

# DRINKER

Volume 41 No. 2 April/May 2019



The Carlton Tavern - see page 32

### WETHERSPOON

### **OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CAMRA**



All CAMRA members receive £20 worth of 50p vouchers towards the price of one pint of real ale or real cider; visit the camra website for further details: camra.org.uk

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### **CAMRA ALSO FEATURES**

243

WETHERSPOON PUBS IN ITS GOOD BEER GUIDE

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.

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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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CONTENTS	
Branch diaries	6
CAMRA news and events	12
CAMRA's Champion Winter Beer	
of Britain	16
GBBF ticket availability	16
Fuller's - where now?	18
News and views	20
40 up for LOSC	22
Cask '19 preview event	22
CAMRA's National PotY award	24
Trade news	26
EC4 – the final visit	30
Pub news	32
Where have all the tenants gone?	36
Brewery news	38
Intriguing India	40
Book review	43
Norwich - City of Ale	43
WhatPub update 31	44
London LocAle scheme	48
Idle Moments	50
Tributes	53
Letters	53
Crossword	54



### FIRE IN THE ASHES

eoff Strawbridge's thoughtful leader in the February/March edition of London Drinker highlights the loss of London pubs to rapacious developers who profit from their redevelopment into apartments, supermarkets or whatever. But as Geoff suggested in his article, the issue of pub closures is complex and can be blamed on several other factors as well, such as demographic change, the smoking ban, the rise of over-borrowed pub chains. ludicrous 'dry January' promotions, and of course the significant tax, rent, rates and duty burdens they face - or indeed on a combination of all of these. Sometimes pubs shut because no one goes in them anymore and there is little CAMRA could or should do about it. Either the local population changes with Muslim communities moving in, as with Hounslow and Newham where pub numbers have halved in twenty years, or working-class families move out as factories shut. Some pubs selling rotten beer with awful service deserve to shut and can give real ale a bad name. The guiding principle here should be 'use them or lose them'.

But there is another side to the equation and that is of pub openings, whether of traditional pubs, off-licences with a bar, microbrewery taps, gastropubs, trendy music venues, and the very encouraging growth in micropubs. It is my firm belief that London CAMRA branches should invest as much effort in supporting the new as we currently, correctly and I trust selectively, do in trying to preserve the old. I also feel that the raw statistics that show an overall 25% fall in the number of London pubs since 2000 fail to account

fully for the growth of establishments that many of us would not describe as pubs, but they sell beer (and much else besides) without the requirement to sit down and order a meal. In my corner of London (Battersea and Wandsworth) the number of pubs narrowly defined has indeed fallen by around 10%, but, using a much wider definition of what is a pub, the number has increased by at least 20%, all serving a much more exciting choice of beverages than hitherto, including beer from an astonishing 130 London breweries when ten years ago there were less than ten.

This leads to the vexed question of why a vibrant and innovative beer environment has developed in some areas of London but not in others. One might expect pub numbers, widely defined, to remain steady in the more affluent central London boroughs and fall elsewhere, as is indeed the case. This trend could be described as the 'aentrification' of beer drinking in London, as younger people can afford to party whereas families in the suburbs watch the pennies. Simplistic I know, but pubs in these outer boroughs, largely developed in the pre and post WW2 era, were very large and few in number. Their closure is therefore keenly felt and can leave some areas of London as beer deserts. Even in our relatively well pub-endowed South West London CAMRA branch area, we have our own beer deserts of Morden and Mitcham.

But this raises another anomaly. Why have net pub numbers remained steady in Bexley but fallen through the floor in many other outer London boroughs despite similar levels of employment, income and house prices? Clearly, new micropubs are thriving in Bexley but are thin on the ground elsewhere. The actual number of micropubs is impossible to assess accurately. My research suggests about nationwide with only around 30 to 40 of these in London. There is room for growth: any budding entrepreneurs out there? I have visited a few of these newish micropubs not in Bexley (the Hop & Vine in Ruislip, the Gidea Park

### **Editorial**

Micropub in Romford, the Little Green Dragon in Winchmore Hill and the Radius Arms in Whyteleafe) and found them to be vibrant at all times.

Another uplifting story to conclude. A good friend of mine lives out in Northwood Hills, a real London beer desert if ever there was one. In 1998, Wetherspoon's opened the spacious William Jolle right next to the tube station, which was closely followed by the conversion of the iconic Northwood Hills Hotel pub opposite (where a certain local boy called Elton John first performed) into an Indian restaurant with some keg taps. The opening of a Wetherspoon's pub and the consequent loss of a long-established local had become a recurring theme in the area.



The Northwood Hills Hotel. This used to be a traditional pub; now the Namaste Lounge, it is a successful Indian restaurant.

Just over two years ago Wetherspoon's closed the William Jolle, leaving thousands of local drinkers virtually bereft of real ale. It has lain empty ever since but a few weeks ago the developer and the new lease holder held a community engagement meeting to sound people out on plans for the site. The news was initially unpromising as they had decided that reopening it as a pub was not financially viable.

However, my friend, who attended the meeting, suggested that perhaps part of the site could be used as a pub with the rest becoming a retail outlet. He cited the huge unmet local demand for real ale and pointed to the success of the Hop & Vine micropub in Ruislip, just a couple of miles away. The response was that conversion to a small pub would be viable (with the rest becoming a retail outlet) and the new leaseholder confirmed just two days later that he had instructed his architects to draw up the necessary plans, a planning application would shortly be submitted to Hillingdon Council and that he was minded to hold a further community meeting to sound people out on what sort of pub they wanted. With two local microbreweries set to open this year (Mad Yank in Northwood Hills and Pinnora in Pinner) perhaps there is some fire in the suburban ashes!

### Peter J Sutcliffe

Peter is a member of CAMRA's South West London Branch, is the brewery liaison officer for Sambrook's and Battersea breweries and is author of *Around Berlin in 80 Beers*.



### Ye Olde Mitre

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SPBW London Pub of the Year 2013 CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE 2019



# FRESH AND FRUITY PALE ALE PERFECT FOR A

Twickenham-fine-ales.co.uk 020 8241 1825

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

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.

### **REGIONAL EVENT**

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

May – Wed 22 (7pm) Brewery Liaison Officers' meeting.
Southwark Brewery, 46 Druid St, SE1 2EZ.

Website: www. london.camra.org.uk

### **LONDON PUBS GROUP**

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

April – Wed 24 Brixton tour: (7pm) Hero of Switzerland, 142 Loughborough Rd, SW9 7LL; (7.45) Craft Beer Co, 11-13 Brixton Station Rd, SW9 8PA; (8.15) Duke of Edinburgh, 204 Ferndale Rd, SW9 8AG; (9pm) Effra Hall, 38a Kellett Rd, SW2 1EB; (9.40) Prince of Wales, 169-171 Lyham Rd, SW2 5PY; (10.20) Elm Park Tavern, 76 Elm Park, SW2 2UB. Public transport will be required at times.

May – Wed 15 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak (upstairs), 44 Tabard St, SE1 4JU. All CAMRA branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome. 
www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk

### YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

Email group: http://groups.google.com/group/londoncamra-ym or see Facebook Greater London CAMRA Young Members Group

### **LONDON CIDER GROUP**

May – Thu 9 (7.30) Soc. Kentish Belle, 8 Pickford La, Bexleyheath DA7 4QW. - Wed 15 Soc: (7pm) Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd, NW5 1LE; (8.30) Tapping the Admiral, 77 Castle Rd, Kentish Town NW1 8SU.

#### **BEXLEY**

Branch contact: Rob Archer, camr@rcher.org.uk

April – Wed 10 (8.30) Mtg. Duchess of Kent, 143 Brook St,

Erith DA8 1JD. - Wed 24 (8pm) PotY debrief mtg. Royal

Oak (Polly's), 68 Mount Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 8JS.

May – Wed 8 (8.30) Mtg. Dartfordians Community Sports

Club, Bourne Rd, War Memorial Club House, Bexley DA5

1LW. - Thu 9-Sat 11 14th Bexley Beer Festival,

Dartfordians Community Sports Club. See page 27.

Website: www.bexley.camra.org.uk; Fb:

camrabexleybranch/; Tw: @BexleyCAMRA

#### **BROMLEY**

Barry Phillips, social.secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk April - Tue 2 Bromley afternoon soc: (2.15) Partridge, 194 High St, BR1 1HE; (4.15) Star & Garter, 227 High St, BR1 1NZ. - Mon 8 (from 7pm) CotY Award & Meet the Brewer evening (Spartan Brewing). Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd, BR6 ORZ. - Sat 13 (12pm) Cider & Perry Fest soc. Matchstick Piehouse, Arches 213/214, Edward St. New Cross SE8 5HD. - Fri 19 (12.30) Beer Fest soc. Greyhound, Commonside, Keston BR2 6BP. - Thu 25 Petts Wood BR5 soc: (7pm) Daylight Inn, Station Sq, 1LZ; (7.45) One Inn The Wood, 209 Petts Wood Rd, 1LA; (9.20) Sovereign of the Seas, 109-111 Queensway, 1DG. - Mon 29 (7.30) Cttee mtg. Shortlands Tavern, 5 Station Rd, Bromley BR2 0EY. May - Thu 9 (2pm) Bexley Beer Fest soc. Dartfordians Club, Bexley DA5 1LW (see page 27). - Mon 13 Beckenham BR3 soc: (7.30) George Inn, 111 High St, 1AG; (8.30) Coach & Horses, Burnhill Rd, 3LA; (9.30) Bricklayers Arms, 237 High St, 1BN. - Thu 23 (12pm) Kidbrooke Beer Fest soc. Charlton Park RFC, 60A Broadwalk, SE3 8NB (see page 35). - Tue 28 (7.30) Cttee mtg. Imperial Arms, Old Hill, Chislehurst BR7 5LZ.

