

FREE

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No 4



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2015



The Chesham Arms – see page 30 (Photo James Watson)

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WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR PUBS

Following the theme of the editorial that Geoff Strawbridge wrote for the last edition, I am pleased to welcome Steve O'Connell, the Greater London Assembly member for Croydon and Sutton, and Planning Spokesman for the GLA Conservatives, to give his view.

For me as a member of the London Assembly, a CAMRA Member, and real ale drinker of note (quick plug for Cronx Brewery, Croydon's Finest), strengthening protection for pubs has been, and continues to be, an important priority. London's pubs are a vital part of many local communities, but over the years it has been sad to see so many valued local pubs lost to inappropriate development. Traditionally, the planning system has made it very difficult to restrict local pubs from being redeveloped as housing, retail or another use. CAMRA has been fighting an excellent and longstanding campaign to change this, and I have been determined to do what I can at the London Assembly to support this vital work.

Back in 2013, I produced a report called *Keeping Local*, making the argument for why pubs need better protection, and setting out how London's planning policies could be changed to help achieve this. Then in 2014, I was delighted to see that the Mayor, Boris Johnson, had taken some of this on board in a new version of the *London Plan*, his development plan for London. It recognised, for the first time, the important role of valued local pubs, setting out how they should be maintained and supported.

This was a good start, but there was

much more that could be done. So, working closely with CAMRA, I continued to lobby the Mayor to improve and strengthen these new policies. As a result, earlier this year, important new protections were added to help local authorities resist the loss of pubs. For example, where a pub is listed as an Asset of Community Value, this can be used as evidence against changing its use through a planning application. Pubs are also included in a list of community facilities for which 'proposals involving loss of these facilities without adequate justification or provision for replacement should be resisted.' And new guidance was issued setting out strong marketing, vacancy and viability tests that pub sites should meet before they can be redeveloped.

It is now up to London borough councils to ensure all this is implemented on a local level, though their development plans and planning decisions, and I am continuing to urge them to do all they can in this respect. It was very encouraging to see, for the first time, Westminster Council issue proceedings against the unauthorised redevelopment of the Carlton Tavern, and hopefully this a sign of things to come.

Clearly there is much still to do, especially at a national level. Whilst I very much welcome the latest changes by the government, placing further restrictions on when pubs can be redeveloped, there are still too many occasions when pubs can be redeveloped without needing planning permission at all. And too many local authorities are rejecting applications to list pubs as Assets of Community Value for spurious reasons, with no right of appeal. We must continue to work together to see that these important changes are made, so that we can better protect the Great British Public House.

Steve O'Connell

Branch diaries

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA contacts and events where branches say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for August and September 2015 are listed below. Meetings, visits and socials are open to all – everyone is welcome to come along. A complete calendar listing of CAMRA events within Greater London is available at www.london.camra.org.uk. Contact the Regional Secretary, Roy Tunstall: roytunstall.camra@gmail.com.

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

August – Wed 19 Evening Crawl of Highgate and Kentish Town: (7pm) Wrestlers, 98 North Rd, Highgate, N6 4AA; (7.45pm) Duke's Head, 16 Highgate High St, Highgate, N6 5JG; (8.15pm) Flask, 77 Highgate West Hill, Highgate, N6 6BU; (9.15pm) Bull & Gate, 389 Kentish Town Rd, Kentish Town, NW5 2TJ; (9.45pm) Pineapple, 51 Leverton St, Kentish Town, NW5 2NX; (10.15pm) Assembly House, 292-294 Kentish Town Rd, Kentish Town, NW5 2TG. Public transport will be required at times. All welcome.

September – Wed 16 (7.15pm for 7.30) Mtg: Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All CAMRA branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk

LONDON CIDER GROUP

Ian White, london_cider@btinternet.com or text 07712 122402 (10-4 Mon-Fri)

Next events will be in the CAMRA October Cider Month - see next edition

For information and details, see london-cider.blogspot.co.uk

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

BEXLEY

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

July – Fri 31 (8pm) Social. Welling Round Table beer festival: Guy Earl of Warwick, Welling DA16 1TB

August – Wed 12 (8.30pm) Mtg: Plough and Harrow, Welling DA16 3QS. - **Wed 26** (8pm) PotY runner up presentation: Door Hinge, Welling DA16 1TR - **Sat 29** (12 noon) Social, Old Dartfordians beer festival, Bexley DA5 1LW.

September – Wed 9 (8.30pm) Mtg: Crayford Arms, Dartford DA14 4HH. - **Wed 30** (8pm) branch PotY 3rd place presentation: Wrong 'Un, Bexleyheath DA6 8AS.

Website: www.bexley.camra.org.uk

BROMLEY

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

August – Tue 4 (9.50am) Day Trip to St. Albans, Meet Bromley South Stn: (10.14am) Thameslink train to St. Albans. See website for full details. - **Thu 20** (7pm) Bromley North crawl: Swan & Mitre, 260-262 High St. BR1 1PG; (8pm) Greyhound, 205 High St.; (9pm) Barrel & Horn, 204-206 High St.; (10pm) Partridge, 194 High St. - **Tue 25** (6.30pm) Pre mtg soc: Woodman, 50 High St. Farnborough BR6 7BA; (7.30pm) Cttee mtg. Change Of Horses, 87 High St. Farnborough BR6 7BB. - **Sat 29** (12.30pm) Beer Festival Social. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd. Orpington BR6 0RZ. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the club (See www.orpingtonliberalclub.co.uk/beer-and-cider-festival/).

September – Sat 5 (12 noon) Visit to Faversham Hop Festival:.

(Meet at CAMRA Beer Stall, outside Iceland store, East Street ME13 8AF). - **Tue 8** Beckenham crawl: (7pm) Elm Tree, 116 Croydon Rd, Elmers End BR3 4DF; (7.50pm) Bricklayers Arms, 237 High St BR3 1BN; (8.30pm) White Horse, 215 High St. + up to 4 more. - **Wed 23** St Mary Cray & Orpington Social:

(7.30pm) White Swan, 21 Kent Rd BR5 4AD; (8.30pm) The Beech Tree, 75 Wellington Rd BR5 4AG; (9.45pm) Harvest Moon 141-143 High St Orpington BR6 0LQ. - **Sat 26** (12pm) Lunchtime social at the Windmill: 1 Windmill Rd, Sevenoaks Weald, TN14 6PN. - **Tue 29** (7.30pm) Cttee mtg: Graces 1-3 Witham Rd, Penge, Birkbeck SE20 7YA. See website:

www.bromley.camra.org.uk/ for full details.

Website: www.bromley.camra.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Peter McGill, 07831 561296, contact@croydoncamra.org.uk

August – Sat 1 Croydon Crawl with visitors from Weston-super-mare Branch. Mobile numbers on the day: Max French 07973 370168 (or Pete McGill 07831 561296). (11.30) George;

(12.20) Dog and Bull; (1pm) Spreadingale (offers a CAMRA discount of 50p a pint); (1.40) Green Dragon (offers a CAMRA discount); (2.40) Royal Standard; (3.20) - Bull's Head; (4.30) Claret (tram to Addiscombe) current Croydon Pub of the Year. 2015; (5.45) Back to Croydon for swift one in either the Oval, Porter & Sorter or the George before visitors go for 19.00 Train? - **Thu 13** Visit to GBBF: (Meet at Membership Stand on the hour each hour from 17.00). - **Tue 25** (8.30pm) Branch Meeting: Dog & Bull Surrey St Croydon. - **Mon 31** Visit to Carshalton Environmental Fair: Real ale bar. £5 admission £3 concessions and children 12-16. (See website www.envfair.org.uk/)

September – Fri 11 (8pm) Out of area Social: Radius Arms 205 Godstone Rd, Whyteleafe CR3 0EL. Relatively new micropub run by Vincent. 5 beers on Fridays. (407 bus) - **Wed 16** Social: (8.30pm) Joiners Arms 52 Woodside Green, SE25 5EU. - **Thu 24** (8.30pm) Branch Mtg and London Drinker pickup: Windsor Castle 358 Carshalton Rd. SM5 3PT. We meet in the Cottage Room.

Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

Matt Barrowcliffe, 07757 772564; Kim Scott: 07713 797438, elacbranch@mail.com

GBBF publicity material available for collection at meetings and socials with '(GBBF PM)' included below. Contact Peter Giles 07858 164825 for more info.

August – Tue 4 (7.30pm) (GBBF PM): Hack & Hop Whitefriars St, EC4Y 8BH. - **Tue 18** (7.30pm) Pigs Ear Mtg. White Hart Mile End Road, E1 4TP. - **Thu 27** (7pm) Post GBBF Branch Social: Crate & Howling Hops Breweries Queen's Yard, E9 5EN.

September – Tue 8 (7.30pm) Branch Mtg: Hoop & Grapes Farringdon St, EC4A 4BL. - **Tue 15** (7.30pm) Pigs Ear Mtg: Rose & Crown Hoe St, E17 4SA. - **Tue 22** Mtg: (8pm) Crooked Billet Upper Clapton Road, E5 9JP. - **Wed 30** Liverpool St Crawl: (7pm) Bull Devonshire Row, EC2M 4RH; (8pm) Bell Middlesex St, E1 7EX; (9pm) Kings Stores Widgate St, E1 7HP; (10pm) Williams Artillery Lane, E1 7LS. - **Tue 22** (8pm) CPOTY Presentation: Crooked Billet Upper Clapton Road, E5 9JP. Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,
branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

Branch diaries

August – Wed 5 (8.30pm) Garden Soc: Ye Olde Cherry Tree, 22 The Green N14. - **Wed 19** Join LPG evening crawl of Highgate and Kentish Town: - **Fri 21** (12 noon) lunchtime soc: Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21. - **Sat 29** (12 noon) NW survey: Meet at Greyhound, 52 Church End, Hendon NW4.

September – Tue 1 (8 pm) Brch Mtg: The Bohemia, 762-764 High Road, N12. - **Sat 5** Ramble: Meet 10am Moon Under Water, 115 Chase Side, Enfield EN2. - **Wed 9** (8.30pm) Southgate Survey: Start White Hart, 290 Chase Road, Southgate N14 - **Thu 17** (8.30pm) GBG promo: Elephant Inn, 283 Ballards Lane, North Finchley N12. - **Wed 23** (8.30pm) GBG promo: Dog & Duck, 74 Hoppers Road, Winchmore Hill N21. - **Tue 29** (8.30pm) GBG promo: Black Horse, Wood St, Barnet EN5.
Website: www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

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

August – Wed (8.15pm) Branch meeting: Running Horse, Bridge St, Leatherhead. - **Fri 21** (2pm onwards) Social gathering at Woodies Beer Festival: Thetford Rd, New Malden. - **Wed 26** (5.30) An evening visit to the Portobello Brewery: Unit 6, Mitre Bridge Ind Est, Mitre Way, Kensington, W10 6AU. Names please if interested.

September – Tue 1 (8.15) Branch meeting at the Albion: Bridge Rd, East Molesey (Hampton Court). **Sun 13** (1pm) Social afternoon at the Antelope beer festival: Maple Rd, Surbiton. - **Tues 29** (8pm) Pub crawl around Stoneleigh: Meet in the Station, The Broadway, then to the Willow Tree (ex Gamecock) (8.45) Vale Rd, and the Queen Adelaide (9.30) Kingston Rd.
Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

John Wilson, 07840 111590, jgwnw3@hotmail.com; Stephen Taylor, 07443 473746, stephen.taylor500@gmail.com

August – Sun 2 Aylesbury and Wycombe Branch London Crawl: (12 Noon) Metropolitan Bar, 7 Station Approach, Marylebone Rd, London NW1 5LD; (1pm) Bree Louise, 69 Cobourg St, London NW1 2H; (1.45) Euston Tap, 190 Euston Rd, London NW1 2EF; (2.50) Parcel Yard, Kings Cross Station, London N1 9AL; (4pm) The Harp, 47 Chandos Pl, London WC2N 4HS; (4.50) Tom Cribb, 36 Panton St, London SW1Y 4EA; (5.45) Clachan, 34 Kingly Street, London W1B 5QH; (6.45) Volunteer, 247 Baker Street, London, NW1 6XE; (7.30) Allsop Arms, 137 Gloucester Pl, London NW1 5AL; (8pm) Victoria and Albert, Marylebone Station, London, NW1 6JJ. - **Tue 4** Harlesden Social: (7.30pm) Grand Junction Arms, Acton Lane, London NW10 7AD; (8.30pm) Royal Oak, 95 High Street, London NW10 4TS; (9.15pm) Harlesden Picture Palace, 26 Manor Park Road, London NW10 4JJ. - **Tue 11** GBBF: (7pm) Fullers Bar then every hour on the hour. - **Tue 18** Summer POTS Presentation. Shaftesbury, 534 Hornsey Road, London N19 3QN. - **Wed 19** London Pubs Group Evening Crawl of Highgate and Kentish Town: (7pm) Wrestlers, 98 North Rd, London N6 4AA; (7.45pm) Flask, 77 Highgate West Hill, London N6 6BU; (8.15pm) Duke's Head, 16 Highgate High St, London N6 5JG; (9.15pm) Pineapple, 51 Leverton St, London NW5 2NX; (9.45pm) Bull & Gate, 389 Kentish Town Rd, London NW5 2TJ; (10.15pm) Assembly House, 292-294 Kentish Town Rd, London NW5 2TG. - **Tue 25** Holloway Road Social: (7.30 pm) Coronet, 338 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA; (8.15pm) Horatia, 98-100 Holloway Road, London N7 8JE; (9pm) Lamb, 54 Holloway Road London N7 8JL; (9.45pm) Brewhouse and Kitchen, 2a Corsica Street, London N5 1JJ.

September – Tue 1 Marylebone Social: (7.30pm) Lords Tavern, St



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Branch diaries

John's Wood Road, London NW8 8QP; (8.15pm) Windsor Castle, 98 Park Road, London NW1 4SH; (9pm) Volunteer 245 Baker Street, London NW1 6XE; (9.45pm) Sir John Balcombe, 21 Balcombe Street, London NW1 6HE; (10.30pm) Metropolitan, 7 Station Approach, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LA. - **Tue 8** Crouch End Social: (7.30pm) Earl Haig Hall, Elder Avenue, London, N8 9TH; (8.30pm) Queens, 26 Broadway Parade, London, N8 9DE; (9.15pm) Railway Tavern, 23 Crouch End Hill, London N8 8DH; (10pm) Harringay Arms, 153 Crouch Hill, London N8 9QH. - **Tue 15** Good Beer Guide 2016 Launch: (7pm) Grafton, 20 Prince of Wales Road, London, NW5 3LG; (8.30) Lion & Unicorn, 42 Gaisford St, London NW5 2ED. - **Tue 22** Good Beer Guide 2016 Launch: (8pm) Duke's Head, 16 Highgate High St, London N6 5JG. - **Tue 29** Branch Meeting Winter POTS shortlist: (8pm) Old Red Lion, 72 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS.
Website: www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643(H), rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk
August – Tue 18 (8pm) Mtg. incl. Craft Pub of the Year shortlisting: Railway Tavern, 29 The Quadrant, Richmond. - **Tue 25** Twickenham (West) pub walk: start (7.30pm) Bloomsbury, 209 Staines Rd, then (8.15pm) Rifleman, (9.0pm) Prince of Wales; (9.30) Prince Albert; (10pm) Prince Blucher; (10.30) Sussex Arms.
September – Sat 12 London revitalised pubs tour (Northern Line 'Plus'): meet (11.30am) at Waterloo Underground Booking Hall under platform 18 or 12.0 at first pub Oaka at the Mansion House, 46 Kennington Park Rd, SE11, then probably incl. Craft Beer Co. N1; Snooty Fox N5; Bull and Wrestlers N6; Pineapple and Southampton Arms NW5; plus others time permitting, finishing approx. 9.0pm. Travelcard needed covering zones 1-3. Fuller details on Branch website from early August. - **Thu 17** (8pm) Mtg incl Branch PotY finalists selection: Roebuck, 130 Richmond Hill, Richmond.
Website: www.rhcama.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Andrew Sewell, social@sel.camra.org.uk; Neil Pettigrew contact@sel.camra.org.uk
August – Sat 1 (10am) Epping & Ongar Railway BF: Hamilton Hall JDW Liverpool St. station EC2. - **Wed. 5** (7pm) Crawl: Grapes, 76 Narrow St. E14; (8pm) Prospect of Whitby, 57 Wapping Wall E1; (9pm) White Swan & Cuckoo 97 Wapping Lane E1; (10pm) Turners Old Star, 14 Watts St. E1; (10pm) Town of Ramsgate, 62 Wapping High St. E2. - **Thu 13** (7pm) GBB: meet membership stand, Olympia W14. - **Sat 15** (1pm) Battle of Britain Memorial Wal. Radius Micro Pub Whyteleaf, 205 Godstone Rd, CR3 0EL; (3pm) Wattenden Arms, Kenley, CR8 5EU; (6pm) Kenley Hotel, 62 Godstone Rd. Kenley, CR8 5AA. - **Thu 20** Crawl: (7pm) Rockingham Arms, 119 Newton Causeway, SE1; (8pm) Tankard, 178 Walworth Rd. SE17; (9.30pm) Beehive, 60 Carter St. SE17; (10pm) Sir Robert Peel, 7 Langdale Close SE17. - **Sun 30** (3pm) COTY Presn. Howard Club, 447 Rochester Way SE9.
September – Wed 2 Branch Meeting and Social: (7pm) The Long Pond, 4 Eltham Park Gdns SE9. - **Tue 8** Crawl: (7pm) Bear, 296A Camberwell New Rd. SE15; (8pm) Old Dispensary, 325 Camberwell New Rd. SE 15; (9pm) Tiger, 18 Camberwell Gn. SE5; (9.45pm) Stormbird, 25 Camberwell Church St. SE5; (10.30pm) Camberwell Arms, 65 Camberwell Church St. SE5. - **Sat 12** Chappel BF, Essex: (11.30am) Hamilton Hall JDW Liverpool St. EC2, train to Chappel & Wakes Colne. - **Fri 18** Dog

