



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

LONDON

DRINKER

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FREE

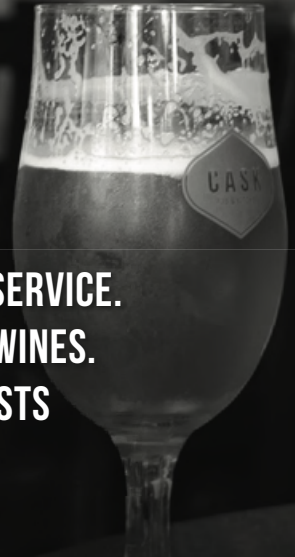


The Swan, Bayswater Road, see page 38 (Photo supplied by Fuller's)



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NEOPHILIA VS NEOPHOBIA

Don't worry: all it means is a love of the new as opposed to a dislike of the new. I have been pondering the issue of unfiltered or unfiltered beers for some time now but I have been prompted to write following a Facebook trail which, alas, as sometimes happens, I think got out of hand. I hope that I may bring some clarification.

I suspect that for beer drinkers of my age, influenced perhaps by TV advertising (*Works wonders*, etc), a clear pint has always been an indication of quality. It probably predates that, with the coming of clear glass drinking vessels. I believe that Roger Protz has written on this subject with his usual erudition so do look at his website <http://protzonbeer.co.uk>. I would go as far as to say that this is still the 'default setting' for British beers. Times change however and we now have a number of brewers, not least in London, who want to try something different and who am I to criticise that?

The incident which provoked me was a picture of a cask at Derby Winter Ale Festival (which I attended and very good it was too) with a sign saying 'hazy' or something like that. The person posting took exception to this, saying that CAMRA was fifty years out of date etc etc. I can only presume that the protagonist thought that the bar staff should not be alerting people in this way. I disagree. Brewers have the perfect right to either brew beer with ingredients that will not allow the beer to drop bright (for example, wheat beers and sometimes those brewed with rye or oats) or simply not to fine or filter their beers. There is no question about that. However, the customers are then entitled to know that this is

what the beer is going to be like before they part with their money. It might well be disappointing that they are not prepared to give them a try but that is their right. Not to tell them is unfair. I know that we are not supposed to 'drink with our eyes' but yeast in suspension also affects the taste of the beer. Each to his or her own but I, for one, like my beers to have a hoppy bitterness and yeast notes are not what I want.

In addition, it is not fair on the publican if there is no indication from the brewer that the beer is intentionally hazy. How is the publican to know whether it has not just failed to drop clear? That said, to fine a beer that the brewery wants served unfiltered is quite wrong.

How do readers feel about this? Any sensible views welcome. If the troll who threatened to kill me for holding similar views a couple of years back is still around, don't bother. Thanks to you I no longer have a Twitter account.

THE FUTURE OF LONDON DRINKER

As most readers will know, *London Drinker* is funded entirely from advertising income. We receive no subsidy from CAMRA nationally nor do we wish to. With the discontinuation of the paper version of the *NME*, I can imagine many readers will have wondered how much longer *London Drinker* has got. As far as it is my decision as editor, the answer is that we will keep going for as long as we possibly can.

I am not a modern day Luddite; I use social media (except Twitter!) regularly myself – perhaps too much! The problem however with websites and blogspots and the like is that you have to know about them to access them. It may be produced by CAMRA but *London Drinker* is not a magazine for active CAMRA members. Our target audience is the ordinary pub-goer and non-active CAMRA members. Our aim, as Lord Reith wanted for the BBC, is to 'inform, educate and entertain'. To me, the most important aspect of *London Drinker* is that someone can

see it sitting in its holder in the corner of the pub, wonder what it is about and take a copy. Hopefully we then have them hooked and we may have a new member or an existing member activated.

It follows that I must thank deeply the army of volunteers who distribute the magazine to pubs, without whom the exercise simply does not work. Likewise our advertisements manager, John Galpin, without whom there would be no magazine to distribute.

John, very nobly, is not scared of hard work. If you are running a pub or a brewery which has a beer festival or similar event coming up, get in touch with him. His details and the costs of our adverts are given elsewhere in the magazine. You will be getting your message to around 26,000 people who may not be on your social media lists.

Tony Hedger

**At 28 February 2018,
CAMRA had 191,221
members, of whom
18,738 live in the
Greater London area**

The 8th Ruislip Beer Festival

**31 May to 2 June. Venue Ruislip Rugby Club
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For full details see
ruislipbeerfestival.camra.org.uk

*This is not an official CAMRA festival
but it is supported by the local branch*

STOP PRESS . . .

The winner of CAMRA North London Branch's Pub of the Year award was announced at London Drinker Beer Festival. It is Tapping The Admiral, 77 Castle Road, Camden Town NW1 8SU. This follows their wins in 2013 and 2015. Our congratulations to them accordingly.

The date for the presentation of the award certificate is Tuesday 8 May at 8pm (tbc). Check the branch website, www.northlondon.camra.org.uk for details.



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**SPBW London Pub of the Year 2013
CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE 2018**



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Branch diaries

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA contacts and events, where branches say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for April and May 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.

REGIONAL EVENT

Regional Secretary: Roy Tunstall,
roytunstall.camra@gmail.com

May – Wed 23 (7pm) London Brewery Liaison Officers' mtg. Star Tavern (upstairs), 6 Belgrave Mews West, SW1X 8HT.
Website: www.london.camra.org.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

April – Wed 25 Belsize Park and Kentish Town: (7pm) Washington, 50 Englands La, NW3 4UE; (7.50) Lord Southampton, 2 Southampton Rd, NW5 4HX; (8.50) Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd, NW5 1LE; (9.30) Dartmouth Arms, 35 York Rise, NW5 1SP; (10.10) Junction Tavern, 101 Fortress Rd, NW5 1AG. Public transport will be required at times.

May – Wed 16 (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

LONDON CIDER GROUP

April – Sat 28 London Cider Festival, New Cross. See page 15
Regional Cider Co-ordinator: Denis Bowen,
ednabowen@gmail.com

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

April – Sat 7 (2pm) Brixton Brewery tour and tasting. Arch 547, Brixton Station Rd, SW9 8PF, brewery founded in 2013 by two local couples, Jez and Libby and Mike and Xochitl; you might have seen their beers around London. Jez will be on hand to give us a guided tour and answer questions before a tasting and chance to experience their tap room. Spaces are limited, so please join our Facebook event to let us know you can make it:
www.facebook.com/events/1824836484235244/
Email group: <http://groups.google.com/group/london-camra-ym>

BEXLEY

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

April – Wed 4 Belvedere soc: start (7.30) Fox, 79 Nuxley Rd, DA17 5JU. - **Wed 11** (8.30) Mtg. Hackney Carriage, 165 Station Rd, Sidcup DA15 7AA. - **Sat 21** 286 Bus soc: start (12pm) Hill Top Tap, 7-8 Main Rd, Sidcup DA14 6NF. - **Wed 25** (8pm) Pre-Bexley Beer Fest soc. Dartfordians Sports Club, War Memorial Club House, Bourne Rd, Bexley DA5 1LW. - **Sat 28** New Cross Cider Fest. See page 15.

May – Wed 9 (8.30) Mtg. Door Hinge, 11 Welling High St, DA16 1TR. - **Thu 17** (8pm) Cider soc. Kentish Belle, 8 Pickford La, Bexleyheath DA7 4QW. - **Wed 23** Bexleyheath soc: start (8pm) Kings Arms, 156 Broadway, DA6 7DW.
Website: 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

April – Fri 6 Penge SE20 soc: (4pm) Crooked Billet, 99 High St, 7DT; (5pm) Brewery Tap (Southey Brewing), 21 Southey St, 7JD; (6pm) Goldsmiths Arms, 3 Croydon Rd, 7TJ; (7pm) Moon & Stars, 164 High St, 7QS. - **Mon 16** Lunchtime soc. in Farnborough: (12.30) Change of Horses, 87 High St, BR6 7BB; (1.30) Woodman, 50 High St, 7BA. - **Tue 24** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Two Doves, 37 Oakley Rd, Bromley Common BR2 8HD.

May – Thu 3 (2pm) Bexley Beer Fest soc. Dartfordians Sports Club, War Memorial Club House, Bourne Rd, Bexley DA5 1LW. - **Wed 9** Orpington BR6 soc: (7.30) Maxwell, Station Rd, ORZ; (8.30) Cricketers, 93 Chislehurst Rd, 0DQ; (9.30) Harvest Moon. 141 High St, 0LQ. - **Tue 15** (7.30) Pub of the Year award evening. Star & Garter, 227 High St, Bromley BR1 1NZ. - **Mon 21** (from 7pm) Club of the Year award & Meet the Brewer evening. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd, BR6 ORZ. - **Thu 24** (12pm) Kidbrooke Beer Fest soc. Charlton Park RFC, 60A Broadwalk, SE3 8NB. - **Tue 29** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Queens Head, 25 High St, Downe BR6 7US.
Website: www.bromley.camra.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Social sec: Terry Hewitt, 020 8660 5931,
contact@croydon.camra.org.uk

April – Thu 5 (1pm) Croydon lunchtime soc. Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Rd, CRO 6BR. - **Wed 11** (8.30) S. Croydon soc. Crown & Sceptre, 32 Junction Rd, CR2 6RB. - **Wed 18** Carshalton SM5 soc: (8.30) Greyhound, 2 High St, 3PE; (9.30) Sun, 4 North St, 2HU. - **Tue 24** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs), 24 Surrey St, Croydon CR0 1RG.

May – Thu 3 Wallington SM6 soc: (8.30) Whispering Moon, 25 Ross Parade, 8QF; (9.30) Wallington Arms, 6-16 Woodcote Rd, ONN. - **Thu 10** (1pm) Lunchtime soc. Green Dragon, 58 High St, Croydon CR0 1NA. - **Wed 16** (8.30) Soc. Crown, 285 High St, Sutton SM1 1LD. - **Tue 22** (8.30) **Branch AGM** (M'ship cards req'd to vote). Dog & Bull (upstairs), 24 Surrey St, Croydon CR0 1RG. - **Wed 30** (8.30) London Drinker Pick-up. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton SM5 2PR.
Website: www.croydon.camra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch sec: John Pardoe, 07757 772564,
elacbranch@mail.com

April – Mon 9 Award presn to Five Points Brewery: (7pm) The Brewery, 3 Institute Place, E8 1JE; (8.15) Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, 1JH. - **Tue 17** (6.30) Pig's Ear cheque presn to Speaker's charities. Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street E8 1EA. - **Thu 19** (7pm) Soc and Sambrook's

Branch diaries

beer tasting. Hudson Bay, 1-5 Upton La, E7 9PA. Please advise branch if attending. - **Tue 24** (7.30) CBoB award presn to East London Brewing. Florist, 255 Globe Rd, E2 0JD.

May – Tue 8 (8pm) AGM Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, E10 5NF. - **Tue 22** (7.30) Pig's Ear planning mtg. Olde Rose & Crown. 53 Hoe St, Walthamstow E17 4SA.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,

branchcontact@camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

April – Sun 8 Beer & Biriani: meet (12pm) Moon under Water, 115 Chase Side, Enfield EN2 6NN then Chase Side Indian for buffet. - **Sat 14** Ealing crawl: meet (12pm) Boston Manor stn (Piccadilly Line). - **Wed 18** Enfield EN2 soc: (8pm) Ridgeway, 76 The Ridgeway, 8JF; (9.30) Wonder, 1 Batley Rd, OJG. - **Tue 24** (8pm) Mtg. Arnos Arms, 338 Bowes Rd, Arnos Grove N11 1AN.

May – Tue 1 (8pm) Mild Night. Little Green Dragon, 962 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21 2AD. - **Fri 4** (12pm) Visit to Bexley Beer Fest. See page 23. - **Wed 9** Barnet EN5 soc: (8pm) Monken Holt, 193 High St, 5SU; (9.30) Olde Mitre, 58 High St, 5SJ. - **Thu 17** 125 Bus crawl: (8pm) Little Green Dragon, 962 Green Lanes N21 2AD; (9.30) Winchmore, 235 Winchmore Hill Rd, N21 1QA; (10.15) New Crown, 80 Chase Side, Southgate N14 5PH. - **Sat 26** Mill Hill NW7 survey: (12pm) Rising Sun, 137 Marsh La, 4EY; (1.30) Three Hammers, Hammers La, 4EA; (3pm) Adam & Eve, The Ridgeway, 1RL. - **Wed 30** ELAC, NL or WL Pub of the Year survey. Venue and time tbc.

Website: www.camraenfieldandbarnet.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020 8949 2099, ctaylor2007@freeuk.com

April – Sat 7 (1pm) Fuzz Chat Brewery launch. Jolly Coopers, Wheelers La, Epsom KT17 7SD. - **Tue 10** (8.15) Mtg. Grafton Club: Grafton Rd, New Malden KT3 3AA. - **Tue 17** (8pm) Jazz evening. George & Dragon, High St, Thames Ditton KT7 0RY. - **Sat 28** Beer festival publicity crawl of Surbiton: meet (12.30) Coronation Hall (W'spoon's), St Marks Hill, KT6 4LQ.

May – Wed 2 (8.15) Mtg. Walton Village, Walton on Thames KT12 1DG. - **Tue 15-Mon 21** Set up and set down of Kingston Beer Festival: volunteers required, please contact Colin at KBFFVolunteers@camrasurrey.org.uk. - **Sat 26** London Draft House pubs: meet (12pm) Wimbledon District Lines or (12.30) Hammersmith Draft House, Shepherds Bush Rd, W6 7NL; then (1.45) Paddington Draft House, West End Quay, W2 1JX; (3pm) Charlotte, Goodge St, W1T 1TA; (4.15) Chancery, Fetter La, EC4A 1DE; (5.30) Seething, Seething La, EC3N 4AX; (6.45) Tower Bridge, Tower Bridge Rd, SE1 2UP.

Website www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

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

April – Tue 3 Bloomsbury soc: (7.30) Friend at Hand, 2 Herbrand St, WC1N 1HX; (8.15) Queens Larder, 1 Queen Sq,

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Branch diaries

WC1N 3AR; (9pm) Swan, 7 Cosmo Pl, WC1N 3AP; (9.45) Holborn Whippet, 25 Sicilian Ave, WC1A 2QH; (10.30) Ship Tavern, 12 Gate St, WC2A 3HP. - **Tue 10** Stroud Green soc: (7.30) Nicholas Nickleby, 6 Ferme Park Rd, N4 4ED; (8.15) Old Dairy, 1 Crouch Hill, N4 4AP; (9pm) White Lion, 125 Stroud Green Rd, N4 3PX; (9.45) Shaftesbury Tavern, 534 Hornsey Rd, N19 3QN. - **Tue 17** Mtg (8pm) Brewhouse & Kitchen, 2a Corsica St, N5 1JJ. - **Tue 24** Canonbury soc: (7.30) Lord Clyde, 340-342 Essex Rd, N1 3PB; (8.15) Smokehouse, 63-69 Canonbury Rd, N1 2DG; (9pm) Canonbury Tavern, 21 Canonbury Pl, N1 2NS; (9.45) Alwyne Castle, 83 St Pauls Rd, N1 2LY; (10.30) Brewhouse & Kitchen, 2a Corsica St, N5 1JJ; (11.15) (optional) Hen & Chickens, 109 St Pauls Rd, N1 2NA.

