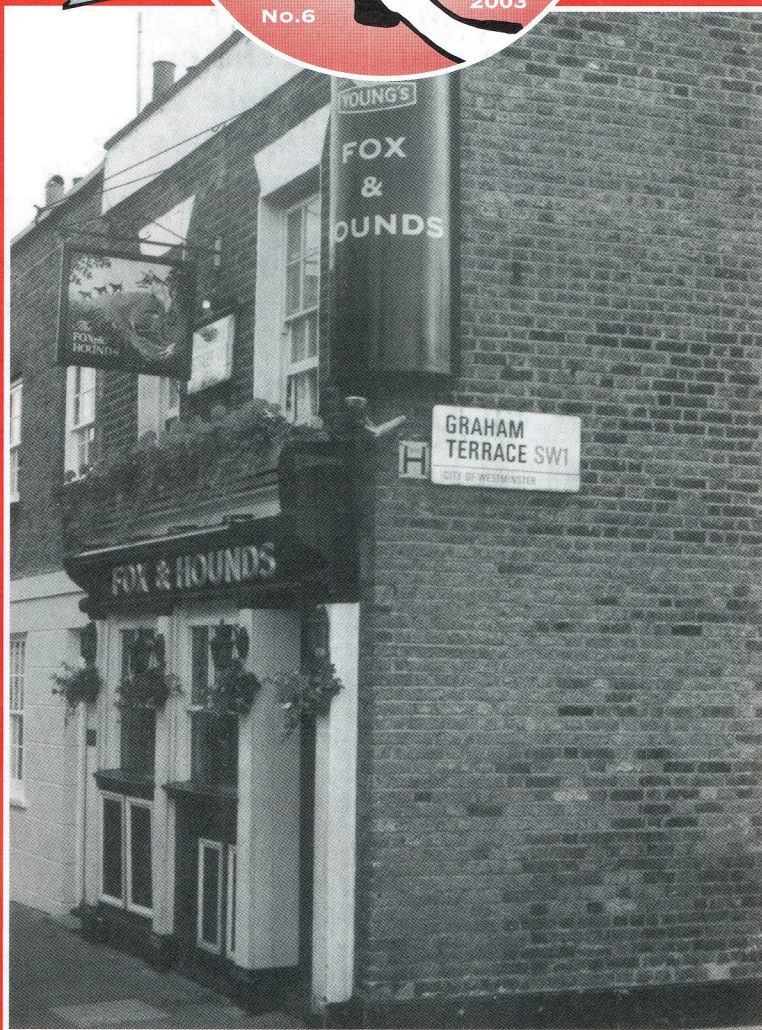
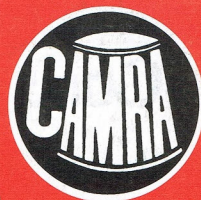



Produced on behalf of the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale

LONDON DRINKER

DECEMBER
JANUARY
2003

VOL 24
No.6



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London Drinker is published by Mike Hammersley on behalf of the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and edited by Geoff Strawbridge.

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EDITORIAL

ANY QUESTIONS?

One of my CAMRA friends recently had an invitation to Radio 4's *Any Questions*, to be broadcast from West London. He asked me to suggest questions that might raise awareness and debate on matters of mutual interest. How could I resist the challenge!

- ◆ Does the Panel agree that the current rate of closure of community pubs is a matter of concern and that national and local government should seek to penalise so-called pub companies whose only interest in pubs is to realise the asset value of their sites as quickly as possible?
- ◆ Does the Panel agree that the pint is a liquid measure and that the Government should therefore take no account of any gas in the head on a beer in legislating to give drinkers full measure?
- ◆ Does the Panel agree that, as a member of the European Union, this country should take steps to harmonise excise duty on beer down to the levels imposed by our continental neighbours, and so reduce the economic damage caused to UK brewers by smuggling and the cost of generally unsuccessful measures to combat it?
- ◆ Does the Panel agree that the Chancellor's introduction of duty relief, however welcome for very small brewers, has distorted the market and created a danger that regional brewers caught just above the progressive duty ceiling will close as they find themselves on an uneven playing field unable to compete?
- ◆ Does the Panel agree that pub licensees in England and Wales, like their colleagues in Scotland, should at last be allowed flexibility to open at times to suit them and their customers rather than be required, under the existing World War 1 legislation, to preserve a closing time ritual which contributes to a binge drinking culture and public disorder?

The likelihood that a Panel including Ken Livingstone and Theresa May could agree on anything was somewhat remote, but it seemed worth the thought, especially with the possibility that a pledge on flexible hours might feature in the Queen's speech the next day. And indeed it did, although the summer of 2004 could be a safe distance away for any government whose willingness to promise runs ahead of its commitment or capability to deliver.

Enough of politics! Instead, let me ask, 'Does CAMRA agree?' Do readers agree that we ought to pursue these concerns? If so, CAMRA's next AGM should be a lively one. If not, even more so! At this year's AGM, I picked up some useful hints, including CAMRA's 'Statement of Aims':

'The Campaign for Real Ale's mission is to act as the champion of the consumer in relation to the UK and European drinks industry. It aims to

Views expressed in this publication are those of their individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

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EDITORIAL

maintain consumer rights; promote quality, choice and value for money; support the public house as a basis of community life; and campaign for greater appreciation of traditional beers, ciders and perries as part of national heritage and culture'.

Join CAMRA, campaign collectively and act responsibly. But at the same time, let's enjoy it and never take ourselves too seriously. I've enjoyed working since January on this magazine. I hope there has been something in it for everyone, and thank all our advertisers and contributors. I wish all of you, and all our readers, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year: don't drink and drive.

Geoff Strawbridge

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NOT ALL BEER AND SKITTLES

Change is the world's natural state. Things evolve into new things and this is no less true than in the volatile world of brewing and pub ownership.

CAMRA rightly fights for the traditional British pub and seeks to represent the interests of pubgoers, whether or not they drink cask ale. Or do they? One is welcome to join up if one enjoys cask beer primarily but cask drinkers are only one part of a pub's clientele. Does CAMRA represent all pubgoers or only those that drink cask ale?

Who does the Campaign fight for? Whilst it's pretty clear that there are no other organised national consumer bodies campaigning for the issues involved, keg drinkers and those who prefer wine etc look to CAMRA to voice their concerns too so that the Campaign becomes the unofficial 'voice of the pubgoer' with their opinion being sought by the media on related issues. Some may decry the motives and actions of CAMRA in seeking to preserve traditional beer and pubs but they would do well to ask what other campaigning consumer group represents and takes their views forward to those in power.

But away from the actual body politic and its continued need to exist in a shifting world of closures, mergers, branding and high finance, CAMRA must also recognise that their various causes celebres are not the only issues involved.

A glance through this very magazine's Capital Pubcheck pages shows how many pubs have called time on selling cask ale, have closed or been converted to a new use. It's a reflection of the age that we live in and the changing role of alcohol in our society that this is the case.

Once upon a time, in a simpler age, if one fancied an alcoholic drink the choice was clear. It is not so long ago - perhaps as comparatively little as fifty years - that enjoying a drink involved either going to a pub or buying drink to take away, either from an off licence or from a pub's 'jug and bottle' outlet. Just that latter phrase is a resonant metaphor for an age now gone. It served a need but the needs changed and the pub world responded.

Some say that the closure of jug-and-bottle hatches and the end of separate saloon and public bars was the thin end of the wedge but that would be to ignore the reality of pubgoing in the past. Let's face it: even as little as twenty years ago, some pubs were not nice places to drink in and some still aren't. Defined by a shabby, smoky, male-dominated bar and with a cliquish that bordered on hostility to newcomers, not to mention mediocre ale, the average British boozer was sometimes a most inhospitable hostelry. By remaining reactionary and complacent, the pub had left itself open to attack from the forces of change and that's just what happened. This

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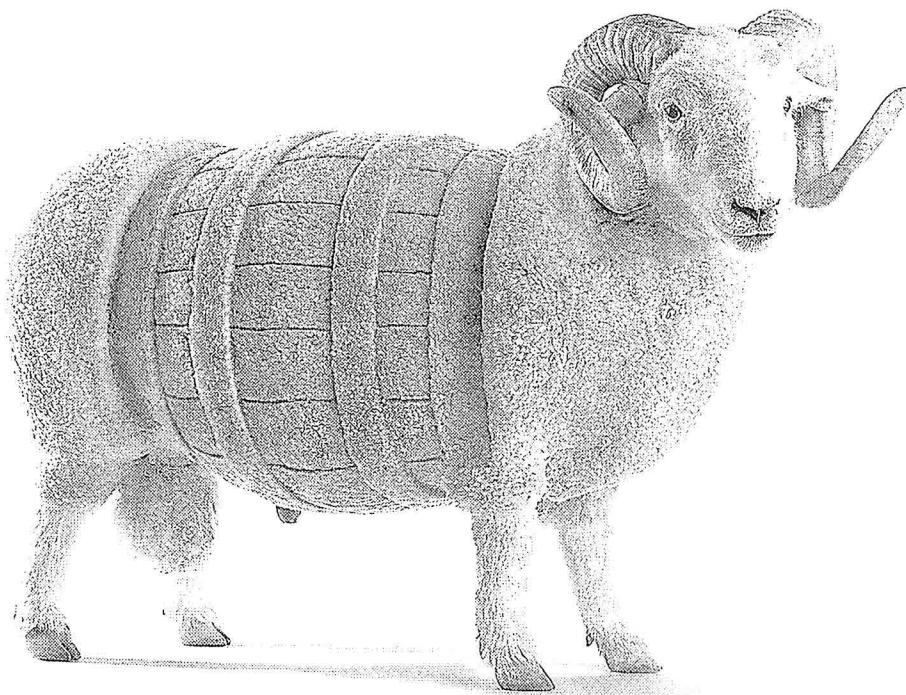
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NOT ALL BEER AND SKITTLES

coincided with the rise of drinking at home and supermarkets stocking a wider range of beers. It's no wonder that enjoying a drink in the comfort of one's home became an acceptable alternative to going to the pub if that pub was a dowdy, expensive and sometimes unfriendly place. It's also easy to see the attraction of home drinking for rural dwellers if the nearest 'local' was six miles away and there was only one bus a day.

Many of those 'traditional pubs' were intolerant of those not like themselves; black and Asian people and women being made to feel particularly uncomfortable if they 'dared' stray in for a quiet drink. I know of a pub that has a particularly shameful record on this account: there was a running 'joke' there that the only black face one would see in the bar would be that of a cab driver who had arrived to pick up a fare, such was the underlying hostility to minorities there.

Those disenfranchised by this experience were part of changing times. Things have changed and mostly for the better. I have a metaphor for this: Top of the Pops. BBC's long-established chart music show recently celebrated two thousand editions. At the time of the show's debut (January 1964), music on TV was in its infancy and one was obliged to either listen to the radio or watch TOTP in order to see or hear a band playing a song. Now music of all kinds is everywhere: in shops, on planes, in your car, on your computer and even in the unlikeliest of places. One may not care for the majority of the music on TOTP but music itself has been opened up to more people during (and because of) its existence. Like drinking alcohol, one can enjoy music almost anywhere now and this has to be an inclusive exercise by its very nature.

There is a basic altruism here. As much as some factions of CAMRA would be uncomfortable with the concept, there are those that do not enjoy traditional pubs and/or cask ale. The vast majority of the general public enjoys drinking alcohol of one kind or another and a whole range of establishments has grown up to serve the demand. Some (speak it quietly!) enjoy wine bars or cafe-bistros where the food is a little more adventurous than steak and chips or bangers and mash and the beer more diverse than stout, bitter or lager. There's nothing wrong with this; people should be free to enjoy diversity and exercise choice. It's their money after all.

The *Drinker* recently included details of a branch's 'games night' as part of their rolling social calendar. For a moment I briefly envisaged keenly-contested Tomb Raider tournaments or a high-stakes game of Trivial Pursuit, but not a bit of it as bar skittles and shove ha'penny were on the agenda instead. These games died out in pubs forty years ago. One can take

the concept of traditionalism a little too far!

I welcome diversity in all things. Oranges are not the only fruit, so to speak. I don't believe anyone wants to return to live in a pub monoculture where the choice was narrow and people were excluded. I support the idea of a great pint of London Pride and a ploughman's lunch as much as I support a fine Barolo with a warm rocket and feta salad with raspberry vinaigrette or a spiced vodka with a red cabbage consomme. It's indeed a shame when the proverbial Plough or Queen's Head becomes Cafe Rosa or Sam's Diner and we should continue to oppose plans to convert otherwise vibrant and interesting pubs whilst welcoming diversity in the licenced trade.

CAMRA should continue to fight its campaigns without impugning those who seek something else. To do so could encourage those who see ale drinkers as reactionary types celebrating a spurious 'golden past' who don't welcome change. CAMRA has a significant image problem enough without attracting more negative attention.

There's room for everyone.

Al Ferrier

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◆ Pub goers say 'Cheers' to licensing reform

Drinkers finally had the chance to raise a toast to the Government's reform of liquor licensing law, announced in the Queen's Speech on 13 November. Following pressure from consumers, pub operators and the police and a pledge from Labour during the last General Election campaign, British pub goers can look forward to a more flexible approach to pub opening hours from the summer of 2004.

Mike Benner, Head of Campaigns and Communications said, *'After years of campaigning we can finally look forward to longer opening hours for pubs which will boost tourism and help stamp out binge drinking through a more relaxed and responsible approach to enjoying alcohol. The current laws are largely based on laws introduced during the First World War and have no place in today's society.'*

Recent CAMRA research reveals that seven out of ten British adults support longer opening hours for pubs. CAMRA has dismissed claims that the new Act may lead to a free for all, with all pubs opening 24 hours a day and unrestricted access for children. Pubs will have to submit operating plans to the licensing authority, and the police and local residents will have a say on the hours the pub will be able to stay open. It will be up to publicans and the licensing authority to decide on the suitability of premises for children, but it should mean that pubs will become more family friendly, which will benefit millions of people.

There were fears that our streets would be invaded by drunks when the law was changed in 1988 to allow pubs to stay open in the afternoon, but these fears proved unfounded as there was no significant increase in alcohol consumption or alcohol related disorder. CAMRA believes the same will be true following the 2004 changes, and we can all look forward to the benefits of a more relaxed approach to enjoying a drink.

◆ More breweries face the axe

The threat to some of Britain's best known breweries has been highlighted over the last couple of months, as news continues to break of threats to breweries across the country.

Despite a campaign by CAMRA, locals and lovers of the beer, the Brakspear brewery in Henley-on-Thames is closing down. Despite sales of Brakspear beers doubling in recent years, the discounts demanded by pub companies have forced the management to give in.

The beers are to be brewed at Burtonwood in the short term; the plan is for a new brewery to be set up by Refresh UK, owners of Wychwood. This new

brewery would use much of the old Brakspear equipment under the supervision of the current Brakspear brewer. But there is some scepticism over the plan, particularly as the Henley brewery is being closed before building even starts on the replacement; there is also some disquiet over the company's long term commitment to the beers once it becomes just another pub company.