Website: www.bromley.camra.org.uk

### **CROYDON & SUTTON**

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

April – Wed 3 (8.30) Selsdon soc. Golden Ark, 186
Addington Rd, CR2 8LB. - Thu 11 (1pm) Croydon soc. Oval
Tavern, 131 Oval Rd, CR0 6BR. - Mon 15 (8.30) N Cheam
soc. Nonsuch Inn, 552-6 London Rd, SM3 9AA. - Thu 25
(8.30) Soc: Railway, 47 North St, Carshalton SM5 2HG. - Tue
30 (8.30) Branch AGM & mtg: (M'ship cards req'd to vote).
Dog & Bull (upstairs, 24 Surrey St, Croydon CR0 1RG.
May – Thu 9 (1pm) Croydon soc. Green Dragon, 58 High St,
CR0 1NA. - Mon 13 (8.30) Sutton soc. Cock & Bull, 26-30
High St, SM1 1HF. - Wed 22 (8.30) S Norwood soc. Portland
Arms, 152 Portland Rd, SE25 4PT. - Wed 29 (8.30) London
Drinker pick-up. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton SM5 2PR.
Website: www.croydon.camra.org.uk

#### **EAST LONDON & CITY**

Branch Sec: Andy Kinch, 07757 772564, elacbranch@mail.com

Apr – Thu 4 (7pm) Community PotY presn. Northcote Arms, 110 Grove Green Rd, E11 4EL - Tue 9 (6.30.) Pig's Ear charity cheque presn. Hackney Town Hall. Please inform branch if you are going to attend. - Tue 16 (7pm) Cider PotY presn. Williams Ale & Cider House, 22 Artillery La, E1 7LS. - Wed 24 Bishopsgate crawl: (7.30) Hamilton Hall, Liverpool St Stn, EC2M 7PY; (8.15) Magpie, 12 New St. EC2M 4TP and 3 others.

May – Tue 14 (8pm) Branch AGM. Olde Rose & Crown, 53 Hoe St, Walthamstow E17 4SA.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk







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Observed

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### **ENFIELD & BARNET**

Peter Graham, 07946 383498, contact@enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk

April - Tue 2 (8pm) Spoons Fest soc. Railway Bell, 13 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet EN2 8JF. - Sat 6 (1pm) Spoons Fest soc. Moon under Water, 10 Valley Parade, Edgware Rd, Colindale NW9 6RR. - Wed 17 High Barnet EN5 crawl: (8pm) Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd, 5QN; (9.15) Butchers Arms, 36 High St, 5XP; (10pm) Olde Mitre, 58 High St, 5SJ. - Wed 24 Gtr London PotY survey. Venue tba. - Sat 27 Parklands Walk to Ally Pally and Prince N22. Meet (12pm) outside Barclays Bank opp. Finsbury Park Stn. May - Sun 5 Soc: (12pm) Gilpins Bell, 50 Fore St, Upper Edmonton N18 2SS; (1.15) Antwerp Arms, 168 Church Rd, Tottenham N17 8AS. - Fri 10 (11.30am) Visit to Bexley Beer Fest, Dartfordians Club, Bexley DA5 1LW (see page 27). - Mon 13 Gtr London PotY survey. Venue tba. - Tue 21 Mill Hill NW7 soc: (8pm) Rising Sun, 137 Marsh La, 4RY; (9.15) Three Hammers, Hammers La, 4EA. - Thu 30 North Finchley N12 soc: (8pm) Elephant, 283 Ballards La, 8NR; (9.15) Bohemia, 762 High Rd, 9QH.

Website: www.enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk

### **KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD**

Clive Taylor 020 8949 2099, ctaylor2007@freeuk.com

April – Wed 10 (8.15) Mtg. Green Man (upstairs), High St,
Ewell KT17 1RX. - Mon 22 (1pm) St George beer fest.

Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston KT2 6LN. - Sat
27 Craft Beer Co pub tour: (1pm) Limehouse, outside rail
stn; (2.30) Old Street, north Old St/1 Vince St; (4pm)
Angel, White Lion St; (5.30) Farringdon, 82 Leather La;
(7pm) Holborn, 168 High Holborn.

May – Tue 7 (8.15) Mtg. Norbiton (upstairs), Clifton Rd, KT2 6PW. - Thu 16-Sat 18 Kingston Beer Festival (see page 39): volunteers for set up/take down or at the festival contact KBFVolunteers@camrasurrey.org.uk Website www.camrasurrey.org.uk

### **NORTH LONDON**

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

April – Tue 2 (8pm) PotY presn & mtg. Snooty Fox, 75 Grosvenor Ave, N5 2NN. - Tue 9 Camden NW1 soc: (7.30) Golden Lion, 88 Royal College St, 0TH; (8.15) Prince Albert, 163 Royal College St, 0SG; (9pm) Quinns, 65 Kentish Town Rd 8NY; (9.45) Tapping the Admiral, 77 Castle Rd, 8SU. - Tue 16 Holborn soc: (7.30) Enterprise, 38 Red Lion St, WC1R 4PN; (8.15) Old Nick, 20-22 Sandland St, WC1R 4PZ; (9pm) Square Pig, 30-32 Procter St, WC1V 6NX; (9.45) Holborn Whippet 25-29 Sicilian Ave, WC1A 2QH. - Tue 23 Camden Road soc: (7.30) Depot, 1 Carpenters Mews, North Rd, N7 9EF; (8.15) Lord Stanley, 51 Camden Park Rd, NW1 9BH; (9pm) Rose & Crown, 71-73 Torriano Ave, NW5 2SG; (9.45) Assembly House, 292 Kentish Town Rd, NW5 2TG; (10.30) Lion & Unicorn, 42

Gaisford St, NW5 2ED. - Wed 24 (2pm) Leisure Class soc. Marlborough Arms, 36 Torrington Pl, WC1E 7LY. - Tue 30 Upper Holloway soc: (7.30) Shaftesbury Tavern, 534 Hornsey Rd, N19 3QN; (8.15) North Nineteen, 194-196 Sussex Way, N19 4HZ; (9pm) Landseer Arms, 37 Landseer Rd, N19 4JU; (9.45) Crown. 622 Holloway Rd, N19 3PA; (10.30) Swimmer at the Grafton Arms, 13 Eburne Rd, N7 6AR.

May – Tue 7 Wood Green soc: (7.30) Prince, 1 Finsbury Rd, N22 8PA; (8.15) Spouter's Corner, Unit 5, 180 High Rd, N22 6EJ; (9pm) Toll Gate, 26 Turnpike La, N8 0PS; (9.45) Westbury, 57 Westbury Ave, N22 6SA. - Tue 14 (8pm) Cider PotY presn. Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd, NW5 1LE. - Tue 21 Hampstead NW3 soc: (7.30) Wells, 30 Well Walk, 1BX; (8.15) Duke of Hamilton, 23 New End, 1JD; (9pm) Holly Bush, 22 Holly Mount, 6SG; (9.45) Flask, 14 Flask Walk, 1HE; (10.30) Horseshoe, 28 Heath St, 6TE. - Tue 28 Islington N1 canal soc: (7.30) Narrow Boat, 119 St Peter's St, 8PZ; (8.30) Rosemary Branch, 2 Shepperton Rd, 3DT; (9.15) Baring Arms, 55 Baring St, 3DS; (10.15) Hanbury Arms, 33 Linton St, 7DU.

Website: www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

### **RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW**

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643(h), 07971 316469(m), rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk

April – Tue 30 (8pm) Branch AGM (CAMRA Members only). Cabbage Patch, 67 London Rd, Twickenham TW1 3SZ

May – Tue 21 Richmond soc: (8pm) Red Cow, 59 Sheen Rd, TW9 1YJ; (9.45) Mitre, 20 St Mary's Grove, TW9 1UY. Website: www.rhcamra.org.uk

### **SOUTH EAST LONDON**

Neil Pettigrew, contact@sel.camra.org.uk; Social Sec: Andrew Sewell, social@sel.camra.org.uk April - Mon 1 (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc. Woolwich Equitable, General Gordon Pl, SE18 6AB. - Wed 10 Kennington SE11 soc: (7.30) Prince of Wales, Cleaver Sq, 4EA; (8.30) Tommyfield, 185 Kennington La, 4EZ; (9.15) Dog House, 293 Kennington Rd, 6BY; (10.30) Old Red Lion, 42 Kennington Rd, 4RS. - Sat 13 Cider& Perry Festival. Matchstick Piehouse, 213 Edward St, SE8 5HD -Wed 17 Peckham SE15 soc: (7.30) Prince Albert, 111 Bellenden Rd, 4QY; (8.30) Victoria Inn, 77 Chourmet Rd, 4AR; (9.30) Montpelier, 43 Chourmet Rd, 4AR; (10.15) John the Unicorn, 157 Rye La, SE15 4T. - Wed 24 (7.30) Quiz night. Ale House, 443 New Cross Rd, SE14 6TA. May - Thu 9 (7.30) Bexley Beer Fest. Dartfordians Club, Bexley DA5 1LW (see page 27). - Fri 10 (8pm) First ever Bottle Shop of the Year presn. Water into Beer, 209 Mantle Rd, SE4 2EW. - Wed 15 Soc: (7.30) Park Fever, 21a Staplehurst Rd, SE13 5ND; (8.15) Station Hotel, 14 Staplehurst Rd, SE13 5NB; (9.15) Lord Northbrook, 116 Burnt Ash Rd, SE12 8PU; (10.15) Crown Tavern, 117 Burnt Ash Hill SE12 0AJ. - Sat 23-Thu 25 6th Kidbrooke Beer &

Cider Festival. Charlton Park RFC, 60a Broad Walk, SE3 8NB (see page 35).