May - Tue 1 Stoke Newington High Street N16 soc: (7.30) White Hart, 69, 8EL; (8.15) Rochester Castle, 143, ONY; (9pm) Coach & Horses, 178, 7JL; (9.45) Axe, 18 Northwold Rd, 7HR; (10.30) Jolly Butchers, 204, 7HU. - **Tue 8** Pub of the Year presn, venue tba. - **Tue 15** Hampstead NW3 soc: (7.30) Garden Gate, 14 South End Rd, 2QE; (8.15) Wells, 30 Well Walk, 1BX; (9pm) Holly Bush, 22 Holly Mount, 6SG; (9.45) Flask, 14 Flask Walk, 1HE; (10.30) Horseshoe, 28 Heath St, 6TE. - **Tue 22** Blackstock Road N5 soc: (7.30) Highbury Barn Tavern, 26 Highbury Pk, 2AB; (8.15) Bank of Friendship, 226 Blackstock Rd, 1EA; (9pm) Gunners, 204, 1EN; (9.45) Woodbine, 215, 2LL; (10.30) (Optional) Arsenal Tavern, 175, N4 2JS. - **Tue 29** Islington Canal N1 soc: (7.30) Narrow Boat, 119 St Peter's St, 8PZ; (8.30) Rosemary Branch, 2 Shepperton Rd, 3DT; (9.15) Baring Arms, 55 Baring St, 3DS; (10pm) North By Northwest, 188 New North Rd, 7BJ.

Website: www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643, rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk

April - Mon 30 (8pm) Branch AGM (CAMRA Members only). Cabbage Patch (rear room), 67 London Rd, Twickenham TW1 3SZ

May - Wed 9 Richmond soc: (8pm) Tap Tavern, Princes St, TW9 1ED; (9.30) Railway Tavern, 29 The Quadrant, TW9 1DN. - **Mon 14** (8pm) First 2018 Twickenham Beer Fest Cttee mtg: Prince of Wales (rear room), 136 Hampton Rd, Twickenham TW2 5QR (new helpers always welcome). - **Wed 23** (8pm) Mtg. Red Lion, 2 Castelnau, Barnes SW13 9RU. Website: www.rhc.camra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Branch Contact: Neil Pettigrew, contact@sel.camra.org.uk;

Social Sec: Andrew Sewell, social@sel.camra.org.uk

April - Tue 3 (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc. Blythe Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, SE23 8NB. - **Wed 11** Soc: (7.30) Watsons General Telegraph, 108 Forest Hill Rd, SE22 0RS; (8.30) Herne Tavern, 2 Forest Hill Rd, SE22 0RR; (9.15) Clock House, 196A Peckham Rye, SE22 9QA; (10.15) Rye, 31 Peckham Rye SE15 3NX. - **Sat 14** Maldon Beer Fest (meet 9.45 Stratford Mainline for 9.55 to Chelmsford). Plume School, Farnbridge Rd, CM9 6AB. - **Wed 18** SE18 soc: (7.30) Volunteer, 130 Plumstead High St, 1JO; (8.30) Plume of Feathers, 282 Plumstead High St, 1JJ; (9.45) Old Mill, 1 Old

Mill Rd, 1QG. - **Mon 23** Kennington soc: (7.30) Steam Engine, 41 Cosser St, SE1 7BU; (8.30) Ship Kennington, 171 Kennington Rd, SE11 6SF; (9.30) Tommyfield, 185 Kennington Ln, SE11 4EZ; (10.15) White Bear, 138 Kennington Park Rd, SE11 4DJ. - **Mon 30** (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc. Woolwich Equitable, General Gordon Sq, SE16 6AB. **May - Fri 4** (7pm) Bexley Beer Fest. Dartfordians, Bourne Rd, DA5 1LW. - **Wed 9** SE1 soc: (7.30) Anchor Bankside, 34 Park St, 9EF; (8.15) Rafe, 14A Winchester Walk, 9AG; (9.15) Sheaf, 24A Southwark St, 1TY; (10.15) Old Kings Head, Kings Head Yard, 1NA. - **Wed 16** Herne Hill SE24 soc: (7.30) Bullfinch Brewery, Arch 886, Rosendale Rd, 9EH; (8.30) Canopy Beer, Arch 1127, 41 Norwood Rd, 9AJ; (9.30) Prince Regent, 69 Dulwich Rd, 0NJ; (10.15) Florence, 131 Dulwich Rd, 0NG. - **Thu 24-Sat 26** (12.30) 5th Kidbrooke Beer Fest. Charlton Park RFC, 60A Broad Walk, SE3 8NB. - **Wed 30** (7pm) Quiz night. Watch House, 198 Lewisham High St, SE13 6JP.

Website: <http://sel.camra.org.uk>

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Branch Contact: Alan Barker contact@swessex.camra.org.uk, 07711 971957 evenings or weekends only.

April - Thu 5 (8pm) Soc. Worlds End, Fort Rd, Tilbury RM18 7NR. - **Wed 11** (8pm for 8.30) Branch AGM, White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, Grays RM17 6HR. - **Thu 19-Mon 23**, Branch visit to Coventry for National AGM & Conference, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Rd, CV4 7AL. - **Wed 25** (8pm) Soc. Ye Olde Green Dragon, 112 Shenfield Rd, Shenfield, CM15 8EZ.

May - Sat 5 (1pm) Soc. South Benfleet Social Club Real Ale & Cider Fest, 8 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet SS7 1PB. - **Sat 12** (1pm) Steve's Birthday Pub Crawl (details tba on website). - **Wed 16** (8pm) Branch Pub of the Year 2018 (London Area) presn. Upminster TapRoom, 1b Sunnyside Gdns, RM14 3DT. - **Wed 23** (8pm) Soc. World's Inn, 113-117 South St, Romford RM1 1NX. - **Wed 30** (8.30) Soc. 33rd Colchester Beer Fest, Colchester Arts Centre, Church St, CO1 1NF.

Website: swessex.camra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk.

Cricket: Tom Brain, 07796 265972, cricket@camraswl.org.uk.

Cycling: Geoff Strawbridge, 07813 358863.

geoff@camraswl.org.uk

April - Wed 11 (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Hand in Hand, 6 Crooked Billet, SW19 4RQ.

May - Wed 9 (7.30) Pub of the Year presn. Trafalgar, 23 High Path, Merton SW19 2JY. - **Tue 15** (7pm) Open cttee mtg and (8pm) Branch AGM. Spread Eagle, 71 Wandsworth High St, SW18 2PT. - **Tue 29** (7.30) Mild Month soc: (7.30) Falcon, 2 St Johns Hill, Clapham Junction SW11 1RU; (8.45) Eagle Ale House, 104 Chatham Rd, SW11 6HG.

Website: camraswl.org.uk

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H),

branch@watford.camra.org.uk



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Tap Takeover nights Thursday 5th April (Stratford on Avon
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one-off event 'Tankleys Brewery presents Anzac Day'
Wednesday 25th April (single cask speciality brews only).



@kentishbelle

0203 417 2050



'The Kentish Belle'

thekentishbelle.co.uk

Branch diaries

April – Sat 7 (7pm) Welcome to Watling Street Beer. 2A Greycaine Rd, Watford WD24 7GP. - **Fri 13** (8pm) Pub of the Year presn. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate WD3 5BS. - **Sat 14** (1pm) Oxhey Village Brewfest. Rifle Volunteer, 36 Villiers Rd, Watford and Villiers Arms, 108 Villiers Rd, both WD19 4AJ. - **Mon 30** (8pm) Mtg. Oxhey Conservative Club, Keyser Hall, Lower Paddock Rd, WD19 4DS.

May – Thu 10 Croxley Green soc: start (8.30) Croxley Guild of Sports, Sports Pavilion, The Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HT. - **Sat 19** (8pm) Mild and Cider soc. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate. - **Mon 21** (8pm) Mtg. West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave, Watford WD18 7HP
Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

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

April – Tue 3 (7pm) Meet the brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 2BA (must book with pub). - **Mon 16** (7pm/7.30) Mtg. Sir John Balcombe, 21 Balcombe St, Marylebone NW1 6HE.

May – Tue 22 (7pm/7.30pm) **Branch AGM**. Defector's Weld (upstairs), 170 Uxbridge Rd, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 8AA.

Website: www.westlondon.camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

Roy Tunstall, 020 8933 4934/07585 744533,
info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk

April – Thu 5 (8pm) Branch and Ealing Pub of the Year presn. Dodo, 52 Boston Rd, W7 3TR. - **Wed 11** Soc: (7.30) Hare & Hounds, 229 Ruislip Rd, Greenford UB6 9RZ; (9pm) Crown, Ealing Rd, Northolt UB5 6AA. - **Wed 18** (8.30) Mtg. Drayton Court Hotel, 2 The Avenue, W13 8PH. - **Thu 26** (8pm) Ealing BF planning mtg. Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, W13 9EP.

May – Tue 1 (8pm) Harrow Pub of the Year presn. Beer Asylum, 1 Red Lion Parade, Bridge St, Pinner HA5 3JD. -

Sat 5 Lacey Green and Princes Risborough crawl. Meet outside High Wycombe Station for 12.15 bus. - **Wed 16** (8pm) Hillingdon Pub of the Year presn. Hop & Vine, 18 High St, Ruislip HA4 7AN. - **Thu 24** (8pm) **Branch AGM**, Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, W13 9EP. - **Mon 28** Denham/Harefield crawl: (1pm) Falcon, Village Rd, Denham; (1.45) Green Man, Village Rd; (2.30) Swan Inn, Village Rd; (3.30) Bear on the Barge, Moorhall Rd, South Harefield; (4.30) Harefield, 41 High St, Harefield; (5.15) Kings Arms, 6 Park La; (6pm) Old Orchard, Jacks La. - **Thu 31-Sat 2 June** Ruislip Beer Festival, Ruislip Rugby Club, West End Rd, Ruislip HA4 6DR

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the June/July edition is absolutely no later than Monday 14 May 2018.

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

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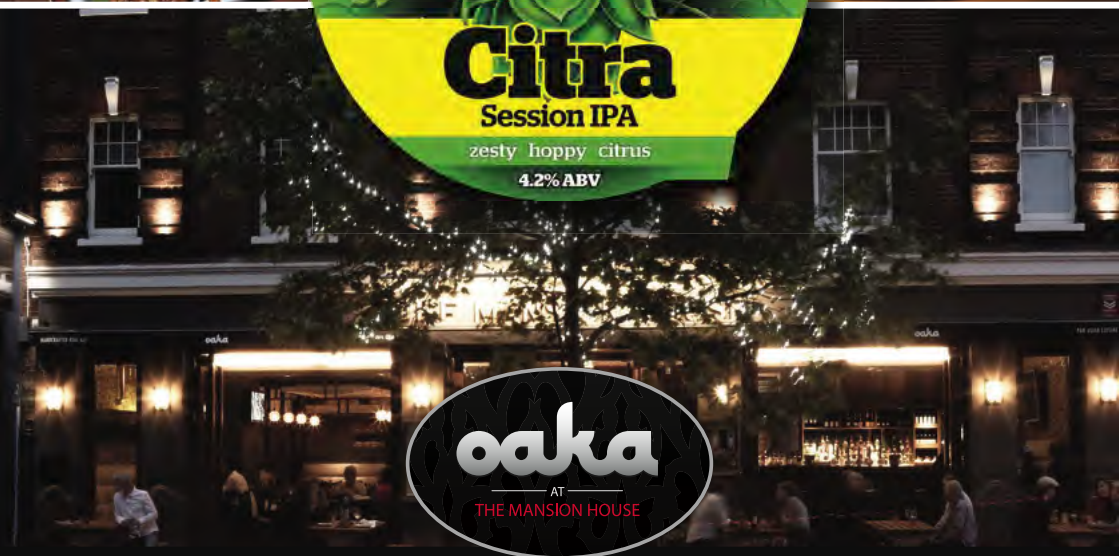
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CAMRA MEMBERS' WEEKEND, AGM AND CONFERENCE

Just a brief reminder that the above takes place at the University of Warwick in Coventry from 20 to 22 April. I won't go into details as CAMRA members will have seen the e-mails but decisions that are taken there will have a fundamental effect on the future of CAMRA. You can vote on-line but it is so much better to listen to the live debate. For more details and to register, visit the dedicated website www.agm.camra.org.uk. If you are not that interested in the politics (small 'p') then there will be plenty of good beer in the members' bar.

For those attending for the first time who want to find out what exactly goes on, there will be a presentation at 5pm on Friday 20 April for all new attendees, covering everything from voting and elections timings to advice on where you can grab a good pint of beer.

MAY IS CIDER MONTH

CAMRA now celebrates traditional ciders and perries in May as well as October. There will be a one day festival on 28 April (see page 15) and a number of CAMRA branches in London will be holding cider and perry events. Details are in our Branch Diaries section at the front. All will be welcome to attend.

SOUTH NORWOOD BEER FESTIVAL

Croydon & Sutton Branch would like to apologise to those who intended to come to the Stanley Halls on the final day of our festival in February. The numbers who attended on the first two days were far in excess of the budgeted numbers which we based on our previous festival in October 2016 and those who came drank more beer and cider. The result of this was that we had no beer left to sell on the Saturday. We did try to flag the situation on our website and social media, but we appreciate that not everyone would have been in a position to see this. Thanks to everyone who came on Thursday and Friday to make those days, at least, a great event. Thanks, too, to the volunteers throughout the week.

David Lands

HAT TRICK FOR THE OLD CRANLEIGHANS

For the third year running the old Cranleighs Club have been awarded CAMRA's Kingston & Leatherhead branch's Club of the Year award. This year they have shared it with the Kingston Workmen's Club and Institute.

The club is tucked away just off the Portsmouth Road in Thames Ditton between the two railway bridges. The road entrance is easy to miss but once you venture past the trees it all opens out into a vast array of pitches for football, hockey and rugby. Since last year the club has extended its playing area by acquiring the adjoining Weston Green Club. The hockey and rugby teams are doing well, both being at the top of their respective leagues, and when they are playing on Sunday afternoons up to 1,200 people can be attending the matches and enjoying the facilities.

On the Saturday that the branch visited to present their award, many of the pitches were in use despite it being a rather wet, miserable afternoon. Inside however a good lunch was being provided for the away supporters from Southwold in Suffolk. The presentation was made to the club manager Mr Griffin, (pictured right) otherwise known as JJ, by branch chairman, Richard Russell. Branch members who attended enjoyed the choice of the three real ales that were available at the bar.