& Bell Cider Festival: 116 Prince St. SE8. - **Wed 23** Crawl: (7.30pm) Five Bells, 155 New Cross Rd. SE14; (8.45pm) Rose, 272 New Cross Rd. SE14; (9.30pm) Marques of Granby, 322 New Cross Rd. SE14; (10.15pm) New Cross Inn, 323 New Cross Rd. SE14. - **Tue 29** Crawl: (7.30pm) Bugle Horn, 6 The Village SE7; (8.30pm) White Swan, 22 The Village SE7; (9.30pm) Royal Oak, 54 Charlton Lane SE7; (10.30) Rose of Denmark, 296 Woolwich Rd. SE7.
Website: sel.camra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker, swessex@essex.camra.org.uk, 07711 971957
evenings or weekends only. Bookings for minibus trips to Graham Platt: 020 8220 0215 (H)
August – Sat 1 (12 noon) Out-of-Area Soc: Epping-Ongar Railway, 3rd Summer Real Ale Festival, North Weald Stn, CM16 6BT (by Vintage Bus from Epping Stn (Central Line), or from Shenfield Stn (TfL Rail & Abellio Greater Anglia). - **Thu 6** (8pm) Double-Header Soc Kelvedon Hatch: Shepherd Inn, Blackmore Road, CM15 0AT; (9.30pm) Eagle, Ongar Road, CM15 0AA. - **Tue 11** (7.30pm) GBBF: Olympia, London, W14 8UX. - **Sat 15** (2pm) Beryl's Out-of-Area Chelmsford Pub Crawl: Starting at the Hop Beer Shop [Micropub], 173 Moulsham Street, CM2 0LD; (3pm) Orange Tree, Lower Anchor Street, CM2 0AS. Details of the other pubs on Branch Website. - **Tue 18** (8.30pm) Branch Pub of the Year 2015 (London Area) Presentation: Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 0PN. - **Tue 25** (8.30pm) Soc: Golden Lion, 2 High Street / North Street, Romford, RM1 1HR.
September – Wed 2 (8.30pm) Soc: Hutton Junction, 15 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, CM13 1AB. - **Tue 8** (7.30pm) Out-of-Area Soc: 29th Chappel Beer Festival, East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel & Wakes Colne Station, nr Colchester, Essex, CO6 2DS. Extra Late Train back to London, etc. See Festival Website: www.chappelbeerfestival.org.uk - **Tue 15** (8.30pm) Soc: Barking Dog, 61 Station Parade, Barking, IG11 8TU. - **Wed 23** (8pm) Soc: Stag, Brentwood Road, Marden Ash, CM5 9DH; (9.30pm); Bricklayers Arms, Ongar Road / Nine Ashes Road, Stondon Massey, CM15 0EQ.
Website: essex-camra.org.uk/swessex

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk
Aug – Sat 1 Joint soc/crawl of Winchester with Sth Hants CAMRA. If you wish to join us please contact our Branch Social Secretary in advance for times and travel details: philip.blanchard@camraswl.org.uk. - **Thu 27** Soc/crawl of SW8 pubs. (7.30pm) Masons Arms, 169 Battersea Park Rd SW8 4BT; to incl Duchess, 101 B'sea Prk Rd, SW8 4DS and others; finish (10.15pm) at Canton Arms, 177 Sth. Lambeth Rd, SW8 1XP.
Sep – Mon 14 (7.30pm) Open Branch cttee mtg. (incl. GBG 2016 distribution): Eagle Ale House, 104 Chatham Rd SW11 6HG. - **Wed 23** CAMRA swl soc/crawl of SW16 pubs: ALL WELCOME. (7pm) Railway, 2 Greyhound Ln. SW16 5SD; (7.35pm) Bull, 498 Streatham High Rd SW16 3QB; (8.10pm) Earl Fenners, 22 Ellora Rd SW16 6JF; (8.45pm) Pratts & Payne, 103 Streatham Hgh Rd SW16 1HU; (9.15pm) Standard, 78a Streatham Hgh Rd SW16 1BS; (9.50pm) Brighton Way, 5 Streatham Hgh Rd SW16 1EF; (10.15pm) Horse & Groom (CAMRA discount available) 60 Streatham Hgh Rd SW16 1EF.
Website: camraswl.org.uk

ADVANCING ACROSS LONDON



AWARD WINNING PREMIUM BRITISH BEER

**At The Great British Beer Festival, Olympia 11-15th August
on the CAMRA bar B6 in the West Hall**

Branch diaries

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H),
branch@watford.camra.org.uk

August – Sat 8 (1pm) Harefield Social: Starting at the Oaks, Old Uxbridge Road, West Hyde. - **Wed 12 Aug** (6pm) Great British Beer Festival social: Olympia London, Hammersmith Road, London. Meet at membership stand. - **Sat 22** (11.15am) Sarratt Stumble: starting at Paradigm Brewery, Green End Farm, 93a Church Lane, Sarratt. - **25 Aug** (8pm) Brch Mtg: Sportsman, Scots Hill, Croxley Green.

September – Thu 3 (8pm) Annual Darts Tournament: Glenn Sports and Social Club, Victoria Road, Watford. All CAMRA members welcome. - **Fri 18** (8.30pm) Croxley Green Social: Starting at Coach & Horses, The Green - **Mon 28** (8pm) Brch Mtg: West Herts Sports Club, Park Avenue, Watford.

October – Thu 1 (6pm) St Albans Beer Festival: Alban Arena, St Albans. Meet at products stand every hour on the hour.
Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton, 07835 927357,
contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk; Social secretary Alasdair Boyd: 020 7930 9871 x 143 (2.30-3.30 and 6-9.30 pm Mon-Fri), banqueting@nlc.org.uk, fax 020 7839 4768

August – Thu 6 (7.30pm) W2 soc. Westbourne, 101 Westbourne Pk Villas; (8.30pm) Cow, 89 Westbourne Pk Rd (9.30pm) Prince Bonaparte, 80 Chepstow Rd. - **Tue 11–Sat 15** working socs at GBBF Olympia. - **Thu 20** SW1 soc. (7.30pm) White Horse & Bower, 86 Horseferry Rd; (8.30) Barley Mow 104 Horseferry Rd. - **Thu 27** W2/W11 soc. (7.30pm) Metropolitan, 60 Gt. Western Rd W11; (8.30pm) Cock & Bottle, 17 Needham Rd W2.

September – Tue 1 WC2 soc. (7.30pm) Lemon Tree, 4 Bedfordbury; (8.30pm) Harp, 47 Chandos Pl. - **Thu 10** brch mtg (7/7.30pm) Truscott Arms (upstairs) 55 Shirland Rd W9. - **Thu 17** W6 soc. (7.30pm) Wm. Morris 2-4 King St. (JDW vchrs); (8.30pm) Distillers 64-66 Fulham Palace Rd. - **Thu 24** W1 Fitzrovia surveys (7/7.30pm) meet Albany, 240 Gt. Portland St.
Website: www.westlondon.camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

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

August – Sat 8 (1pm) Harefield Crawl: (see Watford branch diary). - **Wed 12** (7pm) GBBF Social: Olympia (Meet Tombola Prizes stand). - **Wed 19** (8pm) Open Committee Meeting: Grosvenor, 127 Oaklands Rd, W7. - **Thu 26** West Ruislip HA4 Crawl: (8pm) Fairway; (9pm) Orchard; (10pm) White Bear, Ickenham Rd. - **Mon 31** Heathrow Villages UB7 Crawl: (1pm) Five Bells, High St., Harmondsworth; (2pm) Crown, High St., Harmondsworth; (3pm) White Horse, 530 Bath Rd; (4pm) Three Magpies, Bath Rd, TW6; (5pm) King William, Sipson Rd; (6pm) Plough, Sipson Rd.

September – Fri 11 (8pm) GBG Launch & Beer Festival: Grosvenor, 127 Oaklands Rd, W7. - **Wed 16** Brch Mtg; Windermere, South Kenton, HA9. - **Tue 22** (8pm) Harrow Area PotY Presentation: Queen's Head, 31 High Street, Pinner, HA5.
Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the October/November edition is Monday 14 September.

Please send entries to ldnews.hedger@gmail.com.

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LONDON REGIONAL CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR – BLYTHE HILL TAVERN

Any pubs nominated by CAMRA branches in London as their Cider Pub of the Year go forward into the competition for the Regional Cider Pub of the Year. The award for 2015 has gone to the Blythe Hill Tavern in Forest Hill. Regional Cider Co-ordinator Ian White commended the BHT not just for the great quality of their cider but also for excellent service, always having a great welcome and a good range of beers for ale drinkers. The award will be presented during October, CAMRA's Cider Month. See also below under South East London Pub of the Year.

BEXLEY PUB OF THE YEAR – PENNY FARTHING

The Penny Farthing, a former cycle shop in Waterside, Crayford, and owned and operated by Bob and Bev Baldwin opened on 11 September last year. The honours were performed by local councillor Melvyn Seymour who had been very helpful in the setting up of the business. As happens with micropub openings, the event produced a packed house.

Crayford locals will know Bob as a driving school boss for a number of years but he and Bev had previously run the One Bell in Crayford and Bob is a member of the Guild of Master Cellarmen, as proved by the certificate on the pub wall. Patronage and opening hours have both been stable and daughters Cheryl and Victoria are now helping out. Future attractions include a shove-ha'penny competition and a weekend beer festival. The current beer range is posted daily on the pub's Facebook page.

Bexley branch members voted this new acquisition their Pub of the Year in March by a tidy margin, and on 27 May they gathered to see the branch's Pubs Officer, Ian Wright, present the Baldwins with their certificate.

Roland Amos



BROMLEY CLUB OF THE YEAR – ORPINGTON LIBERAL CLUB

The Orpington Liberal Club has won the CAMRA Bromley Branch Club of the Year award for the third year running. On the night of the presentation the club also presented Beer of the Festival to Cliff Murphy for a special unfinned version of Bexley Brewery's Golden Acre from the club's festival of unfinned real ales held in February.

Club Chairman, Duncan Borrowman said, "It is a great honour to collect the CoTY award again. We have now served over 500 different real ales since New Year 2012 and we

continue to strive to serve the best real ale, cider and perry available. It is particularly enjoyable to have such great LocalAle brewers as Bexley Brewery to work with."

The Orpington Liberal Club was Greater London Regional Club of the Year 2013 and a National Club of the Year finalist in 2014.



Duncan receives his certificate from Norman Warner (Branch Contact) left and Peter Norwood (Membership Officer) right

BROMLEY PUB OF THE YEAR RUNNER UP – SHORTLANDS TAVERN

For the second year running, Manager Eren Lakeman said he would like to "thank all of our regulars for supporting their local, the staff for their hard work and the people of Bromley and the Shortlands community for helping make the Shortlands Tavern the thriving community pub it is". Richard Martin, Bromley CAMRA Branch Area Representative, was pleased to hand over the presentation of the award to Yvonne Martin who then presented the well deserved certificate to Eren.

Geraldine Rolfe



Left to right: Norman Warner, Eren Lakeman, Yvonne Martin, Richard Martin, and Geraldine Rolfe

PUBS IN E17 RETURN TO GOOD CHEER

The Bell and Ye Olde Rose & Crown in Walthamstow, are both good examples of prospering, well managed pubs. Both pubs had become run down and were in danger of closing but were turned around by their current management and their teams.

The Bell has won the CAMRA East London & City Branch's East London Pub of the Year award. The photo at the top of page 12 shows manager Andy Potter with his team Danny, Leon, Mike and Martina with their certificate.



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The Rose & Crown, a previous winner of the East London pub of the year award, has this year won the ELAC Branch's Community Pub of the Year award. The picture shows the pub management team of Bun and Viv, Andy and Aaron along with Branch members and customers.



ELAC Branch's John Pardoe made the presentations at both events which were well supported by both ELAC members and pub customers. With thanks to George Ingleby and Ron Andrews for the photos.

WATERLOO CELEBRATED

CAMRA's East London & City and South East London branches held a joint pub crawl round the eponymous station to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The pubs visited were the Duke of Sussex, the Kings Arms, the Wellington and the Hole in the Wall. All of the pubs were busy and the ales were in good condition.

SOUTH EAST LONDON CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR SERVES UP A DOUBLE!

There are no half measures at the Blythe Hill Tavern in Stanstead Road, Forest Hill which has scooped both CAMRA South East London Branch's Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year awards for 2015.

This ever popular traditional Victorian corner pub retains a cosy three bar layout and has been run by landlord Con O'Riordan and his wife for almost thirty years. The staff pride themselves on offering attentive, friendly service and are well known for wearing a collar and tie. Six real ales are available on hand pump together with a similar number of real ciders and perries.

Awarding the Pub of the Year certificate, Branch Membership Secretary, Julian Stone, said, "The landscape of public houses is like that of rock and roll. It's dynamic, has fads and trends, some pubs are niche, others copycat, fake or just not trying hard

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enough – but the Blythe Hill Tavern is definitely a superstar”. Mike Allen, the Branch Cider Representative added, “When it came to judging the shortlist for Cider Pub of the Year, the Blythe Hill stood head and shoulders above the rest thanks to its outstanding commitment to real cider and perry”.

The pub holds a regular quiz night, hosts live Irish music on Thursday evenings and has a large rear garden. For more information visit the pub's website at blythehilltavern.org.uk or follow @BlytheHillTav on twitter.

Steve Silcock



Branch Cider Rep Mike Allen (left) presents the cider award to landlord Con O'Riordan.

SOUTH WEST LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR – THE EAGLE ALE HOUSE

It is hard to keep a good pub down. Having had to sit out the 2013 competition as the previous year's winner, the Eagle Ale House regained its title for 2014 quite emphatically. It was a worthy winner for all the good reasons that made it a winner previously and runner-up several times before that. This classic back street local has been in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide for the last consecutive ten years.

The certificate was presented to tenants Simon Clarke and Dave Law at a very convivial branch social on 4 June with branch chairman Mark Bravery (right) doing the honours.



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Voted Pub of the Year 2008 by CAMRA's Richmond & Hounslow Branch.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN



THE BOATER, BATH

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THE WHITE BUCK, BURLEY

5-6 AUGUST – 7.30PM

NEW FOREST HOTEL, ASHURST

7-8 AUGUST – 2PM/7.30PM

CASTLE, HARROW

11-12 AUGUST – 7.30PM

PILOT, GREENWICH

13-14 AUGUST – 7.30PM

LINKS TAVERN, LIPHOOK

15-16 AUGUST – 4PM/7.30PM

ROSE & CROWN, EALING

26-28 AUGUST – 7.30PM

KINGS HEAD, WICKHAM

29-30 AUGUST – 4PM/7.30PM

KING & QUEEN, CATERHAM

2 SEPTEMBER – 7.30PM

RED LION, BARNES

3-5 SEPTEMBER – 7.30PM

TURKS HEAD, TWICKENHAM

8-9 SEPTEMBER – 7.30PM

DUKE OF KENT, EALING

10-12 SEPTEMBER – 7.30PM

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WEST LONDON BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR – THE MAD BISHOP AND BEAR

It was Paddington Station (and not a bear in sight) and as the commuters thronged, anxiously scanning for their departure homewards and delayed trains (none on this auspicious Thursday night), way above the hubbub, in a haven of relative peace and quiet, a gathering of those less pressed for time was taking place in one of London's hidden gems. With Fuller's Inns Managing Director Jonathon Swaine on hand, licensee Helen Wilson was pouring half-pints of something magic – a first cask of Fuller's draught Vintage Ale for 2015. And then the focus of the evening arrived.

Suitably refreshed and restored, regulars and members gathered around as the West London Branch of CAMRA proudly presented Helen with their Pub of the Year award for 2015. Helen was almost overcome with emotion, but collected herself enough to lead a critical tasting of the 2015 Vintage Ale – tapped only on Tuesday, and in superb condition – and to bring over her key team, without whom none of these achievements would have been possible. Fuller's executive chef and team were on hand to provide copious nibbles.

Jonathon Swaine, the managing director of Fuller's Inns said, *"This is an incredible accolade for Helen and her team at the Mad Bishop and Bear and, indeed, for Fuller's. It is great to see all their hard work paying off, from being named Fuller's Master Cellarman of the Year 2014 to now being the best pub in West London. You know that when you order a beer from Helen and her team it will be the closest thing to the perfect serve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen and her team for all their passion and hard work."*

The Mad Bishop and Bear which opened in Paddington Station in 1999 has been in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide continuously since 2002. Helen Wilson is no stranger to either Fuller's or the area as she has also presided over the Victoria in Strathearn Place, W2, also a Fuller's pub, where her partner Chris still presides. The Victoria has also been in the Good Beer Guide on and off since 1982. Between them Helen and Chris have a joint record of at least 28 successive years in the Good Beer Guide in different pubs!

Dominic Pinto



Helen holds her certificate, surrounded by staff and CAMRA members

WEST MIDDLESEX PUB OF THE YEAR – THE GROSVENOR

A once run down pub saved from developers was presented with the 2015 West Middlesex Branch Pub of the Year Award in June.

The Grosvenor only reopened in April 2014 following six months of major refurbishment by new owners Food & Fuel, who run 13 pubs across London. It now sells up to seven cask beers along with another 20 on keg as well as more than 100 bottled beers – most are brewed locally. Monthly jazz nights, a quiz night every Monday, regular beer festivals (the next one is being held from 11 to 13 September), support for local community events as well as one of the best range of beers in the branch area all contributed to West Middlesex members voting for the pub.

Along with the Branch Pub of the Year award, the pub was also presented with a certificate recognising the improved beer range by Branch Chairman Roy Tunstall who commented, *"With so many back street locals being lost to flat conversions I was so pleased that Food & Fuel took a gamble when Enterprise Inns put the pub on the market in 2013. Prior to the sale you were lucky to get a pint of Pride, now you get a magnificent selection from Truman's, Sambrook's, Vale along with many others as well as being by default the brewery tap for the nearby Weird Beard Brewery."*



Manager Hugh Rowberry was clearly delighted to receive the award and thanked the pub's new owners, the breweries and most of all his staff.

The pub was originally built in 1901 by the Royal Brewery of Brentford but had to wait three years until three other licensed premises had surrendered their licences before Hanwell Urban District Council allowed the building to open as pub. The architect is believed to be Nowell Parr who was responsible for the Forester nearby and many other Royal Brewery & Fuller's pubs. Frank Davis, former managing director of Brentford FC and vice chairman of the FA, was the landlord of the Grosvenor during the 1930s.