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

### **SOUTH WEST ESSEX**

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

April – Thu 4-Mon 8 Branch visit to Dundee for the National AGM, Conference & Members Weekend. Caird Hall, City Sq, DD1 3BB. - Sat 13 (1pm) Soc. 17th Maldon Beer Fest, Plume Academy, Fambridge Rd, Maldon CM9 6AB: by train to Chelmsford, then bus 31B or 31X. - Wed 17 (8pm for 8.30) Branch AGM. White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, Grays RM17 6HR. - Fri 19 (12pm) Soc. 14th Planet Thanet Easter Beer Fest, Winter Gdns, Fort Crescent, Margate CT9 1HX by 10:16 'Javelin' train from Stratford International in 84 mins. Take DLR from West Ham/Stratford to Stratford International. GroupSave train tickets: 3 or more travelling together get a third off. - Wed 24 (8pm) Soc. Great Spoon of Ilford, 114/116 Cranbrook Rd, IG1 4LZ.

May – Thu 2 (6pm) Soc. South Benfleet Social Club Real Ale & Cider Fest, 8 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet SS7 1PB. - Sat 11 (12pm) Steve's Birthday pub crawl (details tba on Website). - Wed 22 (8pm) Branch PotY 2019 (London Area) presn. Gidea Park Micropub, 236 Main Rd, RM2 5HA. - Wed 29 (7pm) Soc. 34th Colchester Beer Fest, Colchester Arts Centre, Church St, CO1 1NF.

Website: swessex.camra.org.uk

### **SOUTH WEST LONDON**

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk. Cricket: Tom Brain, 07796 265972,

cricket@samraswl.org.uk. Cycling: Geoff Strawbridge, 07813 358863. geoff@camraswl.org.uk

**April – Mon 1** (7.30) Mtg. Phoenix (upstairs) 348 Clapham Rd, Stockwell SW9 9AR.

May – Tue 7 (7.15) Soc. Battersea Brewery, 12-14 Arches La, SW11 8AB. All are welcome to join us, not just CAMRA members. - Tue 21 (7pm) Cttee mtg; (7.30) Branch AGM Spread Eagle, 69-71 Wandsworth High St, SW18 2PT. Please send any committee nominations to the branch chairman, mark.bravery@camraswl.org.uk, by 6pm on Monday 20 May.

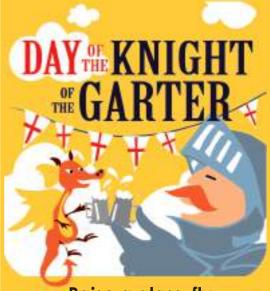
Website: camraswl.org.uk; Fb: CAMRAswl; Tw: @CAMRAswl

### **WATFORD & DISTRICT**

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

April – Sat 13 Oxhey Village Brewfest: start (2pm) Rifle Volunteer, 36 Villiers Rd, WD19 4AJ. - Thu 18 Bushey Heath soc: start (8.30) Three Crowns, 1 High Rd, Bushey W23 1EA. - Mon 29 (8pm) Mtg. Southern Cross, 41-43 Langley Rd, Watford WD17 4PP.

May - Wed 8 Oxhey Village soc: start (8.30) Villiers Arms,



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108 Villiers Rd, Watford WD19 4AJ. - **Mon 20** (8pm) Mtg. Southern Cross, 41-43 Langley Rd, Watford. - **Fri 24** (8.30) Cider/Mild Month soc. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate WD3 5BS.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

### **WEST LONDON**

Paul Charlton 07835 927357, contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk;

April – Tue 2 (7pm) Meet the Brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 2BA (must book with pub) - Tue 16 (7pm/7.30) Mtg. Bolton (upstairs), 326 Earls Court Rd, SW5 9BQ.

May – Tue 7 (7pm) Meet the Brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd. W9 2BA (must book with pub) - Tue 28 (7pm/7.30) Branch AGM Defector's Weld (upstairs), 170 Uxbridge Rd, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 8AA. Website: www.westlondon.camra.org.uk

### **WEST MIDDLESEX**

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

April – Wed 3 Yiewsley/West Drayton UB7 crawl: (8pm) George & Dragon, 176 High St, 7BE; (9pm) Railway Arms, 1 Station Rd, 7BT; (10pm) De Burgh Arms, Station App, 7DJ. - Wed 10 S Kenton/Wembley HA9 crawl: (7.30) Windermere, Windermere Ave, 8QT; (8.30) Preston, 161 Preston Rd, 8NG; (9.30) JJ Moons, 397 High Rd, 6AA. - Fri 19 (12pm) Fox Beer Fest, Green Lanes, Hanwell W7 2PJ. - Mon 22 Dorking crawl: start (12.30) Spotted Dog, 42 South St, RH4 2HQ. - Thu 25 (8pm) Ealing BF mtg. Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, W Ealing W13 9EP.

May – Mon 6 Wallington & Carshalton crawl: meet (12pm) Whispering Moon, 25 Ross Parade, SM6 8QF. - Wed 15 Cowley UB8 crawl: (8pm) Crown, Cowley High St, 2NL; (9pm) Three Steps, High St, 2DX; (9.45) Malt Shovel, 69 Iver La, 2JE; - Tue 21 Ruislip HA4 crawl: (7.30) White Bear, Ickenham Rd, 7DF; (8.15) Orchard, Ickenham Rd, 7DR; (9pm) Hop & Vine, 7AN; (10pm) JJ Moons, 12 Victoria Rd, 0AA. - Mon 27 Weybridge & Walton-on-Thames crawl: meet (12pm) Hand & Spear, The Heath, Old Heath Rd, KT13 8TX. - Wed 29 (8pm) Branch AGM. Southall Conservative Club, Fairlawn, High St, UB1 3HB.– Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the June/July edition is absolutely no later than Friday 10 May 2019. Please send entries to *Idnews.hedger@gmail.com*.

At 28 February 2019, CAMRA had 190,654 members, of whom18,566 live in the Greater London area

### CAN'T HEAR THE TELLY?

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# SAT 8TH - SUN 9TH JUNE 2019



### **CAMRA** news and events

### **CAMRA HAS A CHANGE OF CHAIRMAN**

ackie Parker has announced that she will stand down as CAMRA's national chairman at the end of the Campaign's forthcoming AGM and members' weekend in Dundee in early April. Jackie explained, "It is with great sadness that I choose to step down as chairman of the campaign. It's the right time, however, as I come to the end of my third term as a national executive member. I've spent nine years as a national executive member and served as regional director for three years prior to that. It's healthy for an organisation to refresh its leadership regularly and now is the time to step aside and give someone else the opportunity to lead the campaign."

Jackie will be replaced by Nik Antona, who commented, "I'm delighted and honoured by the confidence my national executive colleagues have shown in me by electing me to take over as chairman in April. Jackie has been a strong leader for the organisation and I am keen to carry on where she will leave off — making sure CAMRA is effective in its national campaigns, especially in seeing much-needed reform of the pubs code, calling for a review of business rates on pubs and campaigning to get a reduction in beer tax on pints served in pubs."

#### REGIONAL CIDER CO-ORDINATOR

Avacancy has arisen in CAMRA's Greater London Region for a Regional Cider Co-ordinator. If you have an interest in cider and perry and could support the campaign at regional level liaising with London Branches, the regional director and CAMRA's National APPLE Committee, please email lan White on ikwcider@icloud.com for further details.

### BEER TRAINING IN LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST

CAMRA is committed to beer education, so whether you are an experienced taster or a novice, we have something to suit you. All of these courses are independently accredited by People 1st, which is well respected for its work in the hospitality sector. This means that at the end of each course you will gain a certificate to adorn your wall! The training sessions are led by Master



A taste training session in progress.

Trainer, Beer Writer and EBCU accredited beer judge, Christine Cryne. You can book via the *Bookitbee* website and all, excluding the one in Hastings, are open to non-CAMRA members.

- Sat 27 April: Beer Appreciation. White Hart, Whitechapel. This training course is aimed at beer lovers (both experienced and less experienced) who want to understand how the ingredients that go into beer affect the appearance, aroma and flavour. https://event.bookitbee.com/20688/beer-appreciation-3.
- Sat 18 May: Taste Training for Tasting Panels. White Rock Hotel, Hastings. The purpose of this course is to give you (or improve your) skills and confidence to assess beer objectively. It is aimed at people who wish to join a CAMRA Tasting Panel. https://event.bookitbee.com/20512/taste-training-forcamra-tasting-panels-3.
- Sat 21 September: Beer Appreciation. White Hart, Whitechapel, as above. https://event.bookitbee. com/20689/beer-appreciation-4
- Sat 16 November: Food & Beer Matching Course. Bohemia, North Finchley. This new, one off session will open your mind to new combinations and enable you to create your own beer and food menus. It involves tasting six beers and six different foods and will take about 4½ hours. Sorry but this particular course is not suitable for vegetarians. https://event.bookitbee.com/20573/beerfood-matching.

### Christine Cryne

### YOUNG MEMBERS VISIT SAMBROOK'S

Christine also conducted a taste training course for CAMRA's Greater London Young Members Group in February. It was very kindly hosted by Sambrook's Brewery in Battersea.



Enjoying themselves! Christine is third from the left and Duncan Sambrook third from the right.

