

FREE



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REAL ALE

# LONDON DRINKER

Volume 41 No. 1  
February/March 2019



**End of an era - see page 12** (photo by Roy Tunstall)

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*London Drinker is published on behalf of the Greater London branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, and is edited by Tony Hedger. It is printed by Cliffe Enterprise, Eastbourne, BN22 8TR.*

*CAMRA is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and registered in England; company no. 1270286. Registered office: 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 4LW.*

**Material for publication**, including press releases, should preferably be sent by e-mail to [ldnews.hedger@gmail.com](mailto:ldnews.hedger@gmail.com). The deadline for the next edition, April/May 2019 is Friday 8 March

*All contributions to this magazine are made on a voluntary basis.*

**To advertise in London Drinker**, contact John Galpin on 020 3287 2966 or mobile 07508 036835;

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Prices: whole page £345 colour or £275 mono; half-page £210 colour or £155 mono; quarter-page £115 colour or £90 mono.

The views expressed in this magazine are those of their individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the editor or CAMRA.

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**Subscriptions:** please send either £9 for the mailing of six editions or £17 for 12 editions to Stan Tompkins, 52 Rabbs Mill House, Chiltern View Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 2PD. Please make cheques payable to CAMRA London Area. These prices apply to UK mail addresses only. To arrange for copies to be sent overseas, please contact us.

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## BACK ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

**H**appy New Year! Coming out of hibernation in the second week of January, I find CAMRA's comparative drinking programme of Pub of the Year voting and Good Beer Guide selection well under way. Pubgoers should use any such excuse to combat the predictable if unintended consequence of the 'Dry January' fad: the threat of closure of yet more community pubs.

Successive statistical surveys towards the end of last year, the more compelling coming from the Office of National Statistics, highlighted the proportion and the sheer number of London pubs – thousands – that had closed since the Millennium. Not surprisingly, I was contacted by student journalists among others wanting to know what was going on. I agreed to two or three evening interviews; pubs need customers and, for that matter, CAMRA needs young members.

Nationally I see two main reasons for continuing pub closures. In the countryside, there's the lack of late evening public transport. In the cities and larger towns, the value of most pub sites for alternative use is the major threat, especially here in London with such high residential property prices.

Within living memory, local breweries owned clusters of pubs and their tenant publicans could make a living from selling plenty of their beers. Nowadays property companies seem to own most pubs, often with a view to their conversion or replacement for greater profits. Faced with

unsustainable rent increases from such landlords, the Dispensary in Aldgate and the Telegraph on Putney Heath have already closed this year.

An aggravating factor, well documented in this magazine, is the entitlement of a property company to dictate which beers and other supplies a tied publican can stock, from whom to buy them and at what price – for beer typically twice the price of buying from a brewer directly. This is an historical anomaly that operates against the interests of small brewers, publicans and customers alike. My young interviewers were intrigued as our host publicans verified the facts.

To help save pubs, CAMRA is calling for urgent reform of the Pubs Code (under which tied tenants of the largest pub owning businesses should be no worse off than if they were free of tie), for a comprehensive review of business rates – pubs with a rateable value between £51,000 and £100,000 are now worse off than before the autumn 2018 budget – and for consideration of lower duty rates on draught beer. We lobbied our MPs on these three counts in November.

This month I've been looking again at the draft New London Plan. What the planning system can do is make clear that applications for change of use from pubs will now be approved only exceptionally. Policies in place need to be enforced by Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate, to whom developers but not local communities can appeal, should respect LPAs' enforcement decisions. The draft Policy HC7 and the related explanatory paragraphs should establish a much stronger strategic planning regime for London pubs. For the Examination in Public I have written a supporting statement on behalf of CAMRA.

**Geoff Strawbridge**

**CAMRA Greater London Regional Director**

# 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 February and March are listed below. Meetings, visits and socials are open to all – everyone is welcome to come along. A complete calendar listing of CAMRA events within Greater London is available at [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk).

If you want to check on the areas covered by the branches shown below, please go to [www.london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=20208](http://www.london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=20208).

## REGIONAL EVENT

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

**March – Wed 27 (7.30)** London AGM and Liaison Committee (regional co-ordination mtg for London branch reps). Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St, Borough SE1 4JU.

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

## LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

**February – Sat 23** Willesden Green, Cricklewood, Brondesbury, Kilburn and St John's Wood: (12pm) Queensbury (formerly Green), 110 Walm La, NW2 4RS; (1pm) Clayton Crown Hotel (formerly Crown), 142-152 Cricklewood Broadway, NW2 3ED; (1.45) North London

Tavern, 375 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 7QB; (3.15) Black Lion, 274 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 2BY; (3.45) Sir Colin Campbell, 266 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 2BY; (4.30) Queens Arms, 1 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 5SE; (5.15) Clifton, 96 Clifton Hill, NW8 0JT. Public transport will be required at times.

**March – Wed 13 (7.15 for 7.30)** Mtg: Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St, SE1 4JU (upstairs). All CAMRA branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.  
[www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk](http://www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk)

## YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

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

**February – Wed 13 (7.15)** Sambrook's Brewery, Yelverton Rd, Battersea SW11 3QG. Tutored beer tasting with master trainer and accredited beer judge Christine Cryne. This session will explain just how the ingredients in beer impact on its aroma and flavour and give you a chance to put this knowledge into practice. Tickets will also be available for non-members/guests but spaces are limited

The print run for this issue of London Drinker is 47,000. It is distributed by CAMRA volunteers to some 1,200 pubs and clubs in and around Greater London and is supplied direct to all of their outlets in the area by J D Wetherspoons. 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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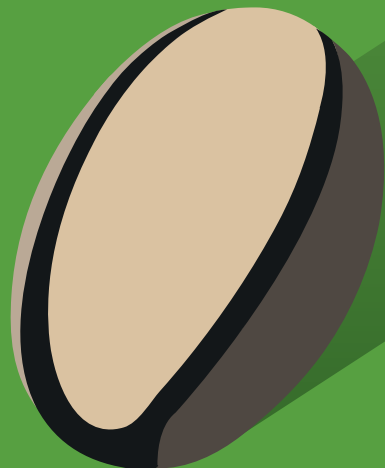
East London & City Pub of the Year 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2014

SPBW London Pub of the Year 2013  
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OF RUGBY





# Branch diaries

and so, to avoid disappointment, please sign up and pay as soon as possible (just £11 for young members) via Greater London Young Members Facebook group or email [Victoria.bishop.rowe@gmail.com](mailto:Victoria.bishop.rowe@gmail.com). Join the Facebook group to keep up to date with all our events.

## LONDON CIDER GROUP

**February – Sat 9** (2.45) Wassail at One Tree Hill Allotments, Honor Oak Park SE23 3LB. Bring drinks, noise making instruments and wrap up well! For details, visit [www.ianwhite.info/Wassail.html](http://www.ianwhite.info/Wassail.html)

## BEXLEY

Branch contact: Rob Archer, [camr@rcher.org.uk](mailto:camr@rcher.org.uk)

**February – Fri 1** (6pm) Hop Stuff tap takeover soc. Hoppers Hut, 1 Invicta Parade, High St, Sidcup DA14 6ER. - **Fri 8** (5.30) Soc. South Norwood Beer Fest, Stanley Halls, 12 South Norwood Hill, SE25 6AB (see page 21). - **Wed 13** (8.30) Mtg. Dartfordians Community Sports Club, Bourne Rd, Bexley DA5 1LW. - **Thu 28** (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Furze Wren, 6 Market Pl, Bexleyheath DA6 7DY. **March – Wed 13** (8.30) Mtg. Penny Farthing, 3 Waterside, Crayford DA1 4JJ. - **Mon 27** 89 Bus crawl: (8pm) Bull, 151 Shooters Hill, SE18 3HP; then We Anchor in Hope, etc. Website: [www.bexley.camra.org.uk](http://www.bexley.camra.org.uk); Fb: [camrabexleybranch/](https://www.facebook.com/camrabexleybranch/); Tw: [@BexleyCAMRA](https://twitter.com/BexleyCAMRA)

## BROMLEY

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

**February – Fri 1** Dover White Cliffs Beer Fest. Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Biggin St, Dover, CT16 1DL. Meet (10.50) Bromley South Stn for 11:05 train to Dover Priory. - **Thu 7** (12pm) Soc. South Norwood Beer Fest, Stanley Halls, (see page 21). - **Sat 23** Tramlink soc with Croydon & Sutton branch: (12.30) Elm Tree, 116 Croydon Rd, Elmers End BR3 4DF; (1.20) Portland Arms, 152 Portland Rd, South Norwood SE25 4PT; (2.15) Joiners Arms, 52 Woodside Green, SE25 5EU; (3.10) Claret, 5 Bingham Crnr, Lower Addiscombe Rd, CR0 7AA; (4.20) Dog & Bull, 24 Surrey St, CR0 1RG; (5pm) Green Dragon, 58 High St, CR0 1NA. - **Mon 25** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Chancery, 90 Bromley Rd, Beckenham BR3 5NP. **March – Mon 4** (2pm) Soc. Shortlands Tavern, 5 Station Rd, Bromley BR2 0EY. - **Fri 15** (6.30; NB doors open 5pm) Soc featuring brewery tap takeover (tbc). Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, E10 5NF. - **Mon 25** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Southey Brewing Tap Room, 21 Southey St, Penge SE20 7JD. - **Sat 30** (2.30 for 3pm prompt start) **Branch AGM.** Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd, BR6 0RZ. Website: [www.bromley.camra.org.uk](http://www.bromley.camra.org.uk)

## CROYDON & SUTTON

Social Sec: Terry Hewitt, 020 8660 5931, [contact@croydon.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@croydon.camra.org.uk)

**February – Thu 7-Sat 9** South Norwood Beer Fest (see page 21). - **Wed 13** (8.30) Carshalton soc. Sun, 4 North St, SM5 2HU. - **Thu 14** (1pm) Soc. Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Rd,

Croydon CR0 6BR. - **Sat 23** Tramlink crawl (with Bromley Branch): start (12.30) Elm Tree, 116 Croydon Rd, Elmers End (see Bromley entry for details). - **Tue 26** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs, 24 Surrey St, Croydon CR0 1RG. **March – Thu 7** (1pm) Soc. Green Dragon, 58 High St, Croydon CR0 1NA. - **Wed 13** (8.30) Carshalton soc. Windsor Castle, 378 Carshalton Rd, SM5 3PT. - **Thu 21** (8.30) S. Norwood soc. Shelverdine Goathouse, 7-9 High St, SE25 6EP. - **Thu 28** (8.30) *London Drinker* pick-up. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton SM5 2PR. Website: [www.croydon.camra.org.uk](http://www.croydon.camra.org.uk)

## EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch Sec: Andy Kinch, 07757 772564, [elacbranch@mail.com](mailto:elacbranch@mail.com)

**February – Tue 5** (8pm) 3rd GBG + PotY mtg. Northcote, 110 Grove Green Rd, E11 4EL. **March – Tue 12** (8pm) Mtg. Hoop & Grapes, 80 Farringdon St, EC4A 4BL. - **Sun 24** (2pm-6pm) Pig's Ear wash up. Olde Rose & Crown, 53 Hoe St, Walthamstow E17 4SA. Website: [www.pigsear.org.uk](http://www.pigsear.org.uk)

## ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498, [contact@enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk)

**February – Tue 5** (8pm) GBG survey. Arnos Arms, 338 Bowes Rd, Arnos Grove, N11 1AN. - **Wed 13** (8pm) GBG Survey. Alfred Herring, 316 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N21 2AD. - **Mon 18** (8pm) GBG final selection. Little Green Dragon, 928 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21 2AD. - **Thu 21** Visit to Chelmsford Fest: meet (10.30am) Hamilton Hall, Liverpool St Stn. - **Wed 27** (8pm) Spoons Fest. New Crown, Chase Side, Southgate N14 5PH. **March – Sat 2** Enfield EN2 soc: (12pm) Ridgeway, 76 The Ridgeway, 8JF; (1.30) Wonder, 76 Batley Rd, OJG; (3pm) Moon under Water, 115 Chase Side, 6NN. - **Mon 11** (8pm) Bald Faced Stag, 69 High St, East Finchley N2 8AB. - **Tue 19** Winchmore Hill N21 soc: (8pm) Dog & Duck, 74 Hoppers Rd, 3LH; (9.30) Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, 3HA. - **Fri 29** (12pm) Picture Palace, Lincoln Rd, Ponders End EN3 4AQ. Website: [www.enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk](http://www.enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk)

## KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

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

**February – Tue 12** (7pm for 8pm) Korean evening in New Malden. Bar Malden, then a nearby Korean restaurant, probably Ha Ru. - **Sat 16** Titanic Brewery, Stoke on Trent, by 08:46 train from Euston. Details from Adrian Palmer: 07774 859871 or [akpalmer@talktalk.com](mailto:akpalmer@talktalk.com). Please book. - **Thu 21** (8pm) **Branch AGM.** Willoughby Arms (upstairs), Willoughby Rd, Kingston KT2 6LN. - **Tue 26** (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Norbiton (upstairs), Clifton Rd, Norbiton KT2 6PW.

**March – Thu 7** (8.15) Mtg. Grafton Club, Grafton Rd, New

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# Branch diaries

Malden KT3 3AA. - **Sat 16** Esher KT10 and Claygate: (12.30) Bear, High St, Esher, 9RQ; (1.30) Albert Arms, High St, 9QS; (2.15) Wheatsheaf, Esher Green, 8AG; (3.30) Swan, Hare La, 9BS; then inc. Platform 3, Griffin, Winning Horse and Hare & Hounds. - **Thu 21** Kingston to Surbiton walk: (12.30) Kings Tun, Clarence St, KT1 1QT; (1.30) Albion, Fairfield Rd, KT1 2PY; (2.30) Spring Grove, Bloomfield Rd, KT1 2SF; (3.30) Waggon & Horses, Surbiton Hill Rd, KT6 4TW; (4.15) Grove, Grove Rd, KT6 4BX; (5pm) Antelope, Maple Rd, KT6 4AW; (6pm) Coronation Hall, St Marks Hill, KT6 4LQ.  
Website [www.camrasurrey.org.uk](http://www.camrasurrey.org.uk)

## NORTH LONDON

John Wilson, 07840 111590, [jgwnw3@hotmail.com](mailto:jgwnw3@hotmail.com);  
Stephen Taylor, 07443 473746, [stephen.taylor500@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.taylor500@gmail.com)  
**February – Tue 5.** (8pm) Winter Pub of the Season presn. Alma, 77-78 Chapel Market, N1 9EX. - **Tue 12** Bloomsbury WC1N soc: (7.30) Marquis Cornwallis, 31 Marchmont St, 1AP; (8.15) Friend at Hand, 2 Herbrand St, 1HX; (9pm) Swan, 7 Cosmo Pl, 3AP; (9.45) Queens Larder, 1 Queen Sq, 3AR; (10.30) Perseverance, 63 Lambs Conduit St, 3NB. - **Tue 19** Covent Garden soc: (7.30) Nags Head, 10 James St, WC2E 8BT; (8.15) Cross Keys, 31 Endell St, WC2H 9BA; (9pm) Sun, 21 Drury La, WC2B 5RH; (9.45) Philomena's, 40 Great Queen St, WC2B 5AA; (10.30) Hercules Pillars, 18 Great Queen St, WC2B 5DG. - **Tue 26** Euston and Somers Town NW1 soc: (7.30) Royal George, 8 Eversholt St, 1DG; (8.15) Rocket, 120 Euston Rd, 2AL; (9pm) Somers Town Coffee House, 60 Chalkton St, 1HS; (9.45) Prince Arthur, 80 Eversholt St, 1BX; (10.30) Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross St, 2HR.  
**March – Tue 5** Crouch End soc: (7.30) Brave Sir Robin, 29 Crouch Hill, N4 4AP; (8.15) Harringay Arms, 153 Crouch Hill, N8 9QH; (9pm) Small Beer, 22 Topsfield Parade, Tottenham La, N8 8PT; (9.45) Queens, 26 Broadway Parade, N8 9DE; (10.30) Kings Head, 2 Crouch End Hill, N8 8AA. - **Tue 12** Islington N1 soc: (7.30) Duke of Cambridge, 30 St Peter's St, 8JT; (8.15) Earl of Essex, 25 Danbury St, 8LE; (9pm) Island Queen, 87 Noel Rd, 8BD. (9.45) Plaquemine Lock, 139 Graham St, 8LB; (10.30) Charles Lamb, 16 Elia St, 8DE. - **Tue 19** Aldwych soc: (7.30) Penderel's Oak, 286 High Holborn, WC1V 7HJ; (8.15) Ship Tavern, 12 Gate St, WC2A 3HP; (9pm) Shakespeare's Head, Africa Ho, 64-68 Kingsway, WC2B 6BG; (9.45) Seven Stars, 53-54 Carey St, WC2A 2JB; (10.30) Knights Templar, 95 Chancery La, WC2A 1DT. - **Tue 26** St Pancras and Bloomsbury soc: (7.30) Euston Flyer, 83 Euston Rd, NW1 2RA; (8.15) Skinners Arms, 114 Judd St, WC1H 9NT; (9pm) Boot, 116 Cromer St, WC1H 8BS; (9.45) Lord John Russell, 91 Marchmont St, WC1N 1AL; (10.30) Woolf & Whistle, Tavistock Hotel, Tavistock Sq, WC1H 9EU.  
Website: [www.northlondon.camra.org.uk](http://www.northlondon.camra.org.uk)

## RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643(h), 07971 316469(m), [rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk)  
**February – Wed 13** Soc: (8pm) Lion, 27 Wick Rd, Teddington TW11 9DN; (9.45) Foresters Arms, 45 High St, Hampton Wick KT1 4DG.  
**March – Wed 13** (8pm) First planning mtg for 2019 Twickenham Beer & Cider Fest. Prince of Wales, 136 Hampton Rd, Twickenham TW2 5QR. All those interested are welcome. - **Tue 19** (8pm) Mtg. Mute Swan, 3 Palace Gate, Hampton Ct Rd, KT8 9BN.  
Website: [www.rhcamra.org.uk](http://www.rhcamra.org.uk)

## SOUTH EAST LONDON

Neil Pettigrew, [contact@sel.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@sel.camra.org.uk); Social Sec: Andrew Sewell, [social@sel.camra.org.uk](mailto:social@sel.camra.org.uk)  
**February – Mon 4** (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc. Old Tigers Head, 351 Lee High Rd, SE12 8RY. - **Wed 13** Soc: (7.30) Mother Kelly's, 76 Albert Embankment, SE1 7TW; (8.30) Beehive, 51 Durham St, SE1 5JA; (9.15) Hanover Arms, 326 Kennington Park Rd, SE11 4PP; (10pm) Brown Derby, 336 Kennington Park Rd, SE11 4PP; (10.45) Kennington, 60 Camberwell New Rd, SE5 ORS. - **Wed 20** Soc: (7.30) Birchwood, Grovebury Rd, SE2 9BD; (8.15) Abbey Arms, 31 Wilton Rd, SE2 9RH; (9.30) Old Mill, 1 Old Mill Rd, SE18 1QG. - **Thu 28** Quiz night: Woolwich Equitable, General Gordon Sq, SE18 6AB.  
**March – Mon 4** (7pm) Cttee mtg & soc. Anspach & Hobday, 118 Druid St, SE1 2HH. - **Tue 12** Soc: (7.30) Sylvan Post, 24 Dartmouth Rd, SE23 3XZ; (8.15) Capitol, 11 London Rd, SE23 3TW; (9.30) Dulwich Beer Dispensary, 481 Lordship La, SE22 8PB. - **Sat 16** DA1 'Dartford Wobbler': (1pm) Malt Shovel, 3 Darent Rd, 1LP; (2.30) Wat Tyler, 80 High St, 1DE; (3.15) Flying Boat, 36 Spital St, 2DT; (4.15) Dartford Jug, 8 Market St, 1ET; (5.30) Dartford Working Men's Club, Essex Rd, 2AU. - **Wed 20** Soc: (7.30) Duke, 125 Creek Rd, SE8 3BU; (8.15) Sail Loft, 11 Victoria Parade, SE10 9FR; (9pm) Gypsy Moth, 68 Greenwich Church St, SE10 9BL; (9.45) Spanish Galleon, 48 Greenwich Church St, SE10 9BL; (10.15) Coach & Horses, Greenwich Market, SE10 9HZ. - **Wed 27** Soc: (7pm) Montague Arms, 289 Queens Rd, SE15 2PA; (8pm) Telegraph @ the Earl of Derby, 87 Dennett's Rd, SE14 5LN; (8.45) Skehans, 1 Kitto Rd, SE14 5TW; (9.45) Beer Shop London, 40 Nunhead Green, SE15 3QF.  
Website: <http://sel.camra.org.uk>

## SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker, [contact@swessex.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@swessex.camra.org.uk), 07711 971957 evenings or weekends only.  
**February – Fri 1** (1pm) 26th White Cliffs Beer Fest soc. Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Biggin St, Dover CT16 1DL by 11:44 'Javelin' train from Stratford International in just 57 mins; take the DLR from West Ham/Stratford to Stratford International. Group Save tickets: 3 to 9 adults travelling together get a third off. - **Tue 5** (8pm) Soc. Spread Eagle,



## ORGANISING A BEER FESTIVAL (OR OTHER EVENT) IN 2019?



*Have you thought  
about the music yet?*

I'm an agent for a number of bands in London and the Home Counties. My bands have played Beer Festivals, Music Festivals, Custom Car Festivals, etc. We know what we're doing.

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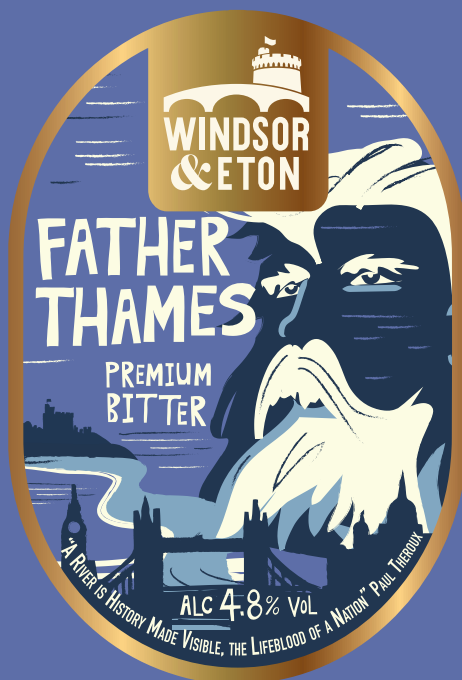
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# Branch diaries

88 Queens Rd/Coptfold Rd, Brentwood CM14 4HD. - **Wed 13** (8pm) Soc. Phoenix, Broadway, Rainham RM13 9YW. - **Mon 18** Soc: (8pm) Ship, 93 Main Rd, Gidea Park RM2 5EL; (9pm) Gidea Park Micropub, 236 Main Rd, RM2 5HA; (10.15) World's Inn, 113-117 South St, Romford RM1 1NX. - **Wed 20** (7.30) Soc. 20th Chelmsford Winter Beer & Cider Fest, King Edward VI Grammar School (KEGS), Broomfield Rd (5 to 10 mins walk from Chelmsford Rail Stn), CM1 3SX. - **Thu 28** (8pm for 8.30), GBG selection mtg. White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, Grays RM17 6HR.  
**March – Sat 2** (12pm) Soc. 10th Chappel Winter Beer Fest, East Anglian Rly Museum, Chappel & Wakes Colne CO6 2DS. NB: Free Admission for CAMRA/EARM members all day Sat (also Fri before 5.30). - **Tue 5** (8pm) Soc. Fatling, 109 High St, Hornchurch RM11 1TX. - **Wed 13** (8pm) Soc. Ye Olde Green Dragon, 112 Shenfield Rd, Shenfield, CM15 8EZ. - **Wed 20** (8pm) Soc. New Fairlop Oak, Fencepiece Rd (Fulwell Cross), Barkingside IG6 2JP. - **Thu 28** Herongate CM13 Soc: (8pm) Green Man, 11 Cricketers La, 3PZ; (9.30) Boars Head, 15 Billericay Rd, 3PS.  
Website: [swessex.camra.org.uk](http://swessex.camra.org.uk)

## SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, [mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk).  
Cycling: Geoff Strawbridge, 07813 358863.  
[geoff@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:geoff@camraswl.org.uk)  
**February – Wed 13** (7.30) Mtg. Railway, 2 Greyhound La, Streatham SW16 5SD. - **Sun 24** (12.15) GBG final selection mtg. Cat's Back (upstairs) 86-88 Point Pleasant, Wandsworth SW18 1NN.  
**March – Wed 20** Putney SW15 crawl: (7pm) East Putney Tavern, 94-98 Up. Richmond Rd, 2SP; (7.45) Prince of Wales, 138 Up Richmond Rd, 2SP; (8.45) Rocket, 16 Brewhouse La, 2JQ; (9.30) Bricklayer's Arms, 32 Waterman

## Do you want to edit London Drinker?

**O**ur current editor, Tony Hedger, has announced his retirement because of increasing health problems. Consequently CAMRA Greater London Region are looking for a replacement to take over later this year. Candidates need to be organised, able to work as part of a team and above all, able to work to deadlines. A knowledge of and an interest in the pubs and breweries of London and the licensed trade in general would be useful, along with the ability to write your own material and precis and edit that of others.

This is a volunteer position; no fee or financial reward is involved. To register your interest, please e-mail the Regional Director, Geoff Strawbridge, at [rd.greaterlondon@camra.org.uk](mailto:rd.greaterlondon@camra.org.uk) no later than Sunday 31 March.

St, 1DD; (10.15) Half Moon, 93 Lower Richmond Rd, 1EU.  
Website: [camraswl.org.uk](http://camraswl.org.uk); Fb: CAMRASwl;  
Tw: @CAMRASwl

## WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 01923 230104 (H),  
[branch@watford.camra.org.uk](mailto:branch@watford.camra.org.uk)  
**February – Tue 12** (8.30) Soc. Colne River Rooms, Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre, Local Board Rd, Watford WD17 2JP. - **Mon 25** (8pm) Mtg. Southern Cross, Langley Rd, Watford WD17 4PP.  
**March – Fri 8** (8.40) Monks Inn, 31/32 The Square, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1EP. - **Thu 21** (7pm for 8pm start) Annual Breweriana Auction: West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave, Watford WD18 7HP. - **Tue 26** (8pm) **Branch AGM:** Southern Cross, Langley Rd, Watford.  
Website: [www.watfordcamra.org.uk](http://www.watfordcamra.org.uk)

## WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton 07835 927357,  
[contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk);  
**February – Tue 5** (7pm) Meet the brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 2BA (must book with pub). - **Tue 19** (7pm/7.30) Mtg. Star Tavern (upstairs), 6 Belgrave Mews West SW1X 8HT.  
**Mar – Tue 5** (7pm) Meet the brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 2BA (must book with pub). - **Tue 19** (7pm/7.30) Mtg. Speaker, 46 Great Peter St, SW1P 2HA.  
Website: [www.westlondon.camra.org.uk](http://www.westlondon.camra.org.uk)

## WEST MIDDLESEX

Roy Tunstall, 020 8933 4934/07585 744533,  
[info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk](mailto:info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk)  
**February – Fri 1** Pitshanger soc: (7.30) Myllet Arms, Western Ave, UB6 8TE; (8.30) Duke of Kent, Scotch Common, W13 8DL; (9.30) Village Inn, 122-124 Pitshanger La, W5 1QP. - **Thu 7** (8pm) Ealing BF wash up: Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, W Ealing W13 9EP. - **Wed 20** (8pm) Mtg inc. GBG final selection. Southall Conservative Club, Fairlawn, High St, UB1 3HB.  
**March – Thu 7** Pinner soc: (7.30) Oddfellows Arms, 2 Waxwell La, HA5 3EN; (8.30) Beer Asylum, 1 Red Lion Parade, Bridge St, HA5 3JD; (9.30) Queens Head, 31 High St, HA5 5PJ. - **Fri 15** Hanwell W7 crawl: (7pm) Fox, Green La, 2PJ; (7.45) Green W7, 13 Lower Boston Rd, 3TX; (8.30) Prince of Wales, 62 Boston Rd, 3TR; (9.15) Dodo Micropub, 52 Boston Rd, 3TR; (10pm) Kings Arms, 110 Uxbridge Rd, 3SU; - **Wed 20** (8.30) Mtg. Brentham Club, 38a Meadvale Rd, W5 1NP. - **Fri 22** Southall curry evening: (7pm) Southall Conservative Club for (8.30) Lahori 786, 46 High St, UB1 3DA.  
Website: [www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk](http://www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk)

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May edition is absolutely no later than Friday 8 March 2019.  
Please send entries to [ldnews.hedger@gmail.com](mailto:ldnews.hedger@gmail.com).

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## The end of an era

On Friday 11 January we said our farewells to Frank Taylor and John Porteous, the long term tenants of the Royal Oak at the Borough. Apart from their excellent beer, John's top class food and hospitality, CAMRA London Region owes them a considerable debt of gratitude for all the meetings that they have hosted during their twenty year tenure, not least the London Liaison Committee and the London Pubs Group. Most of all however we thank them for their forbearance in putting up with vast quantities of a certain magazine being delivered to the pub every other month.

Their departure was celebrated in style. Among the guests was Miles Jenner, the joint managing director of the pub's owners, Harvey's of Lewes, and the event was well attended by regulars and members of both CAMRA and the GLC Real Ale Society, who have made the pub their spiritual home. All were in good voice for a sing-song. A collection had been taken and the presentation of a generous gallery voucher, with Jane Jephcote, the chair of the London Pubs Group doing the honours, was well received.

I was pleased to hear from Owen Barstow who was PA and researcher to Michael Jackson until Michael's death in 2007. He says that Michael was always an enthusiastic visitor to the pub when his schedule allowed and he often used to take visitors from the international brewing, distilling and literary worlds there. Michael felt that John and Frank showcased all that was best about British beer and pub culture. Owen's



Photo by Owen Barstow

final visit was for a 'last lunch' with two other fans of the pub, Roger Protz and Michael Hardman, pictured here with Frank.

Frank and John go into their well deserved retirement with our very best wishes. The pub closed for a few days to allow for the change of management but we understand that Harvey's have nothing radical planned for it.

*Tony Hedger*

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## FAREWELL TO VIC

At their Christmas meal on 8 December, CAMRA's Bexley branch took the opportunity to present an engraved tankard and a framed certificate of thanks to Vic Beale for his many years of dedicated service as bar manager at the Bexley Beer Festival. Vic actually retired after the 2017 event but he is an inveterate traveller and it took some time to pin him down. We could have given him a large pile of 2ps to count, but I don't think that would have worked. . .

**Roland Amos**



## SOUTH NORWOOD BEER FESTIVAL

CAMRA's Croydon & Sutton branch will be returning to the Stanley Halls in February for the third South Norwood beer festival (7 to 9 February). We are delighted to be able to continue the good working arrangements we have established with the charity that runs the venue and with the on-site cafe. South Norwood has very good transport links to central London as it is served by Norwood Junction station and the venue is only a short walk away. As usual the festival will offer an interesting range of local and national ales, together with KeyKeg beers, cider and perry. An advertisement for the event appears on page 21.

**John Butler**

## TWICKENHAM BEER FESTIVAL

The 200th anniversary of the creation of Frankenstein was the theme of CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow's eighteenth 'monster' beer and cider festival. Held as usual at York House, it was rated as one of the most successful so far, with visitors happily consuming most of the 70 beers and 20 ciders on offer. This year, for the first time, the festival used CAMRA's beer cooling system which was judged a great success. Two beers tied for Beer of the Festival, Green Jack's multi-award winning barley wine Ripper, at 8.5% ABV the strongest beer on offer, and Tiny Vessel's Dark Matter, a 4.5% ABV porter brewed on a small island in the Thames.