Roy Tunstall

The Oxford English Dictionary defines real ale as:

"Cask-conditioned beer that is served traditionally, without additional gas pressure".

The Fox

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Great British Beer Festival 2015

Just a reminder that CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) is taking place 11 to 15 August at the wonderful Grade II-listed Olympia exhibition hall. Some 900 cask conditioned beers of all types from around 350 breweries, ciders, perries and international beers will be available from a dozen regional real ale bars, four international beer bars and two real cider and perry bars. There will also be live entertainment and the usual range of food and other stalls, traditional pub games and auctions.

As usual, the final judging for CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain Award will take place during the Trade Session on the Tuesday and the winners will be announced during the afternoon.

The festival's official charity this year is Action for M.E. Sonya Chowdhury, Action for M.E.'s chief executive commented, "We are so excited and hugely grateful to CAMRA for giving us this brilliant opportunity. Not only do we raise funds for our vital work but we will also work hard to help thousands of festival-goers see the reality of M.E. and understand its devastating impact."



The festival is open as follows:

Tuesday 11: 5pm to 10.30pm*

Wednesday 12, Thursday 13

and Friday 14: noon to 10.30pm*

Saturday 15: 11am - 6.30pm*

**Last admission times*

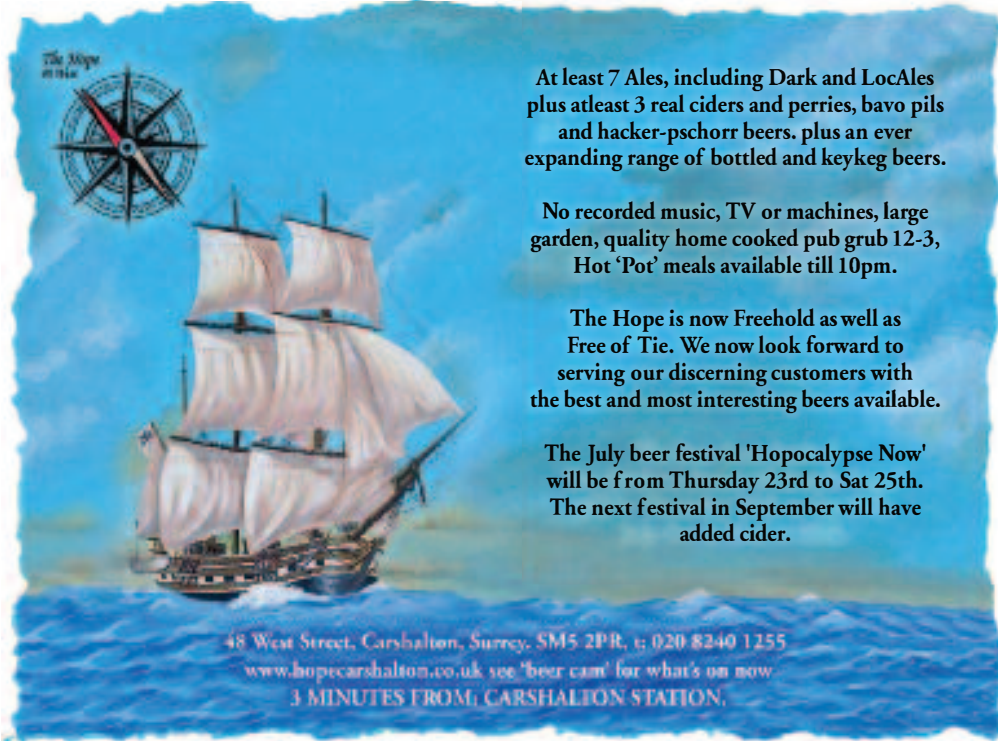
Advance tickets are available on-line at www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets or you can call the GBBF ticket hotline on 0844 412 4640. Please note that booking fees apply for each transaction. A ticket for one day's entry to the festival's public sessions will cost you £8 (non-member £10) in advance or £10 (non-member £12) on the door.

Travel: we have been informed by Transport for London that, contrary to expectations, they will not be running the District Line shuttle between Earl's Court and Olympia Tuesday to Friday. There may be a bus replacement service. The

festival organisers were not consulted about this and very much regret it. Mainline services will be running however, with four London Overground trains an hour each way between Clapham Junction, Willesden Junction and various points east plus an hourly Southern service. You can change from the District Line by taking the Wimbledon Branch one stop from Earl's Court to West Brompton. Buses 9, 10 and 27 run between Kensington High Street and Hammersmith passing Olympia while route 28 runs between Kensington and Fulham Broadway. Then again, it isn't that far to walk from either Earl's Court or West Kensington tube stations.

Tony Hedger

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CAMRA beer festivals

THE TENTH BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL

Wow! We sold out of beer. Our apologies if you turned up late afternoon/early evening to find that the festival was over. We kept the beer and cider order the same but after problems last year, we improved our publicity. It was however more effective than we had imagined. As usual, Friday was the busiest day and overall the festival had 1,478 visitors, 60% of whom were non CAMRA members. This was our highest so far and compares well with the 842 who attended our first festival.

This was our third consecutive event at the Old Dartfordians Rugby Club. We had 79 different beers plus 13 ciders and two perries, all of which went by 3.30pm on the Saturday afternoon. The first cask to run out was Golden Acre (4.0% ABV) from Bexley's own Bexley Brewery followed by their Black Prince Porter. Third to go was Caveman's Shopper Gold (4.0% ABV) which was brewed to commemorate the 60th anniversary of local newspaper the *News Shopper*.

The Beer of the festival, by customer vote, was Bexley Brewery's Black Prince Porter (4.6% ABV) with Drygate's Severn Peaks IPA (5.0% ABV), Mallinson's Ella and Pheasantry Brewery's Blue Steel (5.0% ABV) all coming in joint second. The cider and perry award was a tie between Eltham Gold and Vantor's Skippy's Scrumpy.

Our grateful thanks go to those who supported and sponsored us: Westerham and Bexley Breweries for sponsoring the glasses, J D Wetherspoon for the staff t-shirts (via Smart T's) and Heron Press for the card flyers. Thank you also to Nina and Adele at Flying Firkin for their help and patience and to Clive Burke, the club steward for all his help and advice. Old Dartfordians have won CAMRA Bexley Branch's Club of the Year award for 2015 so the festival was an excellent opportunity to present Clive with his certificate – see the photo.



Clive Burke receives his certificate from branch chairman Martyn Nicholls

Like all CAMRA festivals, this festival is staffed and organised by volunteers who give up their free time to make it such an enjoyable event, indeed without whom it would not exist. It was nice to see some newcomers, Matt, Mick, Nick, Dave and Thomas and thanks also go to 'old stagers, bar director Vic, site manager Pat and door and glasses manager Alan. This year marked the end of an era as our staffing officer, Graham, is stepping down after ten years; thank you Graham. And let's not forget Alan Boakes (as if we could) for organising it again. He is happier this year that no beer was thrown away – but then so are we all.

Peter Trout



The Bexley festival in full swing

EALING

The 2015 twenty-sixth Ealing Beer Festival was yet another sell-out which took place from 8 to 11 July. Held again in Walpole Park, this year saw the first use of our new 'L Shaped' marquee. We had 11,000 visitors despite a tube strike affecting the first two days, beating last year's total and the festival's previous high in 2013. 3,960 gallons of real ale were ordered and, with some losses from a couple of last minute cancellations, two keystones popping in transit and some casks condemned during quality checking, it had all had been drunk shortly after 4pm on the Saturday.

Festival organiser Graham Harrison commented, "Beer sales were actually down on the first two days so we actually expected to have beer left. Customers on the Friday (20% more than in 2014) were obviously more thirsty than usual due to the heat. When we opened on Saturday we had an estimated 400 gallons across 92 beers which kept us going for a couple of hours. The eventual closure of the real ale bars also resulted in the foreign bar selling out just leaving cider and wine with stock left when they closed near our advertised time of 6pm."

Music during the festival was provided by local singer Elaine Samuels on the Wednesday, the perhaps unfortunately named Westbound Piccadilly on the Thursday (given that it was not running!), and the Undercovers on the Friday. The festival also had a trade session on the Wednesday plus a chocolate and beer tasting with Christine Cryne on the Saturday.



We had an official visit by the Mayor of Ealing, Cllr Harbhajan Kaur Dheer, accompanied by her husband, deputy council leader Cllr Ranjit Dheer. They were shown round by bar

manager Tony Lennon and branch public affairs officer Phil Portwood. They sampled beers from the four Ealing breweries, Aeronaut, Dragonfly, Weird Beard and newcomer Long Arm. The Mayor also purchased some cheese from the Northfields based Cheddar Deli and chatted to cider bar manager Denis Bowen about the difference between real cider and the products sold as cider in most Ealing pubs. The newly elected MP for Ealing Central & Acton, Dr Rupa Huq, was also spotted on an unofficial visit chatting to festival goers.

Following the publication of the second edition of *The CAMRA Guide to London's Best Beer, Pubs & Bars* the previous week, author Des de Moor accepted the invitation to come along to sign copies of his new book and chat to customers about the changes in the brewing scene.

The winner of the beer of the festival will be announced in due course.

Roy Tunstall

MAD MARCH CIDER TRIP

The Wives of Bromley couldn't resist the obvious photo opportunity. As a 'thank you' to the volunteers who worked at CAMRA's Bromley Branch's Mad March Cider Festival they enjoyed a well earned trip to the Rough Old Wife cider farm. Geraldine Rolfe, festival organiser, said "We were tempted to try the totally scrumptious 'Blushing Old Wife' made with added fresh raspberries. Luckily we can now enjoy drinking this amazing cider in daylight as it's a welcome newcomer to CAMRA's updated reclassification of traditional cider."

Geraldine Rolfe



Left to right: Yvonne Martin, Geraldine Rolfe, and Lorraine Davies

WOKING BEER FESTIVAL

This year's 22nd Woking Beer Festival will be held at the Woking Leisure Centre on 6 and 7 November. Tickets are priced at £10 (including programme and festival glass) and go on sale on Monday 24 August from the Leisure Centre, tel 01483 771122. CAMRA members get a free pint (up to 5% ABV) on presenting their current membership card at the membership stand. Spread over three sessions, Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime and Saturday evening, the festival will feature over 70 beers, with all beers being available at all sessions (quality permitting). A wide range of ciders and perries will be available along with our Foreign Beer Bar. There is also the opportunity to see Len Rawle at the Wurlitzer organ and you can even sing along to favourites such as Jerusalem, Rule Britannia, etc! Further details and staffing forms can be found at www.wokingbeerfestival.co.uk.



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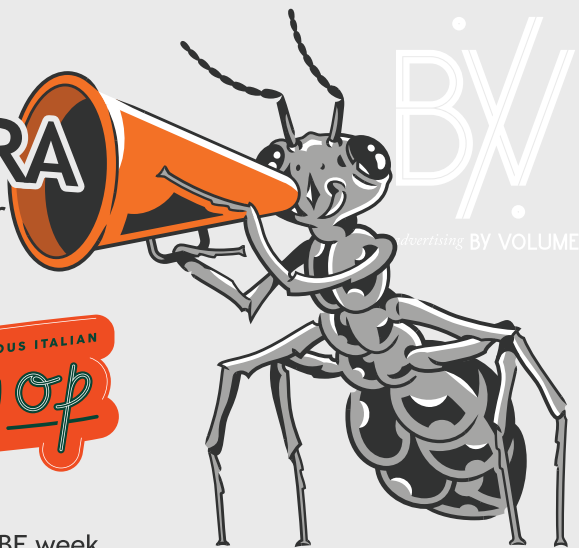
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www.wopfood.com



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POLITICS

The new minister in the Department for Communities and Local Government whose responsibilities include community pubs is Marcus Jones, the MP for Nuneaton. He is the third to hold the post in less than a year. He does have a track record however, having received a 'Beer Champion' award from the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) for his support for beer duty cuts and the scrapping of the beer duty escalator. He also supported CAMRA's election manifesto, which called for MPs to back community pubs and represent pub goers although he voted against the market only rent option.

Speaking at a Beer Day Britain event on 15 June, Mr Jones said, *"The Great British Pub is a national treasure which is why we are determined to protect it. We should all be proud of our nation's great history as a brewing powerhouse, therefore it is only right we celebrate Beer Day Britain alongside the Magna Carta today."* He also told the *Morning Advertiser* that, *"I want to be a proactive minister who really supports pubs. I want to get around the country. I want to talk to people and listen to their views on what's needed to save the great British pub. I'm always very keen to get involved in the industry and support events."* Interestingly, Mr Jones also has the responsibility for the regeneration of the country's high streets. Mind you, the picture of Mr Jones on the cover of the *Morning Advertiser* of 4 June rather brings into question his ability to pour a decent pint.

The All Party Parliamentary Beer Group have for the first time given their Beer Drinker of the Year award to an organisation rather than an individual. The organisation concerned is the *Sun* newspaper. Chair Andrew Griffiths said, *"The Sun has been passionate in support for Britain's beer lovers and pub-goers for many years. It has been vocal in leading a campaign to abolish the beer duty escalator and for subsequent duty cuts."* Others might say that they just jumped on a bandwagon.

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR LONDON

Another significant development has been the setting up of an All-Party

Parliamentary Group (APPG) for London. This gives campaigners a new opportunity for lobbying London's MPs and although beer and pubs may well not feature high on their agenda given London's other problems, I'm sure that they will acknowledge the contribution that this ever-growing sector makes to London's economy. The group's co-chairs are MPs Bob Neill (Bromley & Chislehurst) and Steve Reed (Croydon North). The London Councils organisation which represents local government in London will act as their secretariat.

CIDER DUTY PETITION

CAMRA presented its 26,000 signature petition against the withdrawal of the duty exemption for small cider producers to 10 Downing Street on 10 June. David Warburton, the MP for Somerton & Frome joined the CAMRA party to hand in the petition. Andrea Briers, CAMRA National Cider and Perry Committee Chairman, commented, *"The European Union's demand to (end the exemption) will force many small cider producers to close. If these producers are driven out of business it will dramatically reduce consumer choice and cause irreparable damage to one of the nation's most historic industries."* Members of CAMRA's National Executive were due to have a meeting with the European Commissioner responsible for taxation issues, Pierre Moscovici. Meetings will also be sought with supportive MEPs.

DOING THINGS BY HALVES

Following the agreement of a motion at this year's CAMRA Members' Weekend, a campaign has started against pubs charging above the proportional cost for a half-pint. A spokesman told the *Morning Advertiser*, *"CAMRA members indicated that they thought the practice of charging substantially more, proportionally, for a half-pint of beer was unfair and penalised those trying to drink responsibly or who want to try higher strength in smaller quantities. CAMRA completely understands that there may be a need for a few pence difference in the proportional cost of half and full pints but members have reported examples of half pints costing 50p more which we don't believe can be justified. We would also encourage licensees to clearly display prices, especially if the cost of a half pint*

is substantially different to the proportional cost of a pint." In response, Brigid Simmonds, chief executive of the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA), the pubco's trade body, said, *"The 'pub experience' involves so much more than the size of your drink and that is something we should all be celebrating. I think most consumers appreciate that."* There is, I would say, a difference between appreciating it and agreeing with it.

TIED HOUSE REFORM

The draft pubs code which will set out the powers of the Pub Code Adjudicator and the rules for the Market Rent Option for consultation is expected in the autumn and is unlikely to be in force before May next year. In the meantime some pubcos, notably Enterprise Inns, are substantially changing the way their business operates. Star Pubs and Bars, who have an estate of over 1,000 tenanted and leased pubs have just set up their first managed pub, although they describe it as a one-off training facility.

According to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the average length of a pub lease has fallen to five years. In 2014 it was seven years. There has also been an increase in the number of licensees aged 25 to 34. They now run some 15% of our pubs.

LAW AND ORDER

Another subject discussed at CAMRA's Members' Weekend this year was the late night levy system and a motion calling for them to be abolished was agreed. This brings CAMRA into some level of agreement with the BBPA. There have been calls for a review of the system, currently in force in seven local authority areas. It is not bringing in the income that was expected. In Cheltenham it is running at £77,000 against the expected £200,000 and nearly a quarter of the premises that would have been affected simply changed their hours. It may also not be reducing crime if the example of Newcastle on Tyne is reflected elsewhere. The BBPA prefer the idea of voluntary partnership schemes such as Purple Flag.

In London the LNL is currently being operated in the City of London and the Borough of Islington. Camden Council was hoping to introduce it but a glitch on its website stopped people taking part in



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their consultation exercise on-line so the council has reclassified the consultation as an 'informal exercise' to gather views rather than the legally required consultation. The levy may not now start until mid-2016, if at all.

ECONOMICS

According to the Metro, the 'booze cruise' is making a comeback. Over the last year a combination of lower taxes in France and the fall in value of the Euro against the Pound has made trips across the Channel advantageous again. The owner of the Calais Wine Superstore said that he had seen a 15% to 20% rise in sales and half were advance orders made from the UK.

Business Rates are one of the pub trade's major overheads but, despite encouraging noises, the 'Red Book' containing the background figures to the recent summer budget indicated that they will continue to rise over the next five years. According to the BBPA, pubs pay 2.8% of the UK's total business rates on just 0.5% of total business turnover. This will obviously affect the high street generally so it clearly now comes under

the remit of our new pubs minister, not that he is likely to get much out of the Treasury.

Another budget measure that has caused alarm in the so-called hospitality trade is the introduction of the Living Wage. JD Wetherspoon chairman Tim Martin warned of the disproportionate effect that it would have on pubs in comparison to supermarkets, who he sees as his main rivals for beer sales.

Four international companies now produce almost half of the world's beer. According to a report from the Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Anheuser-Busch InBev, SABMiller, Heineken, and Carlsberg produce around half of the world's beer and take 74% of the global profit of \$33 billion. This situation comes after fifteen years of what the analysts call 'massive industry consolidation'. In 2004 51% of the market was shared by ten companies.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Here we go again. Following a report from the American Institute for Cancer Research and the World Cancer Research Fund that five to six units of

alcohol per day dramatically increases the risk of liver cancer, the Government's Chief Medical Officer is reviewing the current recommendations and will publish new guidelines later this year. It will be interesting to see what emerges. The current guidelines of 3 to 4 units a day for men and 2 to 3 for women have been somewhat discredited for some time now and are lower than the new research has highlighted anyway.