### PLAYING THE MARKET

AMRA's North London branch has awarded its Winter Pub of the Season award to the Alma, a local pub serving traders and visitors to Islington's Chapel Market. John Cryne, the branch chairman, said, "The Alma is truly a pub that is used to providing good beer to the local community. We believe there has been a beer shop on this site for at least



### **London CAMRA Branches presents**

# Cider & Perry Festival

Saturday 13th April 12pm to 10pm

Or until stocks last! Last admission 9.30pm



30+ Ciders & Perries

Bar & Pies

Admission: £3 CAMRA Members & Students £1

### **Matchstick Piehouse**

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New Cross & Deptford Stations

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### **CAMRA** news and events

165 years and we know that the Alma was in existence in the 1870s. It's not a big pub but that adds to its charm, along with the great beer. The pub is owned Patrick Mulligan who also owns the White Hart in Whitechapel and the One Mile End Brewery, so you can always find a few of their beers on sale at the Alma. It is also a bit odd in that it doesn't use its kitchen, so you can bring in some of the food from one of the many street food stands in the market. The pub therefore supports local traders as well as selling them beer!"

Pubs are in Patrick's blood. This pub his been in his family for almost three decades. His uncle bought the pub from Alby Hollister, a professional boxer who boxed at middleweight and light-heavyweight between 1946 and 1952. Although being in the trade is hard work, Patrick commented, "I wouldn't change it for a day. Pubs have been good to me. It's a great job and you can have a good time working in pubs". The day to day running of the Alma is down to Alastair Kracke and his team.



(Left to right): Patrick Mulligan, Alastair Kracke, John Cryne and the pub team.

The Alma is a corner pub with a small side area just off the main bar area. The striking bay signage is thought to date from 1913. There are a number of televisions, often showing horse racing. Alongside its draught beer, it has a large fridge offering a range of bottled beers which can be taken away. It also offers accommodation (six studio flats) – maybe not a bad idea if you intend to try the range of whiskies; the Alma is an oasis for whisky lovers with over 50 whiskies and Bourbons stocked.

The full address of the Alma is 77-78 Chapel Market, Pentonville, London, N1 9EX. Opening hours are 11-11.30 Monday-Thursday; 11-12.30am Friday; 11-11.30 Saturday; 11-9.30 Sunday. For more details on the pub, visit: https://thealmalondon.com/.

John Cryne

### **NEWS FROM EPPING ONGAR RAILWAY**

The Epping Ongar Railway is hosting its popular ale trains again, with the first 'beerex' to depart on Saturday 27 April. With a 1950s or 1960s vintage diesel at the head of the train, ales from Keppel's and Mighty Oak breweries from Essex will be served in the train's Flag and Whistle bar. June's ale train, timed to coincide with a 1940s event, will

see Enfield brewery take to the rails for the first time. Tickets are now on sale online and anyone booking two weeks or earlier in advance will get a £2 discount on their fare. Bus transfers to and from Epping Central Line station are included, with the ticket valid on the bus to connect with the first train departure after 5pm.

Arrangements are being firmed up for the summer beer festival, to be held from 19 to 21 July. As last year, an extra connecting bus service to and from Harlow Town national rail station will provide an easy journey from Tottenham, Cheshunt and the Lea Valley. Further details will appear in the next edition of London Drinker. For more information see www.eorailway.co.uk.

### THE SLINGBACKS ARE BACK!

osslyn Park Rugby Club's women's team, the Slingbacks, are holding a small beer and cider festival on Saturday 6 April in the clubhouse at their ground on the corner of Upper Richmond Road and Roehampton Lane. There will be six to eight beers and two or three ciders available on gravity. I have attended this event before and have always been impressed with the choice and quality. They are all amateurs and all funds raised will go towards running and maintaining the team and help them keep doing what they love – playing rugby! The festival opens at 3pm for those who are attending the first team's match against Cambridge with free admission from 4pm.

### **FURTHER AFIELD**

or those of you who fancy a day out, the 34th Colchester Real Ale & Cider Festival takes place from 28 May to 1 June at the Colchester Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester, CO1 1NF. It is open from midday to 10.30 each day. For more information go to www.colchesterbeerfestivals.co.uk. The train journey from Liverpool Street takes about an hour.

Compiled by Tony Hedger, except where stated

### **Bottling it**

CAMRA's South East London branch have come up with a new competition – Bottle Shop of the Year. There are a number of 'bottle shops' in the branch area, which has increased the choice of drinking establishments. Consequently we decided to give them their own competition along the lines of Pub of the Year. The main qualification was that the shop primarily sells bottled and/or canned beers but, unlike an off-licence, provides on-sales whereby members of the public can select a product and drink it on the premises. They should have at least one bottle conditioned beer on sale, possibly displaying CAMRA's RAiB (real ale in a bottle) logo. They are however distinct in the way that they operate from draught led pubs or micropubs. The winner of the inaugural competition was WaterintoBeer in Brockley (209 Mantle Road, SE4 2EW). We are having a presentation on the evening of Friday 10 May. A full report of that event will be in the next London Drinker. Many thanks to all the other premises who took part.

Ian White



### THE HARP













### **EVENING STANDARD'S BEST PUB IN LONDON 2019**

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### **CAMRA's Champion Winter Beer of Britain**

The judging for CAMRA's Champion Winter Beer of Britain took place at the Great British Beer Festival – Winter (formerly the National Winter Ales Festival) in Norwich at the end of February.

The overall winner was from a local brewery, Lacons, from Great Yarmouth and is Audit Ale, an 8% ABV barley wine. The judges described it as having an 'enticing aroma of marmalade and peach, incredibly well-rounded with not a harsh bone in its body and the perfect balance of flavour.' Audit Ales originated at the colleges of Cambridge and Oxford Universities and were brewed to celebrate the end of their annual audits.

Lacons themselves have some history. E Lacon & Co Ltd was founded in 1760 in Great Yarmouth and had 354 pubs when it was taken over by Whitbread's in 1965. The brewery was closed three years later and demolished. The infamous East Anglian beer desert was not only Watney's fault. Happily, the company was resurrected in 2013 by its current owners and they are using the original Lacon's yeast.

Nick Boley, CAMRA's National Director responsible for the competition, commented, "Congratulations to Lacons Brewery for winning the Champion Winter Beer of Britain award, which is one of the highest accolades in the beer world. Lacons takes the crown this year because Audit displayed an all-around great character. One judge even said they were 'completely sold' despite not being a barley wine drinker! I would like to thank all the judges for their hard work and commend the brewers on the high quality of beers tasted. It was a very close competition and a well-deserved winner." Chris Everett, the brewery manager, added, "This is a fantastic result – long may it continue!"

The silver award went to Calverley's of Cambridge for their Porter (5% ABV) while the bronze went to Harviestoun of Clackmannanshire for their Old Engine Oil (4.5% ABV). The four category winners will be included in the judging for the Champion Beer of Britain at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia in August.

The category winners were as follows:

### **Barley Wine Strong Old Ales**

Gold Lacons Audit Ale (Overall winner)

Silver Tring Death or Glory Bronze Robinson's Old Tom

### Old Ales and Strong Milds

Gold Tintagel Excalibur Silver Harvey's Old Ale Bronze Brampton Mild

### **Porters**

Gold Calverley's Porter (Overall silver)
Silver Harviestoun Old Engine Oil (Overall bronze)

Bronze Dancing Duck Indian Porter

### **Stouts**

Gold Plain Ales Inncognito Silver Dark Star Imperial Stout Bronze Cairngorn Black Gold

CAMRA's policy is to allocate the winter festival to a particular venue in blocks of three years. This was the third year in Norwich; the festival moves on to Birmingham for 2020 to 2022. The venue, subject to confirmation, is the New Bingley Hall, 1 Hockley Circus, B18 5PP. CAMRA's regional director for the West Midlands, Gary Timmins, said, "This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for us to showcase the fantastic food and drinks that the region has to offer. The region has a rich history in brewing and we're looking forward to working with local museums, charities and organisations to tell visitors a story that will go hand in hand with their drink of choice." For further details go to winter.gbbf.org.uk.

Tony Hedger from various CAMRA sources

### **Great British Beer Festival tickets now available**

CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival will be held at Olympia from 6 to 10 August. Don't miss the 'live beer experience' with over 1,000 British and international beers, ciders and perries, plus a new wine and gin bar for some variety. As usual, there will also be a wide range of food stalls and live music.

Tickets are now available through the GBBF website: https://gbbf.org.uk/tickets.

- The Standard Day Ticket costs £11.00 or £9.00 on Saturday. CAMRA members get a £2 discount on all single day entrance
  tickets. You can use your member's discount for all of the tickets that you purchase, so that your friends and family can
  benefit too! The code for members' discounts is MEMBERMASH.
- Group Discounts if you buy five tickets, you can have a sixth free. There is also, for the first time this year, a CAMRA Branch
  Discount with which you can buy 15 tickets for the price of ten. See the website for details.
- VIP Tickets for a special festival experience, treat yourself to a VIP package. This includes your day pass to the festival (one
  day only), a festival guide, souvenir glass, £15 worth of beer tokens and access to our VIP seating areas all for just £39.00.
   Numbers are limited to 300 per day and these tickets must be purchased in advance.

For further information, take a look at our new website https://gbbf.org.uk/.

### Opening times:

Tuesday 6 August – 12 noon to 5pm (Trade Session) then 5pm to 10.30pm (Public Session)
Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 August – 12 noon to 10.30pm Saturday 10 August – 11am to 7pm
Last admission is half an hour before closing time



### Fuller's - where now?

eaders may have been surprised to find no coverage of Fuller's sale of their brewing operation to Asahi in the last edition. This was because the announcement was made the day after we went to print. I'm sure that that was just a coincidence. It has however given me the opportunity, six weeks on, to put the story into perspective. I might add that no-one I know in CAMRA saw this coming.