Next under the cosh is McMullen's of Hertford, who are the latest to announce that the brewing operations are being 'reviewed'. Their brewing tradition going back to 1827 is under threat, and CAMRA's campaigners are being kept busy with yet another campaign to save one of the country's most respected regional breweries.

Finally, the decision by Interbrew to transfer keg Boddingtons production to Wales has placed a huge question mark over the future of the Strangeways brewery in Manchester. The move, planned to be complete in 2004, would leave Strangeways with enough turnover to operate just one day a week, leaving grave doubts as to its viability.

Interbrew boss Stuart Gilliland has stated his firm's commitment to the brewery, claiming that the aim is to build on the site's heritage as a cask ale brewery and operate as Interbrew's centre for ale brewing. Union bosses disagree, claiming that cask Boddington's is being run down in favour of keg.

◆ Pub company greed attacked

Launching the CAMRA *Good Beer Guide* in September, editor Roger Protz lambasted the country's giant pub companies for squeezing out craft brewers and reducing choice for drinkers.

Protz blames the troubles of breweries big and small on the duopoly of national brewers and pub companies, saying 'The national brewers are prepared to sell beer at deep discounts to the pub companies – discounts that smaller breweries cannot afford.' The low prices are not passed on to the consumer, as the pub companies sell the beer to their pubs at the normal retail price, pocketing the difference.

Citing the demise of Brakspear's as a prime example, Protz added *'More than 40 breweries have closed on the past 10 years. Many were once flourishing regional or family-owned companies that saw no future in beer production and turned themselves into pub retailers, selling national brands.'*

Not only do pub companies demand discounts of at least £100 off the £250 price of a barrel of beer, they often demand 'listing fees', where a brewer has to pay just to appear in the pub company's list of beers. Punch charges brewers £1,700 per brand every six months, with no guarantee of how much beer they will buy.

NATIONAL NEWS

The *Good Beer Guide* was launched on 23 September at the Star Tavern in Belgravia, which has been in all 30 editions of the guide. The Guide is available at £12.99 (members £9) from CAMRA beer festivals, bookshops or direct from CAMRA on 01727 867201 or www.camra.org.uk.

◆ Young drinkers turn to cask

Research from Dorset's Badger Brewery has shown that real ale is finding favour amongst first time drinkers. Its national survey of pub customers revealed that the younger generation are turning to real beer in the search for new and different flavours, finding that almost half of 18-24 year olds were drinking more cask ale than a year ago. They cited greater choice and a better selection of lighter, fruitier styles as the reason for their increased consumption.

Badger is convinced that the growth of the premium bottled ale market can be translated into sales of cask as well, encouraging drinkers to be more adventurous with their choice of drinks. Vice Chairman Mark Woodhouse said that regional brewers were flexible and imaginative enough to appeal to a new audience, adding '*as an independent regional brewer, we can respond quickly to market needs – and we are not afraid to do things differently.*'

We would sell cask ale in milk bottles if we could assure the quality and the consumer wanted it.'

The survey is backed up by figures from market analyst AC Nielsen, which shows that, while cask ale sales are in decline, this is due to the loss of volume by the national brewers with regional and family brewers' sales holding up well.

Meanwhile, 'style' and theme bars appear to be going out of fashion. Old Monk, who run the Springbok sport bars, has gone into administration after hitting financial difficulties, while shares in Slug and Lettuce owners SEI have been suspended after losing 80% of their value in two months. The suspension came at the company's request after it revealed that it had overstated assets and understated liabilities over a number of years. The chairman has resigned after it was revealed that liabilities might have been understated by £20 million.

◆ Wells goes for minicask breakthrough

Bedfordshire brewer Charles Wells is hoping that this Christmas will see a breakthrough for sales of its pioneering minicask following a promotional deal with Safeway supermarkets. Cask-conditioned Bombardier, sold in eight pint minicasks, has won great praise from beer writers since its introduction,

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International is no problem, but there are some restrictions

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but distribution has proved a problem with many supermarkets being unable or unwilling to handle it and devote space to it. Now, Safeways is to expand distribution to 100 stores, and is selling it at £9.99 in the run-up to Christmas, a £2 discount on the normal price.

Wells have been trying for some years to perfect a way of selling proper cask beer to drink at home, including a previous experiment with plastic bottles which proved too complicated. The minicask is much simpler, and can be drunk after about two hours' settling time.

◆ News in brief

The Government is under continuing pressure to cut beer duty following a High Court ruling judging that Customs and Excise had exceeded their powers by seizing alcohol and tobacco from thousands of travellers and confiscating cars from

those they suspected of importing illegally. Customs has come under fire for making confiscations without having to produce any evidence of illegal activity. In the last year, 10,000 vehicles have been confiscated and crushed.

The future of cidermaker HP Bulmer, owner of the Beer Seller beer agency, is uncertain following the discovery of a £3.3m hole in its accounts and the resignation of chief executive Mike Hughes. The company has issued several profits warnings and is suffering from rising debt, losses in the US and an unsuccessful expansion into South Africa.

Sales of Shepherd Neame's premier brand, Spitfire, increased by almost 30 per cent last year. Overall sales were up 10.5 per cent with profit up to £8.4m before tax.

Dave Lee

EDITORIAL OBFUSCATION

Greater London pubs occupy 37 pages of the 2003 *Good Beer Guide*. 'CAMRA members and branches choose the pubs listed', but find they cannot, unfortunately, choose where all of their pubs are listed in the Guide.

'A dotted asterisk symbol next to a main entry place name indicates there are Inn Brief entries as well.' For 2004, there will be no 'Inn Brief' entries, which must be a better idea than hiding them where no reader can be expected to find them.

Congratulations but at the same time, therefore, apologies are due to the licensees of the following, carefully chosen and highly commended pubs, which avid students of the *Good Beer Guide* will

find on pages 280-281, below listings for WC2 and the East End under 'Greater London (East)':

The Prince of Wales, Islington
The Railway Tavern, Crouch End
The Builders Arms, Addiscombe
The Royal Oak, Erith
The Two Brewers, Selhurst
The Sandrock, Shirley
The Nags Head, Belgravia
The Mawbey Arms, South Lambeth
The Grove, Balham
The Railway, Putney
The Angel, Roehampton
The Spread Eagle, Wandsworth.

HOME WIN FOR LEYTON ORIENT

The CAMRA East London & City Club of the Year for 2002 is the bar of the Leyton Orient Supporters Club. Here Secretary Ben Parr-Ferris (left) is seen handing the award to bar manager Mike Childs. In attendance were former *London Drinker* editor Chris Cobbold and former advertising manager Barry Tillbrook.

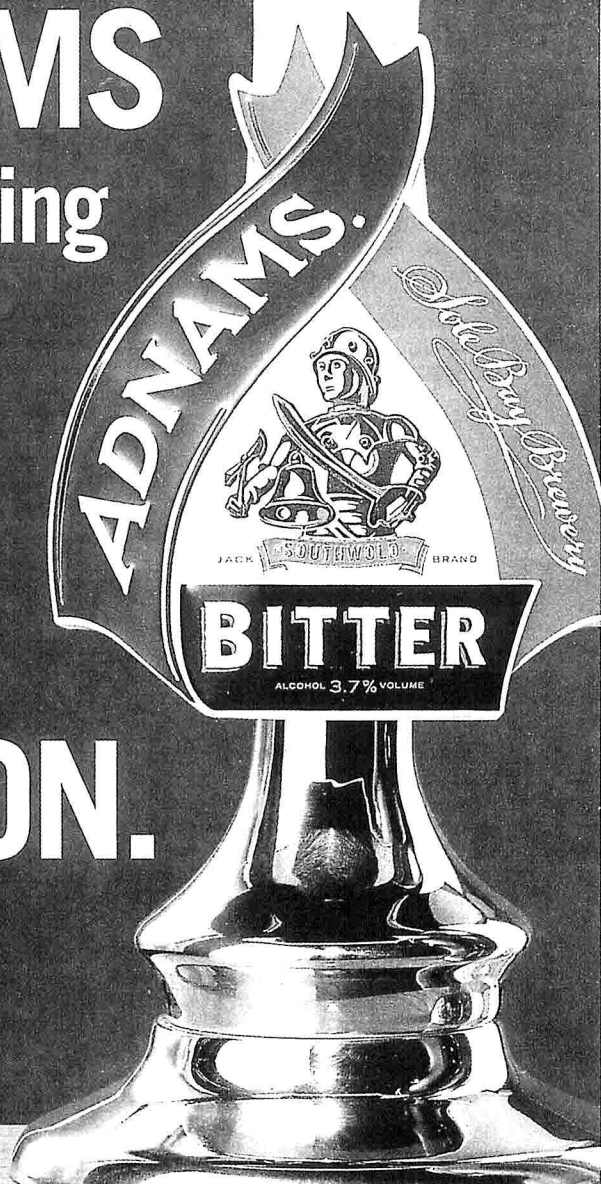
The Supporters Club raises over £30,000 each year for the football club. Opinion wants Mike to take over the running of the football team. It is not known what the current team manager knows about bar work.

The club is open on Saturday match days from 1pm and again after the match for a couple of hours, and for weekday matches from 6pm and again after the match. If you are not a club member then a pound coin will gain you entrance. For 14 more coins you

can see the football. They hold at least one beer festival a year which usually coincides with a Saturday and Tuesday home match. *Keith Emmerson*



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LOCAL ROUND UP

◆ Regional award celebration at the Sultan

On Sunday 6 October CAMRA South West London Branch was proud to host a London Regional Pub of the Year award presentation for the first time. The winning pub was the Sultan, South Wimbledon SW19. In front of a good number of branch members, locals and guests from other branches, the certificate was presented to licensee Angie Shaw by Regional Secretary, Geoff Strawbridge.



Sultan licensee Angie Shaw and Hop Back founder John Gilbert at the London Pub of the Year celebration.

The Sultan is the Hop Back Brewery's only tied house in London and the brewery's joint managing directors, John Gilbert and Richard Harvey were amongst those present. The Sultan has been in every edition of the *Good Beer Guide* since it was acquired by Hop Back in 1994 and under Angie's stewardship has gone from strength to strength.

Martin Butler, Co-ordinator of the London Pub of the Year Competition also spoke, explaining the judging process, and in particular highlighted the Sultan's rating in the 'service and welcome', 'clientele mix' and especially the beer quality categories. The competition was a tough one and Martin paid tribute to the winner for the last two years, the Robin Hood and Little John at Bexleyheath. The Sultan had a hard act to follow.

The Sultan now goes forward to the 'super-regional' stage, leading to the National Pub of the Year award.

◆ New beers from Young's

Young's have launched a new elderflower beer and named it Elysium after the land of the blessed in Greek and Roman mythology. At 4.0 per

cent alcohol by volume, Young's Elysium is being sold in 500ml clear glass bottles to show off its golden glow. Initial availability has been through Sainsbury's supermarkets and Young's tied houses.

A more familiar favourite is Winter Warmer, which made its annual return to pubs when the clocks went back on 27 October. The beer is described by Young's head brewer Ken Don as 'The definitive winter beer, a rich, ruby-coloured brew with a powerful flavour and a bittersweet finish. It will certainly chase the winter blues away.'

◆ Sampling success for Fuller's

Over two-thirds of thirsty commuters gave a thumbs-up to London Pride during a sampling campaign by Fuller's in October. Of the participants, 64 per cent said they would now buy London Pride having sampled a free half pint during the two-day exercise held at eight London mainline railway stations.

Some 34,600 leaflets were distributed during the promotion containing vouchers redeemable at 11 station bars; commuters were given a half of Pride to quench their immediate thirst and a 300ml bottle of Organic Honey Dew for the journey home.

T. J. Duffy



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LOCAL ROUND UP

Brands marketing manager David Spencer said: *'Sampling campaigns are a great way forward for Fuller's - we are confident in the quality and taste of our beer and these results prove consumers are too. It's easy to talk about how we need, as an industry, to attract new younger and female consumers - but you have to go out and get them. Just under half of those sampled had not tried London Pride before, and 62 per cent rated the sample as excellent or good. But more important is the fact that of those that will buy London Pride in the future, one in four were women, and 54 per cent were under 35 years old. This is the market we need to attract.'*

◆ Successful mission

Many CAMRA members joined students from Imperial College on 12 November to celebrate CAMRA's Greater London regional Club of the Year award to the Southside Bar, Prince's Gardens (off Exhibition Rd), SW7 for the second year running.

Roger Pownall, the Club's licensee, received the award from Alex Langford, chairman of the local, West London branch of CAMRA. He shared compliments with senior cellarman, Frenchman

Arnaud Schmolinski on the success of his mission to convert student lager drinkers to appreciate real ale. With up to ten to choose from, well looked after and at prices kept as low as possible, real ales accounted for 16% of turnover in October but 22% by March.

Beers available on the night included Fullers Honey Dew, Oakham JHB, Rebellion IPA and the new Worthington's 1744. The Club provides a separate function room, an ideal venue for well refreshed meetings.

◆ The Cricketers, Woodford

The London in Bloom competition award for the best floral display by a pub in London has been won by the Cricketers, High Road, Woodford. Eric and Christine Woolridge, the managers of the McMullen pub, describe maintaining the borders, tubs and hanging baskets as 'a labour of love and extremely therapeutic'. For those more interested in beer than flowers, the Cricketers is a small, friendly two-bar pub selling the full range of McMullens beers. It is listed in the 2003 *Good Beer Guide*. Darts is played in the public bar and in the summer boules is played outside.

THE HEAD OF STEAM



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London NW1**

Tel: 020 7388 2221



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POPPING from 79p a pint...
NO KIDDING**

Dozens of beers under £1 a pint

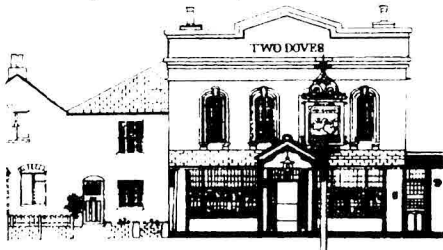
**Caledonian Deuchars IPA
99p a pint**

**Buy 3 pints - get a bottle FREE
(while stocks last)**

**Dwan beers coming -
Festive Paddy 6% abv**

TWO DOVES

37 Oakley Road, Bromley Tel 020 8462 1627



*A warm welcome awaits you in the
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**PUB OF THE YEAR 2000
CAMRA SE London**

Changing selection of Real Ales
CAMRA Good Beer Guide listed
Local Award Winner

Mature Clientele • Light Snacks

Bus 320 from Bromley North and Bromley South
railway stations, stops outside

Hours: 12-3, 5.30-11 Mon to Sat & 12-3, 7-10.30 Sun

Further analysis of the five year pub losses and gains figures extracted from *Capital Pubcheck* updates for the period July 1997 up to June 2002, revealed in the last edition of *London Drinker*, show the extent to which our traditional neighbourhood pubs are being lost for ever through demolition or conversion to other uses. The analysis also shows that 'new' pubs and bars created in former shop, bank or commercial premises etc or in association with new office or retail developments have predominantly been in city or town centre locations, or on main roads, and have been dominated by major pub groups and often targeted at younger drinkers.

