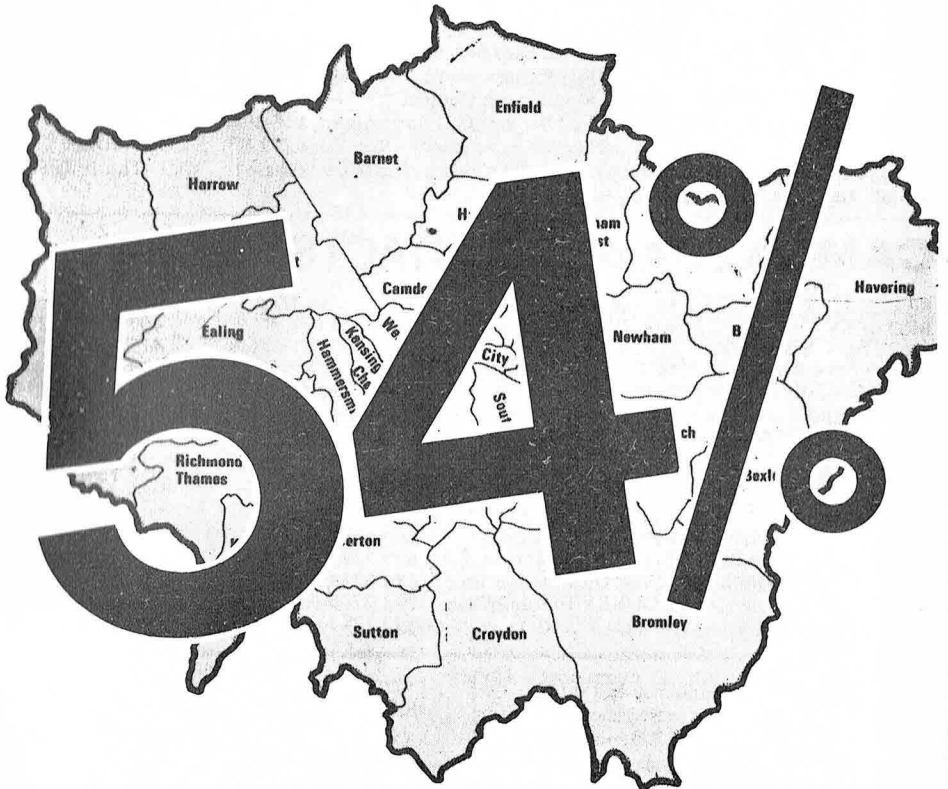


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LONDON DRINKER

Produced by the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd



BRANCH DIARY

The following events will be held by CAMRA branches during December. For branches not mentioned, please ring Branch Contact.

BEXLEY: Mon 13 (8.30). *Branch. Victoria*, Victoria Rd. Upper Belvedere - Mon. 20 (8.00). *Christmas social. Village Blacksmith*, Hillreach, SE18.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Wed. 8 (8.00). *Branch. Kings Head*, Market Place, Enfield Town - Thu 16 (8.30). *Two-pub social. White Swan and Prince Albert*, Golders Green Rd., NW11 Sat 1 Jan (12.00). *New Year's Day Social. Moss Hall Tavern*, Ballards Lane, N12 Thu 6 Jan (8.30) *Social. Railway*, Ponders End.

KINGSTON & LETHERHEAD: Mon 6 (8.00). *Open Committee. Victoria*, Surbiton Sat 18. *Xmas Party*. Ring Branch Contact for details.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 7 (8.00). *Archway Rd. Crawl. Start Woodman*, 414 Archway Rd., N6 - Tue 14 (8.00). *Branch & Xmas Social. Moon*, 18 New North St., WC1 - Tue 21 (8.00). *Three-pub social. N1. Start Rising Sun*, 55 Brooksby St., then *Albion*. - Sat. 1 Jan (11.30). *New Year's Day Social. Prince Arthur*, 80 Eversholt St., NW1 - Sundays in December. (12.00). *Prince Arthur*, 49 Brunswick Pl., N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Fri 10 (8.00). *Christmas party. White Bear*, Kingsley Rod., Hounslow. £4. Food and disco inc. - Thu 6 Jan. (8.00). *Open committee. Maggie & Crown*, High Street., Brentford - Mon 17 Jan. (8.00). *Branch. Albany*, Station Approach, Twickenham - Thu 27 Jan (8.30). *Social. New Moon*, Maw St., Hanworth.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON: Mon 13 (8.00). *General meeting. Bitter Suite*, Lee Rd., SE3 (Centenary branch meeting). - Thu 16 (8.00). *Christmas social. North Pole*, 131 Greenwich High Rd., SE10. Free food. - Mon. 10 Jan. (8.00). *Prince of Orange*, Lower Rd., SE16. Cheap beer - Fri. 21 Jan (2.30). Truman Brewery trip. Ring Branch Contact - Thu 27 Jan (8.00). *Sydenham crawl*. Ring Branch Contact.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON: Wed 8 (7.30). *Two-pub social. Duke of Cambridge*, Battersea Bridge Rd., SW11, then *Latchmere* - Fri 17 (8.00). *Watney crawl. Start Bull*, 262 Upper Richmond Rd., West. - Wed 12 Jan (8.00) *New Year Party*. Ring Branch Contact.