MORE ANTICS

Further to what I wrote in the last edition, it was not clear then that the financial changes to Downing's operations had involved the disposal of pubs. These were the Atlantic Dogstar (Brixton), Clapton Hart, Westow House (Crystal Palace) and East Dulwich Tavern. The sale of these pubs was necessary to return funds to investors.

Antic London have opened a new bar in Brixton. Ekcovision is described as an 'all day and all night venue', licensed from 11am to 6am. A spokesman said these hours, "mean it will assume a multitude of different guises. It will be a place where one can enjoy a coffee and bite to






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eat during the day, beer and cocktail of an evening, a late night solace when the rest of Brixton has closed its doors where one can dance and drink into the wee small hours, and then do it all again the next day."

The Antic Collective have opened a new pub in Woolwich, the Woolwich Equitable, possibly the only pub named after a building society. Future openings are in the pipeline. In Penge they have acquired a long closed haberdashers shop in the High Street. A planning application has been submitted which includes a roof terrace and a function space which could also host events such as a pop-up cinema. They have also acquired the long closed Grade II-listed Royal Bell Hotel in Bromley High Street.

Last edition I mentioned the Harlesden Picture Palace but I was unaware of its previous history. It has been a pub before, originally as a Wetherspoon's, the Coliseum, from 1993 to 2004 and the Misty Moon, which closed early last year when Antic acquired the site.

DRAFT HOUSE

The Draft House chain are opening a branch near the Old Street Interchange, otherwise known as 'Silicon Roundabout'. It is part of the Bower, described as a 'mixed use office-led refurbishment and redevelopment' and the two floor site will have an 'industrial, warehouse vibe'. One feature will be three 500-litre "tankova" copper tanks holding unfiltered Pilsner Urquell. There will also be four restaurants on the site. The site is properly known as St Agnes Well and it would be a nice touch if that historic name could be used somehow.

GREENE KING

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) have given the go ahead for GK's take-over of the Spirit Pub Group. GK's chief executive, Rooney Anand said that it will be 'business as usual' in the newly acquired pubs, adding that, "we're in no rush to change anything with the estate because it's trading well".

The company now has an estate of 3,127 pubs. This is reducing however. As well as the 16 pubs that they needed to sell to meet the requirements of the

CMA, they are also disposing of four of their Loch Fyne fish restaurant chain. The freeholds of three London pubs are on offer. These are the Cock Tavern in Kilburn High Road, the Stapleton in Crouch Hill, currently operated by Antic, and the pub let to the Craft Beer Co in White Lion Street, Islington. The selling agent is offering 'vacant possession upon completion' but it is understood that the CBC will be happy to negotiate with any new owner to keep a successful pub open.

YOUNG'S NEWS

In the year ended 30 March Young's turnover across their full estate rose 7.7% to £227 million. Adjusted pre-tax profits rose an astonishing 17.6% to £32 million. The company invested £50.9 million in its pubs during the year, £48.5 million of it on their managed houses, which include the Geronimo brand. The success continues with sales for the first thirteen weeks of the current financial year continuing to increase and perhaps reflecting the company's current aspirations. Like-for-like income was up by 11.9% on accommodation, 7.8% on



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food and 4.2% on drink. The Baker & Basket in Aldgate, part of the Goodman's Field development, has been added to the Geronimo portfolio and there are three pub openings in the pipeline: the Nine Elms Tavern, the Trafalgar Arms in Tooting and the Guard House in Woolwich. The Brewer's Inn in Wandsworth recently reopened after a £400,000 renovation. The pub now features a new cellar bar and a private dining room cum events space as well as a rotisserie grill. The private function space is called Jones' Wine Store, named after the original off licence that stood on the site.

In its first two weeks of operation the Burger Shack at the Windmill on Clapham Common sold 2,500 burgers and 1,500 portions of fries.

WETHERSPOON'S NEWS

JDW have announced that they have put up for sale a batch of 20 pubs, eight of which are in London and include some of their earliest sites. These are listed in a separate box. They are being sold as going concerns and are available as a package or individually. It is believed that these are all leased sites and JDW's Eddie Gershon told the Morning Advertiser, "We have taken a commercial decision to dispose of a number of small pubs. These pubs will remain trading until they are sold. We will continue to open new pubs in the coming months and years. Staff at the pubs will be offered jobs within our existing pubs, however, some might decide to remain with the new owners."

As if to prove the point, JDW opened six new pubs in July, four of them on one day. None of them however were in London.

JDW's latest financial report showed sales growth of 2.9% but profit margins

down 1.3% to 7%. This caused a fall in share value of 4.8%.

OTHER TRADE NEWS

Wadworth of Devizes, brewers of 6X, are moving eastwards. Their latest pub opening is in Haslemere, Surrey and they have been looking at sites in London, although their marketing director, Paul Sullivan said that they had found the prices 'eye-watering'.

For the year to the end of September 2014, McMullen's reported pre-tax profits of £9.2 million, an increase of 22%. Food sales contributed significantly to the increase. The company has acquired the Lord Moon of the Mall near Trafalgar Square, currently operated by Wetherspoon's.

The Craft Beer Co are looking to expand outside of London. One early possibility is a site in Bristol.

Following the sale of the main part of their brewing operation to Marston's, Thwaites have seen pre-tax profits increase to £3.3 million from a loss of £3.8 million in the previous year, despite a reduced turnover.

Discount supermarket chain Lidl has announced that it will be stocking a range of some 60 mostly British-brewed bottled beers from regional brewers. They will be priced at less than £2.00, many at £1.49.

CHESHAM ARMS

Iam very pleased to be able to report this as news rather than Pub Campaigning. This very attractive pub – see the cover picture – reopened at the beginning of July. The new lessee, Andy Bird, told the *Morning Advertiser*, "It's a beautiful pub. We're going to try and do the building justice with a very good food and drink offering. It's a pub saved from the onward march of development and hopefully the start of a movement that



will save more pubs." The photo shows James Watson, CAMRA's London Regional Pub Protection Adviser, receiving a well-deserved pint. The pub isn't far from the Round Chapel, the venue for the Pig's Ear Beer Festival in December. It might be worth stopping by. The full address is 15 Mehetabel Road, Homerton, E9 6DU.

AHOY THERE!

Afamiliar sight has returned to the Thames Embankment. The PS Tattershall Castle, built in 1934 as a passenger ferry across the River Humber, served in that capacity for 39 years before being moved to London in 1975, first as an art gallery and then, from 1982, as a pub and restaurant. It has had a five month, £1.8 million refurbishment, firstly at its birthplace, Hull, then at Tilbury. The Boat Show Comedy Club will continue and in what seems to be becoming a trend, there will be a Burger Shack located on deck.

A QUESTION OF ATTRIBUTION

The BBC have revealed that the bottled version of Sharp's Doom Bar, now the best-selling bottled beer in the country, is brewed at Molson Coors' main plant at Burton on Trent. The label mentions the brewery's home in Rock, Cornwall seven times but then simply says 'brewed in the UK'. It is arguable that this is a breach of sections 37.2 and 38 of the Food Labelling Regulations (1996). The company states however that the cask version which makes up 80% of production is all brewed in Cornwall.

Is the question of provenance important? Fuller's, for example, have similarly made London Pride a 'national' brand and I know that I would be disappointed if I found out that it was brewed in any form anywhere other than

As mentioned above, the following London pubs have been put up for sale by J D Wetherspoon:

CR8	Purley	Foxley Hatch, 8-9 Russell Hill Rd
HA6	Northwood Hills	William Jolle, 53 The Broadway
N1	Islington	Glass Works, Angel Central, Parkfield St
N4	Stroud Green	White Lion of Mortimer, 125-127 Stroud Green Rd
N6	Highgate	Gatehouse, 1 North Rd
N8	Crouch End	Devonshire House, 2-4 The Broadway
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Chiswick, not, I must make it clear, that I have any such suspicions. It's sad that Molson Coors/Sharps can't be proud that their beer comes from the capital of British brewing.

BIG BEASTS

A last word on the SABMiller take-over of Meantime, reportedly from the *Investors Chronicle*: "At last week's roundtable discussion on the deal, SAB's management were at pains to point out that SAB is focused on nurturing local beer companies. That may sound akin to them suggesting they're keen on fostering competition, but if the Meantime acquisition bears fruit it could trigger further acquisitions centred on craft brewers, both here and abroad. SAB is doubtless keen to nurture these companies in the same way a lion might nurture a springbok."

TOURIST ATTRACTION

It is well documented that our pubs are a strong tourist attraction but for an American couple, Matthew and Dolores Lawrence from Indiana, this has proved permanent. They are so taken with the Plough in Shustoke, Warwickshire, that

after spending some £48,000 on regular 8,700 mile round-trip visits since 2011, they are selling up to move to be near it. I note however, courtesy of CAMRA's *WhatPub* website, that the pub is owned by Punch Taverns. I do hope that they don't arrive to find that it has been turned into a Tesco's.

AND FINALLY...

Customers at the Red Lion in Southampton have been complaining about the language used by the pub's resident parrot, Molly, a 13 year old African Grey. One was quoted in the *Metro* as saying, "She was effing and blinding at the top of her voice." Landlady Natasha Morris commented, "Her language used to be clean. Now I have to put crisps in her mouth to shut her up." So, who taught the parrot to swear then?

Hendrick's Gin, owned by William Grant, recommend serving their drink garnished with cucumber. Don't laugh; trust me, it works. The company is now offering 'Cucumber Cultivation Kits' so that pubs can grow their own. Is this taking the fad for using locally cultivated ingredients just a bit too far?

Did you know that CAMRA shares its acronym with the Concrete and Masonry Related Association?

Tony Hedger

You can keep up to date with these and other stories via the CAMRA London Region Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GreaterLondonCAMRA (login not required) and on the news page of the regional website london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=1253

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RUGBY WORLD CUP

Unaffected, I hope, by the shenanigans surrounding the round ball game, the Rugby Union World Cup starts on 18 September with the final being played on 31 October. Three venues in London will be used: Wembley Stadium (HA9 0WS), the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Stadium (E20 2ST) and of course, Twickenham (TW1 1DZ), where the final will be held. I have included the full postcodes for the venues so that readers and visitors can use *WhatPub*, CAMRA's online pub guide, to check for pubs in the area. The local CAMRA branches will be making an extra effort to ensure that *WhatPub* is up to date. I am warned however that there are slim pickings in the Wembley area.

It might be worth checking directly with any pub that you intend to visit in case they change their usual times or are holding special events or promotions linked to the event.

For those of you who like your rugby, see also this edition's book review page.

Tony Hedger

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FAUCET INN – A CORRECTION AND AN APOLOGY

In the last edition we reported that the Sir Richard Steele in Belsize Park had been closed. This was wrong and we are happy to confirm otherwise and apologise for the error.

To give a wider picture of the company, for the year ended 26 July 2014, despite an increase in turnover, their operating profit fell to £300,415 from £737,463. One of the reasons for this was a decision to pay staff the Living Wage, one of the first pub operators to do so. It currently operates some 24 sites, 60% of which are freehold. It also manages six sites on behalf of third party owners. In 2010 Faucet Inn bought six pubs in London from Mitchells & Butlers for around £17.5 million with support from Kew Capital. Subsequently, the company struck 'sale and leaseback' deals on two of the sites, Compton's in Soho and the Old Shades in Whitehall which raised £10 million and £6 million respectively, to buy out Kew Capital's interest. They are investing in the William Morris pub by the River Wandle at Merton Abbey SW19 where they have purchased an adjoining property with the aim of converting it into a small brewery. Planning permission has already been applied for.

BLACK CAP, CAMDEN

The situation surrounding this iconic gay venue has become amazingly complicated and is becoming a case study on the state of our property and planning laws. Faucet Inn ran the pub for Kicking Horse Ltd for five years until April when it closed and it is believed that a sale of the freehold to Camden Securities is in the pipeline. At lease has been agreed by them with cafe and bar operator the Breakfast Club. Their founder, Jonathan Arana-Morton, was quoted in the *Kentish Townner* newspaper, as saying, *"Last December we were approached by an agent on behalf of Camden Securities, the potential new landlords about a venue on Camden High Street. We'd been looking for a venue in Camden for a while. We said yes, exchanged contracts with Camden Securities to take up the lease on the ground floor and basement when and if they completed on the property. On top of this, nobody seems to fully understand the implications of the Asset of The (sic) Community Value that was granted a long time after we'd signed the contract to take the lease on part of the pub. We are in the crossfire, but legally bound to a contract to take over the pub when the sale to Camden Securities goes through. We run cafes and bars not drag venues, I wouldn't want to patronise anyone by saying we could for one second fill the gap that is being left by the closure of The Black Cap."* I wonder who it is here who does not understand how ACVs work.

The Black Cap was nominated for ACV listing by the Camden LGBT Forum because of the crucial part the pub played in LGBT history. An appeal against the listing was lodged jointly by Kicking Horse and Faucet Inn but the listing was upheld by the council in July, although it is subject to appeal. We can only wonder if the removal of the ACV was insisted upon by the prospective new freeholders and it seems that it was the granting of the ACV that led Kicking Horse and Faucet Inn to close the pub, a decision that is hard to understand.

Conducting the appeal, the Borough Solicitor, Andrew Maughan, rejected the claims by Faucet Inn and Kicking Horse that, because Camden LGBT Forum was in part funded by Camden Council, the nomination had not been made 'under their own initiative' and was 'actually by proxy on behalf of the Council.' Camden LGBT Chair Nigel Harris observed, *"That is*

probably one of the most ridiculous arguments I have heard. The idea that if a local community group gets some funding from the council they are prohibited, is totally bonkers." He also hoped that it was the first step on the road to reopening the Black Cap and showed that *"the community has the ability to beat lawyers that cost thousands of pounds."* Despite a 7,500 signature petition demanding that the pub be reopened, sadly it remains closed and possibly occupied by protesters. I suspect that we will be reporting further on this story.

BURN BULLOCK, MITCHAM

Named after a renowned Surrey cricketer and overlooking Mitcham's Cricket Green, this landmark 18th century Grade II listed pub was where the Association of Cricket Umpires was formed. Alas, there has been little adherence to the rules recently and the pub was closed in September 2009 because of antisocial behaviour. It was added to the *Heritage at Risk* register last year. The local press reports that the owner is, as instructed by Merton Council, now repairing the interior and the roof. The owner at one point wanted to turn the pub into a boutique hotel but no planning applications have ever been submitted so its future remains uncertain. At least there should be no further deterioration although some concern remains about the operation of a car sales business from the premises in contravention of an enforcement notice.

DARTMOUTH ARMS

Faucet Inn had promised to reopen this pub by the beginning of June but with nothing apparently happening, the local protest group held a 'Grand Non Reopening of the Dartmouth Party' on 8 July. Someone however appears to be doing something. An advert for the pub appeared in the *Morning Advertiser* of 25 June inviting 'leasehold rental and premium offers' for a free of tie public house opportunity in what it calls an affluent North London suburb. Significantly only the ground floor lock up unit, described as 'currently in shell condition', is on offer.

In an echo of the Black Cap case, Faucet Inn had also appealed against Camden Council's listing of the Dartmouth Arms as an ACV and once again, Borough Solicitor Andrew Maughan, acting as Review Officer, confirmed the listing. Mr Maughan rejected the company's argument that when the listing was granted it was not proved that community activities would start again at the pub in the next five years. He pointed out that Faucet Inn had submitted a document to the Council in which it said that the pub's closure was temporary and activities at the pub were part of their strategy to increase trade. Consequently the owners had offered no evidence that threw any doubt on the original decision, so it must be realistic to conclude future community use is likely. Highgate Councillor Oliver Lewis told the *Morning Advertiser*, *"The Dartmouth Arms is a proper local boozer that is right at the heart of the community. We cherish the place and we're delighted the ACV has been upheld. It sends out a strong message that community action and pressure can work."* Faucet Inn can appeal if they so wish.

DULWICH ESTATE

Not all pubs are owned by pub companies. Two pubs in East Dulwich are owned by the Dulwich Estate, a charity originally established in 1619 as Allyn's College of God's Gift at Dulwich and which has connections with Dulwich College. The Half Moon Hotel in Herne Hill, damaged by flooding some

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time ago, will reopen as a pub with dining facilities and hotel accommodation on the upper floors. The Estate reports that it is currently finalising terms with a well-respected pub operator and that works will begin later this year on the refurbishment of this property. It is expected to reopen in 2016. The pub is famous for its six back-painted mirrors by W Gibbs & Sons of Blackfriars depicting birds. Let us hope that these will be retained.

Alas, the Grove Tavern in Lordship Lane will not open again as a public house. The Estate reports that their tenant, Stonegate, tried but failed to sell their lease so the Estate is now looking to redevelop the site with a mixed use scheme rather than leave the building as it is 'to attract even further graffiti and vandalism.'

CARLTON TAVERN, MAIDA VALE

In our report last time we said, "A cynic might wonder if the developers had been tipped off that the Grade 11 listing was imminent." It has been pointed out by Paul Ainsworth, one of CAMRA's leading lights in pub preservation matters, that they certainly would have known. Since 2005, Historic England have been obliged to consult owners on proposals to list their buildings so as to give them a chance to make any representations before a final decision is made. Other possible consequences were however seen all too well in the case of the Carlton.

Paul points out that councils have the power to make Building Preservation Notices (BPN) on non-listed but potentially listable buildings which they believe to be under threat. These notices take immediate effect and last for six months, thus giving time for Historic England to consider and process statutory listing. CAMRA will be suggesting to Historic England that before notifying owners they contact the local Council asking them to consider whether a BPN would be appropriate in order to prevent owners responding to listing notifications by sending in the bulldozers.



Westminster City Council issued their Enforcement Notice on 24 June. It was served on all the relevant parties and was also affixed to the site. The terms are as follows: 'Rebuild The Carlton Tavern Public House, to match in facsimile the building as it stood immediately prior to its demolition on 8th April 2015, in conformity with the detailed architectural descriptions as to building materials, plan form, exterior and interior attached to this Notice, and in conformity with the photographs attached for the purposes of illustration.' It is expected that an appeal against the order will be made. There is still an outstanding appeal against the Council's refusal of the original planning application.