Pub losses

Pub closures have speeded up over the five-year period, averaging 88 per annum in the first 2? years up to the end of 1999 and 152 per annum over the 2? year period up to June 2002. The greatest losses have occurred in 'Inner London' (London postal districts outside the City and West End) with 461 recorded permanent closures over 5 years, which is approximately 13% of pubs originally in the area. The East London postal districts have suffered the most with 159 closures, approximately 20% of pubs. Of the 601 closures recorded across the capital, 48% have subsequently been demolished or converted to residential and other uses and the remainder lie derelict or boarded up awaiting their fate, but are unlikely ever to open as pubs.

If local Councils grant planning permission for conversion to housing, big profits can be realised and unkempt boarded up pubs can help that process along. In addition, with the exception of the few pubs with listed building status or those in conservation areas where permission is required for demolition, for the majority of pubs there is nothing to stop developers cynically undertaking demolition in advance of obtaining planning permissions. Landmark pubs occupying large sites are particularly vulnerable as was demonstrated recently at the Toby Jug on the A3 at Tolworth. Even 'listed' pubs are not safe, since change of use from a pub to a restaurant or other food outlet no longer requires planning consent (a 'simplification' of bureaucracy introduced by the Thatcher government). The recent

conversion of a Grade II listed pub to a fancy French restaurant in Chelsea (ironically close by Thatcher's former Chelsea abode) has highlighted the lack of powers to protect our pub heritage.

Pub gains

Of the 507 'new' pubs and bars gained over the 5 year period, 89% have been conversions of existing buildings: notably banks, post offices, showrooms etc. The remainder are mostly within new retail and leisure complexes or occupy the ground floor of new office blocks. The rate of growth of 'new' pubs has however been slowing down with an average of 130 per annum in the first 2? year period up to the end of 1999 and only 72 per annum in the 2? years up to June 2002.

267 (53%) of the new pubs and bars were opened by national and regional pub groups and brewers, of which J D Wetherspoon opened 48 (9.5%). Next came Bass (now Six Continents) with 46 (including 27 'All Bar Ones') followed by Whitbread (now Laurel) with 33 (including 18 Hogsheds). Fullers contributed 20 pubs (including 7 'Ale and Pies' and 6 'Fine Lines') and Regent Inns and Yates's each opened 14. Smaller chains made up the rest with poor old Young's opening only 3 brand new pubs/bars. Of course many of these operators also acquired or re-branded existing pubs during this period, changing their character out of all recognition, but these do not appear in the above figures. Remaining independent new outlets could not be linked to specific pub chains, but no fewer than 57 (11%) were Irish-run bars in former shop units predominantly in the north-western and western parts of Greater London.

Planning implications

The extent and nature of overall pub losses can influence planning decisions on individual pubs. We suspect the figures for pub closures quoted above are underestimates. If you know of closed pubs in your neighbourhood or can let us know the new uses for pubs already converted or demolished, we would welcome a letter or email to *Capital Pubcheck* (see page 22 for details).

Roger Warhurst

LONDON PUBS GROUP UPDATE

Successes and potential successes

SW1, Star Tavern, Belgrave Mews West: successfully refurbished in early October 2002 - now reopened with nothing untoward reported, just a tidying up

SW17, King's Head, 84 Upper Tooting Road:

reopened in October after a sympathetic refurbishment

CAMRA North London Branch was quoted in an *Evening Standard* article on London's closed pubs in the week beginning 7 October. London Pubs Group was quoted in the *Publican* in October in an article about pub preservation and in an article by

LONDON PUBS GROUP UPDATE

Ted Bruning in the November issue of What's Brewing concerning London.

Alerts and concerns

EC1, London Spa, Exmouth Market: now a tapas restaurant

EC1, Lord Nelson, Mora Street: building work commenced in the autumn - future uncertain

N1, Marquess Tavern, Canonbury Road: London Pubs Group was informed by a CAMRA member that it was undergoing refurbishment in the autumn

N4, Salisbury, 1 Grand Parade, Green Lanes: was undergoing refurbishment in the autumn

Barnet, King William IV, Hadley Highstone: a member of Enfield and Barnet Branch was advised that the pub has been sold to a pizza company who are keeping the landlord on at a peppercorn rent for 6 months to April 2002. Thereafter the lease is to be renewable on a monthly basis depending on progress with a planning application to modify the back of the pub to extend and build a restaurant

NW3, Freemason's Arms, Downshire Hill: according to a report in the Ham and High on 11 October, the managers were still awaiting the outcome of an insurance claim after the flooding of the skittle alley

SW11, Bolingbroke, 2 Cobham Close: permission is being sought for change of use to residential (single family dwelling) - objections were sent to Wandsworth Council on 6 November by the Chair of London Pubs Group on behalf of both the Group and South West London Branch

SW11, Plough, St John's Hill: permission is being sought for demolition of the existing building and redevelopment as a five-storey building with a new pub and 23 flats

W1, Tottenham, 6 Oxford Street: listed building consent is being sought (in early November) for refurbishment of this pub which is on the London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Historic Interest - London Pubs Group are on the case.

Hampton, White Hart, 70 High Street: Richmond & Hounslow Branch and London Pubs Group sent objections to Richmond Borough Council in September over a planning application for change of use to residential flats. At the Council Planning Committee meeting on 19 September it was reported that the application should be deferred to allow further evidence to be collected from the applicant on the depth and type of marketing of the property that had taken place.

Jane Jephcote

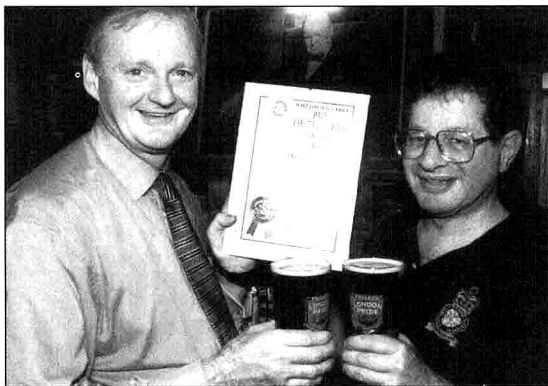
THE CHURCHILL ARMS - A WORTHY WINNER IN WEST LONDON

West London branch of CAMRA has elected the Churchill Arms in Kensington, London W8 as its Pub of the Year for 2002. Extremely popular and with enviable credentials, it has been Fuller's most profitable pub for the past 10 years!

The Pub of the Year certificate was presented to landlord, Gerry O'Brien on 15 October by Alex Langford, Branch Chairman, watched by members of London branches and a healthy contingent from Fuller's.

Gerry, an Irishman, is a real character who has entertained his customers for the last 18 years. He keeps his four Fuller's beers in top condition and provides great service, helped by his attentive staff.

It's also a lovely looking pub. The attractive exterior,



recently decorated and hung with an award winning flower display invites one into a pub full of charm. The plethora of bric a brac covering the ceiling is well worth a detailed look. Its wood panelling, leaded windows and dark wooden furniture create a cosy atmosphere, or rather 'intimate' at busy times. The Churchill Arms is generally a quiet pub but you can enjoy the rugby, football and cricket on the normally muted TV. There is live music every fortnight with a local jazz band.

There is also the much acclaimed Thai cuisine, served in the bar area or in a rear conservatory hung with foliage like a tropical hothouse.

Ray Prior
West London CAMRA

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.



BOOK REVIEW -

One on Every Corner:
The History of some Westminster Pubs

Westminster City Archives Research Group, *One on Every Corner: The History of some Westminster Pubs* (Westminster City Archives, 2002 ISBN 1-900893-11-8 £12.99 including p&cp.) Available from Westminster City Archives Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, London SW1P 2DE. Please make cheques payable to Westminster City Council.

A century ago the parish of St James Piccadilly was estimated to have the greatest proportion of drinking places in the world with one pub to every 116 residents. The average across the Metropolis was one for every 345 residents. This superb book tells the story of many pubs in Mayfair, Pall Mall and St James, Covent Garden, around the Strand, and around Westminster Abbey.

It is by no means a complete survey of the City of Westminster. Dr Jill Barber, who co-ordinated the project, confesses in the introduction that the numbers of pubs and the difficulties of finding out about them was much greater than originally thought, so the project was severely cut back. Among the problems the team encountered was two pubs with the same name in the same street, the social pretensions of publicans who ran pubs on street corners which meant that they used the more fashionable address, the renumbering of streets and of course name changes. The craze for changing pub names (sometimes called Firkinisation) is nothing new: many pubs changed their names with the arrival of a new landlord or to mark some great event.

The quality of the history of individual pubs varies considerably. Some establishments have full descriptions, while others just give a date when they first appear in the records and perhaps when they closed. The research team stuck pretty much to the material available at Westminster City Archives, including licensing records, directories and brewers' records (particularly the Watney Mann Archive held by the Archives), and printed sources such as Pepys' diaries and Mark Girouard's *Victorian Pubs*. Even so there are several other places they could have searched including the early-Stuart records of licensees for pubs within 12 miles of Charing Cross at the Public Record Office and the CAMRA West and South West London guides which often include a brief history of pubs.

For family and local historians probably the most interesting feature is the list of all the publicans, by pub and in a surname index. From this it is easy to see that generations of families were involved with the trade, perhaps just with one establishment or several in the neighbourhood.

Even though it is a bit patchy in places, this is a fine guide to the history of pubs and deserves to be on the shelf of every person interested in the subject.

Simon Fowler

The FOX



**Green Lane
Olde Hanwell
London W7**

Tel 020 8567 3912

- Timothy Taylors Landlord is our regular ale alongside London Pride and Brakspears. Plus ever changing Guest Ales
- Maggie's cooked food
- Contained pub garden
- 100 yards from Grand Union Canal
- Open 11am-11pm
Sundays 12-10.30pm

Note for the diary!

Coming up -

**OUR EASTER BEER
FESTIVAL**

**Friday 18th April and
Saturday 19th April**

*See next London Drinker
for more details*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I was staggered by the cover of the *Good Beer Guide* 2003. Far too much head. Obviously being served by a non-professional, and far from being a full pint!

Gordon Joly

Dear Editor

I came across your interesting publication in a small Young's pub on the Putney/Wandsworth border, and I wondered (with the great amount of collective wisdom at your disposal) if you would be able to satisfy my curiosity.

As you drive past Fuller's brewery on the Great West Road, a tall building is visible in the middle of the complex which has written on it quite clearly 'The Lamb Brewery'. But on the perimeter wall of the brewery is prominently displayed 'The Griffin Brewery', due to the supporters on the coat of arms. Any explanation of what this other building is?

Joe Duxbury

Laura Brock writes from Fuller's, 'The tall building that is visible in the middle of the brewery site did once belong to another independent brewery, The Lamb Brewery. Fuller's and Lamb's sat side by side of each other. The Lamb brewery was run by the Sich family, who have all since died (they are buried in Chiswick cemetery).

In the 1920s there was an association between Lamb's and Fuller's as breweries, and in the 1940s Lamb's started to produce yeast. Unfortunately our local historian has informed us that most of the records have been destroyed, so that it is very difficult to determine information. Mr Duxbury could try Norman Barber of The Brewery History Society. His contact details are: 10 Ringstead Court, Ringstead Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4SH.'

Dear Editor

I was having an after work pint in the Market Porter (at 7am) and the barman showed me an article from the Wall Street Journal about real ale pubs in London. After several paragraphs about real ale and London pubs in general the writer, who I presume to be an American, listed his eleven favourite London pubs. They are, in no particular order

Flask NW3

Lamb WC1

Jerusalem EC1

Market Porter SE1

Warrington W9

Duke of Hamilton NW3

Head of Steam NW1

Wenlock N1

Counting House EC3

Old Bell EC4

Dog and Duck W1

The writer did go on to say that his favourite way of

spending an afternoon was to drink a bottle of Young's Special London Ale while reading a PG Wodehouse novel.

I must confess that I have never visited the Wenlock and I am slightly dubious about the last three, but I can recommend the first seven from my own experience.

The management intends to get the article blown up and displayed in the pub, as they have done with several articles from the local press and *London Drinker*. Several hundred beers clips are also displayed from the constantly changing range of beers sold.

Colin Price, Barking

Dear Editor,

I have been keeping an eye on the pubs in Poplar High Street. Two of them have been demolished, and are currently being rebuilt as flats. The Ellesmere Tavern nearby in Poplar has also suffered a similar fate.

So I was surprised to see that The White Horse (9/11 Poplar High Street, London E14, corner of Saltwell Street - E149, U159) was listed in the October/November 2002 issue as 'Reopened but no real ale'. Perhaps the listing should add '.... and no pub, just a hole in the ground'.

Gordon Joly

Dear Editor

I was sorry to read Bob Steel's letter regarding the 'improvements' to the Duke's Head (Youngs) in Wallington in the last issue.

Young's counterparts at Fullers are, I'm afraid to say, equally guilty of a lack of responsibility towards the community they purport to serve in their recent virtual destruction of the once popular Turk's Head in St Margarets, near Twickenham.

A refurbishment has created a wine bar type environment and it is clear that Fullers are now trying to attract high net worth individuals to a new gastro type operation.

The splendid cut and etched glass windows that were a feature of the saloon bar have disappeared, replaced by the ubiquitous, plain clear glass, so popular with brewery hit-squads nowadays.

Whilst accepting that the separate public bar has been retained, regulars have complained that they are no longer welcome - bar stools have been removed to discourage sitting at the bar and there is no longer the banter and feeling of goodwill across the bar counter that there once was. On my visit last Saturday (26 October), staff were distinctly offhand, to say the least.

Fuller's response that 'one of the perceptions that prevents new customers entering a pub is that it is

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

smoky and intimidating' is laughable in this case, as those of us who knew the Turk's Head as it was will readily testify.

This latest development is of particular concern as I would consider that Fuller's have demonstrated in the past that pubs can be adapted to broaden their appeal and increase their customer base without spoiling the pub's atmosphere or alienating certain sections of the community. The Red Lion in Ealing (by the Film Studios) and the Prince Blucher by the cricket green in Twickenham are good examples of this.

It's all a great shame.

John Bonser, Richmond

Dear Editor

I have a few complaints about London pubs:

1. The service is atrocious. There are several bar staff when the pub is empty and only one or two when it is full. One gets a better service in a church.

2. When they do eventually get to you they're not always helpful. If you ask them for something you have to say, 'Please'. If you want to get something you have to please.

3. They can also be quite rude. I once asked whether they did cash-back; the barmaid surprised me by saying, 'Actually, sir, we call it kick-back in the trade!

4. By the time they get used to the customers, they then leave the job. They are like waves; they change time after time.

5. I was so appalled with the food in one pub that I pointed to the 'Reserved' sign on the table and asked, 'Does that say reserved or re-served?'