It was not a take-over; chairman Michael Turner went on record to say that Fuller's approached Asahi. The sale is, correctly, to Asahi Europe Ltd, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Asahi Group Holdings Ltd. The deal is subject to the approval of an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders (date yet to be announced as we went to press) and I'm sure that there will be protests but, given that the Fuller and Turner families own over 50% of the shareholding, it will be a formality.

Who are Asahi? The brewery was founded in 1949 and has its headquarters in Tokyo but they have breweries in nine Asian countries plus Australia and the USA. The lager-style Super "Dry" (5.2% ABV) appears to be the only beer that they produce under their own name. When SAB Miller had to sell some breweries to meet competition regulation requirements when they 'merged' with AB InBev, Asahi picked up Pilsner Urquell (Czech Republic), Peroni (Italy), Grolsh (Netherlands) and London's own Meantime Brewery. Fuller's will be their first venture into cask beer. Super "Dry" for the UK used to be contract brewed by Shepherd Neame but now it is brewed by Peroni and imported from Italy (for now). Asahi were already suppling beer to Fuller's. The head of Asahi Europe, Hector Gorosabel, said that he wants to take the Fuller's brands 'global'.

So, how significant is this? Just fifteen years ago, brewing in London was synonymous with Fuller's and Young's. How things have changed! It is very sad that Fuller's no longer see brewing beer as an essential part of their business and despite assurances, have given up a family heritage that dates back to 1845. It is not however as serious as it once might have been. London's drinkers now have significantly more choice.

Why have Fuller's sold? Fuller's make 87% of their profit from their pubs and hotels, so perhaps it was inevitable that they would eventually follow the Young's model. Mr Turner did however make the following comment, "Progressive beer duty has led to the formation of 2,000 smaller brewers, while on the other hand consolidation among the global brewers has left Fuller's in the squeezed middle. We are now in the position of being too large to be local and too small to benefit from the economies of scale of the global brewers." He is not the first regional brewer to make such a comment but how significant a consideration it was here is debateable. Small Brewers' Duty Relief is incidentally currently under review by HM Treasury.

What have Asahi bought? They have paid £250 million for the Fuller's Beer Company. This includes the Griffin

Brewery site plus Dark Star and Cornish Orchards. The Dark Star brewery at Partridge Green has recently received a considerable amount of investment, including a canning line and the lease was recently extended by ten years. Ashai now own the beer brands and to quote from the formal announcement, 'will receive the benefit of a licence, on a perpetual, global, exclusive and royalty-free basis' to use the Fuller's name and logo. Fuller's retain ownership of the trade marks. Mr Turner said that 'the two companies will continue to work together in a spirit of partnership' so that Fuller's beers will remain available long term in Fuller's pubs. The deal also includes Fuller's wine wholesaling, soft drinks and distribution operations. Mr Turner said that he was 'sad to say that there will also inevitably be some redundancies' among the 500 people employed in the brewery. Fuller's are however retaining control of the final salary pension scheme and will pay into it part of the purchase price.

CAMRA's reaction: I'm sure that a lot of people expect CAMRA to stop this sale but I have to ask how. Even if we could raise the money, we could not acquire a sufficient shareholding to outvote the families. CAMRA's chairman, Jackie Parker, said she was concerned that consolidation was "seldom beneficial for consumers. Fuller's has been a family brewer in Britain for more than a hundred years, and it's a very sad day to see such a well-known, historic and respected name exit the brewing business. While the Fuller's family has stressed it has sought to protect the heritage of the Griffin Brewery, we'd call on the new owners to pledge to continue brewing operations at the Chiswick site." CAMRA's Public Affairs Committee has written to the Competition Commission to outline its concerns and have received an undertaking that CAMRA will be consulted as part of any investigation, should they choose to launch one.

What comes next? Fuller's will happily continue as a 'premium' (their word) pub and hotel company, acquiring new pubs that fit their profile and disposing of those that don't. Those lost will mostly be suburban community locals. They may well also look to convert their leased pubs to managed houses. Asahi have indicated that they will continue brewing at Chiswick although many people have speculated that, long-term, the brewery site will be redeveloped and for that purpose the site is worth the £250 million paid on its own. Some parts, but not all of the brewery site are listed buildings. It would also seem logical that in due course Asahi will look to 'rationalise' the beer portfolio.

Tony Hedger

A complete collection of London Drinker magazines is available on our website:

www.london.camra.org.uk.

You can use the website version to read London Drinker in larger print.

# THE GREYHOUND KESTON



# Dave and Toni Lee invite you to their Eighth Annual Easter Beer and Cider Festival

(Opens 12 noon Good Friday to 6pm Easter Sunday – 19-21 April)

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A former Bromley CAMRA Pub of the Year (2017)

### **PUB CLOSURES**

The latest statistics compiled by CAMRA using its WhatPub database show that the rate of closure of pubs has reduced to fourteen per week. That is still fourteen too many, obviously, but it is a move in the right direction. CAMRA will continue to campaign to reduce this number through the aims of its 'Save Our Pubs' campaign (see below) together with stronger planning safeguards for pubs. A worse picture is however painted by specialist estate agents Christie & Co who, in their Business Outlook 2019 report as quoted in the Morning Advertiser, say that a further 1,000 or so pubs will have to close within the next two years (ten per week) in order to achieve what it calls a 'sustainable equilibrium' of 47,000 pubs. They also report that running costs and rents now account for 52.5% of the average pub's net takings.

### **BEER SALES UP**

The British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA), the representative body for pub owning businesses, keeps a record of beer sales, called the BBPA Beer Barometer. For 2018 it showed a rise in beer sales of 2.6%, the highest year-on-year increase for 45 years. It should be remembered that this is for all beers and lagers, not just real ale. What does not make for good reading however is that the increase in supermarkets and convenience stores (off sales) was 4.7% but in pubs and bars (on sales) was 0.1%. The football World Cup and the good weather were given as the main reasons.

### PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

Aparliamentary debate, secured by the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group, was held on 7 February to debate how beer and pubs are taxed. CAMRA had asked its members to contact their MPs to ask them to support the aims of CAMRA's 'Save Our Pubs' Campaign, which are:

- A preferential rate of duty on beer sold in pubs;
- Full reform of business rates to fix the unfair amount that pubs pay;
- Reforming the Pubs Code so that tenants get a fair deal;
   As readers of our Pub News column will be aware,
   curtailing the activities of the pub owning businesses, not
   least unreasonable rent increases, is also essential. A review
   of the Pub Code is imminent but details have yet to be
   released.

Ruth Smeeth MP, the vice chair of the Parliamentary Beer Group, said, "I'm really happy that we have secured this debate. I completely support CAMRA's 'Save Our Pubs' campaign, and I hope that many of my Parliamentary colleagues will be in attendance on Thursday to speak up for the sector and for pubs in their communities."

Another thought: when the UK leaves the European Union, the Government will be free to set its own beer duty rates. CAMRA hopes that duty on beer sold on draught will be

reduced so as to lessen the advantage enjoyed by supermarkets. That said, I imagine that the anti-alcohol lobby will take the opportunity to ask for duty rates to rise.

### **BUSINESS RATES**

s it happens, business rates are currently being reviewed. S it happens, pusiness rates are corrolled. Zerolled at how Under its terms of reference, the review will look at how the system has changed since 2017 when rateable values were substantially increased, and its impact on business. The 33% reduction given to pubs, restaurants and cafés in the last budget was all very well but it is temporary and only helps businesses with a rateable value of up to £51,000 which, from April, will leave some 5,000 pubs worse off. Overall, according to the Morning Advertiser, the hospitality sector pays 10% of the total raised in business rates while representing 3% of the economy. CAMRA's chief executive, Tom Stainer, said, "We will be working to get pubs to share their own personal experiences with the Treasury through the inquiry process to ensure that their voices are heard and that meaningful reform is implemented." The deadline for written submissions is 2 April. Search on-line for 'The impact of Business Rates on business inquiry' for more information.

### **SMALL BREWERS' DUTY RELIEF**

eaders may have noted that in my report on the Fuller's-Asahi deal, Michael Turner mentioned SBDR as being a factor in their decision to sell. On 8 February, H M Treasury put up an on-line survey 'seeking views from brewers on the current SBDR scheme, and whether there is support for options to modify it'. The closing date was 17 March. They are looking for 'a view of the market today and SBDR's impact on it.' They will also be consulting representative bodies such as the British Beer and Pub Association and Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA). CAMRA was not mentioned but I am sure that we will make a submission, whether asked or not.

### **LONDON AT NIGHT**

In a new report called 'Think Night: London's neighbourhoods from 6pm to 6am', the Mayor of London's Night Time Commission has made a number of recommendations to enliven London's night time economy and support struggling high streets. These include using shop units and public buildings (such as museums and libraries) which are closed in the evenings as 'pop-up' bars or restaurants. The report also proposes that there be guidance for boroughs to help them develop strategies for their town centres at night, and that research be carried out to establish the case for extended opening hours. This however is at odds with the two items below. Somewhere we are lacking 'joined up' government.

#### 24 HOUR PARTY POOPERS

n BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme on 11 March, there was an interesting item about 24 hour licences.

### **News and views**

Apparently the number in existence has fallen by 20% since 2013. There are now around 740, out of 38,000 licensed premises overall. Additional costs such as Late Night Levies and requirements to have licensed door supervisors are taking their toll, together with falling demand. Curiously, at least two local authorities suggest that venues who frequently host weddings and big parties have 24 hour licences so that they don't have to apply frequently for temporary event notices. Overall, pubs today open on average 30 minutes less than before the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003.

