now familiar faces on TV. If this wasn't enough, Richard also arranged film evenings in the club at the rear. The pub also hosted popular 'open mike' nights for local musicians and singers, some of whom were almost part of the pub. On occasions it was not unusual for Richard himself to be seen practising his skills on the drum kit at the back.

It seems unclear what exactly owners, Young's, are going to do with the pub and whether it will remain a music venue or not. With the loss of other music venues in the area it would be a great shame if this one is not maintained.

Looking on the bright side, we have not quite seen the last of Richard. He is moving up the road to the Oak to help out with



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musical arrangements for bands playing there, so Richard and June's retirement is not quite so final after all.

Clive Taylor

EALING BEER FESTIVAL

The Ealing Beer Festival will be held from Wednesday 8 to Saturday 11 July.

ALL ABOARD THE BEER LINE

Following the success of last year's event, the Epping Ongar Railway are to host their 3rd annual beer festival from Friday 31 July to Sunday 2 August 2015. With easy transport links to and from London, this is one for your diaries! In addition, during special events this year, the railway is planning to run a real ale bar on the train itself featuring beer sourced locally. Keep an eye on their website at www.eorailway.co.uk for news and information.

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The John Young Memorial Award

The John Young Memorial Award is presented each year by CAMRA's Greater London Region. It was introduced in 2007 and its objectives are, in order to celebrate the memory of John Young and his impact on real ale and pubs within London, to publicly acknowledge an individual or organisation that the London branches believe has done the most for real ale and/or pubs within the Greater London area. It is an 'external' award, not open to CAMRA volunteers.

The winner for 2014 is John Keeling, the head brewer of Fuller, Smith and Turner. John was nominated by the Richmond & Hounslow Branch, whose citation read:

John Keeling has been involved in brewing great beer in London for 40 years. He has won many awards for his iconic brews, which include ESB, 1845, London Pride, and the terrific session beer Chiswick, whilst also producing a range of seasonal ales which keeps people coming back to Fuller's pubs time and again. Remember him winning the best ESB and also best Old Ale (Vintage Ale) at the Beer World Cup 2006.

Examples of his brilliant brews include Vintage Ale, Prize Old Ale, Brewers Reserve, Bengal Lancer, Jack Frost, London Porter, Red Fox and Mr. Harry. The production of the 2.8% ABV Mighty Atom shows that he is accomplished in producing tasty beers that are not necessarily strong.

Of particular note is his reintroduction and reinvention of old recipes such as those in the Fuller's 'Past Masters' range. His championing of these beers and longer brewing times, in the face of other brewers simply brewing commodity beers in the shortest possible time, is highly commendable.

He consistently produces beers that are always interesting, and at best undeniably great, and our branch again commends

him as a worthy recipient of the John Young Memorial award.

The presentation took place on 8 December with Fuller's very kindly hosting the event in the Griffin Brewery's Hock Cellar. We were delighted to be joined to present the award by John Young's nephew, Torquil Sligo-Young, now Executive Director, Human and Information Resources at Young & Co's Brewery plc. Torquil has kindly presented the award in his uncle's memory every year since 2009. Others present included Richard Fuller, Corporate Affairs Director of Fuller's brewery, Geoff Strawbridge, CAMRA's Regional Director for Greater London and Christine Cryne, CAMRA's National Director for volunteering. Former Young's brewers, Ken Don, Derek Prentice and Ian Swanson, were also there.

John Keeling said of the award, "It is great for Fuller's to receive an award of this stature and it is definitely an award for the team. Without the brewing team we have, we would not be able to continue producing our great beer. I'm also very happy Young's brewers are here, showing that a universal alliance exists between brewers."

The cover picture shows left to right: Torquil Sligo-Young, John Keeling, and Geoff Strawbridge. With thanks to Andrew Furness of Fuller's for supplying the photo.

Tony Hedger

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The Battersea Ale Trail

As reported in the last issue, owing to the scheduled refurbishment at the Battersea Arts Centre (BAC), South West London Branch will not be holding the usual Battersea Beer Festival in February.

Instead, we invite drinkers to complete an ale trail in Battersea over the course of that month, comprising sixteen local pubs and also Sambrook's Brewery and the 'Theatre of Beer' festival at the Clapham Grand from 18 to 20 February.

Each of these venues will have a stock of Ale Trail Passports, complete with a map. The passports may also be downloaded from the CAMRA South West London website: <http://camraswl.org.uk>

Asparagus, 1-13 Falcon Road

Beehive, 197 St John's Hill

Candlemaker, 136 Battersea High Street

Clapham Grand Beer Festival, 21-25 St John's Hill

Draft House Northcote, 94 Northcote Road

Eagle Ale House, 104 Chatham Road

Falcon, 2 St John's Hill

Four Thieves, 49 Lavender Gardens

Fox & Hounds, 66 Latchmere Road

Junction, 36 St John's Hill

Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road

Le Gothique, Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, John Archer Way

Lighthouse, 441 Battersea Park Road

Merchant, 25 Battersea Rise

Northcote, 2 Northcote Road

Plough, 89 St John's Hill

Roundhouse, 2 Wandsworth Common North Side

Sambrook's Brewery, Unit 1 & 2, Yelverton Road

Either a pint or a half pint of real ale, or of real cider or perry, qualifies for a dated signature or stamp on the passport. Drink responsibly over the month; there is no race involved. Completed forms received at the designated address by the 4 March return date will be eligible for a prize draw for as many souvenir T-shirts as the Branch can afford!

Geoff Strawbridge

Pubs Officer, SW London Branch

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FOOD

Woodfire pizzas from our neighbours at Firezza and sausage rolls, Scotch eggs and pork pies from HG Walter of Baron's Court.

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BEAVERTOWN

According to the *Morning Advertiser*, Logan Plant is looking to expand by acquiring a second 'Duke's' barbecue outlet and a wet-led brewery tap. The latter will hopefully be in the Hackney or Bethnal Green area. The brewery itself relocated to Tottenham Hale last year.

CLARENCE & FREDERICKS

Clarence & Fredericks launched their latest beer, a Barley Wine at 8.2% ABV, at a well-attended open day in November. This was a one-off brew (only 25 casks were produced) which will probably all have been sold by the time you read this. One to look out for next year! The Smoked Red, one of the beers Duncan brewed when the brewery was first established, has also been made available again. This is a malty, smoky 5.1% ABV beer worth seeking out while it is available. The brewery continues to supply pubs in the South London area with their range of draught beers. Golden, American Pale Ale and Cascadian Black are also now available in bottles although they are not bottle-conditioned. They are on sale at the brewery and opening times can be obtained from their twitter feed. @clfbrewing.

David Lands – Brewery Liaison Officer



Tapping the first cask of Barley Wine

BRENTWOOD

The brewery are holding open days with brewery tours on 7 February and 7 March and on 16 February there is a beer tasting evening at the Golden Lion in Romford. On the beer front, Brentwood plan to have Hope and Glory, their 4.5% traditional bitter available in time for the Six Nations Rugby.

For something more unusual, Van Kannor, 7.7% ABV, is now available in a limited run of 1,000 bottles. This is triple fermented with beer, wine and champagne yeast, using the traditional champagne style method as well as being hand turned and riddled. It combines gentle fruitiness with rich malt aromas to create a luxurious, sophisticated beer. 750ml bottles are available from the Brewery Shop at £29.99. The company have also produced a beer called Ale Mary in partnership with the Shenfield Operatic Society to celebrate their latest production of *Sister Act* at Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch: 25 to 28 February.

EAST LONDON

Since being founded in 2011 by Stuart Lascelles, the East London Brewing company has seen a fourfold increase in its output, making it one of the more successful of London's 'new wave' breweries. To celebrate this success, on January 8,

a party of members from CAMRA's East London and City (ELAC) Branch visited the brewery in Leyton. The visit was hosted by Mr Lascelles who runs the brewery in co-operation with his wife, Claire Ashbridge-Thomlinson. He said, "We're delighted at how much our beers are appreciated by a growing amount of customers. These are mostly in the London area but also further afield. We must also thank CAMRA for the support and encouragement of its members. We and they are united by a passion for traditional English beers."

Two beers were tasted on the visit. These were the Orchard Mild (3.6% ABV) and Jamboree golden ale (4.8% ABV). ELB have a new head brewer, Ruaridh Atkins, an Australian with five years of brewing experience with German micro-breweries. This may well lead to some innovative new beers.

Bill Green



Stuart Lascelles (third left) with CAMRA members

FULLER'S

Fuller's results for the half-year ended 27 September were very encouraging. Overall revenue increased by up 10% to £161.6 million and adjusted profit before tax by 8% to £19.6 million resulting in a 10% increase in dividend. Like for like sales in the managed pubs and hotels sector grew by 6.5% and in their tenanted pubs by 5%. Beer and cider sales in volume increased by 6%. The managed estate grew by three, the Harp in Covent Garden plus two others in Bridport, Dorset and Portishead, near Bristol.

