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12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



Photo: Maxine Cooper.

The Pig's Ear Real Ale Festival, E2. 12-15 October. Details inside on pages 4 & 22

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned below please ring the branch contact. Events for October of which have been notified are as follows. Branches please send details to Andy Pirson.

FESTIVALS: Wed. 12 to Sat. 15 **SECOND PIG'S EAR FESTIVAL** by East London & City Branch. York Hall, Old Ford Road, London E2. (Bethnal Green Underground). Wed. evening 5.00 - 11.00 (Card carrying CAMRA members - free entry). Thu. Fri. & Sat. 11.00 - 2.30 & 5.00 - 11.00 (Lunch-times free entry. Evening 60p per session.) Season tickets £1.50. Advance tickets from Rick Clark, 6 Kenway, Collier Row, Romford, Essex with S.A.E. please. Cheques payable to Pig's Ear Festival. Parties of 20 or more free entry, also from Rick Clark. 40 beers, Good Food, Music. Experienced helpers wanted - please contact Ted Eller, 01-471 1282 or 01-986 3744.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Sat. 1 (7.00) Festival Crawl of Bethnal Green area. Start at JJ's, 180 Brady Street, E1 - Tue. 4 (7.00) Festival of Crawl of Roman Road/ Old Ford Road area. Start at **APPROACH TAVERN**, 47 Approach Road, E2 - Thu.6 (7.00) Festival Crawl of Victoria Park & Environs. Start **ROSE & CROWN**, 13 Mare Street, E8 - Sat. 8 (7.00) Final Festival Crawl/Assault on E2 area. Ring Branch Contact for venue. - Tue 11 (8.00) Branch Meeting at Festival site. (Membership cards MUST be shown) - Wed. 12 to Sat.15 **PIG'S EAR FESTIVAL** see under Festivals entry. - Tue. 18 (8.00). Committee Meeting. **BLACK HORSE**, Mile End Road, E1. - Thu. 20 (5.30) Off-City Social. **OLD TWO BREWERS**, Brick Lane, E2. - Thu.27 (5.30) City Social. **YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE**, Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, EC4. - Thu. 3 Nov. (5.30) City Social. **CHESHIRE CHEESE**, Crutched Friars, EC3 (Near Fenchurch Street Station).

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Thu. 13 (8.30) Branch Meeting, **THE NORBITON**, Clifton Road, Kingston - Mon. 24 (8.00) Pub Games Evening, **THE ALBERT**, Kingston Hill, Kingston (to be confirmed. Please check with Branch Contact.)

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Tue. 4 (8.30) Open Committee, **WHITE CROSS**, Riverside, Richmond - Mon. 17 (8.30) Branch Meeting **RED COW**, Sheen Road, Richmond - Thu. 27 (8.30) Social **CARDINAL WOLSEY**, The Green, Hampton Court Road, Hampton Court.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Mon. 10 Oct. (7.30) Committee (open) (8.30) Branch, **OLD NUNS HEAD**, 15 Nunhead Green, SE15. Wed.19 Oct. (8.00) Social, **UNION JACK**, Union Street, SE1. Mon. 7 Nov. (8.00) Committee (open), **BLACKSMITHS ARMS**, 257 Rotherhithe Street, SE16. Mon. 14 (8.00) Branch, **RAILWAY TAVERN**, 16 Blackheath Village SE3. Wed.30 Nov. Brewery Day Trip, **KING & BARNES**, Horsham - Ring Branch Contact. Mon. 5 Dec. (8.00) Committee (open), **BRITISH OAK**, 109 Old Dover Road, SE3.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thu. 13 (8.00) Branch Meeting **SPREAD EAGLE**, 71 High Street, SW18. Fri. 28 Crawl (8.30) **GARDENERS ARMS**, SW18, (9.00) **EARL SPENCER**, (9.30) **PARK TAVERN**.

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Subscriptions (£1.40 for 6 months) should be sent to: Stan Tomkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex.



Despite its seemingly all-embracing title, this magazine is aimed specifically at the REAL BEER drinking consumer and anyone interested in the subject. We have nothing against keg, lager, wines, spirits or any other liquid that takes your fancy. However, no matter what you drink, we have a common enemy - over pricing. Now the brewers have some control over how much is charged for their products, to a certain extent. We know that alcohol is highly taxed. But what of SOFT drinks? They bear very little tax, yet you often end up paying more for a

squash or pop than the equivalent amount of beer. As a good example, I recently bought a beer and a cola in a Croydon pub - the beer cost 75p (expensive enough for ordinary bitter, in all conscience). The cola cost 40p! Doing a few sums, I came to the conclusion that a pint of the stuff would work out at about £1.20. Similarly, you pay between 5p and 10p for a "splash" of squash. Order a glass of diluted squash for a youngster or whatever, and the chances are you will pay about 25p. And I'm pretty-damn-sure that it doesn't cost 15p to wash a glass. Or perhaps pub water is expensive too?

Changing tack slightly, I was amused to hear that the entire stock of London Drinker for July in a independent brewer's pub was bought up by a representative of the company. The reason for this seems to have been Chris's Editorial about "returns" - which many licensees have remarked was absolutely right. I wonder whether the copies were passed around for note to be taken - or ceremonially burned by the drayman (sorry, hangman)?

MARTIN SMITH

PHOENIX ARISING

On September 12th a full license was granted by Camberwell Magistrates to Bruce's Brewery for the proposed Phoenix and Firkin home-brew pub to be installed in the former Denmark Hill Station building, which was gutted by fire in 1980. As the hearing was on the day that this issue went to press, further details

will follow at a later date. However, it is hoped that the pub will be open within the next six months. The illustration was submitted to the hearing to show how the building will appear, at the time of writing there is no roof!

Martin Smith