6. Once I had a Budweiser and one of the staff rudely asked me, 'Bud, are you any the wiser?'

7. Once I ordered two pints of Fuller's Pride and I happened to forget the empty glasses. The assistant commented, 'Don't ride on your pride.'

8. At one time, I did have a few pints of Fosters but there was no reason for the barmaid to say, 'You certainly foster a Fosters'

Robert D Dangoor, Mayfair

IN MEMORY OF KEVIN

Dear Editor

In Kevin Reeve's obituary notice, published in the last edition, I neglected to mention that Kevin's sister requested donations to be made to the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

In September Kevin's favourite pub, Rose's Free House in Woolwich held a Race Night in Kevin's Memory. This raised £320 for the Charlton Member Group of the Riding for the Disabled Association and over £300 for the BHF.

If you knew Kevin and would be prepared to donate money to the BHF, you can send a donation directly to the following address:

British Heart Foundation
14 Fitzhardinge Street
London
W1H 6DH

(Registered Charity Number 225971)

Alternatively a BHF collecting box will be available in the staffing area at the CAMRA beer festivals where Kevin regularly worked. As mentioned in the obituary, Kevin supported CAMRA by working at beer festivals, attending Fundraising Store Days and by taking part in SE London branch activities such as Good Beer Guide surveys. His participation is greatly missed. If readers can spare the time to help CAMRA, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Andy Camroux

KNICKERBOCKER'S BIER TOURS



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Mar 7-9 Dachsbad Seminar Tour
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All inclusive tours

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BRANCH DIARIES

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA Branch contacts and events. This is where branches can say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for December 2002 and January 2003 are listed below.

Branch meetings and socials are open to all - everyone is welcome to come along.

LONDON PUBS GROUP

December - Wed 11 (7pm) Christmas Social. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All CAMRA members welcome. Small charge for food payable on the night - price depends on how many attend. *Contact: Jane Jephcote 020-7973 3102 (W).* jane.jephcote@english-heritage.org.uk

January - Wed 15 (7.15 for 7.30) Meeting. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

BEXLEY. *Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H).* Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON. *Terry Hewitt 020-8660 5931 (H).* 020-7918 3242 (W)

December - Fri 6 (7.30) Xmas social. Princess Royal, 22 Longley Rd, W. Croydon. - **Tue 17 (8.30)** Open Comm. meeting followed by social. Greyhound, 2 High St., Carshalton.

January - Mon 6 (8.30) Cheam two pub social. Prince of Wales, 28 Malden Rd. (dep 9.30) then Claret, 33 Cheam Broadway. - **Thu 16 (8.30)** S. Croydon two pub social. Earl of Eldon, 63 Brighton Rd. (dep 9.30) then Rail View, 188 Selsdon Rd. - **Thu 30 (8.30)** Branch meeting (incl. GBG 2004 short-listing). Windsor Castle, 378, Carshalton Rd, Carshalton.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY. *Ben or Robyn 020-8521 4410 (H).* robyn@pigscar.org.uk. Social enquiries: *Bob Walker 020-8924 0346 (H/Fax).* 07930 990646 (M/Text).

Website: www.pigscar.org.uk

December - Tue 3-Sat 7 Pig's Ear Beer Festival, Old Town Hall, The Broadway, Stratford E15. - **Tue 10 (8pm)** Branch meeting, Coborn Arms, 8 Coborn Rd, E3. - **Fri 13** Beer and curry night. Meet (7.30) Black Bull, 199 Whitechapel Rd, E1, then (8.15ish) Curry House, (9.15ish) Pride of Spitalfields, 3 Heneage St, E1.

January - Tue 14 (8pm) Branch meeting, Harrow, 22 Whitefriars St, EC4. - **Thu 23 (8pm)** Quiz night. Old Bank of England, 194 Fleet St, EC4. All CAMRA members welcome.

ENFIELD & BARNET. *Brian Willis 020-8441 1892 (H).* Work: Brian.Willis@Saffery.com

December - Tue 3 (9pm) GBG Promo. Greyhound, 52 Church End, Hendon NW4. - **Fri 6 (8pm)** Xmas meal. Jolly Farmers, Enfield Rd, Enfield EN2. - **Wed 11 (9pm)** GBG Promo. Madden's, High Rd, East Finchley N2. - **Tue 17 (9pm)** GBG Promo. Albion, Union St, Barnet EN5.

January - Wed 1 (12noon) Cobweb Social. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - **Tue 7 (9pm)** Campaigning social. King William IV, Hadley Highstone EN5. - **Sat 11 (11am)** Epping Forest ramble led by Ron Andrews. Meet Chingford stn, bus 313, 444. - **Tue 14 (8.30)** Branch meeting. Old Mitre, High St, Barnet EN5. - **Sun 19 (12noon)** Madden's, East Finchley then to Shanghai Chinese restaurant. - **Wed 22 (9pm)** Social. Winchmore Arms, Winchmore Hill Rd, N21. - **Sat 25 (2pm)** Pub Crawl of Stoke Newington with N.London branch, led by Laurence Fryer. Meet Old Henry's Freehouse, 2 St Jude St

N16 (Dalston Kingsland stn; Bus-149, 67, 243). - **Thu 30 (9pm)** Social/London Drinker pick up. Kings Head, Market Place, Enfield Town EN2

Website: camranorthlondon.org.uk/enfieldandbarnet

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD. *Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H).* 020-8540 1901 (W)

December - Tue 3 (8.30) Branch meeting. Albert Arms, Kingston Hill, Kingston. - **Thu 12 (7.30 for 8pm)** Christmas Dinner. North Star, Hook Rd, Chessington, £10.95. Deposit £5 by 5 December. - **Fri 20** Christmas Crawl, Surbiton to Kingston. Meet (8pm) Coronation Hall, Dep 8.30 to Waggon and Horses, then Kelly Arms and others.

January - Fri 3 London Crawl, Waterloo along the river to London Bridge. Meet (8pm) Hole in the Wall, Dep 8.30 to Kings Arms, Roupell St, then Rose & Crown, Founders Arms, and finish in Market Porter or thereabouts. Please let Clive know if you are interested. - **Tue 7 (8.30)** Branch meeting. Bishop out of Residence, by the river, Kingston. - **Tue 21 (8pm)** Lick and Stick Evening. Surrey County Staff Club, Penrhyn Rd, Kingston. Help to prepare mailout letters for the AGM.

NORTH LONDON. *Mike Rose 020-8342 8584,* lynnmikerose@aol.com

December - Tue 3 (8pm) Visit to Pig's Ear Festival. Old Town Hall, The Broadway, Stratford E15.

Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW. *Brian Kinton 020-8384 7284 (H)*

December - Wed 12 (8.30) Branch meeting, Royal Oak, 128 Worton Rd, Isleworth (Fuller's pub on H20 bus route). - **Mon 16** Calais day-trip by coach (via Eurotunnel) incl. Cite de l'Europe with Le Moulin brew-pub; may be sold out by now, but if interested call Ian Winfield 8977 9643 (H). - **Fri 20 (7.30 for 8pm start)** Xmas Dinner, Coach & Horses, 8 Kew Green, menus @ £18.50/£14.50, details and bookings through Brian.

January - Thu 9 (8pm) Mortlake crawl, start at Charlie Butler, 40 High St, then (8.45) Railway, 11 Sheen La, (9.30) Ship, 10 Thames Bank, (10.15) Jolly Gardeners, 36 Lower Richmond Rd. - **Wed 15 (8.30)** First mtg. of the 2003 Twickenham Festival Organising Cttee: all volunteers and ideas welcome. Eel Pie, 9 Church St, Twickenham. - **Wed 22 (8.30)** Branch meeting, Red Lion, 2 Castelnau, Barnes SW13.

Website: www.jobin.freemove.co.uk/rbcamra1.htm

SOUTH EAST LONDON. *Dave Lee 020-8694 2687 (h).*

December - Mon 2 (8pm) First meeting for the 2003 Catford Beer Festival. Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove, SE10. - **Tue 10 (8pm)** Branch/committee & GBG shortlist meeting. Tigers Head, Bromley Rd, SE6. - **Sat 14** Branch Christmas Party, Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1
January - Mon 13 (8pm) Branch/committee meeting. Bridge House, 218 Tower Bridge Rd, SE1. - **Tue 21 (8pm)** Branch AGM, Shipwrights Arms, 88 Tooley St, SE1. - **Mon 27 (8pm)** Catford Beer Festival meeting. Ashburnham Arms, 25 Ashburnham Grove, SE10

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk/camra3.htm

SOUTH WEST ESSEX. *Andrew Clifton 01708 765150 (H).* swessex@clara.co.uk

December - Tue 3 (8.30) Social at Pig's Ear Beer Festival, Old Town Hall, junction of Broadway and West Ham Lane, Stratford, London E15. - **Fri 6 (8.30)** Social at Harwich & Dovercourt Winter Ale Festival, Kingsway

BRANCH DIARIES

Hall, Dovercourt (for further details see website www.colchester.camra.org.uk). - **Wed 11** (8.30) Social, Cricketers, 299-301 High Rd (A11), Woodford Green. - **Thu 19** (8.30) Xmas Social, White Horse, 173 Coxtie Green Rd, Coxtie Green (about a mile from A128 Ongar Road) - **Fri 27** (8.30) Social starting in JJ Moon's, 46 High St, Hornchurch and finishing in Chequers, North St, Hornchurch.

January - **Thu 2** (8pm) Social at Chelmsford Winter Ale Festival, "Placey Bar", Anglia Polytechnic University, Chelmsford (For further details see website www.chelmsford.camra.org.uk). - **Thu 9** (8.30) Social, Prince of Wales, 63 Green Lane (A1083), Ilford. - **Wed 15** (8.30) Social, Green Man, 11 Cricketers Lane (off A128), Herongate. - **Thu 23** (8.30) Social, Travellers Friend, 496-498 High Rd (A104), Woodford Green. - **Thu 30** (8.30) Social, Swan (Hogshead), 123 High St (A128), Brentwood. Advance Notice: **February** - **Wed 12** (8.30) Branch AGM, Foxhound, 18 High Rd, Orsett. Website: www.sussex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON. *Mark Bravery* 020-8540 9183 (H) 020-7438 6418 (W), markbravery@blueyonder.co.uk.

December - **Thu 12** (from 6pm). Christmas antisocial.

Crown & Sceptre, 2A Streatham Hill, SW2

January - **Sun 12** (12.15). Open committee meeting followed (1pm) by GBG deletion and shortlisting meeting. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19. - **Wed 22** (8pm). Battersea Beer Festival planning meeting. Sultan, Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19. - **Mon 27** Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet (6.30-7pm) Falcon, 2 St Johns Hill, Clapham Junction SW11. - **Thu 30** Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet (7-7.30) Landor, 70 Landor Rd, SW9 (nr Clapham North tube stn).

Website: www.swl.camra.org

WATFORD & DISTRICT. *Martin Fero* 01923 252412

(H), watford.camra@hotmail.com

December - **Wed 18** (8pm) Breweriana auction, West Herts. Sports Club, Park Avenue, Watford. Viewing from 7.30, for details call Bill Austin: 01923 211654. - **Fri 20** Christmas curry. Phone contact to book in advance, limited numbers. Drummond St, near Euston Station. - **Mon 30** Christmas Ramble. Route and times to be confirmed.

January - **Fri 17** Pre-Christmas London Pub Crawl.

Details to be confirmed. See our website for further details nearer the date.

Website: www.watford.camra.org.uk

WEST LONDON. *Kevin O'Donovan*, 07990 972 424 (M), westlondon.camra@aol.com

December - **Mon 9** (7pm) Branch meeting. Plough & Harrow, King St, Hammersmith W6. - **Wed 18** (8pm) Christmas Dinner. Tabard, Bath Rd, W4 (Turnham Green, District Line). Cost £11.55p per person; £5 deposit required by 9 December to confirm each booking. - **Fri 27** (6pm) Christmas Social. Bear & Staff, 11 Bear Street, WC2 (near Leicester Square Underground).

January - **Tue 7** (7pm) Belgravia Crawl. Nags Head, 53 Kinnerton St, then (8pm) Wilton Arms, 7 Kinnerton St, (9pm) Grenadier, 18 Wilton Rd. - **Sun 19** (2pm) Afternoon Social. Moon Under Water, 105-107 Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (Tottenham Court Rd Underground). Meet in main bar area, then at 3pm we go on a crawl of the local area. - **Thu 30** (8pm) Branch meeting. Victoria, 10a Strathearn Place, W2, in the 'Library' upstairs (near Lancaster Gate & Paddington stns).

WEST MIDDLESEX. *Paul Dabrowski* (Social Secretary) 020-8571-9146 (H) 0118-923 7445 (W).

December - **Thu 5** (8pm) Winter Warmer Social. Bridge Hotel, Western Avenue, Greenford. - **Wed 11** (8.30) Branch meeting. Load of Hay, Villier St, Uxbridge. - **Tue 17** (8pm) New Brentford two-pub social. Lord Nelson, Enfield Rd, then Globe, Windmill Rd. - **Sat 21** (6.43) Christmas Party. Ealing Lawn Tennis Club, Daniel Rd off Creffield Rd, Ealing Common: complimentary food including a vegetarian option. Tickets priced at £5 on the door. Confirm attendance to Branch Contact or Brian Lawrence (01895-440126) beforehand, please, or not enough food may be available! - **Sun 29** (12noon) Branch Borders Crawl. Crown, and Six Bells, High St, Harmondsworth; White Horse, and King's Arms, Bath Rd, Longford, then Poyle & Colnbrook hosteleries. (Approx. 1 pub every hour).

January - **Fri 3** (8pm) Ickenham two-pub social. Coach & Horses, High Rd, then Tichenham Inn, Swakeley's Rd. - **Wed 8** (8.30) Branch meeting for GBG 2004 nominations. Royal Oak, Peel Rd, Wealdstone. - **Thu 16** (8.30) Social. Questor's Grapevine Theatre Bar, Mattock La, Ealing. - **Tue 21** (8.30) Social. Red Lion & Pineapple, Uxbridge Rd, Acton. - **Thu 30** (8pm) London Drinker distribution. Maggie & Crown, High St, Brentford, then Fox, Green La, Hanwell.

Electronic copy deadline for the February/March edition: 14th January 2003. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

THE ROYAL OAK



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The aim of 'Capital Pubcheck' is to share information about the latest happenings on the London pub scene including new pub and bar openings, name changes, acquisitions, closures, notable changes to beer ranges etc.

Information is gathered from a variety of sources including London Drinker readers, individual CAMRA members and branch contacts, breweries, pub operators, landlords etc. If you would like to contribute to 'Pubcheck' please send your news to the address below.