As previewed in the last edition, Fuller's new pub by Kew Bridge, the One Over The Ait, opened in late November, although it had a short closure in early December because of flooding. I suppose that that must be an occupational hazard for a pub near the river. The pub spreads over two floors and has plenty of outdoor space with views of the Thames. There is an extensive menu as well. The pub is part of a development by St George West London and their managing director, Ian Dobie, commented, "The opening of One Over the Ait marks an important and exciting milestone in the redevelopment of this area. It's the newest addition to an already thriving community, joining the existing amenities, including a coffee shop, deli and supermarket. One Over the Ait will be a great enhancement to the village atmosphere."

INKSPOT

This brewery was originally to have been installed in the basement of the Perfect Blend bar in Streatham but because of size restrictions and planning, the owners, Bradley and Tom, sold up there and have found premises in Beckenham. Brewing equipment has been acquired and the first brew was planned



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London brewery news

for January. Pending the new brewery coming on stream, they have been brewing their beer, St Reatham, at the Tunnel Brewery in Warwickshire. The new brewery is twice the size of Tunnel.

KEW

Kew Brewery have now found premises and in early January their planning application for change of use was unanimously approved by Richmond Council's planning committee, despite some objection.

PARK BREWERY, KINGSTON – FROM BEETROOT TO BEER

The Park Brewery became the newest brewery in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames in May 2014 although it's not on the scale of the once mighty Hodgsons, having a one barrel capacity and describing itself as a 'nano brewery'. It uses a former greengrocer's premises in Elm Road near Richmond Park, from which it takes its name. The brewery shed is thought once to have housed a beetroot boiler but the brewer, Josh Kearns, has put the site to better use. The current focus is a range of five bottle conditioned beers named after sites in the Park, available in local off licences and the local butcher's. They have, however, successfully supplied cask ale to several beer festivals despite the bung blowing out of the first cask produced. Links have been established with pubs in the area and CAMRA's Kingston and Leatherhead branch look forward to an expansion in capacity and wider availability in cask form.

The current range comprises:

Kilcat (3.7% ABV) – a pale ale with New Zealand hops; grapefruit bouquet and bitter finish.

Gallows Gold (5% ABV) – a golden ale with Simcoe and Cascade hops, crystal malt; slight sweetness.

Spankers IPA (6% ABV) – a best bitter, hops vary between brews but reliably bitter.

Dark Hill (6.2% ABV) – an old ale/dark IPA style; dark treacle flavours, strong malt taste and finish.

Two Storms Ruby (7.1% ABV) – a fruity beer using Munich malt and crystal rye; malty finish.

For further information visit www.theparkbrewery.com or contact theparkbrewery@gmail.com.

David Morgan (Brewery Liaison Officer)

SOLVAY SOCIETY

This brewery was originally going to be set up at the Warrant Officer pub in Walthamstow but it has moved to the cellar of the Hops & Glory at 382 Essex Road, Islington. A Twitter message – all that I have to go on – in early January said that the first brew at the new site, a pale ale, was in the fermenting vessel.

TEMPLE BREW HOUSE

The City Pub Company (East) plc were due to open a new brewpub called the Temple Brew House in November. The address is 46 Essex Street, WC2R 3JF. The brewery is to be known as the Essex Street Brewery. It is understood that cask beer will be produced.





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WIMBLEDON

The original Wimbledon Brewery stood up the hill from the station and burnt down in 1889. As a local resident, I am pleased to say that there will shortly be a replacement, situated at the other end of SW19 in Colliers Wood. Owner Mark Gordon has acquired some suitable premises, planning permission has been obtained from Merton Council and most important of all, the services of the renowned brewer, Derek Prentice, ex Young's and Fuller's, have been secured.

The plan is to have a shop and tap room as well as a 30 barrel brewery. Cask, keg and bottled beers will be produced with a view to trading both locally and by export and five jobs will be created initially, with the possibility of more.

There were some objections to the planning application on the grounds of toxic fumes, machinery noise and undesirable visitors to the bar. Mr Gordon said he could understand why

residents were concerned but that the malty smell will go down the drains and that the site would be no noisier than the warehouse which was there before. Modern technology and strict health and safety regulations would mean it was a clean and efficient process. The South West London Branch of CAMRA supported the application. That gives me the opportunity to paraphrase the now sadly late Mandy Rice Davies: well, we would, wouldn't we!

On its website, one local paper reported that Sambrook's brewery in Battersea, were 'unhappy' at this development. We asked Duncan Sambrook if this was so and he replied, "Complete rubbish. I have actually tried to help them get in contact with them through Derek. I have the same approach to all new brewers in London that so long as they are brewing good beer then they are only helping to grow the market." I am more than happy to put the record straight there.

The Fellowship Inn, Bellingham

There is exciting news about one of London's most spectacular inter-war pubs. Over the years, the Fellowship Inn in Randlesdown Road, Bellingham, SE6, has tended to drop off the CAMRA radar. For many years there was no real ale, and in recent years it has served just the one cask ale, Greene King IPA. Additionally, several rooms have fallen into a state of disrepair over the years, such that it is no longer safe to allow visitors to the pub to have access to them. Happily, a change of fortune looks to be on the cards for this amazing pub. Its owners, Phoenix Housing, have just been awarded a Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £3.8 million to renovate those parts of the pub which have fallen into disrepair.

Back in 2013, the local branch of CAMRA recognised the rarity and importance of this unique pub, built in 1923-24 to service the London County Council's Bellingham estate. South East London CAMRA's Pub Protection Officer submitted an application to English Heritage requesting that the pub be given Listed Building status. Acknowledging that the pub was a "remarkably complete example of an inter-war public house", English Heritage awarded it Grade 2 listing status. As well as having two large bars which have hardly changed since the pub was built, there is also a rare example of a publican's office, a large rear lounge, a theatre-cum-dance-hall and an off-sales shop.

Since then, Phoenix Housing have drawn up extensive plans to revive the pub, and these so impressed the Lottery Fund board that the substantial grant was awarded. Phoenix have plans to bring the pub back into community use, with different areas to be used as a cinema, live music venue, café, bakery and artists' studios. Best of all, there are plans to install a micro-brewery. The lounge bar, currently the only area in use, will continue to serve as a pub, and CAMRA hopes that the former public bar, currently out of use, will also be brought back into the use for which it was originally intended. Both the public and lounge bars are wonderful survivors from nearly a century ago, with all their extensive wall panelling still intact, as well as many other original features.

If you've never been to the Fellowship Inn, you may want to see it now before the work begins. (But note that only one bar is currently open to the public.) It is situated exactly next door

to Bellingham train station so is easy to reach. Let's hope that in the not too distant future the Fellowship Inn will become a destination real ale pub.

Neil Pettigrew

South East London CAMRA



Photo by Michael Slaughter LRPS

Editor's Note: you can see more photos and a full description on CAMRA's Pub Heritage website:

<http://www.heritagepubs.org.uk/pubs/historic-pub-interior-entry.asp?pubid=2124>

Incidentally, the London County Council had a very enlightened view as to their residents' needs. All inter-war estates included provision for pubs, although they were coyly referred to as 'refreshment houses'.

CAMRA MEMBERS' WEEKEND

Just a reminder to all CAMRA members that the AGM and Members' Weekend for 2015 will take place on 17 to 19 April at the Albert Hall, Nottingham. No, I didn't know that they had one either!

Pre-registration to this event is now open and we hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend this key event in CAMRA's calendar. You can register at www.camraagm.org.uk

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

Further to my final thought in last edition's column, I was dismayed but not surprised to learn that Tesco's will indeed be disposing of 43 sites, most of them Tesco Express outlets. I would be very grateful if readers could let us know of any that they come across that were conversions from pubs.

BRAVO WALTHAM FOREST COUNCIL

By the time you read this, the hastily drafted yet nonetheless comprehensive Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on public houses in the Borough of Waltham Forest will have concluded its public consultation phase. CAMRA submitted detailed comments on the excellent document. The SPD is effectively a 'bolt on' appendix to the adopted plan, which currently consists of the Core Strategy and the Local Development Framework. The SPD recognises the vital and irreplaceable role that public houses play in our communities and is a solid commitment by the Council to do all it can to protect them through the planning system - and not before time! We reported in a previous edition how the Borough had lost five pubs in as many weeks. We also brought the terrific news that the Heathcote Arms has been registered as an Asset of Community Value. The Council has now nailed its colours firmly to the mast in the form of this SPD. The SPD is designed to assist planning officers and developers in determining under what circumstances the Council would grant planning consent for a change of use. The document lists five key policy tests, which are:

- **Viability** – Accounts for the last three years must be presented and independently verified
- **Marketing Evidence** – Must be advertised at a pub price for at least 12 months
- **Heritage Value** – Heritage pubs carry extra protection in planning terms
- **Community Value** – They will recognise ACV status as a material consideration
- **Location** – The Council is keen to enhance and nurture the local economy and maintain the vitality of town centres and neighbourhoods

This is truly exemplar policy and the document concludes with a detailed list of all the remaining (and many former!) public houses in the Borough. The scores are: 107 premises in total; 63 still in use as pubs and 44 closed or converted. That, by the Council's own statistics, is an attrition rate of 41% since 1997. We would be even more delighted if the policy tests could form part of the adopted plan and we have requested precisely that.