### LATE NIGHT LEVY

Redbridge and Southwark are the latest Londons boroughs to consider introducing a Late Night Levy. At least one publican immediately responded to the local paper that late night trade was already falling off so that he would probably start closing earlier to avoid the levy.

### Compiled by Tony Hedger

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



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ELAC CAMRA City Pub of the Year Award for 2016



### **40 up for Leyton Orient Supporters' Club**

The LOSC has appeared frequently in the pages of London Drinker not just as advertisers but because of the impressive number of CAMRA club awards that they have won, some thirty in all, locally, regionally and nationally. They are renowned for excellent real ale and a friendly atmosphere and are in the Good Beer Guide. I am pleased therefore to be able to salute their 40th anniversary.

SUPPO

There has been some sort of supporters' association at the

Orient since the 1930s, including for a while one run by the club's commercial department. The club in its current form was actually formed in 1977 but was not able to open a bar until the start of the 1978/79 season. This is the anniversary being celebrated.

They began in a timber cabin and started raising funds for something better. However, when the football club hit financial problems in the early 1990s, the £76,000 raised to date was donated to the club. There was one more move before the current premises were opened in 2005.

The LOSC is run by a volunteer management committee and its chief objectives are to provide social facilities and services for the members, to encourage goodwill between the membership and the football club and to assist the football club financially and in other ways. LOSC has raised over £1 million for the football club, including £27,000 towards repairs to the East Stand, and holds a significant 50,000 shareholding in the club. It is represented on the board. It now has about 1,500 members against an average home gate of around 4,000. LOSC also run men's and women's darts teams, Sunday football teams and a cricket section.



The beers on sale in 2005 were Truman's Special, Ben Truman and Carlsberg lager. Then, in 1993, they experimented with real ale and it has snowballed from there. They now have eight handpumps and on a busy Saturday can easily get through fifteen or sixteen casks, usually from small and new breweries, although Mighty Oak remains a favourite. Much credit for this goes to bar manager and club secretary Mike Childs and his assistants, Peter Norwood and Mark Harrison.

The Leyton Orient Supporters Club is based in the West Stand at the Matchroom Stadium, Leyton E10 5NF. The entrance is alongside the main stadium entrance, close to the Club Shop and Ticket Office, on Oliver Road E10. It is a ten minute walk from Leyton tube station on the Central Line. CAMRA members are admitted free on production of a current membership card. Check the LOSC website for times and news of events: <a href="http://orientsupporters.org">http://orientsupporters.org</a>.

My thanks to David Dodd, the club chairman for supplying the information. David was a co-founder in 1977 and has served LOSC continuously since then. A commemorative brochure is in preparation, giving the full story of this remarkable institution.

Tony Hedger

### **CASK '19 PREVIEW EVENT**

On Thursday 8 March, in advance of the Cask '19 festival (held by Affinity Brewery on Saturday 16 March) the Beer Merchants tap in Hackney Wick hosted a panel discussion on the state of cask beer in 2019. I was invited to represent CAMRA in my capacity as organiser of the Pig's Ear beer festival. The panel was completed by two brewers of very different styles of beer: Andy Parker of Elusive Brewing (Wokingham, Berkshire) and Tom Norton of the Little Earth Project (Edwardstone, Suffolk).

The panel covered a wide range of subjects, but several common themes bubbled to the surface. At beer festivals and in high footfall specialist beer outlets, a drinker can expect to find an exciting variety of interesting beers served from casks. While innovations within the cellar such as 'cask widges' help cellar managers maintain the condition of their beer, technology can only go so far. The panel agreed that the thorough training of everyone involved in serving is the most effective means of ensuring beer reaches the lips of the drinker in the best condition. Everyone from the landlord to the newest recruit, pouring for the first time, should be enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the products being served.

On the role of industry governing bodies, the panel discussed how measurement schemes such as Cask Marque can only capture a single point in time view. It always comes down to the people; unless everyone involved in the serving of the beer is adequately trained, there will always be the chance that something isn't quite right that day.

At the end of the event, the panel was opened up for questions from the floor and was grilled on some further technical matters (for example: should sparklers be allowed?) and about the image of cask beer. With the current level of interest from both brewers and consumers, I feel the future of cask beer is looking good.

Alan Perryman

The Pig's Ear beer festival is organised by CAMRA's East London and City branch



### The Roebuck

72 Hampton Rd, Hampton Hill. TW12 1JN. Tel: (020) 8255 8133

Terry Himpfen and the girls welcome you to his distinctive community pub with a veritable treasure trove of memorabilia on show.

The small award winning walled garden has a summer house and a new gazebo for smokers. Four Bed s Breakfast rooms also available, all En-Suite with TV. Pub open 11am to 11pm (11:30 Fri s Sat) Noon to 4pm, 7pm to 10:30pm Sun. Buses R68 and 285 stop close by.

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

### **LEYTON ORIENT SUPPORTERS CLUB**



### **CAMRA's National Pub of the Year award**

he winner of CAMRA's highly respected National Pub of the Year award for 2018 was, just four years ago, closed and derelict. The Wonston Arms in Wonston, near Winchester in Hampshire demonstrates how a pub can be brought back to life by the right people. Following its acquisition by landlord Matt Todd, it has become a genuine asset to the local community. It serves four changing cask beers, mostly from local breweries (Bowman, Red Cat etc) plus 180 different gins. The pub does not serve food (except local pork pies) but on certain nights it is visited by a fish & chip van and curries and pizzas can be brought in. There are many social events as well, including folk music, jazz sessions, quizzes and a photography club. The pub also raises money for charity. To date, more than £25,000 has been raised, a lot of this from a monthly 'pop-up' cafe.

Mr Todd commented, "I'm overwhelmed that our little

Mr Todd commented, "I'm overwhelmed that our little pub, which had been handed a death sentence four years ago, has now been named the very best in the country. I have strived to recreate the kind of wet pub I went to in the 1970s with my dad when I was a young boy in the north of England. The support from the local community and beyond has been overwhelming, helping to propel us forward despite these testing times. Ultimately I'd like to see our pub play a vital role in supporting and employing local residents and recirculating the local pounds that are spent in our pub. To do this, we need to ensure our continued survival with the likes of small business rate relief, which has been absolutely vital to getting us through our fledgeling years, helping us to realise our potential. Now we're in a position where continuing to build our business may end up ensuring that

we're penalised for growth through the rates system, and we need all the help we can get!"

Ben Wilkinson, who coordinated the competition for CAMRA, said, "Matt and his team have created a fantastic rural village pub with a great atmosphere by shaping it around the community and its needs. They have realised that it takes something special to create a sense of real belonging so that people want to come out of their homes and back in the pub. Pubs like the Wonston Arms highlight what communities stand to lose if their local pub closes, something being experienced in all too many places. These types of pubs are more than just businesses, they are the heart of our local communities and part of what makes the UK the country it is. The Wonston Arms serves excellent cask ales and is a great social environment for all. It fully deserves its title as the best in the country."

The presentation took place on 28 February in front of a very large number of happy people. The full address of the pub is Stoke Charity Road, Wonston, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 3LS.

The National Pub of the Year award is the end of a chain of events starting with the local branch Pub of the Year. The pubs are assessed on their atmosphere, decor, welcome, service, community focus and the quality of the beer. All judging is carried out by volunteers and no fees are payable. This year's runners-up were the Cricketers Arms in St Helens, Merseyside; the Chequers in Little Gransden and the Volunteer Arms (Staggs) in Musselburgh.

From a CAMRA press release





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### THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

The first months of 2019 have seen a number of instances of blocks of pubs changing hands.

- In January, Wellesley Capital Investment Ltd, who are linked to the Wellington Pub Company, acquired ten freehold pubs from Star Pubs and Bars, which is the leased pubs arm of Heineken UK. These are spread across London. They already owned eight pubs plus a branch of Nando's.
- Young's have taken over the Redcomb Pubs chain, paying £34 million for its fifteen pubs, ten of which are in London. There are six freehold sites and nine leaseholds. Please see page 48 for a list. The pubs will be added to Young's managed estate. Patrick Dardis, Young's chief executive, said, "The acquisition of these pubs represents an excellent opportunity to continue the growth of the Young's managed estate. They fit very well with our expansion strategy which is focused on high quality managed houses." Young's now have 270 pubs, 200 managed and 70 tenanted under the Ram Pub Company. Young's have closed the Chinese restaurant which formed part of the Dog & Fox in Wimbledon Village and are converting the space to hotel rooms. This is a good indication of, if you will excuse the expression, their 'direction of travel'.
- Stonegate have acquired six sites in London from Novus Leisure for an undisclosed amount. This follows their acquisition of fifteen pubs from the same source in 2018. The sites are understood all to be leaseholds and are bars rather than pubs in the West End and the City. Stonegate have also acquired the Feaver Bars chain but none of the 32 sites are in London. Stonegate are doing well; their revenue increased by 11% to £774 million in the year to 30 September 2018 and they are on the look-out for more pubs.
- Aprirose, a property company rather than a pub chain, have acquired 22 pubs from New River Retail for £15 million. The pubs, which are spread across the country including the South East, are all branded as Marston's houses. Fifteen of them will be leased back to Marston's. Marston's have announced that they are cutting back on their 'new build' programme in order to reduce their net debt from £1.4 to £1.2 billion. They are also planning to raise £80 to £90 million during 2020-2023 from the sale of unspecified 'non-core assets'.