Photo by Paul Leonard

The photo above shows the certificate being presented to Ivo Penev, the owner and brewer of Tiny Vessel by Andy Pirson, CAMRA's liaison officer for the brewery, supported

by local branch colleagues. The event took place at the Northumberland Arms, Brentford where Ivo is the licensee. The cider of the festival was Pontymeddyg's Shipmans Revenge. The festival also staged the announcement of the branch's Pub of the Year: the Masons Arms in Teddington, with the Sussex Arms in Twickenham as worthy runner up.

**John Austin**

## YOUNG MEMBERS VISIT FULLER'S

On a dark night in November young members from across London headed to Chiswick, home of the Griffin Brewery. Anyone who has had the pleasure of getting a coach out of London will have found it hard to miss this iconic building. It was named the Griffin in 1816, and in 1845 became the Fuller, Smith and Turner brewery. Now, headed up by a female head brewer, Georgina Young, it is the home of London Pride. The young members soaked up the history and heritage, reading everything from the 1905 recipe being recreated from the handwritten brew books, to the draymen who can deliver beer to all Fuller's pubs in London in one day.



Enjoying the beer!

Our tour guides, John and Christine, (not Mr and Mrs Cryne!) were fantastic, even pointing us in the direction of the George IV pub on Chiswick High Road after the trip to soak up yet more London Pride, as well as local live music. Thanks for everyone who came along. More events are planned. Watch out for the emails or join our Facebook group to hear more (see entry in branch diaries).

**Tori Bishop Rowe**

## CAMRA YOUNG MEMBERS GATHER IN DERBY

Heather Knibbs and Natalie Bullin, respectively the young members' representatives for CAMRA's Derby and Nottingham branches, are organising a big CAMRA young members' social at Derby Winter Ales Festival on Saturday 23 February. It is being hosted by CAMRA's East Midlands region (who will providing all of their young members with a free pint of their choice) but is open to all young members from every branch. Entry to the festival is free to all CAMRA members. The venue is the historic Roundhouse, right next to Derby railway station. There are free shuttle buses to and from the town centre. The festival incidentally has the editor's seal of approval.

## OUT EAST

CAMRA's Colchester branch have asked me to announce that the 34th Colchester Real Ale & Cider Festival will take place from 28 May to 1 June 2019. The festival is open from midday to 10.30 each day. The venue is the

Colchester Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester, CO1 1NF. More information can be found at [www.colchesterbeerfestivals.co.uk](http://www.colchesterbeerfestivals.co.uk).

**Compiled by Tony Hedger**  
*except where credited*

## CAMRA APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**I**t was announced in December that Tom Stainer will succeed Tim Page as the chief executive of CAMRA. Tom is probably best known as the long term editor of CAMRA's monthly newspaper *What's Brewing* but he has recently been acting as chief campaigns and communications officer. Tom has worked for CAMRA since 2006 and so has plenty of experience and knowledge to draw on. Ken Owst, who joined CAMRA as chief support officer and company secretary in 2018, has been promoted to deputy chief executive. Jackie Parker, CAMRA's national chairman, said, *"I am delighted that Tom and Ken will be taking up their new roles as 2019 gets underway and am confident they'll provide strong support for our volunteer leadership and lead our dedicated professional team at head office to build on our campaigning successes."*



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First of all, an apology. I somewhat carelessly used an out of date Christmas advert on page 52 of the last edition. I hope that this did not cause anyone any confusion.

## LONDON DRINKER AND THE JD WETHERSPOON ORGANISATION

I'm pleased to announce that, at their instigation, we have resumed the arrangement whereby we supply bulk copies of *London Drinker* to JDW for them to distribute directly to all of their outlets in Greater London. I want to make it clear that this transaction is financially neutral. We are charging JDW the cost of printing and transporting the magazines. We are not receiving, nor have we sought, any financial subsidy from them. We are very grateful for the additional coverage that their distribution network once again provides.

## THE NUMBERS GAME

In his editorial, my good friend and colleague Geoff Strawbridge mentions the recent Office of National Statistics report into pub numbers. One finding that I thought was particularly sad was the decline of small pubs, defined as those employing fewer than ten people. They have fallen in number from 40,000 in 2001 to 24,000 today (overall, 52,000 to 39,000). On the other hand, the number of people employed in the trade has risen by 6% because of the dominance of larger pubs selling food. Geoff's point about London is well illustrated. The Borough of Newham has experienced the worst loss in the country, going from 105 pubs in 2001 to 45 now. Barking and Dagenham nearby now has the fewest pubs per head of population nationwide: 0.93 pubs per 10,000 people. Of course, there may be demographic and cultural influences here. Go slightly west however and in Hackney, the opposite has happened with the number of pubs increasing from 155 in 2001 to 185 today. Again, there may be demographic and cultural influences here as well, but rather different ones. It would be interesting to know how many pubs appear in both totals.

## PUBS CODE ADJUDICATOR

I commend to you the 'Pubs and Pubmen' column in the 14-21 December edition (1485) of *Private Eye*. In particular, I salute its subject, Gary Murphy, the licensee of Ye Olde Mitre in Barnet who has decided to take legal action against the Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA) and has been raising the necessary funds through crowdfunding. The appeal has now closed but was on target at the last report. Gary has expressed thanks for any support given.

Gary's situation is complicated but it has its history in what many see as a serious misinterpretation of the Pubs Code by the PCA. If a tenant wishes to move to a 'market rent only' (MRO) lease, the point at which he or she does it is when their rent comes up for review. The rent review itself is usually agreed in advance so the pub owning businesses (POBs) have adopted the tactic of charging the new rent

from the first day possible while stalling on the negotiations for the MRO, which is usually lower. If the MRO is eventually agreed, it takes effect from the date of agreement so the POB has been able to collect the higher rent in the meantime. The delay is often around six months and has been known to be up to two years. Another tactic is to use the dispute clause in most existing tenancy agreements to take the tenant to binding arbitration, thus obliging them to incur legal costs amounting in some cases to around £10,000. Sometimes the financial pressure simply forces the tenant to abandon their MRO request. This hardly serves to enforce the code's guiding principle that tied tenants should be no worse off than free-of-tie ones.

Gary in particular did not want the details of his arbitration award published, even in redacted form, because that would appear to present it as good practice which in his opinion it was not. His lawyer shares that view.

The Pubs Code is, of course, up for review at the end of March. Recently Kelly Tolhurst, the minister responsible for the PCA, was asked about it in the House of Commons. She replied, as reported in the *Morning Advertiser*, "We are currently working out how we will carry out the review, and, under statutory regulation, we need to do that by the end of March. Of course we understand some of the concerns that have been raised by people who have been affected; we will take account of their views, and I will ensure that those views are heard." We will see.

## MORE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PUBS

CAMRA may be giving them awards (see page 26) but the More Than a Pub initiative is to receive an extra £2.2 million in funding this summer from Power to Change, an independent lottery funded charitable trust that supports and develops community businesses in England. More Than a Pub was set up in 2016 with £3.6 million of funding. It is also backed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and others such as Co-operative and Community Finance, Pub is the Hub, the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and, of course, CAMRA. The programme is led by the Plunkett Foundation in collaboration with Key Fund who offer practical help such as an advice line, events, workshops, peer-to-peer study visits and business development advice. Some 96 pubs have opened under the scheme since 2016. Tom Stainer, now CAMRA's chief executive, said, "We've seen countless examples of pubs that have been saved by committed campaigners who recognise just how valuable a local is to an area. Often it is the last remaining public space and provides a vital place for people to meet and socialise. Once saved, these pubs are often completely transformed and revitalised and we're seeing increasing numbers of community pubs nominated for national CAMRA awards such as the Pub of the Year, which is to be celebrated." Brigid Simmonds OBE, the chief executive of the BBPA, commented, "Pubs are at the heart of our communities and play a vital role in our lives. Sadly though, too many are





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closing their doors for good. The More Than a Pub programme will boost community pubs across the UK and help those where there is the most impact of pub closures. The pub is far more than just a place to drink and the More Than a Pub programme will also aid the work of other initiatives such as Pub is the Hub to show how valuable our local pubs are." Well said, you might think, but how many of the pubs that More Than a Pub has saved and hopefully will continue to save were closed in the first place by BBPA members?

## THE ORCHARD PROJECT

The crowd funding initiative mentioned in the last edition was a success and I am pleased to report that the Project reached their target plus a bit more, with over 300 investors. There was good coverage of this by the National Association of Cidermakers and an article in the *Evening Standard*.

Ian White

## PARLIAMENTARY PUB OF THE YEAR

I must have missed this at the time but back in July 2018, the All-Party Parliamentary Pub Group (APPG) launched a new competition, the Parliamentary Pub of the Year. Its purpose is to acknowledge the important role that pubs play in the life of the nation and the value that they bring to local communities and economies. Each of our 650 MPs could nominate one pub in their constituency (although some may not have done so). Many MPs asked their constituents to help with this. Each pub then needed to submit a short video about themselves, to be viewed by a panel of judges who then selected regional finalists. The winner was due to be announced on 15 January. Toby Perkins, the chair of the APPG, said, "Pubs are crucial to our communities as well as to our economy. Britain's pubs employ over 1 million people and pay around £9 billion in taxes. It is so important that we support our much loved locals". The Alexandra in Wimbledon, local MP Stephen Hammond's nomination, was the regional winner for London although, despite what was reported in certain quarters, it has never been CAMRA South West London branch's Pub of the Season because they don't have one. I will let you know who won in the next edition.

## NEW EUROPEAN UNION FOR CRAFT BEER

Readers will be aware that the European Beer Consumers Union, in which CAMRA plays a prominent role, links most of the consumer groups that represent beer drinkers across Europe. The brewers have now decided to do something similar. Led by the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA), organisations from France, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, Spain, Netherlands and the Czech Republic have come together to form the Independent Brewers of Europe (IBE) which will represent and promote some 2,000 small brewers both politically and commercially in matters such as regulation, taxation and market access where that is obstructed by the multinationals. Mike Benner, the chief

executive of SIBA, said, "As the UK's exit from the EU draws closer I'm pleased that we will be able to work with groups similar to SIBA to the commercial benefit of our members, sharing best practice and ideas to help develop the sector for all."

## BLUE BELL, YORK

I'm glad to say that this story has, more or less, ended satisfactorily. Landlord John Pybus has been given a further six year lease by Patron/Punch, so that this idiosyncratic little pub with its historic interior is safe for now. Well done to all concerned who campaigned for this result. While we are in the area, the York Brewery, which was placed in administration along with its parent company, Mitchell's of Lancaster, in December, has been purchased by the Black Sheep Brewery, along with three of York's pubs. Forty jobs have been saved.

## GUILD AWARDS

The British Guild of Beer Writers held their annual dinner in November during which their awards for 2018 were presented. Congratulations go to John Keeling, recently retired from Fuller's, and Jaega Wise, head brewer at Wild Card Brewery, who were joint winners of the Brewer of the Year award. Guild chairman, Pete Brown, said, "Both John and Jaega are worthy recipients. John's contribution to brewing has been immense, from championing traditional cask ale to creating contemporary crowd pleasers with craft brewers while also being an advocate for gender equality in the industry, appointing a woman head brewer to succeed him. Jaega has not only been producing outstanding beers but has also worked tirelessly to promote beer among the general public and built links with other drinks industries such as wine. Jaega has risen to become one of the most important voices of the industry and a champion of increasing diversity and promoting equality within it."

## BREWING RESILIENCE

Readers will recall that recently there were very serious wild fires in California. One outbreak, the Camp Fire, came very close to the Sierra Nevada (SN) brewery and several of their employees lost their homes. Overall it devastated 153,000 acres, destroyed 13,000 homes and took 85 lives. Consequently, SN brewed a new beer, Resilience Butte County Proud IPA, with all of the proceeds going to the Camp Fire Relief Fund. They wrote to other breweries across the USA as well, asking them to do the same. An amazing 1,400 agreed to do so. They also contacted the suppliers of the raw ingredients to ask for their support in the form of donations of materials. SN's hope was to get Resilience IPA in taprooms all over the USA to create a solid start to the long haul in securing their community's future.

## DRINKING RESPONSIBLY. . .

From the sublime to the . . . Well, make your own mind up. I found this on the *Daily Mail* website. An

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



2019

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entrepreneur, Shed Simove, whose previous ideas have included inflatable, dummy speed cameras, has launched a range of bottled beers called 'Responsibly'. No doubt you can see where this is leading . . . His beers were brewed for him by an anonymous brewer (but known to be a SIBA member) and are in the 3.5% to 4% ABV range which Mr Simove claims is lower than the average, which he says is 4% to 6% ABV. Consequently he claims that you can now actually drink 'Responsibly'. The Portman Group, the industry-funded watchdog for alcohol advertising, are not amused. They have accused him of "undermining the responsible drinking message". They told him that "by calling a product 'Responsibly', you are undermining the responsible drinking message that the alcohol industry uses to communicate with consumers and replacing it with a call to action to drink your product." Mr Simove responded, "It's brilliantly and amusingly contradictory. That said, if I have to change the label on my beer to say 'Please drink Responsibly responsibly' to satisfy the industry watchdog, then I will consider that."

**Compiled by Tony Hedger unless otherwise stated**

You can keep up to date with these and other stories via the CAMRA London Region Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GreaterLondonCAMRA](http://www.facebook.com/GreaterLondonCAMRA) (login not required) and on the news page of the regional website <http://london.camra.org.uk>

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You will find most of our regular pub news in the WhatPub Update column but here are some items that merit further comment, some positive, others alas not. . .

► There are various ways of campaigning to save pubs and one of the most effective is by using the planning system. To this end a number of CAMRA branches in Greater London have, sometimes with the support of CAMRA's professional staff, lobbied and consulted with their local borough councils to have pub protection clauses included in their Local Plan, effectively the borough's planning guidelines. On a larger scale and led by CAMRA's Regional Director, Geoff Strawbridge, CAMRA has also been working with the Greater London Authority. Indeed Geoff will be giving evidence at the forthcoming Examination in Public on the new draft London Plan.

Unfortunately, there are disappointments to be had. CAMRA's Enfield and Barnet branch, jointly with the Enfield Society and with help from CAMRA staff, have been negotiating with the Borough of Enfield for some time and had expected pub protection provisions to be included in their next Local Plan. When the consultation document was issued in December however, no such provisions were included. When you recall the saga of the Green Dragon in Winchmore Hill (now a Waitrose and not to be confused with the new micropub) it is hard to argue that such provisions are not desperately needed. None the less, having worked well with them up to this point, Enfield and Barnet branch want to maintain good relations with the Council. Branch members and indeed any readers who are Enfield residents are encouraged to take part in the consultation exercise to see if the situation can be changed.

► Sadly the practice of selling on large tranches of pubs continues. As reported in the *Morning Advertiser* in early December, **New River Retail** has purchased 76 sites from Heineken's Star Pubs & Bars offshoot, reportedly for £12 million. NRR's Hawthorn Leisure operation, which it took over last May, now owns some 700 pubs.

► I have mentioned previously that **Ei Group** (Enterprise as was) were disposing of their Commercial Property division. This contains a mixture of sites, some 400 in total, including ex-pubs now used for other purposes and pubs let on long leases to multiple operators. There was substantial interest and at least three investment funds went into a second round of bidding. The winner was a new company called Tavern Propco which is owned by an American hedge fund called Davidson Kempner Capital Management. They paid £348 million for around 370 of the sites against the original valuation of around £340 million. There is currently no indication of their plans for the properties. Ben Wilkinson, CAMRA's national director responsible for pub campaigning, commented, "While on one level few pub tenants are likely to regret the disappearance of Ei Group from their lives, there is, of course, concern about the intentions of the new

owner. It is essential these pubs are given the chance to thrive under a fair, long-term business model – not viewed simply as property assets to be converted for a quick buck. Too many times in the past we've seen large pub company disposals result in the closure of viable pubs, robbing communities of their locals and licensees of their livelihoods. The buyer of these properties has a responsibility to its tenants and customers to set out its intentions at the earliest opportunity."