Of course, the Council can only intervene where planning consent is required. When developers exploit the planning provision known as 'permitted development rights' the only tool available to the authority to save the pub is the controversial Article 4 Direction. It's no accident that we keep on coming back to the fundamental campaign cry – Pubs Matter! So why can't we have a say?

LOOKING NORTH

It is reported that to some surprise York Council has voted through a Green Party motion to apply a borough-wide Article 4 Direction to prevent exactly the problem that is highlighted above. It is good campaigning news but it may well be difficult for the city's planners to implement.

JOINERS' ARMS, SHOREDITCH

Members of the LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex) community and many others too, will be well aware of this iconic venue on Hackney Road. Sadly, the all too familiar tale of freehold sale to a developer has bitten swiftly and the lease, which expired on 15 January, will not be renewed. London is rightly proud of its rich diversity and there are few venues as diverse as the Joiners. There are plans to demolish the entire block and replace with flats. However a last-ditch attempt to save the venue was mounted in November 2014 by the Friends of the Joiners Arms. Its ACV registration was approved on 15 January by Tower Hamlets. After Turner's Old Star, it is the second ACV pub in the Borough. Will that be sufficient to save it from the wrecking ball? Doubtful but let us not lose hope. The friends have an ambition to take over the building, turning it into London's only co-operative LGBTQI community centre and maintaining its function as a pub, flying the rainbow flag. We wish them well. After all, that is precisely what the government introduced the Localism Act for.

ALEXANDRA, MUSWELL HILL

Haringey Council finally got around to hearing this controversial case at their planning committee on 15 December. The debate lasted just under an hour and the Council voted by a majority of 5 to reject permission for conversion into two dwelling houses. Local campaigners spoke eloquently and passionately to the committee in defence of the pub, against some pretty powerful argument from the applicant's agent, supported by immediate neighbours in favour of the scheme! Kinks founder and local music legend Dave Davies submitted comments in favour of retention of the pub, in which he drank his first pint. He told local media how his family would gather in the Alex and sing songs around the piano. The star performance of the night however was delivered by Haringey's brilliant conservation officer who talked about the closure and conversion of pubs being a much wider issue than just Muswell Hill or even London. She described it as a serious national problem and advised members that English conservation areas are established around important landmarks such as churches, village greens, and pubs. She went on to advise, with genuine sincerity, how she could not, as a conservation professional, recommend any scheme that would result in loss of a historic pub, particularly one with links to a famous rock band. It was a compelling testimony and was pivotal in swinging the outcome in favour of keeping the pub. A ward councillor moved a motion for rejection on conservation grounds and the scheme was thrown out. The owner, Matan Amitai, has purchased a number of London pubs from Punch Taverns including the Winchester in Archway and Turner's Old Star in Wapping. It remains to be seen whether he will appeal but this was an encouraging decision by Haringey Council and we look forward to many more like it.

DARTMOUTH ARMS, TUFNELL PARK

If present trends continue, we will be able to report a couple more ACV registrations for pubs in London with every issue of *London Drinker*. The latest to join the registers – and number 41 in the Greater London region by our reckoning – is the Dartmouth Arms in the Dartmouth Park Conservation Area. We reported in the last issue how owners Faucet Inn have the premises on the market for £1.8 million. Thankfully Camden

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Pub campaigning

Council wasted no time in agreeing to an ACV. Could this actually be the first pub in London we have registered 'on time'? Given the high price tag, a community buyout is an unlikely prospect unless Faucet use the extant planning permission to first convert the upper floors into private flats. This opens up a new and interesting legal discussion point as the Localism Act precludes residential land from being land of community value and so if the freehold plot was offered for sale, as it is now, any relevant community interest group would only be entitled to enter a bid to buy the lease which covered the public house premises. Furthermore, if the building was sold with the pub trading as a going concern, there is a further exemption under Section 95 which would prevent a community bid. Once you start splitting up premises, it's never a straightforward case. At least the community have the 'material planning consideration' to fall back on. We also hope that developers will think twice now before paying such an inflated sum.

LORD BROOKE, WALTHAMSTOW

Following the revocation of its premises licence in June 2014 because of drug and noise issues, this imposing pub in the heart of Walthamstow, was the first of five to close in the latter part of last year, all within the space of a few weeks. The present building, dating from 1885, changed hands in October for £740,000. Plans have been submitted to turn it into a Buddhist Temple. Thankfully, such a change of use is subject to planning control and local Waltham Forest pub preservation activists HOOPs (*Hands Off Our Pubs*) have been able to galvanise local support and submit a number of objections. The East London & City Branch of CAMRA has submitted an objection, politely inviting the Council to put their emerging public house supplementary planning document to the test. This will definitely be one to watch. Not only is the pub locally listed but the connections with Lord Brooke and his family are significant. Brooke's wife, Daisy Greville, the Countess of Warwick became a mistress of Edward VII and is the inspiration behind the music hall song '*Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do*'.



CENTRAL, EAST HAM

The Central is best known as a West Ham away fans refreshment and rendezvous point and is clearly an important local amenity on match days at Upton Park. It sports some fabulous green glazed tiling and distinctive Edwardian mock-Tudor fascia boards under the eaves. Significantly, it is a large pub that retains subdivisions with three separate drinking spaces around the servery. Originally known as the Central Tavern, it was built around the time of the First World War. 100

years later it had fallen into the hands of Punch Taverns, who sold it to a developer at the end of 2014.

Outrageously, the tenant with fifteen years remaining on his lease was taken somewhat by surprise when he received a letter from the Council advising him of a planning application to destroy his business and his home and replace them with 'much-needed private housing'. There is a familiar pattern here; a pattern of behaviour by Punch Taverns who still have the audacity to refer to their tenants as 'partners' while literally selling their pubs from under them with zero consultation and even less regard. Along with a weak planning system, the actions of the pub companies are the biggest threats to our heritage and culture. While we like to remain positive, Newham does not have a good track record on pub protection and has no pub protection policy in its local plan. We have been in touch with the Council to try to remedy this and have objected strongly to the proposed loss of the Central. If the scheme is allowed, there will be just ONE remaining pub in Boleyn Ward and only a handful in the whole of E6. It is rumoured that Dame Vera Lynn began her singing career in the Central Tavern.



KENSINGTON PARK HOTEL, LADBROKE GROVE

Helped by some very welcome celebrity support from local regular, singer and BBC 6 Music radio presenter Cerys Matthews, the forward-thinking planners in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea have responded to requests from community campaigners and the Kensington Society and have issued an Article 4 Direction. This is the second such Article 4 Direction made by the Royal Borough to protect pubs, following the making of a direction on the Academy, Notting Hill, as reported in the last London Drinker. In the words of former Council planner, pub lover and great friend of CAMRA, Michael Bach, "two down and more to come?" Until the government acts on CAMRA's *Pubs Matter* campaign, an Article 4 Direction is the only tool available to give communities a say on change of use. On that basis, let us hope so. While it's a local solution to a growing national problem, unless and until Pubs Minister Kris Hopkins and his chums at the Department of Communities and Local Government extract their collective digits and control the undesired consequences of permitted development rights as they currently exist, it is the only solution we have.

PUBS MATTER

The government e-petition instigated by CAMRA member Mark Newcombe currently boasts 11,302 signatures. We hope that most of our readers have already signed it but do not forget to spread it around your colleagues, friends, family, and random strangers who you meet in London's pubs. You do not have to be a CAMRA member to sign up.

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Pub campaigning

The petition calls on the Government to protect community pubs by requiring that any change of use is made subject to planning consent. This forms the basis of CAMRA's national *Pubs Matter* campaign. The petition takes just two minutes to sign online at website: <http://petitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/66572>.

Given that there are already in excess of 10,000 signatures, ministers must give a formal response. We must not be complacent however. In the run up to the general election in May, political pressure will be very important and we need to ensure pubs are pushed up the agenda. Please help publicise the above petition and let's get at least 20,000 names on it.

Early Day Motion 208, put down in July 2014 by Charlotte Leslie MP, essentially asks for the same thing but is a House of Commons motion. CAMRA HQ assisted with the drafting of the motion and currently 92 MPs have signed it. You can find out if your own MP has signed up at <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/208> and if not, why not contact them to ask them to add their support to our campaign. Be aware however that MPs who hold any sort of government office do not, by convention, sign EDMs while others believe it is a worthless token gesture. If your MP will not sign, you can still invite them to write to the Pubs Minister instead to raise the issue of permitted development rights allowing viable community pubs to be turned into convenience stores or the like at the rate of two every week. Be prepared however for a lecture on the under-utilisation of Article 4 Directions. Most of CAMRA's regional officers have had that one already!

James Watson and Tony Hedger



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The Antwerp Arms – North London's first community pub

The Antwerp Arms, 'Tottenham's Country Pub', is now owned by the shareholders in a community enterprise society. It will be run as a meeting place for local people and groups. It will be a real ale pub, featuring the beers from the local breweries, especially Redemption who have supported the bid from the beginning. The Antwerp Arms is popular with fans of the nearby Tottenham Hotspur football club on match days. The local community will be the main users at other times, and it is intended that it should also be a destination pub for real and craft ale lovers.