During the winter months the club is open Thursday to Sunday, with a bridge club taking place on Friday lunch times but in the Summer time the club is open every night. The club is open to non-members.

Clive Taylor

EPPING ONGAR RAILWAY STRENGTHENS TIES WITH CAMRA FOR REAL ALE TRAINS

The railway has formally joined forces with CAMRA's East London & City branch to further improve the annual Real Ale Festival, this year to be held from Friday 20 July to Sunday 22 July. In so doing, the festival aims to grow further and improve the quality of the ale served. This year the festival will be themed around the 50th anniversary of the end of steam on British Railways and it is planned that a steam locomotive will be in operation on each day of the festival.

In addition, we are running four real ale train days which will see beer dispensed from beer engines on board the Flag and Whistle bar carriage, two of which are due to be hauled by historic steam locomotives. The first event on Saturday 28 April will feature beers from East London Brewing Co and Signature Brew both of Leyton, East London.

Fares are just £10, which includes the connecting heritage bus service to/from Epping Underground station. Dates for your diary are: Saturday 28 April, Saturday 9 June (steam), Friday August 10 (steam) and Saturday September 15. For more information see www.eorailway.co.uk

Alan Perryman

CANTERBURY BEER FESTIVAL

I know that a lot of people from London make the annual pilgrimage to Canterbury for the Kent Beer Festival, so you will need to know that after being at Merton Farm for more years than I care to remember, it has moved to Canterbury Rugby Club, not that far away, at Merton Lane North,

Nackington Road, CT4 7BA. The dates are 19 to 21 July. More details from the website, www.kentbeerfestival.com.

READING BEER FESTIVAL

Likewise Reading . . . On 3 to 6 May, 2018, CAMRA's Reading & Mid-Berkshire branch will be holding its legendary beer and cider festival at Christchurch Meadows, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8BY (a few minutes' walk from Reading Station). There are more than 550 beers, around 160 ciders and perries, key cask ales, foreign beers and UK produced wines and mead on offer, plus hot and cold food at all sessions. On Thursday evening there will be a pub quiz, there is live music during the Friday and Saturday sessions, Sunday is our family day and there are pub games at all sessions. For more details and/or to purchase advanced tickets, go to www.readingbeerfestival.org.uk.

THE 2ND ADUR VALLEY BEER WALK

Taking its inspiration from the Ballard's Sussex Beer Walk, CAMRA's Brighton and South Downs branch are organising a West Sussex Beer Walk, only taking place in summer, when the weather is (hopefully) warmer. The route through the Adur Valley (where there are four breweries) was tried and tested last year. This year's walk will be on Saturday May 26 and it coincides with the Steyning Festival.



The Castle Inn at Bramber

The idea is very simple. Just start at one of the two breweries, Adur or Riverside, which will be open from noon to 6pm where you can sample their beers. Then walk from one to the other (about two and a half miles) on roads or footpaths passing up to eight local pubs, some of which will be offering beers from the other two Adur Valley breweries, Downlands and Dark Star. Footpath details will be on leaflets nearer the time, available from the breweries and pubs or on www.brightoncamra.org.uk.

There is a regular bus service there from Brighton or the railway station at Shoreham-by-Sea (trains from Victoria). The no. 2 bus to Steyning from Brighton or Shoreham (which runs until after 11pm) stops right outside Riverside Brewery and Adur Brewery is a short walk up Mouse Lane from the Clock Tower stop in Steyning. We do hope some *London Drinker* readers will come and join us.

Adrian Towler

Brighton & South Downs CAMRA

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CITY OF LONDON TAKES ACTION ON SHORT MEASURES

CAMRA's policy on short measures is: 'CAMRA believes that appropriate Weights & Measures legislation should exist which defines a pint of beer (or cider) as 20 fl oz of liquid excluding any head of froth or foam.'

Below I've reproduced a press release from the Trading Standards department of the City of London Corporation. This, unfortunately, arrived just too late to be included in our last edition. This is, I know, a subject that annoys many, if you will excuse the expression, ordinary drinkers. Many people in the trade will tell you that short measure is a peripheral matter and that what matters is quality. There is some truth in that but if the proceeds of the short measure are going in your till then, to paraphrase the late Mandy Rice-Davies, 'you would, wouldn't you'.

That said, let's not be obsessive about this. Both cask conditioned and brewery conditioned beers can be difficult to pour because of 'fobbing', as it is called. I urge readers to use their judgement here. If you can see that the person serving you is doing their best in difficult circumstances, accept a short pint with grace rather than see too much precious liquid pour down the side of the glass into the drip tray and, of course, in any decent pub, go to waste. It's only where you can see a calculated pour into your glass where the head just reaches the top of the glass then inevitably settles down to leave it significantly short that you should complain.

NEWS RELEASE – CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION 1 FEBRUARY 2018

A campaign encouraging drinkers to feel confident in asking for a top-up if they are sold a short measure pint has been launched in the City of London today. The Weights and Measures Act 1985 controls the prescribed quantities that draught beers should be sold in but there has always been a grey area over whether the head should be included as part of the pint. Industry body the British Beer & Pub Association says a pint should contain a minimum of 95% liquid and 5% head. And City of London Corporation Trading Standards officers are recommending that, strictly speaking, a pint should mean a pint of liquid and drinkers are well within their rights to request a top up if they want.

Special beer mats have been produced to help consumers check if a pint is short [pictured] with further advice on the



City Corporation's website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/shortmeasure. Drinkers can hold the beermat against the glass to get a rough idea of the quantity of liquid they have been served.

Consumers are being encouraged to contact City of London Trading Standards if they are sold a short pint and don't feel confident to ask for a top up, or if they get an unhelpful reaction when they do. Based on any complaints received as a result of this campaign, Trading Standards Officers will be conducting test purchases across the City in the coming months and investigating premises that continue to sell short measures.

Steve Playle, Trading Standards Manager at the City of London Corporation, said, "Consumers are well within their rights to make sure they get exactly what they've paid for. It's worth remembering that for a pint costing five pounds, a shortage of five percent is a 25p cost to the consumer. Drinkers are entirely within their rights to ask for a full pint of liquid if they wish. We are reminding people that it is perfectly okay to ask for a top-up whilst stressing that they should continue to drink responsibly. City Corporation Trading Standards has already written to all pubs in the Square Mile to remind them of their legal obligations – including their duty to prevent underage sales – and to refer people with drinking problems to Square Mile Health, which provides alcohol support services."

Consumers can e-mail shortmeasurebeer@cityoflondon.gov.uk or call 03454 04 05 06 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

ON THE OTHER HAND . . .

There are, as ever, two sides to every story. I am indebted to the 9 to 22 March edition of *Private Eye* (No. 1465) for explaining one of many iniquities of the tied house system. One of the conditions of the tie obliges a tenant to buy his or her beer and sometimes other 'wet goods' from their landlord pubco or brewery, sometimes at prices more than 50% higher than they could buy them in the free trade. The amount of beer that a tenant can sell is a key factor in the calculation of a pub's rent and if, according to the rent calculation, a tenant will get the price of 72 pints from each firkin, then it is not going to add up. We all know that a firkin of cask conditioned beer will contain sediment and there will be wastage as well, from spiling, tapping and pulling through. Sediment and wastage are exempt from beer duty and breweries will refund that proportion of the duty paid to pubcos but they will not pass it on to tenants. This is a practice that the Pubs Code Adjudicator needs to deal with. It does not excuse publicans serving short measures but you can understand the totally unfair pressures that they are under.

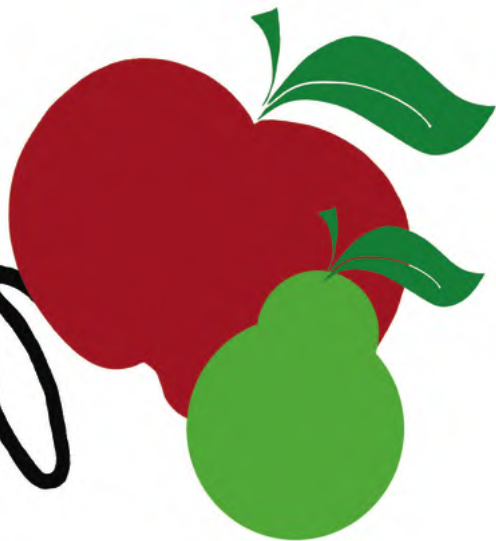
Tony Hedger

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BACK TO THE PUB

A number of so called 'casual dining' chains such as Prezzo and Byron have recently run into financial difficulties. It appears that the public are falling out of love with the casual dining concept. Of course, we need to appreciate that some of these operations have some of the same increased overheads as pubs (business rates, the minimum wage, statutory pensions) and we should beware of false dawns but some analysts see this as the return of the pub. Clive Watson of the City Pub Company, talking about the Nell Gwynne in the Strand, told the *Sunday Times* that its customers want *"an honest pint, a good old chat with their mates and a bit of blotting paper. They don't want a three course meal."* In the same article, Kate Nicholls of UKHospitality said, *"Wet-led venues are experiencing a renaissance. It's a real sign of an improvement in the sector."* We can but hope.

UKHOSPITALITY

For those who have not heard of this organisation before, as indeed I hadn't until recently, UKHospitality is a merger between the British Hospitality Association and the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers. The combined organisation represents some 700 operators with 65,000 outlets. Kate Nicholls, quoted above, was formerly the chief executive of the ALMR. Their slice of the economy represents 10% of the UK workforce, 6% of all businesses and 5% of Gross Domestic Product, making them a significant lobbying organisation.

ARCH ENEMIES?

As forewarned a few editions ago, Network Rail is going ahead with the disposal of its commercial property arm. The estate of 5,500 properties is valued at £1.2 billion and the sale is being handled by merchant bankers Rothschilds. It is likely to go to a private equity firm. I don't need to tell readers that a large number of London breweries are housed in railway arches. Existing agreements will have to be honoured of course but there must be some concern for the long term.

AT LAST...

I was pleased to note at the beginning of March that Public Health England acknowledged that the second most common cause of cancer after smoking was obesity. I fully appreciate that excessive beer drinking can in itself contribute to obesity but CAMRA has always promoted moderation. I would add that at a recent meeting of my branch of CAMRA there were some twenty people in attendance, none of whom would I have considered to be morbidly obese. That gives the lie to the usual stereotype.

SOME INTERESTING NUMBERS

According to Rosanna O'Connor, director of Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco at Public Health England, addressing a parliamentary committee in January on the

subject of the minimum unit price, *"Around 4.4% of the population are drinking just under a third of the alcohol consumed in this country. That's around two million drinking just over 30% of the alcohol."* She went on to say that the majority of the group were drinking very cheap, high-strength alcohol such as white cider, a three-litre bottle of which (22.5 units of alcohol) can be bought for as little as £3.60.

ORDER, ORDER

The *Guardian* has speculated that when the Houses of Parliament relocate to nearby alternative accommodation while the Palace of Westminster undergoes restoration, two pubs, the Red Lion and the St Stephen's Tavern may be caught up in a security cordon. If this is correct then let's hope that they stay open for the MPs to use and pay proper pub prices instead of the subsidised prices they are used to.

RAVE ON...

Further to my comment about illegal 'brown cafes' in the last edition, according to the *Metro*, 'raves', or more correctly, unlicensed gatherings have returned. There were 70 reported in London in 2016 as against 130 in 2017. The increase is attributed to, among other things, higher tuition fees and increased security at clubs.

AN EVEN BETTER FRIDAY

The Irish parliament, the Dail, has passed legislation which means that this year, for the first time in 90 years, alcohol will be on sale in the Irish Republic on Good Friday.

BEER AND PUB HERITAGE WALKS IN LONDON

Des de Moor, the beer writer (and CAMRA member) has expanded his London brewery and pub heritage walking tour programme for 2018. In addition to his regular five-mile *Porters, Peers and Pilgrims* walk, which he runs approximately every two months on a Sunday morning, taking in the edge of the City, Brick Lane, St Katherine's Dock and Southwark, he has added a new, shorter *Southwark Ale and Borough Beer* weekday evening walk around the Borough, Bankside and Horselydown, which ends at Southwark Brewing's brewery and taproom and includes a tour and beers.

As well as being the author of CAMRA's *Guide to London's Best Beer, Pubs and Bars*, Des is an expert on London beer, an experienced tour leader and beer educator and also works for UK Brewery Tours and numerous breweries. For details and booking links, including charges, see <http://desdemoor.co.uk/beer-tours>.

A DIFFERENT WAY OF DOING THINGS

Reader Alan Millington has drawn my attention to a rather different way of holding a beer competition than I have ever come across before as reported in CAMRA's Somerset branch's magazine *Pints of View*. The customers of the

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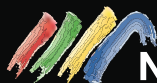
Adrian Tierney Jones

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"Brilliant event – be there!"

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Brewers Arms in South Petherton, Somerset, choose 32 beers and the pub puts them on sale, two at a time. The beer that sells out first is the winner and goes through to the next round. There are four rounds (32, 16, 8, 4 and the final 2). In the example that I saw, the finalists were those two grand old stagers Exmoor Gold and Hop Back Summer Lightning, with Lightning coming out the winner. The winner has to sell out five casks so it is an achievement in its way, although I'm not entirely sure about the methodology.

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 (login not required) and on the news page of the regional website <http://london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=1253>

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

Look for London beers in London pubs.

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



Norwich City of Ale 2018

2018's event, the eighth, promises to be the biggest yet. The organisers are introducing 'beer geography' which is an enhanced version of the ale trails that have proved such a success in previous years. City of Ale co-chair Dawn Leeder explains, "The trails guide visitors through the city to provide a view of its streets, lanes and architecture through the lens of its rich pub and brewing heritage". The trails each include six or seven pubs plus information about historic sites and landmark buildings along the way. Norwich is, after all, said to be the most complete medieval city in Britain.

Once again, Norwich City Hosts, a band of well informed volunteers in highly visible 'Here to Help' blue tabards will be available to assist visitors around the city and steer them to a suitable hostelry. The Hosts are organised by Norwich Business Improvement District who are the main sponsors of the City of Ale festival.

Something to look out for is the collaboration with Sheffield Beer Week. It is planned that Norfolk beers will have been available at Sheffield Beer Week in March and a reciprocal amount of Sheffield beer should be available in Norwich in May.

Norwich City of Ale 2018 runs from 24 May to 3 June. For more information visit cityofale.org.uk. Trains from Liverpool Street run every half-hour, the journey takes just under two hours and it can cost as little as £20 return.



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The 2017 round of regional judging for CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain (CBoB) competition has now been completed. London brewers came out of it quite well and the beers listed below all go through to being judged at this year's CBoB finals at the Great British Beer Festival in August.