This time we record the opening of a new, proper Wetherspoons in a former pub in W6 Hammersmith and a Lloyds No 1 Bar in a brand new leisure and shopping complex in SW6 Fulham. Wizard Inns have rolled out a new 'Autumn House' chain with pubs converted in N12 Finchley and W6 Hammersmith. Two outlets for Zerodegrees brewpub beers are recorded in Bexleyheath. Two new bar/restaurants featuring real ale have opened in the City EC3 and West End WC2. A former pub used as a restaurant for ten years has reverted to a pub in Twickenham – a rare event. Closures, conversions to other uses and losses of real ale continue across London. A listed

historic pub in SW3 Chelsea has been converted to a French restaurant. Regent Inns have sold a number of pubs to the Broken Foot Inns, Faucet Inns, Porter Black Holdings and Wizard Inns pub groups. London's first known Russian pub, complete with Cyrillic script, has appeared in E2 Kingsland Rd.

Cross references to CAMRA's various pub guides covering Greater London are provided to enable easy updating. The numbers in brackets after each entry refer to the page numbers in the following guides: E - East London & City Beer Guide, 3rd edition; H - Hertfordshire Guide to Real Ale, 2000 edition; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; N - North London Beer Guide, 3rd edition; SE - South East London Pub Guide, 4th edition; 3SE - South East London Pub Guide, 3rd edition; SW - South West London Pub Guide, 2nd edition; W - Real Beer in West London; X - Essex Beer Guide, 9th edition.

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

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

EC1, CAFÉ EL PASO, 350-354 Old St. No real ale. Free House/café-bar in former commercial premises.

EC1, LONDON SPA, 70 Exmouth Market. Former Young's pub reopened in early November and renamed **DON PEDRO**. No real ale. Now a Free House/tapas and cocktail bar/restaurant but retaining a small bar area for non-eaters. Spanish and Jamaican keg lager on draught. The upper floors have been converted to flats. (E19, U164)

EC1, PEASANT, 240 St John St. Wells: Bombardier. Welcome reinstatement of real ale. Formerly **GEORGE & DRAGON**. (E16, U79, U80, U92, U157)

EC2, ELBOW ROOM, 97-113 Curtain Rd. No real ale. Large Free House/pool bar on ground floor of new apartment block opened in October. Opposite **THE POOL**. Is this becoming the centre of the pool universe?

EC2, NEW INN, 15 New Inn Yard. No real ale. Small corner Free House opened c2000 in former shop unit but not previously reported.

EC3, ASSEMBLY (THE), 14/15 Seething Lane. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Spacious new Free House/bar and restaurant opened October 2001 on ground floor of office

development. Furnished in basic style with polished wooden flooring, old wooden furniture, concrete pillars and walls. Exposed ventilation and extractors. Food distributed from open-to-view kitchen at rear. Raised cubicle seating area to side. Leffe on keg. Open 12-11 Mon-Fri only.

WC2, INTERVAL (THE), 14/15 Irving St. Adnams: Bitter; Draught Bass. New Free house/bar and kitchen run by 'Lewis & Clarke' of Toddington, Bedfordshire. Opened October 2002 in former restaurant premises. Mixture of modern and traditional décor with wooden flooring and furniture, sofas, cream painted walls, exposed ventilation ducts, subtle lighting and mood music. Offers good value, traditional 'GM free' English menu including Sunday roasts. Belgian Leffe on keg. Open all permitted hours.

WC2, ROYAL GEORGE, Goslett Yard. Fuller: London Pride. Reopened and refurbished in lounge bar style. (W56, U151, U167)

EAST

E11, RUSSELLS, 44 High St, Wanstead. No real ale. Free House/bar in former shop premises.

E17, RINGWOOD CASTLE, 49 Gosport Rd. Wells: Bombardier. (E168, U98, U117)

SEVEN KINGS, O'GRADY'S, 701 High Rd. New Free House/Irish bar opened September 2001 in former shop premises.

NORTH

N1, ELBOW ROOM, 89/91 Chapel Market. No real ale. Free House/Pool lounge and bar in former shop premises opened c1999

N1, MORIARTY'S BAR, 57 Liverpool Rd. Renamed **ANGELIC**. Old Cottage: Angelic (5.3% House beer); Worthington: 1744. Also sells Dutch beer Gulpener Korenwolf as featured in recent *What's Brewing* article. Formerly **GEORGE**. (N44, U134)

N14, OAKWOOD TAVERN, 155 Bramley Rd. No real ale. New Free House/bar opened October 2002 in former shop premises.

N19, ARCHWAY, 1 Archway Close. Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Real ale not always available. Formerly **ARCHWAY TAVERN**. (N143, U164)

N19, SALTBAR, 472 Hornsey Rd. Reopened and renamed **ALL POINTS WEST**. Now with an Irish theme. (N145, U158, U167)

NORTH WEST

NW3, ELBOW ROOM, 135 Finchley Rd. No real ale. Free House/pool bar opened mid-2001 in former bank premises.

NW3, LOAD OF HAY, 94 Haverstock Hill. Reopened and renamed **HILL (THE)**. No real ale. Now a gastro-pub. (N188, U156)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, STAGE DOOR, 28/30 Webber St. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; Young: Bitter; Guest beer (from micro breweries). Refurbished and under new management. Now probably a Free House, originally Watney. (SE35)

SE10, LANTERN, 62 Thames St. Renamed **SE10**. Shepherd Neame: Bitter. Now a 'restaurant and bar' with emphasis on food but small bar available to non-eaters. Formerly **LONE SAILOR**. (SE98, U112)

BEXLEYHEATH, TEMUJIN, 6/8 Broadway. No real ale. Bar and grill opened in former shop premises c1997 and in the same ownership as the Zerodegrees Brewpub, SE3. Since October it has been dispensing Zerodegrees Pilsner, Pale Ale and Wheat Ale through fonts from kegs. The beers are unfiltered, unpasteurised and have no additives. Metal doors lead into bar with wicker furniture and conservatory at front. A self-service stir fry Mongolian restaurant with huge hotplate lies at the rear. Temujin was apparently the birthname of Genghis Khan. Disabled WC. Open 12-11 Mon-Wed, 12-12 Thu-Sat (no entry after 11pm), 12-10.30 Sun.

BEXLEYHEATH, ZEROBAR, 295 Broadway. No real ale. Another bar in the same ownership as

Zerodegrees Brewpub SE3, opened April 2001 but not previously reported. Full range of Zerodegrees beers is dispensed from kegs through fonts, including Pilsner (4.8%), Pale Ale (4.6%), Dark Pilsner (4.8%), Wheat Ale (4.2%) and a varying Special. The Wheat Ale varies between Belgian and German styles. Decorated in minimalist style like Zerodegrees itself with predominantly grey décor, polished tiled floor, red leather covered furnishings. TV screens. Function Room upstairs. No food. Open 12-11 Mon-Tue, 12-11 Wed-Sat (no entry after 11pm), 12-10.30 Sun.

COULSDON, PISTOLS WINE BAR, 208-210 Brighton Rd. Courage: Best Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Free house/bar on shopping parade, open for several years but not previously reported. Basic décor with bare floorboards, cream paintwork, exposed brick pillars. Room at rear with large screen TV. Food weekday lunchtimes 12-2.30. Open 12-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

COULSDON, SMUGGLERS INN, 320 Chipstead Valley Rd. Draught Bass; Fuller: London Pride. Small, cosy Free House/bar in former restaurant premises decorated with nautical theme - model sailing ships, knots etc. Polished wooden flooring, wooden tables and chairs, wood panelling, cream décor, low ceiling and ceiling fans. Food 12-2. Live music on occasions. Open all permitted hours.

CROYDON, EDWARDS, 18-30 High St. No real ale. Latest outlet for Six Continents chain opened in March 2002 in part of former Grants department store converted into a variety of leisure uses. Real ale is no longer part of Edwards portfolio.

SOUTH WEST

SW6, LLOYDS No 1 BAR (OYSTER ROOMS), Unit 3, Fulham Broadway Centre, Fulham Broadway. Taylor: Landlord; four guest beers. New Wetherspoons bar on first floor of brand new leisure and shopping complex opened October 2002. Approached by escalators or lift, access is off a balcony through a wide entrance into a long, spacious bar with large floor to ceiling windows overlooking Fulham Broadway. Brown wood panelled walls with abstract paintings, multi-coloured carpeting, potted plants and a mixture of seating including leather sofas, chairs, tables and stools. No smoking area with higher ceiling and mock 'fireplace' at rear. Plasma video screens play incessantly and the piped music automatically increases in volume throughout the day - so avoid the evening if you want to converse. Small dance floor area. Good value food including 2 for 1 offers. The bar name apparently refers to the intention to offer oysters on the menu at some point in future. Disabled WC. Open 10 (for

breakfast)-midnight Mon-Sat (no entry after 11pm), 12-10.30 Sun.

SW8, CANTON ARMS, 177 South Lambeth Rd. -Adnams: Bitter; +Greene King: IPA, Old Speckled Hen; +Theakston: Coolcask. Six Continents' 'Southside Pub Co' signage removed but no indication of current ownership. (SW76, U141, U152))

WEST

W6, AUTUMN HOUSE, 133/135 King St. Courage: Best Bitter; Shepherd Neame: Bitter; Wells: Bombardier. Beers may vary. Further to Update 167, the pub is now owned by Wizard Inns, ex-Bass. Refurbished with white and maroon décor, low lighting, abstract paintings, wooden furniture. Formerly PENNY FARTHING. Open all permitted hours. Note full address. Opposite the new Wetherspoons (see below) and pleasant enough but with a relatively mundane beer range. (W76, U92, U166, U167)

W6, PLOUGH & HARROW, 120-124 King St. Courage: Best Bitter; Greene King: Abbot Ale; Hop Back: Summer Lightning; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Theakston: Best Bitter; guest beers including Ridley: Prospect, Old Bob and Taylor: Landlord. A rare example of the reopening of a pub after over 40 years as a car showroom. The latest proper Wetherspoons, it reopened in late September and was a Fullers pub until c1960. Rebuilt in 1903 as a 'modern drinking palace' replacing a coaching inn reputedly dating from 1419. Large black edged windows on frontage with two sets of double doors leading through into a long bar in modern style. Stone flagged flooring, maroon and white décor, light pine furniture, black 'starlight' ceiling and metallic bar top. Local history panels. No smoking area at rear with small raised semi-enclosed cubicle available for private parties. Food. Disabled WC. Holiday Inn Express Hotel (no relation) occupies upper storeys. Open all permitted hours.

W6, TOMMY FLYNNS, 73 Dalling Rd. Reopened but no real ale. Irish theme with huge fake fireplaces. Formerly PRINCE OF WALES. (W76, U57, U92, U101, U166)

W11, SUN IN SPLENDOUR, 7 Portobello Rd. Fuller: London Pride (reinstatement of real ale). (W90, U66, U147)

TWICKENHAM, MONGOLIAN BARBECUE, 65 Richmond Rd. Reopened as a pub again and renamed CLUBHOUSE (THE) after ten years as a restaurant. Fuller: London Pride; Greene King: Abbot Ale; two guest beers. Now a Free House. Formerly MACKENZIES for a time, originally MULBERRY TREE. (W150, U45, U58, U71)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, CAFÉ KICK, 43 Exmouth Market. Free House/café – delete entry, bottled beers only. (U164)

EC1, PENNY BLACK, ex-Watney. Upper floors now converted to flats, ground floor bar area remains closed. (E22, U160)

W1(May), CASK & CLASS. Renamed RUBY LO, H removed. Part of small 'London Bar Company' chain, presumably leased from S&N. (W34, U51, U80, U95, U118, U155)

WC2, DOME, 32 Long Acre, ex-Whitbread, closed and converted to trendy clothes shop, the same fate as the former Kings Arms next door. (U116)

EAST

E2, CITY OF PARIS, Free House, no real ale. (E79, U86, U98, U136)

E2, GREEN MAN, Free House, closed and boarded up. (E81, U66, U79)

E2, ROYAL CRICKETERS, closed and being converted to flats. (E84, U137, U158)

E10, ANTELOPE, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (E123, U110)

E11, BRITISH QUEEN, S&N, no real ale, now a café-bar featuring pizza. Formerly BRITISH QUEEN TAVERN. (E127, U106)

E11, COLEGRAVE ARMS, ex-Bass, no real ale. (E127, U124)

E11, THATCHED HOUSE, ex-Free House, already reported as converted to 'Corazon Latino', Latin American restaurant, now closed, gutted and awaiting a new fate. (E130, U125, U156, U160)

E11, GREENS, Free House. Converted to 'Kingsway Old Timers' restaurant. Formerly SHELAGHS, BROADWAY, BOGEYS and DIRTY NELLIES. (E128, U76, U109, U125, U126)

E11, WOODHOUSE TAVERN, Free House, no real ale. (E130, U100)

E13, EARL DERBY, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (E136, U165)

E14, CARTYS, Free House, demolished. New flats under construction on site. (E143)

E14, WHITE HORSE, ex-Truman, now demolished and new housing under construction on site. Delete erroneous entry in U167 – see 'Corrections' below. (E149, U165)

E15, BAY TREE, ex-Bass, no real ale. (E152, U85)

E15, PIGEONS HOTEL, now simply PIGEONS, ex-Bass, no real ale. (E154, U63)

E15, WHEELERS, Free House, no real ale. (E155, U81)

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 168

E16, MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, ex-Wiltshire. Upper floors now converted to flats, ground floor bar remains closed. (E159, U71, U156)

E16, ROUNDHOUSE, Phoenix, whole pub now converted to flats. (E160, U112, U163)

E16, ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL, ex-Courage, demolished. Another landmark riverside pub lost. (E160, U155, U163)

E17, CHESTNUT TREE, Punch, no real ale. (E166, U165)

E17, COACH & HORSES, S&N, no real ale. (E166, U106)

E17, COCK, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (E166)

E17, HARRISONS BAR, Free House. Renamed **RUSSELLS** but closed since mid-September 2002. Formerly **MONKEY BUSINESS**, originally **McCANN'S**. (U71, U108, U130)

E17, JD'S, Free House, closed and boarded up. Formerly **COUPLES** and **SPORTSMAN**. (E168, U92, U97, U110, U155)

E17, VICTORIA, Free (Ambishus), no real ale. (E169, U137)

E17, WINDMILL, ex-Whitbread, no real ale. (E169)

COLLIER ROW, WHITE HART, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (X43)

CRANHAM, PLOUGH, ex-Bass, H removed. (X44)

GIDEA PARK, DRILL, ex-Allied, no real ale. (X55)

GIDEA PARK, SQUIRRELS, S&N, no real ale. (X55)

HAROLD HILL, ALDERMAN, ex-Courage, no real ale. (X65)

HAROLD HILL, DUCKWOOD, S&N, no real ale. (X65)

HORNCHURCH, COMPASSES. Now named **HARVESTER**, Six Continents, no real ale. (X71)

ROMFORD, CROWN, ex-Allied, no real ale. (X100)

ROMFORD, LAMB, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (X101)

ROMFORD, PRINCE ALBERT, Free House, no real ale. (X102)

NORTH

N1, BABUSHKA, Free House, closed. Formerly **SWAN TAVERN**. (N58, U120)

N1, QUEENS ARMS, 29A Panton St, renamed **CHAPEL BAR**, ex-Bass, H removed. (N56)

N7, SWAGMANS REST, Free House, closed. Formerly **BJ'S (SPORTS BAR & GRILL)**, originally **COCK TAVERN**. (N86, U120, U130, U164, U165)

N14, WISHING WELL, Free House, converted to restaurant named **Bambora**. Formerly **BRAMBLES**. (N119, U162)

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership.