Westminster Council will no doubt be buoyed up by the support of Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London. The author of this edition's guest editorial, Greater London Assembly member Steve O'Connell, put the following question in the GLA's equivalent to Prime Minister's Question time, "Do you welcome Westminster Council's enforcement action against the demolition of this public house, and will you do everything you can to support this and any similar actions, using your new London Plan policies?" The Mayor replied, "I do. Westminster Council has played a blinder here and I hope it chills the marrow of any developer contemplating doing the same thing. I am absolutely delighted that this pub is going to be rebuilt stone by stone, brick by brick, and I look forward to having a beer in it myself. What they did was utterly cynical and outrageous."

The Brent & Kilburn Times has since reported that in early July the owners, CLTX, told the council that they planned to clear the site. Consequently the Council is seeking an injunction preventing any further work on the site. There is quite some difference between ignoring building regulations and being in contempt of court. In addition, campaigners who have been calling for the pub to be rebuilt have vowed to hold vigils on the site to prevent it being cleared.

I'll leave the last word for now to regular reader Rhys Jones who commented, "The scandalous news of the illegal demolition of the Carlton Tavern took me back to February 1993, when then brewers Greenall Whitley sent in a demolition crew in the middle of the night to knock down Tommy Duck's, a much-loved and distinctive pub of theirs in central Manchester. So to make a small contribution to rhyming slang, may I suggest that the Carlton Tavern has now, regrettably, been comprehensively 'Tommy Ducked'. Here's to its rising again. No such luck for Tommy Duck's, whose site is now a Premier Inn."

FISHMONGERS ARMS (ALCHEMIST), WANDSWORTH

It's catching. This pub was also demolished without permission around the beginning of June. This time however it was clearly illegal. In their on-line news service, Wandsworth Council said that the owner had not sought consent for demolition although he was required to do so under planning rules because the pub is located in a conservation area.

The building's important contribution to the area was highlighted in an assessment which noted that its single storey entrance provides "a break in the otherwise long continuous facade. The Alchemist is a three storey rendered building, larger than the others in this part of the conservation area and in use as a public house. It is a symmetrical building divided into three bays with rendered pilasters framing each bay and a deep bracketed cornice at eaves level which adds a richness of architectural detail. Windows to second floor are timber sashes whereas at first floor French windows open out to a tiny roof terrace above the slightly projecting ground floor frontage".

Wandsworth Council have a good record on the pub preservation front. Planning chairman Councillor Sarah McDermott said, "There appears to be no justification for the demolition of this important local landmark and no consent was sought by the owners beforehand. We are therefore treating this as a very serious breach of planning rules, which we believe can only be put right by the complete rebuilding and reconstruction of this important community asset, using the same materials and to the same architectural design. This building is an



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Pub campaigning

integral part of the St John's Hill Grove conservation area and its loss will be keenly felt by local people. That's why we are determined to take action to ensure it's restored for future generations."

I hate to sound a sour note but I believe that the pub was closed at the time of its demolition. If those local people had used the pub a bit more often then perhaps this would not have happened. It did however have quite a lot of competition.

KENSINGTON PARK HOTEL, LADBROKE GROVE

The pub's tenant has lost an appeal against forfeiture of his lease which may well be strictly legally correct but only came about through a situation in which someone was just trying to help keep the pub open. An appeal is possible if funds become available but as ever, the little man versus the property developer is an unequal battle. The supporters group, KPH United, will continue their efforts to save the pub and its theatre.

Proceedings concerning the ACV continue.

PRINCE ALFRED, MAIDA VALE

This Young's pub, featured in CAMRA's London Regional Inventory of historic pub interiors, is currently closed because of damage to its ornate and original Victorian ceiling. Being a listed building, the process takes time but it should reopen in a few weeks' time.

PRINCE EDWARD, HOMERTON

Hackney Council has listed this historic and much loved pub as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This is the Council's second listing, following the Chesham Arms.

Built in 1886, the pub, in Wick Road, has been used by the borough's pub-goers for generations and is renowned for its Caribbean, soul and Irish music nights and a warm community atmosphere.

The listing follows a determined campaign by local community group, the Friends of the Prince Edward, who in 2012 rallied against the plans submitted by the developer owner to demolish and transform the pub into flats. The Council refused the planning application, citing the social and cultural importance of the pub as key reasons for the ruling amongst other planning policy grounds.



Councillor Guy Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration said, "Pubs play an important role in the daily life of communities and a local economy. Once these spaces are lost to other uses it is very rare to see a return to their original purpose. There is little doubt in Hackney that we are

experiencing a renaissance of the local pub, a new generation of entrepreneurs recognise the opportunity and the importance these buildings present. The swift response from the Friends of the Prince Edward group for applying and being awarded the Asset of Community Value status is an important step towards securing the future of this Hackney pub."

Josh Clarke from the Friends of the Prince Edward group, said, "With so many pubs closing locally and across the UK that are no longer being able to cater to the local community, it's great news that the Prince Edward has been given this planning protection from the Council. The Prince Edward is a decent, affordable and well attended local boozer, with a great atmosphere that caters for all areas of the community both young and old. There aren't many pubs like this left that provide people a comfortable and affordable space outside their living room to meet and socialise with friends and family. We're determined to keep the historic Prince Edward open for everyone today and for the local community to use in the many years ahead."

ROYAL OAK, NEW MALDEN

This pub currently has two bars, separated by some original fittings. In an echo of the curse of the 1970s, there are rumours that owners, the Spirit Group, soon to be Greene King, want to 'refurbish' it into one bar to make more space for diners. The interior is, in fact, listed and any alterations will require planning consent to change. As we go to print, permission has been sought from Kingston upon Thames Council, after works had been scheduled for September. The Kingston and Leatherhead branch of CAMRA are monitoring the situation.

ROYAL VAUXHALL TAVERN, VAUXHALL

With all due respect to them (and don't ask me to quantify that), when a property developer buys a pub, it is reasonable to suspect that development of the property may be on the agenda. On this basis, following the purchase of the Royal Vauxhall Tavern (RVT) by an Austrian property company, Immovate, a campaign, RVT Future, was started to have the 19th century building, originally a music hall, listed for protection by Historic England. This campaign includes prominent architects, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, Sir Ian McKellen and Paul O'Grady.

One of the architects, Professor Nigel Coates said,

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The developers have called the listing plan 'misguided' and have warned that if the listing goes ahead it would increase their insurance costs by 50% and such an increase in operational costs would make the business unsustainable. RVT Future point out that plenty of other listed pubs seem to manage.

Perhaps most readers of this magazine would never go there but I hope that we would all agree that there should be a pub for everyone and let us hope that the RVT does not follow other LGBT pubs such as the Black Cap (see above), Madame Jojo's in Soho and the Joiners Arms in Hackney.

SHIP, SOUTH NORWOOD

This is a curious case. The Ship, in the High Street, closed after 160 years in June 2014. A group called Save the Ship SE25 was formed to campaign for it to be reopened. It was reported in the *Croydon Guardian* that they got as far as arranging a meeting with the owner to discuss buying the pub and were hoping to be able to look round the property to see how much work needed to be done and what price to offer. However, instead of the owner turning up, campaigner Rachel Lawrence said they saw a letting agency representative showing someone round. There are letterboxes at the door and Ms Lawrence said she spoke to a tenant who had been asked to pay three month's rent upfront. When the *Croydon Guardian* spoke to the lettings agent, Moving Inn, (interesting name), they said all the homes in the building had been rented out.

This was especially odd because Croydon Council have turned down two planning applications to convert the building into flats and it has been listed as an asset of community value.

Ms Lawrence said, "We spoke to the owner and he has admitted to having tenants in the building. He says he'll throw the tenants out if he gets an offer, but he won't let us in the building to view it. It is absolute madness. Croydon Council should stop the building work in there. They have done nothing and they have been negligent. I'm writing to the chief executive saying how unhappy we are and then we will go to the local government ombudsman."

A spokeswoman for Croydon Council said, "Both planning applications 15/00954/P and 14/04841/P were refused planning permission. We are aware of some unauthorised development having taken place alongside more recent allegations and the situation is currently being investigated by our planning enforcement team."

This does rather make the point that even with the recent improvements that we have seen in the planning rules as regards protecting pubs, the rules are worthless if they are not enforced.

SWAN & EDGAR, MARYLEBONE

This pub was originally called the Feathers and takes its current name from a famous old department store. This is another case where a developer wanted to turn a pub into a large single luxury dwelling but Westminster City Council refused that. After some delay an ACV listing has now been secured.

THOMAS A BECKET, BERMONDSEY

This Old Kent Road pub, dating from 1898, became famous for its boxing gym where, among others, Our 'Energy, Sir Henry Cooper, trained and it carries a Blue Plaque to his memory. Mohammed Ali, Joe Frazier and Sugar Ray Leonard used it on their visits to these shores. It also has its place in music history with David Bowie rehearsing Ziggy Stardust there. Sadly the pub has hit bad times and has had its licence revoked. Consequently it was recently being put up for auction. The Walworth Society are hoping to make an application for listing as an Asset of Community Value. The Society's Jeremy Leach told the *South London Press*, "This pub has incredible history and we think that it is worth preserving. With all the housing that is being proposed elsewhere in the area, people will need somewhere to go so we very much hope that the pub element can be retained. This is what the Localism Act really wants the local authority to focus on."

AND FINALLY...

Iam pleased to report that the mural, possibly a Banksy, on the side of the Platform Three pub in Whitton has been fully restored. At a slight tangent, one of my friends recently suggested that we ought to be able to put a plaque of some sort on every converted pub or on any building that replaced a pub to mark that it had once been a pub and giving the pub's name. I doubt if the new owners would permit that but what if a Banksy-style mural of the previous pub sign appeared on the side of the building? They might not be so keen to wipe it off if they thought that it might be worth something. I must make it clear that I am not in any way advocating the use of graffiti as a campaigning tactic.

Compiled by Tony Hedger (James Watson is working away)

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CAMRA AND ENGLISH HERITAGE PUB DESIGN AWARDS 2015

Each year CAMRA, in conjunction with English Heritage, in the words of Sean Murphy, the competition organiser, *"celebrate the architects, designers and pub owners who have the bravery and vision to go above and beyond when restoring, conserving or designing pub buildings."*

The Castle at Edgehill in Oxfordshire has won awards for both refurbishment and conservation. This most unusual Hook Norton pub, a listed Gothic folly-castle dating from the mid-1740s, was designed by architect Sanderson Miller for himself and stands on the site where King Charles I's standard-bearer planted the royal arms before the first battle of the Civil War of 1642. It has been a prominent landmark on this famous ridge for almost three centuries.

A second refurbishment award has gone to the Old Bridge at Kirkstall, Leeds. In effect the brewery tap of the Kirkstall Brewery, the pub retains its Victorian features and quirky bars but at the same time has been given a very contemporary makeover, being decorated with breweriana, all of which has been salvaged from other less fortunate and mostly closed pubs.

Two Highly Commended awards have been made in the Conversion to Pub Use category. The Harrogate Tap at Harrogate Station, North Yorkshire is sited in the former bar and refreshment room, which is the last surviving part of Thomas Prosser's original 1862 station building, still owned by Network Rail. Some £500,000 was spent on demolishing ugly extensions, re-roofing the old brick building and renovating its interior. The other is the Wallaw in Blyth, Northumberland. This splendid, brick-faced one time cinema dating from the 1930s has been converted to a pub by J D Wetherspoon. Its curious name comes from its first owner, Walter Lawson.



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BRIGHTWATER

Not quite London but Claygate in Surrey isn't that far away. The town's Brightwater Brewery has opened its own pub, called Platform Three, just outside Claygate station. It is on the Waterloo to Guildford line, journey time about 30 minutes. Check the brewery's website, www.brightbrew.co.uk, to confirm opening times. The brewery's beers can usually be found in two other pubs in Claygate, the Hare & Hounds and the Foley Arms.

CLARKSHAW'S BREWING

Clarkshaws have successfully completed their move from Dulwich to Brixton and their new taproom is now open from noon to dusk every Saturday and also fortnightly on Sundays for beer and board games! A series of special events for the summer will take place at the taproom.

Clarkshaws will shortly be launching a new unfiltered craft lager, brewed in collaboration with London Beer Lab, with whom they share their brewery site. Made with Progress and Mosaic hops, this will be a crisp and full flavoured lager at 5.3% ABV. Trial brews are taking place of a new pale ale, made with Jester hops.

Full details on all their events can be found at www.clarkshaws.co.uk/events

Ian White

DRAGONFLY

In May, the Dragonfly Brewery at the George & Dragon in Acton High Street produced their first seasonal red ale, the tasty 5.8% ABV Coppertop. This was followed in June by another seasonal red ale, this time made with American hops. They also produced a beer for the Ealing Beer Festival: a cask version of the mango and passionfruit IPA that they produced for last year's Acton Carnival. Their three year-round beers, 2 O'Clock Ordinary bitter, Early Doors pale ale and Dark Matter stout, are always on at the George & Dragon. These are occasionally available at other pubs in the Remarkable Restaurants group (www.remarkablerestaurants.co.uk) or at selected free houses elsewhere in London.

Phillip Portwood

FULLER, SMITH & TURNER

Fuller's have announced their financial results for year ended 28 March 2015. They are impressive. Their profit before tax and after the usual accounting adjustments was up 7% to £36.4 million with revenue up 12% to £321.5 million. Sales growth in their managed pubs and hotels sector increased by 6.3% while like for like profits in the tenanted pubs increased by 5%. Fuller's opened eight new pubs during the year including two on the River Thames. They also acquired a 51% stake in the Stable craft cider and gourmet pizza business. Frontier craft lager is now the Company's second biggest brand in the UK. The new financial year has also started well.

Simon Emeny, Fuller's chief executive, recently gave an interesting insight into the company's 'direction of travel', to use the modern jargon. In a speech to a conference organised by Numis Securities in the City of London, he said, "*London has become the property hotspot of Europe. We see a gradual movement for the next generation, who will be forced to buy their first properties outside London. This is driving our acquisitions programme. As we see enhancement of the rail*

infrastructure, with Crossrail opening in two years' time, HS2 set to change the profile of travelling for commuters, as HS1 has, we've given additional focus to acquiring pubs outside London, in Bath, Brighton, Winchester, Romsey and so on. This is where our customers of tomorrow are choosing to move to, to commute into London. It's very important that they retain an access to the Fuller's brand." Over 50% of Fuller's pubs are now outside London. In 1985 the company owned 135 pubs. Today it owns 391 pubs and hotels, of which only 68 survive from the 1985 estate. To explain this turnover, Mr Emeny explained, "*The days of the habitual customer going to the pub day in and day out to consume beer, smoke cigarettes and play the fruit machine have gone. What the smoking ban has done is give well-invested, really well-done pubs a really good chance of outperforming restaurants. Pubs can cater for a much broader spectrum of occasions than restaurants. Sunday lunch is now the busiest session in our business during the week, pubs are now packed for the meal occasion of Christmas Day – ten years ago most of our pubs just opened between ten and two and didn't sell food. Now we're doing two or three sittings. Easter Sunday, pubs are packed, Mother's Day you have to book well in advance. Functions, now, particularly in London, are a really keen part of our business, whether through private dining rooms or sectioning off parts of the pub. Leaving parties, business breakfast meetings, product launches, or even NCT groups – these are all occasions where customers are choosing now to use a pub."* Discuss...

London Drinker would like to offer its congratulations to Gerry O'Brien who celebrated 30 years as the manager of the Churchill Arms in Kensington in July. The event was celebrated with a street party for Gerry's long serving customers, friends and family. There was also a special visit from Griffin and Pride, the Fuller's dry horses. The pub features 42 hanging baskets, 48 window boxes, 100 tubs and a chimney pot, all filled to the brim with blossoming flowers. A recent addition is a waterfall, including fish, in the conservatory. It is estimated that Gerry has served nearly two million pints of London Pride in his time at the Churchill Arms. He has trained a number of people who are now running their own Fuller's pub.

Richard Crabtree of the Crown in Islington has been awarded Fuller's Master Cellarman status. He commented, "*It's an amazing honour to be given this status. We work really hard at the Crown to make sure each pint is of the best quality possible and it's great to be recognised in this way. But it's a real team effort, so I'd like to thank everyone at the pub, because it's not just the quality of the cellar, it's also about the quality at the bar and service that you receive."* John Keeling, Head Brewer, added, "*It's such a pleasure to give this award to a person who lives and breathes cask ale. When you visit the pub you can be safe in the knowledge that the beer they serve is in the best possible condition, just as it is when it leaves the brewery gates."*

The amazingly successful Parcel Yard at Kings Cross station has a new facility to offer; it has been licensed as a venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships. More specifically, five of the self-contained rooms are available, with capacities ranging from 12 to 80. It is believed to be the first station pub to offer this service. It makes sense; you can have your stag or hen do lunchtime, get married in the afternoon, have the reception in the evening then get the sleeper to Scotland for your honeymoon, all without leaving the building.

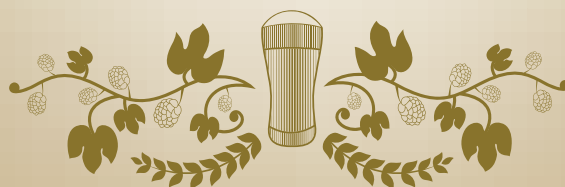


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London brewery news

For those of you who fancy a day out in Brighton, Fuller's have reopened the Grand Central in Surrey Street, conveniently close to the station. The refurbishment has restored the building to its pre-war glory and features an upstairs gin bar and theatre called the Nightingale Room.

KEW

Brewing is well underway and sales are going well. The beers brewed to date include Botanic (3.9% ABV amber), Sandycombe Gold (4.4% ABV), Pagoda Pale (4.5% ABV) and Kew Green (& Black) (3.7% ABV chocolate milk stout). These are all available in both cask and bottle. The beers can be found from time to time in pubs in the Essex Tavern and Sussex Arms group and the Kew Gardens Hotel. The brewery also has a stall at the Kew Village market on Saturday.

