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# DRINKER

Volume 39 No. 6  
December 2017/January 2018

FREE



The Angel, Hayes End, see page 28 (Photo by Michael Slaughter LRPS)

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## RANDOM THOUGHTS

**A**pologies but no specific topic or call to arms this time, just some random thoughts from your editor as the year closes.

I appreciate that the subject of the JD Wetherspoon organisation provokes strong feelings from both directions but I hope that we can all agree on this. Indeed I feel strongly enough about it to mention it here and not on an inside page. There is a 'Twitter' account called @Wetherspoon UK. Recently it carried a statement from the company to the effect that, 'Due to the ever expanding multiculturalism of our clientele and employees this year our staff will not be wearing the poppy while working.' This account is bogus, as was the message. The company have roundly disowned both. Why do people do things like this? It is not 'just a laugh'; it is malicious. It is damaging to their reputation and trade. At least one person who saw it in good faith started a campaign to boycott JDW outlets. Perhaps more to the point, why does Twitter allow it? This is why I, for one, do not use Twitter.

Looking ahead, our campaigning to save pubs must continue. Irrespective of their architectural and/or historic merits, for so many reasons the pub is the only place to drink cask conditioned beer, especially in good company. According to some figures that I saw recently in the *Morning Advertiser*, when I started drinking in the early 1970s there were around 78,000 pubs in Britain. By 1997 that had shrunk to 60,600 and it is now down to 50,000. That said, some pubs are of historic and/or architectural value. When you read of three of the cases covered in this edition, the Angel

at Hayes End, the Compton Arms in Canonbury and the Salt House in St John's Wood, you will, I hope, share my despair of the attitude of pubcos and brewers. These are not failing pubs. Perhaps I am being sentimental and naïve but I would have thought that they are assets that they would be proud to have in their estates. Instead they appear to be engaged in some giant game of Monopoly, 'sell the house on the cheaper square then buy a hotel on the more expensive one', almost as if is being done for its own sake. Let us not forget that they are also playing with decent people's homes and jobs. Of course, they are businesses and must show a return to their shareholders on the company's assets. Well, consider this statement, which 'dot com' pioneer Martha Lane-Fox quoted in a recent interview with the *Evening Standard*. It comes from David Packard, one of the founders of Hewlett Packard: "Many people assume, wrongly, that the purpose of a company is to make money... a group of people get together and exist as an institution we call a company so they are able to accomplish something collectively that they could not accomplish separately. They make a contribution to society, a phrase which sounds trite but is fundamental." And he is just talking about making printers...

Just for context, a report by analysts PWC, quoted on Radio Four news on 13 November, was that 14 high street shops are closing every day and that is apparently a stabilisation of the situation.

On the subject of allegedly 'endangered species', there have also been reports this year that CAMRA's local beer festivals have had their day. If people don't like CAMRA beer festivals for any reason, fine, but don't then rubbish them and by implication the efforts of all of my fellow volunteers who run them. From the few that I have managed to get to and those that I have received reports of, both in London and elsewhere, CAMRA beer festivals are at worse holding their own and the

majority are thriving. They are, in my opinion, still a good day out.

Some of you may have heard that Roger Protz has stood down as editor of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide which he has edited from 1978 to 1983 and then from 2000 to 2018. He is 78 now and is simply reducing his workload. As he told the *Sunday People*, "I'm certainly not retiring. I want to visit Japan next to learn about their brewing process and I have plenty more books I want to write." I think that I know enough about the GBG production process to appreciate what a very good job Roger has done over the years. His will be a hard act to follow. I can't claim to know Roger well but on the occasions that I have needed his help with this magazine, he has always been very helpful. I wish him well.

Finally, as we approach the festive season, I hope that you will all enjoy the strange and wondrous beers that appear at this time of the year. Most of them are too strong and highly spiced for my palate so I hope that publicans will remember to keep a least one 'normal' beer on their pumps for the likes of me. Harvey's Old will always go down well and at some point I am bound to succumb to Hop Back's superb Winter Lightning which has already arrived in my local.

That's it for another year. On behalf of the *London Drinker* team (and there are more of us than you might think) we wish all readers, advertisers, distributors and contributors a good Christmas (or whatever you choose to celebrate) and

the very best for 2018. Although my name appears perhaps too often in these pages, I could not do what I do without the help of a number of people. It would be invidious to name them all but thank you all so much for your support.

**Tony Hedger**



**Best wishes for Christmas  
and the New Year from the  
London Drinker production  
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## It may not have gone unnoticed that the brewery has been shrouded in scaffolding since April.

Every six years we undertake redecoration works, painting the wood, iron work and signage to maintain the appearance of our Grade II listed building. It gives us a chance to examine every element of the fabric and, inevitably, attend to the constant wear and tear that occurs with the passage of time.

A programme of works, involving stone masons, joiners, roofing contractors, lead workers and glaziers has ensued under the supervision of our maintenance staff and consultant architects

The brewery was rebuilt in 1881 by Messrs Card & Son of Lewes from designs of the eminent brewery architect William Bradford of Carlton Chambers, Regent Street, London. During construction work, they unearthed the weather vane that sits on the top of the brewery tower. Dated 1621, it is believed to have originally graced St Thomas a Becket's Church in Cliffe High Street. In 1985, the smaller tower was added to the original in order to increase our production capacity. Built in the exact style of the existing building, it was the recipient of a Civic Trust Award and our listed status followed shortly afterwards.



In many ways, Harvey's is a 'heritage site'. Behind its brick façade you will find a production area that has been maintained over the centuries to reflect a time honoured brewing process. Sacks of UK grown malted barley and bales of locally grown hops are held within the original stores and brewing equipment has been maintained or replaced to perpetuate a method of production that has withstood the test of time. It takes a large number of dedicated staff to ensure that standards and procedures are maintained.

In an age where many companies are relocating to alternative sites and constructing breweries that are more automated and cost effective, we feel that the heritage of Harvey's is well worth protecting and maintaining. We are fortunate that many devoted customers share these same ideals and continue to enjoy a range of our award winning local beers.

We are very proud to remain brewing in the heart of Lewes.

# Branch diaries

**W**elcome 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 December 2017 and January 2018 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](http://www.london.camra.org.uk).

## REGIONAL EVENT

Regional Secretary: Roy Tunstall,  
[roytunstall.camra@gmail.com](mailto:roytunstall.camra@gmail.com)

**December – Tue 5** (6pm) John Young Memorial Award presentation to Pauline Forster. Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival, Round Chapel, Glenarm Rd/Lower Clapton Rd, E5 ONP (see page 13).

## LONDON PUBS GROUP

Jane Jephcote, [jane.jephcote@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.jephcote@googlemail.com), 07813 739856

**December – Wed 13** Bethnal Green, Shoreditch & Spitalfields tour: (7pm) Sebright Arms, 31-35 Coate St, E2 9AG; (7.40) Royal Oak, 73 Columbia Rd, E2 7RG; (8.20) Workers Arms, Bethnal Green Working Men's Club, 42-44 Pollard Row, E2 6NB; (9pm) Well & Bucket, 143 Bethnal Green Rd, E2 7DG; (9.40) Golden Heart, 110 Commercial St, E1 6LZ; (10.10) Pride of Spitalfields, 3 Heneage St, E1 5LJ. Public transport will be required at times.

**January – Wed 17** (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak (upstairs), Tabard St, SE1. All CAMRA branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome. Website: [www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk](http://www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk)

## LONDON CIDER GROUP

Regional Cider Co-ordinator: Denis Bowen,  
[ednabowen@gmail.com](mailto:ednabowen@gmail.com)

The annual Wassail that is normally held in January will now take place in early February. Please check in the next edition

## YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

**December – Tue 12** (7pm) Xmas soc. Eagle Ale House, 104 Chatham Rd, SW11 6HG. Dave will give an insight into what it's like to run a tied pub and the campaigns they're involved in. RSVP via 'Greater London CAMRA Young Members' Facebook group. - **Sat 23** King's Cross & Euston pubs: meet (6pm) Parcel Yard, King's Cross Stn, N1C 4AH; then contact James Bell on 07794 511434 or check the Facebook page to find out where we are.

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

## BEXLEY

Rob Archer, [camr@rcher.org.uk](mailto:camr@rcher.org.uk),  
[contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk](mailto:contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk)

**December – Wed 13** (8.30) Mtg. White Cross, 146 North Cray Rd, Sidcup DA14 5EL. - **Sat 18** (8pm) Xmas soc. Door Hinge, 11 Welling High St, DA16 1TR (limited numbers; see

branch contact). - **Tue 28** Twixtmas soc: meet (12pm) Robin Hood & Little John, Lion Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 8AS.

**January – Wed 10** (8.30) Mtg. George Staples, 273 Blackfen Rd, Sidcup DA15 8PR. - **Wed 24** Bexleyheath soc: meet (8pm) Kentish Belle, 8 Pickford La, DA7 4QW.

Website: [www.bexley.camra.org.uk](http://www.bexley.camra.org.uk); Fb: [groups/19281737097](https://www.facebook.com/groups/19281737097); Tw: @BexleyCAMRA

## BROMLEY

Barry Phillips, [social.secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk](mailto:social.secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk)

**December – Tue 5** Lunchtime in Beckenham BR3: (12.30) George Inn, High St, 1AG; (1.30) Bricklayers Arms, 237 High St, 1BN. - **Thu 27** Post-Xmas Bromley BR1 soc: (12.30) Red Lion, 10 North Rd, 3LG; (1.30) White Horse, 64 Palace Rd, 3JX; (2.15) Railway Tavern, 45 East St, 1QQ; (3.15) Partridge, 194 High St, 1HE.

**January – Tue 9** GBG selection mtg. Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd, Bromley BR1 3HJ. - **Mon 15** Locksbottom BR6 soc: (8pm) Whyte Lyon, Farnborough Common, 8NE; (9pm) Black Horse, 318 Crofton Rd, 8NW. - **Tue 23** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Chelsfield, 1 Windsor Dr, BR6 6EY. - **Sat 27** (2.30 for 3pm prompt start) Branch AGM. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd, BR6 0RZ.

Website: [www.bromley.camra.org.uk](http://www.bromley.camra.org.uk)

## CROYDON & SUTTON

Social sec: Terry Hewitt, 07443 119373,  
[contact@croydon.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@croydon.camra.org.uk)

**December – Tue 5** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs) 24 Surrey St, Croydon CR0 1RG. - **Thu 14** Thornton Heath CR7 soc: (8.30) Flora Sandes, 1 Brigstock Rd, 7JG; (10pm) Railway Telegraph, 19 Brigstock Rd. - **Thu 21** (1pm) Croydon lunchtime soc. Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Rd, CR0 6BR. - **Thu 28** (8.30) Wallington soc. Wallington Arms, 6-16 Woodcote Rd, SM6 0NN.

**January – Thu 11** (1pm) Croydon lunchtime soc. Royal Standard, 1 Sheldon St, CR0 1SS. - **Tue 16** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs) 24 Surrey St, Croydon CR0 1RG. - **Wed 31** (8.30) London Drinker pick up. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton SM5 2PR.

Website: [www.croydon.camra.org.uk](http://www.croydon.camra.org.uk)

## EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch sec: John Pardoe, 07757 772564,  
[elacbranch@mail.com](mailto:elacbranch@mail.com)

**December – Tue 5-Sat 9** (12pm) 34th Pigs Ear Beer & Cider Festival. Round Chapel, E5 ONP (see page 13). - **Tue 19** (8pm) GBG planning mtg. Rose & Crown, Hoe St, Walthamstow, E17 4SA. - **Fri 22** (8pm) Soc. Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, E10 5NF. Beers from Mighty Oak. Doors open 5pm.

**January – Tue 9** (8pm) Mtg. Nightingale, 51 Nightingale La, E11 2EY. - **Tue 16** (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, E10 5NF. - **Thu 25** (8pm), GBG selection mtg. Northcote, 1A Francis Rd, E11 4EL.

Website: [www.pigsear.org.uk](http://www.pigsear.org.uk)

# Branch diaries

## ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,

[branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk](mailto:branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk)

**December – Wed 6** (8.30 at Glasses Stand) Soc. Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival, Round Chapel, E5 0NP (see page 13).

- **Tue 12** Barnet EN5: (8pm) Black Horse, Wood St, 4HY; (9.30) Lord Nelson, West End La, 2SA. - **Sat 16** (7.30) Branch Xmas dinner. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21 3HA: bookings to Owen, 020 8529 4454. - **Thu 21** (8pm) Amos Arms, Bowes Rd, Amos Grove N13; (9.30) Prince of Wales, Church Hill Rd, East Barnet.

**January – Mon 1** (12pm) Cobweb soc. New Crown, 80 Chase Side, Southgate N14 5PH. - **Sat 6** (12pm) Midland Hotel, 29 Station Rd, Hendon NW4 4PN; (3pm) Moon Under Water, 10 Valley Parade, Edgware Rd, Colindale NW9 6RR. -

**Wed 17** (8pm) Catcher in the Rye, High Rd, East Finchley N12; (9pm) Elephant Inn, 283 Ballards La, North Finchley; (10pm) Bohemia, 762 High Rd North, Finchley, N12 9QH. - **Fri 26** (12pm) Picture Palace, Lincoln Rd, Ponders End EN3 4AQ.

Website: [www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk](http://www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk)

## KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020 8949 2099, [ctaylor2007@freeuk.com](mailto:ctaylor2007@freeuk.com)

**December – Tue 4** Visit to the Pig's Ear Beer Festival.

Names to Adrian for group entry: 07774 859871 or [akpalmer@talktalk.net](mailto:akpalmer@talktalk.net) - **Tue 12** (8.15pm Mtg. Norbiton (upstairs), Clifton Rd, KT2 6PW. - **Tue 19** (7pm for 8pm) Xmas dinner. Berrylands, Chiltern Dr, KT5 8LS. Bookings to Clive by 12 Dec with menu choice and £5 deposit per person. - **Sat 23** Kingston Xmas crawl: (1pm) Queen's Head, Richmond Rd, KT2 5HA; (2pm) Boaters, Lower Ham Rd, KT2 5AU; (3pm) Bishop, 2 Bishops Hall, KT1 1PY; (3.45) Woody's, Ram Passage, KT1 1HH; (4.30) Ram, 34 High St, KT1 1HL; (5.15) Druid's Head, Market Place, KT1 1JT; (6pm) Albion, Fairfield Rd, KT1 2PY.

**January – Thu 4** (8.15) Mtg. Druid's Head (upstairs), Market Place, Kingston KT1 1JT - **Sat 27** (12pm) Visit to London breweries and pubs. Meet at Waterloo, plat 1.

Website [www.camrasurrey.org.uk](http://www.camrasurrey.org.uk)

## NORTH LONDON

John Wilson, 07840 111590, [jgwnw3@hotmail.com](mailto:jgwnw3@hotmail.com); Stephen Taylor, 07443 473746, [stephen.taylor500@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.taylor500@gmail.com)

**December – Sun 3** (5pm) Launch of Redemption Legacy Oak Ale by Tottenham Trees. Antwerp Arms, 168 Church Rd, N17 8AS. - **Tue 5** (7pm) Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival. Round Chapel, E5 0NP (see page 13). - **Tue 12** (7pm) Xmas soc. Brewhouse & Kitchen, 2a Corsica St, Highbury N5 1JJ. -

**Tue 19** Covent Garden & Holborn: (7.30) Cross Keys, 31 Endell St, WC2H 9BA; (8.15) Sun, 21 Drury La, WC2B 5RH; (8.45) Shakespeare's Head, Africa House, 64-68 Kingsway, WC2B 6BG; (9.30) Seven Stars, 53-54 Carey St, WC2A 2JB; (10.30) Knights Templar, 95 Chancery La, WC2A 1DT. - **Thu 28** Euston Road: (7.30) Mabel's Tavern, 9 Mabledon Pl, WC1H 9AZ; (8.15) Resting Hare, Woburn Walk, WC1H 0JW; (8.45) Doric Arch, Euston Station Colonnade, 1 Eversholt St, NW1 2DN; (9.30) Bree Louise, 69 Cobourg St, NW1 2HH;



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# Branch diaries

(10.15) Euston Tap, West & East Lodges, 190 Euston Rd, NW1 2EF.

**January – Tue 2** Chapel Market N1: (7.30) Craft Beer Co, 55 White Lion St, 9PP; (8.15) Three Johns, 73 White Lion St, 9PF; (9pm) Alma, 77 Chapel Market, 9ER; (9.45) Islington Town House, 13 Liverpool Rd, 0RW; (10.30) Angelic, 57 Liverpool Rd, 0RJ. - **Tue 9** Fitzrovia W1T: (7.30) Jack Horner, 235-236 Tottenham Court Rd, 7QN; (8.15) Fitzrovia, 18 Goodge St, 2QF; (9pm) Hope, 15 Tottenham St, 2AJ; (9.45) Draft House Charlotte, 43 Goodge St, 1TA; (10.30) Duke of York, 47 Rathbone St, 1NW. - **Tue 16** (7.30) LDBF mailout. Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Rd, WC1X 8JR. - **Tue 23** (7.30) Final Bree Louise social. 69 Cobourg St, NW1 2HH. - **Tue 30** (8pm) LDBF planning mtg. Old Red Lion, 72 High Holborn, WC1V 6LS.

Website: [www.northlondon.camra.org.uk](http://www.northlondon.camra.org.uk)

## RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643, [rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk)

**December – Tue 5** (8pm) Special General Meeting (members only), then (8.10) Open mtg, Hope (upstairs room), 115 Kew Rd, Richmond, TW9 2PN. - **Tue 19** Chiswick W4 pub walk: (7.15) Mawson Arms/Fox & Hounds, 110 Chiswick La South, 2QA; (8pm) George & Devonshire, 8 Burlington La, 2QE; (9pm) Tabard, 2 Bath Rd, 1LW; (10pm) Lamb, 9 Barley Mow Passage, 4PH; (10.30) Old Pack Horse, 434 Chiswick High Rd, 5TF.

