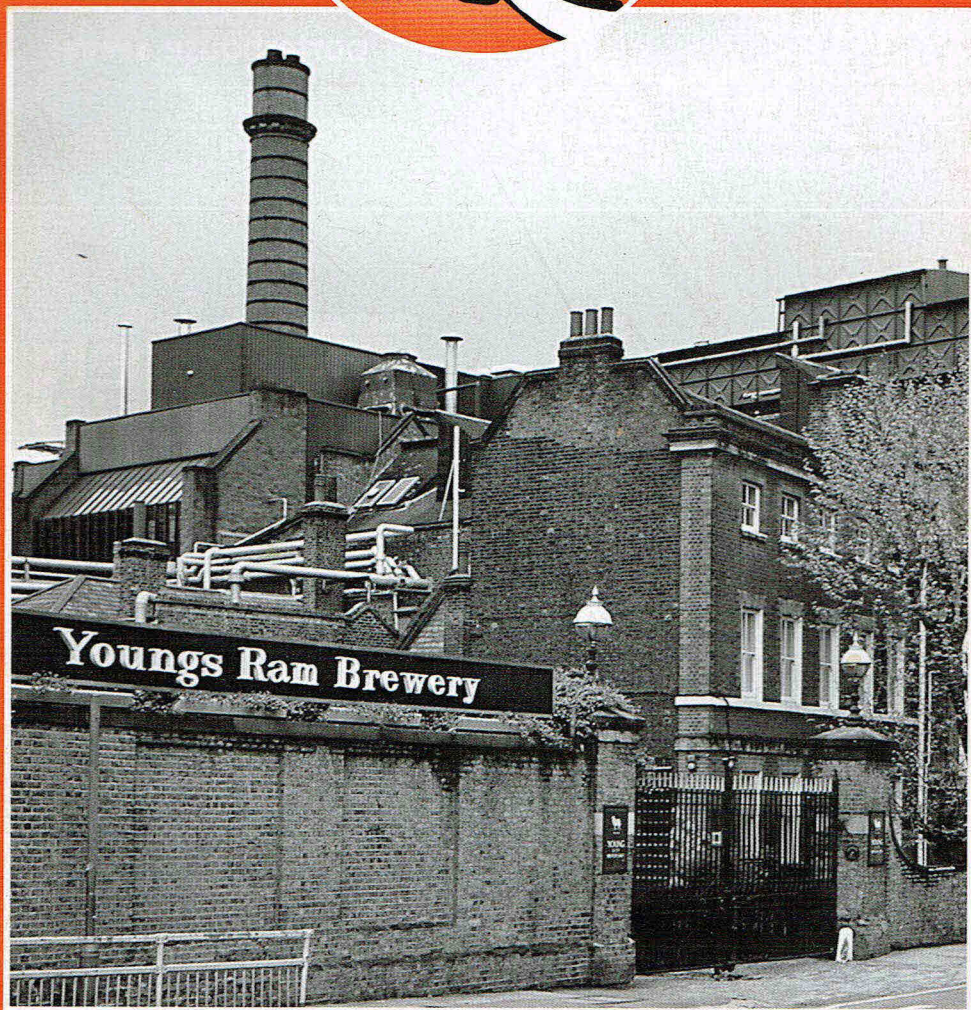



Produced on behalf of the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale

LONDON DRINKER

VOL 26
No.1

FEBRUARY
MARCH
2004



Wandsworth's historic town centre - see page 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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Welcome to what I am told is to be the 'Year of Food with Beer'. I am not sure where this notion has come from but it is an issue worth looking at. Ale has a long history of being served with food in inns and taverns whose main purpose was to offer accommodation to travellers. This declined in the first half of the last century, however, to the point in the 1950s where an advertising agency had to invent the 'ploughman's lunch' to encourage people to eat in pubs. Before that, it had just been called bread and cheese... There was no general expectation of pubs to serve food and the breweries tended not to get involved. The food was usually the guv'nor's wife's perk and you could often get really good quality, genuinely home-made food. Although sometimes you did not... In recent years, it has only been the food trade that has enabled many country pubs to stay in business.

The future however looks very different. We have seen the advent of the 'gastropub' and many breweries and pub companies are jumping on the bandwagon and taking control of the kitchens. Food in pubs is going up market in a big way. We are even having beers brewed especially to go with food, such as Greene King's 'Beer to Dine For'. I welcome this and I suspect that I am not alone because I know that many fellow CAMRA members enjoy other good things in life beyond beer. I would much rather eat in a decent pub than in a restaurant, which I often find intimidatingly formal. As much as I enjoy wine, if I eat in a pub then I usually prefer to drink beer.

That said, I have my reservations. We need to make sure that we do nothing whatsoever to discourage or denigrate the traditional pub that opts to concentrate on its beer and has limited or no food service. I deeply hope that these pubs will remain the backbone of our Good Beer Guide.

As for 'gastropubs', I would like them to make it clear where they stand on serving beer without food. However good their beer might be, if you can only drink it with a meal then they are restaurants and they should make it clear that they are not pubs and they should not pretend to be.

For those jumping on the bandwagon, please give some thought to quality and value for money. Spare us the sophisticated and expensive menus which turn out to be made up of tasteless microwaved 'homestyle' pap from some distant production-line. There is no need to go over the top with the menus either. Sometimes it is the simplest preparation that brings out the best in the best ingredients. With apologies to vegetarian readers, what more do you need to do with really top quality ham than serve it up with a properly cooked egg and good chips? Similarly, let us not disparage the likes of the good old doorstep sausage sandwich with proper meaty sausages and good bread. I hope that there will always be a choice between full meals and hearty snacks on any menu.

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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1994/5/6/7/8/9/2000/1/2/3/4
email: bestpubloke@aol.com

EDITORIAL

I would like to see the food menus backed up by proper information on the beers available to accompany it. A lot of pubs have wine lists, so why not something similar for the beer? The only pub that I know of that does this is the White Horse at Parsons Green; good on them. Doing this will hopefully encourage people to try the beer and promote our cause. I do not want to sound cynical but I wonder if beer might not be being promoted in these circumstances because of the higher mark-up on wines.

Finally, bottom line: we are the Campaign for Real Ale. Good beer should be pre-eminent, not just seen as an accompaniment.

Tony Hedger

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Beer has been brewed on the Ram Brewery site in Wandsworth for more than 400 years - longer than anywhere else in this country. Development plans for Wandsworth Town Centre now threaten our heritage. Young's response, sent to its shareholders on 27 November 2003, politely challenges the local authority to provide any alternative site:

Wandsworth Town Centre Regeneration

The Board of Young & Co.'s Brewery ("the Company") is to enter into discussions with Wandsworth Borough Council ("the Council") regarding a review of future development plans for Wandsworth Town Centre, including the Ram Brewery site.

This decision has been driven by the Company's regular review of its assets and the investment requirements of its business. The Board is also mindful of last year's Wandsworth Local Plan Review, which raised the issue of the Ram Brewery site being included within a zoning which would provide for alternative land use, and the publication in July this year of the Mayor's Draft London Plan, which identified Wandsworth Town Centre as a key area for regeneration.

As the first step in the process, the Company expects to participate in a feasibility study with the Council on the development of a master plan for Wandsworth town centre. This is likely to take around two years to complete. This feasibility study would need to review the many issues which will arise from alternative land use, such as environmental, planning, heritage and traffic management. The study would also examine the relocation of the Ram Brewery to a new site within Wandsworth Borough.

The Board would like to stress that this process is at a very early stage. There will be many issues to be considered before the process reaches a conclusion prior to tackling the complexities of seeking planning consent. There is, consequently, no certainty that this process will lead to any decision by the Board to redevelop the current site. Accordingly shareholders are advised that they should not make any investment decision on the basis that there may be a redevelopment of the brewery site.

John Young, Chairman of Young's said:

'Any proposal to redevelop Wandsworth Town Centre will have a major impact on the local community. Young's has an important role in the community, particularly as a local employer, and we believe that participating fully in the review is important for both the business and the community as a whole.

The last major redevelopment on the Ram Brewery site was back in 1984, with the completion of a new brewhouse, which replaced some equipment that had been in use for more than 100 years. We look regularly at ways to improve the efficiency of our business. Given the Council's and the Mayor's comments on Wandsworth Town Centre regeneration, the Board felt that it was sensible to examine the feasibility and desirability of redeveloping the brewery site and relocating to a new site in Wandsworth before we undertook any significant further modernisation.

We are at start of a long process and there is no certainty about the outcome of the review, but we are keen to support the Council in plans to make Wandsworth an even better place to live and work.

The Board wants to make the following points:

No decision has been, or could yet be, taken about the Brewery - this site includes the Company's brewery, head office, sales, administration and distribution operations;

Brewing is an important part of Young's business, as is our role and position within the local community. It is our intention that any relocation of the Ram Brewery should be within the borough of Wandsworth;

We are not short-term property speculators - we are looking to deliver value to our shareholders for years into the future.'

Stephen Goodyear, Chief Executive of Young's added:

'As the process develops, there will be many people involved, much local interest and many issues to be considered. No decision in relation to the site has been taken and there is no certainty that relocation will be either desirable or possible. We are making this announcement at an early stage to make the Board's position clear and to enable a thorough and open review to be undertaken.

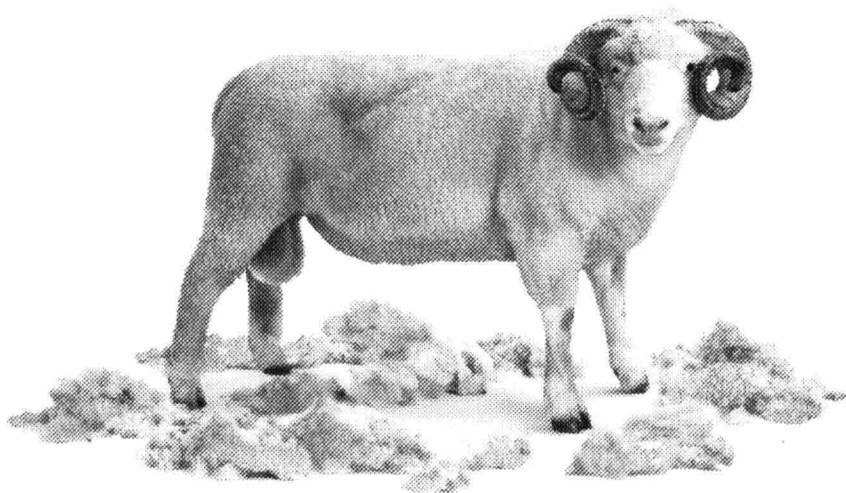
We will keep shareholders informed of any material developments, but do not intend to comment further at this stage.'

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Natural

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◆ Second National Pubs Week, 21-28 February

In association with partners such as the British Institute of Innkeeping, The Publican and brewers, CAMRA has selected 21-28 February 2004 for the second annual National Pubs Week. Participating pubs will have posters, beer mats and, in most cases, additional ales and special events. One of the partners is Fullers, many of whose pubs will be aiming to create a 'home from home' atmosphere and offering beer tasting and tuition. CAMRA is offering FREE promotional packs to licensees for NPW 2004. These will include posters, beer mats, advice and briefing sheets and sample press releases. Ordering direct from CAMRA couldn't be any easier. Licensees can order by phone (01727 867201) or on-line (www.camra.org.uk/pubsweek)

According to Tony Jerome, CAMRA's Press Manager, 'Over 15,000 pubs came on board last year and we hope to increase this amount in 2004. It is very important that pub goers encourage their local pubs to order the material from CAMRA as soon as possible and get thinking about what events they can arrange to encourage more customers to visit their pub more regularly. The pub doesn't have to organise anything too imaginative - themed party nights, food and beer promos, local comedians, magicians, pub quizzes and pub crawls with other local pubs can all be very successful and increase pub-going figures.'

Kingston and Leatherhead branch is acutely aware of at least four pubs lost in the branch area during 2003. Gill Baker, branch pubs officer, commented: 'make a late New Year resolution to visit your local, use it or lose it.' The branch fully supports the aims of a diverse choice and thriving stock of licensed premises. There will be a pub crawl of Epsom to sample the variety still available on 26th February, starting at 8pm at the Assembly Rooms in the High Street. All are welcome to come along and will be given a free handout describing a little of the character and history of the pubs visited.

South West London branch will be conducting ten pub crawls over the course of the week, led by the branch representative for the district in question. Each will provide timely opportunities for completion of surveys for the 2005 Good Beer Guide, collection of data for CAMRA's annual prices survey and local campaigning, as well as giving everyone involved a good day or night out. Participation is not compulsory, but CAMRA expects....

The London Pubs Group launches National Pubs Week on Saturday 21 February with a tour of pubs in Herne Hill, Dulwich and Sydenham. On the closing Saturday evening, 28 February, CAMRA's

2003 Greater London Pub of the Year, the Royal Oak in Tabard Street, SE1 will be the venue for an all London social. These and other events are listed in Branch Diaries on pages 16 and 17.

◆ Pubco consolidation continues

The expansion of the giant pub companies has continued recently, with the takeover of Pubmaster by Punch Taverns late in 2003. Although around 200 pubs will have to be sold off to satisfy competition authorities, Punch will end up with over 7,000 pubs; this makes it briefly the biggest pub company in the country, until the completion of Enterprise's takeover of Unique takes it up to 9,000 pubs. These new mega-companies are far larger than the estates of any of the national breweries before they sold off their pubs following the 1989 Monopolies Commission report.

CAMRA had been warning of the danger to consumers of consolidation of pub companies creating a monopoly every bit as harmful as that of the Big Six brewers of the 1980s. Now, these fears have been realised.