### **EI GROUP NEWS**

The pub owning business formerly known as Enterprise have announced that they intend increasing their portfolio of managed house to 460 by September of this year. This will be an increase of 105 over the year. They are aiming for 500 by 2020. This is despite some pubs being included in the sale of its Commercial Division as reported in the last edition. Some of the proceeds of this sale was used to buy back and cancel some £20 million of shares.

Ei run many of their pubs through subsidiary companies

(Hippo Inns and Old Spot Pub Co for example) which come under their Managed Investments division. Most of these are London-based but they are now looking to spread these to the rest of the country. It was reported in the *Morning Advertiser* that chief executive Simon Townsend did however tell the recent MCA Tenanted Pub Company Summit that tenanted and leased pubs still had their part to play.

### **SHEPHERD NEAME NEWS**

ike for like sales in the half-year ended 29 December were up by 4.1%. Tenanted pubs outperformed managed houses. They have however lost contracts to brew for Asahi and Lidl and the volume of beer brewed in the same period fell by 30%. Volumes of their own beers were steady. When presenting the results, Jonathan Neame rather pointedly said, "We see a great future as one of the few remaining independent brewers."

Sheps' have launched a new venture, the Cask Club, which they describe as 'a new range of contemporary cask ales designed to satisfy the beer-curious drinker'. The first example, in March, was Hop County Hopping Mad Pale Ale (4.8% ABV), a golden ale featuring Boadicea, Endeavour and UK Cascade hops. This will be followed by Samuel Adams's Blonde Ambition (4.2% ABV), a collaboration with the Boston Beer Company, and New Dawn Citrus Ale (3.5% ABV), made with actual citrus fruit. Look out for some colourful packaging as well. There is also a passport scheme, see www.sncaskclub.co.uk.

### **CHARLES WELLS PLANS TO EXPAND**

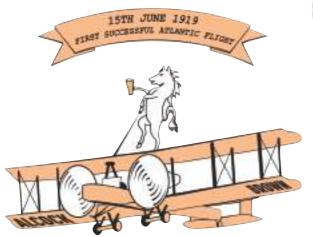
The Bedford based pub company (for now) has done well since selling its brewing business to Marston's. For the year ended September 2018 operating profit rose 29% to £5 million. They have expanded their pub estate to 23, including several in France, and are looking for more sites in the East Midlands, East Anglia and the South East. The company still see leased and tenanted pubs as part of their business. Construction of the new £13 million, 30,000 hectolitre brewery and visitors centre on the A6 at Fairhill is underway and should open in 2020.

In the Bow Belles pub crawl article in the last edition it was incorrectly stated that Charles Wells had sold the Wentworth Arms; they still own it.

### **WETHERSPOON'S NEWS**

Sales in the year to date are up 6.3% but the year's profit is forecast to fall because of increased costs, including a £30 million rise in staff costs.

JDW have surrendered the upper parts of the Walnut Tree in Leytonstone so that the landlord can develop a 51 bedroom hotel. The pub will remain unchanged. Thanks to Colin Price for the information. (See also the Pub News column for another JDW story.) Overall, six pubs have been disposed of, and during the current financial year 12 new sites will open. Their website lists four, three of which are in the Republic of Ireland.





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### **C&C STOCKPILE**

According to the Evening Standard (7 March), C&C, the makers of Magners cider, have shipped extra supplies of cans and bottles over from Ireland, just in case. . . For the year to 28 February C&C are forecasting a profit of £90 million. Some of this came from increased prices following Scotland's introduction of minimum pricing.

### **REACH FOR THE SKY**

urther to my mention of the Doom Bar (DB) and Sky Sports deal, I have heard from a reader who used to drink in a pub which had this arrangement, which also involved buying in Carling lager. Apparently the publican had to sell a minimum of two firkins (18 gallons) of DB per week. The pub sold Harvey's Best and DB. Virtually all of the customers who drank cask beer drank the Harvey's, thus leaving the Doom Bar in poor condition. The pub then stopped selling Harvey's so that the Doom Bar would sell. Most of the customers went elsewhere. This is not a rant against Doom Bar; it is not a bad beer and I know a number of people who like it. However, for a 'national' brand, there are a lot of people who don't.

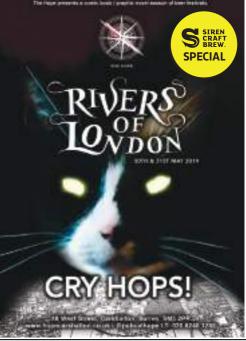
#### **STONE ME!**

According to a report in the *Guardian*, scientists at the University of California – Berkeley have produced a modified yeast which, using more or less the standard

brewing process, produces pure cannabinoid compounds instead of beer. The compounds include the both the mindaltering THC and the non-psychoactive CBD which has acknowledged medical uses, especially pain relief. The process is cheaper and easier than extracting the compounds from the marijuana plant and, the professor in charge says, is more environmentally friendly. The research was conducted for medical purposes but with ten states in the USA having now legalised the use of cannabis, it could have serious commercial implications, not least in the drinks industry. Coca-Cola, Molson Coors and Diageo are all reportedly in negotiations with cannabis producers with a view to producing drinks containing CBD. The full report on the research will be published in the scientific journal, Nature. Compiled by Tony Hedger

Check the Beer Festival Calendar and visit the London Events Calendar at www.london.camra.org.uk





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### EC4 - the final visit

or my third visit to EC4 I took the District/Circle Line to Cannon Street, and going right and right out of the station took me into Bush Lane. A little way along it is the Bell, a small old pub with a dark brown woody frontage and small square windows. It is quite surprising that the pub is still here given all the new development going on nearby. Inside it is a basic old-style bar. There is a plain wood floor, cream papered walls adorned with old framed pictures and other oddities, including a picture of Sid James. The darker beamed ceiling has various copper containers hanging from it.



For seating there are mainly high wood stools around the walls but there is also a cosy small seating bay with cushioned wood benches by the door. Behind the bar the pub name is illuminated and there is a Courage sign above the mirror backed bar. The pub is part of the Red Car chain with Courage Best, Butcombe Original, Doom Bar, Cornish Coaster and Harvey's Best on sale. I went for the last of these at £4.60 and it was very good too. It was fairly quiet with just a few customers at the time and so there was a very mellow atmosphere, just right for starters.

Heading back up to Cannon Street and going left then crossing over into an alley took me to Queen Street and the rather impressive Golden Fleece on the corner. It looks more like a restaurant but it certainly isn't. It has a large bar area



with almost an island bar and at the rear there is a raised seating area. It's all quite smart in an upmarket traditional style, with lots of varnished woodwork, including the floor, but with black, brown and cream tiles around the bar. Gold framed pictures hang from the cream walls although there is exposed brick to the rear, with a large gold framed mirror. The high ceiling features a grey embossed square pattern. At the other end of the bar is a wood fireplace with a cosy raised seating area behind it and two nice glass chandeliers. It was somewhat busier here and, it being a Greene King house, there was IPA and a house beer called Fleeced, along with Hogs Back TEA and Sambrook's Wandle and Pale. I tried the Pale at £4.35; it was good.

Cutting through some side streets and alleys I headed around the back of St Pauls, looking for a pub called the Happenstance (previously called the Cockney & Barrow) in Paternoster Square. It's a new-style build with large clear windows looking out on to the square. Inside there is a good size curved centre bar with a low ceiling, done out in brown and green colours. Not surprisingly it was busy with tourists, and they had the choice of one real ale, Doom Bar. At least it was good, but it cost £4.85. I had a choice of high and low basic seating, but the circular seating bays were more comfortable.

Crossing over Newgate Street and up towards Smithfield Market, I moved into EC1 looking for the Butcher's Hook and Cleaver, a Fuller's Ale and Pie house that is a GBG



entry. From the outside the pub looks to be two buildings joined together but once inside it has merged into one. It was all quite exuberant with a centre bar and a mezzanine above. It's all done out in a Victorian style with mainly green and brown colours. It has a wood floor with ornate tiles around the bar. The furnishings are mostly dark wood with a large mural of old London on the wall, along with various old framed pictures. The ceiling is impressive with a squared frieze design with ornate brass chandeliers hanging from it. At the bar I had the choice of four Fuller's beers: London Pride, ESB, Oliver's Island and Southern Star. I went for the Southern Star at £4.95, but at least it was very good.

### EC4 - the final visit

From here I went towards Holborn Circus to visit an old favourite, the Olde Mitre, tucked away down an alley just off Hatton Garden. I've been here many times but it is always worth a visit to this genuine two bar pub. It is now owned by Fuller's but still retains a range of guest beers which included beers from Dark Star (yes I know), Oakham and Adnams. I went for Adnams Broadside, which was very good value at £3.85 with the CAMRA discount.

It was then time to head off home. Once again a good afternoon was had drinking good quality ales. The selection may not have been so diverse this time but at least what I had was good.

Clive Taylor

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### **Pub news**

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. . .