**January – Wed 17** (8pm) Mtg incl. nominations for GBG 2019 and re-presn of Branch Pub of the Year 2017 award. Roebuck (probably upstairs), 130 Richmond Hill, TW10 6RE. - **Wed 24** East Sheen SW14 pub walk: (7.45) Stag's Head (formerly Halfway House), 24 Priests Bridge, 8TA; (8.30) Hare & Hounds, 216 Upper Richmond Rd W, 8AH; (9.15) Pig & Whistle, 86 Sheen La, 8LP; (10pm) Bear Kick, 505 Upper Richmond Rd W, 7DE.

Website: [www.rhcamra.org.uk](http://www.rhcamra.org.uk)

## SOUTH EAST LONDON

Branch Contact: Neil Pettigrew, [contact@sel.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@sel.camra.org.uk);

Social Sec: Andrew Sewell, [social@sel.camra.org.uk](mailto:social@sel.camra.org.uk)

**December – Tue 5** (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc. River Ale House, 131 Woolwich Rd, SE10 0RJ. - **Sat 9** Whitstable CT5 outing (9.57 train from Lewisham): (12.30) Handsome Sam, 3 Canterbury Rd, 4HJ; (1.15) Coach & Horses, Oxford St, 1DB; (2.30) Ship Centurion, 111 High St, 1AY; (3.15) Black Dog, 66 High St, 1AY; (4.15) Wall Tavern, 82 Middle Wall, 1BN; (5pm) Smack Inn, Middle Wall 1BN; (5.30) Royal Naval Reserve, 30 High St, 1BU; (6pm) Quay Side, 67 Harbour St, 1AG. - **Wed 13** (7.30) Xmas dinner (booking only via website) Catford Constitutional Club, Broadway, SE6 4SP. - **Wed 20** SE1 soc: (7pm) Barrowboy & Banker, 8 Borough High St, 9QQ; (7.45) St. Christopher Inn, 121 Borough High St, 1NP; (8.30) Kings Arms, 65 Newcomen St, 1YT; (9.15) Gladstone Arms, 64 Lant St, 1PQ; (10.15) Libertine, 125 Gt. Suffolk St, 1PQ.

**January – Tue 9** Greenwich SE10 soc: (7.30) Cutty Sark, 4 Ballast Quay, 9PD; (8.15) Yacht, 5 Crane St, 9NP; (9pm) Trafalgar Tavern, 27 Park Row, 9NW; (10pm) Admiral Hardy, 7 College Approach, 9HY. - **Wed 17** Dulwich soc: (7.30)

Crown & Greyhound, 73 Dulwich Village SE21 7BJ; (8.30) Plough, 381 Lordship La, SE22 9JJ; (9.15) Castle, 280 Crystal Palace Rd, SE22 8HA; (10.30) East Dulwich Tavern, 1 Lordship La, SE22 8EW. - **Mon 22 8pm Branch AGM.** Southwark Brewing, 46 Druid St, SE1 2EZ. - **Mon 29** (7pm) Quiz. Telegraph at the Earl of Derby, 87 Dennett's Rd, SE14 5LW. Website: <http://sel.camra.org.uk>

## SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Branch Contact: Alan Barker [contact@swessex.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@swessex.camra.org.uk), 07711 971957 evenings or weekends only.

**December – Sat 2** (1pm) South Benfleet Social Club Real Ale & Cider Fest. 8 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, SS7 1PB. - **Wed 6** (7.30) 34th Pig's Ear Beer Fest soc & GBG nominations. Round Chapel, E5 0NP (see page 13). Free admission for SW Essex Branch Members. GBG 2019 nominations must be received by tonight. - **Wed 13** (8pm) Xmas dinner soc. Railway Hotel, Station La, Hornchurch RM12 6SB. - **Mon 18** (8pm) Soc. White Horse, 173 Coxtie Green Rd, CM14 5PX. - **Fri 22** (7.30) Xmas Ale Gala Night. Mighty Oak tap takeover, Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, E10 5NF. - **Fri 29** Anne's Xmas pub crawl: (10am) Barking Dog, Barking (for breakfast), then travel to Moorgate or King's Cross Stn [TBC] for a train to Winchmore Hill Stn for (12.45) Queens Head 41 Station Rd, N21 3NB; leave (1.30) for (1.50) Little Green Dragon, 928 Green Lanes, N21 2AD, the first micropub in Enfield. For details of the rest of the pubs, see Branch Website. PotY 2018 nominations must be received by today.

**January – Wed 3** (8pm) Soc. Eva Hart, 1128 High Rd/Station Rd, Chadwell Heath RM6 4AH. - **Wed 10** (8pm) Soc. Bell, High Rd, Horndon-on-the-Hill SS17 8LD. - **Wed 17** Soc: (8pm) Ship, 93 Main Rd, Gidea Park RM2 5EL; (9.30) Moon & Stars, 99-103 South St, Romford RM1 1NX. - **Wed 24** (8pm) Soc. Theobald Arms, Kings Walk Argent St, Grays RM17 6HR. - **Tue 30** (8pm) Soc. Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd, Woodford Green IG8 0PN. Website: [swessex.camra.org.uk](http://swessex.camra.org.uk)

## SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, [mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk).

Cycling: Geoff Strawbridge, 07813 358863.

[geoff@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:geoff@camraswl.org.uk)

**December – Mon 18** (7.30 for 8pm) Xmas soc. Old Sergeant, 104 Garratt La, Wandsworth SW18 4DJ. Contact [philip.blanchard@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:philip.blanchard@camraswl.org.uk) for details. - **Sat 23** (12pm) Xmas mailout. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, Wimbledon SW19 1BT.

**January – Thu 4** (7.30) GBG shortlisting mtg. Cat's Back (upstairs), 86-88 Point Pleasant, Wandsworth SW18 1NN. All branch members are welcome to come along and join in the discussion. - **Thu 18** (7.30) Mtg. Sambrook's Brewery Tap Room. Unit 1 & 2 Yelverton Rd, Battersea SW11 3QG. Website: [camraswl.org.uk](http://camraswl.org.uk); Fb: CAMRASwl; Tw: @CAMRASwl.

## WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104, [branch@watford.camra.org.uk](mailto:branch@watford.camra.org.uk)



# Branch diaries

**December – Thu 7** (8.30) Watford Town & Country Club soc. Halsey House, Rosslyn Rd, WD18 0JX. - **Tue 12** Xmas curry. Rifle Volunteer, 36 Villiers Rd, Watford WD19 4AJ. Please contact Andrew in advance to reserve a place; contact details above.

**January – Mon 1** (1pm) Soc. Nascot Arms, 11 Stamford Rd, Watford WD17 4QS. - **Mon 15** (8pm) Mtg. Southern Cross, 41-43 Langley Rd, Watford WD17 4PP.

Website: [www.watfordcamra.org.uk](http://www.watfordcamra.org.uk)

## WEST LONDON

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

**December – Tue 5** (6.30/7pm) Meet the brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 2BA (must book with pub). -

**Tue 12** (from 7pm) Xmas ale/pizza night. Albion, 121 Hammersmith Rd, W14 (charge for food). - **Sat 16** (from 6.30) Alasdair's birthday bash. Harp, 47 Chandos Pl, WC2N 4HS.

**January – Tue 9** (6.30/7pm) Meet the brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 2BA (must book with pub). - **Tue 16**

(7pm/7.30) Mtg. Bolton (upstairs), 326 Earls Court Rd, SW5 9BQ. - **Tue 23** SW1 survey crawl: (7pm/7.30) Colonies, 25 Wilfred St, SW1E 6PR; (7.45) Cask & Glass, 39 Palace St, SW1E 5HN; (8.15) Bag o' Nails, 6 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 0PP and four others. - **Tue 30** SW survey crawl: (7pm/7.30) Kings Arms, 17 Hogarth Pl, Earls Court SW5 0QT; (7.50) Courtfield, 187 Earls Court Rd, SW5 9AN; (8.30) Sporting Page, 6 Camera Pl, SW10 0BH and three others.

Website: [www.westlondon.camra.org.uk](http://www.westlondon.camra.org.uk)

## WEST MIDDLESEX

Roy Tunstall, 020 8933 4934/07585 744533,  
[info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk](mailto:info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk)

**December – Mon 4** Acton High Street W3 soc: (7.30) Aeronaut, 264, 9BH; (8.30) Red Lion & Pineapple, 281, 9BP; (9.30) George & Dragon, 183, 9QJ; (10.30) West London Trades Union Club, 33-35, 6ND. - **Sat 16** (7pm) Xmas party. Greystoke, 7 Queen's Dr, W5 3HU. - **Fri 22** Uxbridge: (7.45) Queen's Head; (8.15) Metropolitan; (8.45) Fig Tree; (9.15) Three Tuns; (9.45) Whelans; (10.15) Good Yarn. - **Sat 30** Amersham: meet (12pm) Mad Squirrel Tap & Bottle Shop, 100 Sycamore Rd, HP6 5EN.

**January – Fri 5** (7.30) Vine Inn, Hillingdon Hill, UB10 0JQ; (8.30) Red Lion Hotel, Royal La, UB8 3QP; (9.30) Load of Hay, 33 Villier St, UB8 2PU - **Wed 10** (8.30) Mtg. Brentnham Club, 38a Meadvale Rd, W5 1NP. - **Wed 17** Greenford UB6 soc: (8pm) Bridge Hotel, Western Ave, 8ST; (9pm) Railway, 290 Oldfield La North, 0AP; (10pm) Black Horse, 425 O L North, 0AS. - **Thu 25** Cowley UB8 soc: (7.30) Crown, Cowley High St, 2NL; (8.30) 69 Iver La, 2JE; (9.15) Runway, High Rd, 2EW; (10pm) Paddington Packet Boat, High Rd, 2HT.

Website: [www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk](http://www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk)

Electronic copy deadline for the February/March edition is no later than Monday 15 January.

Please send entries to [ldnews.hedger@gmail.com](mailto:ldnews.hedger@gmail.com).

## THE DRAFT HOUSE



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## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR STEVE!

**O**dd things can happen to you if you are a CAMRA volunteer. Here Steve Silcock, the Chair of South East London Branch, tells how he came to be on the television, discussing the affordability of beer in pubs.

Earlier in the day CAMRA had published research indicating that 50% of UK beer drinkers considered the price of a pint in pubs to be unaffordable and only a staggeringly low 15% regarded it as either very or fairly affordable. Sky News planned to run a news item on the issue that evening and requested a CAMRA representative for them to interview. I was contacted by CAMRA HQ and agreed to take part. The interview was to take place outside the well-known Star Tavern pub in Belgravia.



I was definitely a bit nervous having never been on TV before and didn't actually realise the interview would be going out live until I got to the venue but with hindsight that was probably a good thing! Being remote from the interviewer and not knowing the questions in advance also added to the pressure, though I had been well briefed by HQ which certainly helped a lot. Having watched the interview back, I felt it went OK, despite losing my thread a little in the middle. I think I managed to cover the key points of the research and also plug CAMRA's Keep Pubs Afloat campaign, calling for measures in the November budget to freeze beer duty and reduce business rates for pubs.

**Steve Silcock**

## HOLY (BUT NOT LAST) ORDERS

**C**ongratulations to Beth Lewis, Bromley branch's Newsletter Editor, who was ordained into the Church of England in September. The ceremony was followed by a celebration at the Star and Garter pub in Bromley North.



Photo by Janet Freak

The pub was filled by Beth's family, friends, congregation plus several members of the CAMRA's Bromley Branch, enjoying a large buffet plus a selection of five ales.

**Bob Keaveney**

## SOUTH NORWOOD BEER FESTIVAL

**C**roydon & Sutton branch has once again managed to secure the Stanley Halls in South Norwood as the venue for a festival in its area. The timing has changed however and the festival from 8 to 10 February will fall in the week which was once Battersea's regular slot. Good co-operation with the venue will mean some improvements on the arrangements at last year's successful event and, as always, an interesting range of beer, cider and perry is promised.

**John Butler – Festival Organiser**

## KINGSTON AND LEATHERHEAD CLUB OF THE YEAR

**M**embers of CAMRA's Kingston and Leatherhead branch recently visited the Kingston Workmen's Club & Institute, the venue of the Kingston Beer Festival, for a different purpose: to present them with the branch's award for Branch Club of the Year.

The Club is on Old London Road, by the 'falling-down telephone boxes' and the small front entrance rather belies what awaits inside. Once past the reception area it opens out into a good size comfortable bar and lounge and if you carry on further there is an enclosed dance hall and a pool table area. Upstairs there is also a snooker room with five tables.

The Club was established in 1878 to promote 'the social and intellectual welfare of the working men of Kingston'. It has moved several times, but located to its present site in 1908. Originally, and perhaps not surprisingly it was a men only club, but later on when dances were held ladies were allowed entrance on payment of 1/- for a ticket. These days the membership of three to four hundred is split nearly equally.



On the evening of our visit we had the choice of two ales on handpump, both from the Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh. The framed certificate was presented to the Club President John Parke, who has been a member of the club for sixty four years, by the CAMRA branch Pubs Protection Co-ordinator and Vice Chairman Chris Miller.

**Clive Taylor**

## TWICKENHAM BEER FESTIVAL

The 17th CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival took place in October at York House, Twickenham. This annual event was organised by CAMRA's Richmond and Hounslow branch. There were 75 real ales (many from local microbreweries) and 25 ciders and perries on offer. Around 1,700 beer and cider lovers, made up of a good mix of people, attended over the three days of the Festival and between them, drank over 5,000 pints of cask beer and over 700 pints of cider and perry! Voting for Beer of the Festival was a tie between local breweries Kew Join the Kew and Oddly Lucky. The top cider was Cracklin Rosie from Celtic Marshes.

The Branch Pub of the Year was announced at the Festival. The winner was the Roebuck on Richmond Hill. Joint runners up were the Sussex Arms in Twickenham and the Express Tavern in Brentford.



The photo shows Paul and Marie from the Roebuck, delighted with their certificate, which was presented by CAMRA's Greater London Regional Director, Geoff Strawbridge.

**John Austin – Branch Press and Publicity Officer**

## London, Capital of Brewing

We now have more than 100 breweries in Greater London. They are listed on the London CAMRA website: [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk) Look for London beers in London pubs.

We hope you will enjoy them, and please tell everyone about them.

A photograph of The Hope pub in Carshalton, Surrey, covered in snow. The pub has a large sign that reads 'CAMRA GREATER LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR 2017 THE HOPE 17'. There are several text overlays on the image:

- Top left: **DARK BEER FESTIVAL** NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 2ND
- Top right: **EXTENSION WORK COMMENCES** DECEMBER 4TH FINALLY NEW TOILETS!
- Bottom center: **GLASS SPONSORS OF CAMRA** SOUTH NORWOOD BEER FESTIVAL. 8-10 FEB 2018
- Bottom center: **@PUBCATHOPE**
- Bottom: 48 WEST STREET, CARSHALTON, SURREY. SM5 2PR. T: 020 8240 1255 [WWW.HOPECARSHALTON.CO.UK](http://WWW.HOPECARSHALTON.CO.UK) SEE 'BEER CAM' FOR WHAT'S ON NOW 3 MINUTES FROM: CARSHALTON STATION.

## A MESSAGE FROM CAMRA'S PUB CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE

**T**he Pubs Code came into effect in 2016 after years of campaigning by licensees' groups and CAMRA and now CAMRA wishes to investigate the impact of changes to Britain's pubs as the big pub-owning companies or pubcos react to it.

The number of pubs run on traditional long-term tied tenancies has fallen in the last two years, as some tenants are replaced by managers. Licensee campaigners are concerned this may encourage management turnover, all to avoid pubs being covered by the Code. The impact on consumers is less clear.

CAMRA's Pub Campaigns Committee is looking, confidentially, for information. We are particularly interested to see if changes of management to pubco owned pubs have resulted in more or less choice for pubgoers. Has your local increased or reduced its range of real ale and cider after a change of tenant? Or do you work in a pubco pub and have you seen changes? The committee would also like to know about any changes in prices and in the quality of the beer served. Please send information to the Committee's Chair, Paul Ainsworth at [paul.ainsworth@camra.org.uk](mailto:paul.ainsworth@camra.org.uk).

## BEXLEY PUBS – IN AND OUT

**T**he borough of Bexley has lost one pub and another is under threat. Planning permission was granted in July to convert the Coach & Horses in North Cray Road, an 18<sup>th</sup> century one time Beasley's Brewery house, into six apartments and it closed on 6 October. The local CAMRA branch had applied for it to be listed as an Asset of Community Value but this was refused.

The Royal Charlotte in Station Road has been closed for over a year but could be reopened as a ground floor lock-up bar with the upper floors extended and converted to three flats. The proposals however specified that the bar should operate 'with earlier closing hours, and without music and entertainment nights and other special events etc., (which) is more compatible with the location of the premises in a fully residential area.' That's hardly likely to attract potential tenants, is it? Looks like a classic 'Trojan horse' situation but only time will tell.

There is however good news in the Micropub Capital of the World (well, Greater London anyway). The next to open will be the Kentish Belle in Pickford Lane, close to Bexleyheath Station. Watch this space . . .

## COMPTON ARMS, CANONBURY

**I**ronically, this news arrived the day before a statue of George Orwell was unveiled outside Broadcasting House, where he would have been known as Eric Blair. This was one of his favourite pub and reportedly was one of three pubs in the area that inspired his vision of the perfect pub, the Moon Under Water. There has apparently been an ale house on this site since the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Not that this matters to Greene King who have put this traditional back street local on the market for £1.5 million. Regular Andy Gardner told the *Islington Tribune*, "It is one of the last pubs with regulars left, where people who live and work around here, meet and talk. It really does what it says on the tin – it's a local forum." Mr Gardner, who is also the chairman of the Islington Archaeology and History Society, is applying to Islington council for the pub to be registered as an Asset of Community Value which hopefully will prevent its demolition and replacement with flats. It is not suitable for listing as an historic building because it was largely rebuilt following bomb damage in 1944.

A spokesman for Greene King, which owns more than 3,000 pubs throughout the country, said, "Our commitment to high quality, community pubs sometimes means we have to take the difficult decision to sell a pub to continue investing in our estate." Make of that what you will. This is another case where you would hope that they would be proud to own such an important pub and would want to be maintain it for posterity, not just cash in on a valuable freehold while they can.

I must stress that the Compton remains open for business as usual over the Christmas and New Year period at the least.