► Another new micropub. **The Ale Bar**, located at 443 New Cross Road, SE14 is due to open in late February. Apart from Westerham Brewery cask ales and local cider, they will have a full scenic model railway in the bar which, as they say, is far more interesting to watch than Sky Sports. There will also be a weekly quiz night and there is an established theatre at the back of the venue. Discounts will be available for CAMRA members. Interesting to note that, what with another one opening in Hither Green as mentioned below, micropubs are starting to spread inwards.

► Congratulations to the **Blythe Hill Tavern**, Stanstead Road, Catford, for being one of four finalists in CAMRA's national cider pub of the year competition for 2018. The certificate was presented at a meeting of CAMRA's South East London branch in December.

**Ian White**

► I mentioned in the last edition that the **Carlton Tavern**, Maida Vale, was surrounded by a large hoarding. The photo illustrates this. As the work progresses, there are certain compromises being made, such as installing the kitchen in the basement rather than the first floor which the architects say will be more efficient. Any such changes will require a further planning application in due course. Westminster City Council's Planning Department are monitoring the materials being used on the exterior and are acting as the approved inspector under building regulations, with regular inspections taking place.



Photo courtesy of WhatPub



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► Following a mistake with the notices, the consultation period on the plans to redevelop the **Chelsfield** in Bromley was extended. This is good news because it seems that plenty of people wanted to object. I looked at Bromley Council's planning website and up to 4 January, 982 comments had been logged, ten of which were in support.

► Having fought off McDonalds five years ago, the **Dutch House** in Eltham (SE12) is under threat again. Despite having been listed as an Asset of Community Value at the time, the owners now want to split the pub in half, with the other part being taken over by a local builders' merchants who are being displaced. Inevitably, the plan also includes converting the upper floors into flats. The developers claim that the smaller pub will be more viable financially. They also claim that the pub is in poor condition. The plans are currently with Greenwich Council for consideration.

► The Grade II-listed **Fellowship** in Bellingham (SE6) is moving towards reopening. To recap, the pub was purpose-built as part of the London County Council's Bellingham Estate in 1924 by F G Newnham, the house architect for Barclay Perkins and Co, in mock Tudor style. As built, it boasted two bars, a dance and music hall and a large function room. Sadly it closed and fell into disrepair but in 2016 the local housing association, Phoenix Community Housing (PCH), were awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £4 million to restore the pub. This will include a cinema, theatre and a cafe. I have previously seen mention of a microbrewery as well. PCH have now appointed an operator for the pub. This is Rob Star's Electric Star company which already has five pubs in east London. It is hoped that the pub will reopen fairly soon.

► Although it closed as long ago as November 2016, the **Glamorgan** (formerly the Horse & Groom and Grouse & Claret) in Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon, the current owners have neither submitted plans for its redevelopment nor have they attempted to sell it. A 'Save the Glamorgan' campaign has been set up and they recently staged a demonstration outside the pub which was attended by members of CAMRA's Croydon and Sutton branch. The pub was given Asset of Community Value listing in March 2018.

► As mentioned above, the arrival of a micropub in **Hither Green** is imminent. It will be housed in a former taxi office in Springbank Road. Matthew Morrison and Emma Cole have had quite a struggle to get their application approved by Lewisham Council. It has taken some twenty months and has cost them around £5,000 in legal fees. Compromises have had to be made, such as not having the planned beer garden and smokers' shelter. There were objections from some local residents who, sadly, could not appreciate that a micropub is not likely to be a source of anti-social behaviour. The last report I saw was that Matthew and Emma were

asking for suggestions for a name for their venture. No doubt Beery McBeerface came into it somewhere. If anyone does know the name that was decided upon, please do let me know.

► Having purchased the pub from Greene King, the new owners of the **Midland Hotel** in Hendon have put forward plans to demolish it and replace it with 59 flats in three blocks. The pub, built in 1889, is still a going concern, hosting regular live music and quizzes. A campaign group, the Midland Hotel Community Group, was quickly formed and they have successfully applied for the pub to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. Hundreds of objections have already been registered on Barnet Council's planning website and the campaign has cross-party support from the local MP and London Assembly Member plus a number of local councillors.

► Four years ago, the freehold of the Grade I-listed **Old Bank of England** in Aldwych came on market and, although Fuller's were the sitting tenants, McMullen's purchased it over their heads. Fuller's lease expires in February 2019, so expect some changes in both the beer range and possibly the decoration. With thanks to CAMRA's West London branch for the information.

► Young's are refurbishing the **Park Hotel** in Teddington. This Grade II-listed pub and hotel (43 bedrooms) near to Hampton Court Palace and Bushy Park is to be restored to its 19<sup>th</sup> Century splendour complete with 'grand fireplaces and cosy corners.' It will also have a 'brasserie-style' dining room. It is due to reopen in late February 2019.

► The benefits of having a council with a sound pub protection policy can be seen in the case of the **Pensbury Arms** in Battersea (SW8). Developers submitted plans for a classic 'Trojan Horse' scheme extending the building upwards to create five flats but leaving the ground floor as a lock-up pub. Happily Lambeth Council have rejected the scheme for a number of reasons, not least that *'the proposal has failed to demonstrate that the loss of specific features (including its landlord accommodation; the reduced attractiveness of the pub to customers resulting from external alterations, daylight penetration, reduced offer of outdoor space) would not render the public house unviable.'* It is so encouraging to have a planning authority who are wise to this device. There may, of course, be an appeal.

► Once an upmarket local in Waverton Street, Mayfair, the **Red Lion**, which dates back to 1749, closed following sale in 2009 and in 2013 was converted into a luxury single dwelling which sold for £25 million. Before Christmas it was repossessed by a bank and sold on for £15 million. Someone has 'caught a cold'. I can only hope that it was the developers.



► It looks as if we have lost another live music venue. The operators of the **Ruskin Arms** in High Street North, Manor Park (E12) decided to close the pub, which over the years has staged such acts as Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden and the Small Faces, following an incident. I won't go into the gory details but faced with an appearance before Newham Borough Council's Licensing Committee, it was decided to surrender the licence and board up the pub. There had been a previous incident in 2015. The pub was closed for major refurbishment 2008 to 2013 and reopened as a 59 bedroom hotel, although it still continued with live music. No application for transfer of the licence has been made, so anyone who takes over will need to seek a new one which, given what has happened, could be difficult. All the same, it is a handsome looking building and the hotel bedrooms must offer some sort of opportunity. Many thanks to Colin Price for alerting me to the story.

► Sadly, despite it having Asset of Community Value listing (which was defended at a First Tier tribunal) the historic **Still and Star** in Little Somerset Street, Aldgate, is going to disappear beneath a new development. This will however include a replacement pub and, somewhat unusually, the architects have sought CAMRA's advice in its design. This is looking promising and, thus far at least, has CAMRA's approval.

► Sad to report that the historic **Telegraph** on Putney Heath closed suddenly on 31 December. The story behind this is a sad reflection on today's pub trade. The pub's lessee, Peter Linacre, told the local news website [www.putneysw15.com](http://www.putneysw15.com) that the pub was not in any financial trouble but he was faced with a rent increase that would make the pub unviable. He explained, "We have been negotiating with our landlord for months and years that he might adjust the current rent of £243,000 and rising to £275,000 in May 2020 in the light of current and recent market conditions. That negotiating door was finally closed on 28 December. We have loved owning and running the site. And it says something that we finish our time there with our highest ever levels of revenues and our highest ever levels of positive customer feedback!" It will be interesting to see if the owners, Sarela Enterprises Ltd who are registered in the British Virgin Islands, can find new tenants on these terms. Given the pub's location, I doubt very much that Wandsworth Council would allow redevelopment. Happily, Mr Linacre has two other pubs at which he can continue trading, the Tree House in Barnes and the Rocket in Epsom, and he has been able to relocate most of the staff from the Telegraph to them.

*Compiled by Tony Hedger except where otherwise credited*



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# CAMRA Pub Saving Award

CAMRA has introduced a new award intended to salute those communities who, through their own efforts, manage to keep a local pub open and serving that community.

The inaugural winner is the Save the Packhorse Project, set up in May 2012 by the people of South Stoke near Bath to fight plans to turn their local into flats and offices. The Packhorse Inn had been sold to developers by Punch Taverns (as was) three months earlier. In their first month they had secured the support of their local council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and had some 1,500 signatures on a petition. The council gave the pub Asset of Community Value listing nine months later. Matters dragged on until June 2016 when the owners gave the Project around three months to raise the purchase price of £500,000, together with enough to meet the legal costs. By the deadline, through some 200 investors, they had raised £601,000.

The Packhorse Inn reopened in March 2018 after substantial renovation work which included the discovery of a 17th century fireplace which indicated that the pub was much older than the 150 years previously believed. The pub is now owned by 430 shareholders and Dom Moorhouse, managing director of the Packhorse Community Pub, said, "We're absolutely delighted to hear the news that we've won the Pub Saving Award. It's really a testament to our visionary,

generous shareholders and the hundreds of volunteers who have helped make the project a reality. It's really hard work, doing what we've done, and it's so rewarding for everyone involved to not only have a great community asset but also be recognised for our achievement as a team." Paul Ainsworth, who organises the competition for CAMRA added, "The Packhorse Inn was unanimously selected by our judges as the winner of CAMRA's Pub Saving Award. I have followed their story closely and with interest; it really is inspirational stuff! I hope that success stories such as this of the Packhorse Community Pub encourage other communities to fight for their local pub. The Packhorse has served the village of South Stoke for centuries now and to have lost it would have been devastating. I am delighted that the team have been rewarded for their unyielding persistence and effort."

I can understand readers thinking that, as much as this is a good story, we just could not do this in London because of property prices. Certainly that could apply to central London but not necessarily in the suburbs. I'm pleased to say that the runner-up in the competition was the Volunteer in Bexleyheath which was closed by the Wellington Pub Company in late 2017. Roland Amos of CAMRA's Bexley branch takes up the story: "When the Wellington owned Volunteer (Church Rd, Bexleyheath) closed in November 2017 some were moved to take control of their fate. At the dawn of 2018, a consortium of regulars was formed, consisting of a landlord, accountant, property manager, builder, electricians, plumbers, gardener, project manager, fire officer and an IT specialist. They began enquiring into the possibility of taking over the lease and found themselves competing against agencies with less sympathetic views than their own towards the property; but they managed to secure an initial six year lease, forming themselves into the Volunteer Pub Company, a PLC with Michael Regan as Director."

**Tony Hedger**



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## News from CAMRA's Kent Region

There are big changes happening in CAMRA's Kent Region. There will shortly be vacancies for regional director, regional secretary, regional treasurer and regional finance officer. Any CAMRA member who lives in the county of Kent and wishes to become active locally should register their interest to [rd.kent@camra.org.uk](mailto:rd.kent@camra.org.uk) or attend the next regional meeting. This will be on Saturday 2 March 2019 at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells (11.30am).

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## SALSA!

No, we are not talking Strictly here. SALSA is the Safe and Local Supplier Approval scheme. Launched in 2007, it is a food safety certification scheme for local and regional food producers. It is run by a not-for-profit body, founded by four of the main UK food industry trade associations, the British Retail Consortium, the Food & Drink Federation, the National Farmers Union and the British Hospitality Association.

In 2015, as the number of breweries in the UK rose relentlessly, it was thought that some sort of quality assessment was required both to help buyers select reliable beers and for the breweries to have some independent verification of their quality. A variant for the brewing industry, 'SALSA plus Beer', was created and is administered by Cask Marque. It serves as a single, nationally recognised accreditation scheme for medium to small breweries and is specific to their needs. Every brewer on the SALSA list is given an annual audit against the agreed standards. These audits take account of the size of the brewery and the auditors are allowed to give advice and guidance during the process. The auditors are professionals with proven experience in the industry and have to be on the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST)'s Register of Professional Food Auditors and Mentors (RPFAM).

The London Brewers' Alliance encourage their members to register and, to ensure that the process is affordable, they match their members to local auditors with the appropriate sector qualifications and experience. Since 2015 some 95 have gained SALSA plus Beer approval nationally, with over 25 working towards it. For further details see <https://cask-marque.co.uk/salsa-plus-beer-2-5/>.

## GREENE KING NEWS

Green King did well over Christmas, taking £7.7 million on the day itself. Sales during the 36 weeks to 6 January were up by 3.2%. Departing chief executive Rooney Anand also suggested that 'Brexit' might be driving people into pubs. Mr Anand, incidentally, already has a new job. By the time that you read this he will have taken over a chairman of the Casual Dining Group, which includes the Café Rouge and Bella Italia chains. Good news: all Greene King managed (but not tenanted) pubs should now be offering a discount to CAMRA members. Apparently their tills have been updated to include a special button to account for it. It is not discretionary. Bad news: they are looking to dispose of 110 pubs this year.

## YOUNG'S NEWS

Young's were concerned that they might lose a substantial number of their 1,800 staff who are EU citizens. Consequently, they were prepared to pay the £65 application fee (since cancelled) for any of them who wished to register for 'settled status' and also help them with the paperwork. Chief executive Patrick Dardis told the *Metro*

that the company would "do whatever we need to do to continue making staff feel welcome."

The Oakman Inns chain were prepared to do something similar and would have extended it to family members.

## MARSTON'S

Thanks to the good summer weather and the football World Cup, Marston's saw their like-for-like sales increase for the fifth consecutive year to £1.14 billion. Significantly, wet-led pubs did better than food-led sites. The purchase of the Charles Wells portfolio has proved to be a great success. During the year Marston's added ten new pub-restaurants to their estate plus five new hotels. No figures were given for disposals. While there is a certain amount of doom and gloom in the trade at the moment, Ralph Findlay, Marston's chief executive, said, "We expect to make positive progress once again in the current financial year."

## LIVELYHOOD GROUP EXPANDS

The south London based pub chain have acquired a second site in Clapham (SW4). This is the former Gialum site in Cavendish Parade near Clapham South station and they plan to turn it into a neighbourhood pub called the Perky Nel. It will open in the spring and, the company says, will "embrace traditional values with a modern attitude."

## NEW CRAFT BEER CO PUB

The Craft Beer Co has agreed to lease a new site at Hammersmith station, although it isn't clear as to which of the two Hammersmith stations it is. This will be their ninth pub and their first to the West of London. It is due to open in March as a 'modern pub with old school values.' Owner Martin Hayes told the *Morning Advertiser*, "This is a very exciting new venue for us in a prime location. We are thrilled the landlord approached us to take over this highly desirable site."

## FLAKY STUFF

I've mentioned beer made with leftover bread several times in this column but now I have to report the arrival of cornflake beer. This is beer that is made from cornflakes, not for pouring on them. Apparently Kelloggs reject significant quantities of cornflakes because they are too big, too small or too overcooked to go into boxes for sale. As part of a campaign to reduce food waste, they are giving these unusable flakes to the Seven Brothers Brewery in Manchester for them to make Throw Away IPA. Each brew uses 60 kg of cornflakes which make up some 30% of the grain content of the beer and which is 70% wheat. The brewery hopes to create three different beers on this basis. The IPA (5% ABV), the first of them, is available in the brewery's bar in the Ancoats district of Manchester and, for every can sold, a donation of 10p goes to FareShare, a local food distribution charity.



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## SKY HIGH

**M**any pubs rely on being able to offer live televised sport through Sky and BT Sport. Both companies are however increasing their subscriptions shortly, Sky by 5% and BT by 4.9%, which equates to an extra £600 per annum. Subscription costs are based on the size of pubs and services they offer, which can mean large town centre bars pay significantly more than small, rural ones. Greg Mulholland, now the chairman of the British Pub Confederation, told the *Daily Mirror*, "The simple fact is that the cost of subscriptions to Sky Sports is now utterly unaffordable to most pubs and the value they get is nowhere near the cost. As a result, many pubs will simply not be able to afford them, which means people will instead watch sport at home, which then reduces custom and this can alas tip pubs over the edge. It's time Sky recognised both the changing viewing environment and the vital role pubs play in communities and came up with reasonable and sensible pricing for our nation's locals." Ben Wilkinson, from CAMRA's National Executive and chairman of its Pub Campaigns Committee, said, "One of the biggest threats to our great pubs is people sitting on their sofas, watching TV and not getting out. A festive freeze on prices, or even better dropping the costs so more pubs can bring

us together to celebrate sport, would show that these companies care about communities and not simply maximising profit." I don't know if it is still true – or ever was – but I have been told that Molson Coors used to offer a free Sky subscription to any publican who signed up to take a certain volume of Sharp's Doom Bar. That could explain a lot.