◆ Supermarkets fail to support British beer

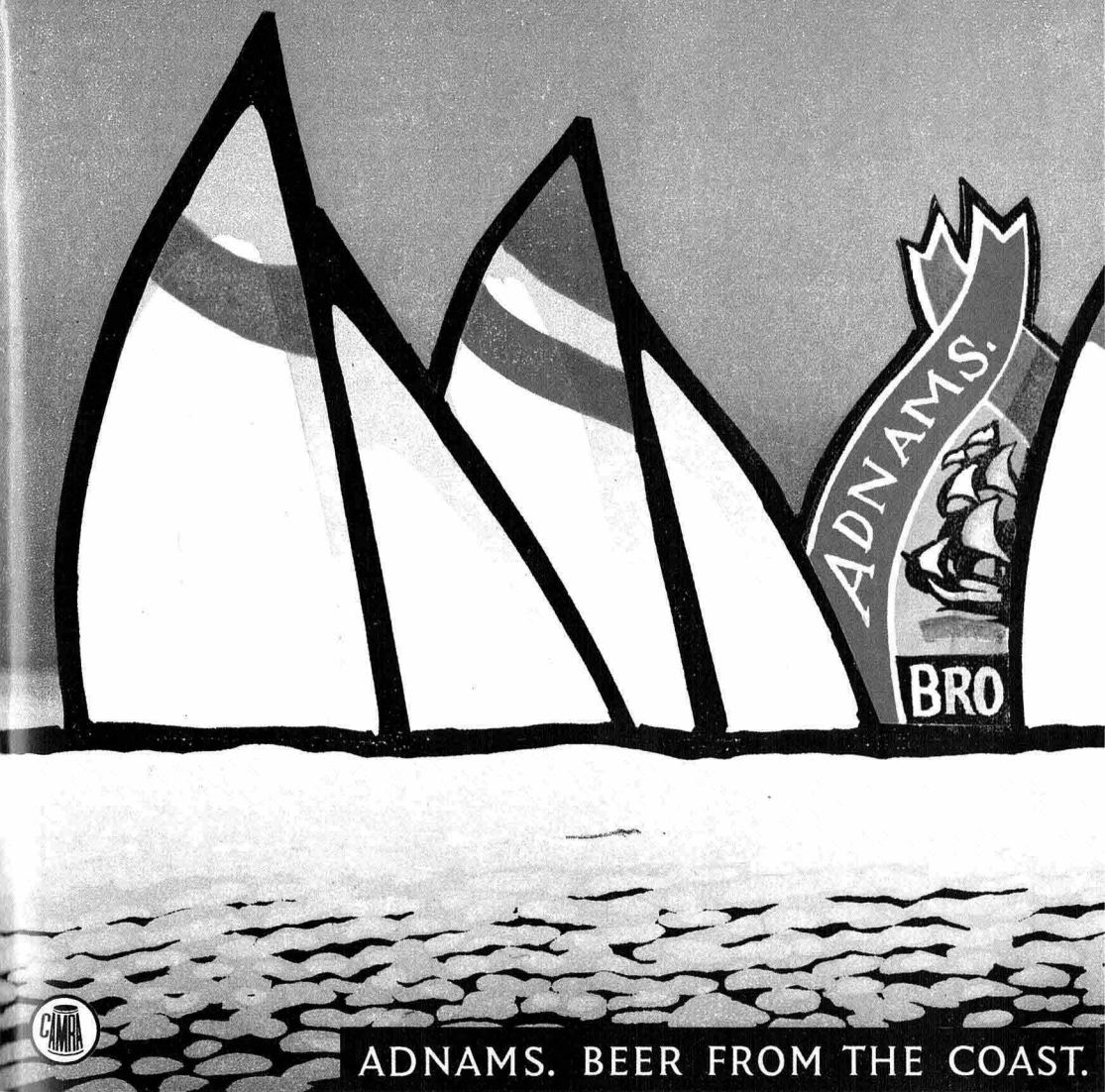
With drinking at home taking a seasonal rise with Christmas, the London branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, conducted a survey to find out where to get the best beer. But the survey showed that far from showing support for Britain's own quality brewers at this time of good will, the major chains of supermarkets are preferring to give equal space to imported beer and usually ten times more space to wine.

The average breakdown of the beer and wine fixture gave 6% to bottled British beer, 6% to imported bottle beer, 19% to canned beer and 69% to wine. But of the bottled British beer less than 10% (0.6% of the whole fixture) was 'real ale in a bottle'.

Robin Forshaw-Wilson, CAMRA's London Regional Director, said 'A couple of supermarket chains are clearly making an effort but the majority of supermarkets only stocked one or, at the most, two 'real ales in a bottle' and some stocked none at all. This is a disappointing situation even compared to just a couple of years ago. We believe that bottled real ale delivers a superior flavour. These beers are usually from independent craft brewers who form the backbone of our brewing industry. But independent supermarkets in London were even worse. On average they gave twice as much space to bottled imported beer as to British beer'.

'Anecdotally, we are aware that many beer buyers in major supermarkets have little or no knowledge of the UK bottled beer market and some don't even

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NEWS ROUND-UP

drink beer! Supermarkets would not put someone in charge of wine buying with no knowledge, so why do the same with beer?

CAMRA is calling on the major supermarkets to review their beer fixture and make a New Year resolution to give more support to British beer and 'real ale in a bottle' beers in particular by appointing more buyers who understand and appreciate UK beer.

'Real ale in a bottle', also known as bottle conditioned beer, is not pasteurised or filtered. Leaving the yeast in the bottle enables the beer to undergo secondary fermentation, which develops a richer, fuller taste. Pasteurisation and/or filtration stops this secondary fermentation happening. The survey indicated confusion as to which beers are pasteurised and which are real. CAMRA would like to see all brewers ensuring that the beers are clearly labelled if they are real ale. In London, both Fuller's and Young's breweries produce a real ale in a bottle: Young's Special London Ale and Fuller's 1845.

Independent grocers are generally very poor supporters of British bottled beer. None surveyed stocked any real ale in a bottle and most of the beer fixture was imported beer (24%) and canned beer (62%). Specialist beer shops offer by far the best range, stocking a large range of bottled real ale as well as other British beer. Two of those surveyed are

regular entries to CAMRA's Good Beer Guide: The Bitter End, Masons Hill in Bromley and The Beer Shop, Pitfield Street, NI.

◆ Rewards for Young's tenants who increase cask ale sales

Young's have launched an incentive scheme to encourage pub tenants to sell more cask beer. Until the end of March, their 92 tenants will be offered discounts and prizes for improving sales of traditional beer. Each tenant's purchases of Young's draught Bitter, Special, Winter Warmer and Waggle Dance will be measured against a target based mainly on the pub's sales in the same period last year. If an increase of more than 10 per cent is achieved, the tenant will get a cashback discount on all cask sales over the period.

The publican who shows the greatest volume increase in the 12 weeks will win £1,000 in holiday vouchers, valid on any trip for a year. The runner-up will get £750 in vouchers and the third £500.

Launching the scheme, brewery chairman John Young told tenants: 'Cask ales are the lifeblood of Young's. The continued success of our fine cask ales is at the heart of our company's future. Please get behind this great incentive and encourage more and more people to enjoy the pleasures of great beer.'



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◆ Waterways pubs plan

An ambitious plan has been announced by British Waterways to create a network of waterside pubs along the 2,000 miles of canals and rivers that it controls throughout the country.

BW are looking for private sector partners to help it in developing 60 prime urban and rural waterside sites. Interested parties had to come forward by mid-January, after which they would be given a list of sites and invited to submit bids. Selection is expected to be complete by the summer.

James Froomeberg, BW commercial director, says: 'The Waterside Pub Partnership is the first in the sector offering the perfect blend: industry experience, an attractive portfolio of waterside sites and expertise in creating and marketing attractive and vibrant waterside locations. The partnership will have a unique proposition - and the unique skills and experience to make it work.'

◆ Pop into the pub - for tea and a cake

Young's have recently brought relief to people who have had enough of the crowds and need a snack and somewhere to relax after a hard day's Christmas shopping. They were being invited to a pub. Not for the Young's beers on offer or even for a glass of wine, but for a nice cup of tea and a cake.

In a pilot scheme, three Young's houses - the Hammersmith Ram, the Old Ship in Richmond, and the Next Door bar and restaurant in Oxford - served traditional English teas every weekday afternoon in the run up to Christmas.

Customers got tea or coffee accompanied by a choice of cakes or a home-made sweet, and 50p from every sale went to the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

◆ The Oakdale is a first!

The Oakdale Arms in Oakdale Road is the first pub in London's N4 postal district to win North London CAMRA's Pub of the season. Up against some strong competition, the pub won for its commitment to serving real ale and offering a friendly welcome to all comers. Soon due to be sympathetically refurbished, the pub boasts a traditional public bar with a darts board, pool and juke box. The lounge is large but its design gives three separate drinking areas, each with a slightly different feel.

Unusually the pub sells a range of beers (four during the week, including a mild, increasing to six at weekends) from Cambridgeshire's Milton Brewery (its sister company). It also stocks a guest beer and a real cider, a really rare occurrence in London. The pub has been open only a matter of months and already it is making its mark as a fine outlet for real

ales. But it is clear that, although it is priding itself on its real ale, it is trying to appeal to everyone in the local community as well as visitors from further afield. It deserves to have everyone's support.

The award was presented by CAMRA to the Oakdale Arms on Tuesday 25 November.



Landlord Tom Beran flanked by bar staff Sandra (l) and Mariana (r).

◆ South East London CAMRA hits 30

Close your eyes and think of this - 30 years ago, on 15 July 1974 to be precise, a group of people sat in the Lord Derby at Plumstead, SE18 at the first meeting of the South East London Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. Did they dare to imagine it still going strong thirty years later!

We have a lot to thank them for. So we are now looking for their help once more - but this time to help us celebrate 30 amazing years. We know who you are, your names are in the branch archives, but where are you now? Some of you are still in the branch (albeit a little quiet of late) and some of you may have moved away. Please make yourselves known to the Branch Chair; we would love you to be part of our party year to celebrate this tremendous achievement. We are also looking for all the past Committee Members of the Branch to join us. What stories you all must have to tell! And we want to hear them.

Look out for more details of parties etc in What's Brewing, London Drinker and the Branch website. www.selcamra.org.uk. Please contact Roz Cox on 07796 272 730 or by letter c/o HQ or on the website.

FIFTY MORE GREAT PUB CRAWLS

By Barrie Pepper (CAMRA Books) £7.99

Having very much enjoyed - and used - Barrie's first edition from 1999, I have been looking forward to this book. I am pleased to say that it does not disappoint. The first noticeable change is its size. This edition comes in a much more handy pocket size, yet appears to have no less packed into it for that. The maps are now smaller and included with each crawl rather than together at the back of the book and there is a useful index of places covered.

The crawls themselves have been provided by CAMRA branches or members and the mix of area covered is varied and interesting, with eight of them being in or close to Greater London. There are three each in Scotland, Wales and continental Europe, plus Jersey and Ireland. Twelve of them make use of public transport (bus, train, tram and even water taxi). As Barrie himself concedes, not all of us are up to the route marches of our youth... Consequently he does the final crawl from his armchair!

Barrie's writing is very readable and informative as

to history and architecture of the places listed with odd extra items of information slipped in. I recommend this book both as a good read in its own right and as a guide to some good days out come the better weather.

Finally, one point that needs to be made is that this is essentially a pub guide and therefore by the nature of the pub trade, goes out of date very quickly. This problem affects all guides - whoever compiles them. We have received the following from Robert Steel of Croydon & Sutton Branch about the Croydon Tramlink crawl. 'Readers should know that since I supplied the copy for this route prior to publication, Young's brewery have seen fit to sell off the Bull at Mitcham, so it is sadly no more. As an alternative for thirsty drinkers who need refreshment in the Mitcham area, you could try alighting at Micham tramstop and heading for the Burn Bullock, 315 London Road (turn right on main road, 5-7 mins walk) which is at least on the Regional Inventory with a fine rear wood panelled room.'

Tony Hedger

THOSE EGYPTIAN CONNECTIONS

The following summary is reproduced with permission from the forthcoming book 'Egyptian London' (c)Copyright Chris Elliott 2003.

TAVERNS AND PUBLIC HOUSES

A good measure of how far anything has rooted itself in British culture is how many pubs it has given its name to. The names of London's taverns, coffee houses, and hotels are steeped in its history, ancient and more modern. By this test Egypt, whether ancient or modern, has had comparatively little impact on them.

The most common connection is with Horatio Nelson, Baron Nelson of the Nile, who has given his name to at least nineteen pubs, mostly 'Lord Nelson' but including variants such as 'Nelson's Head'. In the late 1790s, there was a 'Battle of The Nile Tavern' in York Street in Rotherhithe.

Also commemorated was Sir Ralph Abercrombie, victor of the Battle of Alexandria. There have been four taverns bearing his name; in Lombard Street in the City of London, in Charles Street Hatton Garden, in Friar Street Blackfriars, and in Artillery Place Woolwich. Although the Lombard Street tavern existed from around 1804, all the others date to the 1820s, and it is likely that all commemorate his hero's death rather than his other military accomplishments.

Other pubs may seem to have an Egyptian connection, but if they do it is tenuous. For example, there are several pubs featuring camels, such as the Camel Tavern, the Ship and Camel, or the

Black Boy and Camel. The most likely explanation is that these animals support the arms of the Grocers, Coopers and Merchant Taylors Livery Companies, and the names reflect connections with the Livery Companies or their trades. They may have traded with the Ottoman Empire, the so-called 'Turkey Trade', which could have included Egypt, but there was also an important trade with the Barbary Coast of North Africa. In Finchley, the Swan and Pyramids is a combination of two earlier names, the 'pyramids' referring to the shape of traditional loaf sugar, and probably originated as a nickname for the Swan and Sugarloaf, of which there are or have been at least three other examples.



Landlord Frank Taylor of the Royal Oak (left) receives the 2003 Greater London Pub of the Year award from a delighted regular customer!

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
TAKE PRIDE.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

WETHERSPOON'S TASTE

Geoff Bradley, (Letters Dec/Jan) notes an 'off taste' to cask beer in Wetherspoons pubs and asks if this is the experience of others. I am no more qualified to pronounce on this than any other *London Drinker* reader who frequents 'Spoons pubs, but my general answer is 'not really'.

Despite being labelled the McDonalds of the pub world, Wetherspoons outlets vary significantly, in terms of the clientele they attract, the beers they offer and the quality of that beer. Some I visit are excellent, as good as the best free house, but of course without the quirks that make a pub genuinely 'free'. Others leave a huge amount to be desired, so you can only turn up and see what they're like.

In my experience the key factors in the variation are: a) whether the manager is bothered about cask ale or not; b) whether the customers are interested in drinking it: the two may be dialectically related; c) how fast the beer gets drunk. In the best Wetherspoons beers can come can and go in a matter of hours. This means, I would suggest, that the biggest issue with Tim Martin's outlets continues to be not off beer, but green beer, put on too early to meet demand. Fortunately you can always taste before you buy.

Keith Flett, Tottenham

Dear Editor

THE OLD NICK, HOLBORN

We were delighted that you liked our refurbishment of the Old Nick (Capital Pubcheck December edition). Thanks for your kind comments.

As to the name change we've actually found that sensitive name changes - as opposed to crass 'comic' efforts - can really relaunch a pub after development and reinvigorate local interest. This is the primary reason that we do it, rather than for frivolous reasons. We seek inspiration from a number of sources and try to come up with unique names with a traditional ring.

At the Old Nick our thinking was that a name change would differentiate the pub from its past, rather run down reputation. The name The Old Nick suggested itself after a conversation with a barrister in the adjacent Bedford Row Chambers. He apparently spent more time there than in court.

However, it wasn't the only reason. We liked the legal ring to the name - 'The Old Nick' is slang for jail. It also is slang for the devil. The inn sign is based on a 15th century portrait of Nicolo Machiavelli - a man regarded, at the time, as so evil that his name became synonymous with the devil - hence Old Nick. It also sounded well: 'I'm going down the Old Nick'.