Bitter – Silver	Reunion Opening Gambit
Bitter – Bronze	Sambrook's Wandle Ale
Mild – Gold	East London Orchid
Porter – Bronze	Five Point Railway Porter
Old Ale & Strong	
Mild – Bronze	Brick Blenheim Black
RAIB – Joint Gold	Fuller's 1845
RAIB – Joint Bronze	Sambrook's No 5

Congratulations and good luck to all concerned and thanks to Christine Cryne for providing the information. Breweries are awarded certificates for their achievements and two of the awards have already been presented.



Reunion brewery were awarded a silver certificate in the bitter class in the London and South East Regional CBoB for their Opening Gambit. Our photo shows Doug Scott (CAMRA's brewery liaison officer) presenting the certificate to Reunion Brewery founder, Francis Smedley on 7 March in the Tap Tavern in Richmond.

Andy Pirson

Sambrook's were also presented with their awards by South West London branch at a branch meeting at the taproom on 18 January. The picture shows Duncan Sambrook with branch chairman Mark Bravery (left) and Brewery Liaison Officer Peter Sutcliffe (right).



CAMRA's East London & City branch has made the following arrangements.

Five Points' 4.8% ABV Railway Porter is in the classic London style but with a twist: aromas of chocolate and coffee with hints of caramel, brewed with that most classic of British hops, East Kent Goldings. They will be presented with the award at 7pm on 9 April at the brewery on Institute Place before heading over to their recently acquired Pembury Tavern to celebrate from 8pm.

The presentation to East London Brewing will take place on 24 April at 7.30pm at the Florist on Globe Road, E2 0JD. The Orchid Vanilla Mild, 3.6% ABV, is lightly spiced with Madagascar vanilla. The colossal price rises in Madagascar Vanilla have made this beer increasingly rare this year in both cask and bottled form, so head to the Florist to meet the team behind ELB and sample the winning mild for yourself.

Nigel Tarn

CAMRA NATIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR

This is an object lesson in never giving up on a pub. In 2013 the Cricketers Arms in St Helens, Lancashire, was boarded up. It hadn't sold cask beer since the 1980s. Andy and Denise Evans however believed that the pub still had potential and they have since won their local branch, St Helens, Pub of the Year award four times, CAMRA Merseyside Region Pub of the Year three times and runner up in the National Pub of the Year competition in 2017. They have now gone one better and have been named the CAMRA National Pub of the Year for 2018.

Owner Andy Evans said, "We are over the moon to be named the top pub in the country after just a few short years. We've done everything we can to make this a welcoming community pub. We are very proud to be part of the cask ale scene and look forward to celebrating with our locals."

Paul Ainsworth, who coordinated the awards for CAMRA, was impressed by the Cricketers Arms' community feel and regeneration, saying, "In less than five years, Andy and Denise have converted a boarded-up pub on the brink of closure into a true destination pub for beer lovers across the country. What impressed me most is that the Cricketers is a genuine community pub where people from all walks of life come together to socialise. It is a shining example of how a pub, which seems destined for closure, can have its fortunes turned around when in the right hands."

The runners up were the Weavers Real Ale House in Kidderminster and the Stanford Arms in Lowestoft.

The National Club of the Year is the Flixton Conservative Club, 193 Flixton Rd, Urmston, Manchester M41 5DF.

From a CAMRA press release

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OF
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ANSPACH & HOBDAY – A PIGEON AND A RAILWAY ARCH

Tucked away at the southern end of the famed Bermondsey Mile you will find Anspach & Hobday, another London railway arch brewery.

Paul Anspach set up the brewery with Jack Hobday in 2013, sharing the premises for the first year with Bullfinch Brewery. Each of them had a tiny 100 litre brewing kit (0.6 barrels) and a 200 litre fermenter. At that time, most of the production was sold through the tap room. After just six months, Anspach & Hobday expanded to 450 litres and subsequently to 14 hectolitres (8.6 barrels) with eight conical fermenters, which also double as conditioning tanks. The kit is designed to use hop pellets and like most small



Paul Anspach

brewers, they bring in malt already crushed, with the spent malt being collected for use by a farmer. The yeast varies; Paul said, "If it is blonde or a core beer, we use wet yeast, otherwise, it can be dried".

Their approach to fining also varies. They fine some of their beers in the tank using Irish moss finings or sometimes

cellulose finings. However, they don't tend to fine the cask beers which Paul said they will only supply to 'pubs that we know can handle cask well'. Regular cask outlets include the Marquis of Wellington, 3 Johns, Understudy and Priory Arms. However, 75% of the beer is now keg with bottles being the next biggest seller. Bottling is done by hand, mostly for experimental brews. Outlets for these are independent bottle shops, Oddbins and a few restaurants. Paul reflected, "In due course, we'll need to decide whether to invest in a bottling line".

Paul began home brewing when he finished university and started working in a wine shop where he gave away samples of his brew to get feedback. He then worked for Cave Direct. Paul commented, "In that role, I worked a lot with Fuller's and this gave me some very useful retail experience". Jack's background was in book retailing. Nowadays, Jack doesn't work at the brewery full time but the pair were joined by Patrick who does the backroom work and sales, leaving Paul free to do the production. He is assisted by Dylan, who was assistant manager of the Victoria in Paddington, and Dan, who worked for Real Ale in Twickenham. Both volunteered at the brewery before joining it and both were home brewers.

Anspach & Hobday's logo is a London pigeon; 'Just a bit of fun' said Paul, but the theme of the labelling is two figures representing the old and the new with some links to the history of the beer. Being part of the Bermondsey Mile, the tap room at the brewery opens each weekend (Friday 5pm

to 9pm; Saturday 10.30am to 6pm and Sunday midday to 5pm) but this isn't without its problems. Paul commented, "We are going to have to recruit someone to run the bar for us. It's pretty demanding. As part of our licence we have to restrict our hours and have a maximum number of people we can allow outside and they have to all be in by 6pm. This, of course, is more of an issue in the summer!"

They have an extensive range of beers with their core beers including Pale (4.4% ABV), India Pale Ale (6% ABV), Smoked Brown (6% ABV), Porter (6.7% ABV) and Cream Ale (5.2% ABV). The last is an unusual American style pale beer using corn. You can find the London Tasting Panel's tasting notes on beers tried on the brewery page at www.london@camra.org.uk but why not take a visit to the Tap Room yourself?

DOING IT BY NUMBERS

Although arches may be a common thread among a lot of London brewers, it is always a delight to see how different they all can be and a visit to Brew by Numbers did not disappoint.

Many brewers produce a number of recipes under one beer style. Brew by Numbers have made it into an art, and a transparent one. The concept of numbering the beers started when Tom Hutchins and Dave Seymour wanted a way of keeping track of recipes. The mash would be made and then split into four, using different hops and yeast so they could improve their understanding of the impact of different brewing ingredients. The pair originally met while rock climbing in China. Dave was a home brewer and Tom gained an interest when a friend worked for Kernel Brewery.

And then the story really began. In December 2012, Tom and Dave started brewing in a basement with a tiny 300 litre kit, moving into their current premises and starting brewing there in December 2013. Further expansion occurred in 2017, with the purchase of additional premises. The brewery length is now 2,040 litres and six fermenters (three 2,000 litre and three 4,000 litre) and the additional space also provided space for the installation of an automated bottling plant.



John Cryne asks the questions



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Each beer has two numbers. The first relates to the beer style and the second to the recipe. Only a selected few are allowed the accolade of repeat brews. Chris Hall, who greeted us on the evening, said, "We only keep repeat recipes when it is obvious that our drinkers think it has worked." A quick look on the website will tell you how many brews there have been and of which style: saisons, pales and IPAs are all brewed. None of them are pasteurised or filtered.

The influence of American beers is noticeable. You can find the tasting notes on the beers that the Tasting Panel tried on the regional website: <https://www.london.camra.org.uk> or try the beers yourself; their tap room is open Fridays 6pm to 10pm and Saturdays 11am to 8pm.

Christine Cryne

**Check the
Beer Festival Calendar
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This Festival uses tokens at the bar.

TWICKENHAM BEER FESTIVAL AWARDS

At this year's Twickenham Beer Festival, the ballot for Beer of the Festival was tied, so at CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow branch's meeting on Wednesday 17 January joint certificates were presented to two local breweries.



Branch Chairman, Charles Owens (left) presented their certificates to Brian Watson of Oddly Ltd for Happy and David Scott of Kew Brewery for Join the Kew. With thanks to George Gimber for the photo.

Andy Pirson

BROKEN DRUM, BLACKFEN

I understand that this award winning micropub is now serving occasional beers from their own brewery but I would be grateful for more details.

BY THE HORNS

BTH have installed canning equipment at the brewery and began canning some of their beers in February. They have also installed two new fermenters, and are planning to upgrade the beer hall section, making it the main bar area. They will improve the external doors to this area (to make it less industrial unit and more welcoming hostelry) and also hope to install a pizza oven.

Phillip Blanchard

FIVE POINTS

The brewery takes its name from the road junction (Amhurst Road, Pembury Road and Dalston Lane) on which stands the Pembury Tavern and the brewery has now taken over the pub from Milton Brewery as their brewery tap. Ed Mason, Five Points Managing Director, told the Hackney Citizen, "It's simply a legendary landmark Hackney boozer and one of the first pubs that I drank in in the borough when I first moved to Hackney ten years ago. The whole Five Points team is super excited, not least because it is about a minute's walk from the front door of the brewery and, of course, bang in the centre of the five-way junction from which we take our name." Some beers from the Cambridge based Milton Brewery will still be available along with guests from other London independent breweries.

The brewery has announced a new annual charity partnership programme. Each year the company will join with two local charities, helping them with fundraising and raising their profile. Brewery staff will be consulted as to which charities are supported each year and will be given a day's

paid leave to work with the charity that is chosen. The charities for this year are the Hackney Winter Night Shelter and the brain injury charity, Headway East London. Ed explains, "Since founding the Five Points in 2013, we have strived to be a socially responsible business and employer, based in our local community. The community has taken us into their hearts, and it's important for us to give something back."

The purchase of the Pembury Tavern and expansion of the brewery is going to be funded by a £750,000 crowdfunding scheme on Crowdfunder. The expansion includes state-of-the-art brew house equipment and fermentation tanks which will triple production capacity to 34,000 hectolitres. A research and development brew-kit will also be installed at the Pembury Tavern. You can find out more at fivepointsbrewing.co.uk/crowdfunding.

FOURPURE

Fourpure Brewing Co have opened their new brewhouse and taproom in Bermondsey. The new brewing equipment, assembled from the USA, Germany and China at a cost of £2.5 million, gives them a capacity of 40 hectolitres. It was used to good effect to provide some very interesting special beers for their official opening.

Dan Lowe, who founded the brewery with his brother Tom, told the *Morning Advertiser*, "From our perspective, Tom and I are extremely excited to have got the brewery to this point, and we feel like we are only just getting started. Being based in central London, having this kind of equipment and having this exposure to the market, I feel like we have done the hard work and laid the foundations, now is the time to go, have fun and see where we can take our brand." He added that they regularly received take-over offers but insisted that he and his brother remained the best people to take the brewery forward.

FULLER'S

The big news is that Fuller's have taken over the Dark Star brewery, famous for Hophead bitter. The press release said that they had 'joined forces' but with Fuller's taking a 100% stake, I think that it is a bit more than that! I have to admit that this took me by surprise but thinking about the presence that Fuller's now have across Sussex following their purchase of Gales a few years back, I can see the logic. Brewing will continue at Dark Star's Partridge Green site and the brewery will continue to operate as a standalone business with managing director James Cuthbertson staying in charge there. Mr Cuthbertson said, "Since our inception in 1994, we have continuously grown from those early days in the Evening Star Pub in Brighton to the current brewery in Partridge Green. The partnership with Fuller's, another independent brewery with fantastic heritage and great beer at its very core, will allow us to take the brewery to the next level. The deal means we will continue to do what we do, but gives us huge opportunities to brew more one-off small batch beers hand-in-hand with exploring the export market and expanded bottle and can formats. We've always described Dark Star as more of a hobby that got out of control than a business, an ethos that will remain at the centre of what we do and

what we're about, after all, beer should be fun and accessible."

It isn't clear whether or not Dark Star's three pubs will be rebranded as Fuller's although my local sources tell me that the Evening Star is actually privately owned so is unlikely to change. I do hope that they continue to brew Revelation.

Fuller's have identified another riverside site for a new build pub. It is part of the £3.5 billion Royal Wharf development at Royal Dock and it will be a sister site to the Blue Boat on Fulham Reach and the Sail Loft in Greenwich, with a similar contemporary design. It is due to open in 2019.

LONDON FIELDS

Following the £4 million purchase by Carlsberg/Brooklyn Brewery, the company was relaunched at this year's Craft Beer Rising event. A new head brewer, Talfryn Provis-Evans, (ex Beavertown, Crate and Redchurch) has been appointed and while a new brew house is under construction, their core range is being brewed at Truman's. James Morgan, one of Truman's founders, told the *Morning Advertiser*, "Several of our team, both past and present, started their careers in beer at London Fields and it is great to be in a position to help them rebuild. We both have big plans for the future and the current beer scene offers so much opportunity for us to work together." Other beers on offer at CBR were collaborations with Crate Brewery and Nene Valley in Peterborough.

PARK BREWERY

There are changes being made at Park Brewery. After their final open day on 17 February, they have left their home of three and a half years in Elm Road, Kingston, because the landlord wanted the building back (it has since been demolished) and it was simply no longer adequate anyway. The kit has been put into storage but beer is still being

brewed at Hogs Back Brewery. Other premises are still being sought so this may not be the end of our Kingston brewery and I for one would be sorry to bid farewell to Josh and Frankie who worked extremely hard and imaginatively to get the business going.

David Morgan

WIMBLEDON

Wimbledon Brewery have set up a partnership called 'Hop Masters' with Young's which seeks to improve the knowledge of cask beer across the Young's estate. The two day course, run by master brewer Derek Prentice and head brewer Charlie Long offers a combination of digital presentations and tours of the working brewery which demonstrate the full brewing process and the best working practice for managing cask conditioned beer. There were one hundred Young's employees on the first course in February.

Young's product marketing manager Tom Elliot-Frey said, "We collaborated with Wimbledon Brewery to offer the unique chance for our Hop Masters to get hands-on with the team there and to understand the finesse of cask and the expertise behind the brewing of quality cask ale. Teaming up with Derek and Charlie, who have over fifty years of brewing knowledge between them, meant we had some of the best in the industry, delivering informative and engaging sessions to our team members. By taking the knowledge gained across the two days back to our pubs, we hope our staff will be enthused and excited about the category and will have acquired a knowledge and prowess to impart to our customers and provide a best-in-class cask offer to them." It's only a dream, of course, because I know that Wimbledon are brewing at capacity, but wouldn't it be nice if they took over the contract for brewing Young's beers.