## ALL OF A TWITTER

**S**ome of you may be aware that there are two spoof Twitter accounts for J D Wetherspoon's. I won't tell you what they are for obvious reasons. It was one of these sites that spread the fake news that JDW were boycotting the Poppy Appeal and that, during the England v Croatia football match, anyone wearing a waistcoat in a JDW pub would be given a free drink. Although the accounts have been open for some four years, JDW have, I think understandably, now decided that this has gone beyond a joke and have secured a High Court order obliging Twitter to reveal the name of the user of these accounts. Presumably this will lead to an injunction against the person involved and possibly even a damages claim.

*Compiled by Tony Hedger*

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

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**A**t the end of November, CAMRA once again took its Great British Beer Experience roadshow to the BBC Good Food Show at the NEC Birmingham. As is now customary, it was the venue for CAMRA's prestigious Champion Bottled Beer of Britain competition. Congratulations go to Fuller's who won the Gold award with their strong, rich and fruity 1845 ale (6.3% ABV). This was the fourth time that 1845 has won an award in this competition. It also took Gold in 1998, Silver in 2008 and Bronze in 1997. Fuller's Head Brewer, Georgina Young, said, "This beer was the brainchild of our former Head Brewer, the great Reg Drury, to celebrate 150 years of brewing at Fuller's so I'm delighted that it is still as popular as ever 23 years later. Winning the Champion Bottled Beer of Britain award is a real honour; I think we will be celebrating at Chiswick by drinking a few bottles."

The Silver award went to Durham Brewery's Temptation Imperial. This is a 10% ABV Russian stout, deeply black in colour with a roast bitterness, coffee and liquorice notes and a velvety texture. The Bronze award went to St. Austell Brewery's Big Job. This is a 7.2% ABV Double IPA, brewed with Citra and Centennial hops and bone dry in taste.

Meanwhile, CAMRA has re-launched its accreditation scheme for Real Ale in Bottle and Can to keep up with changes in the brewing industry. To carry the 'CAMRA says this is Real Ale' logo, beers will need to be tested independently by Brewlab, the well established industry analysts, to confirm that the beer undergoes a secondary fermentation in the bottle or can in accordance with CAMRA's definition of real ale.

**Tony Hedger**

**At 31 December 2018, CAMRA had 190,918  
members, of whom  
18,624 live in the Greater London area**



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## Bow Belles – the London Pubs Group crawl of Bow

On 22 August last, some forty members and supporters of CAMRA's London Pubs Group undertook an evening crawl of the E3 area. The participants met in the Little Driver at 125 Bow Road and although this pub is not a listed building, it is recognised by CAMRA as being of some regional importance. Built in 1851 of brick with a polished stone dado, it was refitted c.1900 and is now a single space around an almost island bar servery. Four sets of entrance doors indicate it was originally a series of rooms with possibly an off-sales. Some of the partitions survived up to about 1990 but now there are only short screens either side of the right-hand door. The Victorian bar counter survives but has been painted a mushroom colour. There is an island bar-back where the lower shelves look old and an ornate bar-back to the rear with mirrored sections including some decorated with roses. At the rear-left is a decorative Victorian mahogany fireplace with a carved hood and in the mantelpiece a lozenge-shaped mirror with (back-painted) flowers and leaves. Until around 2000, there was a grand wooden canopy and glass-gantry roof over the serving area supported by carved columns that bore painted and mirrored glass inserts. Whilst no doubt not of the 1850s, its removal completely changed the interior feel of the pub. The star attraction is now the massive Hoare & Co's Celebrated Stout gilded mirror on the right-hand wall. Hoare & Co brewed at Smithfield and were taken over by Charrington in 1933, who then adopted their Toby Jug symbol. For many years the pub was run as part of the Finch's chain.



There is a secluded beer garden to the rear and it was here that some participants met Bruce, the friendly and vocal tabby cat that visits daily. Fuller's London Pride is the only real ale sold here but always in excellent condition and only £3.20 a pint. The bookmakers next door is the former Bow Road GER station of 1892 (closed 1949). Part of the station's staircase can be seen from the garden. Despite being close to various railway lines, the pub's name is believed to derive from the drivers (or drovers) that escorted cattle to Smithfield Market.

Next up was the Coborn (formerly Coborn Arms) situated in the road of the same name. This is a former Whitbread house acquired by Young's in 1984, along with property next door. Whitbread themselves gained the pub upon their

takeover of Lacon's Brewery in 1965. In recent years Young's have expanded the pub at the rear and side and redecorated in their own style as part of a refocusing on the food trade. The beers available are Young's Bitter and Special plus one guest ale and Weston's Old Rosie cider. The pub's name is taken from Mrs Priscilla Coborn, the widow of a brewer who left funding in her will for the poor in Bow, although a recent sign depicted the music hall artist Charles Coborn who took his stage name from the area.

A short walk further down Coborn Road brought us to the Morgan Arms, a grand Victorian corner building dating from 1892 in red brick and terracotta. This was the first pub in the area to embrace the concept of the gastropub. In all honesty this saved what was a rundown keg-only former Watney backstreet boozer.



Reopened by Geronimo Inns and now part of Greene King's Metropolitan Pub brand, the rebirth saw a new kitchen and dining room added to the rear. The impressive arched wooden bar counter gantry with stained glass remains, as does some decorative window glass at ceiling height. The mid-80s fad for giving pubs new names, invariably ending with a plural, saw it become 'Playwrights' for a time and a back-lit interior sign showed this until around five years ago. Five handpumps dispense real ales from national breweries and London microbreweries. The current, and original, pub name refers to landowner and politician Charles Morgan, who developed the area from the 1820s.

Around the corner in Lichfield Road we found the Lord Tredegar. This Grade II-listed building sits within a long terrace of Victorian houses backing on to the Great Eastern main line and is a focal point when looking along College Terrace from Tredegar Square. The pub is another which had declined to keg-only or with unreliable availability of real ale. Rescue in this case came from the Remarkable Restaurants chain (now Remarkable Pubs) who acquired and reopened the premises in 2012. The interior is in the company's house-style with an ornate bar-back, good (original) bar counter and magnolia walls, plus the obligatory large world map. At the rear a dining area and open-plan kitchen have been added.



## Bow Belles – the London Pubs Group crawl of Bow



In the snug there hangs a miniature V1 rocket as a reminder that the first of these fell nearby. Although giving an impression of originality, all is not what it seems. Most of the décor is architectural salvage or recreation and even the exterior metal railings are new. A photo shows the previous incarnation with an interior of 1950s/60s Brewer's Tudor; complete with fake beams, oil lamps, warming pans, rustic fireplace, a copious glass gantry above the bar and a low false ceiling. The pub was once owned by Allied Breweries and branded in their Taylor Walker livery. The pub's name refers to the Barony of Tredegar which was granted to the Morgan family in 1859.

It was then via Lichfield Road, Grove Road and Haverfield Road to the Palm Tree. This is an 'Improved' public house c1935 by Eedle and Meyers, a notable architectural practice that specialised in pub design from the 1880s to 1946. Inter-war 'improved' or 'reformed' pubs aimed to avoid the amount of drunkenness associated with conventional Victorian and Edwardian public houses. Improved pubs were generally more spacious than their predecessors, often with restaurant facilities, function rooms and gardens, and consciously appealed to families and to a mix of incomes and classes. Central island serveries with counters opening onto several bars allowed the monitoring of customers and the efficient distribution of staff to whichever area needed service. The Palm Tree is not only grade II-listed but also on CAMRA's London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest. The exterior has buff and mottled grey-blue ceramic work and displays Truman's proud eagle. Inside are still two completely separate rooms. The corner one was once further subdivided into two smaller bars and an off-sales. It has a particularly attractive sweeping hemispherical end to the counter like a Scottish island bar, especially as there is a delicate 'gantry' in the centre, sadly shortened in 1977. The right-hand room was intended to be the smarter area as can be seen by the finer detailing of both the dado and the curved counter. Both counters have below them typical Truman's tiled floor chequerwork, believed to have served as both ashtrays and spittoons.

Until 1977 there was an office behind the bar where staff would take the customers' money and receive change. The pub's toilets on the right side are intact with dados of cream and some brown tiling, red-tiled floor and original fittings. The pub name is possibly derived from a 'Palmer's Wharf' on the Regent's Canal that imported palm timber.

To finish the crawl nearest the widest range of public transport options, a choice of buses or a brisk walk brought participants to Mile End station and the Wentworth Arms in Eric Street. A former Charrington pub, in 1991 it was acquired by Charles Wells as part of their expansion into the capital. Sadly, they later disposed of the business, and in a complete reversal of the trend seen elsewhere during the evening, real ale is no longer stocked. Ironically in 1976 it was the only one of the six pubs on the night's itinerary that sold cask ale (and one of only six real ale pubs in the whole of E3). But overall the local pub scene is changing for the better, so there is hope for the Wentworth yet!

*Jane Jephcote and Kim Rennie*

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**T**here is a new **Battersea Brewery**. It is located in a railway arch close to the Power Station development in SW11 and opened in early November. It has a tap room next door with two hand pumps on the bar. Although the brewery mainly produces keg beers (including an IPA and a Kolsch), they do intend to have one of their own cask-conditioned ales available most of the time, alongside a guest ale. For more information go to <http://batterseabrew.co.uk>.

**Mark Bravery**

Although the **Dorking Brewery** is based on the 'wrong' side of the M25 in the delightful Surrey Hills, readers may well see Dorking beers in local pubs so I thought that this might be of interest. The brewery underwent an expansion last November with the installation of a new 50 hectolitre brewing plant to keep pace with the growth of the business. Kegging and bottling were also brought 'in house'. The brewery aims to be carbon neutral. Ted Carey, the lead brewer said, "We enjoy dry hopping some of our beers and when we mention a hop there is enough in there to taste it. So for some of our styles the keg format is perfect, it really allows the hops to shine. Our cask ale customers demand clear beer but the kegs are unfiltered and unfiltered, keeping all the flavour in the beer. The added bonus is that these beers are now vegan friendly." Dorking have decided to keep using metal kegs and bottles. Neel Singh, the owner, explained, "Reusable kegs are more environmentally friendly and we feel they offer greater consistency at present. The choice of bottles over cans was more difficult. Maybe cans are the future but the bottling line gives us much more flexibility for quick, short runs and different sizes. It is a format that sits equally comfortably in a bar or an off-licence or a local farm shop." Dorking beers can frequently be found at the Pineapple in Kentish Town, Williams Ale and Cider House in Spitalfields and the Market Porter and the Rake at Borough Market.

There were encouraging results for **Fuller's** for the half year ended 29 September. Revenue was up 6% to £222.1 million and, although the profit before tax was down by 1%, an increased dividend was payable. Sales in the Managed Pubs and Hotels division rose 4.1% and in the Tenanted Inns division by 4%. Ten new pubs were acquired, including six from the Bel and the Dragon chain but four tenanted pubs were sold as part of the company's strategic review. Fuller's now have 182 tenanted pubs and 203 managed pubs and hotels. A new canning line has been installed at the Dark Star brewery. Frontier lager is now their second biggest selling brand, after London Pride.

In December, Fuller's once again brewed Wise Men, the 4% ABV cask golden ale which is designed specifically to raise money for, and awareness of, prostate cancer. Fuller's donate 50p for every pint sold in any of its managed pubs and £10 for every firkin sold to its tenants and free trade customers to Prostate Cancer UK.

Fuller's continue to invest in their pub estate. The Six Bells at Brentford has reopened after refurbishment while the Anglers on the River at Teddington will be closed until April for the same reason. Their new pub at Euston Station, the Signal Box, is up and running. Jonathon Swaine, the



managing director of Fuller's Inns, said, "I'm delighted with the Signal Box. We have seen great success in our other transport hub pubs, such as the Parcel Yard at King's Cross and the Three Guineas at Reading Station. We believe we've reinvented the railway station pub from being tired old bars where people begrudgingly went when their train was delayed to exciting and vibrant pubs that are visited by all." There is however some controversy over the famous Coach & Horses in Soho where the tenant claims that his tenancy is not being renewed so that Fuller's can bring the pub into their managed estate.

There were celebrations in November for the 180<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Victoria in Paddington. A highlight was the appearance of a special 4.2% ABV beer brewed on the new pilot plant using 'botanicals' more usually associated with gin distilling.

I think that I missed this at the time so belated congratulations to Monica Lishman of the Beehive in SW11 who was awarded the Master Cellarman title for 2018.

Founder David Scott has sold the **Kew Brewery** in Sheen (SW14). The new owners, Jana and Jon, have decided to rearrange the premises at 477 Upper Richmond Road to include a taproom. We wish them well.

The **Oddly Brewery** has left its riverside home at Hampton and relocated across town to the Triumph Trading Estate in Tariff Road, Tottenham (N17 0EB). The new location is more convenient for owner Brian Watson, who spent the Christmas period moving and reinstalling the brewing plant. The brewery should be back in production by the time that you read this. In due course, Brian hopes to open a tap room, an option not available to him at the previous premises.

**Andy Pirson**

**Park Brewery** are now settled into their new premises at Hampden Road, Kingston (KT1 3GH). As well as the usual range they are brewing some occasional 'specials' such as

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Cinnamon Doughnut Stout (5.5% ABV). They are also putting more of their beers into can rather than bottles. They are open for off sales but are still working on getting permission for on sales. See [www.theparkbrewery.com](http://www.theparkbrewery.com) for details.

**David Morgan**

The visitor centre/taproom at **Reunion Ales** will reopen on 1 February and should be open most Fridays from 5pm to 10pm. It is however best to check the brewery website ([www.reunionales.com](http://www.reunionales.com)) or Twitter feed before dropping by. There are six taps in the wall dispensing four keg beers plus two on cask. There are two hand pumps mounted on the bar which may come into use in future. Frost Fair (4.5% ABV) returned for the winter/Christmas period and a chocolate oatmeal stout called Midnight Runner (4.8% ABV) was also brewed as a trial. For '#tryanuary', they brewed Minimalist (3.4% ABV), a dry hopped table beer with Mosaic and Rakau hops.

**Doug Scott**

For those who missed their first seasonal beer of the year (a beautifully balanced chocolate and orange stout called Jaffa), **Sambrook's** are following it with a 5% ABV Chocolate and Mint Porter called After Nine. For those who prefer something lighter, look out for Cheeky Half, a new 'small beer' in the pale ale style at just 1% ABV. A range of canned


beers will be introduced in March, all of which will be new small batch beers in a multitude of styles. Sambrook's have acquired some additional warehouse space close to the brewery which will allow for the expansion of brewing capacity throughout 2019 and beyond.

**Peter Sutcliffe**

Although not a London brewery, **Shepherd Neame** have a large number of pubs in town. To celebrate this, they have introduced a handy little folding map of a City of London Walk covering seven pubs in the City plus one just outside. It also includes notes on the history of the pubs. The walk starts at the Samuel Pepys in Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT and ends at the Hoop and Grapes in Farringdon Road. Maps can be found at the participating pubs. Look out also for *Oast*, which is Sheps' new quarterly house magazine and as it says on the cover, 'celebrates beer and pubs'. I was very impressed with the copy that I saw.

Up to now the **Signal Brewery** in Croydon has only produced cans and keg beers but recently some cask beer has been produced which has been available in local Wetherspoon's pubs.