## FLORA SANDES, THORNTON HEATH

**Y**et more grim news from Thornton Heath. At the beginning of October, JD Wetherspoon announced that it was surrendering its lease on the Flora Sandes and closing the pub by May 2018. With so many pubs closing in this part of Croydon, especially those selling real ales, three regulars have decided to organise a campaign to 'Fight for Flora' and save their pub. They have organised a petition which, by mid-November, had already attracted more than 2,000 signatures. As news of the impending closure spread, local people began to make their voices heard.



The campaign team (Don Failes and Sally and Jack Arthey) planning the next stage in Fighting for Flora.





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*'Where will our pensioner group come for an affordable meal and a drink? said one. 'Where else can single women come to drink and feel safe?' asked another. A third observed, 'I am always struck by how many young families come in.' The campaign is being actively supported by the MP for Croydon North, four Croydon councillors, the GLA member for Croydon and Sutton and by CAMRA's Croydon and Sutton branch and support is growing. The organisers welcome the solidarity of the real ale-drinking community and encourage visits to the Flora Sandes.*

Speaking to the *Croydon Advertiser*, Eddie Gershon from the company said, *"We can confirm the company has served its notice break on the Flora Sandes pub in Thornton Heath. We appreciate the pub's loyal customers will be disappointed by the forthcoming closure. However, Wetherspoon has to make decisions that are right for the business and on occasion we do close pubs."*

Readers of *London Drinker* are encouraged to sign the online petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-wetherspoon-s-at-thornton-heath> or to contact Jack Arthey at [jackarthey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackarthey@yahoo.co.uk) for the latest developments.

**Dave Lands**

## FORESTER, WANDSWORTH

This is an odd story and shows that as long as the basic pub building remains intact, there is hope. The Forester had been converted into a day centre for the charity MIND in 1998 but now the Summit (City) Pub Company have now applied for a premises licence. Watch this space. . .

## GLAMORGAN, ADDISCOMBE

The Glamorgan in Addiscombe (formerly the Horse & Groom and then Grouse & Claret) and originally owned by Punch Taverns, closed a year ago when the leaseholders left to return to South Africa. The pub hosted the inaugural meeting of Croydon Branch of CAMRA in 1974. An award-winning local licensee approached the owners but despite initial promises, the negotiations failed because the owners decided that the property could be sold more profitably as a residential development. The pub was squatted for a while and the roof was damaged allowing water and vermin to enter. Similarly but more serious, damage has occurred to the View, South Croydon, which is under the same ownership and residents have expressed concerns that further vandalism may occur with the Glamorgan.

In July, a group of local residents, CAMRA members and licensees met for the first time, and with the help and guidance of the local councillor, applied for Asset of Community Value listing. This application is currently being examined by the Council. At the most recent meeting, on 1 November, the Save the Glamorgan group was formalised, a constitution established, and officers appointed. You can see more on <https://www.facebook.com/savetheglam/>.

**Steve Thompson**

## GROSVENOR, STOCKWELL

Despite Lambeth Council's laudable repeated refusal of planning permission to convert the upper floors of the Grosvenor to residential accommodation, the Planning Inspectorate has regrettably now upheld the appeal against last year's refusal. The Inspector considered three main factors: (a) any impact on the appearance and character of the area, where he concluded that it would have an acceptable effect; (b) the living conditions of future occupants with particular regard to noise, where he concluded that noise would not create disturbance as long as live music is banned; and (c) the effect on pub viability where he was not convinced that the loss of the ancillary accommodation would undermine potential pub use on the ground floor. So, another 'Trojan Horse' planning application appears to be successful. We can expect to see a subsequent planning application in due course to convert the pub area to residential use. As Bill Linskey, Chair of the Brixton Society asked, *"Why should an unelected inspector be able to substitute his assessment for that of the democratically answerable local planning authority?"* Good question.

**Rex Ward**

**Editor's note:** note that the inspector's decision effectively bans live music which had been a mainstay of the pub. Whatever happened to the 'agent of change' principle?

## JOLLY COOPERS, HAMPTON

This is an interesting variation on the usual planning theme. The pub and the stables to the rear are some 300 years old and are both Grade II listed. In order to make best use of the property, the publican/owner has submitted plans to turn the existing accommodation in the upper floors of the pub into flats – understood to be for use as holiday lets – and the stables into landlord's accommodation. I understand that Historic England are objecting but if it offers a way of keeping the pub as a community hub then it has its merits. Better than losing it to total development as has happened to the White Hart and Dukes Head nearby. With thanks to CAMRA's Richmond & Hounslow branch for the information.

## LEDGER BUILDING, WEST INDIA DOCK

Many thanks to Geoff Hetherington who has pointed out that there is a panel on display in the pub which indicates that Weatherspoon's have information that it is Grade I listed. Geoff did send me a photo but, alas, it wasn't good enough to reproduce. Many thanks, Geoff.

## LITTLE GREEN DRAGON, ENFIELD

This, the first micropub in CAMRA's Enfield & Barnet branch area, opened in late August. In 2015, as reported in these pages, Enfield resident, pub and beer lover and CAMRA member Richard Reeve embarked on a charity cycle



journey around the UK, visiting all 100 micropubs that were open at the time. After returning from his travels, Richard resolved to open his own micropub in Enfield. He subsequently found a former hairdresser's shop in Winchmore Hill and has filled it with an eclectic mix of furniture from church pew to bus seats, including 'Bus corner' which has memorabilia of local transport.

The name is a tribute to the Green Dragon pub, a local watering hole and landmark in Winchmore Hill which dated from the early 18th Century and possibly as early as the 1720s. Alas in 2014 it was acquired by a developer and converted into a supermarket despite a hard-fought local campaign supported by the then local MP and many Enfield councillors, although the council turned down two ACV applications.



*The Deputy Mayor in action!*

The Little Green Dragon was officially opened on 23 October by the Deputy Mayor of Enfield, Doris Jagge. Also present was a welcome guest, Martyn Hillier who started the micropub revolution when he opened the Butchers Arms in Herne, Kent. CAMRA's Greater London Regional Director Geoff Strawbridge was also in attendance and the local Etcetera Morris Dancers gave performances on the wide pavement outside.



*Bus Corner*

The 'LGD' has already gained a reputation for a fascinating range of real ales in superb condition, dispensed straight from the barrel from a temperature controlled room. More information can be found at <https://whatpub.com/pubs/ENF/7567/little-green-dragon-winchmore-hill> from where there are links to the pub's website, Facebook and Twitter. The full address is 928 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, N21 2AD.

**Ronald Andrews**

## LORD PALMERSTON, TUFNELL PARK

There was concern recently when the pub suddenly closed and a scrawled sign reading 'closed until further notice' appeared in its window. Happily it transpired that it was just undergoing 'management changes' which turned out to be owners, Young's, taking it back into their direct management and it was being refurbished. Young's confirmed this with a press release on 10 November announcing that it had

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reopened that day. Apparently many original features such as the fireplaces, wooden flooring and bar have been restored and these have been 'complemented by a collection of contemporary artwork and geometric patterned wallpaper'. As you would expect with a Young's pub there is now a stronger accent on food with the creation of a dining area called the Dairy. There is also a large upstairs private dining room as well as a rear courtyard and a front terrace.

### PLATFORM 3, CLAYGATE

**C**ongratulations to Brightwater Brewery for their brewery tap – housed in a former coal office at Claygate station – winning the Time and Leisure Food and Drink Award for the best Pub 2017 (South West London and North Surrey). The award ceremony took place at the Hurlingham Club on 11 September. Arguably one of the smallest pubs in the country, it is in the *Good Beer Guide* (page 445) but if you want to visit at this time of year do check the website ([brightwaterbrewery.co.uk](http://brightwaterbrewery.co.uk)) or call on 07802 316389 first because, as most of the seating is outside, they may not open in bad weather. I know that this is outside Greater London but it's only just over 30 minutes from Waterloo on the Guildford via Cobham line although it is outside the Oyster Zone.

### RADIUS ARMS, WHYTELEAFE

**M**icropubs are spreading across south London. Although it has been open since 2015, I picked up on this only recently from *Insidecroydon* via Facebook. That's what passes for research these days, I suppose... The pub is run by Vincent Glen, a former bus driver and Land Rover enthusiast who was apparently inspired to get off the buses and become a publican by an article about micropubs in CAMRA's *BEER* magazine. It follows the standard micropub formula; no music, no TV, just a varying range of seven or eight beers served direct from a cooled back room plus lots of ciders and perries.

Whyteleafe is outside the Greater London area but near enough for a visit by the adventurous. The full address is 205 Godstone Road, CR3 0EL which is part of the A22 and very near to Whyteleafe station. It's around 45 minutes from London Bridge or Victoria. The times are: closed on Monday; 4 to 9.30 on Tuesday to Thursday; 12 to 10.30 on Friday and Saturday and 12 to 5 on Sunday.

### SALT HOUSE, ST JOHN'S WOOD

**G**reene King again. In an area that has seen more than its fair share of pub closures, here too they seem to be pursuing their benighted policy of cashing in on London property prices. This smart but informal bistro style pub, dating back to 1872, has already been sold to a property developer called the Max Barney Estate which is apparently 'a family run property company with a 50 year old history steeped in central London's bricks and mortar.' The pub will

trade until 24 December with the licensee and his partner having to leave their home by 15 January. A rearguard action is however in progress. There is a petition <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-the-salt-house-abbey-rd> or you can contact the campaign on [savethesalthouse@gmail.com](mailto:savethesalthouse@gmail.com).

### SMITHFIELD TAVERN, EC1

**I**n December 2016 *London Drinker* published an article by me about the pubs near Smithfield Market, EC1 that had early morning licences. In the article I mentioned that the Smithfield Tavern, Charterhouse Street had closed in 2015 and that building work was going on there. The building is now displaying a notice that the work will finish in late January 2018 and it will be reopening as a pub. The pub will occupy the ground floor and the basement and the three floors above have been converted into residential accommodation.

Colin Price

### WILLOUGHBY ARMS, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

**C**AMRA's Kingston and Leatherhead Branch are delighted to announce that Rick Robinson, the licensee of the Willoughby Arms, now has a "free of tie" lease with Ei, (Enterprise Inns as was). Rick has had an interesting journey since 1994 when he and his wife Lysa first bought a five year lease from Whitbread. It was originally a Hodgson's of Kingston house and was pretty run down. They spent a huge amount of time and energy in sprucing up the pub itself and working out novel ways of attracting customers. Over the next few years their successes were recognised by awards for marketing and community activities from Whitbread – it was the Whitbread National Community Pub of the Year in 2000 – and from other local organisations. Rick recognised the sporting interests of the locals and eventually had enough TV screens to show four different events at the same time! It can get quite noisy especially when Arsenal – Rick's team – are on screen! Rick also ensured that there was always a supply of well kept real ales for the discerning drinkers and by 1998 the pub was listed in the *Good Beer Guide* and has been in every edition since. The Whitbread lease was eventually renewed as a twenty year deal which transferred to the Laurel Pub Partnership in 2001, being acquired by Enterprise the following year.

In 1996 Rick began running beer festivals in the days when these were still a novelty for pubs, offering as many as four in a year and attracting customers from all over the home counties. In recent years, as pub festivals became commonplace, this effort tapered off, although an increase in the number of handpumps from five to seven in the pub itself in 2015 meant the pub is in effect a permanent small festival!

The pub was the Branch's Pub of the Year in 2001, 2004, 2009 and 2013, always against stiff competition from other



Kingston pubs. In October 2015 the Branch succeeded in nominating it as an Asset of Community Value with Kingston-upon-Thames council, which offered a measure of protection from sale other than as a pub.

Earlier this year Rick began discussions with Enterprise over his imminent rent review and after much negotiation and 'horse-trading', initially about the terms of a MRO (Market Rent Only) lease, in accordance with the new Pubs Code, this culminated in an agreement to a new twenty year lease at a much higher rent but free of all tie for the purchase of beers and lagers. Rick had to complete a certain amount of repair work to the pub to meet the conditions but all the legalities were finally completed on 5 October. From now on Rick can buy his beer from whoever he chooses and he is already being approached by brewery representatives eager to sell to him! Rick says, "It's been a rough ride but now we are getting there; just hope all my calculations are right!" It's good to hear of a publican who has been able to make the new arrangements work, even at a price.

Watch out for the first of his beer festivals under the new regime starting around St George's Day, 20 to 23 April next year.

**Chris Miller**

## GOING TO THE DOGS

**C**ongratulations to Rudi of the Mitre, the Good Beer Guide listed pub in St Mary's Grove, Richmond, who has been voted Britain's cutest pub dog. The cocker spaniel was given the award by the authors of the latest Great British Pub Dogs book.

The Hand in Hand on Wimbledon Common, last year's national winner, was the London area winner of this year's Dog Friendly Pub awards but lost the national crown to the Fox and Hounds in Theale, Berkshire.

**Compiled by Tony Hedger except where stated**

**At 31 October 2017,  
CAMRA had 191,325  
members, of whom  
18,980 live in the  
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# Demanding justice for the Old Justice

**M**embers of CAMRA's South East London Branch, along with concerned local residents and councillors, recently held a mock trial outside the former Old Justice public house in Bermondsey, latterly known as the Winnicott. The 'trial' was presided over by CAMRA's own 'Judge Julian' Stone complete with gown, wig and gavel. In the dock, in their absence, were the owners of the pub, the Isle of Man registered Hamna Wakaf Ltd, and they were charged with wilfully attempting to deprive the community of yet another public house.



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Following the closure of the pub earlier in the year, the owners had recently put forward a planning application seeking conversion to residential use. The 'trial' heard evidence from, amongst others, the branch pub protection officer, Neil Pettigrew, who highlighted the historic character of the building and its numerous original 1930s interior features. Ward Councillor Anood Al-Samerai then stressed how, in the right hands, the building could become a successful community pub. Her fellow Councillor, Hamish McCallum, followed up by reporting that a 200 signature petition had so far been gathered against the redevelopment, indicating the very strong local support for retaining a pub in that location.

Summing up, 'Judge Julian' found the owners guilty as charged and ordered they immediately cease and desist from their efforts to redevelop the property and instead focus their efforts on reopening the pub as soon as possible.



*Judge Julian on the case.*

After pressure from the local community, the planning application was subsequently refused but CAMRA and the locals are not resting on their laurels and an application is being made for the pub to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. Councillor McCallum, who represents Riverside Ward, commented, "We councillors are pleased that, with the support of local residents, we have persuaded the council to refuse the planning application which would have seen the loss of this pub. We are very grateful to CAMRA in helping us to keep up the pressure to make sure the pub is listed as a community asset and bought back into use as a well-managed local community space. Special thanks to 'Judge Julian' who made such an impassioned judgement about the need for this pub and for allowing local councillors to give our evidence as to its importance to our community."

Steve Silcock, the branch chairman, added, "Our branch was happy to join forces with the local community to fight the latest in a long list of pub closures in the area. The mock trial was both good fun and a novel way of getting our point across."

**Steve Silcock**



# ALE & PIE

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# London Regional Pub & Club of the Year presentations

## PUB OF THE YEAR – THE HOPE

The presentation of CAMRA's Greater London Pub of the Year award to the Hope in Carshalton took place on Thursday 12 October. The event was well attended with members from both the local Croydon & Sutton branch as well as from other CAMRA branches across London, together with brewers, shareholders (of the community company that owns the pub) and, of course, pub regulars.

Rodger Molyneux from the pub opened the proceedings by announcing the pub had just won a further award as Ben Vivreur's best craft beer pub in Greater London (see his blog at <http://benvivreur.blogspot.co.uk/>). Rodger commented this was some accolade given the competition across London. He went on to say that the big prize was winning the Greater London pub of the year. This was the fourth time the Hope had won and a huge thanks was due to all the people involved, including the company's directors, staff and the brewers who supply the pub.

Geoff Strawbridge, CAMRA's volunteer Regional Director for Greater London, made the presentation of the winner's certificate. He commented that the pub gets better and better as do many in the Croydon & Sutton branch area and more widely in Greater London so to win first the branch award and then the regional award requires the pub to be continuously on top form and also even raise its game as the community pub it is. Thanks were due to all involved.

In responding, Roger commented that beer at the end of the barrel was not wasted and due to the magic of chef Karen was transformed into marvellous beef and ale pies. He also praised the best cold pies in the land from Richard Barrick. He welcomed the brewers from Windsor & Eaton (whose Knight of the Garter is a regular at the pub) and Downlands (whose beers were showcased that evening).

The Chair of the community pub company made a presentation to Dave Bell who was standing down as a

director due to work commitments. Dave made the point about the community nature of the pub and its ownership, contrasting the focus on customers with that of the big pub owning companies on profit.

The evening was rounded off with a good selection of food (including Karen's pies), a dry-hopped version of Wimbledon's Common Pale Ale and a 7% ABV chocolate vanilla stout from Downlands called CAM-RAA.

The full address of the Hope is 48 West Street, Carshalton, SM5 2PR.

**Martin Butler**

## CLUB OF THE YEAR – THE ORPINGTON LIBERAL CLUB

On 6 November the club was delighted to welcome back Geoff Strawbridge and friends from CAMRA branches all over Greater London to see us receive our Greater London Regional Club of the Year award. This is the third time that the club have won the award which is a huge achievement for a small club run entirely by volunteers in their spare time. To get any award is an honour, but one from our peers (as we have a lot of our members who are also CAMRA members) is especially nice. A huge thank you has to go out to our team who make this club the place it is; a local destination for beer, music and socialising.

We organised a 'Tap Takeover' from our friends at Goody Ales on the night and Karen the brewster came down and gave us an insight into the evolution of the brewery while we sampled a range of their fantastic beers.

The club welcomes CAMRA members on production of their membership card and we look forward to welcoming friends old and new to the club in the future. Details are available on <https://whatpub.com/pubs/BRO/13760/orpington-liberal-club-orpington>.