In June 2013, the local residents' association, the Bruce Castle Village Association discovered that the Antwerp Arms had been put up for sale by owners Enterprise Inns. It had originally been a Charringtons house. A committee under Chris Lane, a local conservation expert, and Ashley Grey was formed and this led to a public meeting at which it was agreed to form the Antwerp Arms Association to preserve, and if necessary buy, the pub. The Plunkett Foundation and Redemption Brewery were represented. The Association has met almost every week since. By mid-August, they had 120 supporters on the mailing list.

The association applied for an Asset of Community Value certificate from the London Borough of Haringey and this was finally awarded on 9 September after at first being rejected for insufficient evidence. Then, on 23 September, after it had failed to reach its reserve at an auction, the Antwerp Arms was sold to Hinterwill Ltd, part of the property development group SRK Bergroup. This gave the association the right to make a bid as provided for under the ACV regulations. The new owners indicated that the pub might be for sale.

Within a week, the association contacted SIB (Social Investment Business) for a grant to formulate a business plan and raise capital. A company was set up and a bank account opened.



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On 5 December, the association informed the council that it would make a bid. A pre-feasibility grant was awarded and work started on plans and a share prospectus. It was decided to run the pub as a not-for-profit business, so the association applied to register Antwerp Arms Association Ltd as a Social Enterprise Business with the Financial Conduct Authority. This process took four months. As part of the SIB grant, the association appointed surveyors to value the property. They reckoned that the Antwerp was worth £275,000 as a pub business or £600,000 if and when converted to flats. Obviously the new owners would want to close the pub to redevelop it, so the local groups increased their pressure on the council to prevent any change of use in the conservation area which covers the pub.



Photo by Dick Tomlinson

On 12 March 2014, a share offer was opened for the Antwerp Arms Association Ltd, using the Coop-run website Microgenius. The launch was at the 2014 London Drinker Beer and Cider Festival. Two family fun days and a pledge afternoon were run at the Antwerp, and heavy use was made of social media (including the CAMRA North London weekly e-newsletter) to raise awareness and funds. As the pledges came in, the association made its first bid for the property, based on its value as a pub. This was rejected. A capital grant scheme for social enterprises in deprived areas was announced by SIB, and the association made a bid for one of them at the beginning of June. In October we made a further offer based on the funds raised to date, and negotiations slowly converged on a figure. In the last week of November, the SIB grant award came through and a deal was done with SRK Bergroup for vacant possession of the pub in the New Year.

Some refurbishment work is needed before the pub reopens in February or March this year. This will take more money, so we are keeping the community share offer open until the end of March, if you would like to join us. Shares are £50 each. If you buy 4 shares or more you will get interest on your contribution when the Antwerp Arms Association Ltd is in profit; buying 10 shares or more will get you a shareholders' discount card and 20 shares on more will make you a patron of the Association. The shares are eligible for Enterprise Allowance Scheme tax relief, at your top income tax rate. The share capital will be repaid as cash flow allows. Transfers are not allowed. Please e-mail ian.mclaren@blueyonder.co.uk for more details.

For anyone out there thinking of buying a pub for the community, please be aware of the time and effort it takes. We were lucky – property prices in Tottenham are relatively low, and we got a grant because Haringey is a 'deprived' borough. Even so, it has taken the best part of two years voluntary work to get to ownership of the building – now we have to set to and prepare to run it!

The Antwerp Arms is at 168-170 Church Road, N17 8AS, facing Bruce Castle Park, and is five minutes' walk from the Spurs ground and buses along Tottenham High Road.

Ian McLaren

Ian is the secretary of CAMRA's North London Branch, CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer for the Redemption and Beavertown breweries and treasurer of the Antwerp Arms Association.

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A view from abroad – the Reinheitsgebot

In our June/July 2014 edition Peter Sutcliffe, author of 'Around Berlin in 80 Beers' gave his views on the German beer purity laws. Here Mike Berger, a reader from the Netherlands, begs to differ.

The Reinheitsgebot can be translated into English as the Purity Order. The full text of the order can be found (in English) here: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riech/docs/Reinheitsgebot.html>. It is generally accepted today that the order had two purposes: first to assure that beer quality was good and reasonably priced and that grains useful for making bread would not be used to make beer. I strongly disagree with the conclusions drawn by Peter Sutcliffe in his article; I believe that he is off the mark on quite a bit of the historical and factual data.

He writes, for example, that 'light lagers', which he describes as Pils/Helles, dark lagers and wheat beers account for 'over 95% of total beer output.' The German brewers association differs with him by quite a bit: the three or four beers that he mentions account for just under 70% (latest figures from 2008).

He says that Reinheitsgebot was enacted to preserve feudal beer monopolies held by the royal court and the church by outlawing competing artisan brewers who used multiple substitute ingredients to replace expensive barley malt and hops. Actually, centuries before 1516 (the year usually given for the Reinheitsgebot), quite a few of the principalities and cities that were to become Germany in 1871 had already established Braurechten; literally, brewing rights, but, in modern English, much more like brewing licences. The first recorded Braurecht was given to a church by emperor Otto II in 974. Weihenstephaner, founded as a monastery in 725 but today better known as a brewery and brewing school, received its Braurecht in 1040.

If a 'brewing licence' existed since at least 974, why would it be necessary in 1516 to issue a new edict to stop 'competition' from brewing? If people or organisations were brewing without permits, they could easily be fined and/or stopped without any additional orders. Although city-issued Braurechten were ended in approximately the last 100 years, there are still quite a few cities, primarily, though not solely, in Bavaria, that still recognise that right. In Bavaria, some of these towns are concentrated in an area called the Oberpfalz and the beer produced there has been given the name Zoigl. Communal breweries, which were often a part of Braurechten, still exist in quite a few towns, though not all of them produce beer for commercial purposes. Since the Reinheitsgebot originally was issued in Bavaria, if Mr. Sutcliffe's theory is correct, Bavaria must have suffered the most in terms of beer.

In fact, if anything, the opposite is true. Of all the breweries in the 12 lands of Germany today, fully 50% come from only one of those 12 lands: Bavaria. Although Bavaria has almost as many breweries as the other 11 lands combined, it produces less than 25 percent of the national production of Germany. And why is that? Because Germany, unlike some other countries, has largely retained the ancient form of beer production: small quantities produced and consumed locally. Of the 1,319 breweries active in Germany in 2008, fully 44.6% of them produced less than 1,000 hectoliters of beer per year.

While wines and designer waters have made inroads into beer

consumption, Germans still rank number 3 in the world in per capita consumption. And that land of freedom with craft beer? They are at number 14.

In the box labelled 'Some of the Beers Brought to the Brink of Extinction by the Reinheitsgebot', there is no explanation offered for the sensationalistic headline. Possibly because there is no explanation. Several of the 'beer styles' are not at all styles, but rather what the Germans call a 'biermischung' or beer mixture (similar, say, to a shandy). Zoigl is not a beer style, but a name given to an ancient form of beer distribution. But, more importantly, the Reinheitsgebot, at least in the last 150 years (when most of the beers listed lost popularity), offers no 'punishment' for beers that do not abide by its 'requirements', but rather only prohibit the brewer from calling it beer. So Gose or Berliner Weisse, both fairly well-known names in Germany, could not be called Gose beer or Berliner Weisse beer. How would this cause near-extinction?

Beers go in and out of fashion. Here is a long list of UK beer styles that are endangered: <http://zythophile.wordpress.com/2012/05/22/endangered-beers/> and the UK has no Reinheitsgebot.

Mike Berger

Brian Betts, who I know to have strong connections with Germany, also commented as follows.

Thank you to Peter Sutcliffe for his fair summary of the Bavarian Reinheitsgebot, perhaps the most wicked example ever of corporate monopolistic practice dressed up and sold as consumer protection. Even today its main role remains protectionist and chauvinistic, the implicit message from the brewers' marketing departments being that if no-one else has a Beer Purity Law, all foreign beer must surely be full of nasty additives.

Yes, it does encourage quality in the sense of consistency, but it is perfectly possible to produce poor or boring beer within the Reinheitsgebot. Not for nothing do German beer aficionados refer to it as the *Einheitsgebot*, or *Law of Sameness*.

Fortunately there are signs of hope. However much one may dislike the term, the nascent German craft beer movement has reignited interest in less boring beer, and even the bigger brewers have taken notice. Few have gone as far as Radeberger, which has set up an entire craft arm called Braufactum, but others have experimented with new hop varieties, produced dark beers and unusual IPAs, or revived traditional local styles such as the brown bitters that pre-dated the Pilsner flood. Look to Franconian Braunbier and Dusseldorfer Alt for surviving examples.

Talking of traditional styles, the ones Peter feared for such as Dampfbier and Steinbier do all survive, albeit sometimes in homogenised or bastardised form. Online resources such as Ratebeer and Untappd [sic] are often excellent places to research beer availability, by the way.

As Peter says, to experience the full breadth and depth of German beer and beer culture, it is necessary to travel around. The advantage is that there is a lot more to find and enjoy now than just a few decades ago.