LATE KNIGHTS

The brewery, founded in 2013 by ex-Fullers manager Steve Keegan, supplies beers across South London and beyond from its base in Penge. They also operate a number of bars: Beer Rebellion in Gipsy Hill, Beer Rebellion in Queen's Road, Peckham, the London Beer Dispensary in Brockley, as well as bars in Brighton and Ramsgate. More are in the pipeline.

Their latest beer is Deserter, a joint venture with the irreverent South London blog of the same name which invites readers to 'shirk, rest & play', especially during work hours. The beer celebrates the blog's first anniversary and as supervised by Late Knights brewer, Sam Barber, with inspiration from blog founders Andrew Grumbridge and Vincent Raison, combines a golden IPA style with a US hop twist. It is described as 'an all-day breakfast IPA'. The beer (ABV 5.5%) is brewed with Magnum, Citra, Columbus and Centennial hops for bitterness with a combination of Nugget, Cascade and El Dorado used at the dry hopping stage. It has been available in cask, keg and bottle since early July in all Late Knights' bars. Apparently it was either a beer or souvenir key rings; I think that they made the right choice.

For more information about Late Knights, go to www.lateknightsbrewery.co.uk. If you want to find out more about Deserter, go to www.deserter.co.uk. Be warned: it is not for the faint-hearted but it is a laugh.

LONG ARM BREWING CO

This microbrewery, located at the Ealing Park Tavern, 222 South Ealing Road W5 4R, has started production. Three cask conditioned beers are regularly available: Penny Flyer (4% ABV pale ale), Birdie Flipper (4.5% ABV red ale) and IPA OK (5.5% ABV), an IPA with an American Pale Ale influence. Birdie Flipper and IPA OK are also available in bottles and as key keg beers. Long Arm beers can also be found at ETM Group pubs and restaurants in Central London. See www.ealingparktavern.com/etm-venues for details.

MONKEY CHEWS

This is the name adopted for the new brewing operation at the Montague Arms in Peckham. The beers became available in June 2015 at the Montague Arms and its sister pub the Brown Derby in Kennington. It is understood to be a five barrel brew plant. Its name was the owner's previous bar in Chalk Farm which was demolished. At the time of writing the beers were Darktown (4.2% ABV), Gator Blood (4.6% ABV), Chronic Hip Hop (3.8% ABV) and IPA (4% ABV). The full

address for the Montague Arms is 289 Queens Road, Peckham, SE15 2PA.

Julian Stone

PARK

Hitherto the Park Brewery has called itself a nanobrewery but it is now progressed to being a fully-fledged micro. New kit has been installed to increase the capacity from one to four barrels. A 4.4% ABV bitter named Isabella (after the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park) was produced in April but has not become a standard. Plans to expand the regular range following the increase in capacity are being made and we look forward to seeing Park Brewery beers more regularly in local pubs.

Dave Morgan

SAMBROOK'S

The first batch of the stunning Imperial Stout (10.4% ABV) was brewed at the end of 2014 and has proved very successful with the second brew having already sold out as well. A third batch is in the pipeline for late summer and they have some in casks which should be available at some beer festivals later this year.

Session Ale (3.4% ABV) was a spring seasonal which had a really good reception. It was brewed with American hops which have it a nice fruity new world aroma. Lavender Hill, made with English honey, is back for its fourth summer and has proved to be the company's best-selling seasonal ale.

The brewery has undergone some development with the addition of three new 40 bbl (brewer's barrel) conditioning tanks which gives the brewery the capacity to hold 400 bbls of beer on site. They have also redeveloped their laboratory to boost quality control. A kegging machine has been acquired so that they can compete in that sector of the market.

The brewery's quarterly open days are growing in popularity and another of their Beer by the River birthday events is planned for 5 and 6 September. It will be held once again in Morden Hall Park with food stalls, kids' entertainment, music and of course plenty of Sambrook's beer plus other favourites.

Peter Sutcliffe

TWICKENHAM FINE ALES

A fifteen barrel fermenter has been added to the existing plant. A TFA were planning to have two beers available at this year's Ealing Beer Festival.

VOLDEN

The renamed brewery has produced its first beer since Antic acquired the former Clarence & Frederick's brewery in Croydon. This is a 3.8% ABV session bitter called VIM. The beer is exclusive to Antic pubs. The head brewer is Stephen Lawson, assisted by Michaela White who remains from the previous set-up.

Dave Lands

WIMBLEDON

The first two beers from this new brewery were appearing in local pubs as we went to press. These are Common (3.7% ABV) and Tower (4.5% ABV). The beers were delivered to various free house such as Le Gothique in Wandsworth, the Hope in Carshalton and the Trafalgar in South Wimbledon, plus a number of Young's houses.

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London brewery news

I'm pleased to see that they avoided the obvious temptation to use tennis themed names. Much has been made in the press about the previous Wimbledon Brewery which burnt down in 1889. That was however situated 'up the hill' in Wimbledon Village, at the opposite end of SW19.

WINDSOR & ETON

According to the Duke of Wellington, the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. Appropriately, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the battle, Windsor & Eton Brewery created a limited edition of their best-selling 4.2% ABV bitter, Guardsman. Guardsman Waterloo Special was

brewed with classic English hops and then late hopped with a timely addition of Prussian hops. The brewery reports that the beer was a huge hit, selling out in record time. They did however keep back just enough to take over to Belgium to offer to some of the 5,000 or so re-enactors who travelled from all over the world to recreate key moments from the battle on the actual anniversary on 18 June.. Despite this the British, Dutch and German forces still won!

The honours were performed by two of the brewery's founders, Bob and Jim Morrison, who are pictured here enjoying some of the special beer with some Coldstream Guards re-enactors from Canada.



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BREWHOUSE & KITCHEN DOUBLES UP

There is an international flavour to the Brewhouse & Kitchen pub chain. Take the group brewer, Peter Hughes; he was born in Swaziland and grew up in South Africa. Then there is Thomas from Germany, who is the brewer at the newly opened brew pub in Highbury, and Natalia, the brewster at their other London pub in Islington, and you have a really different mix of international beer knowledge.

There are currently six pubs in the Brewhouse & Kitchen chain. The other four are in Poole, Bristol, Dorchester and Portsmouth. As their name suggests, their aim is to have a microbrewery alongside their food offering.

The new Highbury pub is situated in what was once a tramshed which housed the trams that ran on the Highbury to Aldwych route which started in 1906. The pub is on the roundabout outside Highbury & Islington Station, making it a great place to pop in for a quick one if you are travelling through the area. Inside, it's a modern looking pub with the brewery on view at the far end.



Peter's job is to look after the brewing in all of their pubs and this year will be a very busy one for him. Following the recent opening in Highbury, further openings are planned at Gloucester Quay this summer and in Southampton and Bournemouth later in the year. Fortunately, this is clearly a man who loves his job.

Each of the seven beers brewed at the Highbury pub has a little story behind it, most directly associated with the area. Tramshed, their session bitter, needs no further explanation but *Illustrator*, a black IPA, is named after George Cruikshank, who illustrated the works of Charles Dickens, and *Colonia Estivo* is a rye beer which takes its name from a nearby Roman garrison. It is definitely not, as you might first think, an Italian lager! Add in a couple with football references and you have an eclectic mix. It is good to see some real thought – and humour – in the naming of the beers. For more information on the beer range together with tasting notes, visit the London Breweries page on the CAMRA London website: www.london.camra.org.uk.

TASTING PANEL TRAINING

There can be no place better to undertake one of CAMRA's Tasting Panel training sessions than at a brewery and Sambrook's in Battersea was an ideal venue. At this session, on 4 July, Seventeen CAMRA members undertook the course, which is now independently certificated by People 1st, the leading skills and workforce development charity for employers in the hospitality and leisure, industries, who were involved with training at the 2012 Olympics (the support staff that is, not the competitors!).

As well as tasting the range of Sambrook's regular draught beers, we were also invited to taste some matured bottle-conditioned beers. These were all sipping beers, starting with Battersea Rye (5.8% ABV) and going via Battersea IPA (6.2% ABV) and No. 5 Barley Wine (8.2% ABV) to Imperial Stout (10.4% ABV). The dark gold, full flavoured IPA combined golden syrup and citrus notes and despite having been matured for a year, it was still bitter and hoppy.

The No 5 Barley Wine had been matured even longer, for two years. The alcohol came through on the nose and in the warming flavour. As expected of this beer style, it was sweet with a rich, smooth mouthfeel and would make an ideal substitute for a dessert wine. This is a one off beer, so catch it while you can and, if you can bear to, leave it for another year because this is a beer that is likely to develop further.

At the end of the session, the trainees were asked which beer they thought was the best if they were judging it in a beer competition. Over half voted for Powerhouse Porter, a beer that has regularly made it through to the London and South East preliminary round of CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain competition. It was therefore a good choice! It features lots of chocolate and coffee roast character with spicy hop and caramelised fruit notes.

We would like to say a big thank you to Sambrook's for hosting the day.

Tasting notes for the other beers tasted on the day can be found on the London Breweries page of the CAMRA London website: www.london.camra.org.uk, where you can also find details of the Tasting Panel.

Christine Cryne



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Matthew Clark's Boutique

The average drinker may not have heard of the company Matthew Clark but the influence that they have on the products in pubs, bars and restaurants is considerable. So who are they?

The company was set up over 200 years ago in Bristol to sell wine and spirits but it soon expanded into beer. These days they supply to around 20,000 outlets, varying from independent pubs and restaurants to pub chains such as Wetherspoon's and Stonegate and hotel chains such as Hilton. In 2011, they set up Boutique Beers, a brand designed to take advantage of the changing and innovative beer market, as well as creating an umbrella brand for traditional beers. As Julian from Matthew Clark explained, "We wanted to take advantage of the emerging beer market but it's heritage not craft nor speciality. There is a growing interest in beer and people are willing to spend a bit more for quality. About 50% of our outlets are restaurants supplemented by many gastropubs. We aim to make the beer market more accessible."

These tactics seem to be paying off. Matthew Clark has seen a 40% growth in Boutique Beer over the last few years and the interest in beer does not seem to be slowing down. Last year they listed 85 beers, today it is 143; cask volume is growing about 10% year on year, around the same as craft keg. Matthew Clark currently have around 30 permanent and 15 to 20 seasonal beers listed.

But how much larger the range will grow is not known. Julian was adamant that the criteria were taste; visuality (that is the attractiveness of the pump clip or bottle label), originality and availability. They cannot list a beer unless the brewer can guarantee supply so this sometimes rules out the smallest brewers.

There is however no barrier as regards buying from 'cuckoo' brewers (those brewers that do not brew themselves but get others to brew for them). One such London based company is Big Hug. Based in King's Cross, they have their beers contract brewed both in the UK and Austria; their beers are not filtered but they are carbonated. Their tactics are to choose the brewery that best suits the beer they want to brew. They have around 120 barrels a month brewed for them which is not bad for a brewer with no brewery and which only started in the spring of 2014. They don't rule out having a brewery in the longer term but nothing is planned as yet.

Big Hug were among a number of brewers at a recent event that Matthew Clark staged at Trinity Buoy Wharf in East London, one of a number of events across the country designed to help educate their customers. London brewers present were Portobello and Meantime alongside many other familiar UK names such as Adnams, Thwaites and Thornbridge plus international ones such as Sierra Nevada, Chimay and Duvel.

Another London based brewery that was definitely memorable was Two Fingers Brewing. This is a philanthropic venture whose profits all to go to the charity Prostate Cancer UK. It was set up by seven friends who met at a London advertising agency after several of their colleagues were diagnosed with the disease. The beers are brewed by Hepworths in Sussex and their flagship beer, Aurelio (alas, not real), as well as being stocked by Matthew Clark, has listings in Morrisons and Tesco. This is an amazing achievement for a business run by friends as a hobby.



Two Fingers

Matthew Clark is a big company (their turnover in 2013/14 was over £800 million) so it is nice to see that they feel able to support lesser known breweries and take a risk on new faces. And just think, your next pint in a pub may have come through Matthew Clark.

Christine Cryne

Editor's note: as we went to press there was speculation about a 'reverse takeover' of Matthew Clark by Conviviality Retail, the owners of the Bargain Booze and Wine Rack chains. A figure of £200 million has been mentioned. Matthew Clark is owned half and half by Punch Taverns and private equity funds but as Christine has described above, operates independently. Let us hope that if the deal goes through it does not affect that situation.



Trinity Buoy Wharf

LETTERS

All readers – not just CAMRA members – are invited to use this column but please remember that it is intended for debate and constructive criticism. The editor reserves the right not to print any contributions that are otherwise.

**Please e-mail letters to
ldnews.hedger@gmail.com.**

**If you do not have e-mail, hard-copy letters may be sent to London Drinker Letters,
4 Arundel House, Heathfield Road,
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16:45 South Africa v Japan
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Sunday 20th September

12:00 Samoa v USA
14:30 Wales v Uruguay
16:45 New Zealand v Argentina

CAMRA's 30th National Breweriana Auction

Have you ever fancied owning a slice of brewing history? If so, this event is just the thing. Run by the Campaign for Real Ale, the National Breweriana Auction returns to the Town Hall in Burton on Trent to celebrate its 30th birthday on Saturday 17 October. It again promises over 150 interesting auction lots, everything from mirrors to trays, wall signs, bottles and books. Also there are a number of stands selling memorabilia to add to the atmosphere in this wonderful Victorian venue.

There are all sorts of items to decorate your home. If for

example soda syphons are your thing, we have examples from Shipstone's of Nottingham and from the lesser known Hole's Brewery of Newark, established in 1870 but taken over by Courage, Barclay and Simonds in 1967 and closed 15 years later. We also have a soda syphon stand from Allsopps of Burton.

There are also many items from London, including a cute Charrington's Toby Jug and an ash tray from Barclay Perkins, founded in 1781 and merged with Courage in 1955. In 1809, the brewery was brewing around

260,000 barrels per annum, making it the largest brewery in the world. There is also a wall plaque from Hodgson's of Kingston, another brewery taken over by Courage (1943).

If you have never been to the National Breweriana Auction before, it is great fun to take part in and is an opportunity to get some great investments because many of the items on sale can appreciate in value. And, of course, like any CAMRA event, there is some good beer on sale all day (from the local Old Cottage Beer Company).

Burton on Trent is easily accessible by train and the Town Hall, which is wheelchair accessible, is just a short walk from the railway station. The event starts at 11am with the opportunity to view the lots and browse the breweriana stands. Bidding starts at 12.30pm.


Entrance is by catalogue (£2.50) available on the day or £3.50 in advance, by post from Bill Austin: 01923 211654 (answerphone) or baustin@supanet.com. If you can't get there, postal bids are accepted, just contact Bill. For more information see gac.camrabeerengine.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=15796.

Put it in your diary now: Saturday 17 October 2015.

Christine Cryne

Editor's note. Don't forget that there are auctions every day at the Great British Beer Festival.






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WhatPub? is our repository of information on the nation's pubs, and a big part of CAMRA's online presence. **WhatPub? Update** publishes news items collated by Greater London branches, often from information supplied through the 'Submit Update' button on each page. We aim to report all openings and closures of places that satisfy the CAMRA definition of a pub (including those selling draught but not cask beer); all pubs that add or remove cask beer; as well as changes of name, ownership or beer policy.

The 'crowd power' of 172,000 members keeps **WhatPub?** up to date. Readers are encouraged to visit www.whatpub.com for additional details, and to 'Submit Update' when they find incomplete or out-of-date entries.

Antic have opened or taken over pubs in NW10, SE15, SE16 and SW9, although one does not offer cask beer. Marston's have opened two new-build pubs, in Belvedere and Dagenham. We report victory for a long-running campaign to reopen a community pub in E9. There are new brewery taps in E9 and SE24; the first Late Knights pub North of the river in N4; and in N5 the second London outlet for a small brewpub chain.

There are mixed fortunes for some of our Regional Inventory pubs – being gutted in Harrow, reopening in Ilford, changing hands in NW5 and W11, reverting to an old name in W1. Another period interior has been lost in W1, while there are – as ever – pubs under threat across London including N2, Enfield, SE1, SE22, Croydon, Welling, SW11 and two in New Malden.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO CASK BEER

CENTRAL

W1 (Fitzrovia), SPORTS BAR & GRILL (Bar Holdings), 36-40 Rupert St. Opened in 2014, the fifth of the chain, but the first not to have cask beer.

W1 (Soho), WHYTE & BROWN, Kingly Ct, Carnaby St. Opened in 2013. Advertises 'chicken & craft beer'. No cask beer. Two own-branded draught beers. Decent range of fourteen bottled beers.

WC1, FAIRLY SQUARE, 51 Red Lion St. Previously unreported bar & restaurant. No cask beer. Three keg beers from Meantime.

WC1, HALF CUP, 100-102 Judd St. Previously unreported bar & cafe. No cask beer. Two keg beers.

WC1, MAS Q MENOS (Cacheiro Restaurants), 272 High Holborn. Opened in 2014, chain tapas bar. No cask beer. Keg beers.

WC1, STUDENTS UNION, Level 3, UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way. Open to public, entrance from Thornhaugh St at rear. One cask beer during term time, e.g. Sharp's Doom Bar.

EAST

E1, CARPENTERS ARMS (ex-Pubs'n'Bars), 135 Cambridge Heath Rd. Cask beer restored in 2014, Greene King IPA.

E7, FOX & HOUNDS (Enterprise), 178 Forest La. Cask beer restored, Fuller's London Pride and a guest.

E8, VICTORIA, 451 Queensbridge Rd. Now operated by Jaguar Shoes Collective, who run other places in E2 and E8, with a basic bohemian feel. Food by pop-up vendors. Two cask beers, e.g. Five Points, Hackney.

E9, CHESHAM ARMS, 15 Mehetabel Rd. Having closed in 2012, reopened in June following a local campaign. Three cask beers, e.g. Crouch Vale, Dark Star, Five Points. Food is planned for the autumn. Open 4(12 Sat-Sun)-11(10.30 Sun).

E9, HOWLING HOPS TAP ROOM, Queen's Yd. New, spacious brewery tap on the ground floor of an old warehouse building. Ten draught beers, described as being served straight from the tank. Meat baps and veggie options. Open 10am-11pm daily.