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£16 <input type="checkbox"/>	£19 <input type="checkbox"/>	£192 <input type="checkbox"/>	£228 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of the World	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£23 <input type="checkbox"/>	£240 <input type="checkbox"/>	£276 <input type="checkbox"/>
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OPAP	£9 <input type="checkbox"/>	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>	£108 <input type="checkbox"/>	£144 <input type="checkbox"/>

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to:

Membership Secretary, CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 168

NORTH WEST

NW1, CROWNDALÉ, ex-Whitbread, closed.

Planning permission granted by Camden Council for conversion to flats. (N164)

NW1, HARWOOD ARMS, ex-Whitbread, closed and being converted to flats. (N167)

NW4 LOAD OF HAY, S&N now demolished. (N195, U106, U162)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, SPANISH PATRIOT. Renamed **RUBY LOUNGE**. Part of small chain, H removed. (SE34)

SE10, THAMES, Free House, closed and boarded up. (SE102, U105)

SE18, BAG O'NAILS. Phoenix, closed and being converted into flats. Originally **FREEMASONS ARMS**. (SE165, U112)

CROYDON, DUKES HEAD, Punch, H removed. Previously **FIDDLER & FIRKIN** for a while. (3SE341, U50, U85, U160)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(P), DUCHESS OF CLARENCE, ex-Allied, now demolished. (SW40, U137, U162)

SW1(W), OLD ROSE, S&N, no real ale. (SW49)

SW3, KINGS HEAD & EIGHT BELLS, Laurel, converted to a fancy French restaurant called 'La Chaumiere'. Yet another loss of an historic pub in the 'Royal' Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, this one dating from 1761. Grade II listed building status did not prevent its conversion, demonstrating the weakness of the planning system to safeguard our pub heritage from greedy pub groups intent on asset stripping. Would the Parisiens tolerate the conversion of one of their premier gastronomic restaurants into a mock British pub? - I think not! (SW57, U164)

SW6, BABUSHKA HOUSE, Greene King, closed future uncertain. Formerly **PALMERSTON**, originally **LORD PALMERSTON**. (SW69, U143, U155)

SW7, ENNISMORE ARMS, S&N, closed, future uncertain. (SW72)

SW10, BLA BLA BAR, Free House, closed. Formerly **MODÉNSA**, previously 246 and **FRONT ROOM**. (U156, U157, U162, U166)

SW10, GOAT IN BOOTS, ex-Inntrepreneur, H removed following refurbishment. (SW85)

WEST

HAYES, WHITE HART, S&N, closed and boarded up. (W118, U107)

The Brewery Tap

John and Heather welcome you to the Brewery Tap.

Five rotating Cask Ales

Guests soon to appear include

Bank Top, Cottage, Holts, Rebellion, Slaters & Hogs Back
and now we often stock mild ale.

New lunchtime menu. Genuine home-cooked food.

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OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, PAVILION. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly POETS CORNER. (U130, U156)

EC2, RACK & TENTER. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly PENNY BLACK. (E34, U70, U74, U76)

EC4, PAVILION END. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (E52, U161)

W1(F), NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Was G.E. ALDWINKLES for a while. (W32, U49, U60, U82, U89, U98, U161)

W1(Mar), ARISTOCRAT. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (W33, U148)

W1(S), BAR (LOGIC)¹. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly HANDSEL TAVERN. (W42, U80, U153)

W1(S), BAR MONACO, 18/20 Ganton St. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly BRASSERIE NORMAN. (U107, U161)

W1(S), KING OF CORSICA, 90 Berwick St. Renamed ENDURANCE, -beers listed; +Courage: Directors Bitter. In same ownership as Independence N1 and Perseverance (ex-Sun), WC1. Note correct address. (W43, U80, U84, U159)

WC2, BEAR & STAFF, -beers listed; +four changing beers from micros and regionals (at £2.60-£2.70 a pint) but still appears to be run by Six Continents, ex-Bass. A welcome input of beer choice in this central location, just off Leicester Square. (W52, U51, U93)

WC2, BRIEF ENCOUNTER. Renamed SITE (BAR). Still a gay bar and no real ale. (W52)

WC2, GRIFFIN. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly GRIFFIN TAVERN. (W54, U59, U142, U144)

EAST

E2, ROYAL ALFRED. Renamed NU POQODI (transcribed from the Cyrillic alphabet). Now a Russian-owned pub, ex-Ascot. Still no real ale. (E84, U99)

E11, FASE II. Renamed EROSION. Now presenting itself as a 'wine bar, restaurant and nite club' but believed still to be basically a pub. Formerly COWLEY ARMS. (E128, U124, U134, U155)

E11, KIRKDALES. Should read KIRKDALES BAR. Still fizz only. Formerly KIRKDALES WINE BAR. (E129, U70, U85)

E11, LINCOLN. Should read LINCOLNS. (E129, U89, U106, U109, U155)

E11, LORD ROCKWOOD, -Brakspear: Bitter; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA. Does this say something about the current state of replacement Brakspears? (E129, U100, U163)

E11, RED LION. Renamed ZULU'S. (E129, U73, U79, U160)

E14, RESOLUTE TAVERN. Now simply RESOLUTE. (E148)

E17, FLOWER POT, -Fuller: London Pride; +Marston: Pedigree; +Young: Bitter; +guest beer (eg Adnams: Broadside and Wells: Bombardier). (E167, U80, U124, U125, U135)

E18, NAPIER ARMS, -Draught Bass; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. (E171, U133)

COLLIER ROW, PICKLED NEWT. Reverted to ASPEN TREE. (X43)

DAGENHAM, SPOOFERS BAR, Dagenham Leisure Park. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. Note correct title and address. (X45)

ILFORD, EAST SIDE. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. (U144, U159)

MARKS GATE (CHADWELL HEATH), CROOKED BILLET, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter. (X87)

UPMINSTER, HUNTSMAN & HOUNDS, -beers listed; +Black Sheep: Best Bitter; +Tetley: Bitter. (X121, U151, U160)

NORTH

N1, BELINDA CASTLE. Renamed HOUSE (THE), -Young: Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter. Now a gastro-pub. (N38)

N1, FINNOCK & FIRKIN. Renamed BULL, -Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride. Beer may vary. Formerly PIED BULL. (N44, U151, U159)

N1, PUZZLE. Renamed BABUSHKA but not previously reported, now renamed again NORTH STAR, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier. Formerly KING & BISHOP and MULLIGANS. Originally NORTH POLE. (N52, U121, U132)

N3, CATCHER IN THE RYE. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (N69)

N4, OLD DAIRY. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (U120)

N5, TRAMSHED. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. (U130)

N7, SPOOFERS BAR. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly TAPPIT, originally TAPPIT HEN. (N90, U121, U155)

N12, BELGRAVE. Renamed AUTUMN HOUSE, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Six Continents. Formerly O'NEILL'S and PAGES BAR. (N111, U110, U160, U163)

N17, WATERS EDGE, -beers listed; +Fuller:

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 168

London Pride; +Marston: Pedigree. No longer Brakspears 'Honeyput Inns'. (N137, U157)
N20, YORK ARMS, -beer listed; +Greene King; IPA. (N148, U167)

ENFIELD (EN1), SOUTHBURY HOTEL, now simply **SOUTHBURY**. (N230)

NORTH WEST

NW1, UPSTAIRS BAR. Renamed **COOPERS**, +Fuller: London Pride, seasonal beer; +Hancock: HB. (N176)

NW3, KING WILLIAM IV. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns, originally Courage. (N185, U152)

NW3, WHITE HORSE. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly G.E. **ALDWINKLES**. (N185, U152)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, FIRE STATION. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (SE15)

SE1, WELLINGTON TAVERN. Now simply **WELLINGTON**, with the upper storeys converted to the Wellington Hotel by Regent Inns. Now sold to Wizard Inns. (SE37, U102)

SE3, ROYAL STANDARD, -beer listed; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Marston: Pedigree. Now refurbished by S&N as a 'pub & pizzeria' with open-to-view kitchen, pool and DJs/music'. (SE49, U107)

SE9, OLD POST OFFICE. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (U104, U159)

SE11, COCK. Renamed **SOUTH LONDON PACIFIC**. (SE106, U102, U129)

SE13, BROADWAY. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly **QUAGGY DUCK**. (U110, U160)

SE16, QUEBEC CURVE. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (U143, U166)

SE19, OCCASIONAL HALF. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly **SPORTSMAN**. (SE181, U147)

SE26, TWO HALFS. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly **PUKKABAR**. (SE223, U138, U145, U161)

SE27, G. E. ALDWINKLES. Renamed **JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE** by Regent Inns and now sold to Faucet Inns. Originally **THURLOW ARMS**. (SE229, U121, U138)

BECKENHAM, OAKHILL TAVERN. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (3SE205, 8K37, U161)
BEXLEYHEATH, TOBY CARVERY (**BEXLEYHEATH**). Reverted to **CROOK LOG**, whilst retaining 'Toby Carvery' branding. (3SE211, K33, U157)

CROYDON, BAR MONACO. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (U131)

CROYDON, CASTLE. Renamed **SAINTS & SINNERS**, -beers listed; +Young: Bitter. Good value food. (3SE237)

CROYDON, CATHERINE WHEEL. Renamed **CROWN & PEPPER**, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. Now Punch, ex-Taylor Walker and badged as 'Peri Peri Pub Co'. (3SE237, U55, U108)

CROYDON, CORNER HOUSE. Renamed **BLACKSMITHS (THE)**, still fizz, H now removed. Previously O'NEILL'S, originally **BLACKSMITHS ARMS**. (3SE236, U119, U156)

CROYDON, SORTER & PORTER. Address is now Billington Hill. (3SE248, U49, U108, U136)

SOUTH CROYDON, FOLLY. Now Porter Black Holdings, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly **SPOOFERS BAR**, originally **LE REFUGE**. (3SE278, U46, U52, U120, U130, U160)

WELLING, MOON & SIXPENCE. Renamed **NEW MOON (SHOTZ)**. Now S&N, ex-Whitbread, still fizz, H now removed. Formerly **STATION**. (3SE287, U74, U149, K146)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), BARLEY MOW, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; +Greene King: IPA; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Young: Special. (SW47, U149)

SW1(W), OLD MONK, 51 Horseferry Rd. - Theakston: Best Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter; +Brakspear: Bitter. Acquired by Puzzle Pub Co (along with a number of other outlets) from the now defunct Old Monk chain. (U150)

SW1(W), WESTMINSTER ARMS. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (SW50)

SW6, HAVANA. Renamed **FIESTA HAVANA**, still no real ale. (SW67)

SW6, WHITE HORSE, -Adnams: Extra (ceased brewing in 2000); -Highgate Dark Mild (consistently listed in the Good Beer Guide since 1986, now sadly withdrawn due to decline in sales) +Oakham: JHB; +Rooster: Yankee (both now regulars) Guest beer includes Hop Back: Summer Lightning. Adventurous array of Belgian beers and German PILS on keg dispense. (SW91)

SW11, BEEHIVE, -Fuller: Chiswick Bitter. Keg only version now sold. (SW86)

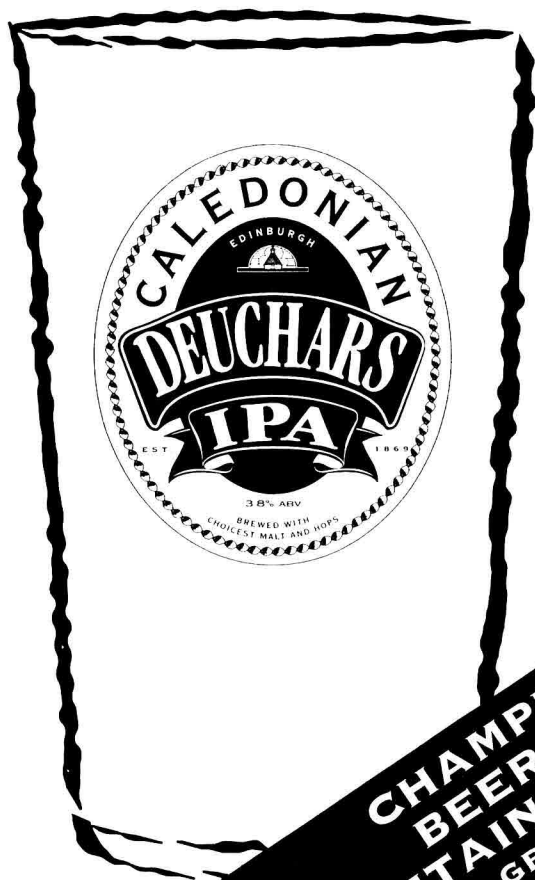
SW11, MESS. Renamed **COMMON ROOMS** but no external signage yet apparent. (SW89, U157)

SW12, ECLIPSE. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (U124, U146, U159)

SW16, JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly **HALF & HALF**. (SW105, U153)

SW17, GORDON BENNETT. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (SW109, U135, U151, U152, U159)

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**CHAMPION
BEER OF
BRITAIN ~ 2002
CAMRA GBBF, OLYMPIA**

CALEDONIAN BREWERY, EDINBURGH

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 168

SW19, WILLIAM MORRIS. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (SW121, U142)
KINGSTON, BOATERS INN & BRASSERIE. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (SW140)
MORDEN, JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (SW150, U132, U135, U136)

WEST

W4 JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Formerly WINDMILL. (W69, U92, U101, U102, U108, U142)
W5, BETTER HALF. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (U92)
W5, DUFFYS. Now Broken Foot Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (W72, U59, U93, U105)
W6, OLD SUFFOLK PUNCH. Renamed O.S.P. -beers listed except Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Refurbished in contemporary style. Formerly GOLDEN GLOVES. (W76, U87, U98)
W12, BAR ROOM BAR, Renamed ASKEW. Originally ASKEW ARMS. (W91, U88, U155)
W14, FOX, RATTLE & HUM. Reverted to FOX, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Refurbished in contemporary style with pine furniture and more emphasis on food. Previously

RAT & PARROT and FOX TAVERN for a while. (W94, U71, U92, U95, U98, U139, U141)
W14, HAND & FLOWER. Now Wizard Inns, ex-Regent Inns. Was HARVEY FLOORBANGERS for a while. (W94, U58, U71, U76, U153)
HAMPTON HILL, CAFE SOCIETY. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Regent Inns. (U167)
HOUNSLOW, D SHANNON & SONS. Secondary name O'ROURKES now removed. Formerly CHARLOT. (W126, U131)
TWICKENHAM, HOGSHEAD. Renamed UP N UNDER, -beers listed except Boddington: Bitter; +two guest beers (currently Hook Norton: Old Hooky and Taylor: Landlord). Now run by 'Eat Your Heart Out Ltd', ex-Laurel, but decor relatively unchanged. (U120)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 167

NEW PUBS ETC.