Bryan Betts

London LocAle scheme

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

Alma	59 Newington Green Road	N1 4QU
Shaftesbury	534 Hornsey Road	N19 3QN

Redemption or five others, alternating
Dragonfly and e.g. Beavertown,
Five Points or Redemption

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



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CAMRA's online pub guide, **WhatPub?** is our repository of current information on the nation's pubs, and a big part of our online presence for the general public. **WhatPub? Update** publishes news items collated by Branch Pubs Officers for Greater London, often from information supplied by CAMRA members using the 'Submit Update' button 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 cask beer; as well as changes of name, ownership and beer policy.

The 'crowd power' of a 168,500-strong member organisation will ensure that **WhatPub?** is up to date, and that it will be the 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.

Significant new openings in this edition include a brewpub in WC2, a Fuller's pub in Brentford, a Faucet Inn bar in E20 and 'micropubs' in SE9 and SE15. These are reported alongside other pubs reopening or introducing cask beer. Closures include losses to shop use in EC1, E13, E17, Surbiton and W11, as well as a greater number of residential redevelopments.

The 'Other changes' section includes new outlets for Draft House in E2, Enterprise Inns' managed format in NW1, Antic in SE20, Greene King in SE24 and ETM Group in W5. We also record the continued demise of such former household names as Goose, O'Neill's and Yates's, with the 'debranding' of pubs in N1, Harrow, SE6 and Richmond.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC3, MARY JANES (Mint Group), 124-127 Minories. Was FINE LINE. Cask beer restored, e.g. London Fields, Sharp's Doom Bar.

EC3, MISSOURI ANGEL (independent), 14 Crosswall. Was ANGEL. Cask beer restored, Sharp's Doom Bar and Wells & Young Bombardier.

EC4, PLUM TREE (Marylebone Leisure Group), 54 Farringdon St. Was CARRIAGE HOUSE. Having closed over a year ago, taken over by HM Establishment Ltd and reopened August 2014 as **DADO54**. No cask beer.

WC2, BIER PALAST (City Pub Co), 46 Essex St. Was the basement of DALY WINE BAR, later BIERSCHENKE. Having been acquired earlier in 2014 and renamed once, renamed again in November, **TEMPLE BREW HOUSE**, and cask beer added, from on-site Essex Street Brewery. Their Bath and Cambridge brewpubs are in GBG. Minimal décor, some tables for eating, new 6-barrel plant visible. Two of their own cask beers, e.g. Gavel, TempAle; plus guests such as Redemption, Sambrook's; and a range of keg and bottled craft beers. Open 12-11 Mon-Wed, 12-11.30 Thu, 12-12 Fri-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

EAST

E20, NEIGHBOURHOOD (Faucet Inn), 52-54 Celebration Ave. Opened Nov 2014, the first of a new chain. Large high-ceilinged bar/restaurant in a modern residential development



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NORTH

N7, BEDFORD TAVERN (ex-Punch), 160 Seven Sisters Rd. Having closed in 2009, reopened Nov 2014. One cask beer, e.g. Hackney New Zealand Pale Ale. Three keg beers from the likes of Beavertown, Hammerton, Kernel. Reasonable bottled selection.

ENFIELD (EN1), BUSH HILL (Enterprise), 116 St Marks Rd. Was BUSH HILL PARK. Cask beer introduced late 2014, one changing beer, e.g. Wychwood.

ENFIELD WASH (EN3), SUN & WOOLPACK (Spirit lease), 640 Hertford Rd. Cask beer restored late 2014, Greene King Abbot and IPA.

NORTH WEST

NW1, ELIXIR BAR (independent), 162 Eversholt St. Was SEYMOUR ARMS, CARRIAGE, ROWLEYS. Cask beer restored in 2014, two changing ales, e.g. Moor, Siren, plus a wide range of keg beers. Long awaited comeback from a pub that featured in the 1981 Real Beer in London.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, GRANGE (Enterprise), 103 Grange Rd. Bought by independent operator and refurbished in 2014 with cask beer restored, Sharp's Doom Bar and a guest, plus bottled beers from local favourites such as Brew by Numbers, Kernel.

SE9, LONG POND (independent), 110 Westmount Rd. Opened Dec 2014. New micropub in former plumbing shop. Up to six cask beers, straight from the barrel, plus real cider and perry. Open 5-10 Mon, 11.30-2.30, 5-10 Tue-Wed, 11.30-2.30, 5-11 Thu-Fri, 11-3, 6.30-11 Sat, 12-2.30 Sun.

SE15, BEER SHOP (LONDON) (independent), 40 Nunhead Green. Opened Dec 2014, new micropub and beer shop in former haberdashery, latterly a recording studio. London cask beers, straight from the barrel, plus real cider and bottled beers. Open 4-11 Tue-Thu, 4-11.30 Fri, 12-11.30 Sat, 12-8 Sun.

SE18, CLANCYS (independent), 1 Warspite Rd. Was LORD HOWICK, PITCH & PINT, etc. Changed hands Sept 2014, one changing cask beer introduced, refurbishment under way.

SE23, HILL (Enterprise), 45-47 Dartmouth Rd. Was FOREST BARN, MALT SHOVEL, QUESTION. One cask beer restored Nov 2014, e.g. Wychwood.

CROYDON (CR0), ALMA TAVERN (Star), 127-129 Lower Addiscombe Rd. Having closed in autumn 2013, reopened Dec 2014 by new operator, Chichester-based Natural Brewery Co. Still no cask beer.

SOUTH WEST

MITCHAM (CR4), CASUARINA TREE (Restaurant & Bar), 407 London Rd. Since reopening in 2011 as this South Asian restaurant and hotel, what had been the CROWN INN has retained its pub signage. Real ale now reinstated: Sharp's Doom Bar, and non-eating drinkers accommodated.

WEST

BRENTFORD (TW8), ONE OVER THE AIT (Fuller), 8 Kew Bridge Rd. New riverside pub opened Nov 2014, at the heart of the St George's residential development by Kew Bridge. It

replaces the Waggon & Horses (Fuller) at 26 Kew Bridge Rd, demolished in 2011. Views over the river and terrace seating for 200. The lower floor features a round table with a 'fire-pit' at its centre. An iron spiral staircase takes you to the top floor with its own smaller bar. Fuller's Chiswick, London Pride, ESB and a seasonal, plus a guest, e.g. Butcombe Haka.

UXBRIDGE (UB8), ELECTRIC LOUNGE (Enterprise), 120 High St. Was FALCON, CONTINENTAL, NAZDAROVYA, etc. Having not opened consistently since 2010, reopened in 2014 and renamed **BAR ITALIA**. Now operated by Marylebone Leisure Group (who also run Barsmith EC1, Bear EC1, Marylebone W1 and Princess of Wales NW1), attached to next-door 'Nonna Rosa' restaurant. Cask beer introduced, Adnams Bitter and Purity Pure Ubu.

PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, NEW RED LION. Was CITY ARMS, STICK & WEASEL, PROGRESS BAR, OFFSIDE BAR. Having closed at the start of 2013, converted 2014 to a Co-op.

EC2, GRIFFIN (Britannia Pub Co). Closed Sept 2014 for at least a year, for refurbishment and redevelopment of adjacent buildings.

EC3, ALL BAR ONE (M&B), 107-108 Houndsditch. Cask beer discontinued early 2010s, as with the rest of the chain.

EC3, SLUG & LETTUCE (Town & City), 100 Fenchurch St. Closed in 2013, becoming a Be At One cocktail bar with no draught beer, which in turned closed in 2014.

EC4, CARTOONIST (ex-Enterprise). Having closed Dec 2012, demolished the following year to make way for a large development.

EC4, CITY RETREAT (ex-Young). Having closed Jan 2013, demolished the following year to make way for a large development.

EAST

E1, VIBE BAR (independent). Fizz bar in part of the former Truman brewery. Closed Nov 2014 after 17 years, future uncertain.

E2, BAR NP (A10). Was ROYAL ALFRED, NU POQODI. Closed in the last few years, now 'Shelter' nightclub.

E12, WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR (ex-Enterprise). Having closed in 2009, reopened 2010 (not reported), but closed again August 2014, licence revoked.

E13, DUKE OF CUMBERLAND (independent). Closed in 2012, demolished by Dec 2013.

E13, DUKE OF EDINBURGH (M&B), 299 Green St. Closed May 2014, planning applications submitted for conversion to 4 shops with rear extension.

E13, PRINCE ALBERT (ex-Enterprise). Closed in 2010, previously unreported, converted within two years into three shop units.

E14, LORD STANLEY (ex-Enterprise). Having closed c.2012, planning permission granted to demolish and build flats.

E17, FAMOUS PIG & WHISTLE (Star). Freehold sold, closed early 2014, planning permission granted for conversion to two shops.

NORTH

N1, PRINCE OF WALES, 1A Sudeley St (Admiral). Closed Jan

2014, due to reopen late 2015 under new freeholder Jacob Kennedy.

N7, BAILEY (Punch). Closed and boarded in 2014, sold to Golfrate, lease being marketed by Restaurant Property.

N19, LION (SWEENEYS) (ex-Punch). Closed and boarded Dec 2014, future uncertain.

N22, PRINCE (ex-Punch). Closed in 2014, some windows are broken, future uncertain.