Sensitive name changes have been lucky for us - we changed the name of the Ship and Shovell when we developed it (it was formerly only known as the Ship), and we're proud that so many drinkers seem to agree that we've developed two of London's best pubs.

We're just reopening St Stephens Tavern opposite Big Ben - a name we can't change under threat of beheading. We're looking forward to this new addition to our London stable and again the restoration has been done sensitively and to create a classic London ale house. (Incidentally, St Stephen's Tower is apparently the real name for Big Ben.)

Thanks again for your kind review.

David Hoare

Retail Director, Hall & Woodhouse

Dear Editor

SHAME ABOUT THE PRICES

I was pleased to read in the last edition of *London Drinker* that the Three Cups in Holborn had been refurbished. This was a favourite watering hole of mine when I worked nearby and, when I met a few people for a reunion recently, we decided to rendezvous there.

It is quite right that the refurbishment had been carried out sympathetically and in character - still

WE'RE BACK MORE SEATING



WE'VE DOUBLED THE SPACE

60+ REAL ALES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

selling real ale, too, so that's a bonus. It is a pity it's now called Old Nicks – but, hey, what's in a name?

The only change I could see was the price – at £2.80 for a pint of Tanglefoot, I think our next reunion will be elsewhere!

On a serious point, the price of real ale is reaching stupid levels in some places and, whilst we don't expect everyone to reach the levels of Wetherspoons, I think some pub chains are just taking the p***. *London Drinker* should name and shame those pubs that are blatantly overcharging.

David Hill,
Palmers Green

Dear Editor

THE GREEN MAN, PUTNEY HEATH

I'd like to sing the praises of the recently reopened Young's pub, the Green Man at Putney Heath. Although it has lost its infamous Public Bar, the incorporation of the frontal outside drinking areas into the pub itself has made a big difference to the ambience and feel of the pub. Young's has stuck to tradition by furnishing the two raised areas and two side rooms sympathetically with the expectations of a country pub that the exterior invites. They have achieved an almost seamless join of the old drinking areas to the new, including a no-smoking area.

Understandably the outside gents toilet is now part of history, having at last succumbed to the demands of the 21st century. However, the al fresco drinking has not been ignored – the garden at the back is bigger and better than ever.

And the beer? Well, the Young's Ordinary bitter was exemplary on two visits at least a week apart. There is also an interesting menu available at lunchtime and evenings and, with live music on Thursdays and jazz on Sunday afternoons, readers should go and sample it for themselves. I for one was impressed!

Sue Hart,
Wimbledon

Dear Editor

GONE BUT NOT ENTIRELY FORGOTTEN

The Imperial Crown on the corner of Talwin Street and St Leonard's Street in Bromley, E3 is to be converted into flats and a shop unit. Cut off to the east by the Blackwall Tunnel Northern approach and with a mostly Asian community to the west, it was hard to make a strong case for retention as a pub. It was suggested to Tower Hamlets Council that, if the pub was not to be kept, at least

retaining the attractive Taylor Walker ceramic panel should be retained. This was put to the developers and they duly agreed.

Perhaps not exactly a great concession but it's good to know this little piece of the East End's pub heritage will stay. Moral of the story? If campaigning for pub preservation and you feel the case may go the wrong way, do try and get some features retained as a reminder of the building and its community.

Geoff Brandwood

Dear Editor

STEVE KEMP

May I express my sadness and shock at Steve's passing, both personally and on behalf of the Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood. I, like many others, regularly saw Steve on cider stalls at more beer festivals than I can count over at least 20 years. He always exuded enthusiasm and good humour. He will be missed.

Mike Hall
National Vice-Chairman,
SPBW

Europa Beer Festival

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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 around London. Events for February and March 2004 are listed below.

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

ALL LONDON EVENTS

February - Sat 28 (6pm) All London National Pubs Week social, Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1

March - Wed 31 (8pm) London Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches) Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. *Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk*

LONDON PUBS GROUP

Jane Jephcote 020-7973 3102 (W),

jane.jephcote@english-heritage.org.uk

All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

February - Sat 21 National Pubs Week daytime crawl of Herne Hill, Dulwich and Sydenham. Meet (12 noon) Commercial, 212 Raiton Rd, SE24; then (12.45) Half Moon, 10 Half Moon La, SE24; (1.30) Crown & Greyhound, 73 Dulwich Village, SE21; (2.45) Crystal Palace Tavern, 193 Crystal Palace Rd, SE22; (3.45) Herne Tavern, 2 Forest Hill Rd, SE22; (4.30) Dulwich Wood House, 39 Sydenham Hill, SE26; (5.45) Royal Albert, 42 Westow Hill, SE19. Use of public transport will be necessary at times.

March - Wed 10 (7.15 for 7.30) Meeting. Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs).

BEXLEY. *Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H)*

Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON.

Terry Hewitt 020-8660 5931 (H), 020-7918 3242 (W)

February - Tue 3 (8.30) Social. Railway, 47 North St, Carshalton. - **Sat 21 (8.30)** Nat. Pubs Wk. social. Little Windsor, 13 Greyhound Rd, Sutton. - **Tue 24 (8.30)** Branch meeting (incl. GBG final selections). Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey St, Croydon.

March - Wed 3 (8.30) Social. New Inn, 16 Myrtle Rd, Sutton.

- **Tue 16 (8.30)** S. Croydon 2-pub social. Swan & Sugar Loaf (CAMRA London Inventory Interior pub) then (dep. 9.45) to Crown & Sceptre, 32 Junction Rd. - **Thu 25 (8.30)** Branch meeting, Windsor Castle, 378 Carshalton Rd, Carshalton. - **Thu 1 Apr (8.30)** Social (incl. London Drinker pick up). Tamworth Arms, 62 Tamworth Rd, W. Croydon.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY.

Bob Walker 07957 793360 (M)

February - Tue 10 (8pm) Branch meeting, Birkbeck Tavern, Langthorne Rd, Leyton E10

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET.

Brian Willis 020-8441 1892 (H),

Work: Brian.Willis@Saffery.com

February - Tue 3 (9pm) Social. Catcher in the Rye, 315/319 Regents Park Rd, Finchley Central N3. - **Mon 9** Ale trail-for all ale trails. Contact James Francis 07775 527405 (M) or e-mail enfieldandbarnetcamra@yahoo.co.uk

- **Thu 12 (9pm)** Social. Whole Hog, 430/434 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13. This is also the deadline for booking weekend in Munich April 23/26. Approx cost of flight and accommodation £200, deposit £40. Contact Tony Roberts 020-8482 9673 (H) or e-mail anthonywroberts@hotmail.com - **Tue 17 (9pm)** Social. Adam & Eve, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill NW7 (240 bus). - **Sat 21 (12 noon)** Pubs Wk campaigning crawl of High Barnet: meet Old Mitre, 58 High St, EN5. -

Tue 24 (9pm) Social. Elephant, 283 Ballards La, North Finchley N12. - **Sat 28 (12 noon)** Pubs Wk campaigning crawl of Enfield Town: meet Kings Head, Market Place EN2

March - Thu 4 (9pm) Social. Crown & Horseshoes, 15 Horseshoe La (off Chase Side) Enfield EN2. - **Sun 7 (12 noon)** Beer 'n Biriani: meet Griffin, 1262 High Rd, Whetstone N20 then to Jewel of Bengal Indian restaurant for a buffet meal £6.50 per head. - **Wed 10** East Barnet EN4 2-pub social: (9pm) Cat & Lantern, 243 East Barnet Rd; (10pm) Prince of Wales, 2 Church Hill Rd. - **Fri 12** Ale trail. - **Mon 15 (8pm)** Joint social with SW London Branch: meet Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way SW8 (Stockwell tube). - **Mon 15/Sat 20** Working social at London Drinker Beer Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1 (Kings Cross/St Pancras). - **Tue 23 (8.30)** Branch meeting. Sebright Arms, 9 Alston Rd, Barnet EN5 (lounge bar). - **Thu 1 Apr (9pm)** Social/London Drinker pick up. Lord Nelson, 14 West End La, Barnet EN5.

Branch members can join news group by e-mail to camraenfieldandbarnet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com *Website: camranorthblondon.org.uk/enfieldandbarnet*

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD.

Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H) 020-8540 1901 (W),

KandL@camrasurrey.org

February - Wed 11 (8pm) Social gathering at Battersea Beer Festival. - **Thu 12 (8pm)** Branch AGM, Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston. - **Wed 25 (8pm)** GBG Selection meeting, Waggon & Horses, Surbiton Hill, Surbiton. - **Thu 26 (8pm)** Pubs Wk visit to Epsom. Meet in Assembly Rooms (Wetherspoons), then to Haywain, Amato, etc. - **Fri 27 (8pm)** Joint social with R&H branch. Pubs Wk beer festival at the Lion, Wick Rd, Teddington.

March - Thu 4 (8.15) Branch meeting, Berrylands, Chiltern Drive, Surbiton (near Berrylands station). - **Sat 6** Minibus trip to Hop Back Brewery near Salisbury. Fare £15, deposit £5. Pick up New Malden, Grayham Rd/Kingston Rd 09.15; Surbiton station 09.30. Calling at some pubs on the way back, return for 8pm. Contact Clive for bookings. - **Thu 18 (8pm for 8.30)** Curry night: meet Owl & the Pussycat, Richmond Rd, Kingston, then across road to new restaurant. *Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk*

NORTH LONDON. *Social contact: Mike Rose 07986 458517, lymnikerose@aol.com; Branch contact: Mick Lewis 020-7935 1350 Mob. 07952 244687 orientmoron@yahoo.com*

February - Tue 3 (8pm) Branch meeting and final GBG selection. Huntingdon, 115 Hemingford Rd, N1. - **Tue 10** Social:(8pm) 30 year certificate presentation and Full Pint issue launch, Pakenham Arms, 1 Pakenham St, WC1; envelope stuffing, Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Rd, WC1. - **Tue 17** WC1 Social. (8pm) Penderels Oak, 286-288 High Holborn, then Old Nick, 20-22 Sandlaw St. - **Tue 24** National Pubs Wk Hampstead NW3 crawl: (8 pm) 30 year certificate presentation, Flask Tavern 14 Flask Walk; Holly Bush, 22 Holly Mount; (10pm) Duke of Hamilton 23 New End. **March - Tue 2 (8 pm)** Festival meeting, Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Rd, N1. - **Tue 9** NW1 Social: (8pm) Feathers, 43 Linhope St, then Gloucester Arms, 5 Ivor Place. - **Wed 17-Fri 19** London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival (see inside back cover). - **Tue 23 (8pm)** Post-festival social. Head of Steam, Euston Station Colonnade, 1 Eversholt St, NW1. - **Tue 30** Social: (8pm) 30 year certificate presentation: Island Queen, 87 Noel Rd, N1; Narrrow Boat, 119 St Peters St, N1. *Website: www.camranorthblondon.org.uk*

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW.

Brian Kirtan 020-8384 7284 (H), sk014j4253@blueyonder.co.uk

February - Tue 3 (8.30) Social & GBG 2005 final listing. Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Rd, Brentford. - **Thu 12 (8pm)** Social at Battersea Beer Festival, Arts Centre, Lavender Hill,

BRANCH DIARIES

London SW11: meet near stage at 8 then every hour 'til 10. - **Wed 18** (8.30) 2005 GBG assessments/surveys venues as decided on Tue 3. - **Sun 22** (12.30) Sunday lunch social. St Margarets Tavern, 107 St Margarets Rd, St Margarets. - **Mon 23** (8pm) Traditional games evening. Maggie & Crown, 128 High St, Brentford. - **Tue 24** (8.30) Thai Tuesday. Prince Albert, 30 Hampton Rd, Twickenham. - **Wed 25** (8pm) Campaign night at our pub of the year: Red Lion, 92 Linkfield Rd, Isleworth. - **Thu 26** (8.30) Branch meeting, collection of 2005 GBG survey forms and presentation of special award. Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd, Hampton Hill. - **Fri 27** (8pm) Social. Lion, 27 Wick Rd, Teddington.

March - Tue 2 Pub survey of Hampton: (8pm) Bell, 8 Thames St, then (9pm) World's End, 88 Station Rd; (9.40) Railway Inn, 127 Station Rd; (10.30) Railway Bell, Station Rd. - **Wed 10** Barnes 2-pub social: (8pm) Porterhouse, 201a Castelnau, then (9.30) Bridge Tavern, 204 Castelnau. - **Wed 17** (6pm) Social at London Drinker, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1 - meet at products counter (6, 7 & 8pm). - **Wed 24** (8.30) Branch meeting. Charlie Butler, 40 Mortlake High St, Mortlake. - **Tue 30** (8.30) 2nd Twickenham Beer Fest 2004 meeting. Eel Pie, Church St, Twickenham: all welcome.

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

SOUTH EAST LONDON. Richard Martin 020-8402 0424

February - Tue 3 (8pm) Branch/committee meeting. Bromley Labour Club, H G Wells Centre, St Mark's Rd, Bromley (nr Bromley South station). - **Thu 12** (8pm) Social. Brockley Barge, 184 Brockley Rd SE4. - **Tue 17** (8pm) Social. Jolly Woodman, 9 Chancery La, Beckenham. - **Tue 24** (8pm) Catford Beer Festival meeting, at home of Bob and Sharon Callard, Callard Mansions, 19 Fordyce Road, SE13.

March - Tue 2 (8pm) Branch/committee meeting. Duke of York, 47 Borough Rd SE1. - **Wed 10** (8pm) Social. Crown, 117 Burnt Ash Hill, Lee SE12. - **Thu 18** (8pm) Social. Dog & Bell, 116 Prince St, Deptford SE8. - **Tue 30** (8pm) Catford Beer Festival meeting. Tigers Head, 350 Bromley Rd SE6.

Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

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

February - Thu 5 (8.30) Social. Theobald Arms, 141 Argent St/King's Walk, Grays. - **Wed 11** (8.30) Branch AGM, Foxhound, 18 High Rd (B188), Orsett: nominations and motions/matters for discussion to Secretary, Andrew Clifton 46 Havering Dr, Romford RM1 4BH or by e-mail by Wed 4 February. - **Wed 18** (8.30) Social. Standard Bearer, 7/13 Goodmayes La (B177), Goodmayes (near Goodmayes Stn). - **Mon 23** (8.30) Good Beer Guide selection and Pub of the Year selection (London area). Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd (A104), Woodford Green.

March - Wed 3 Double Social in Horndon on the Hill: (8.30) Bell, High Rd followed by (9.45) Swan 121 High Rd. - **Wed 10** (8.30) Social. Brave Nelson, 138 Woodman Rd, Warley. - **Mon 15** (8.30) Good Beer Guide selection and Pub of the Year selection (Essex area). Foxhound, 18 High Rd (B188), Orsett. - **Thu 25** Mini-crawl of Romford (ancient and modern): (8.30) Wheatsheaf, 45 Wheatsheaf Rd/Brentwood Rd, then (9pm) Goose, 143 South St (A1251); (9.45) Moon & Stars 99/103 South St (A1251); (10.30) Golden Lion.2 High St.