E14, SPORTS BAR & GRILL (Bar Holdings), 1 Crossrail Pl. Opened in May, modern sports-themed pub, the sixth of the chain. Brakspear Bitter, Marston's EPA and Pedigree.

DAGENHAM (RM10), PIPE MAJOR (Marston's), Rainham Rd South. Newly built pub opened in June, part of the Business East development on the former site of Sanofi pharmaceutical works. Carvery menu. Marston's Pedigree, Wychwood Hobgoblin and two varying beers from the Marston's stable.

ILFORD (IG1), CAULIFLOWER (Star), 553 High Rd. Having closed in 2013, sold in 2014 and reopened at the start of this year. This Regional Inventory pub has been sympathetically refurbished. Caledonian Cauliflower Bitter, Deuchars IPA and Flying Scotsman.

ILFORD (IG1), MCGUIRES (Punch), 19-21 Chapel Rd. Was HOPE. Renamed in July. **CHAMPS**, a sports bar & grill, the first London opening for a small national chain. Cask beer introduced, Fuller's London Pride and Sharp's Doom Bar.

NORTH

N2, GERTIE BROWNES, 95 High Rd. Now selling cask beer, Adnams Ghost Ship and Sharp's Doom Bar.

N12, FINCHLEY TAVERN (Enterprise), 686 High Rd. Was WISHING WELL. Having closed in April, reopened in June and renamed **TOMMY FLYNN'S**, the eleventh outlet for the eponymous operator. Fuller's London Pride plus a national guest.

NORTH WEST

NW6, CIAO CIAO, 334 Kilburn High Rd. Previously unreported bar & Italian restaurant, opened since at least late 2000s. No cask beer. Keg beers.

NW6, RAILWAY (Spirit), 100 West End La. Was RAT & PARROT. Having closed in Oct for conversion of upper floors to residential use, reopened in June. Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar and two guests. Weston Old Rosie.

HARROW (HA2), HALF MOON (Enterprise), 1 Roxeth Hill. Having closed in 2013, the interior of this Regional Inventory pub was totally gutted. Finally reopened, renamed **SALT BAR**, an Indian restaurant and lounge bar. Sharp's Doom Bar.

WEMBLEY (HA9), NORFOLK ARMS (ex-Enterprise), 96 Llanover Rd. Having been closed and sold in 2012, eventually reopened in April, renamed **AROMA LOUNGE**, an Indian restaurant with separate bar. No cask beer.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, BEEHIVE (Enterprise), 21 Bartholomew St. Cask beer introduced, Fuller's London Pride.

SE15, CLAYTON ARMS (Star), 1 Clayton Rd. Having closed for over two years, reopened in June as DOLLS HOUSE, by Dead Dolls Club who operate similar venues in E2 and N1. One house cask beer, believed to be from Greene King.

SE15, DUKE OF SUSSEX (Star), 77 Friary Rd. New management and a tasteful refurbishment see cask beer restored, two from Caledonian and a national guest.

SE15, HOPE (Antic), 3 Melon Rd. New-build pub, opened in May, just off Peckham High St. Not to be confused with the former Hope on Rye La, after which it is named. Dark Star Hophead, Sharp's Doom Bar, Volden Vim and two guests.

SE16, ADAM & EVE (Punch), 47 Swan Rd. New management and a fresher new look see cask beer restored. Fuller's London Pride and a guest.

SE23, PERRYVALE (independent), 31 Perry Vale. New bar & bistro, previously a restaurant, opened in June by the operators of the Crooked Well SE5. No cask beer but there is one key keg beer from Gipsy Hill, plus bottled beer from the likes of Gipsy Hill, Inkspot, Kernel, Partizan.

SE24, CANOPY BEER COMPANY TAP ROOM, Arch 1127, Bath Factory Estate, 41 Norwood Rd. Their own beers available on key keg to drink on the premises, and in bottles to take away. Open W-F 5-10; Sa-Su 12-10.

SE24, ESCAPE BAR, 214-216 Railton Rd. Renamed in recent years **JAZZ ON THE HILL**, **POET** and then **BAR 216**.

Renamed again in May **MILKWOOD**. Cask beer introduced, two guests.

BELVEDERE (DA17), MORGAN (Marston's), 1 Clydesdale Way. New-build pub, opened in May. Carvery menu. Up to four cask beers from the Marston's stable. Open 11-11.

SOUTH WEST

SW4, CRAFT KITCHEN (independent), 33 Abbeville Rd. Bar & restaurant opened in Feb, previously Newton's restaurant. No cask beer. Four keg beers, e.g. Paulaner, Tiny Rebel.

PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR CEASED SELLING CASK BEER

CENTRAL

EC1, SMITHFIELD TAVERN (ex-Punch). Closed, future uncertain.

EC4, WHITE SWAN (Enterprise), 18-20 Farringdon St. Closed, future uncertain.

W1 (Mayfair), WOODSTOCK (Spirit leased). Closed in 2013, demolished behind the attractive pub façade, the sad loss of a nice little pub with period fittings. In its place is a modern building, visible behind the façade, with a bar offering kushiyaki (Japanese grilled meat on skewers) and sake. No longer has cask beer, keg beers include Meantime.

W1 (Soho), REVOLUTION (New Inventive). Closed in 2014, now a restaurant.

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LIVE MUSIC THURSDAY EVENINGS

WC1, HOLBORN HOUSE (ex-Punch). Was ROYAL CONNAUGHT, LOUNGE BAR, etc. Closed a couple of years ago, converted last year to a restaurant.

WC2, YATES'S (Stonegate). Closed, future uncertain.

NORTH

N1, ROUND MIDNIGHT (Enterprise). Was AGRICULTURAL. Reported closed earlier this year, future uncertain.

N2, ALEXANDRA (Punch), 98 Fortis Green. Closed and boarded in 2012, sold to a developer in 2014, so far planning permission for residential conversion has been refused.

N4, HALFWAY HOUSE. Closed, now an Ethiopian restaurant.

ENFIELD (EN3), GOLDEN HIVE (ex-Punch). Closed in April, planning application to convert to flats.

ENFIELD (EN3), PRINCE ALBERT (Enterprise). Was KENNEDYS, FINLEYS. Cask beer discontinued after a brief period.

NORTH WEST

NW2, WINDMILL. Cask beer discontinued.

NW5, SHEBEEN. Closed in 2014, now a restaurant, Joe's Kitchen.

RUISLIP (HA4), SWEENEYS (independent). Cask beer discontinued.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, CHARLES DICKENS. Closed in May for a refurbishment, which will take at least five months.

SE1, ELEPHANT & CASTLE (ex-Pubs'n'Bars). Closed following loss of licence in March, with plans to convert to other use. Granted Asset of Community Value status following an application by the Walworth Society.

SE1, THOMAS A BECKET. Closed following loss of licence in March, freehold on the market. This pub has also now been granted Asset of Community Value status following an application by the Walworth Society.

SE5, PRINCE OF WALES (ex-Punch). Having closed in 2012, converted to housing in 2014.

SE19, PATRICK'S. Now a cocktail bar with no draught beer.

SE22, GROVE (Stonegate). Was HARVESTER. Closed. After a failed attempt by Stonegate to assign the lease, Dulwich Estate intend to redevelop the site for alternative use.

BEXLEYHEATH (DA6), GOLDEN LION (Stonegate). Cask beer discontinued.

BROMLEY COMMON (BR2), BIRD IN HAND (Enterprise). Cask beer discontinued, Theakston's XP now on keg.

BROMLEY COMMON (BR2), CHATTERTON ARMS (Enterprise). Cask beer discontinued, Theakston's XP now on keg.

CRAYFORD (DA1), JOLLY FARMERS. Having closed in Jan 2014, now demolished.

CROYDON (CR0), TAMWORTH ARMS (More Inns). Closed in May after licence suspension, future uncertain. The freeholder submitted planning applications for residential use a few years ago.

WELLING (DA16), FANNY ON THE HILL (Wellington). Having only reopened last year, now closed again, planning application to demolish.

SOUTH WEST

SW4, BELGO (Casual Dining Group). Was BIERODROME. Closed in 2014, now Mommi, a restaurant and bar with no draught beer.

SW4, RAPSCALLION. Closed in 2014, now a chain burger outlet.

SW11, STENCIL BAR. Was FISHMONGERS ARMS, ALCHEMIST, etc. Having been closed more than a year, almost totally demolished in June without warning and in violation of St John's Hill conservation area.

NEW MALDEN (KT3), PRINCE OF WALES (Enterprise). Closed, freehold on the market as a development opportunity.

NEW MALDEN (KT3), WELLINGTON. Was DUKE OF WELLINGTON. Closed, due to be demolished to make way for student flats. These two closures mean that no pubs remain on Kingston Rd/Cambridge Rd; twenty years ago, there were six.

WEST

W10, EARL (Enterprise). Was EARL OF WARWICK, GOLBORNE GROVE, GROVE, PORTOBELLO BRIDGE. Renamed in Jan **WEST THIRTY SIX**, third outlet for Beach Blanket Babylon. Cask beer discontinued.

W11, BAR 128 (Stonegate). Was ALL BAR ONE. Closed in 2013, now Polpo chain restaurant.

HEATHROW (TW6), SKYLARK (Wetherspoon). Closed along with rest of Terminal 1.

SOUTHALL (UB2), GRAND JUNCTION ARMS (Punch). Sold a couple of years ago. Tenancy handed back following licensing review. Closed, future uncertain.

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & CASK BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC1, MELTON MOWBRAY (Fuller's). Refurbished and renamed **INNS OF COURT**.

EC2, STEAK EXCHANGE (Davy's). Renamed **SALT POINT**. Still a Davy's bar/restaurant with no cask beer.

EC4, FIREFLY (Enterprise). Reverted in 2014 to **MAGPIE & STUMP** Robinson's Trooper and three guests.

EC4, WITNESS BOX. Acquired by Kornicis in 2012 and renamed as a **JAMIES** chain bar. Shepherd Neame Spitfire.

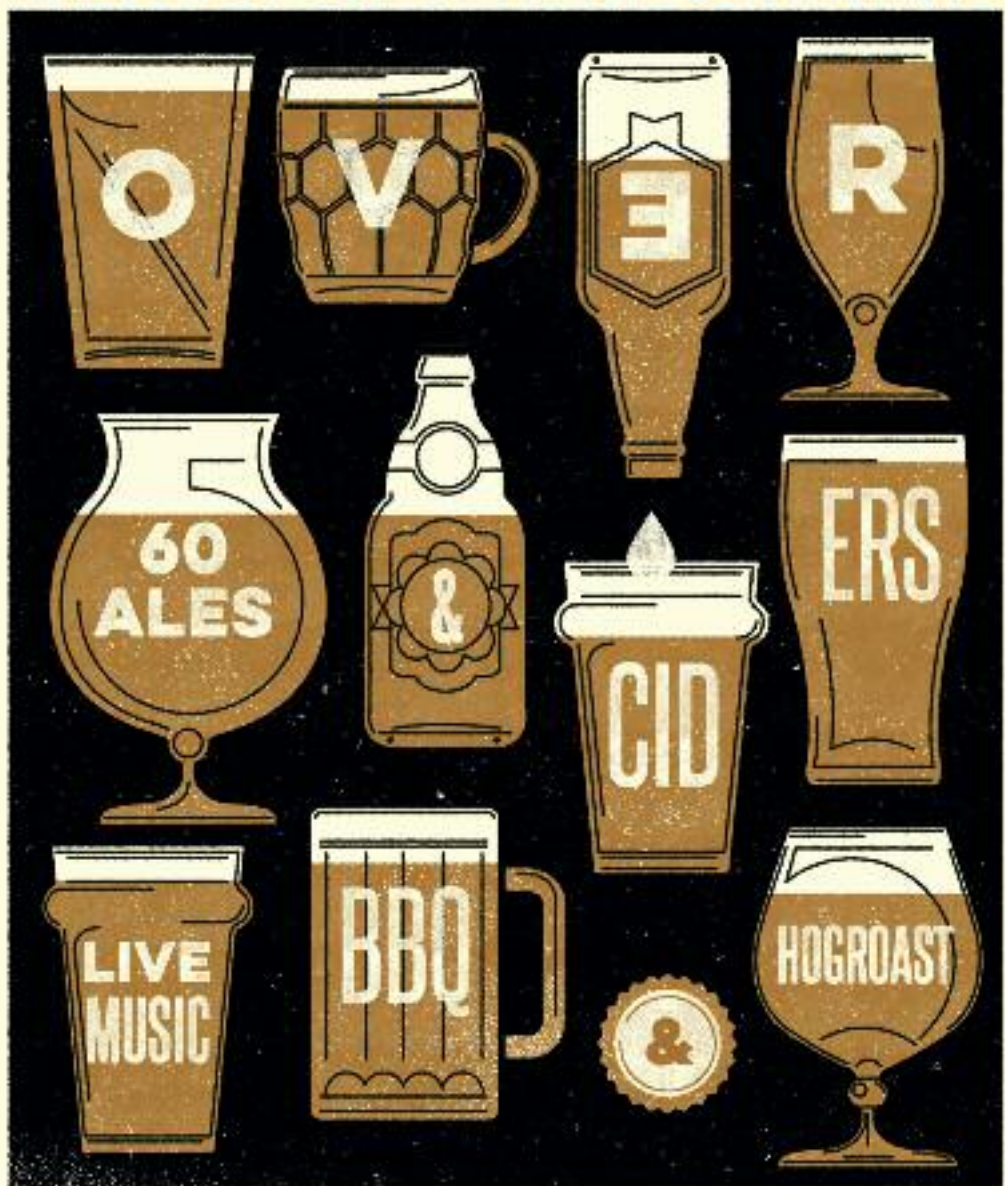
W1 (Fitzrovia), TOTTENHAM (M&B). Reverted in July to original name, **FLYING HORSE**, after more than a century. The last pub on Oxford St, Grade II* Listed and included in CAMRA's National Inventory. Refurbished, now with another beer-oriented bar in the basement. The range of beers is expected to increase.

W1 (Marylebone), LORD WARGRAVE (Young's leased). Taken over in 2014 by Urban Pubs & Bars, their third site, and reverted to **WARGRAVE ARMS**. Four cask beers, e.g. Truman, Twickenham, Wells, Windsor & Eton.

WC2, MILFORDS (Trust Inns). Was EDINBURGH TAVERN. Renamed in 2014 **TEMPLE BAR**. Sharp's Doom Bar.

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NORTH

N1, BARNSBURY (Three Boozers). Was **HOURLICAN'S FREE HOUSE**. Renamed in 2014 **HOP & BERRY**. Three changing cask beers, and one cider, all from Greater London.

N4, NOBLE. Taken over by Late Knights. Their own cask beers: Crack of Dawn, Hop of the Morning and Morning Glory. Keg beers include Beavertown Black Betty, Brick Peckham Hills, Kernel Equinox Pale, Siren Soundwave IPA and their own Peckham Rye, Penge Porter and Summer Knights Saison.

N5, JUNCTION (Black Pub Co). Was **TRAMSHED**. Not in fact among the ex-Orchid pubs acquired by M&B. Changed hands and renamed in June as **BREWHOUSE & KITCHEN**, the second London outlet for a small brewpub chain. Spacious converted tramshed at Highbury Corner. Eight of their own changing cask beers, including Colonia Estivo, Goalscorer, Illustrator, No. 19 and Tramshed, plus a range of craft keg and bottled beers.

N16, TOMMY FLYNN'S (Enterprise). Quickly reverted to **ROBINSON CRUSOE**.

NORTH WEST

NW5, BLUEBELL (Enterprise). Was **WESTPORT INN**. Taken over by Partnership Pubs, who also run Grafton Arms NW5. Reverted in June to **GIPSY QUEEN**. Two changing cask beers.

NW5, BULL & GATE (Young's). Having been acquired in 2013, it was closed for refurbishment, reopening in April

2015, retaining Regional Inventory interior in front bar. To the consternation of music fans, the venue (former billiard room) is now used for dining. Boulogne Bar cocktail lounge upstairs. Wells Young's Bitter, Special and seasonal, plus a guest e.g. Redemption.

NW10, MISTY MOON (Antic), 25-26 Manor Park Rd. Was **COLISEUM**. Having been taken over by Antic in Jan 2014, it was closed for refurbishment, reopening May 2015, renamed **HARLESDEN PICTURE PALACE**. Four changing cask beers.

SOUTH EAST

SE6, CATFORD RAM (Young's leased). Change of tenant after licence suspension in March. Refurbished and renamed **BLACK CAT**. Sharp's Doom Bar, Wells Young's Bitter and Special.

SE16, GREGORIAN (Star). Taken over in June by Antic. Four changing cask beers from nationals, e.g. Caledonian Deuchars IPA, St Austell Tribute.

SE18, STAR INN (Enterprise), 158 Plumstead Common Rd. New tenant in place after period of uncertainty. Refurbished, name shortened to **STAR**. Four changing cask beers, including one local.

BECKENHAM (BR3), BECKENHAM. Refurbished and renamed **KELSEY HOUSE**. Still no cask beer, but various keg craft choices.

BROMLEY (BRI), SWAN & MITRE (Spirit). Refurbished with cask beer range improved. Fuller's London Pride, Timothy Taylor's Boltmaker and two guests.

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SIDCUP (DA15), BLACK BOY (Punch), Southspring. Lease taken over in 2014 by Barter Inns. Courage Best.

SOUTH WEST

SW5, KING'S HEAD (Faucet). Acquired by Fuller's. Their own cask beers and guests.

SW9, ATLANTIS BAR. Was **BRIXTON BAR & GRILL**. Taken over by Antic in July and renamed **EKCOVISION**, after a vintage brand of TVs. No cask beer; just two Siren beers from keg fonts @ £4-£4.50/schooner. Downstairs area extends right through to pavement tables on Brixton Station Rd and there are separate snugs upstairs. More of a cocktail bar, open from 4pm until midnight Sun, Mon; 1am Tue, Wed; 2.30am Thu; 4am Fri, Sat.

SW14, LOFTY TURTLE (independent). Was **NAKED TURTLE**. Renamed again **BEAR KICK**. Two cask beers, often including the latest from nearby Kew Brewery.

SW16, PIED BULL (Young's). Refurbished, name shortened to **BULL**.