NORTH WEST

NW1, BRAZEN HEAD (ex-Punch). Closed Nov 2014 for conversion of upper floors to residential, will supposedly retain bar in ground floor.

EDGWARE (HA8), BROADWAY (Punch). Renamed early 2000s, **LANSDOWNE**, previously unreported. Closed after serious fire Dec 2014, destroying roof and 1st floor. Nobody injured, future uncertain.

SOUTH EAST

SE13, BRIDGE HOUSE (ex-Enterprise). Cask beer discontinued and reverted to **ANCHOR**, following a change in tenant.

SE16, SHIP YORK (ex-Grand Met). Closed in 2014, with permission granted for demolition and residential development. There may be a bar in the new building.

SE25, SHIP (Punch). Closed and sold Sept 2014; there is now a planning application for residential conversion.

ST MARY CRAY (BR5), ROYAL ALBERT (Enterprise). Having been reported closed in 2012, briefly reopened in 2013 but planning permission granted March 2014 for residential conversion.

SOUTH WEST

SW8, LOST SOCIETY (Lost Group). Was **TEA ROOM DES ARTISTES**. Closed early 2014 and sold to Golfrate, now on the market for restaurant use.

SW16, WATERFRONT (independent). Converted bank. Cask beer discontinued and renamed in Nov 2014, **BANK**, now a bar & 'gourmet pizza' restaurant.

SURBITON (KT6), VICTORIA (ex-Enterprise), 143 Ewell Road. Was **MAD HATTER**. Having been closed and sold in 2011, upstairs now converted to residential, the ground floor became a Sainsbury's in 2014.

WEST

W1 (Mar), BEEHIVE (Enterprise), 7 Homer St. Closed, future uncertain.

W1 (Mar), FAT OF THE LAND (QHA Ltd). Was **DUKE OF YORK**. Cask beer discontinued and renamed late 2014, **CAVENDISH**.

W1 (Mar), HARCOURT (ex-Punch). Having been sold in 2013 to NTL Capital, closed in late 2014 for conversion of upper floors to residential. With permission refused for a change of use to the ground floor, a pub may reappear.

W11, KENILWORTH CASTLE (Enterprise). Closed and sold in 2014 to the Co-op, who have applied for permission to make alterations.

HAMPTON COURT (KT8), CARDINAL WOLSEY (Shepherd Neame). Closed again 2014, future uncertain.

HOUNSLOW (TW3), WINDSOR CASTLE (Greene King). Closed and sold, planning application to demolish and replace with 36 flats and a commercial unit on the ground floor.

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WhatPub? update 6

UXBRIDGE (UB8), PRINCE ALBERT (independent). Having closed in late 2013, demolished in 2014.

UXBRIDGE (UB8), PRINCE OF WALES (Fuller's). Closed in 2014, believed to have been bought by a property developer.

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, SMITHFIELD BAR & GRILL (Living Ventures). Renamed **GRILL ON THE MARKET**, still one of their Blackhouse chain.
EC1, SPECTATOR (HM Establishment Ltd). Was **POETS CORNER, PAVILION, NYLON**. Renamed Sept 2014, **LE PARIS GRILL (ST PAULS)**, second branch of a chain. Still no cask beer.

EAST

E2, BIRDCAGE (independent). Taken over Nov 2014 by Draft House but not renamed. This ex-Truman pub retains a more traditional feel than their other outlets. Food focused around pie & mash. Sambrook's Wandle +1-2 guests.
E2, HOBBY HORSE (independent). Was **VICTORY, NICE LITTLE EARNER**, etc. Renamed early 2010s, **PARADISE INN**. Still no cask beer.

E8, PRINCE ARTHUR (ETM Group). Was **LADY DIANA**. Taken over Oct 2014 by Gorgeous Pubs.

NORTH

N1, O'NEILL'S (M&B). Renamed **RADICALS & VICTUALLERS** in Nov 2014, now a Castle pub. Still Fuller's London Pride and Sharp's Doom Bar.

N8, THREE COMPASSES (Punch). Lease taken over in 2014 by

Distinct Pubs, who also run the Prince Albert NW1 and Adam & Eve NW7.

N9, RISING SUN (Punch). Now Greene King IPA +2 guests, e.g. Marston, Wells & Young.

N13, LIVE ROOM (independent). Renamed **FESTIO**. Still no cask beer.

N22, JOLLY ANGLERS (Greene King). Now has a guest ale from Redemption alongside Greene King IPA.

NORTH WEST

NW1, WOOD (Enterprise). Was **PORTMAN ARMS, HENNELLY'S, HOBGOBLIN**. Renamed **SIR JOHN BALCOMBE** and converted to Bermondsey Pub Co format, one of a new wave of Enterprise managed pubs. Adnams Ghost Ship, Fuller's London Pride, Purity Mad Goose and Sambrook's Wandle.

HARROW (HA1), YATES'S (Stonegate). Renamed **HARROW (IN HARROW)**. Now has Fuller London Pride, Greene King IPA and a guest, e.g. Red Squirrel.

SOUTH EAST

SE6, GOOSE ON THE GREEN (Stonegate). Reverted to **BLACK HORSE & HARROW** following refurbishment. Four cask beers.
SE20, GOLDSMITHS (Punch). Taken over Nov 2014 by Antic and reverted to **GOLDSMITHS ARMS**. Refurbished, the décor (or lack of it) is typical of the chain. Now has three or four changing cask beers.

SE24, TULSE HILL HOTEL (Enterprise). Taken over in Dec by Greene King, in Metropolitan Pub Co format, and extensively refurbished. It now offers accommodation, in addition to a restaurant and bar. Two Greene King and three guests.

SOUTH WEST

SW6, WILTON ARMS (Star). Taken over in late 2014 by new operator Whiskey Whiskey Tango, and renamed **CAPTAIN COOK**.

SW9, LAS BRASAS (Punch). Was **ROYAL OAK, SAVANNAH**, etc. Renamed **LA FONDA DE MARIA** by early 2014, still no cask beer.

RICHMOND (TW9), O'NEILL'S (M&B). Was **SOUTH WESTERN, DRUMMONDS**. Renamed Nov 2014, **RAILWAY TAVERN**, now Nicholson's brand. Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar, St Austell Nicholson's Pale Ale, plus up to 4 guest ales.

RICHMOND (TW9), HOPE (Enterprise). Was **MOLLY MALONE'S**. Renamed **MOLLY'S**. Ringwood Best and Wychwood Hobgoblin.

SUTTON (SM1), BOUNCE (Spirit). Was **SCRUFFY MURPHY'S, BAR ROOM BAR**, etc. Now sold to an independent operator. Renamed twice in 2014, first **BAR 67** and in Nov, **SMOKE HOUSE**. Still no cask beer.

WEST

W1 (Mar), EXPLORER (Greene King). Renamed in 2014, **FINERY**, after refurbishment.

W5, EALING PARK TAVERN (Enterprise). Was **PENNY FLYER**. After the demise of former operators Town & Country Pub Co, taken over in 2014 by ETM Group. Hotel rooms added as part of a refurbishment, and an on-site brewery due to start in February. Cask beers such as Celt Native Storm, Magic Rock High Wire.

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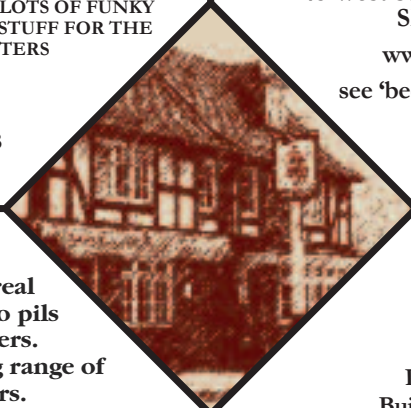
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I have been reading with interest the Real Ale vs Craft Keg article in the last *London Drinker* and wonder if there is some misunderstanding over terminology and definitions. Here are my definitions of the various beers and dispensing methods; perhaps someone in the trade would like to comment further?

CAMRA was set up to prevent poor quality beer in metal kegs, pumped out using industrial CO₂, from taking over from good quality beer, in vented casks, and being dispensed by mechanical pumps or on 'gravity'. I was around at the time; struggling to find a decent pint for my 2 shillings! The vent allowed excess natural CO₂ (conditioning) to escape; and hence, the natural conditioning stayed within reasonable limits. Beers were kept at suitable temperatures for their beer styles; a little cooler for pale beers than darker beers.

Modern marketing and the influence of American and Australian 'new world' hops and methods of dispense in hotter climates, has altered the market significantly in recent years. 'Craft' is simply a marketing term, but essentially is a pleasant-sounding term used to imply a good quality product. It also tends to be sold at significantly higher prices than great cask beers and is called by some very unusual names. What the heck is Black India Pale Ale (apart from a contradiction in terms)?

Keykeg does not have CO₂ introduced artificially into the brew. There is a sterile plastic bag into which the beer is put, and this in turn is inside a plastic pressurised dome. The CO₂, or other dispensing gas is between the dome and the outside of the inner bag and squashes the bag as the beer is dispensed. As there is nowhere for the excess natural CO₂ conditioning gas to escape, it is helpful to the process, to keep the temperature low. Hence, all the beer styles light to dark are now often being served chilled. I am aware that brewers are trying to ensure that the beers are well fermented out, to prevent too much condition. Keykegs are also ideal for being transported longer distances, compared to casks.