E14, WHITE HORSE. Delete entry, see under 'Pubs closed' above.
W6, BAR 38. Add: No real ale.
PUBS CLOSED ETC.
SW3, MWAH MWAH BAR. Refs omitted (SW57, U137)

CASK MARQUE UPDATE

An independent scheme jointly funded by participating brewers and retailers, the Cask Marque recognises excellence in serving cask ale. The award is made to a licensee, who has to pass two unannounced inspections with assessors sampling beers checking temperature, appearance, aroma and taste. Twice yearly inspections continue, with additional random inspections triggered by customer comment. Readers' vigilance will be valuable!

An asterisk indicates a pub listed in the 2003 *Good Beer Guide*.

ADDITIONS

CENTRAL

EC1, CASTLE, 34/35 Cowcross St. Six Continents. (E13, U70)
EC1, SIR CHRISTOPHER HATTON, 4 Leather Lane. Six Continents. (E24)
EC2, GLOBE/JOHN KEATES AT THE MOORGATE, 83/85 Moorgate. Six Continents. (E31, E33, U119, U134)
EC2, RACK & TENTER, 45 Moorfields. Wizard Inns, formerly PENNY BLACK. (E34, U70, U74, U76, U168)
EC3, EAST INDIA ARMS, 67 Fenchurch St. Six Continents. (E40, U98, U99, U119, U163)
EC3, SHIP, 11 Talbot Court. Six Continents. (E42, U131, U151)



EC4, HARROW*, 42 Whitefriars St. Six Continents. (E49)
EC4, SAMUEL PEPPYS, Stew Lane, High Timber St. Six Continents. (E54, U153)
W1(F), CARPENTERS ARMS, 68/70 Whitfield St. Six Continents. (W28, U82, U93)
W1(F), PRINCE OF WALES FEATHERS, 8 Warren St. Six Continents. (W32)
W1(F), TOTTENHAM, 6 Oxford St. Six Continents. (W32, U48, U89, U134, U151)
W1(May), BLACK LION & FRENCH HORN, 5 Pollen St. Six Continents. (W38, U90)
W1(May), SHELLEYS, 10 Stafford St. Six Continents. (W40, U98, U141, U151)
W1(S), DOG & DUCK, 18 Bateman St. Six Continents. (W42, U93, U150, U151)

CASK MARQUE UPDATE

WC2, ANGEL & CROWN, 58 St Martins Lane. Six Continents. (W52)

WC2, CAMBRIDGE, 93 Charing Cross Rd. Six Continents. (W52, U58, U151)

WC2, FREEMASONS ARMS, 81/82 Long Acre. Greene King. (W53)

WC2, WELLINGTON, 351 Strand. Six Continents. (W57)

EAST

E1, FIRST & LAST, 15 Little Somerset St. Six Continents, formerly DUKE OF SOMERSET. (E65, U134)

ILFORD, GREAT SPOON OF ILFORD, 114/116 Cranbrook Rd. Wetherspoon. (X73)

NORTH

N1, BULL, 100 Upper St. Six Continents, formerly FINNOCK & FIRKIN. (N44, U151, U159, U168)

N1, ISLAND QUEEN, 87 Noel Rd. Six Continents. (N48, U120)

N6, FLASK, 77 Highgate West Hill. Six Continents. (N82, U151)

NEW BARNET (EN4), LORD KITCHENER, 49 East Barnet Rd. McMullen. (N247, H84)

NORTH WEST

NW3, GARDEN GATE, 14 South End Rd. Six Continents, formerly RAILWAY TAVERN. (N189, U145, U152)

SOUTH WEST

SW5, DRAYTON ARMS, 153 Old Brompton Rd. Six Continents. (SW62, U153)

SW7, QUEENS ARMS, 30 Queens Gate Mews. Six Continents. (SW73)

SW11, FALCON, 2 St Johns Hill. Six Continents. (SW88, U144, U159)

SW15, JOLLY GARDENERS, 61/63 Lacy Rd. Six Continents. (SW101)

SW17, HOPE, 1 Bellevue Rd. Six Continents, formerly FAITH & FIRKIN. (SW108, U146, U151, U152, U159, U166)

RICHMOND, MARLBOROUGH, 46 Friars Stile Rd. Six Continents. (SW155, U151)

WEST

W2, LEINSTER, 57 Ossington St. Six Continents. (W62, U55)

W8, BUILDERS ARMS, 1 Kensington Court Place. Six Continents. (W79, U74, U94)

W8, DEVONSHIRE ARMS, 37 Marloes Rd. Six Continents. (W82, U49, U72, U94, U105)

W11, SUN IN SPLENDOUR, 7 Portobello Rd. Six Continents. (W90, U66, U147, U168)

W12, GOLDHAWK, 122 Goldhawk Rd. Six Continents. (W91, U151)

DELETION

Pubs may be deleted owing to change of licensee, failed inspection or decision by the licensee or sponsor to cease participation in the scheme.

SW6, FRONT ROOM, 314/316 Lillie Rd. Free House, formerly HALFWAY HOUSE. (SW67, U136, U150)

Over 2,300 licensees have the Cask Marque award. The beer in their outlets has been independently inspected for beer quality.

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of the above outlets**

BELGRAVIA REVISITED

On Saturday 28 September the London Pubs Group did a pub crawl of Belgravia, SW1 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the original crawl that took place shortly after the formation of the group. As I used to work near Belgravia in the 1980s and used to drink in some of the pubs, I thought that it would be nice to come along and have a look at some old haunts of mine.

Belgravia is an up-market area of London and most of the pubs are small and expensive with most of their customers being locals and regulars rather than passing trade. They are mainly in side turnings and mews rather than the main thoroughfares and most of them date from the early to mid 19th century. Originally the pubs were intended for the workmen building the area and then the domestic servants working in the houses. The strict social hierarchy of the time led to the building of lots of small pubs instead of several large ones, so that different groups could drink in different pubs. Even though they are small, most of the pubs were multi-barred, although most of them have been converted to single bar pubs. Some of the pubs do retain distinct separate drinking areas though.

Those of you who know the area will notice that the route we took is not the most direct route and does double back on itself. This is because not all of the

pubs are open all-day on a Saturday. One pub that does not appear to open at all on a Saturday is the Plumbers Arms in Lower Belgrave St, which I pass on the way to the starting pub. The Plumbers hit the headlines in November 1974 when Lady Lucan rushed in one night screaming that her children's nanny had been murdered. Another pub on the way to the start is the Rising Sun where I pop in for a quick half of Youngs Bitter for 8, which turned out to be the cheapest beer of the day.

The crawl starts in the Orange Brewery in Pimlico Road, a brewpub until this year. Currently Greene King IPA and Abbot are available and just before we leave a barrel of SW1, now brewed for the pub by McMullens, comes on. The current management did consider recommencing brewing on the premises but this is not now likely to happen.

The next pub is the Antelope in Eaton Terrace, a former Nicholsons pub now run by Six Continents. The beer range is the usual Six Continents one of Greene King IPA, London Pride and Adnams Bitter and I have a half of Adnams for 5. Built in 1830, the Antelope has many original features, including wood panelling and an oak floor. However some changes have been made and one of the party produces Ted Bruning's book of classic London pubs and we start comparing the current pub with the pictures in the

BELGRAVIA REVISITED

book. Personally I believe that the alcove on the left of the pub in which we are sitting was not there in the eighties as I remember the whole wall on the left being full of old rugby memorabilia. There are still some memorabilia on the wall and the pub has its own cricket team.

There is another pub in Eaton Terrace, the Duke of Wellington, now a Shepherd Neame pub, so I pop in for a half of bitter. On the way to the next pub we should be passing two more pubs but the Lowndes Arms in Chesham Street is no longer there and glancing through the window of the Tattersalls Tavern in Knightsbridge Green I can't see any handpumps so I presume it is now keg. As the Tattersalls has also been refurbished in a modern wine bar style that I don't care for, I don't bother to go in and check.. (Since I wrote this I have been advised that the Lowndes Arms was closed in the late 1990s and rebuilt as residential accommodation.)

The next pub on the crawl is the Paxtons Head on a Knightsbridge which, unlike the other pubs, is on a



main road and so gets a lot of passing trade. Like the Antelope it is a former Nicholsons pub now run by Six Continents and has the same beer range with the addition of Youngs Bitter. The pub is built in the late Victorian gin palace style and was originally a hotel. The first floor is now a restaurant and the upper floors are now offices. Unfortunately the pub is too crowded to fully appreciate the architecture and fittings and I found the background music too loud for comfort. Perhaps it would be better to visit the pub earlier in the week when it might be less crowded.

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ADVANCE INFORMATION

**Our next (Son of Scotland)
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*PS. I also cook some
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CAMRA Good Beer Guide
1994/5/6/7/8/9/2000/1/2/3

As we head to the next pub we notice a police helicopter hovering ahead. No doubt this was observing the day's anti-war march rather than a CAMRA pub crawl. The next port of call is in Kinnerton Street, a small mews turning just off Knightsbridge which, according to the South West London guide, has four pubs. It would be a quiet backwater but for the helicopter overhead. The first pub we come to is the Wilton Arms, not officially on the crawl but as it is a Shepherd Neame pub a few of us decide to try it. I try a half of Late Red, an unusual beer with a sweet, almost sickly taste reminiscent of Fullers Red Fox and O'Hanlons Red. Although the beer is in good condition it is not really to my taste.

The next pub on the crawl is the Nag's Head, a very small pub with two distinct bar areas on different levels and a lot of memorabilia decorating the walls, giving it a somewhat cluttered look and feel. Three beers from Adnams are available: Bitter, Broadside and Fisherman. As I cannot recall having seen Fisherman in London before I try a half of it, which for some reason I don't particularly enjoy although it is difficult to find any thing particularly wrong with the beer. Perhaps my taste buds are still affected by the Late Red from the Wilton. One problem with small pubs is they do get crowded quickly if a few non-regular customers come along, so a few of us step outside - but unfortunately the helicopter is still overhead.

The other two pubs listed in the South West London guide are at the other end of the street but on arrival I find that the Horse and Groom has been converted to an office. The Turks Head is still there but seems to have become a bit smaller than the pub I remember from the eighties. It now sells Bass, London Pride and Youngs Bitter.

Fortunately the helicopter has gone as we head towards the next pub on the crawl, the Grenadier. This is a small pub, down an exclusive private mews, that must be one of the most difficult pubs to find in London. Courage Best and Old Speckled Hen and Charles Wells Bombardier are the normal beers on but the Bombardier has run out by the time we arrive. The pub was supposed to have been originally used by the Grenadier Guards as an officers' mess and is alleged to be haunted by the ghost of an officer who was caught cheating at cards. However the guide claims that this refers to an earlier nearby tavern called the Grenadier and that there have been three separate taverns of that name in the area. The pub has two dining areas at the back, lots of military memorabilia and a pewter bar counter dating back to 1837. Given the military connections of the pub it is somewhat ironic that the crawl has now been joined by an anti-war protester and that there are several others in the pub.

BELGRAVIA REVISITED

Leaving the Grenadier I wander back to Belgrave Square. On the south east side is a mews turning called Groom Place with a Shepherd Neame pub, the Horse and Groom but it was shut. Further round the Square brings me to Belgrave Mews West and the Star. The Star is an ever-present entry in the *Good Beer Guide*, former Evening Standard Pub of the Year and former Society for the Preservation of Beer from the Wood Pub of the Year. The latter award is commemorated by an inscribed society mirror on the left as you enter but I notice that it is no longer there. When I ask the landlady about it she is amazed that anyone knows about it but tells me that the mirror has only just been taken down and put away as the pub is being refurbished in early October. She assures me that the mirror will be returned to its rightful place after the refurbishment. (Since I wrote this article I have visited the Star again. The refurbishment has been completed with no apparent changes to the pub, just a general tidy up, and the SPBW mirror has been restored to its rightful position.)

The Star has the full Fullers range, Chiswick, Honey Dew, Pride, and ESB, although no ESB was available

on the night. This is probably just as well considering the amount we had already had to drink. Bottles of Worthington White Shield are also available.

By now we are rather behind schedule when we leave for the last pub of the evening, the Fox and Hounds in Passmore Street. This was a former Charrington's house that was the last pub in London and possibly the whole country not to have a spirits licence. Only beers and wines, including fortified wines, could be sold. The idea behind the concept of a beer and wine only licence is that by denying workers access to spirits some control could be kept over their drinking. In the 1990s the pub was taken over by Youngs and in 1998 they obtained a spirits licence, although only a limited range of spirits are sold. They have also refurbished the pub in a light brown wine bar style that I don't care for. However all three Young's beers are on.

By now the crawl is breaking up and people are heading home. On the way back to Victoria Station I pop in the pub opposite Victoria Coach station, but I can't remember its name or what beer I had.

Colin Price



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WUNDERBAR COPENHAGEN

The Danes like their beer and they have a pub culture. In fact there are bars here that UK pubs should be like; dark wood, choice of beers (albeit gassed) and friendly and helpful bar staff who speak English. This was the reason that we decided to get away for a Christmas break to the city of the Little Mermaid.

We arrived on a Thursday evening, just before Christmas and with the Danes not wanting to miss out on a marketing opportunity, all the bars were serving either Carlsberg's Carls Jul or Tuborg's (owned by Carlsberg) Julebryg. These were both dark beers brewed for the festive season. Neither had much of a nose, both were low in gas, slightly bitter but, unfortunately, somewhat disappointing. In the UK you would be looking for a hint of cinnamon, spice or citrus fruit. Here we had nothing, and it was such a shame.

Never mind, Friday afforded us the opportunity to visit the Carlsberg brewery and perhaps taste something a bit different. The place is huge and the train helpfully drops you off at a point furthest away from the visitors' centre. It therefore takes about fifteen minutes to get to the front door via the huge elephant columns that guard the entrance and appear on a label or two.

The set-up is slick, the receptionist friendly, gently ribbing us Brits about how Nelson tried to destroy the city in 1807 (didn't he die in 1805?) and giving us our free drinks vouchers for later in the morning.

Of course, Carlsberg don't actually brew on the site, which caused me to wonder exactly what they do in the vast town sized brewery. The history of the brewery was represented by static information boards with the odd video. The 1930's cinema advertisements caught my attention, depicting bare-chested Vikings (of the female persuasion) vigorously and enthusiastically milling barley - and I thought Danish Blue was a cheese!

We did find out that JC Jacobson, the brewery's founder, was very enamoured with British beer and tried to replicate it in Denmark in the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, the Danes weren't such lovers - save for those appearing in the cinema advertisements!

Then there were the shire horses, huge, friendly and aromatic kept to breed with good old fashioned English stock. And just beyond the stables, in the same area, was the bar, also aromatic.