SW16, TAYLORS (Enterprise). Was **O'NEILLS**. Renamed **STANDARD**. Still has St Austell Tribute, Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

KINGSTON (KT2), NORBITON & DRAGON (Enterprise). One of the last Orchid sites, trading in administration until 2014, now taken over by Authentic Pub Co who also run Waggon & Horses KT6, King's Arms KT8 and Bell Inn TW12.

SUTTON (SM1), TREASURY (Marston's). Was **CAFÉ MANGO**. Renamed in July **EBB & FLOW**, the first London outlet for a new café bar brand. Two cask beers from the Marston's stable.

WEST

W11, COCK & BOTTLE (Enterprise). Was **SWAN**. Regional Inventory pub, taken over in 2014 by City Pub Co. Refurbished, the impressive bar-back and rare snob-screens have survived, although it has been opened up and the 'Swan' light-fittings above the eastern windows have gone. Cask beers from Adnams, Essex Street and a guest.

BRENTFORD (TW8), O'BRIENS (independent). Changed hands and reverted to **NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS**. Cask beers such as Caledonian Deuchars IPA, Sharp's Doom Bar, Wells Bombardier.

SUDBURY (UB6), GERRY MACS (independent). Renamed **YARD**. Still no cask beer.

CORRECTION TO WPU 8

NEW & REOPENED PUBS, ETC

EC2, BRASSIERE BLANC. Should read **BRASSERIE BLANC**. Typo undiscovered throughout editorial process. Perhaps we were 'in our cups'?

Some like it Otter

We all know how important hops are to the brewing of beer but we should not overlook just what a crucial part that malt, especially malted barley, plays as well.

In what is perhaps a more understandable decision than the one reported in the News Round-up, the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group has given a Lifetime Achievement award jointly to grain merchants Tony Banham and Robin Appel at the Group's annual dinner in Westminster.

Maris Otter barley is recognised as the premium variety of malting barley and some brewers, dare I say the more quality conscious ones, will not use anything else. Its relatively low yield did however put its future in danger some time back when the big brewers were looking to save money. Messrs Appel and Banham had however championed its cause since the 1960s and in 2000 they acquired the rights to the variety and set about bringing it back to its former glory. They have worked hard to improve its quality and happily the growth in the number of small brewers in the UK who want quality ingredients along with higher expectations as regards food and drink generally, has brought a deserved reward. It can be no coincidence that fourteen of CAMRA's Champion Beers of Britain have been brewed with Maris Otter.

Robin Appel commented, "For too long any discussion on beer ingredients has focussed on hops so the award is hugely appreciated." Tony Banham added, "The real credit goes to the farmers who do such a great job of producing such high quality

crops. And of course the maltsters and the brewers who are responsible for all those outstanding Maris Otter beers."

The award was presented at the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group's annual dinner by Andrew Griffiths MP, its chairman, who praised them for their vision and tenacity.

With thanks to the British Guild of Beer Writers

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The revised *CAMRA Guide to London's Best Beer Pubs & Bars* was published on 2 July, as previewed by Des de Moor, the author in our last edition so there is little for me to add except to encourage you to buy this book. It isn't just a book



for visitors to London; natives who are not always that comfortable in other parts of our great metropolis will find the listings and maps equally useful. I have to admit that I would not have had a clue how to put together all the information included in such a presentable format. It is an impressive piece of work.

It was Amazon's Number one seller in the South & Southeast England travel guides category in mid-July.

For those who would like to see Des in action, he will be holding two signing sessions at the Great British Beer Festival (the Discover CAMRA stand) at 7.30pm on the Wednesday and 6pm on the Thursday. Des is following the Thursday session with a London Beer Tasting event. Details can be found on the GBBF website.

ISBN: 978-185249-323-3; Paperback, 210x130mm; 336 pages; £12.99

THE PRE-CONVERTED TRY

We would not normally review a book like this but given its rugby theme with the World Cup approaching and the prominent part played by pubs, it seemed right to do so.

Set in the 1970s, it is the tale of some regulars from the Lamb in Bloomsbury who decide to stage a memorial rugby match for a friend, Old Bob Pocock, who passes away in the pub unnoticed, sat on his favourite bar stool. I don't want to say too much because I don't want to spoil the story but among other events it features romance and foreign travel in unusual circumstances. It may be fiction but there will be aspects that enthusiasts for rugby union or real ale – or, like me, for both – recognise all too well. It has to be said that the book lacks a certain political correctness and some of the characters might be thought stereotypical but it should be taken in the spirit of the era in which it is set. As regards the pre-converted try itself, it is highly ingenious but if you want an explanation, you will have to read it. I downloaded my copy onto my Kindle for less than the price of a pint. The cover price is £7.99.

Tony Hedger

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REG DRURY

I am sad to announce the passing, on 7 June, of Reginald Hugh Drury, always known as Reg, who in his time as brewing director of Fuller, Smith & Turner was one of the most prominent people in the brewing world, not just in London. He was 76 and had been ill for some time.

Reg joined Fuller's in 1959 having trained at the renowned School of Brewing at Heriot-Watt University. At this time brewing in London was very different from what we know today, being dominated by the 'Big Six'. He played a crucial part in making Fuller's the company that they are today and in the overall revival of cask conditioned beer. He has been described as 'old school' but he was highly innovative. He was responsible for the new brewhouse at Chiswick and the move from using open 'squares' to conical fermenters, pioneering a practice that is now standard in the industry. He retired in 1999.

Under Reg, Fuller's won CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain award a record five times with three different beers. The famed Extra Special Bitter (ESB) took the title in 1978, 1981 and 1985 with London Pride winning in 1979 followed by Chiswick Bitter in 1989. ESB has won the strong ale category in the championship seven times, more than any other beer.

Reg trained Fuller's current Head Brewer John Keeling. John commented in CAMRA's newspaper, *What's Brewing*, "Reg was one of the first brewers to brew cask beer in a conical fermenter, making Fuller's refocus its efforts into cask ale. In 1997, Drury took Fuller's reputation to new heights when he unveiled his *Vintage Ale* project. Each year a different strong, limited edition bottled beer was to be brewed, made with a different recipe but always using Fuller's yeast. Reg was like your Latin school master; much more serious and studious and technical than other brewers. All the brewhouse developments we did are so technically well done because he was a very good technical brewer. He was a very friendly man and his nickname was Roadrunner – everywhere he went he went at a gallop. I owe Reg so much. He taught me how to be a Fuller's brewer and that Fuller's had to make great beer. I still think when we have problems: what would Reg do?"

Simon Emeny, Fuller's chief executive, said, "Reg was a true gentleman and he will always be synonymous with Fuller's. He was a legendary brewer, a great statesman and a fantastic mentor and will be greatly missed by those that knew him."

Away from work Reg also shared several enthusiasms not unknown to his fellow real ale drinkers. He owned a succession of narrowboats, enjoyed walking holidays at home and abroad and had a model railway.

A devoted family man, Reg leaves a wife, Sarah, and two children to whom we offer our condolences.

Tony Hedger – from a variety of sources

Editor's note: below, one of my predecessors adds his favourite memory of Reg.

When I was editor of *London Drinker* we met at functions on a fairly regular basis. Reg was always a perfect gentleman who also possessed a keen sense of humour. Once we had finished work for the day we would often drink together before and after meetings.

One incident that stands out for me was at the White Horse in Parsons Green. This was when it was owned by Bass but was allowed some guest beers. Mark Dorber used to look after the cellar for Sally Cruickshank and also showcased beers in the upstairs room for invited guests such as us. On this occasion Reg suggested to me that we disappear downstairs to the main bar for some Adnams!

We were on our second pint when Reg was approached by two young men who explained that they owned the Freedom Brewery just across the road and said that they would appreciate his input on their new bottled beer brewed to the German purity law. Reg asked me to go with him and he was invited to take any bottle from a huge open container full of ice and bottles. I was not offered one but watched as the two waited with baited breath for his verdict. After trying some Reg just declared it "interesting" before turning to me and suggesting that we go back to the pub for some more Adnams Bitter!

Chris Cobbold

RONALD SCHOONEVELDT

Keith Emmerson writes: I was saddened to read of the death of Ronald Schooneveldt. I first met him and his brother at GBBF Olympia the first time around, working on the foreign beer bar. Whenever we met subsequently we greeted each other with a salute. He addressed me as Wing Commander. Nice man.

London LocAle scheme

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

Barley Mow	104 Horseferry Rd, Westminster SW1P 2EE	Sambrook's, Twickenham
Cock & Bottle	17 Needham Rd, Notting Hill W11 2RP	Essex Street, Portobello, Sambrook's
Lyric	37 Great Windmill St, W1D 7LT	Big Smoke
Old Jail	Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Westerham TN16 3AX	Westerham
Plough & Harrow	120-124 King St, Hammersmith W6 0QU	Fuller's, Portobello, Sambrook's
Rocket	Putney Wharf Tower, Brewhouse Lane SW15 2JQ	Belleville, By the Horns, Sambrook's or Twickenham
William Morris	2-4 King St, Hammersmith W6 0QA	Fuller's, Portobello, Sambrook's

The following pub has left the scheme

Hour Glass	279 Brompton Rd SW3 2DY	Closed temporarily
Railway	100 West End Lane NW6 2LU	

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

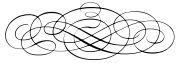
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Idle Moments

So summer has arrived and all you people who take the car to work should be just about getting used to arriving nice and early as all the families will be on holiday and not driving the offspring to school – unless, of course, you are reading this in September in which case you will be getting used to the queues being back. Retirement has a lot going for it!

"So much to do . . . so much time." (Andy Pirson 2015)

Let's have some number puzzles:

1. 6 is the CL of a M
2. 1000 W is the V of a P
3. 1 is the RTMN of the BRT
4. 1994 CTO for PO
5. 2 times PR in a C
6. 7 D is in CG
7. 1513 B of FF
8. 2 H in a DW
9. 1936 FF of the SS
10. 4 WB (J, H, A and S)

I was sitting on a bus recently (as I have time for such things) and as it passed a blue plaque on the front of a house it suddenly suggested a subject for 5by4. So here we have some famous people in the first list followed by the locations of buildings where their plaques are to be found – all in Greater London. Can you match them up?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Stanley Holloway | A. Ealing |
| 2. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle | B. Highgate |
| 3. William Bligh | C. Teddington |
| 4. Fred Perry | D. Woodford Green |
| 5. Clement Attlee | E. South Norwood |
| 6. A.E.Housman | F. Wimbledon |
| 7. Sir Noel Coward | G. Lambeth |
| 8. Sir Edward Elgar | H. Pinner |
| 9. Dame Margaret Rutherford | I. West Kensington |
| 10. William Heath Robinson | J. Manor Park |

And now, in time honoured tradition (a euphemism for been going on long enough to be boring?) let's have some General Trivia:

1. Where in London will you find Coalbrookdale Gate, Prince of Wales Gate and Rutland Gate close together?
2. And where, nearby, will you find Queens Gate?
3. In what year was the last Routemaster bus delivered to London Transport?
4. The Royal Liver, Cunard and Port of Liverpool Buildings are collectively known as what?
5. In English folklore what bird is known as the 'king of birds' because it flew highest (by taking a lift on the back of the eagle)?
6. In which south coast town are fishing boats launched from a beach called 'The Stade'?
7. By what name is deuterium oxide more commonly known?
8. Toyota's top of the range cars are Lexus; Mercedes Benz's are Maybach – what is Volkswagen's top of the range brand?
9. The Kinks song 'Village Green Preservation Society' was recorded by Kate Rusby and used as the signature tune for what television series?
10. Who was the author of the short story, 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' made into a film in 1947 (starring Danny Kaye) and again in 2013 (with Ben Stiller)?

So there we are for another edition. Enjoy the summer and

I'll be back in October (by which time I should have got over the need to tell everybody at every opportunity that I have retired).

Andy Pirson

IDLE MOMENTS – THE ANSWERS

As promised, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in the June Idle Moments column.

NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 1852 Crystal Palace Moved to Sydenham from Hyde Park
2. 4472 Flying Scotsman
3. 660 Feet in a Furlong
4. 3 Chimneys on Battersea Power Station (Currently)
5. 230 Inches is the Length of a Rolls Royce Phantom
6. 1547 Death of Henry the Eighth
7. 324 Metres is the Height of the Eiffel Tower
8. 1715 First Jacobite Uprising
9. 42195 Metres in a Marathon
10. 4 Funnels on the Lusitania

5BY4 (Archbishops of Canterbury):

1. 1896 – 1902: Frederick Temple (crowned Edward VII)
2. 1903 – 1928: Randall Davidson (crowned George V)
3. 1928 – 1942: Cosmo Gordon Lang (crowned George VI)
4. 1942 – 1944: William Temple
5. 1945 – 1961: Geoffrey Fisher (crowned Elizabeth II)
6. 1961 – 1974: Michael Ramsey
7. 1974 – 1980: Donald Coggan
8. 1980 – 1991: Robert Runcie
9. 1991 – 2002: George Carey
10. 2002 – 2012: Rowan Williams

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. In terms of clothing, an Ulster is a waterproof overcoat with a short cape over the shoulders (like Sherlock Holmes wore).
2. T.E.Lawrence (of Arabia) is well known for his love of motorcycles – his favourite make was Brough Superior. His ninth was being built when he died.
3. Meriden, near Solihull, is traditionally known as the Centre of England but it is also known as the location of the Triumph motorcycle factory (from 1941 to 1983).
4. The motorcycle which is also Frank Zappa's middle name is Vincent.
5. The popular pub name derived from the Arms of John of Gaunt is the Red Lion.
6. And the pub name taken from the livery badge of Richard II is the White Hart.
7. Husband and wife musicians Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn who released an eponymous album as a duo last year both play the banjo.
8. A Hardanger fiddle (from Norway) has eight strings (or sometimes nine).
9. The Tapestry of Queen Matilda is commonly known in Britain as the Bayeux Tapestry.
10. Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun were married for approximately one day; they married on 29th April 1945 and committed suicide on the 30th.



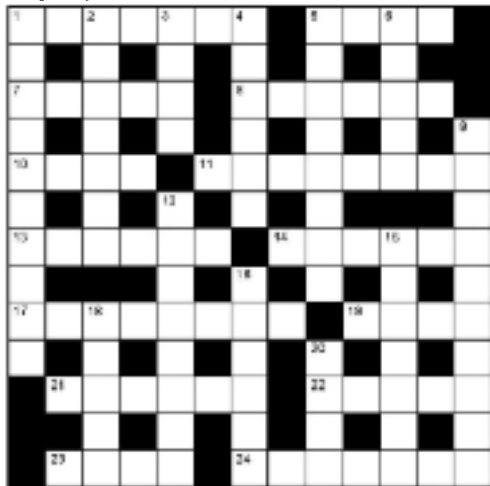
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Compiled by DAVE QUINTON



Name

Address

All correct entries received by first post on 23 September will be entered into a draw for the prize.

The prize winner will be announced in the December *London Drinker*. The solution will be given in the October edition.

All entries to be submitted to:
London Drinker Crossword, 25 Valens House,
Upper Tulse Hill, London SW2 2RX

Please Note: Entries on oversize copies of the grid will not be entered into the prize draw.

JUNE'S SOLUTION



£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS

1. Waste time in prison. [7]
5. Ten volunteers? That's insignificant. [4]
7. Demonstrated material. [5]
8. Interfere at the sound of a gong. [6]
10. I am in race for destruction. [4]
11. Certainly having drink round is deliberate. [8]
13. Old city man is calling for immediate attention. [6]
14. Personnel on ships told to sail around. [6]
17. Give a certain amount, being generous. [8]
19. Return the very best mark. [4]
21. Don't start looking bored, take cover. [6]
22. He goes quickly to right tree. [5]
23. El Salvador follows American customs. [4]
24. They give till it hurts. [7]

DOWN

1. Perplexed little girls instructed about religious leader. [10]
2. Spare drink brought round in a vacuum. [7]
3. She's somewhat excited, naturally. [4]
4. New brown dress. [6]
5. Attempt on river to produce plants. [8]
6. Man on roof is again fired up. [5]
9. Risks eating vegetarian starter with a set of false teeth. [10]
12. They have secret knowledge of costings. [8]
15. Naughty child does cause crashes. [7]
16. I take a long time making pictures. [6]
18. Latest information about the first amphibians. [5]
20. He makes top French wine. [4]

Winner of the prize for the April Crossword:
Mary Scanlan, Penge, SE20

Other correct entries were received from:

D.Abbey, Ted Alleyway, Tony Alpe, David Anderson, Pat Andrews, John Brady, Deryn Brand, Kelvin Brewster, Mark Broadhead, Eddie Carr, Hilary Clark, A.Cockayne, Graham Craig, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Tom Drane, Jonathan Edwards, C.J.Ellis, Robert Ferrier, David Fleming, Sally Fullerton, Marion Goodall, Paul Gray, J.E.Green, Alan Greer, R.A.Gregory, Matthew Griffiths, Alan Groves, Andy Guthrie & Erskine Full, Stuart Guthrie, Peter Haines, B.Hall, "Shropshire" Dave Hardy, Guy Haslem, John Heath, Graham Hill, William Hill, John Howarth, Asif Ikhair, Martin Jackson, Chris James, Antony Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Steve Kloppe, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, A.Lawson, Tony Lennon, Rosemary Lever, Gerald Lopatis, Donald MacAuley, Derek McDonnell, Charles Maddox, Steve Maloney, Mandy Mandeep, Tony Martin, Dylan Mason, Rob Mills, Jan Mondrzejewski, M.J.Moran, Al Mountain, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Mark Nichols, Paul Nicholls, Mick Norman, Gerald Notley, Michael Oliver, G.Patterson, Alan Pennington, Mick Place, Robert Pleasants, Portrush Annie, Mrs G.Pote, Jeanette Powell, Gillian Price, Derek Pryce, Paul Rogers, Pete Simmonds, Ruth Smith, Ian Symes, Ken Taylor, Mark Thompson, John Treeby, Roger Trevaskis, Mrs Fortunata Vida, Andy Wakefield, Mrs C.Ward, Rees Watkins, Martin Weedon, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, David Woodward, Peter Wright & the Missus, Ray Wright

There were also 4 incorrect and 3 incomplete entries.



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