In the end, we have more beers available now than ever before, so all we need to do is to search out what we like, and enjoy drinking it!

Richard Dakin

FOR GREAT CASK BEER – FOLLOW THE KEG!

Regular readers will be aware of my stance on craft keg beers, in that I think they pose a long-term threat to real ale not because they are bad beers, but because a lot of them are very good. The other clear and present danger to cask beer is that it can be its own worst enemy when in poor condition, or even when it's just an uninspiring beer compared to the exciting Triple APAs, cucumber saisons and chocolate-caramel-popcorn stouts that are often only available in keg or bottle.

But I will maintain to my death the heartfelt belief that any given beer will never taste better than when served fresh from the cask in outstanding condition. Now, here's the rub: If you want to drink really good cask beer, you're actually better off* going to places that also do good keg beers. I realise that this might seem counter-intuitive (and indeed may be downright blasphemous to some more traditional members!) but over the last few years it's become a rule of thumb for me, and, dare I say it, a far better indicator of quality real ale than the GBG!

The Clerkenwell Craft Beer Company recently won my personal Pub of the Year award for the second time. It typically offers 21 keg beers from small producers around the world, and I know that many readers will dismiss these on the basis of cost or strength, or 'keggedness', as is their prerogative, but crucially the pub also has 18 handpumps and pretty much every one of the 300 or so cask beers I've drunk in there over the last three years has been in exceptional condition. This is true of other pubs in the Craft chain, and I'd also single out places like the Rake and sister pub the Tap East, the Pelt Trader and Euston Tap. They all go large on the craft

keg, but I've never been able to fault the quality of their cask beer. So much so that beer in 'ordinary' pubs, like Wetherspoons, Nicholson's and indeed most tied houses, is often bitterly disappointing in comparison.

Even in certain cask-dominated, CAMRA-friendly free houses (mentioning no names) the beer quality can be hit'n'miss. There are places advertising in this very magazine where I've had flaccid, soupy pints, sometimes even verging on vinegar. Usually exchanged without complaint, granted, but that's not the point when places with a more 'crafty' ethos seem capable of getting it right first time. The rule doesn't seem to apply outside of London, and it may not be the case forever, but in 2015 if you want to taste cask beer at its very best, go somewhere that stocks a lot of keg!

*Not 'better off' financially, obviously!

Ben Nunn

Editor's note: *I've been holding on to the following item for some months awaiting an opportunity to use it. I think that it will fit in well here. My thanks to Opening Times, the magazine of CAMRA's Stockport & South Manchester Branch, and to John Cryne for passing it to me.*

CHICKEN AND EGG SITUATION

What's the purpose of CAMRA? 'To campaign for real ale', of course. However, something that isn't appreciated as widely as it should be is that CAMRA actually invented 'real ale' as a concept; it didn't spring into life to defend something that was widely understood but felt to be under threat. When the four founder members had their famous discussion in that pub in the west of Ireland, they had a general sense that something was going wrong with British beer, but they didn't know exactly what. At first, the organisation was called the Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale. It was only later, once they had looked into the subject more thoroughly, that the current definition of real ale was arrived at.

In the context of the British draught beer market at the time, it was actually a pretty good way of sorting out the sheep from the goats. But, even then, the wiser heads knew very well it wasn't a universal yardstick for good beer. There was effectively no real ale anywhere in the world outside Great Britain, but that didn't mean there was no good beer. For a period of thirty years, the concept of real ale went largely unchallenged, and even in 2000 there was little 'good beer' available on draught in the UK that didn't qualify. The introduction of nitrokeg 'smooth' beers in the 1990s gave a new impetus to the real vs keg battle.

However, in the 21st century, beer has suddenly become fashionable again, and there has been a huge upsurge of interest in new and different styles and flavours, especially amongst younger drinkers. But a growing proportion of this new beer falls outside the definition of real ale, and thus presents CAMRA with a dilemma. Many of these young beer enthusiasts are happily mixing cask and keg in places like the Port Street Beer House or the RedWillow bar in Macclesfield, or even sticking entirely to keg in the BrewDog bar. If you want to get them involved in CAMRA, telling them that all keg beer is chemical fizz isn't going to get you very far, and saying 'that's nothing to do with us, we campaign for real ale' isn't much better. And to argue that keg Thornbridge Jaipur is no better than Watney's Red Barrel, or that Moravka lager is on a par with Fosters, is turning what was once a useful yardstick into blinkered dogma.

It is possible to overstate the scale of the issue – after all, many pubgoers will never encounter a 'craft keg' tap from one month to the next, while you'll struggle to find even a half-decent pub without real ale. But it isn't going to go away, and is likely to grow in importance with the passage of time. In the long term, there is a risk that it will lead to a loss of credibility and marginalisation.

In reality, CAMRA has always campaigned on subjects well beyond real ale, such as opening hours, beer duty and licensing

The great beer debate . . .

reform, and has also brought cider under its wing even though it has less to do with beer than whisky does. It presents itself as a champion of all beer drinkers and pubgoers, not just real ale drinkers. So, looking forward, surely it should adopt a more open-minded attitude to non-real beers while still retaining its core objective of protecting and promoting British cask beer. It simply needs to accept that CAMRA publications and spokespeople are allowed to discuss, review and praise non-real products rather than just pretending they don't exist. As private individuals, many of its

leading lights do just that, but officially it remains beyond the pale.

In the long term, though, this is probably going to happen through a slow but steady grass-roots revolt rather than by official changes in policy. It could be compared with the way a majority of Catholics have come to embrace contraception despite the official hierarchy of the church remaining dead set against it.

Curmudgeon

Curmudgeon Online: curmudgeoncolumns.blogspot.com

Book reviews

THE BRASS

The Brass – *It's a bit of England where good companionship is the order of the day.*

Robert Wright's book tells the story of the world-famous Horse Brass pub in Portland, Oregon. Of particular interest to readers of *London Drinker* will be the chapter giving the story of the twinning with the Prince of Wales, Morden Road, Merton, SW19.



The book starts on a sad but celebratory note, telling the story of the wake for Don Younger (obituary *London Drinker* April/May 2011) at the pub, which was attended by many past and present customers and many who were part of the great Oregon brewing scene.

The story is told of the actual building of the premises, its early days as a pizza tavern with live music, a rock and roll tavern, its transformation into the Horse Brass in 1976, and then the involvement of Don and Bill Younger. Don was to be the pubman of the pub for over thirty four years. It was during this period that the pub and Don became very much a part in Oregon's craft beer revolution.

After the pub started selling Younger's beers, a darts team was invited over by John Young. They played in a number of pubs but so enjoyed the Prince of Wales that they turned up individually on a free night. Eventually this led to a twinning of the two pubs. In 1997 Younger arranged to sell the pub, subject to planning permission, to become a car showroom and repair yard. The book recounts the support given by the Horse Brass people in persuading Merton council to refuse planning permission. Many visited after Younger decided to keep the pub and attended the ceremony when it was renamed the Princess of Wales. It subsequently reverted to

the Prince of Wales and is now a free house. The book ends with the lyrics of a song written in 2009 about the pub and Don by Martin Weller of Crush UK, partly reflecting on what the smoking ban might mean for the pub.

There is plenty for every reader in this book. As the author writes, 'It is primarily a summary of the individual oral histories of the principals, supplemented by research'. That said, 52 references testify that much research was undertaken. This makes it a very readable book rather than a technical day-by-day history, with some great stories, particularly in the last part, 'Tales from the Table' including 'Tin Foil Hat Night' (good advice for those who are worried about aliens above us) and the 'Last Smoker' (a final stand against the smoking ban in Oregon). It may well inspire readers to make what would be a worthwhile visit, taking in Portland's brew pubs and maybe the Oregon Brewers Festival (22-26 July 2015) as well.

Wright Stuff Press. ISBN 978-0-578-13141-2. Cover price USD16.99; 351 pages; 23 X 15 cm. The book may be purchased through bookstores and through Internet online book retailers, paperback and eBook (ISBN 978-0-578-13296-9).

Martin Butler

Martin is a Prince of Wales regular and has visited the Horse Brass on a number of occasions.

BREW BRITANNIA

Iam pleased to say that the authors of this book, reviewed here by John Cryne in the August/September issue were awarded the Beer Writer of the Year award for 2014 by the British Guild of Beer Writers. Boak & Bailey – real names Ray Newman & Jessica Slack – have been blogging since 2007 but Brew Britannia, an account of beer's 'rebirth' since the 1960s, is their first book.

LETTERS

NEW TOWN, SUTTON

Contrary to the optimistic sentiments in the last (October/November) *Drinker* regarding the New Town in Sutton, Young's withdrawal of their application to demolish this striking Victorian street corner pub and build flats on the site was as we feared only a temporary reprieve, followed swiftly by a similar application which has now been granted by Sutton's spineless Planning Committee.