**Compiled by Tony Hedger**  
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## CANOPY, A FAMILY AFFAIR

The only thing that is hiding its light under a bushel with Canopy Brewery is the awning outside! This small brewery reflects all that is good about brewing in London: enthusiasm, a commitment to quality and not taking yourself too seriously – for there is nothing pompous about Canopy.

The London Tasting Panel spent an afternoon talking to Estelle, who founded the brewery with her husband Matthew, in 2014. Estelle was previously an event manager for a design agency and Matthew's background was in IT. Both were home brewers and the original intention was that Estelle would brew and Matthew would continue to work but that quickly changed. Within a year of setting up they brought in a brewer, Charles, who is ex-London Beer Factory and started to enlarge the brewery from the original 4 barrel plant.

Initially, Estelle and Matthew reinvested everything into the new kit. When they decided there was a market, they upgraded. These days, the brew length has grown three times, with seven fermenting/storage vessels and a small canning line. Estelle commented, "We started with a manual bottling line but then went into cans. Unfortunately, we decided that we just couldn't keep both a can and bottle range". The designs on the cans are particularly distinctive. Three artists were commissioned to come up with a design based on the game Consequences so each can has one third of each design. Cans count for 30% of their volume with

60% keg and 10% cask. Their best selling cask beer was Brockwell IPA but Estelle explained, "We had to stop brewing it as a cask beer as we couldn't get the price we needed to make a profit on it." This is, sadly, not the first time a brewer has made this comment on the trade price for cask beer.



Estelle and Matthew

At the moment, Canopy's core range is Sunray Pale Ale, Champion Kolsch and Snapper IPA plus they do two specials a month, which at the time of the visit included Lloper Everyday Oyster Stout (using real oysters) and the nutty, full bodied Amaretti Imperial Stout. They had also just finished Leap!, a green hop pale ale using hops from the local Brixton Hop Growers collective. This is the third year that they have worked with the Growers to produce ten barrels of green

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hop beer (for beer descriptions see the London regional website: [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk)). Dried yeast is used in all of the beers, normally either USA 05 or Nottingham (for the Kolsch) plus whole hops in the boil.

Most of the beer is delivered directly, mostly in south London, and their tap room provides a regular outlet. To keep everything on the go, there are four people in the brewery, a part time driver and bar staff for the tap room. What with managing the brewery, the tap room and three children, Estelle and Mathew certainly have their hands full!

Their Tap Room is open five days a week: Wednesday to Friday 5 to 11pm; Saturday 12 to 11pm; Sunday 12 to 10pm. Children are welcome and dogs are allowed in the outside area (where the awning is). The full address is Arch 1127, Bath Factory Estate, 41 Norwood Road, Herne Hill, London SE24 9AJ.

## SAMBROOK'S CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN A TIME OF CHANGE

It's astonishing to consider how the beer market has changed within London in a decade. In my editorial before Christmas, I painted a somewhat bleak picture for cask beer. That said, although not complacent, Sambrook's Brewery demonstrates very clearly that, if a brewery is aware of the changes in the market and its needs, they can continue to brew cask beer successfully.

But let's go back a bit. Ten years ago, on a cold winter morning, a few members of CAMRA's London Tasting Panel met Duncan Sambrook at his new brewery. It was a Saturday and, despite the weather, everybody was enthusiastic to see a newcomer setting up in London after witnessing more and more breweries close or exit London. The welcome was warm and we were treated to Wandle, the bitter that still remains prominent in Sambrook's portfolio. We had heard rumours of the new brewery the previous year when David Welch, ex-Ringwood, gave us the heads up that, instead of putting his feet up when he sold his brewery, he was getting involved in brewing again.

David had run into Duncan through a mutual acquaintance. *"It was a bit of a blind date"*, Duncan explained on our recent return visit and David's influence on the fledgling brewery was profound. Duncan had decided to leave his job at Deloittes and had been thinking about setting up a brewery for about a year. *"I was looking at starting a small venture and then expanding gradually. David persuaded me we needed to start bigger and so we bought a 20 barrel plant. He was right. Even today, we are still using the same kit but, with purchasing a lot more fermenters, we can now do 320 barrels a weeks."* The brewery currently has 14 fermenters that double as storage tanks. Fermentation is usually four to five days, with a further three to five days conditioning. Duncan added, *"Dry hopping requires a bit more time and the kegged beer is then kept for a further two and a half to four weeks to drop. All of our keg beer is unfiltered and 50% of the carbonation is natural. We Krausen\* our keg, which is kegged on site".*



It's not just the kit that has changed since the early days. There is now an outside seating area, adorned with plants and a shop, which is open weekdays 12 to 6pm except Fridays when it is open 10am to 7pm and Saturdays, 10am to 10pm. Upstairs is the tap room, from where you can view the brewery from on high through large windows. It also doubles as a meeting room. The tap room opens Thursday and Friday evenings and all day Saturday. Needless to say, this has meant more staff; 23 people are now employed of which seven are brewers and five are drivers. There are also some sales people who are also responsible for judging the beer quality in a pub. This is all a long way from those heady days of just David and Duncan plus a few friends doing everything.

Sambrook's has invested offsite too. There is a joint venture called South East Bottling, set up in 2013 with Eddie Gadds (Ramsgate Brewery) and Robert Wicks (Westerham Brewery). This operation can produce both microfiltered and unfiltered beer in a range of bottle sizes from 330ml to 750ml. The bottle conditioned beer is sterile filtered and then yeast added. In addition, they can fill kegs (Sambrook's use it sometimes to develop new products) and they have a canning line which can fill 330ml and 440ml cans, usually unfiltered. This venture has even involved the family. Duncan's wife went down to help out for a couple of weeks, which ended up being 18 months! She has now returned to her original career as a finance director; *"She's earning more"*, quipped Duncan.

Probably one of the reasons for their success is that Sambrook's do not believe in standing still and they are currently carrying out a range review. Their current range is Wandle (bitter), Junction (best bitter), Pumphouse Pale, IPA, Battersea Rye, Powerhouse Porter and Lavender Pale. They are looking to increase their seasonal beers from eight per year to one every month. Most of the bottled beer is filtered but their luscious Russian Imperial Stout is not. When asked why this was the case, Duncan explained, *"Most of our sales are to people who do not understand what bottle-conditioned means. We find quite often that bottled beer is drunk straight from the bottle. The more esoteric beers, such as the Imperial Stout, are likely to be purchased by more knowledgeable drinkers and so we don't need to*

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# Matters of taste

worry so much". The bottle-conditioned Barley Wine No. 5, brewed for their fifth birthday, will not be brewed again, so if you are lucky enough to have a bottle, it's probably worth keeping for a bit as the beer will continue to mature.

There is no doubt that the market in which Sambrook's are now operating is far different from when they began. Duncan commented, "When we started, we'd get a listing for six months. That just doesn't happen now despite the fact that many pubs have more handpumps. There has probably been a doubling in number in that time and it does seem to be affecting the quality and we are seeing a decline in real ale sales. Four years ago, we were 90% cask, these days it is 60%." This comment doesn't mean that Sambrook's do not believe in real ale. To quote Duncan again, "There are still enough people passionate about cask. It's something we do well and we should be proud of it." You only have to see the string of awards that are proudly displayed on the walls around the brewery to see that many other people agree. Happy birthday Sambrook's and here's to the next ten years!

The full address of the brewery is Unit 1-3 Yelverton Road, Battersea, London SW11 3QG.

\*The Krausen process is where some of the liquid in the fermenter is added to a fermented beer to get further fermentation and thus carbonation.

Christine Cryne

## CHOOSING THE BEST BOCKBIER 2018

The Best Bockbier competition, an objective evaluation by recognised tasters, was held for many years until 2016. There was no competition on 2017. However, PINT (the equivalent to CAMRA in the Netherlands) and the Mitra off-licence chain restarted the competition in 2018. On Monday 15 October, in Utrecht, an expert jury consisting of 41 members, led by chairman Derek Walsh, was surprised by more than 100 Dutch bock beers.

Derek Walsh has been involved in this competition for years and under his expert guidance the jury has experienced an interesting day again this year. The winners can now call their bock beers the Best Bock Beer of 2018! They are:

### Special Bock category:

- First: Bronckhorster Brok-in-de-Keel, ('lump in the throat') barrel aged
- Second: SNAB IJsbok Hout: matured in wood
- Third: Gooische Bock

### IJsbok (strong bock/ice bock) category:

- First: SNAB IJsbok
- Second: SNAB Ezelenbock
- Third: Zeeburg Dubbelbock

### Dark Bock category:

- First: Muifel Brouwerij D'n Ossenbock
- Second: Maallust Landloper Bock Bier
- Third: La Trappe Bockbier.

SNAB is an experimental brewery which develops recipes in its own pilot brewery and when they are satisfied, licenses them to the Lochristi Brewery in Belgium for production. See <https://snab.be/en/about-snab>.

The Licensee at de Hems, the Dutch pub in Soho, has told me he expects to have La Trappe Bockbeer this winter.

The traditional Dutch spelling is 'bok'; the German 'bock'. These days the Dutch use either spelling. To my taste, the beers of the two countries are only loosely similar.

Richard Larkin

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## NO PROGRESS ON NABLABS

Readers may recall that last year the Department of Health and Social Care instigated a consultation exercise into whether the current definitions for no alcohol and low alcohol beers ('NABLABS') properly reflected the expectations of both consumers and the drinks industry. This was in anticipation of the expiry of the labelling regulations. The existing definitions are as follows:

- Low alcohol – must have an ABV of less than 1.2%
- Alcohol free – must have an ABV of 0.05% or below

This was, many thought, a good time for a review. A number of the multinational brewers have started producing NABLABS as have many smaller brewers. See the Sambrook's entry in the Brewery News column for an example. Indeed, some, such as Small Beer, specialise in them. According to BBC Radio Four's 'You and Yours' programme on 16 January, sales of NABLABS increased by a third last year and some £7 million was spent on them over Christmas.

The Portman Group, the alcohol industry's self-funded advertising watchdog, proposed the following, which, I have to say, seems eminently reasonable to me:

- define low alcohol beers as being in the range from 0.5% ABV up to and including 1.2% ABV;
- increase the limit for alcohol-free/non-alcoholic beers from 0.05 to 0.5% ABV.

The limit of 0.5% for alcohol-free beers would bring the UK into line with other European countries. Even given current events, this would be useful as I presume that the UK will still be importing and exporting beer.

Unfortunately, in December, the DoH decided that there is no 'compelling new evidence' to support any change to the current definitions. They did however undertake to keep the situation under review. Brigid Simmonds, the chair of the British Beer and Pub Association, said the outcome was 'bitterly disappointing' for UK brewers and pointed out the anomaly that beers at 0.5% ABV produced in Europe can be sold in the UK as 'alcohol free' but UK beers at the same strength must be labelled 'low alcohol'. John Timothy, the chief executive of the Portman Group, called the decision "a huge missed opportunity."

## ROOM FOR US ALL

I was very disappointed to read in the *Morning Advertiser* of a report by the disability rights charity, Leonard Cheshire, that some 86% of disabled people say that they are being put off going to pubs and bars because of the problems that they face. Some 45% said that they had experienced negative attitudes from staff and 35% said that they have faced the same attitudes from fellow customers. One particularly serious point was their being treated as a 'health and security' risk by security staff. Other difficulties include high bars which make it difficult to be seen, heard and served, tables placed too close to allow navigation in wheelchairs and the current vogue for high tables and stools which are difficult to use, even if you are simply short.

Most pubs now appreciate that, unless the building simply cannot be adapted, step-free access and accessible toilets must be provided. That said, it does not help when you find that the disabled loo is also being used as the cleaners' store cupboard. I can recall being in a branch of a large national pub chain and sitting near the disabled toilet. 'That's good', I thought. It took me some time to realise that there was quite a steep step right in front of it.

Husna Mortuza, Leonard Cheshire's head of policy and campaigns, said, "Pubs, bars and the public who use them need to do much more to allow disabled people to go out and socialise in the same way as non-disabled people. Pubs are part of our national tradition and nobody should be made to feel like they are not welcome. This isn't just about drinking; pubs are a great way to get out and avoid social isolation. Disabled people shouldn't miss out, during the holiday season or any other time of year. If pubs and bars take note, they also stand a chance to cash in on the £249 billion that the disabled persons' market, also known as the 'purple pound', is worth."

Of course, not all disabilities are externally obvious. For example, the charity Crohn's and Colitis UK has launched its own nationwide campaign called Not Every Disability is Visible. This, of course, applies to many illnesses.

I hope that no-one thinks that I have been patronising here. My own poor health means that I can identify with a lot of this – not least accessible toilets being used as store cupboards. In many ways it ought simply to be a matter of mutual respect. **Tony Hedger**



## WHAT IS WHATPUB?

**WhatPub?** is CAMRA's on-line pub database. It is available to all to use, not just CAMRA members; just go to <https://whatpub.com/>. It features some 36,000 pubs which currently serve real ale plus records of non real ale and closed pubs. All of the information has been compiled by CAMRA members and no fee is charged – or sought – for inclusion. You will find opening times, descriptions, facilities, maps and of course details of the real ale and cider on offer. You can search by specific pub name or general location. It is also possible for all users, again not just CAMRA members, to submit updates for entries (factual ones, not contentious customer reviews, please!).

*WhatPub* is, incidentally, not to be confused with the Good Beer Guide 'app'. Good Beer Guide pubs are, of course, included but you cannot simply search for GBG pubs in a particular area.

**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.

We report on new sites for Antic in E6, BrewDog in EC1 and SW9, East London Pub Co in E1, Fuller's in NW1, Oakman Inns in Hampton Hill, and Young's in E9. There are new brewery taphouses for Battersea Brewery in SW11, Cloudwater in SE16, and Wildman in NW6. A Good Beer Guide pub in E1 has closed and one in SW1 has become a managed house. A Regional Inventory pub in Ilford has also closed, after a fire.

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

### CENTRAL

**EC1V 9HG, FARE BAR+CANTEN** (Sager & Wilde), 11 Old St. Cocktail-oriented bar, opened late last year in the Morelands Building. No cask beer.

**EC1M 6HA, GRAND UNION**, 55 Charterhouse St. Was ABBAYE, ORTEGA TAPAS. Bought in June 2017 by Draft House, who were since acquired by BrewDog. Repositioned in November as **DRAFT HOUSE FARRINGDON**. Cask beer introduced, three such as Crate, Siren. Many keg beers, e.g. BrewDog.

**EC4A 1JS, CASTLE** (Red Car), 26 Fumival St. Having closed in 2015 for conversion to a hotel, now reopened by new operators as **26 FURNIVAL STREET** with appetising food. Three cask beers, e.g. Five Points Pale.

**WC1X 0AE, APPLE TREE** (Bohemia Club Ltd), 45 Mount Pleasant. Having been closed following its purchase from Greene King in April, reopened during the summer as an LGBTQ+-friendly pub. No cask beer.

**WC2N 5AE, KERRIDGE'S BAR & GRILL**, Corinthia Hotel, 10 Northumberland Ave. Hotel bar open to the public. Cask beers, e.g. Moor Raw, Rebellion IPA.

### EAST

**E1 6AG, GUN** (ex-Star), 54 Brushfield St. After closure in 2015 for demolition and redevelopment, a pub of the same name has been opened by East London Pub Co. Four cask beers, e.g. Caledonian, Otter.

**E3 2NB, TOP O' THE MORNING**, 130 Cadogan Terr. Was MITFORD CASTLE, on the same site but previously addressed at 129 Cadogan Terr, E9 5HP. After closure in 2013 and demolition, Rullo's restaurants have opened a pub in the new development, **MULLER & BRIGGS**. No cask beer.

**E5 8EE, MERMAID** (Barworks), 181 Clarence Rd. Was CRICKETERS, PENNY FARTHING, SHAMPS, VERDEN. Lease

taken over by Ye Olde Pub Company. Cask beer restored, Siren Yulu.

**E6 1LA, DENMARK ARMS** (Greene King), 381 Barking Rd. This Regional Inventory pub was acquired last spring by Antic and underwent a sympathetic refurbishment exposing more period features including bar-back, mosaic and tiled floors. Cask beer restored. Volden Pale and Porter, plus two guests.