WEST LONDON: Wed 8 (8.00). *Pub of the month. Prince Alfred*, 118 Marylebone Lane, W1 - Thu 16 (7.30). *100th Branch*. Ring 624 1874 (see news story) - Sun 2 Jan (12.00). *Social. Warwick Castle*, 6 Warwick Pl., W9 - Tue 11 Jan. (8.00). *Pub of the month. Griffin*, 9 William St., WC2 - Thu 20 Jan (8.00). *Branch. Denmark*, 102 Old Brompton Rd. SW7.

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London~Year of the Beer

We have at last reached the half-century. No less than 54% of Greater London pubs sell real ale, compared with 43% a year ago. In last December's *London Drinker*, we published an analysis based on the newly-issued *Real Beer in London*. The latest position is presented here by Roger Warhurst, CAMRA's Pub Information Co-ordinator for the London area.

YOUR CHANCES of finding a real-ale pub in Greater London are now greater than 50/50, with no sector offering less than one third availability. However, the overall annual increase of 11% shown in Table 1 has not been evenly distributed and the gap between the most abundant and the most arid areas has widened slightly.

TABLE 1
Real Ale by RBIL Sector - (November 1982)

		Total No. of Pubs	Real Ale Pubs	Real Ale Pubs (%)	% Increase over Nov.'81
CENTRAL	-West End	343	273	80	11
	-City	263	184	70	7
EAST	-LPD	775	282	36	8
	-OLD	181	87	48	5
NORTH	-LPD	548	269	49	13
	-OLD	100	68	68	12
N. WEST	-LPD	319	191	60	10
	-OLD	101	66	65	9
S. EAST	-LPD	884	387	44	8
	-OLD	348	241	69	10
S. WEST	-LPD	618	350	57	13
	-OLD	245	184	75	12
WEST	-LPD	377	195	52	16
	-OLD	378	206	55	17
TOTAL		5,480	2,983	54	11

LPD = London Postal Districts.

OLD = Outer London Districts

Availability of real ale remains highest in the West End, with 80% of pubs dispensing the real thing, and the lowest in the East End postal districts where only 36% of the pubs sell it. Most progress over the year has occurred in North, West and South-West London sectors where the dramatic increase in real ale from Truman and Watney has been a major impact.

Last year, only Kew and Shirley among the individual districts could boast that all their pubs sold real ale. They have now been joined by Ham (7 pubs), Chislehurst (11 pubs), Kensington, W8 (22 pubs), Highgate, N6 (14 pubs) and Blackheath, SE3 (11 pubs).

As for the former 'desert' districts, real ale now flows in SE28, SW20, Harlington and Sipson. This leaves Abbey Wood, SE2 as London's last remaining desert.

Table 2 highlights the brewers' progress over the year in installing handpumps for real ale. The relative positions of the 9 brewers has remained the same but the Grand Metropolitan twins, Truman and Watney, are catching up rapidly. Truman in particular embarked earlier this year on a crash programme to dispense their new range of real ales, and as a result have registered an amazing 31% increase. Watney started later but are pressing ahead with the introduction of proper handpumps, so that 26% of their pubs dispense at least one real ale.

Table 2 overleaf

It is a sad fact that the brewery progressing the least is the one with some of the finest ales in the Capital - namely, Fuller's. Only 3 pubs have been confirmed as converting to handpumps over the year and, at 57%, they are only just ahead of Charrington with the other big brewers hard on their heels.

Of the 58 tied houses controlled by small and out-of-town brewers, all but 5 of the McMullen's pubs sell real ale.

Finally, 283 (84%) of Greater London's 338 free houses sell real ale, an increase of 5% over the year.