**John Parkhouse – Club Chairman**



Left top right:  
Peter Muldoon,  
Geoff Strawbridge,  
John Parkhouse,  
Martin Curry,  
Neil Quarmby,  
Karen (the  
brewster) Goody  
and Norman  
Warner.  
With thanks to  
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## THE BUDGET

This autumn's budget, on 22 November, as usual, came too late to be covered in this edition. I'll report in the next accordingly. In preparation for the big day, on 31 October MPs held a debate in Westminster Hall on the subject of the reform of business rates and an extension of the current pub-specific relief. CAMRA had asked its members to contact their MPs to encourage them to take part and some 6,000 members did so. MPs from all parties spoke in favour of fairer tax treatment for the beer and pub trade but Treasury Minister Andrew Jones declined to say what measures, if any, will be included in the budget.

One MP, Mike Wood (Conservative, Dudley South) made the point that the pub and brewery trade employs 900,000 people and contributes some £23 billion to the economy. Interestingly, he also asked for research to be conducted as to whether Small Brewer Duty Relief in its current format was preventing some breweries from expanding their business. He is not alone in having doubts; more of this in the next edition.

The background to this is pretty glum. According to figures compiled by the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and quoted in *City AM* on 5 November, sales in pubs and bars fell by 3.6% in the period July to September compared to the equivalent period last year. The BBPA chief executive, Brigid Simmonds, commented, *"When the Government was cutting or freezing beer duty from 2013 to 2015, sales of British beer stabilised, after years of steep decline. Beer has had a 39% tax rise in the past decade. With tax rates fourteen times higher than in Germany, these levels are unsustainable."* The Chancellor needs to be careful that returning to the old knee-jerk practice of punishing the sinful drinker does not rebound on him.

CAMRA's national chairman Colin Valentine warned that failure to support pubs would result in *"more people drinking at home, less local employment and reduced Government revenue. Time and time again, independent research has shown how vital the pub and brewing sector is to the country as a whole. It's time MPs listened to beer drinkers and pubgoers and demanded the Chancellor takes notice."*

One worrying point however. There is a rumour that the Chancellor is planning to lower the threshold at which organisations qualify to pay VAT from £85,000 to £43,000. This would be very unwelcome for CAMRA, not just for any revenue loss from beer festivals, which is serious enough in itself, but for the additional burden that it will put on volunteer treasurers.

One oddity to report. According to the *Good Pub Guide* (not the *Good Beer Guide*), the cost of a pint in the wider south east of England is now higher than in London, £4.40 as opposed to £4.20. The average nationwide price of a pint is £3.60, an increase of 13p on last year.

## TAXPAYERS' ALLIANCE

According to their website, the TPA's mission is to change the perception that big government is necessary and

irreversible, explain the benefits of a low tax economy and give taxpayers a voice in the corridors of power. It is not surprising therefore that they have waded into the battle against the tax and duty burden on pubs. They are taking it very seriously, commissioning reports and lobbying extensively. In their latest press release, their chief executive, John O'Connell, said, *"Cutting taxes on beer has led to huge investment in industry, helping the economy, consumers and creating jobs. The beer industry is massively over-taxed, and any further increases would scare off further investment as well as risking thousands of jobs. Further cuts to beer duty would see even more investment in an important industry."* The press release made the significant point that investment in the industry in 2016 was £1.96 billion, which is £800 million more than in 2013, the year when the beer duty 'escalator' was scrapped and a planned 3p increase instead became a 1p cut. It goes on to say that breweries alone are estimated to have invested £325 million while the average brewer is making just one to two pence per pint in profit, compared to nearly £1 that goes to HM Treasury. Working with the British Beer and Pub Association, they have produced a number of beer mats which make these points.

## CRACKING THE CODE

It's hard to summarise the current situation with our Pub Code Adjudicator, Mr Paul Newby. According to one source, in his first year in office, 156 cases were accepted for arbitration and 48 arbitration awards made but the overall impression gained by various pub campaigning groups, the Pubs Advisory Service (PAS) in particular, is that very little is happening, with Mr Newby happy to leave pub tenants to 'horse trade' with their pubcos over taking the 'market rent option' (MRO). The pubcos are of course in the stronger position and are employing exactly the tactics that the Pubs Code was supposed to prevent. I think that Gary Murphy's story in the last edition illustrates that all too well. Even stranger, Margot James, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility, has claimed that 'thousands' of publicans have been helped by the code and the PAS is still waiting for clarification of this remark. According to the PAS, Mr Newby is also having a running dispute with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, of which he is a member, about a conflict of interest in a number of cases. I should make it clear that Mr Newby denies any such conflict.

There is a ray of hope however in the form of Ms Fiona Dickie who has been appointed as Deputy Pubs Code Adjudicator. She will support the Pubs Code Adjudicator in arbitrating in individual disputes about breaches of the Pubs Code, investigate suspected systemic breaches of the Code more widely across the sector, provide advice and guidance about the Code and report on unfair business practices. Ms Dickie, a barrister, has an impressive track record in a number of legal and quasi-legal positions. She has been a Vice President of the Valuation Tribunal for England since

July 2009, was appointed Judge of First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) in 2013 and is accredited as a Civil Mediator by the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Group in 2005. She was also appointed as a Road User Charging Adjudicator (RUCA) in 2004 and appointed as an Examiner of the Court in 2004. This sort of legal background is much more in line with what the various pub campaigning groups initially wanted for the adjudicator post itself when being recruited; an ability to interpret the law bring more important than knowledge of the pub trade. There is clearly no conflict of interest, perceived or otherwise, here. Greg Mulholland, Chair of the British Pub Confederation, welcomed the appointment, saying, "The appointment of a barrister as the new Deputy Pubs Adjudicator is welcome and we wish Fiona Dickie well in this role and hope that, as she has said she will do, she now steps in and deals with the clear flouting of the Pubs Code and the denial of the simple right to the Market Rent Only option for tenants."

## LATE NIGHT LINE UP

**T**ower Hamlets council have now introduced a Late Night Levy, joining the City of London, Islington, Camden and Hackney. John Cryne, chairman of both CAMRA's Greater London Region and North London Branch commented, "We are seeing a worrying trend across London of more and more councils considering late night levies without thinking of the effect this will have on valued community pubs. We are

proud of the variety of pubs that we have across London, but introducing a levy is just penalising local businesses when the majority contribute positively to the night time economy. What is the point in having an all-night tube if there is nowhere to go? Late Night Levies are a blunt instrument, and unfairly penalise pubs, most of which are hubs of responsible drinking. Coupled with the introduction of crippling business rates, pubs in Tower Hamlets face rapidly rising costs which will either result in more pub closure or higher prices for consumers." It is interesting to note that in their recent review of the licensing laws, the House of Lords decided that the LNL 'failed to reach its objectives and should be abolished.'

Kingston upon Thames, which has a very lively night time economy in its town centre, has however decided to defer any further consideration of introducing a LNL until 2020.

One point to remember is that the larger proportion of the income from a LNL goes to the police and according to my local paper, the Metropolitan Police Service is having to make savings of £400 million. My local police station at Wimbledon is being sold for a housing development. Sounds familiar.

## POSSIBLE PLANNING GAIN?

**T**ower Hamlets council have agreed to the demolition of the Joiners Arms in Shoreditch, a well known LGBT venue, but only on the condition that the development

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includes specific provision for a bar oriented to its former clientele for at least the first 25 years. This is believed to be the first time that sexual orientation has been made a planning condition and is good news considering how many LGBT venues have been lost across London in the last few years. Tower Hamlets alone has lost seven over the last ten years. According to the *Guardian*, the developers, Regal Homes, will contribute £130,000 to the fitting out of the new bar and charge no rent for the first year. First refusal to run the bar will be given to the Friends of the Joiners Arms campaign who would like to see it become as much a community facility as a bar. There was some debate about licensing hours. Initially, planning officers wanted the new bar to close at 11pm on weekdays and midnight at weekends but part of the attraction of the old Joiners Arms was that it stayed open to 4am on Fridays and Saturdays and those hours have been retained.

Not wishing to be negative, they will have to pay the Late Night Levy now and you have to wonder what will happen if the new tenants of the flats above complain about the noise.

## MUSEUM PIECE

I was concerned to read in the *Evening Standard* that the promised museum on the site of the former Young's brewery in Wandsworth will be housed in an apartment block called Coopers' Lofts. The steam engine will be in a glass case in the lobby. I hope that this doesn't mean that there will be no free access to the museum, if indeed there is anything that could be so called. More encouragingly, from what was reported in *CityAM* on 10 November, plans for there to be a brewery on the site are still intact and may materialise as early as next year.

## AMERICAN CRAFT BREWERS FIGHT BACK

The *Drinks Business* website reports that the Brewers Association of America have launched a crowdfunding bid to raise \$213 billion to take over AB InBev. The project, called, Take Craft Back, is said to be the largest crowdfunding bid in history. It is, of course, a publicity stunt to highlight the tactics of the 'globals' not just in buying out small breweries but other tactics such as buying up large volumes of certain hop varieties to make them unavailable to craft brewers and marketing beers from their subsidiaries to make people think that they were drinking beer from local, independent breweries.

The latest American craft brewery to go is the renowned Anchor Brewing in San Francisco. It has been sold to the Japanese company Sapporo Holdings Ltd because Anchor's current management say that this is the only way that they can guarantee the brewery's long term future.

Such takeovers are not unknown in this country of course and similar concerns have arisen in the ranks of the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) about the likes of Heineken and Molson Coors holding associate membership. According to the *Guardian*, a ballot was held recently to end this arrangement but although it was agreed, not enough

members voted to make it a majority decision. I should add that I, for one, take exception to the *Guardian* journalist concerned, in an otherwise excellent article, describing CAMRA as a 'time-yellowed collective.'

## HAPPY HARVEST

The Sunday programme on BBC Radio Four on 29 October carried an interview with the renowned hop farmer and apple grower, Ali Capper from Herefordshire. The good news is that although not large in quantity, this year's apple crop has been high in quality. The item included a wonderful piece of radio: the sound of Ali's husband Richard shaking the final fruit out of a Gala apple tree. Although 70% of eating apples are imported, the number of traditional British varieties is increasing and becoming available in supermarkets. For eating apples, Ali's recommendation is Gala and for cider, Dabinett.

## GIN CAPITAL?

For those of you who like the occasional drop of gin, as I have to admit I do, you are living in the right place. London now has 24 gin distilleries. The Wine & Spirit Trade Association is warning however that many might not survive if, after the 3.9% increase in spirit duty in March, as is rumoured, duty is increased by a further 3.4% in the November budget. Duty reportedly already makes up 40% of the price of a bottle so out of each bottle, the first four drinks (large ones!) are for the Chancellor. Meanwhile, upmarket mixers producer, Fever-Tree continues to boom. I have to say that it is what I drink now, although, of course, other mixers are available.

## HOW MUCH?

I won't mention any names here because my correspondent has, quite properly, taken up the matter with the company involved and his local trading standards department and is leaving it there but it is so bizarre that I want to share it. Mr A, let's call him, was served a very short pint at a pub operated by a well known London pub operator. He asked the barman if he could 'make it up to a full pint'. He was then told that it was a full pint because a pint is the same as half a litre. When Mr A explained that a pint is in excess of 500 ml (568 to be precise) the barman proceeded to measure out 500 ml of water into a pint glass to prove his point, despite holding up other customers waiting to be served. The barman even quoted weights and measures to Mr A which, as he says, is ludicrous given the mathematics on which the barman was basing his premise and actually said in response to Mr A's advice that metric and imperial measurements were different, that they were the same. When Mr A requested to speak to the manager the barman accused him of being rude and told him, more or less, to take it or leave it so Mr A left and has no intention of returning.

## CAMRA BRANCHES OUT

Recently the *Londonist* website, in the course of a review of the Marylebone area, described the Carpenters Arms



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in Seymour Place W1 as 'home to the London Branch of CAMRA'. In case anyone was confused by that, it isn't of course. There are thirteen branches of CAMRA in its Greater London Region and none of them have a specific pub as their 'home', although there are some pubs where you are more likely to find CAMRA members than others! Back in the mists of time, the Carpenters may however have been where the West London branch was formed or met in its early days. It did however get me thinking as to just how far CAMRA in Greater London has come in forty odd (some very odd...) years. A quick look at the records that I keep shows that CAMRA membership in Greater London has increased by almost 1,000 over the last three years, some 10% of the national total.

## AND FINALLY...

**S**ocial media does have its uses. Without it, how would I have discovered that the Finns have a word for 'drinking

at home in your underwear or otherwise casually dressed, with intent of getting drunk.' It is kalsarikänni... Beats Hygge any day for me...

Reuters reports that the Wonson beach resort in North Korea, to which Leader Kim hopes to attract five to ten million tourists, also houses his country retreat which includes a brewery. I wonder if this is the old Ushers of Trowbridge equipment still going strong. Let's hope that President Trump does not confuse the vertical fermenting vessels with anything more sinister.

**Compiled by 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](http://www.facebook.com/GreaterLondonCAMRA) (login not required) and on the news page of the regional website <http://london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=1253>

## New voice for the drinker

**I** think that we all accept that alcohol can be abused and that in those circumstances it can damage health. In these pages we have however frequently questioned the attitudes and motives of what we have come to call the 'anti-alcohol lobby'. Moreover, we have expressed our incredulity at the Government's '14 units a week' alcohol consumption guidelines. We are not alone apparently. It is reported that these guidelines are not accepted by men aged between 18 and 50 (82%) and young people aged 18 to 24 (63%).

These figures come from a YouGov survey commissioned by an organisation called *Drinkers' Voice*. This is a new consumer organisation which aims to bring the public back into the debate on alcohol and health so that we can continue the nation's love of toasting a celebration with a drink in hand and talking about the real benefits a drink or two can bring you. You will remember the research from Oxford University which CAMRA commissioned not so long ago that highlighted the wellbeing benefits that we all enjoy from going to the pub.

CAMRA has contributed the original organisational work to set up *Drinkers' Voice* together with £12,000 seed funding. The aim however is for *Drinkers' Voice* to be independent and to recruit as many individual members as possible, rather than organisations. Individual donations to date have raised a further £22,000. CAMRA's National Chairman, Colin Valentine will sit on its board but the other members are all from varying walks of life and have no direct connection to CAMRA. You can see their profiles on the website.

The National Coordinator of *Drinkers' Voice*, Amy O'Callaghan, told the *Morning Advertiser*, "There is clearly a lack of trust in the Government's tone on alcohol advice. So much so that most people have just stopped listening to them altogether. For too long, the anti-alcohol lobby has

been able to spread myths about drinking and at the same time choosing to ignore the health benefits moderate drinking can bring us. We think that has led to nervousness from the Government which issued new guidelines last year that are among the lowest in Europe. Now, we want drinkers to have their say. *Drinkers' Voice* wants people across the country to join them in exposing these myths, talk openly about the benefits and risks of drinking and bring some rationality to the debate. When people stop listening to Public Health advice there is clearly a credibility issue which needs to be dealt with. We hope supporters of *Drinkers' Voice* will donate to help bridge the gap between the Government and the public. The organisation is asking for people to donate to the cause and come forward as spokespeople for the UK's drinkers"

CAMRA has been in the forefront of challenging the excesses of the anti-alcohol lobby and is right behind *Drinkers' Voice*. We need the truth about alcohol and health so, if you believe that:

- the current debate about the links between alcohol, health and wellbeing is dominated by those who believe that alcoholic drinks should be demonised, increased in price and limited in availability;
- the Government continues to suppress research which shows that moderate drinking is an important part of a healthy lifestyle;
- more effort should be devoted to those who misuse alcohol, and less on the vast majority of drinkers who are responsible in their drinking habits,

then join CAMRA in its support for *Drinkers' Voice* today. You can find more information about the organisation and make a donation at: <https://drinkersvoice.org.uk/>.

**From a CAMRA press release and the Morning Advertiser**

CAMRA Croydon & Sutton Branch



# South Norwood Beer Festival

**8th to 10th February 2018**

**Venue:**

**Stanley Halls**

**12 South Norwood Hill**

**London SE25 6AB**

**Open each day from 12 noon. Closes at 10:30pm (5pm on Saturday).**

**Free or discounted admission for CAMRA members at all times.**

Nearest station: Norwood Junction (5 mins)

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Buses 75, 157, 196, 410

- 20-25 cask ales plus ciders and perries ➤ Food available
- Ales and cider available in third, half and pint measures

Check the web site for the latest up to date information and beer list

**<http://www.croydon.camra.org.uk>**

# CAMRA's National Pub of the Year - the last four

**C**AMRA has named the four pubs that have gone into the final judging round for this year's National Pub of the Year competition. Sadly, none of them are within easy reach of London but you might want to know about them in case you can visit on your travels. There is some encouragement for the future of the community pub in all cases.

The Weavers Real Ale House in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, was the town's first micropub and is a short walk from the railway station. It could be useful if you are visiting the Severn Valley Railway or travelling on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.

The Stanford Arms in Lowestoft, Suffolk, is a traditional back-street free house near the station. It was also a finalist last year.

The Wigan Central in Wigan (oddly enough), Greater Manchester, has a railway-themed interior, including 'live' information screens from both Wallgate and North Western

stations which are nearby. Appropriately, it is housed in a railway arch. It is owned by the nearby Prospect Brewery.

The Cricketers in St Helens, Merseyside, is a community pub on the edge of town which was saved from closure just four years ago and hadn't sold cask beer since the 1980s. They have plans to install a microbrewery.

CAMRA's National Pub of the Year Co-ordinator, Andrea Briers, said, "All of these pubs should be very proud of themselves for reaching this stage in the competition. It is a huge honour to be considered one of the top four pubs across the country. While each of these pubs offers something unique to their visitors, they all share the foundation of what makes a great pub – a warm and welcoming atmosphere, excellent service and a fantastic range of beers."

The result will be announced in February 2018.

**From a CAMRA press release**

## London Drinker Beer Festival

**T**he London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival, organised by CAMRA's North London branch, has been around a long while. The first was in 1985 and it was then only the third beer festival in London, following on from the Great British Beer Festival and Pig's Ear. Alas, all good things must come to an end and the 2018 event (14 to 16 March) will be our last.

After the scare eight years ago, we have had confirmation that our hall (the Camden Centre near King's Cross) is closing in the summer and many of our organising committee wish to stand down. The decision to finish the event has been reinforced by alternative hall prices in the local area being too high to run a viable event. I'm sure no one wants to pay £7 a pint (yet).