Plenty of beers to try. We were very taken by the Hvede Carlsberg a top fermented 5.8% brew reminiscent of a German wheat beer, sharp and refreshing with a good follow through.

After corporate overload we headed for a small bar reputed to serve non-gassed Carlsberg. '90eren'

(Gammel Kongevej 90) did not disappoint. Dark, cosy, nicotine stained and distinctly un-trendy - this was the real Copenhagen. The beer, smooth and slightly hoppy, took 14 minutes to pour and arrived with a huge Mr Whippy head. It was worth the wait and the price.

Oh yes - the prices. Copenhagen is not cheap. A half litre of beer was usually about ??? We mentioned this to a group of Norwegians we happened to get talking to in a bar. They told us they had been paying 50 a half litre the day before in Norway!

Copenhagen's oldest bar, Rabes Have (Langebrogade 8), is well worth a visit. Reminiscent of a cross between an English dockyard watering hole and a cricket pavilion, the atmosphere was quaint and traditional. Other places of note are The Old English Pub (Vesterbrogade 2b), Bryggeriet Apollo (Vesterbrogade 3) - the organic brewpub by the station and anything which looks dark and cosy down along Nyhaven, the new port.

And so to a few of the more unusual beers.

We tried the Carlsberg Elephant Beer. This is the strong special brew and was served from an elephant shaped dispenser in a bar along Nyhaven. Curiously, the bar did not serve the drink in 25cl measures and we could only get it in half litres. This had a distinct nose, quite a bitter finish and you could taste the alcohol - a whopping 7.2%. Perhaps this is from where we get the expression 'elephants' trunk'!

In bottles we tried Ceres' Bering Bryg, a dark brew, sweet and brewed with rum and lemon although this was not the overriding flavour. What it did remind us of was weak cherry brandy. Ideal for a cold Danish evening.

Carlsberg 47 - this had a very yeasty nose and a creamy head when poured. Amber/walnut in colour with particularly small gas bubbles. The beer did not taste of the 7% alcohol that it contained and was well balanced. Quite juicy malt in the mouth with a dry, citrusy finish.

Hancock's Old Gambrinus Beer Light. This was a bit of a dark horse if that is not a contradiction in terms. A light, golden beer with a hint of tropical fruit and banana on the nose. The taste was very slightly artificial, as if sugar syrup had been added. The alcohol content came as a bit of a surprise - 9%. Very drinkable but not a session beer.

And so back home. If you are looking for a winter weekend break to a city that embraces the beer culture, Copenhagen is the place - but beware the Danny Kayes!

Ian Pearson

IDLE MOMENTS

*'Twas Christmas night in the cookhouse
The soldiers had gone to bed.
They'd none of them had any pudding
'cause the sergeant had done what they said.*

I know you've seen it before but I like it – I thought it would set the seasonal tone quite nicely. It's by Billy Bennett ("Almost a Gentleman") by the way.

No I don't know what happened to questions 7 to 10 last time either; all I know is that I can't shout too loud because it was my own branch beer festival's advert that displaced them and my valedictory greeting. Still, it means I didn't have to work quite so hard to bring you this month's little diversion which I shall start, as ever, with the number puzzles:

12 CC in a P
100 LT in a SS
7 C of the S
462 WA of a PSE
15 M on a DMC
9 A in the RADT
224 O in a S
10 GB (HOTW)
40 LB!
32 BS on a CB

Just because it's coming up to Christmas, don't think you are getting away without a few brewery anagrams to decipher; here they are:

MISLED RAGS
BAD ROLE
T'MARS BAR
KNEAD ALL
ALL AS WEED
L.T. RACEWEAR
CRY TORE
LOVED RACE
THROWN WET
NEAT MIME

And so with awful inevitability, we arrive at 5BY4 time. I thought it was time to have a change from beers beginning with . . . and having used up most of the Christmas No. 1's in previous years I suddenly thought (Yes, I know, a rarity that!). So here we have some rock'n'roll songs with "rock" in their titles; can you match them to the artists in the second list?

- 1 Rock-a-Doodle-Do
- 2 Rock'n'Roll is King
- 3 Rock the Boat
- 4 Rock and Roll Dreams Come Through

- 5 Rock With the Caveman
- 6 Rock'n'Roll Winter
- 7 Rock Bottom
- 8 Rock and Roll Music
- 9 Rock DJ
- 10 Rock and Roll Waltz

- 1 Hues Corporation
- 2 Beach Boys
- 3 Kay Starr
- 4 Electric Light Orchestra
- 5 Lynsey de Paul
- 6 Meat Loaf
- 7 Linda Lewis
- 8 Tommy Steele
- 9 Wizzard
- 10 Robbie Williams

And now it's time for the last section, the Trivial Knowledge bit:

- 1 Which state of the USA is known as the "Cotton State"?
- 2 What place has a name that translates into English as "Fragrant Harbour"?
- 3 Who is the missing member of this trio – Mary Wilson, Florence Ballard, - ?
- 4 Who is the famous daughter of actress Maureen O'Sullivan?
- 5 Where would you find Willy Nilly, Bessie Bighead and Organ Morgan?
- 6 Which king of England founded the senior order of chivalry, the Order of the Garter?
- 7 How many movements are there in Holst's Planets Suite?
- 8 What baggy style of men's trousers was named after the amount of extra material needed by the tailor to make them?
- 9 What was the name of the steam railway locomotive built in 1813 for Wylam Colliery in Northumberland by William Hedley?
- 10 What was described in 1939 by Winston Churchill as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma"?

Well that's yer lot. I hope you have a peaceful Christmas and an excellent New Year so that you are refreshed and ready for more irritations in February.

Cheers!
Andy Pirson

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IDLE MOMENTS

OCTOBER'S ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 18 is the Minimum Voting Age in Great Britain
- 2001 A Space Odyssey
- 126 Miles Per Hour is the Record Speed for a Steam Hauled Train
- 12 Strings on a Twelve String Guitar
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo
- 200 Pounds for Passing Go in Monopoly
- 1000 Fathoms in a Nautical Mile
- 54 Gallons in a Hogshead
- 1977 Red Rum Won the Grand National
- 640 Acres in a Square Mile

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

- OH HOPPY RAKE!
HAPPY HOOKER
- TRY UKE
TURKEY
- REST A CLOCK
CASTLE ROCK
- GO HARM NICK
ROCKINGHAM
- HARD ROC
RICHARD
- HARD IRON & BREAD
HADRIAN & BORDER
- BRIDE TENT
BITTER END
- WED TO WOE
WEETWOOD
- TO JAB OLLY
JOLLYBOAT
- HOLD PIN
DOLPHIN

5BY4:

- Nelson's Revenge - Woodforde's
- Newton's Drop - Oldershaw
- Nailmaker Mild - Enville
- Nanny Flyer - Leyden
- Navigation Ale - Ryburn
- Nutcracker - Hanby
- Northern Light - Orkney
- N/4 Bitter - Marble
- No-Eyed Deer - Goose Eye
- Norman's Conquest - Cottage

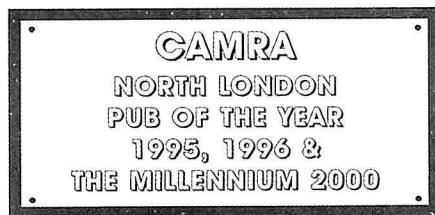
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- The ingredient in the brewing of beer formerly known as "godesgood" is Yeast.
- The chain of pubs run by former CAMRA national chairman, Chris Hutt is Wizard Inns
- And the title of the book published by the same Chris Hutt in 1973 about the brewing industry is "The Death of the English Pub."
- The Walker Cup (men) and the Curtis Cup (women) are the trophies for the international competitions between amateur golfers.
- The infamous one word headline in the *Sun* on 4th May 1982, following the sinking of the General Belgrano was "Gotcha!"
- William Joyce (1906-1946) was commonly known as Lord Haw-Haw



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This issue is dedicated to the saintly Ted Bruning, who has shown himself to be a true fan of this column.

◆ Many people tell me that they do not bother to read CAMRA's monthly comic, *What's Brewing* because it is extremely boring. I can understand that point of view but, at present, non-readers are missing a rare treat.

It comes in the form of a regular feature entitled 'Bottle Bank', sponsored by Tesco and written by one 'Des de Moor'. At first sight it appears to be a review of a particular bottled beer, but closer reading has led me (and several others) to conclude that it is a spoof on the writing of one Roger Protz, a gentleman who describes himself as a 'Beer Writer'. I quote an example:

'The distinctively toasty, smoky and pastilley (sic!) and slightly sharp aroma leads to a very malty, fruity and minerally (sic!) mouthful that reminded me of "Scotland's other national drink, Irm Bru". There's some burnt rubber smokiness, then a sudden rush of rounded ashy hops in the finish. This quickly subsides leaving a long-lingering fruitiness laced with flashes of powder-dry bitterness and a hint of salt.'

Brilliantly Protzian though this is, it is a trifle too restrained to be genuinely the work of the maestro. So who is 'Des de Moor'? Some suspect it to be the work of none other than my good self but, as is my policy, I make no comment. I just hope that the writer's true identity never comes to light - and that if it does, the person concerned has kept his car insurance up to date.

◆ It seems that CAMRA's wonderful new idea, Ninkasi, Goddess of Beer, has gone down a storm. This new wheeze consists of getting some relatively fit bird to dress up in a sub-Lara Croft style costume and pose with a pint in her hand. Wow! The alcopop-swigging yoof market **will** be impressed.

All this, however, is a mere warm-up to the main objective, which is to market Ninkasi to CAMRA members as an inflatable life-size rubber doll. Apparently it will be very competitively priced as, being aimed at the CAMRA membership, it will not require to be provided with orifices. It will simply come with a free tube of hand lotion and a packet of Kleenex.

◆ So, CAMRA's high panjandrams are at it again! Once more they have arranged a £60 per head dinner at the old Whitbread Brewery in Chiswell Street, this time to celebrate 30 years of the *Good Beer Guide*. The timing is impeccable, the event coming as it does at the same time that Whitbread's parent company, Interbrew announces what looks like a death sentence on Boddington's Strangeways Brewery in Manchester. It is difficult to get angry about this dinner, however, since those who arranged it are not ethically challenged but simply hapless clowns.

I decided not to go: £60 will buy me a skinful of the excellent Hop Back GFB plus a takeaway curry on the way home - twice. This I regard as a far better bet than larks tongues in Hoegaarden jus or timbale of sheep scrotum washed down with Leffe Brune. Moreover, there is no risk of being seated within earshot of Jade 2 or the Interbrew Kid.

◆ The 'campaign' for a full pint drones on, and so I now reveal to readers Garry's own strategy for ensuring full measure or else furthering the aim of government legislation:

1. visit a pub where you are not known;
2. take plenty of small change;
3. if given short measure (say the legally required 95%), tender 95% of the asking price, explaining why;
4. if this offer is refused, throw the beer over the barperson, smash the glass on the floor and beat a hasty retreat.

Since the effect of the above action will be to increase the rate of pub violence, Home Secretary Blunkett will surely intervene with the DTI to get them to legislate on full measure. Sorted!

Alternatively, you could just ask for a top-up. Cheers! *Garry.*

REAL ALE STUDY; UPDATE...

You have to hope that this study is flawed but, sadly, the evidence seems irrefutable.

Scientists have recently suggested that the results of ongoing analysis may indicate the presence of female hormones in beer.

They recommend that men should take a look at their beer consumption, since the emerging theory is that drinking beer makes men turn into women...

To test the theory, 1000 members of the Campaign For Real Ale were observed over a considerable period of time. Subjects were chosen because of their fondness for the real thing.

It was then observed that 100% of the men gained weight and talked excessively without making sense, ... 92% became overly emotional, couldn't drive and failed to think rationally. Many of the men studied even argued over nothing, had to sit down while urinating, couldn't perform sexually, and refused to apologize when wrong.

STOP PRESS

No further testing is planned for real ale products, however Home Office Boffins have suggested that there may well be a link between keg "lagers", smooth-flow pseudo-ales, and the DNA of Primates and Lesser Apes....

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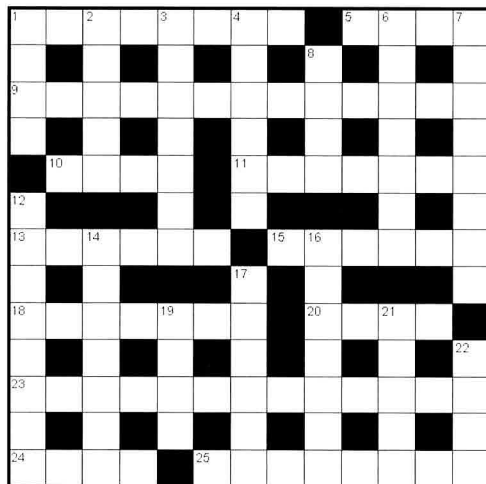
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LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON

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All correct entries received by first post on 29th January will be entered into a draw for the prize.

Prize winner will be announced in the April London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the February edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Personal assistant hitting from Mum and Dad? [8]
5. Buzzer's quiet sound. [4]
9. Amazingly it charms me; it's the present day. [13]
10. Carol hasn't started badly in test. [4]
11. "Flower of Scotland" may make the list. [7]
13. Donkey is one from St. Francis' place. [6]
15. Bear a grudge about gift being reduced. [6]
18. It may warm a man at Christmas. [7]
20. Cut off some of the port. [4]
23. Worn out, obese, that woman has occasion to see him round about now. [3,6,4]
24. Very bad start to diet is reindeer eating. [4]
25. Kind of devil extremely lasciviously embracing redhead. [8]

DOWN

1. Stranger leaves parcel and cards. [4]
2. It's less common for two army units to be on first raid. [5]
3. Snuggles down with chocolates? [7]
4. Confesses when boy is put up in posters. [6]
6. Correspondence as record is let out. [7]
7. Gives gifts. [8]
8. It may be drunk during 9. [4]
12. Father's weapon will get you by the guards. [8]
14. He rides on a sleigh. [7]
16. Back a loser for the Cockney. [7]
17. Convicted criminal is more cunning. [6]
19. Drop and damage. [4]
21. Mary's boy in the song. [5]
22. More than usually it's in over Yuletide. [4]

Winner of the prize for the August Crossword:

Tom Kemp, London SE5

Other correct entries were received from:

Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Geoff B, Les Behan, Steve Block, John Blundell, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Chris Fran & a Spotted Dog, Brian Collins, A.P. & R.A.Comaish, Paul Curson, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Mike Farrelly, Marion Goodall, J.E.Green, R.J.Green, Stuart Guthrie, Tarnya Haigh, Mrs.P.Hall, John Heath, Kevin Henriques, Billy Hernon, Graham Hill, Sheerluck Holmes, Terry Lavell, Al Mountain, Terry Neill, Rod Prince, Bryan Smith, Billy Sollocks, Eileen Stone, Stuart Joan & Mike, Bill Thackray, Tony Watkins, Martin Weedon, Ian Whiteman, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, Bobby Wobbsy.

There were also two incorrect entries

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