**E11 3PX, WOODHOUSE TAVERN**, 119 Harrow Rd. Having closed five years ago for residential development, reopened in December by Ronnie Finch, operator of the Coach & Horses E10 and Duke E11, as **LEYTONSTONE TAVERN**. Two cask beers, e.g. East London, Thwaites Wainwright.

### NORTH

**N8 7PB, TAV**, 18 High St. Previously the site of bars and clubs called Viva Viva, Kelko, Bar 88, Whisperz. Opened in February last year by the operators of the recently closed Hornsey Tavern, four doors along. No cask beer.

### NORTH WEST

**NW1 2DU, SIGNAL BOX** (Fuller), Unit 53, Euston Station. Opened in December, upstairs in the re-engineered terrace above the Eastern end of the concourse, more or less replacing the former **BRITANNIA** (SSP). Dark Star Hophead, Fuller's ESB, London Pride, Oliver's Island and two seasonals.

**NW5 2JS, CAMDEN'S DAUGHTER** (Camden Town Brewery), 289-291 Kentish Town Rd. Was OLD FARM HOUSE, O'REILLYS. Taken over by the operators of the nearby Pineapple and Tapping the Admiral, renamed in December **LADY HAMILTON**. Cask beer restored, two changing beers e.g. East London, Hammerton, Redemption. Many keg beers from London breweries.

**NW6 6RA, WOLFPACK** (Wildman), 53 Lonsdale Rd. Opened in 2017, Wildman's brewery tap. No cask beer. Keg beers include their own Wolfpack lager, plus guests e.g. Gipsy Hill, Tiny Rebel.

**WEMBLEY (HA0 4TH), BALKAN**, 66c Ealing Rd. Tapas bar in new building. No cask beer.

### SOUTH EAST

**SE5 8RS, JOINERS ARMS** (Enterprise), 35 Denmark Hill. Cask ale restored, Sharp's Doom Bar and Sea Fury.

**SE16 3RA, CLOUDWATER TAP ROOM**, 73 Enid St. New outlet for Manchester's Cloudwater Brew Co, in a railway arch on the Bermondsey Beer Mile. No cask beer, despite Cloudwater recently resuming cask beer production.

**SE20 7EU, PAWLEYNE ARMS** (Enterprise), 156 High St. Transferred in November to Craft Union format and refurbished. Cask beer restored, Fuller's London Pride and Sharp's Doom Bar.

**SE22 9JJ, CASTLE** (Town Centre Inns), 280 Crystal Palace Rd. Cask beer restored, e.g. Greene King Old Speckled Hen.

**BR1 3HJ, CROWN & ANCHOR** (Enterprise), 19 Park Rd. Taken over in the autumn from Gladewood Taverns by the pub's former manager. Cask beer restored some time ago



but not previously reported. Three changing cask beers, e.g. Bath Gem, Brains Rev James, Shepherd Neame Whitstable Bay.

## SOUTH WEST

**SW1E 5DJ, FLIGHT CLUB**, 6 Sir Simon Milton Sq. Darts-oriented bar opened in December, their third London venue after EC2 and WC1. No cask beer.

**SW1E 5NE, MARKET HALL VICTORIA** (Try Market Halls), 191 Victoria St. New food hall, sister site to one in SW6. No cask beer. Keg beers include a house lager from Harbour.

**SW6 2UH, CALLOW RUSCOE**, 152 Wandsworth Bridge Rd. Bottle shop & bar opened in January. Limited seating. No cask beer. Four keg beers. About 200 bottled and canned beers.

**SW9 8LH, BREWDOG**, 419-423 Coldharbour La. Opened in November, in new Lexadon Property Group development. No cask beer. Keg beers include fourteen BrewDog and eight guests, with a wide range of styles.

**SW9 8LF, PRINCE ALBERT** (Greene King), 418 Coldharbour La. Cask beer restored, e.g. Oakham Bishop's Farewell.

**SW11 8AB, BATTERSEA BREWERY TAP ROOM**, 12-14 Arches La. Opened in November next to the brewery, in railway arches alongside the Battersea Power Station development. Although the brewery mainly produces keg beers, one of their cask beers will usually be available alongside a guest.

## WEST

**W2 4UJ, 65 & KING** (Greene King leased), 65 Westbourne Grove. Was SHAKESPEARE, WESTBOURNE HOUSE. Sold in August to Regis 2000 Ltd. Lease taken over by First Restaurant Group, who also run Clerk & Well and One Tun in EC1, Grafton Arms W1 and Waterway W9. Renamed **65 WESTBOURNE**, and now serving draught beer once again. No cask beer.

**W3 6LG, WINDMILL** (Wellington), 50 High St. Cask beer restored, Hog's Back TEA.

**W12 7FU, ALL STAR LANES**, Ariel Way, Westfield. Part of a small chain of bowling venues, one of four in London, with bar & restaurant open to the public. No cask beer.

**W12 7HB, ICHIBA**, Unit 220, Relay Sq, Westfield. Japanese food hall with sake bar selling keg Japanese beers.

**W12 7HB, PUTTSHACK**, Ariel Way, Westfield. Bar open to the public, attached to a minigolf venue. No cask beer.

**BRENTFORD (TW8 8EW), SIX BELLS** (Fuller leased), 148 High St. Contrary to the report in WPU 28, this has not been sold. Having closed in July, reopened in November as **SIX BELLS AT BRENTFORD LOCK**. Dark Star Hophead, Fuller's ESB and London Pride.

**HAMPTON HILL (TW12 1NY), REFECTORY** (Faucet), 92 High St. Was CAFÉ SOCIETY, STONE HOUSE, LONGFORD. Having closed in 2016, acquired last April by Apprise Pubs and reopened in December under Oakman Inns management as the first London site for their gastro **BEECH**

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**HAYES (UB3 1QT), MUSIC BOX** (Enterprise), Bourne Ave. Was **THOMAS HENRY K.** Cask beer restored, Fuller's London Pride.

**HOUNSLOW (TW3 3LF), SNUG** (Enterprise), 66 Staines Rd. Was **FRIEND IN HAND, WISHING WELL, TOMMY FLYNN's**. Reopened late last year after refurbishment, transferred to Craft Union format and renamed **OLIVER CROMWELL**. Still no cask beer.

**UXBRIDGE (UB8 1LB), SLUG & LETTUCE** (Stonegate), 219-221 High St. Was **HOG'S HEAD**. Renamed **MILLER'S TAP**. Cask beer restored, Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar, St Austell Trelawny and Tribute.

**YIEWSLEY (UB7 8HP), HORTON LOUNGE**, 191-193 Horton Rd. Opened in 2018, bar & restaurant near the old Brickmakers which closed a couple of years ago. No cask beer.

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

#### CENTRAL

**EC1A 9JX, GRILL ON THE MARKET** (Living Ventures). Was **SMITHFIELD BAR & GRILL**. Closed late last year, future uncertain.

**WC2N 6PA, OPAL** (Novus). Was **MOTION**. Having closed in January last year, changed hands and now being operated as 'Circa' LGBTQ+-friendly nightclub, sister site to one in Soho.

**W1U 7JA, BOK BAR**. Was **WALLACE HEAD, O'NEILLS, STOUT FELLOW**. Reported closed in the summer, future uncertain.

#### EAST

**E1 8EN, DISPENSARY**. This current GBG pub closed in December after the rent was doubled, future uncertain.

**E4 6AN, STATION HOUSE** (Marston). Was **THOMAS WILLINGALE**. Closed late last year, awaiting new tenant.

**E8 1LL, OSLO** (DHP Family). Was **HACKNEY CENTRAL**. Cask beer discontinued.

**E11 1PE, EAGLE** (M&B). Was **TOBY CARVERY**. Cask beer discontinued.

**E12 6PH, RUSKIN ARMS**. Closed in December after a violent incident, future uncertain.

**E13 8EB, SWAN** (Admiral). Closed and boarded since 2010 but not previously reported.

**E14 8HH, 5B URBAN BAR**. Was **FIVE BELLS & BLADEBONE**. Closed, future uncertain.

**BARKINGSIDE (IG6 2DD), CHEQUERS** (Star). Was **YE OLDE INVESTIGATOR**. Closed in the autumn, hopefully a new tenant will be found.

**HORNCHURCH (RM12 4UW), GEORGE II** (Enterprise). Was **CRICKETERS, OJ'S**. Renamed **RISEING SUN**. Cask beer discontinued.

**ILFORD (IG1 1TZ), CAULIFLOWER** (Star). This Regional Inventory pub closed in July after a fire, but we hope will reopen.

#### NORTH

**N13 4BD, WOODMAN** (Marston). Closed, future uncertain.

**N14 6HA, WHITE HART** (Star). Closed, now a shisha lounge with no draught beer.

#### NORTH WEST

**RUISLIP (HA4 8JY), CROCK OF GOLD**. Was **LULA'S BAR, LISTEN INN, WEST, LAURELS**. Cask beer discontinued.

#### SOUTH EAST

**SE1 7LY, SPORTS BAR & GRILL** (Stonegate). Cask beer discontinued last year.

**SE7 8LQ, WHITE HORSE**. Closed, building works upstairs.

**SE18 6BF, BEEFEATER** (Whitbread). Cask beer discontinued last year.

**SE18 6HU, EARL OF CHATHAM** (Enterprise). Cask beer discontinued.

**SE18 1JT, PLUME OF FEATHERS** (Enterprise). Cask beer discontinued again.

**BROMLEY (BR2 9JG), CROWN AND PEPPER** (Star). Was **TIGER'S HEAD**. Renamed **CROWN OF BROMLEY** late last year. Cask beer discontinued.

#### SOUTH WEST

**SW9 9PE, PORTO**. No longer has draught beer.

**SW15 3TU, TELEGRAPH** (New Pub Co). The only site to remain after their other pubs were sold to Laine's, closed at the start of January owing to rent dispute with offshore landlord Sarela Enterprises Ltd, future uncertain.

#### WEST

**W13 0SY, OLD HAT** (Greene King leased). Was **YE OLDE HATTE, WALSINGHAM ARMS, FLYNN'S PUB & DINER**. Cask beer discontinued.

**FELTHAM (TW13 5AX), AIRMAN** (Enterprise). Closed in December after expiry of lease held by Greene King, future uncertain.

**HAYES (UB3 3HE), BOOTLACES** (Woolwich Taverns). Was **MOON UNDER WATER, FAMOUS GEORGE ORWELL**. Closed last summer, future uncertain.

**HOUNSLOW (TW3 3JS), BELL** (Enterprise). Cask beer has quickly been discontinued.

### OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & CASK BEER RANGES

#### CENTRAL

**EC1Y 8QJ, TRADER** (Stonegate). Was **SPREAD EAGLE, MOLLY BLOOMS, EAGLE & STUMP**. Renamed **WHITECROSS TAP**. Up to four cask beers, e.g. Adnams, Robinson's, Sambrook's, Sharp's.

**EC2M 2QS, CRAB TAVERN**. Taken over by Inception Group and renamed late last year **MRS FOGG'S MARITIME CLUB & DISTILLERY**, their latest Victorian travel-themed bar. Still no cask beer.

**WC1E 7LY, MARLBOROUGH ARMS** (Greene King). Greene King Abbot and IPA, plus up to five guests.

**WC2E 7AU, COVENT GARDEN.** Was **GLOBE**. Having been acquired in April by City Pub Co, renamed in November **BOW STREET TAVERN**. Several cask beers, e.g. Essex Street house beer, Fuller's London Pride.

**WC2N 4JS, LA TASCA** (Bay Restaurant Group), 63-66 St Martin's La. Was **RAT & PARROT**, **HENRY'S**. Sold in 2013 but not previously reported, operating as a restaurant in the meantime, renamed in November as the second **ALCHEMIST** bar in London. No cask beer.

## EAST

**E9 7BT, PEOPLE'S PARK TAVERN** (Star). Was **QUEEN'S HOTEL**, **FALCON & FIRKIN**, **VICTORIA PARK**, **BRITANNIA**. This pub, leased to Laine's, was acquired in the autumn by Young's as part of their Ram Pub Co leased division.

**RAINHAM (RM13 9YW), PHOENIX** (Enterprise). Changed hands after the licensee died last summer, renamed in December as **PHOENIX AT RAINHAM**. Greene King Abbot Ale, Sharp's Doom Bar and Wells Courage Directors.

## NORTH

**N1 4BL, DUKE OF WELLINGTON** (Enterprise). Transferred in October to the Frontier Pubs 'managed expert' partnership, now operated by Pioneer Hospitality after Food & Fuel's acquisition by TRG. The only cask beer on one recent visit was Five Points Porter. One real cider.

**N1 8LN, WENLOCK & ESSEX** (Barworks). Was **LIVING**

**ROOM**. Lease acquired in October by Shoreditch Bar Group. Still no cask beer. Keg beers from Camden.

**N8 8JP, ALEX** (Enterprise). Was **VILLIERS TERRACE**. Reverted to **PRINCESS ALEXANDRA**. Adnams Ghost Ship and one guest.

**N19 5LB, HIDEAWAY** (Underdog). Renamed **NORTHERN SOUL**. Presumed still no cask beer.

## NORTH WEST

**RUISLIP (HA4 0HG), MIDDLESEX ARMS** (Greene King). Now has Greene King Abbot, IPA and two guests.

**RUISLIP (HA4 0AH), ST GEORGE'S TAVERN**. Was **SPORTSMAN**, **FOX'S**. Renamed **MANOR BAR**, still sports-oriented and still no cask beer.

**WEMBLEY (HA9 9AB), TORCH** (Greene King). Now has Greene King Abbot and IPA.

## SOUTH EAST

**SE12 8RU, OLD TIGER'S HEAD** (Star). Refurbished late last year. Ringwood house beer and two guests, e.g. Black Sheep Bitter, Fuller's London Pride.

**SE17 1JL, TANKARD** (Greene King leased). Sold last year. Sharp's Cornish Coaster and Doom Bar.

**CHISLEHURST (BR7 5AY), GORDON ARMS** (Enterprise). Refurbished in autumn. Now has Fuller's London Pride, Timothy Taylor Landlord and several guests, e.g. Southwark.

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### SOUTH WEST

**SW1P 2HA, SPEAKER** (Enterprise). Was **ELEPHANT & CASTLE**. This current GBG pub was transferred in November to Bermondsey Pub Co managed format and refurbished. No food served. Timothy Taylor Landlord and four guests. The pub no longer participates in CAMRA's LocAle scheme.

**SW10 9ED, FINBOROUGH ARMS** (Clerkenwell Pub Co). Changed hands, now run by DN Bars. Cask beer range reduced to a maximum of three, e.g. Purity, Twickenham.

**SW12 9RT, SIMMONS**. Changed hands in October and renamed **ELEVEN**. Still no cask beer.

**SW17 7PB, KINGS HEAD** (Greene King). Greene King Abbot and IPA, plus two guests, e.g. Wimbledon.

**SW18 4ED, GROSVENOR ARMS** (Enterprise). Transferred in December to the Frontier Pubs 'managed expert' partnership, now operated by Pioneer Hospitality after Food & Fuel's acquisition by TRG. Up to two cask beers, e.g. Sambrook's, Twickenham. Keg beers including from London breweries.

**SW19 3NW, LEATHER BOTTLE** (Greene King). Greene King Abbot and IPA, plus four guests, e.g. Wimbledon.

**HAM (TW10 7HT), HAM BREWERY TAP** (Admiral). Now has Sharp's Doom Bar, Twickenham Naked Ladies and Redhead, Wells Young's Special.

**MITCHAM (CR4 3HD), KINGS ARMS** (Young leased). Freehold sold in June to Ashira Holdings Ltd, Young's signage removed, run now by Novo Pub Holdings but still

on Ram Pub Co website. Fuller's London Pride and Wells Courage Best.

**MITCHAM (CR4 2JD), WHITE LION OF MORTIMER** (ex-Wetherspoon). Now independently run. Caledonian Deuchars IPA, Theakston Best Bitter and a guest, e.g. Greene King seasonal.