Over the last 30 plus years we estimate we have welcomed 200,000 drinkers, sold around three quarters of a million pints and signed up hundreds of new CAMRA members. As a thank you to all our CAMRA visitors, we are having a short members' VIP ticket only session on Wednesday afternoon from 4pm, which is being supported by Moncada Brewery (who are now in Cricklewood). You can purchase a ticket for just £10 which will include entry, refundable glass, programme and two half pints. You can find out more details on the VIP tickets plus season tickets, group tickets and tickets for our five Meet the Brewer sessions on our website: <http://tinyurl.com/LDbeerfest>

Come along and help us say farewell to what has been a great event to have been involved with. We will miss it.

**Christine Cryne – Festival Organiser**

## Pub focus: the Angel, Hayes End

**F**irstly, I must apologise to Darran Davies, the licensee of the Angel, for incorrectly reporting in the last edition that the pub had been sold and was to close in December. This was wrong. Although owners Fuller's have it on the market, the pub has not been sold and it is still very much a going concern with all scheduled events taking place. I can only say that my source is usually reliable but in this instance, someone jumped to one conclusion too many.

As it is not a pub that I know, I had a look at it on CAMRA's on-line pub guide, WhatPub. As you can see from the cover photo, it is a magnificent pub. Further investigation

revealed that, because it was largely unchanged from when it was rebuilt on the site of an earlier pub in 1926, in 2015 it was added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest at Grade II. It had already been on CAMRA's register of historic pub interiors for some years. To some degree this can be ascribed to it having the same licensee from 1967 to 2010.

The pub is the work of one of our finest pub architects, T H Nowell Parr, built in the Neo-Georgian style as a roadhouse on the main road to Oxford until the A40 was built. I won't go into too much detail but it retains its





A **RICH**  
OLD ALE  
WITH A SWEET  
**CHOCOLATEY**  
**EDGE**  
A MELLOW WINTER ALE

# Pub focus: the Angel, Hayes End

original four bars, public bar, saloon bar, meal room and luncheon room, all served from a central bar. The luncheon room was extended in 1937 to create a function room with the club room on the other side of the building being demolished. This has been the only substantial alteration. The off-sales section between the two front doors is still intact but is used as storage. Look out for a number of Art Deco features that were added in the 1937 alterations and the doors on the front of the bars which give access to the beer engines for maintenance. This is believed to be a feature unique to London pubs.



*The Public Bar (photo Michael Slaughter LRPS).*

Upstairs is a dedicated Masons' Room with Art Deco decorations. It is still used every week by both a masonic lodge and a Buffaloes Lodge. It still has the Roll of Honour

for 'Industrial Lodge No. 177' on the wall and the regalia cupboard with both doors having the gold lettering of the founder in 1913 and the list of 'Certified Primos' belonging to the original lodge who used it until the 1960s.

One point that illustrates just how times have changed is that originally as built, the only toilet facilities were a gents' urinal and that was accessed from outside and was uncovered. The ladies' and gents' WC were added just after the war.

Please however don't think that the Angel is some sort of museum. It is a genuine community local with teams in both darts and pool leagues, bingo on Sundays in aid of the local branch of the MS Society and jazz, film, jam and comedy nights. They also offer a Sunday carvery. Regular beers are London Pride, Seafarers and HSB plus one guest. The pub had been in the *Good Beer Guide* until 2016 until the issue of it being up for sale arose.

Finally, to echo what I said in my editorial, I appreciate the demands of the trade in these difficult times and that breweries are not charities but can't Fuller's who, after all, are not doing too badly, find it in their hearts just to preserve this pub for posterity on behalf of all of us who love pubs.

Of course, readers – and I have to include myself here – can help by paying a visit. The full address is 697 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, UB4 8HX. Buses 427 (Uxbridge to Acton), H98 (Hayes End to Hounslow) and 607 Express (Uxbridge to White City) to the Angel Lane stop will get you there.

**Tony Hedger**

## Greater London Region young members take on Twickenham

**O**n 19 October 20 young members from across London descended on Twickenham for a social event including a brewery tour and visit to Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival. The evening started at Twickenham Fine Ales with a tour and the opportunity to sample beers including the CAMRA award winning bitter Grandstand. The brewery was founded in 2004 in a ten barrel plant, expanding in late 2012 to its current site and now brewing over 50,000 pints a week. Head Brewer Stuart Medcalf fielded questions on a range of topics from where the brewery sell most of their beer to the best ways to clean their brewing equipment.



It was then on to the opening night of the Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival held in the grand surroundings of York House, for a choice of over 70 real ales and 24 real ciders and perries.

Big thanks to James Bell and Roy Tunstall for organising a great event which saw new faces joining us for the first time.

Our next event is on 12 December from 7pm at the Good Beer Guide listed Eagle Ale House (104 Chatham Road, SW11 6HG), where we'll be given an insight into what it's like to run a tied pub and the campaigns that licensees Dave Law and Simon Clarke are involved in.

**Ellie Hudspith and Tori Bishop-Rowe**

# Last orders at the Dog & Dumplings

**H**ere is some culture for you! For further details I can't improve on their press release.

Boogaloo Stu's new comedy musical, written, devised and performed by Stu and Flick Ferdinando, is an uproarious and merciless exposé of the cold-blooded takeover striking our communities in the name of regeneration. Faced with imminent closure, publicans Kevin and Babs Chisholm from the Dog & Dumplings take on the big boys in this musical tale of a busy boozer doing battle with dodgy developers. As the wrecking ball swings ever closer, could Kev and Babs end up under clingfilm in their own meat raffle or will they make mincemeat of the developers? *Last Orders at the Dog & Dumplings* is a riotous knees-up showcasing new writing, character comedy and original music, all the while underlining the serious risks faced by our beloved British pub culture. With pubs being shuttered at an alarming rate, gentrification continues apace; and it would seem that our communities, both urban and rural, are being hollowed out and left for dead by developers driven by greed. For this tour (and for future dates in 2018) Boogaloo Stu will present the show in the very spaces which find themselves at risk, which is in pubs, bars and clubs around the country.'

It runs for 70 minutes, admission 18 plus only and tickets are £10/£7 available from Design My Night ([designmynight.com](http://designmynight.com)) or from each venue, over the bar. Doors open at 8pm with the show starting at 8.30.

London dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

## **15 and 16 December**

The Birds, 692 High Road, Leytonstone,  
London E11 3AA

## **17 December**

The Four Thieves, 51 Lavender Gardens,  
London SW11 1DJ

## **18 December**

The Aeronaut, 264 Acton High Street,  
London W3 9BH

More information from

@boogalooStu, #DogAndDumplings and  
[doganddumplings.co.uk](http://doganddumplings.co.uk)

The production is supported using public funding from Arts Council England. If I receive word of further performances in London in 2018 I will let you know.

**Tony Hedger and Boogaloo Stu's press release**

**A complete collection of  
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## UNIT PRICING

**A**s we went to press, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom has dismissed the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA)'s appeal against the legislation passed some five years ago by the Scottish Parliament to enable the introduction of the unit pricing of alcohol. A panel of seven judges unanimously agreed that it was a 'proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim' and was within European Union law. The SWA had argued that it was a restraint of trade but has said that it will accept the court's ruling, which is big of them given that there is no way of taking it further. It had been referred back to the UK Supreme Court by the European Court of Justice who said that it was an issue for the national court to decide. It is expected that it will come into effect in the New Year but it will be reviewed in five years' time when the legislation will need to be renewed anyway. We should remember that the court is passing an opinion on the law as it applies here and this is not a legal endorsement of the thinking behind the legislation.

The Welsh Assembly were known to be waiting for this decision and had prepared draft legislation. The BBC reported that the Welsh health secretary, Vaughan Gething, will now consider the detailed implications before proceeding. No doubt it will also certainly spark off further debate in England where the Government has, to date, been lukewarm at best to the idea. I'm sure that the health lobby will kick off about it. This could be a good opportunity for *Drinkers' Voice* (see page 26) to win its spurs.

It is of course important to remember that unit pricing is unlikely to affect the price of beer in pubs, which is, I imagine, the most important point for most of the readers of this magazine. For once, this is a measure not aimed at pubs. That said, I have already heard a debate on BBC Radio Four that after five years the 50p rate needs to be reviewed because of inflation. It will be interesting to see what the Scottish government do about that. It does, of course, remain subject to debate as to how effective it will be and how fair it is in any event.

## GLOOMY NEWS

**M**ake what you will of this. In early November the Office of National Statistics released figures for last year that show an increase in the number of 'alcohol specific' deaths among people aged 50 and over. The total was 5,208 as against 3,582 in 2001. There was however no definition of an 'alcohol specific' death. It says that it acknowledges that there are now more people over 50 but said that the rate per 100,000 of population has also increased although those numbers were not given. The chair of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board, Izzy Secombe, was quoted as saying, "*Alcohol related deaths are preventable and councils would be able to do more if government reverses the cuts to the public health grant in the budget.*"

## BEER MAKES YOU HAPPY

**I**am indebted to my good friend Martin Butler for drawing my attention to this item from the American *Real Beer News* website. It reports that scientists in Germany have uncovered a substance in malted barley, and hence beer, called hordenine which activates the dopamine D2 receptor, the part of your brain that makes you feel happy. Professor Monika Pischetsrieder, the leader of the study, explained that, unlike with other dopamine responses, this compound reacts through G proteins which makes it a slower process so it creates a more prolonged positive effect, lifting your spirits and increasing confidence and self-esteem. It isn't just the alcohol!

While the science is interesting, it may be simpler in practical terms. If both parties will excuse me, I will quote from a letter to the *Guardian* from Mr David Rainbird, "*Alcohol is a social drug. When I go to the pub, I mix with friends. We chat and converse. We joke and laugh. Surely, as a single man, this is better for me than sitting alone, giggling at the TV every night.*" To which I say, yes.

## IT MAKES YOU THINK. . .

**A**ccording to a story in the *'i'* newspaper on 15 October, in 1565 stonemasons working in a quarry in Clontarf (near Dublin) were given an allowance of 14 pints of ale a day and in 1590 the average daily consumption of the household staff in Dublin Castle was eight pints. The strength of the beer was between 7% and 10% ABV. How happy must they have been?

**Tony Hedger**



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# **The Bree Louise**

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**“Craig, Kazz and Team Bree would like to say thank you and goodbye. We will be having final drinks on the weekend 27/28 January and will be delighted to see as many of you between now and then! You have all helped the Bree Louise become what it is for which we thank you!”**



**[info@thebree Louise.com](mailto:info@thebree Louise.com)**

## THE AERONAUT

The Laine Pub Company is set to reopen the Aeronaut in Acton on 30 November following the disastrous fire on New Year's Day. The site is set to have some 'exciting new additions', including the UK's first pub-based combined immersive and virtual reality games set up. The report, on the Propel hospitality news service, said that there will be a new range of craft beer brewed by Laine Brewing Company but there was no mention of a brewery on site.

## BARNET BREWERY

The brand name is now owned by the Oak Tavern pub chain. Six beers are currently in production; Pryor Reid Mild (3.5% ABV), Barnet Glory (3.9% ABV), Barnet Best Bitter (4.2% ABV), Regal IPA (4.5% ABV), High Speed (5.1% ABV) and Pryor Reid IPA (6.0% ABV). Following an approach from the Barnet Museum there are plans to brew a strong bottled beer to commemorate the Battle of Barnet which took place in 1471 in the Wars of the Roses. The beers are still mainly supplied to the Black Horse, although, small quantities may be found in other local pubs, including the Woodman in Wild Hill.

**Mark Shepherd, Brewery Liaison Officer**

## BOHEM BREWERY

Bohem, founded by Zdenek Kudr and Petr Skocek (who is also the head brewer), is the only brewery in London to brew specifically Bohemian style beers. On 12 October the Mayor of Haringey was among the guests who gathered at their Tap Room in Myddleton Road for their official opening following an expansion that has increased their brewing capacity seven-fold. The new equipment was imported from the Czech Republic. Their best selling beers are Victoria (4.2% ABV) and Jan Amos (4.9% ABV), both pilsners.



Zdenek (left) and Petr, with His Worship, Councillor Stephen Mann.

Zdenek said, "The extended brewery now enables more people to enjoy our beers and we are proud to be playing our part in the rejuvenation of Myddleton Road. It was a great honour to have the Mayor to help celebrate our official opening in proper style with a few pints of authentic Bohemian beers."

The Tap Room, at 120a Myddleton Road, N22 8NQ, is open 4pm to 11pm Monday to Friday and 11am to 11pm Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays.

## ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Appropriately enough given its name, Brick Brewery has been building for the future. Having outgrown their existing railway arch in Peckham, the main brewing operation has now moved to larger industrial unit premises in nearby Deptford, with the first brew there taking place in early October. Owner and managing director, Ian Stewart, outlined the reason for the move: "Peckham has been very good to us since we set up in 2013 but we were bursting at the seams. After an extensive local search we found ideal new premises a few miles down the road in Deptford. Our new unit is three times the size of the Peckham site but the improved layout and more efficient brewing process will actually increase our brewing capacity around tenfold, leaving us well positioned for the brewery's next exciting growth phase. We also remain committed to Peckham and are finalising plans to create a much expanded taproom there early next year". An additional six staff members have been recruited, including new head brewer Pete Vick who brings with him experience of brewing both in the UK and across Europe, latterly in Croatia. A new manager is being appointed to run the expanded Peckham taproom. It is currently intended that the taproom will close for a short period in January for refurbishment, following which it will showcase over 20 brews from Brick and other breweries.



Owner Ian Stewart and some of the new brewing kit at Deptford.

In addition, the brewery's beer range is being realigned into four groupings in keeping with the 'building' theme:

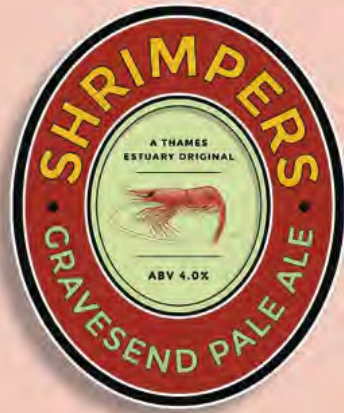
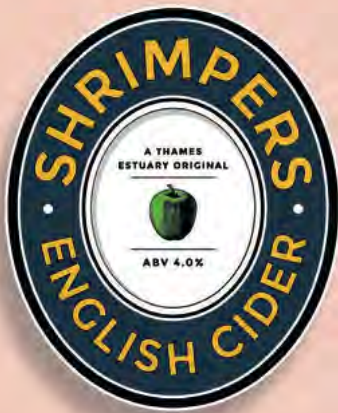
- Foundation range: the core beers – Peckham Pils, Peckham Pale (available in cask), Peckham IPA (formerly Pioneer) and Peckham Rye (formerly Red Brick Rye, maybe available in cask);
- Framing range: seasonal beers, such as Blenheim Black and Archway Steam;
- Design range: experimental and one-off brews, plans for which include a new group of sour beers, along with vanilla and milk stouts, plus barrel-aged beers.

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- Tender range: collaboration brews of which there are expected to be three or four per year.

In late November Brick will be joining forces with Cloudwater and Fourpure breweries to launch a trilogy of special beers to celebrate the third birthday of nearby bottle shop Hop, Burns & Black. This sees Cloudwater doing their HOP best by creating DDH Pale XXXX, a double dry hopped pale ale rammed with New Zealand hops, Fourpure creating BURN(s) with a mango and habanero red ale and Brick going over to the dark side, creating BLACK with a blueberry and vanilla stout.

**Steve Silcock, Brewery Liaison Officer**

## THE FLORENCE

**B**rewing ended at the Florence in Herne Hill in November 2015 with the retirement of Peter Haydon although the brewery equipment was left in place. Owners Greene King have recently refurbished the pub (makes a change), have relocated the brewery and it is now used as a training brewery, operating under the name, the Craft Academy. This is, apparently, an apprentice-led brewing scheme that trains beer enthusiasts in brewing, marketing, sales and branding, enabling apprentices to launch beers into the market while working towards an accredited Level 3 NVQ qualification over the 18 month course.

## FULLER'S

**J**ust in time for Christmas (hint, hint) Fuller's have launched the 2017 edition of Vintage Ale. This, the 21st incarnation has been created by head brewer, Georgina 'George' Young. It is a fairly radical innovation in that it uses a new British malt variety, Laureate, and an experimental American hop called Denali hop plus 'old stagers' Target and Goldings. It comes out at 8.5% ABV. George said, "I am honoured and privileged to be able to put my signature on this year's Vintage Ale and carry on its legacy. As with every Vintage Ale, I am extremely excited to see how these new ingredients work together as the flavours of this bottle conditioned beer develop over time, well beyond the 'best before' date that we are obliged to state." All bottles are individually numbered and will be available from Fuller's Brewery Shop in Chiswick, online at <https://shop.fullers.co.uk/products/vintage-ale-2017> and from Waitrose.

## GIpsy HILL BREWERY

**G**ipsy Hill are collaborating with hop merchants Simply Hops to see if it is possible to create an IPA aged in the barrel for three months to reproduce the time that original IPA's would have spent being shipped to India. The White Rose Cooperage was commissioned to build nine barrels from reclaimed wood, some of which dates back over 120 years. The beer was then put into the barrels and in the middle of October they were going up and down the River Thames on some tour boats to recreate the passage to India. Assuming all goes well, the plan is to make it available

to the public at an 'IPA Heritage Party' on 9 December. Gipsy Hill's co-founder, Sam McMeekin, told the *Morning Advertiser*, "This is a brewery passion project; what grew from a conversation after brewing one day has been turned into an actual journey. Other people have tried to recreate something similar but we've done our best to dig right into the roots of this IPA tradition and discover something authentic."

## OUT FOR A DUCK

**T**he Beer of the Festival at this year's Kingston Beer Festival, as voted for by the customers, was Thames Side Brewery's Mallard Mild. One recent Saturday afternoon, a party of members from CAMRA's Kingston and Leatherhead branch visited the brewery to present their award. The owner and head brewer, Andy Hayward, along with his partner Michele Gibson were there to accept the framed certificate from the Festival Organiser, Chris Lucking.