Compiled by Tony Hedger, except where credited

GORGEOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN HIGHGATE

Rob Laub is no stranger to the beer trade but he took a leap of faith when he purchased the Bull in Highgate nearly two years ago. In doing so he inherited the 2.5 barrel plant from previous owners, the London Brewing Company. The plant wasn't however all he inherited. Reuben Moore, the second brewer in LBC days, stayed on and what changes have happened since! Investment has led to a proper brewhouse and a doubling in the brew length. There are now three fermenters and two conditioners, all five barrels in size. This is all a far cry from brewing in the kitchen and fermenting in the basement.

To help with the expansion, Joe Conlan has joined Reuben as the assistant brewer and Rob's sister, Samantha, helps out with the marketing and design. So why the investment? Rob said, *'At the moment, we can only produce sufficient beer for the pub. We are hoping to produce 600 hectolitres per year of which a third will be cask and the rest keg. This increased volume will enable us to supply others. We are also doing a gentle refurbishment of the Bull and are well on track to get our outside patio sorted. There will be a bar attached to the brewery so we'll have a nice family friendly area for the summer'*.

Like most small brewers, Gorgeous use a variety of dried yeasts to suit which beer they are brewing and they brew a range of styles. Rob pointed out that their traditional bitter, Glowfly (4% ABV), was still one of their best sellers. Other staple cask beers include Geek, a golden ale at 4.2% ABV and Gunpowder, an English style IPA at 4.8% ABV. Seasonals include Gravedigger (5% ABV vanilla milk stout) and Greedygates No 7.

You may have noticed that all their beers begin with G and that is the case for the keg beers too, starting at Gyrocopter at 4.1% ABV up to Greaseball at 5.4% ABV.

Tasting notes (and more photos) can be found on the London CAMRA website. Keep an eye on the pub's websites for events and the launch of their garden: www.gorgeousbrewery.com and www.thebullhighgate.co.uk.

Christine Cryne





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The historic link between beer and St Pancras International is one of the highlights of a year-long celebration to mark the Grade I-listed Gothic station's 150th anniversary.

The station, built by the Midland Railway, opened in 1868 with the key aim of bringing beer from Burton-on-Trent to London. The principal role of the new railway system in the 19th century was to transport goods, not people, and it opened up Britain to brewers in Burton, which at the time was the most important brewing town in the country.

Allsopp, Bass, Worthington and other Burton brewers were at the forefront of the pale ale revolution in the Victorian period. They exported beer abroad by ship but internal journeys were painfully slow. But when the first trains steamed into Burton in 1839 the brewers were able to send beer at speed to such important towns and cities as Derby and Birmingham where large numbers of industrial workers demanded beer for refreshment.

When the tracks were extended to London, the brewers found they could convey beer to the capital at a pace that would have seemed unimaginable when coaches and canals offered the only means of transport. Soon, most parts of Britain could be reached within a day and the brewers built their own tracks in Burton to move beer from breweries to the station. Bass, the biggest brewer in the town, rented a large warehouse in London close to St Pancras. It had a capacity of 120,000 barrels and a workforce of 150 men, where wooden hogsheads, each containing 54 gallons, were broken down into smaller casks and bottles for delivery to pubs. A year later, Bass moved this operation to the cellars of the station itself. The large space, known as the Undercroft, was designed by engineer W H Barlow, who used iron columns and girders to maximise space. He said that *"the length of a beer barrel became the unit of measure, upon which all the arrangements of this floor were based"*. The Undercroft is now the departure lounge for Eurostar passengers.

The cost advantages of the railway were considerable. Before the arrival of the train, it cost £3 to transport one ton of ale (approximately five barrels) to London for a journey that lasted more than a week. The same amount of ale was sent to London by train at a cost of 15 shillings.

The impact of fast transport, lower costs and higher profits was far-reaching. The total production of beer in Burton increased from some 70,000 barrels a year in 1840 to 300,000 10 years later. Bass, forging ahead as the leading brewer in the town, saw its sales increase from around 40,000 barrels a year in the period between 1837 and 1842 to 148,000 by 1853. By 1860, Bass produced 341,527 barrels, placing it on a level with the biggest London brewers such as Barclay Perkins and Truman. By 1867, Bass was brewing close to one million barrels a year, making it the biggest brewer in the world.

Thanks to St Pancras, Londoners were introduced to a

new style of beer – pale ale. While beer destined for India was first brewed in east London and exported from the East India Docks, it was not sold on the domestic market. But due to the fine spring waters of the Trent Valley, the Burton brewers were able to make superior pale beers and they became available to Londoners who were more used to dark mild, porter and stout. The train not only revolutionised the transport of beer but also the styles of beer preferred by London drinkers. T R Gourvish and R G Wilson, in *The British Brewing Industry 1830-1980* (1994), describe pale ale as the beer of the railway age.

Fittingly, the owners of St Pancras International, HS1, have commissioned a special beer to celebrate the station's anniversary. HS1 approached Molson Coors, the Canadian-American group that now occupies the former Bass breweries in Burton, but it was not interested in brewing a beer. HS1 turned instead to a London brewer, Lost Rivers, which has produced a 4.8% ABV India Pale Ale.

Lost Rivers, as its name suggests, not only produces beer but promotes the lost rivers of London. One is the Fleet that gave its name to Fleet Street, former centre of the newspaper industry, and which ran under St Pancras Station. Lost Rivers has not yet completed its brewery and the IPA was brewed for it by Charles Wells in Bedford: Bedford also has close associations with St Pancras as it's on the Thameslink line that runs to Brighton via the London station.

Lost Rivers IPA is on sale in the Betjeman Arms at St Pancras and in other outlets at the station. A bottled version was due to appear in February and Waitrose and other retailers were interested in stocking it. The first batch was delivered by horse-drawn dray from Young's, the former Wandsworth brewery: its subsidiary, Geronimo Inns, runs the Betjeman Arms.

There will be a series of events at the station throughout the year, with a beer festival planned for October. The events will mark the history of St Pancras, how it survived two world wars, and the role of women workers at the station.

Post World War Two, the station became run down and was earmarked for closure, with its services due to be taken over by neighbouring King's Cross. But a vigorous campaign led by poet and train lover Sir John Betjeman saved the station. It has enjoyed a remarkable renaissance as the terminus for HS1 and Eurostar. It has fine shopping malls, restaurants and a hotel – plus the pianos where travellers can pause to tinkle the ivories. Go and marvel at the architecture, the rich history, the beery associations and sample a pint of IPA in the Betjeman Arms. It will be worth missing a few trains for.

As well as St Pancras, visit the National Brewery Centre in Burton-on-Trent that traces the history of brewing in the town and has steam locomotives on site (www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk). For further reading see my books, *The Story of Brewing in Burton-on-Trent* (History Press, 2011) and *IPA – A Legend in Our Time* (Pavilion Books, 2017).

Roger Protz

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Brewery feature: New River

On Thursday 19 October members of CAMRA's Enfield & Barnet branch made an afternoon trip north to visit the New River Brewery. The brewery was set up in 2014 by John Bourdeaux and his partner Jeremy Alter. John made us very welcome, giving us five cask beers to sample, while Jeremy was stuck on the M25 doing deliveries.

Both John and Jeremy live in Enfield and their beers are available in a number of branch pubs. While in one such, the Picture Palace in Ponders End, John attended a social and the offer of a visit was made. A few weeks before the South Hertfordshire branch had also made a visit. The following are extracts of an article on their website which are reproduced with the permission of their chairman, Les Middlewood.



The party, with John on the left

The brewery is situated in a warehouse unit near the banks of the New River on the Pindar Estate in Hoddesdon. John saw a comparison with real ale in the 1970s and the plight of the New River. The New River is an early 17th century man-made conduit which carries clean water to London from wells at Amwell and Chadwell Spring, close to Hoddesdon. At that time, the river was also under threat; there were even plans to concrete it over. The Thames Water Action Group however persuaded Thames Water to invest £12m to save the river – which today still provides 10% of London's drinking water – and there is now a pleasant footpath along most of its surviving route from Chadwell into Islington. New River became the obvious choice for the name of the new brewing company.

John and Jeremy brought all brand-new stainless-steel brewing equipment, had the floors realigned to allow drainage run-off and the impressive twelve barrel plant began production.

The partners learned the brewing process at Brewlab and additionally by volunteering at the Black Horse brew-pub in High Barnet. They decided that they wanted to brew beers

with an ABV range from approximately 3.8% to 5% and their initial beers were London Tap (a thirst-quenching modern pale ale at 3.8% ABV), Riverbed Red (a full-flavoured amber ale at 4.2% ABV) and Five-Inch Drop, inspired by the New River's gentle gradient into London from Hertfordshire, an IPA with citrusy notes from American and New Zealand hops (4.6% ABV). These became the back-bone and flagship beers of the company's initial production. The beer portfolio has since increased with such beers as Cold Bean espresso stout, Blind Poet smoked porter and Pumped Up, an unlikely sounding giant pumpkin bitter.



The beer!

New River's recognisable company and pump-clip logos feature drawings of features and fauna and flora found along or nearby the river. The main company logo features the Gauge House on the River Lea, near Hertford, which allows the New River to be supplemented with water from the Lea.

Enfield & Barnet branch would like to thank John for his hospitality and an engaging and informative visit. For more information, see their website: www.newriverbrewery.co.uk.

Ron Andrews

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WEST BERKSHIRE BREWERY

It looks as if a new and welcome presence has arrived in the London pubs trade. West Berkshire Brewery, chaired by the redoubtable David Bruce, acquired their first pub in London last year, the Depot in Holloway, and have now set up a pub company, Maverick Pubs, and look to be taking over a number of former Greene King pubs in London. The first is the Old Suffolk Punch in Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, and the brewery also has an interest in the Oxford in Kentish Town and the Rising Sun in Twickenham. Unfortunately I started this item late so I will have to confirm the actual arrangements in the next edition.

The new brewery, tap room and kitchen which the visiting party from Twickenham Beer Festival were so impressed with last autumn is now up and running. From the photos it looks magnificent. Go to www.wbbrew.com for information.

Tony Hedger

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NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

A draft revision of the NPPF is out for consultation until May and it contains some encouragement for pub campaigners. Best of all is that there is a new clause, 180, which enshrines the 'agent of change' principle. I cannot reproduce the complete document but the following extracts should be of interest:

84. Planning policies and decisions should enable:

(d) the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

180. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities (including places of worship, pubs, music venues and sports clubs). Existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established. Where an existing business or community facility has effects that could be deemed a statutory nuisance in the light of new development (including changes of use) in its vicinity, the applicant (or 'agent of change') should be required to secure suitable mitigation before the development has been completed.

CAMRA is preparing a co-ordinated contribution to the consultation to which Greater London Region officers will be contributing. I should make it clear that these policies will not be the 'letter of the law', as it were, but regional and local authorities are expected to comply. If they do not then

relevant paragraphs of the NPPF can be used in any objections that are raised to planning applications.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

L BHF, who once had the privilege of having me work for them, have formally adopted their Local Plan and it is good to see that it is very strong on pub retention. Again, it is too long to reproduce here (over 1000 words) but if you go onto their website and look for TLC7, I'm sure that you will find it. With thanks to Paul Charlton for the heads up.

BELL, EAST MOLESEY

CAMRA's Kingston and Leatherhead's Winter Pub of the Season, the criteria for which is to be the most improved pub in the branch area, is the Bell in East Molesey. This historic coaching inn is tucked away from the main road, opposite the old church and is owned by Greene King. Inside it has been refurbished in their modern eclectic style, which has met with the approval of the regular customers.

The presentation was made to the manageress Emily Balyova who has a sound track record, having got her first pub, the New Leathern Bottle at Jeallots Hill near Warfield, Berkshire into the Good Beer Guide. After a spell at the Prince at Crowthorne, Emily arrived at the Bell fifteen months ago. In this time of being here she has boosted trade considerably, and the Bell has been placed fourth in the Greene King ratings of all their pubs.

The Star Godalming



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Branch chairman Richard Russell presents Emily with the certificate

Members of the branch spent a very pleasant evening sampling the range of excellent ales on offer. There were six to choose from, three from the Greene King range and three guest ales from the likes of Hogs Back, Twickenham and Wimbledon breweries.

Emily hopes soon to improve the large garden at the rear, ready for the summer.

Clive Taylor

CHESHAM ARMS, HACKNEY

In case anyone needs reminding, Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing is still useful but it has a limited life and we are coming up to the time when the first wave of ACVs that CAMRA and pub campaigning groups obtained in their various battles are expiring. James Watson reports that renewal for the Chesham Arms, the first in the borough of Hackney, went through without problem or objection from either the freeholder or leaseholder.

DARTMOUTH ARMS

Another pub back from the dead: the Dartmouth Arms in Kentish Town has won CAMRA North London branch's Winter Pub of the Season award. Branch chairman John Cryne said, "The pub reopened in April last year after being closed since 2015. This was after a fight by locals, assisted by CAMRA, against Faucet Inns who wanted to turn this lovely nineteenth century pub into flats. To win the Pub of the Season, the pub needs to sell good beer and be a welcoming, friendly hostelry to locals and strangers alike. It's a great testament to Andy Bird, who took on the pub, and his team, that in less than one year the pub has won this award, beating the hundreds of other pubs in North London'. Since 2001, 1,220 pubs have disappeared and this loss is continuing. Every year, we are losing pubs in London to property developers, turning our heritage and local amenities to accommodation and offices. Every pub that we save is valued and it just goes to show what a committed pub lover can do in making a pub successful."



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Who says men can't multi-task! John (centre) presents the certificate and drinks at the same time

The fight to save the pub started with locals getting the pub listed as an Asset of Community Value in 2014, which meant the locals could prevent the pub being sold without being consulted first. In 2016, Andy Bird purchased the lease on the Dartmouth Arms from Faucet Inns after they were denied the right to change the bottom floor from a pub into residential. Andy is no newcomer to pub ownership; he has two other pubs in London and part ownership in another.

John Cryne

FIGHTING COCKS, KINGSTON

Recently in the *Sun* there was an editorial about disappearing music venues around the country. Kingston has recently lost two, so I thought I would draw readers' attention to the Fighting Cocks, especially since there has been a recent change of management.

This iconic pub, which stands on the Old London Road, was built around 1776 and was rebuilt by Hodgson's Brewery of Kingston in 1902. These days the pub is almost Kingston's only remaining music venue where rock bands can be seen on a regular basis, usually on Fridays and Saturdays, and occasionally during the week. On Mondays there is comedy and once a month there is a student comedy night. Even when there are no bands on there is always an eclectic range of heavy rock, thrash, punk or anything else for that matter that can be heard on the jukebox in the bar.

Last year, the general manager, Ellie, returned to Australia so Adam stepped up into her place having been at the pub for three years and Francesca, the deputy manager, stepped up having been a customer for the last six years.