Website: www.swessex.clara.net

SOUTH WEST LONDON. Mark Bravery 020-8540 9183 (H) 020-7438 6565 (W), markbravery@blucyonder.co.uk

February - Mon 2 Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet (7pm-7.30) Royal Oak, 10 Clapham High St, SW4 (opp Clapham North tube). - **Thu 5** Battersea Beer Festival publicity crawl. Meet (6.30-7pm) Falcon, 2 St John's Hill SW11 (by Clapham Jct station). - **Wed 11-Fri 13** Battersea Beer Festival (see page 5). - **Wed 18** (7.30). Open branch committee meeting, Pied Bull, 498 Streatham High Rd SW16. -

Sat 21 to Sat 28 Pubs Wk crawls: **Sat 21** Earlsfield/Wandsworth, **Sun 22** Putney/Roeampton, **Mon 23** Clapham Old Town; Tooting, **Tue 24** Clapham South/Balham, **Wed 25** Merton/South Wimbledon, **Thu 26** Battersea, **Fri 27** South Lambeth; Brixton, **Sat 28** Wimbledon Village. Details at Battersea or from Branch contact. - **Sun 29** (12.15) Good Beer Guide 2005 selection followed (from 4 pm) by post-festival social. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, South Wimbledon SW19.

March - Mon 15 (7.30). Joint SW8 social with Enfield & Barnet branch. Priory Arms, 83 Lansdowne Way SW8, also (9pm) Mawbey Arms, 7 Mawbey St.

Website: www.swlcamra.org

WATFORD & DISTRICT. Andrew Vaughan 01923 230104, watfordcamra@hotmail.com

February - Tue 17 Oxhey social: (8.30) Villiers Arms; (9.15) Railway Arms; (10pm) Victoria. - **Sun 22** (8.30) Nascot Arms then (9pm) Southern Cross for Quiz night. - **Fri 27** Pubs Wk crawl of Croxley Green: (8.30) Duke; (9pm) Artichoke; (10pm) Sportsman.

March - Tue 9 Boxmoor social. (8pm) Fishery Inn; (8.30) Post Office Arms; (9pm) Steam Coach. - **Wed 17** Social at London Drinker Festival. - **Tue 23** (8.30) Social. Watford Town & Country Club. Contact branch for details. - **Mon 29** (8.15) Branch AGM, Estcourt Arms, Watford.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON Alasdair Boyd (Social Secretary)

020-7930 9871 Ext 143 (2.30 to 3.15 Mon to Fri)

banqueting@ncl.org.uk Fax: 020 7839 4768

February - Tue 3 (8pm) Branch meeting. Beehive, 7 Homer St, W1. - **Wed 11** (7.30) GBG 2005 surveying dates. Meet Crown & Sceptre, 34 Holland Rd, W14. - **Fri 13** (7.30) Social. Cider Bar, Battersea Beer Festival, Grand Hall, Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill SW11. - **Sat 21** (from 12 noon) Surveying/Selection. Chelsea Ram, 32 Burnaby St, SW10

March - Mon 1 SW1 crawl. (7pm) Morpeth Arms, 58 Millbank; (7.45) Jugged Hare, 172 Vauxhall Bridge Rd; (8.30) Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews West - **Tue 2** (8pm) Grand Social. Buckingham Arms, 62 Petty France SW1 - **Thu 4** (8pm) Jugged Hare, 172 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, SW1. - **Wed 10** 2-pub W8 crawl. (8pm) Britannia, Allen St; (9pm) Churchill Arms, 119 Kensington Church St. - **Thu 18/Fri 19** (8pm) Socials. Foreign Bar, London Drinker Festival, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1. - **Mon 22** (7.30) Chiswick tour. Start George & Devonshire, 8 Burlington La, W4. - **Mon 29** (8.30) Out of branch social. Cat's Back, 86-88 Point Pleasant SW18.

WEST MIDDLESEX. Paul Dabrowski (Social Secretary)

020-8571-9146 (H) 0118-923 7445 (W).

February - Thu 5 (8pm) Social. Botwell Inn, Coldharbour La, Hayes. - **Wed 11** (8.30) Branch meeting. Duke of York, Steyne Rd, Acton. - **Fri 13** (7pm) Beer Festival publicity social, Battersea Beerx, Battersea Town Hall, Lavender Hill, Clapham Jct. - **Sat 21** (12 noon) Pubs Wk crawl of Ealing: Rose & Crown, New Inn, Castle, Red Lion, Grange, King's Arms, Hogshead, North Star, Haven Arms and Wheatsheaf; approx. one pub every hour. - **Wed 25** New Brentford 2-pub social: (8.30) Globe, Windmill Rd; then Lord Nelson, Enfield Rd.

March - Wed 3 (8pm) GBG 2005 final selection. Questor's Theatre, Grapevine Bar, Mattock La, Ealing. - **Wed 10** (8.30) Branch meeting. Jolly Gardeners, High St, Cranford. - **Fri 19** (7pm) Beer Festival publicity social. London Drinker Beerx, Camden Old Town Hall, Bidborough St, King's Cross. - **Wed 24** Two-pub social: (8pm) Grand Junction Arms, Acton La, Harlesden; then Castle, Victoria Rd, North Acton.

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May edition: 17th March 2004. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

REGIONAL DEMOCRACY

Three readers have written in response to Gary Gobshite's fantastic review in the last issue:

Dear Editor

I would just like to comment on the remarks made about me in the Gary Gobshite column in the Dec/Jan edition of the Drinker. The actions attributed to me in citing obscure references to standing orders etc are a complete work of fiction. I quoted no references whatsoever.

What I was doing on behalf of the National Executive was ensuring that the London Regional structure of CAMRA told its members what body made decisions on its behalf, publicised when and where it met, and invited them to attend such meetings.

This is the longstanding and normal arrangement in every other region of CAMRA and the NE failed to understand why it was not possible to have such open and democratic arrangements in London.

I was very pleased that two out of three of those requirements had been agreed before the meeting but pointed out that some minor changes of title were required so that London members were clear as to what meetings made decisions on their behalf.

I did point out that all regional structures had to be agreed by the National Executive of CAMRA and this was insisted on to meet the minimum democratic requirements met by every other region of the country.

I make no apology for standing up for the rights of ordinary CAMRA members. The only people who could possibly object to such open arrangements in my opinion would be cliquish elitists. Judging by the Gary Gobshite column these may well have a substantial presence in London.

Bob Jones (writing in personal capacity)
Wolverhampton

PS I take Mr Gobshite's reference to me leading anti brewery closure campaign as a tribute to the successful campaign I led which resulted in my major local brewery being saved from takeover. I am happy to compare my record with Mr Gobshite's.

Dear Editor

I have heard lots of talk about what is or is not a Regional Meeting, whether London Liaison Committee is, was, was ever intended to be or would ever become an open meeting and/or a regional meeting. Apparently the National Executive are in a tizzy about this. I can't understand why our NE haven't got better things to do. Maybe they should stay in more!

Solely for the record, I report my personal experiences. As I was there, these reports are true, for certain values of 'true'.

1. Between the time I left the committee of my then local branch and my appointment as a Brewery Liaison Officer, I believed that only branch nominees: usually the chairman, were entitled to attend LLC of right. In those days, there were occasions when I knew that LLC would be discussing matters in which I was interested, and on which I wished to speak. On such occasions, I always asked the chairman's permission to attend and to speak. It was never suggested to me that I had a right to attend; it was always clear to me that I had no vote at such meetings.
2. During the late nineteen-seventies or very early nineteen-eighties, CAMRA held, and I attended, two Regional Conferences, both in Bournemouth, in the winter. Part of one of these appeared on the television programme, *The Philpot File*. These conferences were round-table discussions of policy issues on which CAMRA needed to obtain a consensus view.

LAGRAD LONDON GROUP

LAGRAD (Lesbian and Gay Real Ale Drinkers) is a group of CAMRA members extending the Campaign to the lesbian and gay scene. The London group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of every month from 7pm onwards in the upstairs bar of the King's Arms, 23 Poland St, London W1; the Surrey & Sussex group on the last Friday of every month from 9.30 onwards in the back bar of the Bedford Tavern, Western St, Brighton, and the Scottish group in the Regent, 2 Montrose Terrace, Edinburgh on the first Monday of every month from 8.30 onwards. All are welcome to all events. Contact the group convenor on LAGRAD@ukgateway.net or visit www.goldings.demon.co.uk/queerale/

February – Wed 4 (7pm) Social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St, W1 (020-7734 5907). - **Thu 12 (6pm)** Visit to Battersea Beer Festival, Grand Hall behind Battersea Arts Centre, Town Hall Rd, Lavender Hill. £1 discount on admission (otherwise £3) for card carrying CAMRA members. - **Wed 18 (6pm)** Greenwich SE10 crawl: Ye Olde Rose and Crown, 1 Crooms Hill (020-8858 0154), traditional pub. Checking out the Gloucester, round the corner, rumoured to have gone straight?
March – Wed 3 (7pm) Social. King's Arms, 23 Poland St, W1. - **Thu 18 (6pm)** Duke of Wellington, 119 Balls Pond Rd, N1 (020-7254 4338). Usually has Greene King Abbot and IPA.

3. In the late nineteen-eighties, when Ian Hassel was the Regional Director for London, he organised a Regional Conference at the Truscott Arms, London W9. This consisted of staff from CAMRA head office telling us how to campaign.

Until this year, no one has suggested to me that these Regional Conferences were not in fact Regional Conferences. Well, Mr Editor, they were then! What right have the revisionists to deny the Campaign's history? Once again, Sir: this is true; I was there.

Richard Larkin

alias 'The CAMRA Garden Gnome'

Dear Editor

He may call himself 'Gobshite' but that's not what comes out of his gob! Assuming that GG's fantasies are not a Christmas wind-up, I'd say that he's spot-on with his comments on the Brakspear disaster. Brewing imitation Brakspear's back in Oxfordshire (but not at Henley) can only be described as salvaging something from the wreckage: the flagship has still sunk. I do hope that the venture succeeds, though.

The Garry Gobshite column is, despite the crudity of the title, a Good Thing as it enables touchy subjects to be debated in a non-confrontational way. After all, who but a pompous prig [not a misprint] is going to be so stupid as to take offence and threaten libel writs over a self-styled fantasy presented in a jokey manner? (I shall resist the temptation to name a few!) CAMRA should not be so precious as to be unable to take a joke at its expense, nor should a supposedly democratic organisation be afraid of alternative viewpoints.

If we can't agree, let's agree to differ.

Hugh Smith

a.k.a. 'Slim Git'

Robin Forshaw-Wilson, London Regional Director writes:

The confirmed minute of the LLC discussion lampooned in Garry's review reads as follows:

From Bob Jones' observations, it was noted with some surprise that in National Executive parlance the description, 'regional meeting' was applicable only to minuted business meetings such as LLC at which collective decisions were taken on prepared agenda. (The impression that Bob might be seeking to impose such a novel convention by diktat in the absence of any corresponding provision in the CAMRA Internal Policy Document prompted the Secretary to tender his resignation and withdraw from the remainder of the meeting.) To avoid any possibility of confusion, the 22 November gathering could alternatively be described as an All London CAMRA meeting.

Once I have seen them, LLC minutes are sent by email to all London Branches and, via CAMRA Head Office, to the NE, usually two weeks after each meeting. They confirm details of the next meeting. They may be copied, quoted or for that matter parodied, as a consequence of the open, democratic arrangements that Bob is right to emphasise.

Drinkers are indeed indebted to the success of Bob's campaign against the takeover of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries. Could he have saved Brakspear's? Nice one, Garry!

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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.

We welcome two new prominent traditional pubs of note: a listed pub opposite Big Ben has been rescued, renovated and reopened after 17 years closure by Dorset brewers Hall & Woodhouse and a brand new replacement Young's pub has opened in the new Paternoster Square development near St Pauls Cathedral. There are some tentative but encouraging signs that conversions to café-bars and food dominated pubs may have peaked, with several more reversioners back to traditional pubs in W1 Marylebone, WC2 off Leicester Square, N1 Islington and (from a restaurant to a gastropub) SW12 Wandsworth. In addition, recent new bar openings in EC1 Old Street and NW10 Kensal Rise, which are targeted at a predominantly younger crowd, have responded to renewed interest (perhaps generated by CAMRA beer festivals) by installing handpumps for real ale.

Wetherspoons have sold off five pubs to a hitherto unknown pub group, 'London & Edinburgh Inns' in N13 Palmers Green, NW3 Hampstead, SE26 Sydenham, SW18 Wandsworth and Neasden, no doubt to the consternation of the regulars - we welcome reports of

the outcome. O'Hanlon's original outlet in EC1 near Sadlers Wells has been renamed and no longer sells O'Hanlons draught beers. Comprehensive surveys for the forthcoming 'West London Pub Guide', covering the West End and all points west, are revealing the true extent of pub losses through conversions or demolitions for restaurants and residential. They confirm how neighbourhood locals and road houses in particular have been targeted for conversion or redevelopment in recent years by avaricious speculators aided by complacent London Borough councils with weak planning policies, only too willing, it seems, to rubber stamp planning applications for change of use with little or no consideration for protecting our unique pub heritage and community meeting places.

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; HB - Holborn & Bloomsbury Pub Guide; K - Guide to Kent Pubs, 10th edition; 8K - Real Ale Guide to Kent Pubs, 8th edition; KT - Kingston Pub Guide; 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

CENTRAL

EC1, LEGION, 348 Old St. Adnams: Bitter: Fuller: London Pride. New Free House opened November 2003 in former printworks premises. Long bar area decorated in basic 'warehouse' style with low lighting, mauve decor, red painted floor, wooden battening and plasterboard decoration, sofas and benches. Live music on Tuesdays on improvised stage at rear. Food. Open 12-12 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun.

EC2, ALL BAR ONE, 18/20 Appold St. Adnams: Bitter: Fuller: London Pride. Opened c1998 on ground floor of renovated imposing brick and stone office building near Liverpool St Station but not previously reported. Recently revamped in the new ABO style with beige and cream walls, brass bar top, light wooden flooring, potted plants, mirrors etc. Retains large clock and blackboard for food. 'No smoking' tables to side. Disabled WC. Open 11.30-11 Mon-Fri only, closed weekends.

EC4, BRODIE'S, Christchurch Court, Rose St, off Paternoster Sq. No real ale. New Free House/bar and restaurant.