In keeping with Young's appalling record of 'property development' they claimed the pub was too dangerous for even experienced managers to run (despite two successful pubs nearby), and that the building itself was too awkward to convert to flats. These puerile arguments were accepted without question by the committee despite our representations and despite the fact that the New Town is arguably the best building in a designated 'Area of Special Local Character'. It's all too apparent that it's

easier than ever with the feeble new 'developers' charter' local plans for ruthless property companies like Young's to stick two fingers up to CAMRA's pub protection policies and continue their Tour of Destruction of our pub heritage.

Bob Steel, Pubs Protection Officer, Sutton & Croydon CAMRA

GLOOMY PUBS

Many of the pubs I drink in seem to have adopted the habit of turning the lights right down in the evening, to the extent of making it difficult to read the pump-clips or menus, never mind the occasional need to navigate around rucksacks, dogs, folding bicycles etcetera. I'm not keen on bright, brassy pubs, but we now seem to have this stygian gloom inside, often only alleviated by a few candles.

Tim Phillips

Hello again and let me (probably be the last to) wish you a Happy New Year. Here is an observation by Helen Rowland (1875-1950) in her book, *A Guide to Men* (1922): The follies which a man regrets most, in his life, are those which he didn't commit when he had the opportunity.

Right, let's kick off the year with some number puzzles:

1. 3560 F is the H of MS
2. 45 DBN and NE
3. 672 H in F (E for LY)
4. 49 D from ES to WS
5. 16 S of AFPM 1 SM
6. 40 H is the LPF in the GN
7. 22 P on a FP
8. 86 F by SL and OH
9. 40 S in a P (OM)
10. 12 WP in a G of D

I have called this month's 5BY4 'Kings'n'Queens.' Can you match the queens consort in the second list with their husbands in the first. In case you were wondering, the Stuart kings are listed by their English regnal numbers (as this is *London Drinker*):

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Henry II | A. Anne of Denmark |
| 2. Edward IV | B. Philippa of Hainault |
| 3. Henry V | C. Catherine of Braganza |
| 4. James II | D. Eleanor of Castille |
| 5. Charles II | E. Catherine of Valois |
| 6. James I | F. Anne of Bohemia |
| 7. Edward III | G. Mary of Modena |
| 8. Richard II | H. Margaret of Anjou |
| 9. Henry VI | I. Eleanor of Aquitaine |
| 10. Edward I | J. Elizabeth Woodville |

And so we come finally to a miscellany of questions of greater or lesser triviality:

1. Who preceded John Bercow as Speaker of the House of Commons, holding the position between 2000 and 2009?
2. Dory Previn wrote and recorded the song 'Beware of Young Girls' after her husband left her for which actress?
3. William Heath Robinson produced 'Railway Ribaldry,' a book of cartoons in 1935, commissioned by which railway company to commemorate its centenary? The book was republished as a facsimile in 2014.
4. Who was the Swedish Prime Minister assassinated on 28th February 1986 as he walked home from an evening at the cinema with his wife and son?
5. What order of chivalry was founded by King Edward III in 1349?
6. A 32 gun frigate sank off the coast of Holland in 1799. What was it called and where in London does its bell now hang?
7. What, significantly, did William Herschel discover in 1781?
8. In what year did Joseph Stalin die (and on what date, if you want to be flash)?
9. Where in the World is the Welland Ship Canal?
10. What was Jacqueline Kennedy's name at birth?

So there we are then. When I come back next time it will be Spring (hopefully it will feel like it) and I shall be looking forward to people not saying, "What, haven't you retired yet?!" Bye!

Andy Pirron

IDLE MOMENTS – THE ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 12 Sides on a Threepenny Bit
2. 49 Goals for England by Bobby Charlton
3. 888,246 Poppies in the Moat
4. 383 Wickets for Ian Botham in Test Cricket
5. 43 John Lewis Department Stores
6. 85 England Rugby Union Caps for Rory Underwood
7. 24 Arches of the Ribbleshead Viaduct
8. 171 Highest Possible Score with Three Darts in Different Beds
9. 90 Overs in a Day of Test Cricket (Weather Permitting)
10. 7 is the Number on Chris Robshaw's Rugby Shirt

5BY4 (Apollo Mission Commanders):

1. Apollo 8 – Frank Borman
2. Apollo 9 – James McDivitt
3. Apollo 10 – Thomas P. Stafford
4. Apollo 11 – Neil Armstrong
5. Apollo 12 – Pete Conrad
6. Apollo 13 – Jim Lovell
7. Apollo 14 – Alan Shepard
8. Apollo 15 – David Scott
9. Apollo 16 – John Young
10. Apollo 17 – Eugene Cernan

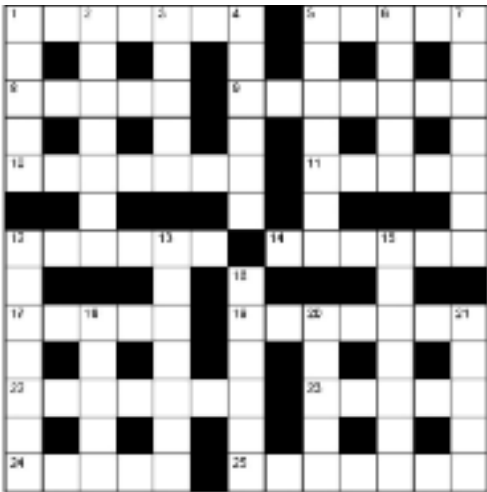
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The Magnolia State which became the 20th state of the USA on 10th December 1817 is Mississippi.
2. The suspension chains from the old Hungerford Bridge in London were used to complete Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge which was opened on 8th December 1864.
3. The Irish Free State was created on 6th December (following its independence from the UK) – in 1921.
4. Also on 6th December, Thomas Edison demonstrated his Phonograph– this was in 1877.
5. The first Nobel Prizes were announced on 10th December in 1901.
6. When HMS Beagle set off on its round the world voyage on 27th December 1831 (with Charles Darwin on board), its captain was Robert FitzRoy.
7. The six states and two territories federated to form the Commonwealth of Australia on 1st January, 1901.
8. Abandoned on 1st October this year, motor vehicle tax discs were introduced in Britain on 1st January 1921.
9. Author J.R.R. Tolkien was born on 3rd January 1892 – in South Africa (Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, if you want to show off).
10. Michael Dumble-Smith, born in Salisbury on 19th January 1942, is better known as Michael Crawford.

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

Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name

Address

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

The prize winner will be announced in the June *London Drinker*. The solution will be given in the April 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.

DECEMBER'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Whisky on the rocks with no whisky. Where's the fairness in that? [7]
5. Model Post Office service; faultless. [5]
8. Song of a man about love. [5]
9. Regular class in Oxford or Cambridge maybe. [7]
10. Rescue from trouble during fight. [4,3]
11. Opening letter initially allows local police hidden access. [5]
12. Drunk passed water. [6]
14. Soldier gets wrong answer. [6]
17. Cat's spring losing power. [5]
19. Can I be friendly? [7]
22. He puts up English clergyman. [7]
23. Music is well known. [5]
24. Withering stare may shock. [5]
25. Sang of lost blood after fighting. [7]

DOWN

1. Man taking work into account? Just the opposite. [5]
2. Artist's representation of landscape features. [7]
3. Building with one good toilet. [5]
4. It's extremely easy to give up inside 1Ac. [6]
5. Head round edge to find animal. [7]
6. Pick up small bird cage. [5]
7. Defence separate after attack. [7]
12. Stand up for trial. [7]
13. He chooses e-reader. [7]
15. Piece inside of the mouth is going round. [7]
16. Precise new missile. [6]
18. Requirements of Geordie journalists. [5]
20. What's aimed at is a meal with no starter. [5]
21. Was inclined to lose head and died. [5]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:
Gerald Lopatis, London E17.

Other correct entries were received from:

D.Abbey, Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, Alan Bird, Patricia Blakemore, John Bowler, Norah Brady, Jeremy Brinkworth, John Butler, Bob Church, Hilary Clark, Constance Cooper, Kevin Creighton, Lena Cross, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Joe Daly, Michael Davis, John Dodd, C.J.Ellis, Mike Farrelly, Robert Ferrier, D.Fleming, Sally Fullerton, Gillian Furnival, Christopher Gilbey, B.Gleeson, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, Caroline Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Peter Haines, Alison Henley, Graham Hill, William Hill, David Hough, Antony Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Mike Joyce, Rory Kehoe, K.King, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Tony Lean, Rod Lear, Rosemary Lever, Andy Lindburn, Mike Lloyd, Donald MacAuley, Derek McDonnell, C.Maddox, Mrs. S.Maddox, John Marsden, Tony Martin, Dylan Mason, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Bill Neville, Mark Nichols, Paul Nicholls, Andrzej Niemiro, Mick Norman, Gerald Notley, M.Ognjenovic, Michael Oliver, G.Patterson, Robert Pleasants, G.Price, Derek Pryce, Richard & Sheila, Paul Rogers, Alex Ryan, John Savage, Pete Simmonds, Nobby Slacktrouser, Ruth Smith, Ian Symes, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Mark Thompson, E.Wallhouse, Neil Walton, T.Watkins, Martin Weedon, Janet Wight, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, David Woodward, Peter Wright & the Missus, Paul Young.

There were also six incorrect entries.

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