Andy first tried brewing at home back in 1978, two years after he joined CAMRA; at one stage he was chairman of the branch. He has been brewing on a four barrel plant in a small unit in Tim's Boatyard for two years now and even in this short time, he has won several awards for his ales. His beers are all named after birds, of which three are available all year, while the others are seasonal. Five of them are also bottled.



*Andy and Michelle with a supporting cast of happy drinkers.*

In nearby Staines on Thames town centre, Andy has joined up with the Caffè Gusto to make Thames Side ales available, mainly in the evenings on the days when the café operates more as a micropub.

**Clive Taylor**

## SAMBROOK'S BREWERY

**T**he birthday party held on Tooting Bec Common in September was a great success with almost all beer sold. Members of CAMRA's South West London branch were able to publicise their (then) forthcoming Wandale Beer Festival, which was much appreciated. At times, the single beer tent was very overcrowded and the plan is to erect a bigger one or have two for next year!



The excellent Black IPA was relaunched in mid November as a winter seasonal, a beer that your correspondent likened to a good, robust and hop-fruity ruby mild. In spring 2018, Sambrook's will launch a new saison or green beer in collaboration with French microbrewery Anosteke that will be in the classic Flanders Biere du Garde style. Can hardly wait!

**Peter Sutcliffe**

## WILD CARD BREWERY

**A**nother report from Propel. Walthamstow-based Wild Card Brewery has raised some £300,000 - £50,000 more than the target - using the crowdfunding platform Crowdcube to fund an expansion of its production and bar facilities. There were 384 investors and the largest investment was £20,000. The new capital will be used to enlarge the brewery at Lockwood Way, increasing capacity from 8,400 to 21,600 litres. They also plan to open a second Tap Room. In the year ending July this year, the brewery had a turnover of £694,000 and anticipates a net profit of £46,500.

## WIMBLEDON BREWERY

**G**ood news and bad news. They are no longer operating a brewery tap at weekends. The shop however is still open 11am to 5pm Monday to Friday and there may be some special events. Look out for announcements on 'social media'. The good news is that this was necessary because there is simply no room following the installation of two additional 60 barrel fermenters which take up the space previously occupied by the bar and there is another on the way. Although they came late to the 'new wave' of London brewers, they are certainly making up for lost time.

There are some very interesting seasonal beers to look out for, although we will have to wait for perhaps the most intriguing of them. XK Autumn Ale (3.5% ABV) is a tawny mild brewed using the party gyle system from the weaker sugar wort remaining from brewing XXXK barley wine. It has added chocolate and caramel malts to give body and depth of flavour and has a moreish 'sweet and dry' flavour. I know that Fuller's use the party gyle system but I wonder if any other brewery in London does. It is not the easiest way to brew beer but then Wimbledon have the skills and experience of the legendary Derek Prentice to guide them.

The inspiration for these beers was the discovery of a price list from the original Wimbledon Brewery in an 1889 newspaper by a member of the Wimbledon Historical Society which was passed to the brewery's founder, Mark Gordon.

The XXXK barley wine itself, a classic amber coloured brew, is destined for maturation in whisky casks (see photo) and will be available in about a year's time. It will not be widely available because it is likely to come out at around 10% ABV but I suspect that it will be well worth seeking out! Another seasonal to look out for is XXK Winter Ale (4.8% ABV). This includes some malted wheat and Bramling Cross



Waiting for the XXXK.

hops which give distinctive berry notes. The Phoenix Smoked Porter (also 4.8%) will also be available again.

Very helpfully, brewer Derek explained the X and K annotation system, "Traditionally, beer strength was denoted by Xs, so an 'X' beer would be a 'mild', 'XX' a stronger brew and 'XXX' the strongest (often also known as a barley wine) typically at between 8% and 13% ABV. With XXXK, the K denotes a 'keeper' which can be kept and aged for many months or even years." Not too long I hope...

**Paul Watkins and Tony Hedger**

**Compiled by Tony Hedger except where stated**

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## YOUNG'S NEWS

**Y**oung's have acquired the Smiths of Smithfield site from a private owner. The *Evening Standard* reported it to be their largest in London. No price was quoted. The Young's estate now stands at 253.

In the half year ended 2 October sales in their managed houses rose 4.6%, with total group turnover increasing by 6% to £144 million. Pre-tax profits are looking flat however. Chief Executive Patrick Dardis, unlike certain other pub operators, expressed concerns about 'Brexit' negotiations 'in relation to attracting and retaining' staff.

I picked this up from Facebook so it comes with that proviso. Marston's say that all the brands acquired by them from Charles Wells will continue to be brewed at Bedford, which includes Young's beers. Apparently, the Bedford site is operating at only half capacity and the other parts of the Marston's empire have none spare. That might explain the thinking behind the purchase.

The new season's Winter Warmer is now available, presumably brewed at Bedford and I'm told that it is good.

## WETHERSPOON'S NEWS

**I**n the quarter to the end of October, sales across their 895 pubs and hotels rose 6.1%. Chairman Tim Martin did however warn that costs were higher than expected and this growth was unlikely to be reflected in the chain's final figures.

I think that we are all aware of Mr Martin's views on 'Brexit' which you can now find summarised on a beermat in any of his outlets. At least it means that they have beer mats. This is not the place to discuss them but I note that he shares Patrick Dardis's concerns about staff. He has also said that if negotiations did no go the way he wanted, he might look to source from suppliers outside the EU.

## FLOATING PUBS

**T**he City Pub Group is looking to float on the AIM (Alternative Investment Market), the London Stock Exchange's market for small growing companies.

The plan is to raise £30 million in capital to finance the doubling of its estate of 34 pubs over the next four years. Chairman Clive Watson told the *Evening Standard*, "While some known headwinds exist, we see very good opportunities to increase sales and the size of the estate. There is genuine demand for well-run, well-invested, independent pubs, with their finger on the pulse of what people want."

The company's latest acquisition is the Grade II listed Aragon House pub on the New Kings Road in Fulham. The current building dates from 1805-06 and the name comes from it once being the site of a dowry house belonging to Catherine of Aragon, the first wife of Henry VIII (divorced, for those who remember the old rhyme). A lot of work is needed however and it will not open until later in 2018.

## AROUND TOWN

**C**ave Direct, the beer importers, have acquired premises in Hackney Wick, which is rapidly becoming the beer capital of the world, to house their first pub, the Beer Merchants Tap. They hope to open in January and have great plans for its further development, although the extent of this may depend on funds raised from a crowdfunding campaign. One facility is that customers will be able to order beer on-line and collect from the pub.

Urban Pubs and Bars has acquired a thirteenth site, the Grade II listed Punch Tavern in Fleet Street.

## NEWS FROM THE BIG BREWERS

**A**ccording to the *Evening Standard*, Heineken suffered a 'double digit' fall in sales following some of their products being delisted by Tesco when the store refused to accept a price increase caused by currency fluctuations. They still however managed to make a profit of £1.35 billion over the first nine months of their financial year.

The pubs that Heineken purchased from Punch will continue to be managed by Punch for the first six months before being incorporated in the Star Pubs & Bars operation.

Carlsberg meanwhile are still having a

problem in Russia as the crackdown on drinking continues. Recently, the authorities there have banned the sale of beer in PET bottles larger than 1.5 litres. Perhaps this could be looked at as an alternative to unit pricing?

## LATEST ANTICS

**I** have to confess to losing track of Antic London pub openings recently mostly because they are announced on social media which I don't always see. There are now 45 pubs in the chain. The latest is the Eltham GPO, a conversion of part of a former Royal Mail sorting office in Passey Place (SE9 5DQ).

This follows on from a second outlet in Crystal Palace called the Walker Briggs in Westow Hill, not far from their established Westow House pub. The new opening is described as a cafe bar. The acting general manager of the Westow House, Chris Bray, told the *Croydon Advertiser* that said there was room in Crystal Palace for two Antic venues and that: "We always work together to offer a wide range of services to our customers. I think Crystal Palace is actually looking for more bars and restaurants." You can see a full list of their pubs at [anticlondon.com](http://anticlondon.com).

## QUIET PLEASE

**A** planning application has been approved to convert redundant Grade II listed dairy farm buildings at the 19<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian monastery, Mount St Bernard Abbey, into a brewery. The Abbey, near Whitwick in rural North West Leicestershire, if accredited by the International Trappist Association, will become one of only twelve in the world to produce authentic Trappist beer. The brewing will be carried out by the monks and other residents of the abbey and any profits will go to the Trustees of Mount St Bernard, the registered charity which is responsible for maintaining the abbey and paying the monks' living expenses, thus allowing the monastery to be self-sustaining, in accordance with the religious order's tenets. The alterations will include installing sparrow nesting boxes and bat boxes. The *Leicester Mercury*, source of this story, said that no-one from Mount St Bernard's Abbey

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was available to comment at the time of writing. Well, they wouldn't be, would they?

### PUB PING PONG

The Eclectic Group have turned the former Po Na Na club on Wimbledon Broadway into Smash, London's first specialist table tennis bar, with four Olympic size tables. It also does pizzas, indie, retro and non-commercial music and, reportedly, 60 varieties of craft beer. This is their second outlet, the first being in Reading. Well, it's something different, I suppose.

### NAME OF A NAME

According to City AM, there were 1,983 applications from breweries to register trademarks names or trade names in 2016, compared with 968 in 2007. The number of breweries in the UK has risen from 1,208 in 2012 to 1,994 in 2016.

### GUT FEELING

I have been informed that there was a report on BBC World television that scientists in Japan have developed and patented a probiotic beer which, like the yoghurt drinks, contains bacteria which are good for the gut. Fairly predictably, it has a slightly sour taste but will be good for you. Any sightings, please do let me know.

**Compiled by Tony Hedger**

### YE GERBISH (GERALD BISHOP)

Few readers of this magazine will have heard of Ye Gerbish, the contraction of his name by which he liked to be known, but he merits a mention as one of CAMRA's great unsung volunteers who preferred, indeed almost revelled in those mundane but vital tasks that all organisations need doing. I won't go into detail here but Colin Valentine, CAMRA's national chairman remarked, Gerbish was, "one of the great eccentrics in an organisation that has had more than its fair share of them." We send our condolences to his brother Ron, and his teddy bear, DPH, whom he also recruited as a CAMRA member (Yes, the bear, not his brother!). I have put a longer version of this tribute on the CAMRA London Region website.

**Tony Hedger**

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# How do you like your Good Beer Guide?

Former publican Bob Preece made some telling points in his letter about pubs and breweries in the last issue, but he lobbed in a curious comment about CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* (the GBG as we know it). Can anyone cite actual pubs from recent issues that "somehow cling to their entry by offering one handpump of (often) indifferent brown beer from Cornwall or Suffolk?" As moderator for the last ten years of Greater London's 293 branch entries, I have found no examples. Should there appear to be any outside London, my opposite numbers in those regions would likewise want to know. Nowadays we have the 'beer scores' submitted via WhatPub and the National Beer Scoring System to help branches decide which pubs should go in and any entry for a particular pub one year should give that pub no advantage over the competition for inclusion the next time.

However, thank you Bob, it is indeed timely to ask what our readers like or dislike about the GBG. Does it give a fair selection of the pubs that deserve to be included or should it feature more of them, or fewer? Is the Brewery Section helpful or sufficient? Can the one book do justice to both our pubs and our brewers? CAMRA's Books Committee would like to know what customers – not just CAMRA members but the general public as well – think of the Guide and so they have issued a short survey to gather comments, complete with a prize draw entry by way of thanks.

Every opinion counts, even if you have not bought a Guide recently or at all. Here is the survey: <http://www.camra.org.uk/gbg2018survey>. By all means share this link far and wide. The survey will continue until 1 March 2018.

**Geoff Strawbridge**

*Greater London CAMRA Regional Director and GBG Submissions Co-ordinator*

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**WhatPub? Update** publishes news items collated by Greater London branches, often from information supplied through the 'Submit Update' button on **WhatPub**. 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; and changes of name, ownership or beer policy. Readers are encouraged to visit **WhatPub?** for pub details, and to 'Submit Update' when they find incomplete or out-of-date information.

This edition sees new outlets for Craft Beer Co in EC1, Draft Houses in W2, Electric Star in E10, McMullen in SW1, Three Cheers in W12 and for smaller operators in EC4, N8 and SE1. There is also a new micropub in SE10 and brewery taprooms have opened in E17, SE1 and SE20.

Among the bad news is the confirmation of pub losses in EC1, EC2, E1, N21, Edgware, Bexley, SW6 and Twickenham, although an independent free house in SE19 is expected to reopen as a Wetherspoon.

### NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO CASK BEER

#### CENTRAL

**EC1V 9HE, CANVAS BAR** (Enterprise), 233 Old St. Was GLUEPOT, MURPHY'S TAVERN, NELSON'S RETREAT. Having closed in January, reopened in September as the eighth **CRAFT BEER CO**. Eight cask beers. Over twenty keg beers and over 200 bottles and cans.

**EC2A 2BA, ALLEGORY** (Drake & Morgan), 1a Principal Pl, Worship St. Opened in October in the Principal Place development, one of their few new openings to have no cask beer.

**W1D 4TQ, MOLLY MOGGS** (Enterprise), 2 Old Compton St. Was COACH & HORSES. Having closed in March, taken over by Marylebone Pub Co under a new 'managed expert' partnership with Enterprise, and reopened as **COMPTON CROSS**, still LGBT+-friendly. No cask beer. Keg beers include Beavertown Gamma Ray, Kona Big Wave.

#### EAST

**E1 7EZ, PIPELINE**, 78 Middlesex St. Was OLD MONK, PUZZLE. Having closed last year and operated as a restaurant, repositioned in September by Calabrese as their second **WRINGER & MANGLE**, a restaurant & bar with no cask beer.

**E1W 2PA, TURK'S HEAD**, 1 Green Bank. Having closed in the late 1970s, it's been a café since 1993 and in 2013 added a bar with keg beer and bottles.

**E10 5EL, LION & KEY**, 475-477 High Rd. Having closed in 2010 and served as social services accommodation, reopened as a hotel with bar open to public. No cask beer.

**E11 4EA, HEATHCOTE ARMS**, 345 Grove Green Rd. Reopened as the sixth pub for Electric Star, renamed **HEATHCOTE & STAR**. Three changing cask beers.

**E17 5RB, WILD CARD BREWERY LOCKWOOD BAR**, Unit 2, Lockwood Way. The brewery's second taproom. Open Fri 5-12; Sat 12-12. Cask, keg and bottled beers from Wild Card and other micros.

**E20 3BS, FOUR QUARTERS EAST**, 8 East Bay La, QE2 Park. Opened early 2017, bar with retro games, their second outlet after SE15. No cask beer.

#### NORTH

**N7 8HG, CROWN (BAR & CAFE)**, 261 Holloway Rd. Opened in February in former coffee shop. No cask beer.

**N7 6NJ, INDIEBEER**, 322 Holloway Rd. Off-licence and tasting room with seating. No cask beer. Four changing keg beers from small independent breweries.

#### NORTH WEST

**NW8 8JR, CROCKERS** (Maroush), 23-24 Aberdeen Pl. Was CROWN. Has been on the market. Cask beer restored, e.g. Reunion Opening Gambit on gravity.

**RUISLIP (HA4 8JN), BAR 101**, 101 High St. Was SWEENEYS. Reopened as **LOUNGE 101**, an Indian restaurant & bar with no cask beer.

**WEALDSTONE (HA3 7AH), TJ'S SPORTS BAR**, 108 High St. Was FORDE'S FREE HOUSE. Reopened, still no cask beer.

#### SOUTH EAST

**SE1 2HQ, BARREL PROJECT** (London Beer Factory), 80 Druid St. Storage facility for barrel-aged beers, in a railway arch. A taproom operates at weekends, with ten keg and keykeg beers.

**SE1 7AE, CAMEL & ARTICHOKE** (Wellington), 121 Lower Marsh. Was ARTICHOKE, STREETS, ELUSIVE CAMEL. Having closed with permission refused for residential conversion upstairs, now reopened. Greene King IPA and Sharp's Doom Bar.

**SE1 0LH, CHARLES DICKENS**, 160 Union St. Was RED LION. Having closed in 2015, taken over by Windmill Taverns (who operate several local pubs) and reopened in October as **MC & SONS**. Completely refurbished with fittings salvaged from closed pubs. Four cask beers.

**SE4 2RW, PARLEZ**, 16 Coulgate St. Opened in September, contemporary bar & restaurant next to Brockley station. No cask beer. Up to eight keg beers, e.g. Fourpure, Gipsy Hill, Orbit.

**SE10 0RJ, RIVER ALE HOUSE**, 131 Woolwich Rd. Opened in September, micropub in former lingerie shop. Seven cask beers (e.g. Bexley, Slater, Wantsum) and real ciders on gravity, plus a range of wines and gins.

**SE13 5PR, DIRTY SOUTH** (Wellington), 162 Lee High Rd. Was ROSE OF LEE, HOBGOBLIN. Having closed in 2014, now reopened. No cask beer.

**SE16 7AQ, LEADBELLY'S** (Rotherhithe Pub Co), Unit C, Montreal House, Surrey Docks Rd. Opened December 2016 by the operators of the nearby Mayflower, contemporary bar & restaurant in new residential development. Unattributed house beer plus guest, e.g. Dark Star, Southwark.

**SE17 1LB, LOST RIVERS ELEPHANT**, Elephant Rd. The fourth outlet for this Tilbury brewery and their beers named after lost London rivers. No cask beer.

**SE17 1AY, SIX YARD BOX**, Unit 6, The Artworks, Elephant Rd. Previously unreported football-themed bar with many

screens and paraphernalia. No cask beer. Up to eight keg beers e.g. Beavertown, Kernel, Metalmann.

**SE20 7JD, BREWERY TAP** (Southey Brewing), 21 Southey St. Has been opening for some time and now has a permanent licence. Open Fri and Sat 5-10. One Southey cask beer on handpump. All their beers are vegan-friendly and don't use finings.

**COULSDON (CR5 2LL), COULSDON COURT HOTEL** (Bespoke Hotels), Coulsdon Court Rd. Golfing hotel with bar open to public. Cask beer introduced, Fuller's London Pride and Greene King IPA.