EC4, PATERNOSTER, 2-4 Queens Head Passage, off Paternoster Sq. Young: Bitter, Special, Waggledance, Winter Warmer (seasonal). Brand new Young's pub opened early December 2003 at one of the entrances to the new Paternoster Square development and replacing the MASTER GUNNER, closed and demolished in 1999 to

help make way for it. Occupies a brick clad corner unit under an office block close to St Pauls underground station entrance, with large windows overlooking the street and side passage. Fitted out in traditional style with polished wooden floors, wood panelling, cream decor, a mixture of wooden and leather clad chairs and a plethora of pictures of old London hanging on every bit of wall space. Raised no smoking area, extractors and air conditioning. A blackboard displays daily food specials. Hops hang down behind the bar. Disabled WC. Open 11-11 Mon-Fri, 11-5/6 Sat, 12-5/6 Sun. A traditional 'pubby' atmosphere has been created but the rag-bag of uncoordinated and rather dated fittings seems to have been thrown together with little thought, and it is somehow out of character with the surrounding stylish development.

W1(Mar), CARPE DIEM, 28 Paddington St. Reverted to original name APOLLO. Tetley: Bitter. Formerly CAFE TOTO and MUSWELLS. (W35, U88, U135, U163)

W1(Mar), O'BAR, 21A Devonshire St. Renamed INN 1888. Greene King: IPA, Abbot Ale. Free House, now returned to traditional decor, salvaging what is left of the original decorative features largely vandalised under its previous incarnation. Formerly DEVONSHIRE ARMS and once a Victorian gin palace gem, latterly part of Allied's Nicholson chain. (W34, U54, U161)

W1(May), MULLIGANS (OF MAYFAIR), 13/14 Cork St. No real ale. A genuine Irish bar which is also a 'restaurant and oyster bar' in former office premises, part of the Balls Bros wine bar chain, not previously reported.

W1(S), EDGE, 11 Soho Sq. No real ale. A Free House.

WC2, BREWMASTER, 27 Cranbourne St. Adnams:

Bitter; Draught Bass: Fuller: London Pride. Traditional style pub with cream and red decor, fussy carpets, pictures on walls and mixture of tables, chairs and stools. Upstairs bar in similar style. Food. Now owned by Laurel, ex-Whitbread. Open all regular hours. (W52)

WC2, QUEEN MARY (TS), moored off Victoria Embankment near Waterloo Bridge. No real ale. M&B (ex-Bass) pub and restaurant on board old Clyde steam ship, not previously reported.

WC2, WEST CENTRAL, 30 Lisle St. Reverted to **POLAR BEAR**. Adnams: Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Reinstatement by M&B of real ale, traditional name and decor (with a sporting theme) after 5 years as a cafe-bar. (W56, U67, U141).

CENTRAL

BARKING, BARGE AGROUND, 15 Broadway. Fuller: London Pride (reinstatement). (X10, U137)

BARKING, WHITE HORSE, North St. Greene King: IPA (reinstatement). Formerly **WHITE HORSE (PICKLED NEWT)**. (X12, U153, U159, U172)

NORTH

N1, PRINCE REGENT, 201 Liverpool Rd. Wells: Bombardier; 2 guest beers. Previously **STONE BAR** (but not previously reported) and before that spent a spell as a restaurant. Formerly **NOLIAS CAFE BAR** and originally **PRINCE REGENT**. (N53, U141)

N6, WOODMAN, 414 Archway Rd. Wells: Bombardier; Young: Special (reinstatement of real ale). Traditionally decorated local with wood panelling and leaded windows. Food, patio garden, pool. (N53, U106, U157)

NORTH WEST

NW10, GREYHOUND, 64-66 Chamberlayne Rd. Adnams: Broadside. Beer likely to vary on monthly basis. (U174)

ALPERTON, QUIET MAN, 9 Heather Park Drive. Free House. No real ale. Opened by early 2003 in former shop premises.

SOUTH WEST

SW1 (W), ST STEPHENS TAVERN, 10 Bridge St. Badger: King & Barnes Sussex Bitter, Best, Tanglefoot, Gobbledy Goose (seasonal). Grade II listed pub acquired by Hall & Woodhouse in December 2003 after 17 years' closure during which it spent a while as a Jubilee Line contractors' office. Imposing stone clad corner building with two large glass lanterns suspended over the entrance doors. Steps lead down into the main bar area, divided into two with a decorative glass bar back and original bar top. Sensitively fitted out in traditional style with leather clad seating, carpeted floor, cream painted walls, decorative wooden ceiling, chandeliers, brass lampstands and tall leaded windows with drapes matching the wallpaper. Stairs lead from both entrances to a newly built upstairs balcony seating and eating area with booths for privacy and optional table service. There is no intrusive music or gaming machines. The original 'division bell' summoning MPs to vote in the House of Commons, located opposite, has been reinstated. No children are allowed (even when eating), which could reduce its appeal to tourists who flock

to the area. Disabled WC access at rear. Food available 12-10 (9 Sun). Open all normal hours (application for 10am licence submitted). Another magnificent renovation by Hall & Woodhouse, who are to be congratulated. A worthy addition to the London pub scene.

SW18, LIVEBAIT, 2 Northside Wandsworth Common. Reopened late December 2003 as a Free House, a first for 'The Pub Landlord Limited', and renamed **FREEMASONS**, reverting to the original name preserved in entrance floor mosaic. Taylor: Landlord (appropriately) but beer range expected to increase. Attractive gastropub; gourmet menu. Formerly **CAFÉ MED**, previously **ROUNDHOUSE**. Note correct address. SW114, U149, U163, U174)

MORDEN, JOLSONS (WINE BAR), 1/2 Crown Parade, London Rd. No real ale. Free House opened c2000 in premises previously used for some form of bar.

WEST

W4, EST EST EST, 29 Chiswick High Rd. No real ale. Now houses an Italian restaurant upstairs, with a Free House/bar downstairs, after a spell as a Mexican restaurant named Jo Smo's. Originally **COACH & HORSES**, famous in the '70s for its multi-level bars with descending water feature. (W68, U94)

W6, EL METRO, Hammersmith Underground Station (Hammersmith & City Line), Hammersmith Broadway. No real ale. A tapas bar with draught beer. Reputedly the last remaining Underground station bar, but not previously reported.

W7, BROGUE, 7 Boston Rd. No real ale. Free House in former shop premises.

W13, ROSIE O'GRADY'S, 96 Uxbridge Rd. Reopened and renamed **BAROQUE**. No real ale. Formerly **NEW ANCHOR**. (W92, U151)

FELTHAM, ROSE & CROWN, High St. Courage: Best Bitter; Fuller: London Pride. Reopened as a Regent Inns Free House. (W100, U80, U99, U159)

WEMBLEY, BLUE CHECK, 12/13 Empire Parade, Empire Way. No real ale. A Free House/bar/cafe.

WEMBLEY, FIRST CLASS SPORTS BAR, 125 Wembley Park Drive. No real ale. A Free House/sports bar

WEMBLEY, VILLAGE SPORTS BAR, 529 High Rd. No real ale. Reopened as a Free House after a spell as an Italian restaurant. Originally **VILLAGE INN**. (W159, U78, U79, U86, U99, U132)

PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

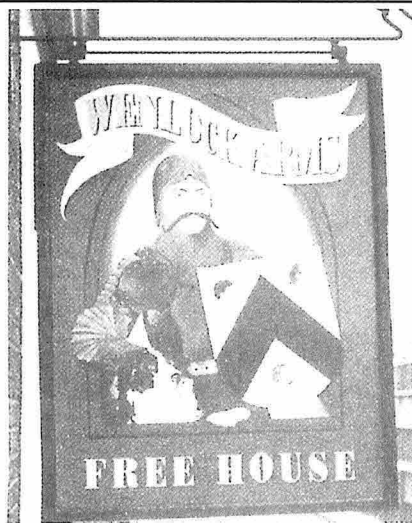
CENTRAL

EC1, COACH & HORSES, 26/28 Ray St, ex-Taylor Walker. No real ale. Refurbished as a gastropub. (E14, U76)

W1(Mar), CALLAGHANS, Free House, closed along with Cumberland Hotel, currently under renovation. (U120)

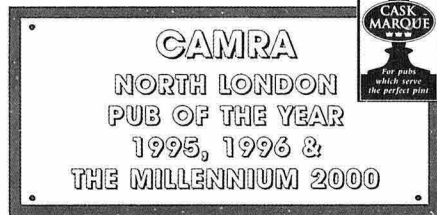
W1(Mar), HORNERS, ex-Watney, now converted to Lebanese restaurant. Formerly **NO COMMENT**, previously **WHITTAKERS**. (W36, U50, U129)

W1(Mar), PRINCE ALFRED, Free House, now converted to Italian restaurant. (W36, U89, U153)



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<http://www.wenlock-arms.co.uk/>

W1(Mar), WESTMORELAND ARMS, Free House (Pubmaster), now converted to Japanese restaurant (W36, U54, U91, U121)

W1(Mar), WORCESTER ARMS, Free House (Ambishus), still closed and all signage now removed. (W36, U54, U110, U137, U163)

W1(May), VINE, Free House, now converted to Japanese restaurant. (U92)

W1(May), WHITE BEAR INN, Free House, now converted to shop. (W40, U69)

W1(S), ATLANTIC BAR & GRILL, Free House, now simply 'Atlantic' cocktail bar. No draught beer: remove from pub database. (U128)

W1(S), CAIRO JACKS, Free House, converted to 'Digress' cocktail bar. No draught beer: remove from pub database. Formerly CAIROS/BUTLERS BAR. (U53, U101)

W1(S), DANIELS, Free House, now 'Ku De Ta' cocktail bar. No draught beer: remove from pub database.. (W42)

W1(S), RUPERT STREET JUNCTION, Free House, converted to a restaurant. (W44)

W1(S), TAYLORS, ex-Taylor Walker, converted to Chinese restaurant. (U48, U144)

WC1, NEW MERLINS CAVE, Free House, now demolished and replaced by flats named 'Merlins Court', (W47, U89)

WC2, MURPHYS MOON, Greene King, now converted to offices with residential above. Formerly MOON and, together with sister pub the SUN (now PERSEVERANCE), was once a real ale icon in the early days of CAMRA. (W47, U51, U104, U108, N25, U109, U117, U159)

WC2, FOOTLIGHTS BAR, Free House, now absorbed into Waldorf Hotel. (W53, U166))

WC2, THREE TUNS, ex-Watney, now converted to Costa coffee bar. (W57)

NORTH

N1, INDEPENDENCE. Renamed LUSH, ex-Whitbread, no real ale. Formerly TUT N' SHIVE. (N61, U165)

N6, SHEPHERDS, ex-Watney. Renamed BOOGALOO, H removed. (N23)

N7, O'NEILLS, M&B (ex-Bass), closed and being used as a temporary shop. Formerly NAGS HEAD, after which the local shopping centre is named, which of course meant nothing to the grey suits at the former Bass, who even renamed the company itself the short lived 'Six Continents'!. (N89, U120)

N8, HOGSHEAD, Laurel (ex-Whitbread), closed and believed to be earmarked for residential development. Contrary to report in U172, it never became a new style 'Hog's Head'. (U124, U172)

N8, LATIN BAILEY. Renamed PRIORITY, Free House, H unused. Formerly NEW PRIORY INN (N94, U158)

N8, NIGHTINGALE, ex-Watney, no real ale. (N94)

N22, NIGHTINGALE, ex-Taylor Walker, closed and boarded up. (N156)

BARNET (EN5), CROWN & ANCHOR, Free House, closed, future uncertain. (N250, U152, H19)

ENFIELD EAST (EN3), BELL, ex-Whitbread, closed and boarded up. Formerly subtitled HOTSHOTS. (N239, U162)

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ENFIELD EAST (EN3) GOAT, ex-Whitbread, H removed. (N240)

ENFIELD EAST (EN3) RAILWAY HOTEL, ex-Watney, closed and boarded up. (N241)

NORTH WEST

NW1, ABBEY TAVERN, ex-Bass, closed and boarded up. (N161)

HARROW, ANGIES, Free House, closed. (U141)

HARROW, HUNGRY HORSE, Greene King, converted to McDonalds restaurant. Formerly SHAFTESBURY. (W114, U98, U117, U132)

HARROW, PHILOMATH & FIRKIN. Renamed JUNCTION, ex-Bass, no real ale. Formerly GAYTON HALL. (W113, U126, U151, U152)

HARROW WEALD, PICKLED NEWT, Greene King, demolished and replaced by flats. (W114, U68, U98, U110, U117)

KENTON, BISHOP CASEYS, Free House, closed, future uncertain. (U151)

KENTON, LITTEN TREE, 177-179 Kenton Rd. Renamed KENTON ARMS, SFI, no real ale. Note full address. (U141)

PINNER, RAILWAY, ex-Benskins, closed. Formerly RAILWAY HOTEL (W136, U78, U132)

SUDBURY, MITRE, ex-Taylor Walker, closed. (W144)

WEALDSTONE, QUEENS ARMS. Renamed KILKENNY CASTLE and now renamed again SAM MAGUIRE, ex-Taylor Walker, no real ale. (W156)

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BRIDGE HOUSE, ex-Watney, converted to Chinese restaurant. (SE11)

SE1, COUNTY TERRACE TAVERN, ex-Courage, demolished. (SE13)

SE10, HORSE & GROOM, ex-Whitbread, now demolished. (SE97, U162)

SE10, WILLIAM IV. Now KING WILLIAM IV HOTEL. Free House, H unused. Retains William IV name on hanging sign. (SE103, U125)

SE25, FREEMASONS TAVERN, ex-Allied, closed and being converted to flats. (SE216)

SE25, GOAT HOUSE, Fuller, closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (SE216, U120)

CROYDON, LESLIE ARMS, ex-Taylor Walker, closed, planning application submitted for flats and a care home. (3SE244, U55)

SOUTH WEST

SW11, PINE TAVERN, ex-Inntrepreneur, now being demolished. (SW89, U170)

SW18, LITTEN TREE, SFI, closed, future uncertain. (SW113, U146)

MORDEN, ABBOT, ex-Taylor Walker, H removed. (SW150, U132)

MORDEN, JACK STAMPS BEER HOUSE. Renamed GANLEYS (IRISH BAR), Faucet Inns, H removed. (SW150, U132, U135, U136, U168)

WEST

W2, BRUNEL BAR, Free House, closed and absorbed into Hilton London Paddington Hotel (ex-Great Western Royal Hotel) and replaced by STEAM (see U165). (W58)

W2, CHEPSTOW, ex-Courage, H removed. Now a gastropub. Formerly CHEPSTOW ARMS. (W58, U133)

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"/>
Under age 26	£9 <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of birth _____		
Unemployed/Disabled	£9 <input type="checkbox"/>			
OAP	£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



W2, DURHAM CASTLE, ex-Truman, closed and signage removed. (W59, U74, U157)

W2, HANGING TREE, ex-Courage, converted to 'Salt' cocktail bar. No draught beer: remove from pub database. Formerly TYBURN. (W64, U76, U93, U141)