**MORDEN (SM4 4SS), MORDEN BROOK** (Greene King). Was **BEVERLEY**. Greene King Abbot and IPA, plus two guests.

### WEST

**W2 1EE, STEAM**. Hilton hotel bar renamed **146 PADDINGTON**. Still no cask beer. Limited keg beers.

**W6 9JT, GRAND RUBY** (Star). Reverted to **HAMPSHIRE HOG** in 2011 but not previously reported. One cask beer, e.g. Caledonian Deuchars IPA, Fuller's London Pride, Watney's Ravenhead.

**W6 8HJ, PEAR TREE** (Punch). This Regional Inventory pub's freehold was sold in 2016. Three changing cask beers, e.g. Moor, Sambrook's, Watney's.

**W13 9RR, FREDDY'S**. Was **JACKSONS**. Renamed **PASHA KITCHEN**. Now mostly a restaurant. Still no cask beer. Limited keg beers.

**BRENTFORD (TW8 0AH), OLD FIRE STATION**. Renamed **CASPIRI LOUNGE & RESTAURANT**, an Italian restaurant and lounge bar. No cask beer. Two keg beers.

**HAYES (UB4 0HF), BEEFEATER GRILL** (Whitbread). Reverted to **GRAPES**. Sharp's Doom Bar.

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# Idle Moments

*If winter comes can spring be far behind? (Shelley)  
I sincerely hope not! (Pirson)*

So here we are again; another Christmas and New Year over and we await the coming of spring. What could be better than to sit by the fire in your local pub with a glass of something warming and while away the time cracking a few puzzles? No, don't answer that; I'm sure the list would challenge the capacity of your hard drive! Let's just try some number puzzles.

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 3 W on a MB and S | 6. 30 E on a D             |
| 2. 8192 B in a KB    | 7. 8 BP in a G of C        |
| 3. 4 AN of P         | 8. 4 RP in the SS          |
| 4. 7 IGC is a M-N    | 9. 7 P on the BS on the AF |
| 5. 10,000 AU in a M  | 10. 1994 CS-LNC with J     |

For this month's 5BY4 was inspired (by what I don't know) to compare the lengths of reigns of British monarchs. Looking at the list I found (conveniently) that if I took all of them from the start of the Hanoverians, excluding Queen Elizabeth II, then I got ten of them. So here they are with their reigns in years and days in the second list for you to match up. Two of them should be a dead giveaway:

- |                |    |        |
|----------------|----|--------|
| 1. George I    | A. | 15/58  |
| 2. George II   | B. | 33/137 |
| 3. George III  | C. | 9/105  |
| 4. George IV   | D. | 10/149 |
| 5. William IV  | E. | 63/217 |
| 6. Victoria    | F. | 6/360  |
| 7. Edward VII  | G. | 59/97  |
| 8. George V    | H. | 25/260 |
| 9. Edward VIII | I. | 12/315 |
| 10. George VI  | J. | 0/326  |

And so, with an awful air of inevitability, we come to the last bit, the Questions (I've run out of silly names). Sorry to hark back to Christmas with a couple of them:

1. What part of a flag is known as the canton?
2. Who was Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (No, NOT Samuel Taylor Coleridge)?
3. Who was the original presenter of ITV's Sunday Night at the London Palladium (before Bruce Forsyth)?
4. Who made the first King's Christmas message to the nation and in what year?
5. In what year was the Queen's Christmas message first televised?
6. What television programme was created by Tony Warren and has a theme tune written by Eric Spear?
7. Which country adopted a national flag of plain green (with no design added) in 1977 (subsequently replaced in 2011)?
8. What part of the British Isles is known in its own language as Eilan Vannin?
9. At about 41km, which is the longest fresh water loch in Scotland? (It is not Loch Ness, which is about 37km.)
10. And while we are at it, which is the deepest Loch in Scotland at a maximum of 310 metres? (No – Loch Ness is 230 metres at its deepest.)

There we are – all finished. Now you can go and enjoy yourself.

Andy Pirson

## As usual, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in the December Idle Moments column

### Number puzzles:

1. 97 is the Highest Prime Number under One Hundred
2. 100 Links in a Surveyor's Chain
3. 4 of Clubs is the Devil's Bedpost
4. 61 International Dialling Code for Australia
5. 100 Seats in the United States Senate
6. 5 Platonic Solids (Tetrahedron, Cube, Octahedron, Dodecahedron & Icosahedron)
7. 180 Degrees Fahrenheit from Freezing to Boiling
8. 4 Triangular Faces on a Tetrahedron
9. 99 is Quatre Vingt Dix-Neuf in French
10. 4 Ordnance Survey (Landranger) Maps for the Shetland Islands

### 5BY4: (Hit Ladies)

1. Lady Lynda – Beach Boys
2. You're a Lady – Peter Skellern
3. Lady Eleanor – Lindisfarne
4. Lady Willpower – Union Gap (featuring Gary Puckett)
5. Lady Madonna – Beatles
6. Three Times a Lady – Commodores
7. Lady Rose – Mungo Jerry
8. Lay Lady Lay – Bob Dylan
9. Lady D'Arbanville – Cat Stevens
10. The Lady in Red – Chris De Burgh

### General Knowledge:

1. Jubilee, Harris, Gripp, Rocky, Erin, Poppy and Merlina are the resident ravens at the Tower of London.
2. On 19 April 2018, the Commonwealth country in Africa that changed its name to the Kingdom of Eswati was Swaziland.
3. The town of Duffel, from which the duffle coat takes its name, is in Belgium, in the province of Antwerp.
4. The member of the Royal Family born on 10 March 1964 is Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.
5. The Leadenhall Building (122 Leadenhall Street, EC3V 4AB) is colloquially known as the Cheese Grater.
6. The Hogarth Press, set up in 1917 in Paradise Road, Richmond, was founded by Leonard and Virginia Woolf.
7. The famous building at 20 Deans Yard, London SW1P 3PA is Westminster Abbey.
8. Where are Florence Nightingale, William Blake and Lawrence of Arabia (among others) buried? This is a wrong question; they have memorials in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral but are actually buried in different places. Thanks to Roy Walker for pointing this out.
9. The BBC World Service from December 1940 until its final broadcast from there on 12 July 2012 was based in Bush House on Aldwych, London WC2.
10. The date 2 December 1936 is significant in the history of Alexandra Palace because it marks the start of the world's first regular television broadcast.



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## WETHERSPOON'S BOYCOTT EUROPE

I'm sure that most readers are aware of chairman Tim Martin's views on Europe. If not, take a look at the Winter 2018/2019 edition of Wetherspoon News. In fairness to him, Mr Martin does not just talk about it, he takes action. Most beers and wines from the EU area are now no longer on sale. This includes such beers as Staropramen (Czech) and Tuborg (Danish), although Stella Artois has been retained. Out also go Spanish Rioja and Italian Pinot Grigio wines, to be replaced by products from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina.

Reports are that the customers are not overly concerned with the changes. Tom Stainer, CAMRA's new chief executive, commented, "Wherever you stand on the Brexit debate, we hope both the Government and consumers will support local brewers, producers and pubs during this time of uncertainty. Many of our tax rates for pubs and brewers are actually set at a European level so we hope the Government will use Britain's departure from the EU as an opportunity to review that system. In particular, we'd like to see a lower rate of tax applied on beer sold on draught rather than in bottles or can, which would help keep prices down at the pub and encourage beer-drinkers to head back to their local. We'd also like to see consumers celebrate and support real ales, ciders and perries, which are inherently British products."

## ACTION ON BUSINESS RATES

Despite everything that was going on in the middle of January, Anne Main, the MP for St Albans, secured a parliamentary debate on the subject of pubs and business rates. Mrs Main, as reported in the *Morning Advertiser*, told the House of Commons that despite the concessions made in the recent budget, thirty of the fifty pubs in the City of St Albans had seen their business rates increase.

Repeating the message put out by such organisations as CAMRA – based locally, of course – the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA), and UKHospitality (UKH), she said that "The current system is not fit for purpose and a review is needed to tackle the unfair penalisation of property-based businesses like pubs, especially given the vastly reduced levels of taxation paid by online retailers." If St Albans is having such problems, the situation can only be worse in London. Mrs Main also mentioned that comprehensive submission that CAMRA had submitted to the Chancellor

ahead of the Budget in September. In reply, Mel Stride, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury said, "Pubs lie at the heart of our local communities and the Government's view is that we should do whatever we can to assist and support them." He added that the Government's rates reduction would be worth around £900m to the sector over the next two years. Sadly, there appeared to be no acknowledgement of Mrs Main's principal point as regards what happens to pubs outside of the rate relief measures included in the budget. Kate Nicholls, the chief executive of UKHospitality, said that the trade was "still short of the wholesale reform we need, rather than plugging holes for a small proportion of the sector. The reality is, that without proper root-and-branch reform of the system and a rethink of how the sector is taxed, pubs will continue to close." CAMRA, and I'm sure the BBPA and UKH as well, will keep up the pressure.

## LATE NIGHT LEVY

A part from business rates, there are a number of other costs which affect the financial viability of pubs. One of these is the Late Night Levy. Readers will recall that this is a charge made to pubs, clubs and restaurants which stay open after midnight and which is supposed to fund the additional policing and cleaning that such premises are said to require.

The fee is based on the rateable value of the premises and ranges from £299 to £4,400 per annum. Although a number of London borough councils investigated the scheme, few have implemented it. One such is Hackney. There was however some surprising news in the *Hackney Gazette* recently. The council has raised some £400,000 but have done virtually nothing with it. It was originally intended that 70% of the money would go direct to the police but subsequently it was decided to appoint a management board made up of councillors, business owners and the police. In total, £82,000 has been spent: £6,000 on extra policing for New Year, £56,000 on extra Council patrols and £20,000 on set-up costs.

One explanation offered was the disruption caused by the merger of police operations across Hackney and Tower Hamlets, although the Metropolitan Police denied that. The second year of operation will however, apparently, see the deployment of an additional sergeant and four constables.

*Compiled by Tony Hedger*

## London, Capital of Brewing

We now have more than 100 breweries in Greater London.

They are listed on the London CAMRA website: [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk)

Look for London beers in London pubs. We hope you will enjoy them, and please tell everyone about them.



# Why should I join CAMRA?

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

- Our monthly newspaper 'What's Brewing' (normally sent on-line)
- 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, submitting beer scores 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.

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



## Tribute - Tony Roberts

**I**t is with great sadness that we report the death of Tony Roberts at the age of 55. Tony was a stalwart member of CAMRA's Enfield and Barnet branch for many years. He joined the Branch Committee in the early 1990s, later becoming treasurer and then succeeding me as Branch Chairman. He was also the branch's Greater London Pub of the Year judge, visiting every nominated pub for several years. He also organised several overseas trips, including the Munich Springfest and the Zythos Beer Festival in Belgium. Tony moved to London from his native Wales many years ago



and worked on the London Underground, originally as a guard and then as a driver on the Piccadilly Line.

Tony's CAMRA activities subsequently necessarily declined because of TfL's strict regulations on safety critical jobs and he found it harder to swap shifts.

On the death of his mother he inherited her town cottage in Carmarthen which he was gradually modernising and which he generously loaned out to friends for holidays.

Tony's funeral was held at Llanelli Crematorium on 7 January. He is survived by his brother David who lives in Carmarthen and to whom we send our condolences.

**Derek Smith**

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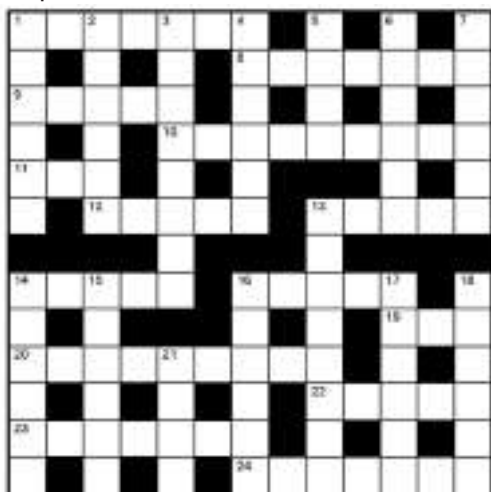
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# Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON  
£20 prize to be won



Name .....

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All correct entries received by first post on 20 March will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

## DECEMBER/JANUARY'S SOLUTION



## ACROSS

1. Notice, during fight, a sharp blade. [7]
8. Decide on nothing during a quiet drink. [7]
9. Took exam again, in retrospect a shocker. [5]
10. Governor to bar goalie. [9]
11. Urge on English horse. [3]
12. Poet's under the town. [5]
13. He'll be found near 12. [5]
14. Tests principles, blowing top. [5]
16. Strict religious leader in a mess. [5]
19. In the past, smart to leave American town. [3]
20. Attack main part of London. [9]
22. In pain, go to a bar. [5]
23. Rent trouble is quite a blow. [7]
24. It's in no way strange medicine. [7]

## DOWN

1. Recovering abstainer swallowing booze? Just the opposite. [6]
2. Give a small indication. [6]
3. A race starts with competitors. They've just appeared. [8]
4. Start with artichoke tip during meal. [6]
5. Put some cheap seats in part of church. [4]
6. Captain dropping top scorer for a tie. [6]
7. Blinking short delay. [6]
13. Pub profits from cheap beer, perhaps. [7]
14. Passes round gold pieces. [6]
15. Performers excited first Royal Ascot. [6]
16. Where to find services, by the way. [6]
17. Execute a ringleader in a big shed. [6]
18. Show disapproval of leading minister having a couple of models in bed. [6]
21. Test once in the morning. [4]

Winner of the prize for the October/November crossword:

M Ognenovic, London E3

## Other correct entries were received from:

D Abbey, Ted Alleyway, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, Robert Archer, H Arnott, Eddie Ball, Lorraine Bamford, John Barker, Hannah Bigglesworth, Stephen Block, Tony Bowles, Hugh Breach, Kelvin Brewster, Jeremy Brinkworth, Andrew Brown, Olivia Brown, Andrew Burman, Eddie Carr, Peter Charles, Hilary Clark, Brian Collins, Richard Conway, Kevin Creighton, Ebenezer Crutten, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, J H Daly, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Steve Downey, Bill Fullick, Richard Garton, Chloe Gilbey, Christopher Gilbey, Luis Gonzalez-Relvas, Marion Goodall, Nick Goodwin, Roger Grant, Paul Gray, Alan Greer, Richard Gregory, Matthew Griffiths, Caroline Guthrie, Ms Gerry Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Peter Haines, Roy Harris, John Heath, B Henley, C Hignam, Graham Hill, David Hough, Alan Humphrey, Mr & Mrs Jeal, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Eric Johnstone, D M L Jones, Mike Joyce, Rory Kehoe, Phil Kempton, R L P Keys, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Aidan Laverty, Don Lewis, Tim Lilley, Marjorie Lopatis, Donald MacAuley, Ken Mackenzie, Derek McDonnell, James McGuinness, Rob McKeogh, Pat Maginn, Steve Maloney, Dylan Mason, Rob Mills, Pam Moger, Adam Moon, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Barry Nester, Paul Nicholls, Mark Nichols, Mick Norman, Gerald Notley, B Oddie, Michael Oliver, Nigel Parsons, Miss G Patterson, Stephen Pegum, Alan Pennington, Andy Phillips, Mark Pilkington, Mick Place, Derek Pryce, Jonathan Rainger, James Rawle, Nigel Roe, Helen Rooney, Sarah Rose, Alex Ryan, Geoff S, John Savage, Clive Shelley, Pete Simmonds, Ruth Smith, Ian Symes, C J Tansley, Roy Tassi, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Jeff Tucker, C View, Andy Wakefield, Neil Walton, Mrs C Ward, Sarah Watson, Martin Weedon, Miss E A Whale, Spud Whale, Sue Wilson, David Woodall, N Woodford, Adrian Wright, Ray Wright, Karol Zemek.

There were also four incorrect and one incomplete entries.

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