**ORPINGTON (BR6 0JY), WHITE HART** (M&B), 106 High St. Cask beer restored, e.g. Sharp's Atlantic or Doom Bar.

## SOUTH WEST

**SW1W 0AJ, VAGABOND**, Nova Building, 77 Buckingham Palace Rd. This outlet of a small London wine bar chain has nine keg beer taps.

**SW2 2TJ, SYMPATHETIC EAR**, 37 Tulse Hill. Craft beer, wine and spirits bar opened in October. No cask beer.

**SW9 8BQ, CANOVA HALL** (Albion & East), 250 Ferndale Rd. Opened in September, their second site after Martello Hall, E8. An impressive tap house, cocktail bar and pizzeria with its own gin distillery. No cask beer. Limited keg beers (£6/pint).

**SW16 5HN, MITCHAM MINT** (Star), 1 Lilian Rd. Cask beer restored after three years in November, Fuller's London Pride.

**SW18 4HN, BEAN & HOP**, 424-426 Garratt La. Café that

now has two changing keg beers from London breweries and a wide range of bottles.

**SW18 4DW, GJs** (Punch), 89 Garratt La. Was WAGGON & HORSES. Having closed earlier this year, reopened in October as the **GARRATT TAVERN**. Cask beer restored, three national brands.

**SW19 2BN, ROYAL STANDARD** (Greene King leased), 180 High St, Colliers Wood. Cask beer restored after many years, Greene King Ruddles Best.

**SW19 3TA, EDWARDS**, 18 Hartfield Rd (Stonegate). Renamed GARRATT & GAUGE in November. Cask beer introduced: Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar, two guest beers and a cider on handpump.

**SW19 1RH, SMASH WIMBLEDON** (Eclectic), 82 Broadway. Former 'Po Na Na' club, repositioned in September by the same operator, now a restaurant & bar with pizza, table tennis and five keg beers including BrewDog Punk IPA.

## WEST

**W2 1JX, GRAND UNION**, Unit 1, West End Quay. Renamed **DRAFT HOUSE** in October following acquisition. Cask beer introduced, Sambrook's Wandle and two guests, e.g. Siren, Weird Beard.

**W4 2HU, DUKE OF YORK** (Fuller leased), 107 Devonshire Rd. Having closed earlier this year, reopened with new tenant.

**W12 9DH, PRINCESS VICTORIA** (Enterprise), 217 Uxbridge Rd. Having closed in June after the previous operator's



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demise, reopened in October by Three Cheers Pub Co (formerly Renaissance Pubs) under a 'managed expert' partnership with Enterprise. Several changing cask beers.

**HAYES (UB4 8BZ), BROOK HOUSE** (Enterprise), 240 Kingshill Ave. Cask beer restored, Sharp's Doom Bar.

**HEATHROW (TW6 2AQ), DUO**, Renaissance London Heathrow Hotel, Bath Rd. Renamed **BAR ELEVEN**. Cask beer introduced, Sharp's Doom Bar.

**TWICKENHAM (TW1 1AA), M BAR & GRILL** (M Restaurants), Brewery Wharf. Chain restaurant & bar, opened in September in new housing development by Twickenham station and the river Crane. No cask beer. Two keg beers.

**WEST DRAYTON (UB7 7UF), CAT & FIDDLE** (Wellington), 162 Rowan Rd. Was ROWAN ARMS. Cask beer restored, Sharp's Doom Bar, but lease on the market.

**PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR  
CEASED SELLING CASK BEER**

**CENTRAL**

**EC1V 8AB, WHITE LION** (ex-Enterprise). Having closed in 2015, now used as offices.

**EC2M 2TE, FLEETWOOD** (Fuller). Closed, future uncertain.

**EC2V 7EH, RED HERRING** (ex-Fuller). Having closed last year, permission granted to convert to offices as part of redeveloping the whole block.

**EC2M 3TH, WHITE HART** (M&B), 121 Bishopsgate. Having closed in 2014, demolished apart from the two elevations, now a Metro bank.

**EC3N 1BJ, CITY SPORTS**. Closed, lease on the market.

**EC3N 1DT, PEACOCK** (Greene King leased). Closed, lease on the market, as is the whole building freehold.

**EC4V 5BR, WOLFGANG'S BIER HAUS**. Was BIERREX, COOLIN, OCHRE, DUKE & DUCHESS. Cask beer discontinued.

**EAST**

**E1 8AH, STILL & STAR**. Closed, future uncertain.

**E1 6JJ, WHITE HORSE** (Wellington), 64 Shoreditch High St. Closed last year following a rent review, having been run by the same family since 1978. The Truman's wood panelling has been stripped out, now a Thai restaurant.

**E2 0LJ, RAILWAY TAVERN** (ex-Pubs'n'Bars). Having closed in 2014, demolished within a couple of years.

**E13 9AR, DUKE OF EDINBURGH**, 299 Green St. Having closed in 2014, now a clothes shop with residential upstairs.

**E14 8BP, NARROW** (Gordon Ramsay). Was BARLEY MOW. Cask beer discontinued.

**E16 2BX, BRICK LANE BREWS** (Truman). Cask beer discontinued.

**NORTH**

**N1 8LN, WENLOCK & ESSEX** (Barworks). Cask beer discontinued.

**N9 7ES, COCK** (Pubs Alive Ltd). Having closed in 2014, became a Turkish restaurant last year.

**N12 0BP, RESHAM**. Was BELGRAVE TAVERN, O'NEILLS,

AUTUMN HOUSE. Closed in 2014, acquired by Finchley High Road Securities LLP, permission granted last year for residential conversion upstairs with retail on ground floor.

**N18 1PY, TALBOT FREEHOUSE** (Enterprise). Cask beer discontinued.

**N21 2QP, GREEN DRAGON** (ex-Enterprise). Was JIM THOMPSONS. Having closed in 2015 for residential conversion upstairs, the ground floor is now a Waitrose.

**ENFIELD (EN1 1UY), OLD ORLEANS** (Intertain). Sold to M&B in 2011 and repositioned as a **HARVESTER**, not previously reported. Since closed, sold to The Restaurant Group, now Chiquitos and Frankie & Benny's restaurants.

**ENFIELD (EN3 7BA), ALMA**. Was COACH ARMS. Closed in 2012, converted to residential.

**ENFIELD (EN3 7HP), GOLDEN HIVE** (ex-Punch). Having closed in 2015, now converted to flats.

**NEW BARNET (EN4 9HG), JESTER**. Closed in 2013, a planning application to demolish for residential development has been withdrawn.

**NORTH WEST**

**NW2 1HB, EVOLUTION**. Was WELCOME INN, MCGOWANS. Having closed last year, now 'Lounge4:04', a music-oriented bar with no draught beer.

**NW6 7JR, GOOD SHIP**. Was ZD BAR. This music-oriented bar closed in October after late-night opening was curtailed by licensing conditions, future uncertain.

**NW10 1QR, GALWAY HOOKER** (Mexlor Ltd). Was DICEYS. Closed, demolished in 2012.

**NW10 2QD, SPOTTED DOG** (Star). Having closed in 2007, now a Costa Coffee.

**EDGWARE (HA8 0BE), BALD FACED STAG** (Punch). Sold, closed in 2013, permission granted for residential conversion with retail on ground floor.

**SOUTH EAST**

**SE5 0RP, BEAR** (Wellington). Was JACK BEARDS. Closed for extensive refurbishment.

**SE13 5HB, HOLLY TREE**. Closed and boarded, future uncertain.

**SE13 5LD, WHITE HORSE** (Enterprise). Was ONE. Closed in September following withdrawal of licence, future uncertain.

**SE15 4HY, GOWLETT**. Closed in November, future uncertain.

**SE19 2AA, GRAPE & GRAIN**. Was CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN, SPORTSMAN, OCCASIONAL HALF, JACK BEARDS AT THE PALACE. Freehold acquired in 2014 by Wetherspoon, who allowed the existing lease to run to term. Closed in November, further developments awaited.

**SE27 9BQ, WHITE HART TAVERN** (Star). Closed, lease on the market.

**BEXLEY (DA5 3NE), COACH & HORSES** (Punch). Closed in October, permission granted to demolish for residential development.

**BROMLEY COMMON (BR2 9RJ), CROWN** (M&B). Cask beer discontinued, handpumps removed.

**COULSDON (CR5 2QJ), JACK & JILL** (Punch). Cask beer discontinued.



**SIDCUP (DA15 8EA), BLACK BOY (Punch).** Cask beer discontinued.

**SOUTH CROYDON (CR2 6PW), BASKERVILLE (Star).** Was LE REFUGE, SPOOFERS BAR, FOLLY. Closed in September, future uncertain.

## SOUTH WEST

**SW1E 5JE, LA TASCA (Bay Restaurant Group).** Closed, now a Bill's chain restaurant.

**SW3 2AW, LA BRASSERIE.** Closed, future uncertain.

**SW6 4XG, ARAGON HOUSE.** Freehold acquired in autumn by City Pub Co, closed until late 2018.

**SW6 2TY, HURLINGHAM (ex-Greene King).** Was GOOSE, WANDSWORTH BRIDGE TAVERN. Having closed in 2015, permission granted for partial demolition and residential development with retail on ground floor.

**SW8 1SP, COUNTER.** Closed in the summer.

**SW10 9UJ, FOX & PHEASANT (James Blunt Pubs).** Closed in August, will hopefully reopen.

**SW16 6NR, FURZEDOWN (Enterprise).** Was PARK TAVERN, SAMUEL JOHNSON. Cask beer discontinued, handpump removed.

**SW19 2PT, WIMBLEDON BREWERY TAP.** Closed in October, space required for brewing equipment. Shop still open 11-5 Mon-Fri for off-sales.

**SUTTON (SM1 4BX), NEW INN (Enterprise).** Closed in September, freehold on the market.

## WEST

**W4 1TE, NOVA.** Was PITCHER & PIANO, REVOLUTION, 18 20. Closed, now a restaurant.

**W10 5PR, WEST THIRTY SIX (Enterprise).** Was EARL OF WARWICK, GOLBORNE HOUSE, GROVE, PORTOBELLO BRIDGE, EARL. Closed, becoming a restaurant.

**W12 8PH, BELUSHI'S (Beds & Bars).** Was NEW TELEGRAPH TAVERN. Cask beer discontinued some time ago, not previously reported.

**HAYES (UB3 4QS), CRANE (ex-Punch).** Closed and boarded, future uncertain.

**HEATHROW (TW6 1QG), RHUBARB.** Renamed PILOTS, cask beer discontinued.

**HOUNSLOW (TW3 3ET), WINDSOR CASTLE (ex-Greene King).** Closed and demolished.

**SOUTHALL (UB2 4JB), LAMB.** Cask beer discontinued.

**TWICKENHAM (TW2 5PE), FOUNTAIN (Whitbread).** Cask beer discontinued.

**TWICKENHAM (TW2 6QJ), KINGS ARMS.** Having closed in 2014, permission granted in April for residential conversion.

## OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & CASK BEER RANGES

## CENTRAL

**EC1M 6DH, SPORTS BAR & GRILL (Bar Holdings).** Was HOGSHEAD, SLUG & LETTUCE. Acquired in September by Stonegate.



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**EC2A 3BS, ELBOW ROOM.** Renamed c.2014 **FAR ROCK AWAY** but not reported at the time. Renamed again this year **BALLIE BALLERSON**, a 'ball-pit' bar, still no cask beer.

**EC2A 4LB, FOX** (Enterprise). Operator Handmade Pubs acquired in October by Glendola Leisure. Sharp's Doom Bar and three guests.

**EC4Y 1DE, PUNCH TAVERN** (Punch). Taken over in September by Urban Pubs & Bars. Three cask beers.

**WC2H 9PS, CROWN & ANCHOR** (Enterprise). Lease taken over from Market Taverns in 2013 by Glendola Leisure. Sharp's Atlantic IPA and Doom Bar, plus four guests e.g. Sambrook's, Southwark, Twickenham.

**WC2R 2PH, WALKABOUT** (Stonegate). Was **SHOELESS JOE'S**. Renamed **SALSA!**, the second outlet for a Latin-American themed chain. Still no cask beer.

**W1T 5DU, GRAFTON ARMS** (Greene King leased). Was **HOGSHEAD**. Acquired by First Restaurant Group, upstairs bar converted to guest accommodation. Sharp's Cornish Coaster and two guests, e.g. By the Horns, Reunion.

### EAST

**E14 5AR, SPORTS BAR & GRILL** (Bar Holdings). Acquired in September by Stonegate.

**E14 4DH, TEA MERCHANT** (Fuller). Was **CAT & CANARY**. Name shortened to **MERCHANT**. Fuller's cask beers and now a wider range of keg beers.

**E17 3PR, EMPIRE E17.** Was **RISING SUN, RS LOUNGE**. Renamed **CYPRUS EMPIRE**. Still no cask beer.

### NORTH

**N3 1DP, CATCHER IN THE RYE** (Stonegate). Now up to four cask beers, e.g. Greene King, Sharp's, Thornbridge.

**N8 8JP, ALEX** (Enterprise). Was **PRINCESS ALEXANDRA, VILLIERS TERRACE**. Taken over by the operator of the Alma (Newington Green) and North by North West, N1 and redecorated with lots of film posters. Three changing cask beers, e.g. Hammerton, Redemption, Wells. Keg beers include two from Hammerton.

**N15 6JU, CROWE BAR** (Enterprise). Was **MOLL CUTPURSE**. Renamed **BALABAM**, a live music venue.

**N21 3NB, QUEENS HEAD** (Enterprise). Transferred to Bermondsey Pub Co managed estate. Now has Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar, Twickenham Naked Ladies and two guests from the SIBA range.

**BARNET (EN5 5SU), MONK** (Greene King). Reverted to **YE OLDE MONKEN HOLT**.

### NORTH WEST

**NW1 8HX, LANSDOWNE**. Operator Handmade Pubs acquired in October by Glendola Leisure.

**NW1 6JJ, SPORTS BAR & GRILL** (Bar Holdings). Acquired in September by Stonegate.

**NW10 1QG, SAL'S BAR.** Was **FINNEGAN'S WAKE**. Renamed **FIELD**. Still no cask beer.

**HARROW (HA2 0AJ), SHAFTESBURY** (Upper Deck). Was **J J MOONS, ECLIPSE**. Changed hands some years ago and now renamed **MAYA PUB**. Still no cask beer.

**PINNER (HA5 3TE), SYNC** (Star). Was **STARLING**. Acquired by Admiral Taverns, the only Greater London site of 30 that Star sold to gain approval for their megadeal with Punch. Still no cask beer.

**SUDBURY (HA0 3EP), CUBE** (Bhoomi Ltd). Was **MONSOON**. Acquired by Malika Catering Ltd and renamed **HIMALAYAN CLUB**, restaurant with lounge bar. Still no cask beer.

**WEALDSTONE (HA3 5AA), STAR LOUNGE.** Was **MUMBAI MASTI**. Renamed **CLUB KTM**, a restaurant, bar & club.

**WEMBLEY (HA9 8HQ), FIRST CLASS SPORTS BAR.** Renamed **DOUBLE 6 SPORTS BAR**. Still no cask beer.

### SOUTH EAST

**SE1 7RG, CARRIAGE 34** (Enterprise). Was **SPANISH PATRIOT, RUBY LOUNGE, LOUNGE 34**. Renamed **VAULTY TOWERS**. Still no cask beer.

**SE1 7LY, SPORTS BAR & GRILL** (Bar Holdings). Acquired in September by Stonegate.

**CHELSEFIELD (BR6 6EY), CHELSFIELD** (Gladewood Taverns). Now has five handpumps. Sharp's Doom Bar and Sea Fury, plus up to three guests.

### SOUTH WEST

**SW1V 1JU, SPORTS BAR & GRILL** (Bar Holdings). Acquired in September by Stonegate.

**SW1V 2SA, WHITE SWAN** (Greene King). Freehold acquired by McMullen in 2012. Brought under direct management in September. McMullen Country Bitter, IPA and house beer.

**SW8 2LE, SOUK.** Was **AQUA**. Taken over in September by Camden Management, now the fourth **COTTONS** 'restaurant & rum shack'. No cask beer. Limited keg beers.

**SW11 1TQ, POWDER KEG DIPLOMACY** (Lost Group). Taken over in September by Clapham Leisure, who also operate WC (Wine & Charcuterie), SW4 and renamed **POWDERKEG**. Now often only one cask beer.

**SW16 5NJ, GREYHOUND.** Renamed **RABBIT HOLE** in June, now more of a restaurant with extensive Alice in Wonderland theming. For the time being still no cask beer at this former brewpub.

**SW18 4ST, MEL'S** (Food & Fuel). Was **OPEN PAGE**. Renamed **HALLOWED BELLY**. No cask beer. Keg beers include Beavertown, Moor and Camden.

**WORCESTER PARK (KT4 7RA), PLOUGH** (M&B). No longer a Harvester, rebranded as a **MILLER & CARTER** steakhouse with previous name no longer displayed, but retaining a bar area. Still no cask beer.

### WEST

**W13 0SY, FLYNN'S PUB & DINER** (Greene King lease). Was **YE OLDE HATTE, WALSINGHAM ARMS**. Taken over by Mulberry Inns and renamed **OLD HAT**. Greene King IPA and Old Speckled Hen, plus guest, e.g. Timothy Taylor.

**HEATHROW (TW6 1AY), BRIDGE BAR** (Restaurant Group), Terminal 3 Airside. Was **O'NEILLS**. Renamed **CURATOR**. One Greene King cask beer. A few local keg beers.

**WEST DRAYTON (UB7 7DQ), CRISPY DOSA LOUNGE** (ex-Punch). Reverted to **DE BURGH ARMS**. Still no cask beer.



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Here are a couple of books which, in my opinion, would make a good Christmas present for the pub enthusiast who is fed up with socks or handkerchiefs! They have their similarities but are different in their presentation.

## UNUSUAL PUBS BY BOOT, BIKE AND BOAT BY BOB BARTON

I reviewed Bob's previous book *Unusual Railway Pubs, Refreshment Rooms and Ale Trains* in 2013 and his new work, clearly another labour of love, follows much the same format although I must stress that there is no duplication. Although he is a CAMRA member, Bob also stresses that the book is not about beer quality but just 'the wonderful creation that is the British pub', 150 of them in all. It is, I suppose, what you would call a coffee table book at 24 cm x 22 cm and it is the kind of book that I would keep by the sofa and dip into in quiet moments.