W3, CAPEL ARMS, Free House (ex-Labatts), now demolished for housing development. (W64, U100, U151)

W3, HARBOUR LIGHTS, Phoenix, now demolished for housing development. (W64, U112, U151)

W4, PITCHER & PIANO, Wolves & Dudley (ex-Marston), H removed. (U79, U118)

W6, EAGLE ARMS, ex-Belhaven, now converted to offices. (W74, U45, U119)

W9, WICKED WOLF. Renamed **TIME**. Free House, closed and boarded up. Formerly **PRINCE ALBERT**. (W83, U74, U133)

W11, BEACH BLANKET BABYLON, Free House, no draught beer: remove from pub database. Formerly **PEMBROKE CASTLE**. (W88, U74, U94)

W13, PRINCE ARTHUR. Renamed **ASHBY'S**. S&N, no real ale. (W93, U83, U86, U107)

GREENFORD, LITTEN. Renamed **LITTEN TREE**, SFL, no real ale. (W102, U49, U163)

HAMPTON HILL, JOLLY GARDENERS, ex-Watney. Contrary to U156, not demolished but now converted to flats with car park and garden developed for housing. Retains 'Isleworth Fine Ales' in stonework. (W105, U156)

HANWORTH, HOPE & ANCHOR, ex-Taylor Walker,

now demolished and replaced by a McDonalds restaurant. (W108, U92, U95)

HANWORTH, JOLLY SAILOR, ex-Watney, demolished and replaced by a petrol filling station. (W108)

HAYES, TUMBLER, ex-Courage, closed, boarded up and signage removed. Planning application submitted for conversion to YMCA. (W118)

HAYES, WHITE HART, S&N, now demolished. (W118, U107)

HOUNSLOW, QUEEN VICTORIA, Fuller, now demolished and replaced by flats. (W128, U91, U102, U113)

HOUNSLOW, YATES'S WINE LODGE. Now simply **YATES'S**. Free House (Yates's), H removed. (U121)

ICKENHAM, FOX & GEESE. Renamed **CHAMPIONS**, ex-Courage, no real ale. (W130, U71)

ISLEWORTH, HARLEQUIN, ex-Courage, now converted to shop. (W131, U54, U101)

ISLEWORTH, INN ON THE SQUARE, ex-Watney, now converted to offices. (W131)

RUISLIP, MILL HOUSE, Ruislip Golf Centre. Free House, no real ale. Note correct title. (W137)

SOUTHALL, BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Free House, closed and boarded up, future uncertain. (W140 U55, U68, U151)

SOUTHALL, HALFWAY HOUSE, ex-Courage, converted to shop and now partially demolished. (W142, U64, U74)

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A warm welcome awaits you, enjoy a pint in our relaxed and friendly pub

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The Wimbledon Hogshead

Beer Festival begins

Friday 27/28/29 February

Minimum selection of 12 real ales

CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 175

SOUTHALL, LORD WOLSELEY, Free House (ex-Fuller), converted to residential. (W142, U163)
TWICKENHAM, FISHERMENS HUT, Free House, converted to 'Loch Fyne fish restaurant, oyster bar and shop'. Formerly NELSON. (W151, U123)
UXBRIDGE, PRINCE OF WALES, ex-Watney, now converted to a kebab restaurant. (W154, U167)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, COACH & HORSES, 26/28 Ray St, -beers listed except Young: Special; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +guest beer. (E14, U76)
EC1, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Now converted from a pizza restaurant to a fish & chip shop. (E15, U98, U146, U150, U156)
EC1, O'HANLON'S. Renamed **MULLIGANS (LITTLE HOUSE)**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride (including all O'Hanlons draught beers); +Brakspear: Bitter; +2 guest beers. Retains O'Hanlons bottled beers. Refurbished with light pine flooring, green leather seating. No smoking area at rear 12.30-2.30!. Open 11-12 Mon-Sat, 12-6 Sun. Formerly **THREE CROWNS**. (E26, U90, U113, U117, U154, U162)
EC2, HOGSHEAD, 26 Throgmorton St. Renamed **PHOENIX**, -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter and Fuller: London Pride; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Draught Bass. London's first completely 'no smoking' pub, launched with great fanfare by Laurel in early December. (U153, U169)
EC2, OLD MONK, 10 Aldermanbury. Renamed **PRODIGAL** in November 2003. -Adnams: Fisherman; -Worthington: Best Bitter; +Draught Bass. Now has large plasma screens showing pop videos. (U157, U171)
EC3, FIRST & LAST, 14 Bishopsgate Arcade, 175 Bishopsgate. Reverted to **SIR PAUL PINDAR**, +Adnams: Bitter. Note correct address. (E36, U66, U80, U155, U161)
EC4, ALL BAR ONE, 44-46 Ludgate Hill. -Draught Bass. Fuller: London Pride only. Note correct address. (U114)
EC4, HOGSHEAD, 5-11 Fetter Lane. Now a new style **HOG'S HEAD**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA. (U150)
EC4, PUNCH TAVERN, -beers listed; +Taylor: Landlord. (E52, U121, U131)
W1(Mar), 58 STREET CAFÉ. Now simply **STREET (THE)**, still no real ale. Formerly **QUINTIN HOGG**. (W36, U49, U98, U104, U108)
W1(Mar), BEEHIVE, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter. Now a Free House, ex-Whitbread. (W33, U60, U79, U85)
W1(Mar), DOME. Duke St. Renamed **IGUAZÚ** and now a Latin American bar, still no real ale. (U129)
W1(Mar), DUKE OF WELLINGTON. Now Punch, ex-Bass. (W34, U83)
W1(Mar), HOUSE OF SPORTS (ACTION BAR). Renamed **LIQUID BLUE**. Still no real ale. Formerly **MACEYS**. (W35, U129)
W1(May), GOAT TAVERN, -beers listed; +Caledonian:

Deuchars IPA; +Everard: Tiger; +Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +guest beer. (W39, U90, U106)
W1(May), GUINEA GRILL. Should read **GUINEA** (contrary to U92). The Guinea Grill is the name of the separate restaurant which occupies the rear and side of the pub. (W39, U92)
W1(May), HOGSHEAD, 11-16 Dering St, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Adnams: Bitter. Formerly **BUNCH OF GRAPES**. (W38, U79, U90, U118)
W1(May), RUNNING FOOTMAN, -beers listed; +changing range of guest beers from family brewers. (W40, U90, U106)
WC2, DALYS BAR, 46 Essex St. Basement bar now merged with **DALYS WINE BAR** on ground floor next door which name and address at 210 Strand it has also adopted. Retains Adnams: Bitter and Broadside now in both bars. Formerly **HEDGEHOG & HOGSHEAD**. (U94, U157)
WC2, GEORGE IV, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord. (W54)
WC2, TUP (SAVOY), now **SAVOY TUP**, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter now badged as house beer 'Tup Fine Ale'; +Wells: Bombardier. (W55, U54, U62, U144)

EAST

BARKINGSIDE, OLD MAYPOLE, -Draught Bass; +Fuller: London Pride. Now badged as part of M&B's 'Arena Inns' estate. (X12, U51, U160)
ILFORD, ROSE & CROWN. Now Punch, ex-Taylor Walker. (X73, U169)
ROMFORD, GOLDEN LION TAVERN. Now **GOLDEN LION**, -beers listed except Courage: Directors and Theakston: Old Peculier; +Courage: Best Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Marston: Pedigree; +Wells: Bombardier; +Young: Bitter. Occasional beer festivals. (X100)
WOODFORD BRIDGE, CROWN & CROOKED BILLET, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +guest beer (eg Bateman seasonal). (X131)
WOODFORD BRIDGE, THREE JOLLY WHEELERS, -M&B: Brew XI; +Fuller: London Pride. (X131)
WOODFORD GREEN, WOODMAN. Renamed **BEDROCK** and now reverted to **WOODMAN**. (X132)

NORTH

N1, HOURICANS. Renamed **BARNSBURY**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride and Taylor: Landlord; +guest beer. (N48)
N1, HUNTINGDON ARMS, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. Now a Free House, ex-Eldridge Pope. (N48, U123, U144)
N1, PINT POT. Renamed **CASTLE**. (N55)
N8, HARRINGAY ARMS, +guest beer. (N93, U174)
N8, KINGS HEAD, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +guest beer. Refurbished and under new management. (N94, U151)
N10, VICTORIA STAKES, -beers listed except Greene King: IPA; +Greene King: Abbot Ale. (N104)
N13, WHOLE HOG, -beers listed; +Courage: Best Bitter, Directors Bitter; +Theakston: Best Bitter; +guest beers. Sold by Wetherspoon to London & Edinburgh Inns in December 2003. (N115)

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CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 175

N22, PHOENIX BAR, -beers listed; + Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA; +Ind Coope: Burton Ale. (N156, U151)

ENFIELD EAST (EN3), ENTERTAINER. Now Avebury Inns, ex-Whitbread, and to let. Formerly **PRINCE OF WALES**. (N241, U134)

NORTH WEST

NW1, EDWARDS. Renamed **CRESCENT**. Formerly **SOUTHAMPTON ARMS**. (N175, U130)

NW3, GARDEN GATE, -Draught Bass; +2 guest beers. (N189, U145)

NW3, ROEBUCK, -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter and Fuller: London Pride; +Draught Bass. (N189)

NW3, THREE HORSESHOES. Sold by Wetherspoon to London & Edinburgh Inns in December 2003. Beer range likely to change. (N190, U146, U159)

NW10, OUTSIDE INN. Sold by Wetherspoon to London & Edinburgh Inns in December 2003. Beer range likely to change. (N224)

EDGWARE, GLENGALL PARK. Renamed **SPARROW**, still no real ale. (N256, U153)

KENTON, CEILI HOUSE. Renamed **RAMBLING INN**, still no real ale. (U134)

PINNER, WHITTINGTON. Renamed **PINNER ARMS**, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride. Correct address is Whittington Way, off Cannon Lane. (W137, U152)

STANMORE, CROWN. Renamed **STANLEY MORE**. (W144, U152)

SOUTH EAST

SE10, FUNNEL & FIRKIN. Renamed **MARKET**, -beers listed except Tetley: Bitter; +Adnams: Bitter. Formerly **STUDIO BAR**. (SE102, U104, U123, U151)

SE10, YACHT TAVERN. Now simply **YACHT**. (SE103, U107)

SE11, GREYHOUND, -Wadworth: 6X; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wells: Bombardier (SE107)

SE12, SUMMERFIELD. Now Unique, ex-Inntrepreneur. (SE114)

SE18, EARL OF CHATHAM. Now Unique, ex-Watney. (SE167)

SE26, WINDMILL, -beers listed except Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; +Courage: Best Bitter; +guest beers (currently Adnams: Bitter, Ridley: Old Bob and Wadworth: 6X). Sold by Wetherspoon to London & Edinburgh Inns in December 2003. (U158)

SOUTH WEST

SW6, DURRELL ARMS. Now badged by S&N as a 'bar and pizzeria'. Formerly **RAT & PARROT** for a while. (SW70, U163)

SW11, PRODIGALS RETURN. Renamed **BLUE MANGO**, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride. Formerly **PIG ON THE BRIDGE**. (U139, U155, U160)

SW18, ROSE & CROWN. Sold by Wetherspoon to London & Edinburgh Inns in December 2003. Beer range likely to change. Formerly **GLEESON & SONS CORNER HOUSE**. (SW112, U141, U149, U151)

SW19, PRINCESS ROYAL, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter and Greene King: IPA; +Draught Bass;

+Greene King: Abbot Ale. (SW119, U146)

MORDEN, MORDEN HALL, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Wadworth: 6X. Real ale not always available. Now signed as part of Laurel's 'Out & Out Restaurant pub' estate. (SW150, U146)

MORDEN, MORDEN TAVERN. Renamed **TAVERN**, -guest beers; +Courage: Best Bitter. Probably now a Free House, ex-Wychwood. (SW150)

WEST

W4, GROVE PARK HOTEL. Now simply **GROVE PARK**. (W69, U107)

W5, BETTER HALF. Renamed **CHANDLERS**, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride; +Young: Bitter; +guest beer. (U92, U168)

W5, DOHERTYS. Renamed **SHANAKEE**. (U130)

W5 PENNY FLYER. Reverted to **EALING PARK TAVERN**, -beers listed; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Fuller: London Pride; +Taylor: Landlord; +guest beer (eg Harviestoun: Bitter & Twisted or a Pitfield beer). (W72, U56, U64, U74, U86, U163)

W5, YATES'S. Renamed **HA HA (BAR & CANTEEN)**. Formerly **YATES'S WINE LODGE**. (U96, U163)

W6, OLD SHIP, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, seasonal beer. Now a Free House, ex-Watney. (W76, U63)

W7, PRINCE OF WALES. Renamed **McCANN'S**. (W79)

J.J. Duffy



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CAPITAL PUBCHECK - UPDATE 175

W13, HALFWAY HOUSE. Renamed BROADWALK HOTEL. (W92, U151)

W14, CLARENCE, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA. (W94, U69)

BRENTFORD, DUKE OF YORK. Renamed NEW ENGLAND. (W97, U150)

FELTHAM, THREE HORSESHOES, 1 Sunbury Rd, - beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter. Note correct address. (W100, U80)

HAMPTON HILL, CAFE SOCIETY. Renamed STONE HOUSE, still no real ale. (U167, U168)

HAYES, BLUE ANCHOR. Subtitled McAULEYS. (W117, U55, U89, U166)

HAYES, MOON & SIXPENCE. Renamed WISHING WELL. (U79, U163)

HAYES, VICTORIA. Free House operated by Gaffneys, according to hanging sign. (W118, U59, U86)

HOUNSLOW, RABAR. Renamed JALANDAR JUNCTION, still no real ale. Formerly ROYAL ALBION. (W128, U81, U101, U147, U167)

TWICKENHAM, MURRAYS. Renamed JOYA, still no real ale. (U136)

CORRECTION TO UPDATE 173

NEW PUBS ETC.

SW2, WAGGON & HORSES. Delete entry, converted to offices as correctly reported in U167 (erroneous information from a normally reliable source)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 174

NEW PUBS ETC.

N12, HOXTON SQUARE BAR. Delete entry, already listed in U148 but note full title.

SE1, YORKSHIRE GREY (now GARRISON). Refs omitted: (SE41, U117, U158)

SW17, SMOKE. Is a Free House.

PUBS CLOSED ETC.

EC4, SMITHFIELDS FREE HOUSE. Should read EC1. E1, CITY OF CARLISLE. Should read: ex-Truman (not Inn Business).

E3, MOULDERS ARMS. Is Unique, ex-Watney.

N12, HOLLYWOOD (now BAR ORIGINAL). Address is Great North Leisure Park, Chaplin Sq.