Adam second from left and Francesca second from right with the other staff

Francesca is new to the pub trade, having previously worked around the corner at the bowling alley in the Rotunda. The pub serves two real ales, such as Robinson's Trooper, Dark Star Hophead or the Monty Python beers from Black Sheep. Recently they had one from JW Lees of Manchester called Phantom.

Plans have been approved to enlarge the stage area and so hopefully the Fighting Cocks will remain a major music venue for many years to come. The pub is open during the week 3pm to midnight, Friday and Saturday until 1am and Sunday 12 to 12.

Clive Taylor

GREYHOUND, SYDENHAM

The Greyhound has been rebuilt a decade after it was illegally demolished by developers and has now reopened under the control of the G C Mallen company. Reportedly, the firm paid £800,000 for the freehold then spent an additional £450,000 on a refurbishment which has included the addition of a conservatory and a kitchen on the first floor. The pub has a patio garden. It is believed that the new building has some Minton tiling from the original.

KENTISH BELLE, BEXLEYHEATH

As we go to press, Bexley's latest micropub was due to open on 17 March. They hope to have beers from Wantsum, Kent, Brew Buddies, Dark Star, Salopian, Reunion, East London and Howling Hops among others plus, given that it is St Patrick's Day, No Frills Joe Brewing Co's Irish Stout and Tankley's Brewery Russian Imperial Stout. Pub quizzes and charity events are planned. The full address is 8 Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4QW. Full details on the impressive website www.thekentishbelle.co.uk.

There are more to come, believe it or not. The next should be the Halfway House in Avery Hill, followed by the Bird & Barrel in Barnehurst which will be the Bexley Brewery tap. The Brew Buddies brewery are also close to opening their taproom.

MANOR OF WALWORTH, WALWORTH

By the time that you read this, Antic should have opened this, their latest pub situated within the former Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Union offices at 140 Walworth Road. The pub will be decorated in Antic's customary style while staying, to quote their press release, 'sympathetic to the fabulous architecture of this significant building. The interior design will reflect the Georgian period; textured fabrics, 'up-cycled' furniture and fireplaces with ample room to enjoy an evening's drink after work or a relaxing weekend visit'. You can keep up with progress, opening times and menus etc on their website: manorofwalworth.com or on Twitter @manorofwalworth.

These premises were also at one time the offices of the Labour Party and I am sure that I am not alone in remembering a certain employee of that organisation, legendary CAMRA member, that wonderful man the late Ted Higgins, who I'm sure would have been delighted to see his former workplace turned into a pub.

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MONTAGUE ARMS, PECKHAM

This pub is both a music venue and an LGBTQ+ venue so, statistically, is doubly in danger. It was closed in January, almost immediately after the lease changed hands. A petition to keep it as a music venue quickly reached 8,500 signatures and both the Music Venue Trust and the *Evening Standard* have tried to contact the new owners, Chapman & Winney Ltd, to ascertain their plans but without success. The company's business is stated to be 'public houses' so all may not be lost but I suppose the question is, what sort of public house?

SWAN, BAYSWATER

Fuller's have completed their two month long refurbishment of this pub, which overlooks Hyde Park and from which the new decor takes its inspiration. To quote the press release, 'The ground floor is split into three sections, each with its own park-related theme. The main bar is decorated with posters and photos of iconic live music events that have happened in the park throughout the years, the Cygnet Room behind the bar is nature themed, with framed butterflies and feathers and to the right of the bar is a cosy seating area, themed with pictures of sports and wall-mounted sporting equipment, such as croquet mallets'. They have added a conservatory style room on the first floor with a large balcony and seating overlooking the park. Being in a 'tourist hot-spot', the pub will open for breakfast every day from 8am and there are plans for the summer to offer picnic hampers.

Except where credited, compiled by Tony Hedger

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CAMRA Pub Design Awards 2018

I'm pleased to report that London has done very well in this year's Pub Design Awards. The winners of the Conservation, Refurbishment and New Build categories are all in our region.

The conservation award has gone to the Greenwood Hotel, (J D Wetherspoon) in Northolt, which has featured in our pages already. The Refurbishment award went to the Fitzroy Tavern in Fitzrovia, (Samuel Smith's), and the New Build award to the Sail Loft in Greenwich, (Fuller's).

The only category that London did not feature in was Conversion which went to pubs in Lancashire and Edinburgh.

The presentations were due to take place just after we went to print, so more details and, hopefully, photographs will appear in the next edition. In the meantime, if you want to take a look yourselves, the full addresses are as follows:

The Greenwood Hotel, 674 Whitton Avenue West, Wood End, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4LA

The Fitzroy Tavern, 16A Charlotte Street, Fitzrovia, London W1T 2LY

The Sail Loft, 11 Victoria Parade, Greenwich, London SE10 9FR

Tony Hedger

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The Bree Louise

The deed is done now and the Bree Louise has gone for ever – as we knew it at least. Those who can only see pubs as property investments simply do not understand. I have received two tributes to the Bree and I make no apologies for printing them both. The first comes from Colin Coyne, a member of CAMRA's North London branch:

Visitors to the Euston area, from near and far, have, over the years, taken the Bree Louise to their hearts. As well they know, they will receive a warm, friendly welcome from what was an essential 'go-to' destination, as opposed to just being a convenient stop-off after a long journey. Time and again visitors would return to the Bree, knowing their fine range of real ales and ciders on offer are perfectly complemented by the delicious range of home cooked food – especially the award winning pies! For almost fourteen years, Craig and Karen Douglas opened the doors of their great pub to all and for them, the Bree is much, much more than a pub: it is an extension of their home, their family, and their hearts and this is obvious by the warm welcome that they show to all. The Bree Louise's huge popularity has led to it being the winner of numerous CAMRA awards including three times North London branch Pub of the Year and three times London Cider Pub of the Year. So many of us were heartbroken to hear of the impending loss of the Bree due to HS2. You'll be a huge loss to Euston but an even bigger loss to all those that know and love you.

Whenever and wherever Craig and Karen's next adventure occurs, I hope they have good transport links to cope with your numerous friends that will be coming to see them. Cheers!


Reader Jonathan Longley even went as far as to go into verse:

You were the jewel of Euston and the talk of London town,
Hearts were broken when they heard you were closing down.
In all of North London you had the finest range of real ale,
Not once did anyone try them all and live to tell the tale.
The avid trainspotter to the ageing businessman,
The crowd you attracted had a certain elan.
Beer aficionados travelled from far and wide to fill your cavity,
For you had that most sacred of things – beer on gravity.
No sports, no fruities, no trendy or modern plays,
Just Craig and Karen putting on beers for the girls and boys.
You hosted many of my first dates and even one of the last,
Under the lights from the bar romantic shadows were cast.
You have been good to my family, a favourite of my brother,
My dad once sank three pints for breakfast, but let's
not tell mother.
As 'oh go on then, just one drink' inevitably turned into plenty,
So often the 5.30 to Watford Junction would become the 8.20.
And as I depart one last time, stumbling out on shaky knees,
I bid a final farewell to the finest pub of all – the Bree Louise.

Alas it isn't just the Bree. According to the *Evening Standard*, HS2 works also threaten the existence of what is thought to be central London's only breeding colony of hedgehogs. Seventeen baby hedgehogs had arrived by the end of last year. I despair at the thought of them, one by one, suffering the same fate as the Bree.

And yes, I did slightly overdo it myself on my last visit to the Bree. My final pint, Titanic Plum Porter, was excellent and I am not just being sentimental.

Tony Hedger



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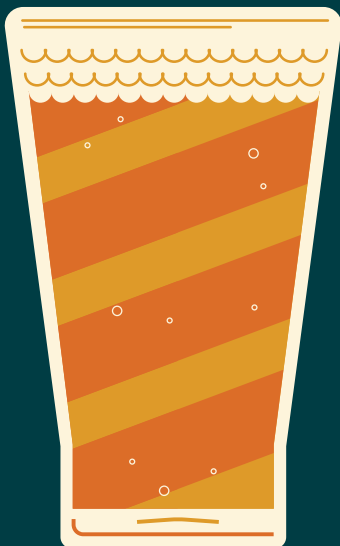
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MAY BANK HOLIDAY **BEER FESTIVAL**

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 the welcome reopening of three pubs closed for several years, in SE26, SW15 and Hampton Court, as well as two new micropubs, in Bexleyheath and Sidcup. There are relocated brewery taps in N17, NW2 and three on the Bermondsey Beer Mile in SE16. Other pubs have been taken over by Andy Bird, Hippo Inns, Market Taverns and West Berkshire Brewery, but we also mark the closure of a much-loved pub in NW1 and the latest Wetherspoon disposal.

NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO CASK BEER

CENTRAL

EC1R 3DJ, COACH & HORSES (Punch), 26-28 Ray St. Having closed in 2015 while upstairs was converted to residential, acquired in 2016 by Ducalian Capital, eventually reopened in January by Holborn Leisure as their second gastropub, name shortened to **COACH**. Adnams Ghost Ship and Timothy Taylor Landlord.

EC1V 9BD, LOST RIVERS, 122 Old St. Opened in June, in an area of student accommodation called Canto Court, one of a small chain owned by a brewery currently in Tilbury that produces keg and bottled beers named after London's lost rivers. No cask beer.

WC1N 2JF, LADY OTTOLINE (Punch), 11a Northington St. Was **KINGS ARMS**. Having closed in June following the demise of operator Affinity Bars & Restaurants, reopened in February by Market Taverns, who run several other pubs including the Market Porter, SE1.

W1B 4BF, TANK & PADDLE (Novus), 17 Heddon St. Formerly run as 'Strawberry Moons' with no draught beer, repositioned in January as the third outlet for Novus's beer & pizza brand. No cask beer. Tank beer from Meantime.

EAST

E1 6GY, BOXBAR, 2-10 Bethnal Green Rd. Bar in the Boxpark development. Sponsored by Coors Light. Operates a card-only bar and you need ID after 8pm Thu/Fri/Sat. No cask beer.

E9 5LN, BEER MERCHANTS TAP, 99 Wallis Rd. Opened in January, the first pub from beer distributor Cave Direct, including off-sales and an on-site sour beer blendery. Two cask beers, twenty keg beers and over 700 bottles.

NORTH

N1 6LG, LION & LAMB (Enterprise), 46 Fanshawe St. Having closed in 2015, reopened with music orientation by Plug Inn Ltd. It appears that cask beer has been discontinued.

N17 9QP, PRESSURE DROP BREWERY TAP, Unit 6, Lockwood Industrial Estate, Mill Mead Rd. Opened in 2017 after the brewery moved from Hackney. Cask beer available only once since opening. Up to ten of their keg beers sold in 2/3rds or 1/3rds for the stronger ones. Open Sat 2-8 only.

NORTH WEST

NW1 2JE, WINNICOTT, 1 Hurdwick Pl. Was **CHARLOTTE**. Having closed last year, changed hands and reopened later in the year as **CRESCENT CAFÉ**, with basement bar open in the evenings. No cask beer.

NW2 6EN, MONCADA BREWERY TAP ROOM, 37 Humber Rd. Mezzanine taproom overlooking relocated brewery. Fifteen keg beers plus bottles. Occasionally cask may be available on gravity. Open Thu & Fri evenings, occasional Sat afternoons.

NW3 2JD, OLD OAK (Enterprise), 1 Mansfield Rd. Cask beer restored, Sharp's Doom Bar.

NW8 8EY, LORD HIGH ADMIRAL (Enterprise), 95 Church St. Reopened in February following refurbishment. Cask beer restored, Fuller's London Pride and Sharp's Doom Bar.

NW10 5JX, WILLIAM IV (Wellington), 786 Harrow Rd. Having operated largely as a facility for hotel guests, now reopened but no longer has cask beer.

NORTHWOOD HILLS (HA6 1NZ), FUSION LOUNGE, The Broadway, 29-31 Joel St. Was **WOODY'S CORNER BAR**. Having closed a few years ago to become a bar with no draught beer, reopened in November as **LOCKER ROOM**, a sports pub. Cask beer introduced, Sharp's Atlantic and Doom Bar.

SOUTH EAST

SE13 5ND, PARK FEVER, 21a Staplehurst Rd. Beer and chocolate shop licensed for on-premises consumption, now with two keg beers in addition to an extensive range of bottles and cans. No cask beer.

SE16 2DB, PARTIZAN BREWING TAP ROOM, 34 Raymouth Rd. Much improved taproom opened in January, after brewery relocated last year from nearby. No cask beer. A wide range of KeyKeg and bottled beers, and an independent food vendor outside.

SE16 2ET, STANLEY ARMS, 418 Southwark Park Rd. Cask beer restored, Wells Courage Best.

SE20 7DT, CROOKED BILLET (Enterprise), 99 High St. Cask beer restored in January, Sharp's Doom Bar and St Austell Tribute.

SE26 4QB, GREYHOUND (ex-M&B), 313-315 Kirkdale. Having closed in 2007, a long saga of illegal demolition,

community campaign and eventual rebuilding has resulted in being reopened in February by GC Mallen. Up to four cask beers, e.g. Adnams Ghost Ship and Southwold Bitter, Dark Star American Pale Ale and Hophead.

BEXLEYHEATH (DA7 4QW), KENTISH BELLE, 8 Pickford La. New micropub opened in March. Half a dozen cask beers regularly including dark styles, e.g. Brew Buddies, No Frills, Tankley. Over a dozen real ciders.

CROYDON (CR0 1BE), EDGE (Enterprise), 1 South End. Was BLACKSMITHS ARMS, O'NEILLS, CORNER HOUSE. Taken over last May by Crown & Pepper, refurbished and renamed in December **KEG & GRILL**, with Lebanese food. Cask beer introduced, Sharp's Doom Bar.

SIDCUP (DA15 8DJ), HALFWAY HOUSE, 188c Halfway St. New micropub opened in March. Cask beers, mainly from micros, and real ciders.

SOUTH WEST

SW4 7EX, COACH & HORSES (Enterprise), 173-175 Clapham Park Rd. Was ACRE TAVERN. Cask beer restored, Sambrook's Wandle.

SW12 9RT, SIMMONS, 5 Fernlea Rd. Opened in October, their twelfth site, previously a cocktail bar with no draught beer. No cask beer. BrewDog keg beers.

SW14 8QR, MICRO BEERS, 335 Upper Richmond Rd West. Family-owned bottle shop and taproom, opened in 2016 in

a converted shop, with plenty of seating. No cask beer. Four changing keg beers e.g. Marble, Partizan. Over 200 bottled and canned beers.

SW15 2SP, PUTNEY STATION, 94-98 Upper Richmond Rd. Having closed in 2015, reopened on New Year's Eve by Mosaic Pub & Dining (formerly City Fund Pub Co, who run a handful of London pubs) as **EAST PUTNEY TAVERN**. Three cask beers, e.g. Truman's Zephyr, Twickenham Naked Ladies, West Berkshire Good Old Boy.