The main part of the book is the gazetteer in which places (some have more than one pub described) are listed in alphabetic order from Andover to York so you can be in Staffordshire on one page and in Wiltshire the next. Some may not like that but I like the pot luck effect and there is an index map. All of the London pubs are together. I'm not going to spoil the delight by picking out any particular pubs but I am grateful to Bob for reminding me of the Captain Digby near Margate which has echoes of childhood holidays and which I had not thought about for years. It's that sort of book.

The whole book is very readable,

especially the introduction which sets up the book nicely. There is also a section containing tips for travelling by the methods included in the title, and a bibliography and an index. There are, of course, lots of very good and very well composed photos, most taken by the author but also some historical gems.

It took Bob three years to write this book and it was not wasted. I like this book and I recommend it unreservedly. It is well worth the £16.99 cover price in my view. It is in hardback format (144 pages) and it is available from good bookshops or the publishers, Halsgrove (Halsgrove Direct) on 01823 653777 (ISBN 978 0 85704 305 4).

## SOUTHWARK PUBS BY JOHNNY HOMER

This is also the second book by this author that I have reviewed. Again it follows the pattern of the previous book reviewed, Clerkenwell & Islington Pubs, being a gazetteer of pubs of the historic area of Southwark split into four zones. 43 pubs are listed, from the riverside out to SE22 and there is a handy map which links it all together. There is a very informative introduction and the sections on the pubs themselves cover their history, architecture and context. As you would expect, there are a lot of very good photos.



I was glad to see mention of the infamous Becky's Dive Bar. I went there

two or three times in the early 1970s when I was a naive young lad who had just started work and it was quite a culture shock I can tell you! There is an error as regards Harvey's Brewery but I've notified that to the author and will leave it at that.

The book, very appropriately in my view, carries a dedication to 'all those involved and affected by the events that took place in Southwark on the evening of 3 June 2017' and suggests that we all 'raise a glass to their courage and fortitude.'

The format is paperback, 16½ cm x 23½ cm, (96 pages) so it is easily carried around as you explore. Again, highly recommended. The cover price is £14.99 and it is obtainable on-line from the publishers, Amberley Publishing at [www.amberley-books.com](http://www.amberley-books.com) (ISBN 978 1 4456 6818 5).

Tony Hedger

## CAMRA'S HOME-BREWING PROBLEM SOLVER

Budding home-brewers and beer enthusiasts can find the solution to the most frequent problems they may run into with CAMRA's latest title, CAMRA's Home-Brewing Problem Solver.

Across eight chapters, with accompanying photographs, author Erik Lars Myers examines the underlying causes of common problems that can arise at each stage of the brewing process and offers practical solutions, tips and insights on snags and setbacks. It is suitable for first-timers trying out a new hobby as well as old hands looking to produce finely crafted artisan ale.

The book is available on-line from the CAMRA Shop, <https://shop.camra.org.uk/camra-s-home-brewing-problem-solver.html> for £10.99 (£8.99 for CAMRA members).

From a CAMRA press release

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**H**ello again and seasonal felicitations to you all. Don't tell anybody, but I've made a mistake. In the August/September Idle Moments I stated that following the closure of Wimbledon there is only one greyhound stadium still operating in Greater London. In the answers in October this was given as being in Crayford in the Borough of Bexley. It is but, as correspondent Colin Price pointed out it isn't the only one – Romford greyhound track in the London Borough of Havering is also still operating. Sorry.

Now, let's have some number puzzles:

1. 25 L of the T in a TTMR
2. 2037 F is the H of S (HP of the I of M)
3. 20 AN of C
4. 15 NP in the UK
5. 4 OGM of MF
6. 2448 M is the L of RSS
7. 82 TN of SA on a DB
8. 4 LS on the I of A
9. 170 HPC in D
10. 625 A is the CA of HP and KG

Sadly, there is a limit to the number of times I can create a 5BY4 from Christmas No. 1 hits so I've had to use something else. Poking around a certain online encyclopaedia I found a list of current (at the time of writing) prime ministers around the World. I thought I would select ten from the Commonwealth of Nations (It's not been called the British Commonwealth for many years.) Can you connect them?

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Australia         | A. Fabian Picardo   |
| 2. Canada            | B. Peter O'Neill    |
| 3. Guyana            | C. Keith Rowley     |
| 4. New Zealand       | D. Narendra Modi    |
| 5. Papua New Guinea  | E. Malcolm Turnbull |
| 6. Jamaica           | F. Joseph Muscat    |
| 7. India             | G. Jacinda Ardern   |
| 8. Trinidad & Tobago | H. Moses Nagamootoo |
| 9. Gibraltar         | I. Andrew Holness   |
| 10. Malta            | J. Justin Trudeau   |

And so we come at last to the general trivia bit. As before I thought I would try to pull together some questions related to Christmas and the New Year so here we go.

1. Lewis Winogradsky was born on 25th December 1906 in Russia. He subsequently became an impresario in England – under what name?
2. The Stone of Scone (or Stone of Destiny) was stolen from Westminster Abbey by Scottish nationalists on Christmas Day in what year?
3. Violet Carson (Ena Sharples in Coronation Street) died aged 85 on Boxing Day in what year?
4. What German battleship was sunk off North Cape, Norway, on Boxing Day in 1943?
5. Which Saint is celebrated on 26 December?
6. Samuel Pepys commenced his famous diary on 1 January but in what year?
7. The first vehicle registration number (A1) was issued on

1 January in what year? It was affixed to a Napier car owned by Earl Russell.

8. The Manchester Ship Canal opened to traffic on 1 January in what year? The official opening ceremony was subsequently performed by Queen Victoria on 31 May of the same year.
9. Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba from President Fulgencio Batista on 1 January of what year?
10. And finally, in what year was 1 January first celebrated as a public holiday in England and Wales?

Well, that's your lot for another year. I trust that you will have a pleasant and peaceful festive season and a preposterous New Year.

**Andy Pirson**

## IDLE MOMENTS – THE ANSWERS

As usual, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in the October/November Idle Moments column.

### NUMBER PUZZLES:

1. 60163 is the Tornado
2. 18 nautical miles is the width of the Straits of Dover
3. 14,500 people per square mile in Greater London
4. 4-6-0 the wheel arrangement on an Atlantic locomotive
5. 3 Top Ten hit singles for Chas and Dave
6. 12 pairs of ribs in the human body
7. 205 is the route number of the South Circular Road
8. 100 is the logarithm of a googol
9. 360 degrees is the sum of the angles in a rectangle
10. 2 cities in Greater London

### 5BY4: ("Tell" hits)

1. Tell it to My Heart (1) – Taylor Dayne
2. Tell Me When (7) – Applejacks
3. Tell Me (4) – Melanie B
4. Tell Her About It (4) – Billy Joel
5. Tell Me That You Love Me (25) – Paul Anka
6. Tell Laura I Love Her (1) – Ricky Valance
7. Tell Me Why (15) – Elvis Presley
8. Tell Me There's a Heaven (24) – Chris Rea
9. Tell Me What He said (2) – Helen Shapiro
10. Tell Him (10) – Billie Davis

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The full list of the 13 Atlantic coastal states of the USA is as follows. (The states omitted in the question are in bold type): Maine, **New Hampshire**, Massachusetts, **Rhode Island**, Connecticut, **New York**, New Jersey, **Delaware**, Maryland, **Virginia**, North Carolina, **South Carolina**, Florida.
2. The Queen Elizabeth II Great Court, developed in the 1990's, is the centre of the British Museum.
3. Adelaide of Saxe Meiningen was the Queen Consort to King William IV.
4. And Elizabeth of York was the wife of King Henry VII.

- Ireland's highest peak is Carrauntoohil (3,406 ft.) in County Kerry. It is located in Macgillycuddy's Reeks.
- Just as a 50th anniversary is designated as gold, the anniversary represented by oak is the 80th.
- In addition to the four who were assassinated, four presidents of the USA died in office of other causes. They were William Henry Harrison (1841), Zachary Taylor (1850), Warren G Harding (1923) and Franklin D Roosevelt (1945).
- And talking of assassinated US presidents, the one who was shot by Leon Czolgosz was William McKinley (1901).
- Before George VI (who followed his brother Edward VIII) the last British king who had not been Prince of Wales was William IV (Duke of Clarence); he succeeded his brother George IV.
- And (excluding the present incumbent) who was the last Prince of Wales who did not become King was Frederick Lewis of Hanover (son of George II). He predeceased his father so his son became George III. Of course, the reference to the current PoW should include the word 'yet'...

The print run for this issue of *London Drinker* is 26,000.

It is distributed by CAMRA volunteers to some

1,200 pubs and clubs in and around Greater London.



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## Collaborative Fuller's

The Brewers at Fuller's have been playing! In a project called Fullers and Friends, one of six of their brewers teamed up with six English brewers to create six new one-off beers. The beers were all brewed at Fuller's brewery in Chiswick and the process went all the way through to designing the label.

The weakest (4.8% ABV) is Galleon, a dry hopped lager using the New Zealand Nelson Sauvin and American Loral hops and brewed in conjunction with London's Fourpure Brewing Co.

The next was produced with Marble from Manchester, a Saison style beer called Matariki using New Zealand hops at 5.8% ABV.

More traditionally, Rebirth (6% ABV), is based on a 1971 ESB recipe and was brewed with Bristol's Moor Beer Company. It is a delicious full bodied strong bitter that will only improve with ageing.

The other three are 7% ABV or above. Working with Thornbridge, there is a red rye ale called 'Flora & the Griffin', using American hops and taking its name from the symbols of the two breweries. Cloudwater has pitched in with a New England IPA using two American hops, Chinook and Simcoe plus one English, Olicana, and the sixth beer was made with Cumbrian Brewer, Hardknott, and is a rich smoked English hopped porter called Peat Souper.

John Keeling, Fuller's Global Ambassador, said: "It has been a privilege to be able to welcome these six brewers to Fuller's home to create these new beers. I have always enjoyed doing collaborations and to extend this to include brewers from other breweries all over the country seemed like it would be such fun for everyone. Collaborating on beers is much more effective when meeting a brewer face to face. Collaboration is not just about agreeing a recipe then brewing a beer, it is a great way to make friends so Georgina and I asked Rob at Thornbridge, Dave at Hardknott, Dan at Fourpure, Justin at Moor, James at Cloudwater and JK at Marble, all of whom I knew, some I had already brewed with but all were friends, to get involved. What better way to get the team at Fuller's to experience the full meaning of collaboration than for them to work with these great brewers? The levels of enthusiasm and creativity in our first meeting was so inspiring and it did not take long for recipes and trial brews to follow. I am looking forward to tasting all the final brews and to continue the legacy of Fuller's and Friends with other brewers in the future."

Whetted your appetite? A six pack, with one bottle of each of the beers, will be on sale exclusively at Waitrose in time for Christmas although it is also available from the Fuller's shop. It could make a nice present for a beer lover. See <http://cryneinyourbeer.sitelio> for my full tasting notes.

**Christine Cryne**



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# Why should I join CAMRA?

**D**o you want to help promote the joys of real ale and protect the great British pub? Then please think about joining CAMRA. In material terms, you will get:

- Our monthly newspaper '*What's Brewing*'
- Our quarterly magazine 'Beer'
- Discounts on CAMRA books
- Discounts at some carefully selected holiday companies
- Free or discounted entry to most CAMRA beer festivals
- Discounts at some pubs, at their discretion

More importantly, you will meet new friends. CAMRA members are a wonderful mix of people of all ages, from all walks of life and we appreciate that not everyone has time to give so there are no expectations. If you look at the branch diaries at the front of this magazine you will see that CAMRA branches run a variety of social events. It isn't all committee meetings and you will not be jumped on to take a job of some sort, although if after a while you feel like doing so, more the better. Your help with such tasks as lobbying MPs, surveying pubs or liaising with breweries will be a great help. CAMRA is run by volunteers, right up to its National Executive.

Most CAMRA beer festivals are looking for volunteers and there is a very wide range of jobs available. There is a special sort of camaraderie among beer festival volunteers. It's hard work but there are many who having tried it once, are hooked for life.

As we go to print, single membership, paid by Direct Debit, costs £25 and Joint membership (partner at same address) £30.50. Add £2 if not paying by Direct Debit.

Please note that some membership rates will be increased from 1 January 2018.

You can find out more at <https://join.camra.org.uk> or search 'join CAMRA'.



## London LocAle scheme

The following pubs have joined the London LocAle scheme since the last issue of *London Drinker* went to press:

Dodo Micropub	52 Boston Road, Hanwell, W7 3TR	Various
Hop & Vine	18 High Street, Ruislip, HA4 7AN	Various
Owl & The Pussycat	106 Northfield Avenue, West Ealing, W13 9RT	Marko Paulo
Ramblers Rest	Mill Place, Chislehurst, BR7 5ND	Westerham
Sir Colin Campbell	264-266 Kilburn High Road, NW6 2BY	Hammerton, Moncada, One Mile End
		Redemption
Village Inn	122-124 Pitshanger Lane, Ealing, W5 1QP	Twickenham

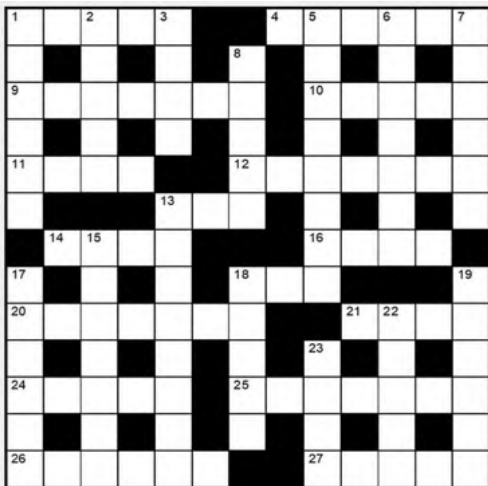
The following pubs have left the scheme.

Forester	2 Leighton Road, West Ealing, W13 9EP
Fox	Green Lane, Hanwell, W7 2PJ
Grape & Grain	Anerley Hill, Crystal Palace, SE19 2TF
JJ Moons	12 Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor, HA4 0AA

The complete list is maintained at [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk)

**The Oxford English Dictionary defines real ale as “Cask-conditioned beer that is served traditionally, without additional gas pressure”**

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON  
£20 prize to be won



Name .....

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All correct entries received by first post on 24 January will be entered into a draw for the prize.

The prize winner will be announced in the April/May *London Drinker*. The solution will be given in the February/March 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.

## OCTOBER'S SOLUTION



## ACROSS

1. Drunk man is supple. [5]
4. Actors stage new review. [6]
9. Can't use, sadly, though he's very keen. [7]
10. External connector with no opening. [5]
11. Topless girl friend. [4]
12. Fresh wine from the Isle of Wight. [7]
13. Cook little fish. [3]
14. Small vehicle showing evidence of damage. [4]
16. Bones starts to observe Star Ship astronauts. [4]
18. Free trip cut short. [3]
20. Arrive with favourite in race. [7]
21. Go after english weapon. [4]
24. Nothing shocking in fruit. [5]
25. Goes out with former nurses. [7]
26. It's miserable back in the outskirts of Derby. [6]
27. Number 3, strangely. [5]

## DOWN

1. Settle on gold carriage. [6]
2. Drink most of the beer? All of it! [5]
3. Dash of orange peel and tonic. [4]
5. Satisfying deal, maybe, on course. [8]
6. Son into crazy ideas. [7]
7. Priest converted devil. [6]
8. Ultimate perfume in £25 flower. [5]
13. It may be advertised tomorrow in a pub. [4,4]
15. Get together and search in England's capital. [7]
17. A C string produces harmony. [6]
18. Rise up, open ball, and dance around. [5]
19. Look round ship and get below. [6]
22. Hit the drink. [5]
23. A sore point in past years. [4]

Winner of the prize for the August Crossword:  
Ebenezer Crutten, Carshalton

Other correct entries were received from:

D Abbey, Tony Ahrens, Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, H.Arnott, Lorraine Bamford, John Barker, Rob Barker, Helen Batley, Phil & Rose Bell, Mike Belsham, Alan Bird, Steve Block, John Bowler, Mrs L. R Brand, Hugh Breach, Kelvin Brewster, Jeremy Brinkworth, Andrew Brown, Eddie Carr, Peter Charles, Hilary Clark, Brian Collins, Richard Conway, Graham Craig, Kevin Creighton, Les Crighton, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Ida Downes, Steve Downey, Tom Drane, Kathryn Everett, Peter Everett, D Fleming, Richard Garton, Saffron Geal, Marion Goodall, Roger Grant, Paul Gray, J E Green, Neil Green, Alan Greer, Matthew Griffiths, Caroline Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Peter Haines, 'Shropshire' Dave Hardy, Bob Harrison, John Heath, Alison Henley, Graham Hill, David Hough, Martin Jackson, Chris James, Antony Jenkins, David Jiggins, M Jobson, Eric Johnstone, D M L Jones, Mick Joyce, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Aidan Laverty, Julie Lee, David Lopatis, Gerald Lopatis, Malcolm Lowing, Donald MacAuley, Ken Mackenzie, Ms Gerry McCargo, Derek McDonnell, Jim McInnes, Pat Maginn, Steve Maloney, John Mannel, Tony Martin, Dylan Mason, Terry Mellor, Rob Mills, Pam Moger, Jan Mondrzejewski, M J Moran, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Paul Nicholls, Mark Nichols, M Ognjenovic, Michael Oliver, Steve Palmer, Nigel Parsons, G Patterson, Alan Pennington, J Pettett, Mark Pilkington, Mick Place, Robert Pleasants, G.Pote, Jeanette Powell, Derek Pryce, James Rawle, Richard Rogers, N P J Rowe, Pete Simmonds, Peter Smith, Ruth Smith, Ian Symes, Bill Thackray, Colin Thew, Geoffrey Turner-Mutch, Neil Walton, Martin Weedon, Alan Welsh, Elizabeth Whale, Janet Wight, John Williamson, Sue Wilson, N V Woodford, David Woodward, Brian Wright, Peter Wright & the Missus, Ray Wright.

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