SE18, ORDNANCE ARMS. Now a Free House, ex-Allied.

SW18, LIVEBAIT. Formerly CAFÉ MED, previously ROUNDHOUSE (see also 'Additions' above).

ISLEWORTH, KINGS ARMS. Should read 'still closed and boarded up'; already reported in U165 (add reference).

OTHER CHANGES ETC.

W1(F), MATRIX (now SOUTHSIDE BAR). Formerly CLEVELAND.

CHADWELL HEATH, TOLLGATE. 'Sizzling Pub Co' is an M&B (ex-Bass) brand.

N8, HARRINGEY ARMS. Should read HARRINGAY ARMS.

N14, FISHERMANS ARMS. Should read FISHMONGERS ARMS.



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CASK MARQUE UPDATE

New Cask Marque awards to licensees of pubs and clubs in Greater London notified since November are listed below.

CENTRAL

EC1, ALL BAR ONE, 91-93 Charterhouse St. M&B. (U132)
 EC1, ST PAULS TAVERN, 56 Chiswell St. Laurel (E23, U74, U75)
 EC2, ALL BAR ONE, 18-20 Appold St. M&B. (U175)
 EC2, ALL BAR ONE, 127 Finsbury Pavement. M&B. (U151)
 EC2, RAILWAY TAVERN, 15 Liverpool St. Laurel. (E35, U75)
 EC2, SIR PAUL PINDAR, 14 Bishopsgate Arcade, 175 Bishopsgate. M&B, formerly FIRST & LAST, originally SIR PAUL PINDAR. (E36, U66, U80, U155, U161, U175)
 EC3, ALL BAR ONE, 16 Byward St. M&B. (U142)
 EC4, ALL BAR ONE, 103 Cannon St. M&B. (U127)
 EC4, ALL BAR ONE, 44-46 Ludgate Hill. M&B. (U114, U175)
 EC4, HOG'S HEAD, 5-11, Fetter Lane. Laurel, formerly HOGSHEAD. (U150, U175)
 EC4, PRINTERS DEVIL, 98 Fetter Lane. Laurel. (E52)
 W1(Mar), ALL BAR ONE, 5/6 Picton Place. M&B. (U148)
 W1(Mar), ALL BAR ONE, 289-293 Regent St. M&B, formerly DOME. (U125)
 W1(Mar), DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 94A Crawford St. Punch. (W34, U83, U175)
 W1(S), ALL BAR ONE, 36-38 Dean St. M&B. (U118)
 WC1, ALL BAR ONE, 108 New Oxford St. M&B. (U138, HB5)
 WC1, QUEENS LARDER, 1 Queen Sq. Laurel. (W50, U51, U90, N30, HB13)
 WC2, ALL BAR ONE, 84 Charing Cross Rd. M&B (U147)
 WC2, ALL BAR ONE, 58 Kingsway. M&B (U137)
 WC2, ALL BAR ONE, 48 Leicester Sq. M&B. (U110)
 WC2, BREWMASTER, 37 Cranbourne St. Laurel. (W52, U175)
 WC2, SHERLOCK HOLMES, 10 Northumberland St. Laurel. (W56, U67, U74)

EAST

E1, WILLIAMS (WINE & ALE HOUSE), 22/24 Artillery Lane. Laurel. (E76, U98)
 E14, ALL BAR ONE, 42 Mackenzie Walk, South Colonnade. M&B. (U132)
 ILFORD, ROSE & CROWN, 16 Ilford Hill. Punch. (X73, U169, U175)
 ROMFORD, GOLDEN LION, 2 High St. S&N. (X101, U175)

NORTH

N1, ALL BAR ONE, 1 Liverpool Rd. M&B. (N37)
 N12, AUTUMN HOUSE, 744 High St. Wizard Inns, formerly BELGRAVE, O'NEILLS and PAGES BAR (N111, U110, U160, U163, U168)
 ENFIELD WEST (EN2), CROWN & HORSESHOE, 15 Horseshoe Lane. Laurel. (N233)
 ENFIELD WEST (EN2), PIED BULL, Bulls Cross. Laurel. (N236)

NORTH WEST

NW1, GLOBE, 43-47 Marylebone Rd. S&N. (N166, U106, U109)
 NW8, ALL BAR ONE, 60 St Johns Wood High St. M&B, formerly CAFE GIOCONDA. (U109, U110)
 PINNER, PINNER ARMS, Whittington Way. Laurel, formerly WHITTINGTON. (W137, U152, U175)

SOUTH EAST

SE3, CROWN, 49 Tranquil Vale. S&N. (SE46, U102, U107)
 SE3, ROYAL STANDARD, 44 Vanburgh Park. S&N. (SE49, U168)
 SE10, YACHT, 5 Crane St. S&N, formerly YACHT TAVERN. (SE103, U175)
 SE12, SUMMERFIELD, 60 Baring Rd. Unique. (SE114, U175)
 SE18, EARL OF CHATHAM, 15 Thomas St. Unique. (SE167, U175)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(W), ADAM & EVE, 81 Petty France. S&N. (SW47)
 SW1(W), BAG O'NAILS, 6 Buckingham Palace Rd. S&N. (SW47)
 SW1(W), COLONIES, 25 Wilfred St. S&N. (SW48)
 SW10, WORLDS END, 459 Kings Rd. S&N. (SE103)
 SUTTON, ALL BAR ONE, 2 Hill Rd. M&B. (SW164)

WEST

W4, ALL BAR ONE, 197/199 Chiswick High Rd. M&B. (U118)
 W4, FOX & HOUNDS AND MAWSON ARMS. 110 Chiswick Lane South. Fuller. (W69)
 W5, ALL BAR ONE, 64-66 The Mall. M&B. (U151)
 HAYES, RAM, Dawley Rd. Laurel. (W118, U59, U73, U81)
 TEDDINGTON, TEDDINGTON ARMS, 38/40 High St. Capital Pub Co. (U172)

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LUXEMBOURG, A CENTRE FOR BEER

Part 1, THE LUXEMBOURG TOUR

The research team from CAMAL, the Campaign for Authentic Lager, recently decided it was time to go to Luxembourg. Not because of its reputation for beer, it does not have one. Well-known beer writer Tim Webb says, 'Despite its pivotal position, wedged between two of the great brewing nations, Belgium and Germany, its beers are notoriously unimaginative'. Despite this, CAMAL had to go but because it had never been there. Further, it is well placed for providing rail access to Belgium, Germany and France. We could 'do' four countries in one trip, and use a common currency. But first we will consider the delights of the Grand Duchy.

LUXEMBOURG CITY

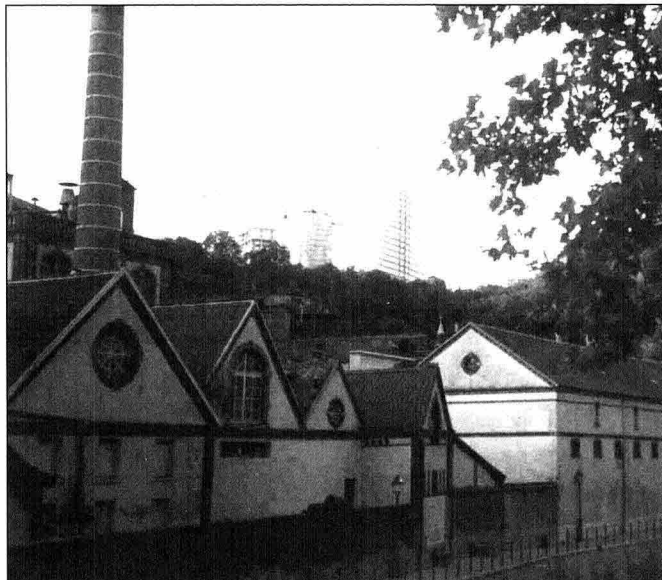
Luxembourg is a very attractive city and is in the UNESCO World Heritage list. It has a picturesque deep ravine running through it, overlooked by the remains of strong defensive stone walls with a subterranean network of casemates looking onto the ravine. There are plenty of attractive buildings and large public squares to gaze at while exploring the large number of pubs scattered throughout the centre.

The old Luxembourg Mousel brewery, in the picturesque valley at Clausen just outside the city centre, is now closed, the beers are now brewed at the Diekirch brewery, but just round the corner from the original brewery is Mousel's Cantine, 46, Montée de Clausen. A traditional pub with a basic

front room and two wood-panelled back rooms, it serves the rare Mousel Gezwieckelte, the unfiltered Pils, in pot mugs. The beer tastes a bit yeasty and a touch dry, and has a nice bitter flavour. It has all the flavour that was there before the Pils was processed for mass-market consumption. The food is good too. I could not finish my mountain of mussels in garlic. Another outlet for Mousel Gezwieckelte, probably the only other one in town, is Zeutzius, 71 Rue de Trèves in Cents. This old country-style restaurant, with good food and a very helpful owner, provided a fine place for a first rate drop of Mousel unfiltered, not gassy, very slippable and with a lingering aftertaste of hops.

Bofferding, from nearby Bascharage, is the more common of the beers in the pubby establishments and can be quite pleasant when found free of excess gas. In the city centre the beers are often rather gassy but one interesting restaurant/bar we tried was Colors in Rue Chimay. There is a small frontage leading into a simple café bar. The Bofferding here was quite reasonable and they had the Celis White, an unfiltered wheat beer brewed by Affligem on contract. The pub goes back and upstairs to a good restaurant and then finishes up with a large patio in the square behind, Place Guillaume II, providing a good setting for a meal. We were hoping to get some Bitburger as the German brewery is just across the border from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and we did see a sign in the busy Place d'Armes at the Café de Paris. This is a mock Edwardian restaurant with plenty of tables in the square offering an excellent vantage position for people watching. Unfortunately, the Bitburger needed extensive use of the swizzle stick to get rid of the carbonic acid, a typical problem in such tourist venues.

Near the railway station we were able to get some Simon Pils (from Wiltz in the north west of the Duchy) at Brasserie New Ekseption in Rue Joseph Junck. It is a smart café-bar in white wood with some good quality beer. Our normal watering hole before catching the train to foreign parts was the station bar. The gassiness of the Battin Gambrinus beer was lower than that in most of the surrounding bars and we noticed that it was served from a metered font. The meter presumably makes them set the gas level low to avoid foaming and thus provide a reasonable quality beer.



The closed Mousel Brewery

LUXEMBOURG, A CENTRE FOR BEER

GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

Bascharage

A 35 minute bus journey out of Luxembourg City on the 215 bus from Charlys Gare, Avenue Emile Reuter, is Bascharage. Here there is the Bofferding Brewery, which does tours, but we preferred to get off the bus at BeierHaascht, 240, Route de Luxembourg. This is a quite large, stylish brewpub with light wood décor and furniture. It is a very impressive establishment serving dishes that include wild boar, venison and horse. The brews are Blonde, Brune and Weiss and all are available in pitchers. They are all unfiltered and were not at all gassy. I particularly liked the Blonde that was smooth and slipped down well leaving a nice light bitter aftertaste. The Weiss was light on wheat flavour, with little bite, and the Brune was also light on flavour but quite drinkable.

Redange

Okult beers seem to be gaining a following so we decided to do the pleasant 50-minute bus journey from the main bus station, by the railway station, to the quiet village of Redange in a well wooded agricultural area. The journey had quite an old-fashioned country atmosphere. The driver of the bus was Patricia, a lively attractive lady, who phoned through to the brewery and checked that it was open, and then dropped us off at its obscure entrance, causing quite a traffic queue in the narrow street. We were at Brasserie Artisanale de Redange, 61 Grand Rue, Redange sur Attert, a small brewpub whose brewery is in the cellar with the coppers reaching through the ceiling into the bar room. Built in an old tower brewery, it has a smart modern style wooded restaurant on the first floor of the original brewery, where they are putting increased emphasis on organic meals. The bar décor is basic with a flagstone floor. They have been brewing for three years and are now exporting some of their beers under the Okult label. They do top fermented unfiltered beers and no lagers. The Blonde was quite tasty, and a little dry. The Blanche was slippable and smooth with a flavour of coriander and orange. It was a little dry and quite good. The Rousse had a touch of bananas and a lingering bitter flavour. They also do a Stout.

Rumelange

To try an old fashioned Belgian-style café with a range of interesting beers, one of the few in the Duchy, we went to Rumelange, part of the industrial history of South Luxembourg. It is about 28 minutes by train from Luxembourg City. At the far end of the uninspiring main street is the Café du Coin, 94 Grand Rue, a marvellous old corner street café with 1911 art deco inside. There were nine draught beers, if you ignore the Kilkenny and Guinness, and a menu of well over 100 bottled beers, mainly from smaller breweries. Of the draughts I preferred the Simon Dinkel, from Wiltz. It is a speltz beer using un-malted wheat, tasting like a Helles with a bit of wheat added. Also among the draughts were La Chouffe, and a Battin Gambirinus that had quite a bit of flavour.

Ken Brewster

Further articles will reveal a few accessible places in the neighbouring countries.



Café du Coin, Rumelange

ICH BIN EIN BERLINER

Our flight from Stansted took only 1hr 20 minutes and we landed at Tegel airport in Berlin's northern suburbs. Taxis soon whisked us to our hotel in Spandau, an area of NW Berlin famous for its prison (demolished in 1987 following the death of it's only inmate Rudolph Hess), citadel and ballet! To cut a long story short we checked into Hotel Lindenufer on the top floors of a town house, across the road from u-bahn(tube) Alstadt Spandau. Formalities over we made the short walk to Brauhaus in Spandau, a brewpub/restaurant/hotel converted from a British army laundry. They brewed two beers on the premises Helles(light) and Dunkel(dark); both were tasty, malty brews. Their 5 litre special came in a tapped barrel balanced on what looked like a milking stool!



The Spandau Brauhaus

We decided to head into town and after walking past Tempelhof airport, which was West Berlin's only link to the outside world during the airlift of 1948/49, we helped some Turkish 'businessmen' remove a shop fascia. On reflection we should have checked if it was their shop! Our destination was Alter Fritz, Brauhaus Johann Albrecht on Reinckendorf. The building was a converted masonic lodge with many nooks, crannies and ante rooms, one of which became our home for the next few hours as we consumed their excellent Hell and Dunkel beers and the superb food. Like a lot of German cooking, the pig features prominently and

just about every part of it is eaten. Eisbein (pigs trotters) were very popular; the portion sizes had to be seen to be believed. Berlin is not the place to be on a diet or a vegetarian. The Bratwurst and Bockwurst sausages dwarfed anything seen in the UK. Also surprisingly tasty were specialities such as sauerkraut, a spicy, sliced cabbage.