SW16 6NR, FURZEDOWN (Enterprise), 118 Mitcham La. Was PARK TAVERN, SAMUEL JOHNSON. Reopened and cask beer restored, Sharp's Doom Bar, with a guest beer also in prospect.

SW16 5NJ, RABBIT HOLE, 151-153 Greyhound La. Was GREYHOUND. Cask beer restored, Sharp's Doom Bar.

HAMPTON COURT (KT8 9BW), CARDINAL WOLSEY (Shepherd Neame), The Green, Hampton Court Rd. Having closed in 2014, sold to an independent owner, refurbished and reopened in January as **SEXTONS AT HAMPTON COURT**, a traditional Irish pub. Sharp's Atlantic and Doom Bar.

WEST

W12 7TU, FEAST BAR & KITCHEN, White City Pl, 201 Wood La. New bar & 'street food' outlet in former BBC Media Centre. No cask beer.

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

CENTRAL

EC2A 3SQ, STRONGROOM BAR & KITCHEN (Air Entertainment Group). Cask beer discontinued.

EC4A 1HL, GRAND UNION (Draft House). Was BLUE ANCHOR. Having been acquired in June with other Grand Union outlets, closed in January with freehold and leasehold on the market.

EC4A 3BQ, LAST (Lewis & Clarke). Chain acquired c.2009 by Balls Brothers, who were acquired in 2011 by Novus Leisure. Now renamed **BALLS BROTHERS (SHOE LANE)** and cask beer discontinued.

WC1X 0DS, EASTON (Enterprise). Was QUEEN'S HEAD. Closed in February, reportedly will reopen, perhaps as a managed pub.

WC2N 6PA, OPAL BAR (Novus). Was MOTION. Closed in January, future uncertain.

W1D 5BW, DE HEMS (M&B). Cask beer discontinued.

EAST

E3 5LU, YOUNG PRINCE. Cask beer discontinued.

E5 0PD, LORD CECIL. Having closed over a decade ago, now an office with flats upstairs.

E6 6EJ, WHITE HORSE (Punch). Sold c.2013, since demolished to make way for flats.

E14 8HH, 5B URBAN BAR (Urban Bar). Was FIVE BELLS & BLADEBONE. Cask beer discontinued.

DAGENHAM (RM10 8QS), LORD DENMAN (Wether-spoon). Sold and closed in February, apparently to an existing pub operator, having been on the market since 2016.

NORTH

N1C 4QL, CURIOUS PIG (Young). Geronimo pub in St Pancras International, closed last year.

N8 7PB, HORNSEY TAVERN (ex-Greene King). Closed in February, sold to developers who intend residential development. The operators have opened 'The Tav' at 18 High St, not yet surveyed.

NORTH WEST

NW1 2FD, ALL BAR ONE (M&B). Closed in January, seemingly linked to HS2 works.

NW1 2HH, BREE LOUISE (Enterprise). Was JOLLY GARDENERS. Former CAMRA branch Pub of the Year (twice), closed in January and scheduled for demolition to make way for HS2.

NW1 7HJ, GOOD MIXER. Was CRICKETERS. Closed in January, future uncertain.

NW1 4BY, VICTORY (Enterprise). Having been reported closed in 2016, now demolished as part of a wider development.

NW3 1NH, ROSSLYN ARMS (ex-Orchid). Was BAR ROOM BAR. Having closed in 2012/3, eventually became a cafe in January.

NW3 4RL, SIR RICHARD STEELE (Faucet Inn). Closed for residential conversion upstairs.

NW6 2QN, KILBURN IRONWORKS (Seed UK Ltd). Was POWERS. Closed in February, future uncertain.

NW8 8JR, CROCKERS (Maroush). Was CROWN. Cask beer discontinued after a few months, citing poor demand.

SOUTH EAST

SE1 6TJ, CHARLIE CHAPLIN (Enterprise). Following a number of stays of execution, now closed and boarded up to facilitate redevelopment of the Elephant & Castle shopping centre.

SE1 7PJ, SLUG & LETTUCE (Stonegate), 5 Chicheley St. Was BAR MED. Cask beer discontinued.

SE6 1LF, ACES BAR. Closed, future uncertain.

SE6 4BD, BLACK HORSE & HARROW (Stonegate). Was GOOSE ON THE GREEN. Closed and sold, future uncertain.

SE15 2RL, ASYLUM TAVERN (Admiral). Cask beer discontinued last year.

SE15 5EG, COPPER TAP. Was RED COW. Changed hands at the start of year. Cask beer discontinued for the time being.

SE15 2PA, MONTAGUE ARMS. Closed in January, lease taken over by Chapman & Winney. Online petition to retain it as a live music venue.

SE19 1TQ, TWENTY FIVE. Was PUZZLE, GAUTAMA BAR. Closed since 2015, future uncertain.

SE22 9JJ, CASTLE (Town Centre Inns). Cask beer discontinued.

SE25 5PP, HOLMESDALE (Enterprise). Was WHITE HORSE. Cask beer discontinued.

BEXLEYHEATH (DA7 4DQ), VOLUNTEER (Wellington). Closed, lease on the market.

CROYDON (CR0 2DH), DRUM & MONKEY. Closed and boarded in January, apparently permanently.

CROYDON (CR2 6PB), STAG & HOUNDS (ex-Punch). Closed and boarded in February, permission granted last year for demolition to make way for residential development.

SOUTH WEST

SW9 0JG, OVAL LOUNGE. Closed and gutted, future uncertain.

SW11 5RD, CROWN (Enterprise). This pub and hostel leased to Best Place Inns is closed and boarded, future uncertain.

SW12 9AG, BALHAM HOUSE (ex-Greene King). Was PUZZLE, CLARENCE, BALHAM ARMS. Closed, now a café.

SW14 7EZ, TAPESTRY TAPAS BAR (Greene King). Was JOLLY MILKMAN. Cask beer discontinued.

SW19 2BY, PROVENANCE (ex-Punch). Was RED LION, GJ'S, PRINCE. After closure in 2014, permission was granted for residential development including an extended pub area but, following later planning consent, the ground floor is now a Co-op.

CHEAM (SM3 8BU), CHOMPS (Time Well Spent). Closed in February, future uncertain.

HAMPTON WICK (KT1 4AE), OLD KINGS HEAD. Closed, future uncertain for this independently owned free house.

KINGSTON (KT1 1HN), MILL (M&B). Was **KINGSTON MILL**. Cask beer discontinued.

RICHMOND (TW9 2PN), HOPE (Enterprise). Was **MOLLY MALONES**. Closed, lease on the market.

WEST

W11 1AB, METROPOLITAN (Greene King). Found closed in January, future uncertain.

W12 8LQ, DUKE OF EDINBURGH (ex-Enterprise). After closure in 2012 for residential conversion upstairs, permission to convert the ground floor to alternative commercial use was approved last year.

HILLINGDON (UB10 9HR), TOMMY FLYNN'S (Enterprise). Closed and sold in 2013, demolished last year to make way for flats.

SOUTHALL (UB1 2LA), BEEHIVE @ THE JALANDHAR JUNCTION (ex-Punch). Having closed in 2014, converted to a convenience store.

TWICKENHAM (TW1 3AW), LE BARON (Wellington). Was **MONGOLIAN BARBECUE, CLUBHOUSE, MULBERRY TREE**. Cask beer discontinued.

UXBRIDGE (UB8 1PW), ABROOK ARMS (ex-Punch).

Reported closed in 2014; permission granted last year to demolish for residential development.

UXBRIDGE (UB8 2LY), CHILTERN VIEW. Having closed more than ten years ago, finally converted to flats last year.

UXBRIDGE (UB8 2PS), MILITIA CANTEEN (ex-Greene King). Closed in January 2017; permission now granted for residential conversion.

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & CASK BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC4R 3UL, LOOSE CANNON. Was **FIFTEEN05**. Renamed **CITY BAR**. Sharp's Cornish Coaster and Timothy Taylor Landlord.

W1T 1TA, DRAFT HOUSE CHARLOTTE. Was **NORTH-UMBERLAND ARMS**. Renamed **QUEEN CHARLOTTE** but otherwise little changed.

EAST

E6 6ET, HAMMERS (Enterprise). Reverted to **RED LION**. Shepherd Neame Spitfire and two guests, e.g. Signature, Truman's. Real cider, Weston's Old Rosie.

E8 3RR, LONDON FIELDS BREWERY TAP ROOM. No longer brewing. Now has two changing cask beers from Truman's.

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E8 3BH, PRINCE ARTHUR (Gorgeous Pubs). Taken over by Andy Bird, who also runs Chesham Arms, E9 and other venues. Three changing cask beers, e.g. East London, Five Points, Hackney, Redemption.

E9 6AS, JACKDAW & STAR (Electric Star). Changed hands in January and reverted to **SPREAD EAGLE**, with vegan food. One locally sourced cask beer.

E14 5RB, ROCKET (Novus). Having been acquired in January 2017, repositioned as **ROCKET BY BALLS BROTHERS**. Still no cask beer.

E15 1PF, CART & HORSES. Cask beer discontinued.

NORTH WEST

NW5 2AA, OXFORD (Greene King). Was **VULTURE'S PERCH**, **JORENE CELESTE**. Sold to West Berkshire Brewery.

SOUTH EAST

SE16 3LR, PARTIZAN BREWING BAR. With Partizan relocating last year to new premises nearby (see first section), their site is now occupied by two other brewery taps:

SE16 3LR, AFFINITY BREW CO TASTING ROOM, 7 Almond Rd. Having started in Tottenham Hale, relocated last year to one arch of former Partizan Brewing site. No cask beer. A range of their own KeyKeg beers.

SE16 3LR, SPARTAN BREWERY TAPROOM, 8 Almond Rd.

SOUTH WEST

SW1V 2EE, CASK PUB & KITCHEN (Greene King). Was **PIMLICO TRAM**. Now acquired from Greene King by Martin Hayes, the operator since 2009.

SW4 0DR, CALF (M&B). Was **BULLS HEAD**, **FRIESIAN & FIRKIN**. Renamed **RECTORY**.

SW6 2EH, IMPERIAL ARMS (Star). Taken over in February by Unique Hospitality Management, their first London pub, under Epic Pubs brand. Butcombe Original and Wells Bombardier.

SW6 7EU, WELLINGTON (Manica Properties). Sold to TWPF Ltd. 2-3 cask beers, e.g. Greene King, Long Man, Sambrook's, Sharp's.

SW12 8QX, BBC BAR RESTAURANT (Antic). Reverted to **BALHAM BOWLS CLUB**.

SUTTON (SM1 1LD), CROWN (Enterprise). Transferred to Enterprise's 200-strong Craft Union format, which until now has not appeared in London. Refurbished with new interior layout. Sharp's Doom Bar and a guest, subject to demand.

WEST

W6 9DJ, BLUE ANCHOR (Enterprise). Taken over by Hippo Inns. House beer brewed by Nelson plus three guests, e.g. Dorking, Portobello, Sambrook's.

W6 0JD, FLYNN'S (Enterprise). Was **PRINCE OF WALES**, **EGERTON** etc. Lease taken over spring 2017 by Laine. Nevertheless, the only cask beer on a recent visit was Fuller's London Pride.

W6 9LP, RAVENSCOURT ARMS (Punch). Renamed **BLACK BULL**.

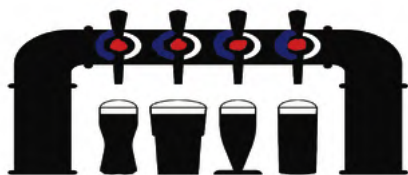
GREENFORD (UB6 9PH), HENNESSYS. Changed hands and renamed **THREE WISHES**. Still no cask beer.

TWICKENHAM (TW1 2PA), ALBA (Mosaic Pub & Dining). Was **MARBLE HILL**, **ALEKSANDER**. Reverted in January to original name, **RISE SUN**, under existing operator previously known as City Fund Pub Co. Five cask beers, e.g. Adnams Bitter, Oakham Citra, Sambrook's Watney's Pale, West Berkshire Good Old Boy and Maharaja Pale.

TWICKENHAM (TW1 3SZ), MISTY MOON (Three Wishes). Was **MOON UNDER WATER**. Refurbished in January and renamed **TIMBERYARD**. Sharp's Doom Bar, St Austell Tribute and Wells Courage Best.



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All readers – not just CAMRA members – are invited to use this column but please remember that it is intended for debate and constructive criticism. The editor reserves the right not to print any contributions that are otherwise. Please e-mail letters to ldnews.hedger@gmail.com. If you do not have e-mail, hard-copy letters may be sent to: *London Drinker* Letters, 4 Arundel House, Heathfield Road, Croydon CR0 1EZ. In both cases, please state 'letter for publication' so as to avoid any misunderstandings. The deadline for the next edition is 14 May 2018. Allow a further ten days if submitting by post.

ENJOYING A DRINK

Your health and welfare spread in the December 2017/January 2018 edition prompted these thoughts. Any substance that has a mood or perception altering effect will have side effects that are bad for your physical health. Consequently prescribing a 'safe' level of consumption is going to be an unsatisfactory exercise, no matter how it is done. There will be people who are made ill by the smell of a barperson's apron while others live to a ripe old age pickled in booze.

These contrasting individual responses are not easily categorised

but people who can drink a moderate amount or go without for a moderate number of days or have a moderate number of benders without getting obsessed by it are likely to be better adjusted personalities than those obsessed by one or other end of this spectrum and thus more likely to have physical health that reflects this psychological equilibrium.

Then there is the context in which the recreational narcotic of choice is administered. Alone behind the dustbins with a dog-lead round your biceps and a needle in your arm is not conducive to a jolly time. Down the boozer with mates, grub and enough chat to slow the drinking creates a better atmosphere. Both will give your liver some hammer but one has more social interaction and the health benefits that come with it.

These considerations apply no matter how rich you are. The idea that unit pricing is the solution to the problems of alcohol excess assumes that people who are rich enough to absorb the increases don't suffer from them. And supermarket super-strength lager at home alone is way cheaper than a pint down the pub and encourages solitary consumption that's more like pouring it in than drinking. Drinking at home doesn't have to be like that. A bottle of wine shared over the evening meal with the family is every bit as civilising. But the price

impact worsens the problems for isolated drinkers.

I have no answer to these questions whatsoever. I just thought it might help to jot down how far I've got in sorting out what I think. Any help to get any further is welcome.

Nik Wood

THE CARPENTERS ARMS

Having just picked up the February/March *London Drinker* I find myself in rare disagreement with Sue Hart over the question of the Carpenters Arms, Seymour Place. Surely, I thought, I visited it long before the 1980s? Being a modern Pepys I was able to locate a diary entry for Friday 21 March, 1975, '...we caught a bus to Marble Arch, and found our way to the Carpenters Arms, Seymour Place, a pub I had twice previously failed to locate. ... I had Ruddles, then relaxed with a Sam Smith, which was almost tasteless in comparison. The County was on superb form: an astonishing beer. To avoid being Ruddled I left my companions at it and walked to Paddington, collecting a fish cake at Mickey's Plaice and getting the 10.18 comfortably.'