The second day saw some serious sightseeing starting near Zoo Station (fans of rock group U2 note). The great landmark here is the Kaiser-Wilhelm Memorial Church destroyed by Allied bombing in 1943. Left as a memorial, the crumbling tower with an exquisite mosaic in the nave is very moving. In the exhibition mention is made of the destruction and rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral. Some of the party then scaled the Funkturm communications tower for some

extraordinary views over the city. After a coffee and Kuchen (cake), we walked through the beautiful Tiergartenpark to the Siegessäule monument on a traffic island giving a view very close to that looking down the Mall to Admiralty Arch, only in this case the Brandenburg Gate. We ticked this off as well as the nearby Reichstag Parliament building. Next on the list was the best known crossing point between East and West, Checkpoint Charlie. It's only a hut frankly and not even the original but close by there is a very informative museum which specialises in

the ingenious means employed by people to escape to the west, be they tunnels, balloons, disguises or hiding places. Also close by on Wilhelmstrasse is the gory Topography of Terror, an outdoor photographic exhibition well situated between the longest surviving stretch of wall and the former offices of the Gestapo and SS. It's part rogues gallery, part memorial to the victims of the Nazis.

After all this gore it was time for a drink so we headed off to Potsdamer Platz and the modernistic Sony Centre within which was the multi-levelled Lindenbrau brewpub. We had 3 metres of their house beers which involved eight 0.2 litre glasses being served on elongated cricket bats. The beers

had a Bavarian theme with helles, dunkel, marzen, pils, bock and weiss available. Next port of call was close to Alexanderplatz and its enormous, futuristic TV transmitter. This was Brahaus Georgbräu on Speeufer. Both their house beers were called pils but despite the insistence of the staff I believe they were nothing of the sort: they looked, smelt and drank like German ales. This was a multi-roomed bar on the river in an up and coming area.

The one wild goose chase led us to Potsdam in the SW; some duff local directions led us not to a brewpub but to a derelict site once used by Kindl. This outing at least enabled us to sample the full extent of the excellent transport system of u-bahns, s-bahns, trams and buses; we had a 3-day pass for 19 euros.

Our last brewpub was up in the north, 10 minutes walk from Alt Tegel u-bahn. Brauhaus Rixdorf is a sister pub of Alter Fritz with the same high standards of food and beer - the magnificent if aromatic cheese board was a highlight. Other beers tried included Warsteiner, Kindl, Erdinger and Kostritzer. The beer purity laws 'Reinheitsgebot' insist that only water, hops, yeast and malt can be

used in the brewing process which results in the unfailingly high standards of German beer.

On the last day we headed for a brewery visit in the NE of the city at the family run Schultheiss concern. They brew two hoppy pilseners, a delicious malty schwarz (black) lager and a powerful bock as well as the under threat Berliner Weiss. Different from the Bavarian style as it's served young and sour, its sales have been falling rapidly. Some establishments have tried to attract younger drinkers to try it by colouring it green with woodruff or red with raspberry. The end of the tour brought a surreal moment when our leader James Francis, whose knowledge of the city and in particular fluency in German proved invaluable, ended addressing the group of German teenagers who were on the tour with us on CAMRA, the GBBF and the battles between the rival American and Czech Budweisers. He even got Posh 'n Becks in there somehow. All in all a magnificent weekend: the beer, food and hospitality were superb and I for one will be returning soon.

Tony Roberts and James Francis (Enfield and Barnet CAMRA)

THE MAGPIE & CROWN

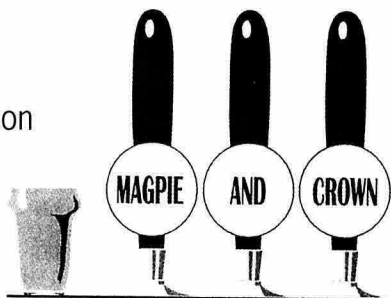
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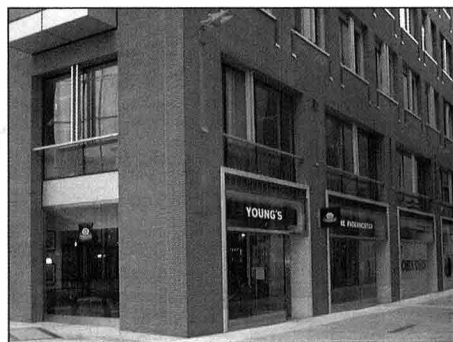
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IDLE MOMENTS

DECEMBER'S ANSWERS

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

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 1440 Minutes in a Day
2. 100 Zeroes in a Googol
3. 24 Sheets of Paper in a Quire
4. 11 Lords a-Leaping
5. 37 Slots on a Roulette Wheel
6. 144 Pints in a Kilderkin
7. 13 Cards in a Suit
8. 19 Impossible Score in Cribbage
9. 3 Wise Men
10. 633 Squadron

BREWERY ANAGRAMS:

1. R.E.M. LAB - MARBLE
2. BURN ELK - KELBURN
3. I'D FLOWER - WORFIELD
4. START A BEE - BATTERSEA
5. NOT TOP - POTTON
6. BELTS WIT - BLEWITTS
7. TALL DIN - TINDALL
8. LOWER MASS - LOWES ARMS
9. TEENY REG - GREEN TYE
10. HOP CARES - POACHERS

5BY4:

1. Bad To Me - Billy J Kramer & The Dakotas
2. Do You Love Me? - Brian Poole & The Tremeloes
3. The Wayward Wind - Frank Ifield
4. Diamonds - Jet Harris & Tony Meehan
5. The Next Time/Bachelor Boy - Cliff Richard
6. (You're The) Devil in Disguise - Elvis Presley

Well, that's Christmas and New Year out of the way - and here I am still trying to find an interesting quotation to start with. How about this one from Samuel Butler (1835-1902):

All progress is based on a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income.

Right, that's the fun bit out of the way; now let's get on with the usual misery, starting as usual with the number puzzles:

1. 4 P on a T
2. 13 LM in a Y
3. 40 D in L
4. 7 CS on a TPP
5. 28 in a S (DS)
6. 6 F on a C
7. 9 L of a C
8. 8 is a GFW on the BS
9. 80 Q in a T
10. 7 P of W by TEL

Despite having had nearly a fortnight of at Christmas, I still haven't invented anagrams for all

7. From Me To You - The Beatles
8. How Do You Do It? - Gerry & The Pacemakers
9. Dance On - The Shadows
10. Sweets For My Sweet - The Searchers

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. Wenceslas Square is located in Prague
2. We all know that Bing Crosby had a huge hit with "White Christmas" a long time ago, but how many knew it was written by Irving Berlin?
3. In "Fairytale of New York" by Kirsty MacColl and The Pogues "The boys of the NYPD choir were singing GALWAY BAY and the bells were ringing out for Christmas Day."
4. Captain Cook discovered Christmas Island on Christmas Day - in 1777.
5. The Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square has been a gift every year since 1947 from the people of Oslo.
6. The national park which contains the village of Bethlehem is the Brecon Beacons.
7. The first Christmas song to top the UK hit parade did so, (sung by Dickie Valentine in 1955) was called Christmas Alphabet.
8. The common name of the small white flowered winter blooming plant *Helleborus niger* is the Christmas rose.
9. The odd one out from Conrad Hilton, Rebecca West, Kenny Everett, Humphrey Bogart and Lew Grade was Charlie Chaplin because he died on Christmas day - the others were all born on that date.
10. The British Commonwealth city devastated by cyclone "Tracy" on Christmas Day in 1974 was Darwin.

the new breweries in the 2004 Good Beer Guide. Still never mind - I've still got plenty for some of the older ones, like these:

1. ALF IN BED
2. HOSES
3. MY LAW
4. AH! KEW DASH
5. ON STEW
6. HARD GAGS
7. SHUT LAW
8. BUG GAG RIPPER
9. COT GATE
10. REALLY WOKE BREW

I don't know why but while I was trying to think of a subject for 5BY4, I was suddenly struck with the thought that Patron Saints might do. A quick look through a certain DVD based encyclopaedia guided me to the Catholic Online web site where there are enough to keep us going till the Apocalypse comes along to divert our attention. These were among the ones I found. See if you can match up the pairings:

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IDLE MOMENTS

1. St. Homobonus
2. St. Ambrose
3. St. Vitus
4. St. Christopher
5. St. Barbara
6. St. Michael the Archangel
7. St. Matthew
8. St. Sebastian
9. St. Dunstan
10. St. Luke
- A. Architects
- B. Blacksmiths
- C. Tailors
- D. Comedians
- E. Doctors
- F. Ambulance drivers
- G. Accountants
- H. Travellers
- I. Archers
- J. Bee keepers

And finally we come on to the trivia. See how you do with these:

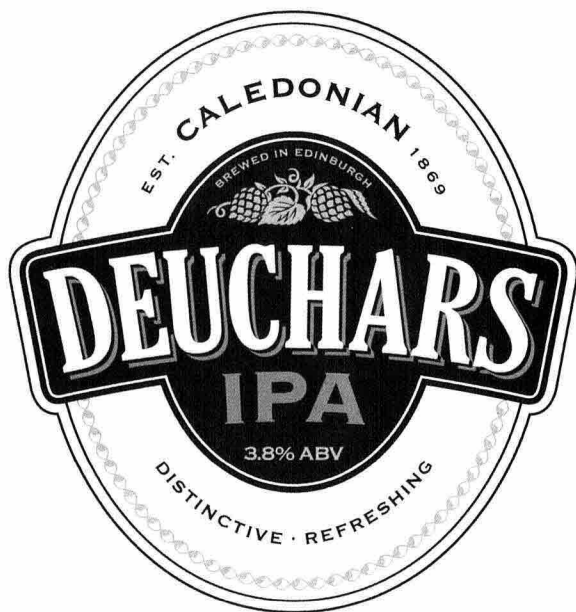
1. Seen particularly in East Anglia, what is pargetting?
2. If the zenith is the highest or farthest point of the orbit of a satellite, what is the lowest or closest point called?
3. Parchment and vellum are both high quality materials used for documents, but what is the difference between them?
4. What is the common name of Schubert's Eighth Symphony?
5. Florencia Bisenta De Casillas Martinez had a No. 2 hit record in 1967 with "It Must Be Him." What was her stage name?
6. Bob Davies is a comedian who had a hit record in 1975 (No, that would be a dead giveaway); by what name is he professionally known?
7. Dendrolatry is the worship of what?
8. Who had two heads and three arms and was President of the Universe?
9. What medal has "For bravery in the field" inscribed on its reverse side?
10. How many flags were hoisted on the summit of Mount Everest by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing in 1953 (and can you name them)?

Well that's it for this time; do you realise that by the time the next Idle Moments comes along it will be Spring. Makes you feel old doesn't it. No? Oh well, suit yourselves then.

Keep smiling - it makes people think you know something they don't.

Andy Pirson

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St Margarets Tavern, Twickenham
White Horse, Holborn
London Scottish RFC, Richmond



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FOR
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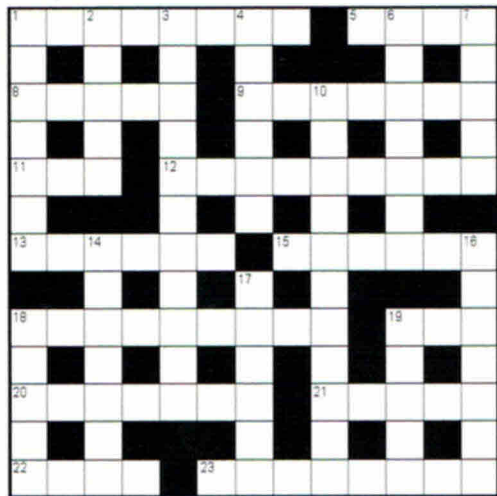
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LONDON DRINKER CROSSWORD

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name _____

Address- _____

All correct entries received by first post on 31st March will be entered into a draw for the prize. Prize winner will be announced in the June London Drinker.

The solution will be given in the April edition.

All entries to be submitted to:

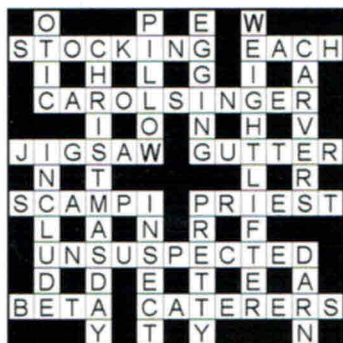
London Drinker Crossword

25 Valens House

Upper Tulse Hill

London SW2 2RX

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER CROSSWORD



£10 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Outlook on search for gold. [8]
5. Wise man exchanged letters for a long time. [4]
8. I give out perfect solution. [5]
9. Service I have rendered is great. [7]
11. Abstainer put nothing in drink. [3]
12. Letter quality. [9]
13. Turn down and polish again. [6]
15. She is to stop wearing support. [6]
18. Aluminium found in one country or another. [9]
19. Start cleaning any road vehicle. [3]
20. Hearts or clubs, they raise the game. [7]
21. Decrease in newspapers [5]
22. He's a whirlwind. [4]
23. Ordnance Survey has to share addresses. [8]

DOWN

1. Isn't common for salesman to get upset about artist. [7]
2. It's evident deliveries take time. [5]
3. Cut up ice for church officers. [6,5]
4. Following search soldiers turn up for battle. [6]
6. Gentiles out east shimmer and shine. [7]
7. Skinhead to try to cut hair. [5]
10. Cover for your flight. [5,6]
14. Flier's transport almost late. [7]
16. Stops aesthetic works being hung round small residence. [7]
17. Nearer the door? [6]
18. Doctor in beer crawl. [5]
19. I believe that company is in debt? Just the opposite. [5]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword:

J.E Green, St. Albans

Other correct entries were received from:

Tony Alpe & Kathryn Everett, Pat Andrews, Mark Antony, Geoff B, John Blundell, Bob Ken & Lilly, Ben Burfutt, Eddie Carr, Chris Fran & a spotted dog, John Cole, Chas Creasey, K.Creighton, Paul Curson, Ms R.Dalton, Arden d'Arteris, Richard & Clever Clogs Douthwaite, Michael Flynn, Dudley Freeman, Marion Goodall, Eileen Graves, Paul Gray, Stuart Guthrie, Tarnya Haigh, Jack Harmer, John Heath, Kevin Henriques, W.J.Hernon, Graham Hill, William Hill, Bill Hobbs, Sheerluck Holmes, Graham Jolliffe, Tom Kemp, P.Kerrigan, Terry Lavell, Dave Lewis, John McDonnell, K.I.May, M.J.Moran, Stewart Moul, Al Mountain, Terry Neill, Bill Nixon, Mick Norman, Dai O'Rear, Michael Perkin, Brian Phillips, Rod Prince, Derek Pryce, Anne Radley, Richard the Third, Geoff S, Bryan Smith, Peter Smith, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Paul Tiffany, John Treeby, Neil Ward, Paul (Candleman) Walford, Tony & Ann Watkins, Martin Weedon, Ian Whiteman, John Williams, Sue Wilson, David Woodward, Yak.

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