Them were the days!

John Dearing

Editor's note: I think that we will call an end to this correspondence now.

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

London LocAle scheme

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

Shinner & Sudtone	67 High Street, Sutton SM1 1DT	Volden
Highbury Barn	26 Highbury Park, Highbury N5 2AB	Truman, Canopy, ELB

The Shinner & Sudtone is an Antic pub; the Highbury Barn is owned by a company new to us, Greenwich Village Inns.

The following pubs have left the scheme.

King William IV	816 High Road, Leyton E10 6AE
Bree Louise	69 Cobourg Street, NW1 2HH (alas, closed)
Elm Park Tavern	76 Elm Park, SW2 2UB

There may be more information on these pubs in our WhatPub Update column.

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

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Well, spring has arrived then with all its concomitant snow and Siberian winds. The glaciers should appear around June at this rate – all caused by global warming, no doubt.

Yesterday (as I write this) I took part in a British record: for the largest ever crowd at a ladies club rugby match. 4,542 spectators turned up (Keep an eye on future number puzzles!). It was one way of spending a dull birthday afternoon. The match was a local derby between the Harlequins and Richmond ladies sides, a closely fought battle which 'Quins won 14-12. I wonder what the previous record was; nobody said.

Let's have some number puzzles:

1. 315 F is the H of the ET
2. 7,008 M is the L of the S(R)T
3. 14 MN of GC in a B
4. 31 is OOOOO in B
5. 10,000,000 M from the NP to the E (the OD)
6. 3 is OT on a DB
7. 1 P is the W of an AP of W
8. 3000 D was SL to A in the M of V
9. 14 M are OETMH
10. 7080 F is the L of SP

You may recall that in February last year 5BY4 was about new blue plaques unveiled by English Heritage in 2016. Well, in 2017 they put up twelve more; here are ten of them. Can you match the people with the locations of their plaques?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Spencer Gore (painter) | A. East Sheen |
| 2. Francis Bacon – (painter) | B. Hendon |
| 3. Rudolf Nureyev | C. Golders Green |
| 4. Mary McArthur (Trade Unionist) | D. Kensington |
| 5. Sir John Gielgud | E. South Kensington |
| 6. Wing Commander 'Bob' Braham (pilot) | F. Stockwell |
| 7. Henri Gaudier-Brzeska (sculptor) | G. East Dulwich |
| 8. Sir Robert Watson-Watt (radar pioneer) | H. Putney |
| 9. Sir Henry Cotton (golfer) | I. Westminster |
| 10. Charlie Chaplin | J. Mornington Crescent, Camden |

Now, to finish off in time-honoured fashion, here are some trivial questions (or you might think some are significant):

1. Who was the brother of radio stars Elsie and Doris Waters who regularly appeared on television on Saturday evenings between 1955 and 1976?
2. What role did he play?
3. Apart from five landmark properties in London, Historic Royal Palaces also run one outside the capital. Where in the UK is it?
4. On 29 November 2017 a re-enactment was held at Brooklands in Surrey to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the first ever motor races run in Great Britain. Specifically, what type of motor vehicles were raced?

5. King Charles I was executed on 30 January 1649; where did this event take place?
6. Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland following Charles I's execution. Who succeeded him in the role on his death?
7. Where is the Kremlin? This is a trick question – why?
8. Of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, how many were located in Egypt?
9. Interestingly (you might or might not think), the National Trust and English Heritage both have their headquarters in the same town. Where is this?
10. A new cinema which opened in 1930 at Perry Barr, Birmingham was the first in Britain to go under what name?

Before I go, I've just looked up the previous record. The BBC Sport web site says it was 1,500.

Have a good spring; it will be summer (according to the weather forecasters) when we return. My, how time flies!

Andy Pirson

IDLE MOMENTS – THE ANSWERS

Here are the answers from the February/March edition:

Number puzzles:

1. 60 miles per hour is one mile a minute
2. 3 London Marathon wins by Paula Radcliffe
3. 2 Grand National wins by Ruby Walsh
4. 2,240 Pounds in a ton
5. 38 colleges of Oxford University
6. 2,204 Pounds in a tonne
7. 332 miles between London and Edinburgh (in a Straight Line)
8. 8 Triple Word Score squares on a Scrabble board
9. 2 number eights in a scrum
10. 1840 issue of the world's first postage stamp (Penny Black)

5BY4:

The areas of the selected London boroughs in square miles are as follows

1. Bromley – 58.0
2. Camden – 8.4
3. Richmond – 22.2
4. City of London – 1.1
5. Hammersmith & Fulham – 6.3
6. Greenwich – 18.3
7. Havering – 43.6
8. Kensington & Chelsea – 4.7
9. Barking & Dagenham – 13.9
10. Barnet – 33.5

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

1. The official residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports is Walmer Castle, near Deal in Kent.
2. The last Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports was Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Idle Moments

3. Kings College Cambridge was founded in 1441 by King Henry VI.
4. Until the middle 16th Century Kings College took students only from Eton College (also founded by Henry VI).
5. The waterway running between Preston Brook and Castlefield Junction is the Bridgewater Canal.
6. A blue moon is a second full moon occurring in a single calendar month.
7. Blue moons usually happen at about three year intervals, but the next year (after 2018) with two blue moons will be 2037 (also in January and March).
8. It was the Marcells who had a No. 1 hit in the UK with Blue Moon in 1961.
9. The cover version of Blue Moon which reached No. 32 in the UK charts in 1980 was by Showaddywaddy.
10. And finally, Blue Moon was written by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart in 1934 (but it was published in 1935).

The print run for this issue of *London Drinker* is 26,250.

It is distributed by CAMRA volunteers to some 1,200 pubs and clubs in and around Greater London and a link to the on-line version is e-mailed to all CAMRA members in Greater London for whom we have e-mail addresses.



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To book your tickets go to www.gbbf.org.uk and follow the instructions. Remember that there are discounts for CAMRA members.

VIP Package: why not treat yourself to a VIP Package? It's the perfect way to get the very best out of your visit from the moment you arrive. The VIP Package includes your day pass, festival guide, souvenir glass, £15 worth of beer tokens and access to an exclusive seating area. Only 250 of these special packages are available per day and can only be used from Wednesday to Saturday. At just £39 (plus booking fees) there's no reason not to.

Tutored Tastings: get a little extra from the festival with a tutored tasting session. Learn about the Champion Beer of Britain with Roger Protz, enjoy a tasting with Tiny Rebel, indulge in a beer and cheese pairing with Annabel Smith or sign up for an exclusive beer judging training course hosted



by our own Christine Cryne – but be quick, tickets are selling fast! Full details are on the website as above.

From CAMRA press releases

Editor's note: as of 7 March, the petition to have a full, seven day District Line service to Kensington Olympia restored reached 10,000 signatures. The petition is supported by Olympia's owners and CAMRA. Watch this space...



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- 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) £30.00. Add £2 if not paying by Direct Debit.

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



Tribute - Mike Hammersley

My good friend and colleague Geoff Strawbridge often uses the expression attributed (in English usage anyway) to Sir Isaac Newton, 'standing on the shoulders of giants'. As the current editor of this magazine I am sad to announce the passing of Mike Hammersley, certainly a giant on whose shoulders all subsequent editors of *London Drinker* have stood.

I first knew Mike Hammersley from when I joined the Greater London Council (Staff) Real Ale Society as it was then. He produced all of the society's circulars and maps, that being his line of work. He subsequently left for BT.

In March 1979 he joined with Brian Sheridan, Ron Atkins and Robin Bence to produce the first edition of *London Drinker*. Again, Mike did the artwork and layout. Brian Sheridan explains, "Mike worked with me on the first issues of *London Drinker* nearly 40 years ago. Times were different then: copy was typed on a portable manual typewriter before Mike took the raw copy to arrange it into pages and insert the few adverts we had then into suitable spaces. The pages were then photographed before sending to the printers in Salford. This was a major effort on Mike's part as *London Drinker* was published monthly with a copy deadline just before the middle of the preceding month, yet it appeared on the due date without fail. Mike was also responsible (before LD was established) for a magazine published by CAMRA's South West London branch. I think the title was 'Opening Times' and I do remember that Mike 'borrowed' the logo of a certain West Midlands brewery (thankfully still extant) as the mag's masthead. Mike was a committed campaigner who contributed greatly in those early years and beyond. His loss is a sad one."

Geoff adds, "Mike Hammersley was one of the original team of editors of *London Drinker* when it was first published in March 1979; indeed there was a photograph of him on the front cover, downing a pint. Fast forward to 2001 and Mike, as an accomplished computer typographer and graphic designer, offered to produce the magazine from contributions received electronically and send proofs by email for checking before wiring

the final copy to our printers. The February/March 2002 edition was the first to appear with Mike's new masthead. I had taken over as editor as a stopgap and with minimal understanding of the technicalities but, with the benefit of Mike's experience, expertise, enthusiasm and encouragement, I found myself thoroughly enjoying the job for nine more years. The IT worked: for one issue Mike sent the proofs via the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva, where I was away at a standards meeting. Besides producing *London Drinker*, Mike edited the *Independent Imbiber*. He moved to the Isle of Wight and then to the Isle of Skye but in November 2012, in hospital with a sudden pneumonia, he suffered a series of strokes from which he was lucky to survive. Sadly his health never recovered but he was well cared for and kept in contact with close friends. Rest in peace, Mike."

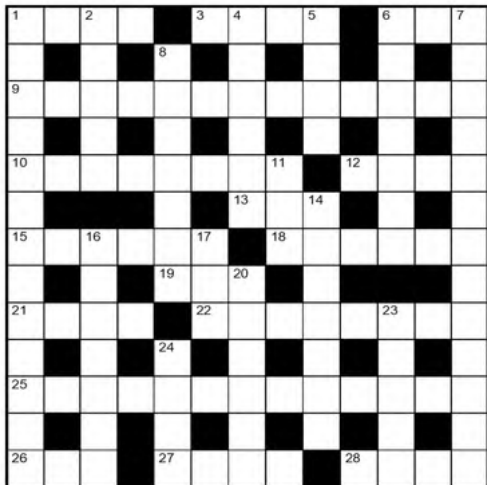


Roger Warhurst reminded me of the part that Mike played in the pub guides that *London CAMRA* produced in the early days, culminating in *Real Beer in London*, and that Mike also took on the additional – and vital – role of advertising manager from March 1981 until March 1983. Roger comments, "Mike contributed greatly to spreading the word about real ale in London in the early days of CAMRA."

CAMRA's Greater London Region and *London Drinker* were represented at the funeral in Westbury, Wiltshire by Mostyn Lewis and Roger Warhurst. We send our condolences to Mike's brother Roger, family and friends. If anyone who knew Mike wishes to make a charitable donation in his memory, the chosen charity is the Stroke Association (www.stroke.org.uk/donate).

Tony Hedger

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON
£20 prize to be won



Name

Address

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

The prize winner will be announced in the August/September *London Drinker*. The solution will be given in the June/July 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.

FEBRUARY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

1. Trim end of film star's dress. [4]
3. Cancel peace keepers' party. [4]
6. Short break for cleaner. [3]
9. What's left on professor, doctor and printer's magazine? [6,7]
10. He's back with a pest going round pub. [8]
12. Drunk keen on a bender. [4]
13. There's time for some beer always. [3]
15. City becomin' twice as big, it's said. [6]
18. Knowledge of song is patchy. [6]
19. Subdue the creature! [3]
21. Picture I study carefully. [4]
22. Follow after snake in a row. [4,4]
25. Poets gave blue performance for food. [9,4]
26. Revolutionary wine. [3]
27. Hare about to find bird. [4]
28. Support for animal. [4]

DOWN

1. Perversely saddling lover with expensive things. [4,3,6]
2. Travel all over the mountains. [5]
4. It's covered in swellings without medication. [6]
5. French sculptor's headless god. [4]
6. Six Roman rulers: ruthless invaders. [7]
7. It's applied to piles. [6,7]
8. The Spanish leave officer in charge of passage in the rear. [7]
11. Find some work in a kindergarten. [3]
14. One more part of a flower with nothing inside. [7]
16. Sent a message, first to be recorded. [7]
17. Not out opening batsman. A classy fellow. [3]
20. It's commonly found in SW London. [6]
23. Sailor almost finished on top. [5]
24. Lead discovered in West Arkansas. [4]

Winner of the prize for the December Crossword:
Pete Simmonds, Kingston, Surrey.

Other correct entries were received from:

Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, H.Arnott, Lorraine Bamford, John Barker, Newton Bear-Regis, Mike Belsham, Patricia Blakemore, Steve Block, C Bloom, John Bowler, Deryn Brand, Hugh Breach, Kelvin Brewster, Jeremy Brinkworth, Eddie Carr, Avi Chaudhuri, Hilary Clark, Richard Conway, Paul Curson, P J Curson, Joe Daly, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Tom Drane, Elvis Evans, Peter Everett, Geoff Gentry, B Gleeson, Nick Goodwin, J E Green, Alan Greer, Matthew Griffiths, Caroline Guthrie, Ms Gerry Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, 'Shropshire' Dave Hardy, John Heath, William Hill, David Hough, Martin Jackson, Chris James, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, David Jiggins, Eric Johnston, D M L Jones, Mike Joyce, Roger Knight, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Aidan Lavery, Julie Lee, Gerald Lopatis, Chris Lovelace, Donald MacAuley, Derek McDonnell, Ken McKenzie, Pat Maginn, Steve Maloney, John Mannel, Dylan Mason, Pam Moger, Jan Mondrejewski, M J Moran, Jon Morgan, Mick Morrison, Dave Murphy, Bill Neville, Paul Nicholls, Mark Nichols, Mick Norman, Gerald Notley, Alan O'Brien, Liam O'Hanlon, M Ognjenovic, Michael Oliver, Chris Pandrai, Nigel Parsons, Mick Place, Robert Pleasants, Ms G Pote, Jeanette Powell, Derek Pryce, James Rawle, N Roe, Nigel Roe, Richard Rogers, Helen Rooney, Alex Ryan, John Savage, Ruth Smith, Ian Symes, Terry and Pam, Bill Thackray, Mark Thompson, Paul Tiffany, Andy Wakefield, Martin Weedon, Miss E A Whale, Sue Wilson, Nigel Woodward, David Woodward, Brian Wright, Peter Wright and the Missus, Ray Wright.

There were also fifteen incorrect solutions plus one incomplete one.

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Kitchen Open: Tues - Sun 12pm to 3pm, Thurs - Sat 6pm to 9pm

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