- ▶ I ran a photo of the hoarding around the Carlton Tavern, Maida Vale, in the last edition. I have now seen a photo on Facebook which shows the rebuilt pub peaking above that same hoarding (see the front cover). Many thanks to Richard Putley of the Rebuild the Carlton Tavern group for allowing me to use the photo. According to a report in the Morning Advertiser of 28 February, Westminster City Council are still contemplating action against the developers because the building was not reinstated within the two year deadline. A spokesman said, "It has been a long battle to ensure the pub is rebuilt brick by brick. However, it is also clear our enforcement notice, insisting work was completed within two years, has not been complied with and, as such, we are considering whether any further action should be taken."
- ▶ The Crown and Sceptre, Streatham Hill, is one of a handful of JD Wetherspoon's outlets that are purpose built pubs, and it still has its Truman's signage. It closed suddenly for four days recently with no-one prepared to let on what was happening to this impressive building. JDW then confirmed that they had sold the pub, with a spokesman saying, "On occasion Wetherspoon does sell pubs for commercial reasons and this is the case here". It is now being operated for a new private landlord by a company called LT Management Services.
- ▶ In what, I hope, everyone will agree was a generous gesture, the Drapers Arms gastropub in Islington, for the seventh year running, donated their Valentine's Day takings (takings, not profit) to Refuge, the domestic violence charity. Licensee Nick Gibson told the Morning Advertiser, "In some small way, I hope that the pub is a source of light and part of the fight for love, tolerance and shared humanity." The Drapers came 15th in the recent Estrella Damm Top 50 Gastropubs awards.
- ▶ I mentioned recently that Antic might have to dispose of some pubs. This, it appears, included the Earl Haig in Crouch End. This is a great shame because the building was a former British Legion hall and Antic had turned it into a popular community pub. Even worse, the agent for the new owners claimed that it hadn't worked as a pub and they are looking to turn it into a restaurant or a gym. A local councillor told the local newspaper, the Ham & High, "I was saddened to hear of the recent closure of the Earl Haig Hall. In just five years, the Earl Haig had become a local institution. Having spoken to residents, I know there is real appetite amongst locals for the hall to be given the opportunity to remain as a pub, with the same spirit of the Earl Haig. I hope to see that happen." The building had been listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) but this is understood to have lapsed.
- ▶ I have reported several instances where crowdfunding has been used to start or expand breweries but this is the first time that I can recall it being used to purchase a pub. The current tenant of the Hawley Arms in Camden, Ruth

Mottram, is hoping to buy the freehold from Greene King. GK have an odd stance here; they will sell to her but will not put the pub on the market. The pub has a strong music tradition, having had acts like Amy Winehouse and the Arctic Monkeys perform there. Ms Mottram, who has been at the pub for fourteen years, has raised most of the purchase price through conventional means (a mortgage and loans) but needs just that bit more. The crowdfunding appeal has, happily, met with enthusiastic support. Even Greene King wish them success. The chairman of CAMRA's North London branch, John Cryne, commented to the Morning Advertiser, "It is disappointing that Greene King have, in recent years, disposed of much of their tied estate in North London which creates uncertainty and concern amongst local people who are the lifeblood of those pubs. Community owned pubs have been one of the undoubted success stories in the licensed trade: for example, the Antwerp Arms in Tottenham, so let us hope there are enough deep pockets amongst supporters to raise what, I imagine, will be a high price to buy the Hawley."

- What could be a very significant event has, hopefully, finally saved the historic George Tavern in the Commercial Road, Stepney. Owner Pauline Forster has been allowed a legal provision called an easement (which grants rights over other people's property) which, in essence, allows the famous music venue to still make the same amount of noise that it always has done, even when open to 3am, irrespective of any complaints from the residents in a proposed new block of flats next door. The Ministry of Sound music venue obtained one in 2014 but this case is thought to be the first for a pub. If the proposed adjacent development proceeds, the developers, Swan Housing Association, will be expected to soundproof the flats to a standard that will prevent any noise problems from the George. This follows the adoption of the Agent of Change principle as part of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- This could be promising. According to local news website, Brixton Buzz, the Grosvenor, Stockwell, is soon to reopen. The pub closed in 2014 and sold by Punch Taverns to offshore-based Hamna Wakaf. The historic interior was stripped out as part of their plan to redevelop the site. They met with more opposition than they were expecting from the local community, CAMRA's South West London branch and Lambeth Council. They still managed to convert the upper floors into flats (a classic 'Trojan horse') but the ground floor remained as an Asset of Community Value for use as a pub. I have no details of whoever is now at work there, apart from their reported promise to 'reopen doors and serve some beer for now.' The loss of the spacious back room means that the pub's days as a music venue are gone, but at least it is not a mini-supermarket.
- Closed and partly demolished in 2015, the Gun in Spitalfields is set to reopen after Star Pubs and Bars (Heineken) have invested £2.2 million in rebuilding it. According to CityAM (30 January), the project is a partnership with the East London Pub Company.

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Sat 27th \*

SPIKE 9pm

FESTIVAL FINALE QUIZI10pm

### **Pub news**

- ▶ Here is another instance of the use of a Section 25 notice (see page 36). According to the London.eater.com website the Palmerston, a well established gastropub in East Dulwich, will close in June after being refused a new lease by owners, Ei Group. I feel very sad for the owner of the business, Jamie Younger, and his team who have built up a respected business over 15 years and then lose it in this way, especially after completely refurbishing the kitchen last summer.
- The campaign to save the Queensbury in Willesden Green, London is now in its eighth year and is a classic example where the aim of property developers is just to wear campaigners down. A hearing, expected to last five days, is scheduled for 28 August at which a planning inspector will decide whether Brent Council was right to refuse permission to demolish the pub. You can find out more from the Save the Queensbury Group at: http://savethequeensbury.info/?p=1182.

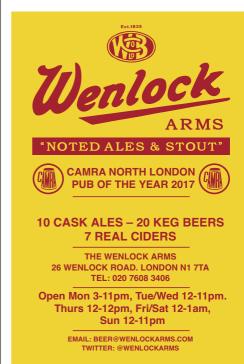
### Christine Cryne

- Closed pubs are highly prone to burning down, being vulnerable to squatting and vandalism, however well protected. The Grade II-listed Railway Hotel in Edgware recently suffered this fate, with its roof being destroyed. It is now feared that the building is at risk of collapse. The pub closed as long ago as 2006 and has been on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register since 2013. There was an earlier fire, in 2016, after which some 2,000 people signed a petition calling on Barnet Council and Historic England to protect the 1930s mock-Tudor building. Barnet Council told the local paper, the Barnet Times, that they had 'successfully taken planning enforcement action on a number of occasions' and that 'officers visited the site during recent refurbishment work and were satisfied these did not contravene the Grade-II listed status of the building'. I find it sad that our planning laws permit listed buildings to stand empty for 13 years and be allowed to deteriorate without some authority having the responsibility and the powers to do something about it.
- Good news about the White Horse, Parsons Green. The Friends of The White Horse group, led by Tony Bell, have secured Asset of Community Value status for this famous pub. It did however take them over three years, so all credit to them for their persistence. Interestingly, the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has just four ACVs registered, all pubs.
- It is always encouraging to see a council standing up to developers. The owners of the White Horse in Stepney, closed in 2017, are appealing against Tower Hamlets council's decision to refuse planning permission for a conversion to residential use. The council made their decision for a number of reasons but primarily because they were not satisfied that efforts to market the pub had been 'sufficiently robust and authoritative'

and that the developers had 'failed to demonstrate that there is no longer a need for the pub within the community'. If anyone wishes to comment on the proceedings, they should contact the Planning Inspectorate on https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk quoting reference APP/E5900/W/18/3218678. With thanks to Mick O'Rorke for the information

- Tavern (Park Terrace, KT4). The pub, which dated from the 1930s, closed five years ago and had become derelict. The current owners, Splendid Hospitality Group, who were on the point of submitting plans to Kingston Council for a 132 bed hotel, told the Sutton and Croydon Guardian that they were 'devastated'.
- ▶ I said in the last edition that I would let you know the winner of the Parliamentary Pub of the Year competition. It was a Cardiff pub, the Four Elms (1 Elm Street, CF24 3QR), as nominated by Jo Stevens MP.
- A final thought. Following on from the Earl Haig story, it needs to be remembered that Asset of Community Value (ACV) listings last only for five years. Once they expire, they should be renewed easily enough. An expired ACV is however of very little use.

Compiled by Tony Hedger except where stated



### BEER! CIDER! MUSIC! PIZZA & MORE!



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'we can't guarantee they'll be around for long!

### Where have all the tenants gone?

All legislative interventions in the British pub and beer industry have been immersed in a mash tun of contention. The 1989 Beer Orders are still being debated today and during the heated discussions on the Small Business Act 2015, which paved the way for the controversial Pubs Code and its even more controversial Adjudicator, many warned of unintended consequences. We hoped that a solution to the iniquities of the tied house system had been found with the advent of the Market Rent Only (MRO) agreement. Instead we have seen the pub owning businesses (POBs) go to extreme lengths to avoid granting them to their long suffering tenants. This gaming of the legislation has been exposed to public scrutiny in the pages of Private Eye and here in London Drinker, especially in the articles contributed by award winning publican and national campaigner Dave Law of the Eagle Alehouse in Battersea.

For decades, those companies, by aggressively exploiting the beer tie, have enjoyed a disproportionate share of the profits from the efforts of their tenants. The Pubs Code was designed to bring fairness to the sector. The POBs, naturally, do not wish to see their profit share and wet rents diminish. The latest worrying trend, not just in London but nationwide, involves the POB refusing a lease renewal, especially where the tenant is considering changing to MRO, on the grounds that they wish to conduct business at the premises themselves. In other words, they kick out their sitting tenant and install a manager, sometimes through a subsidiary company. 'Conversion to Managed', as it is termed, is becoming disturbingly widespread.

This is possible under Sections 25 and 30 of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1954. There are various grounds on which a landlord can refuse to grant a lease renewal, normally rent arrears or failure to carry out repairs. However, Section 30 (1) says, (g) that on the termination of the current tenancy the landlord intends to occupy the holding for the purposes, or partly for the purposes, of a business to be carried on by him therein, or as his residence. There are a growing number of reports of tenants being caught somewhat unawares by these Section 25 notices dropping on their doormat. Whilst we acknowledge that a property owner occupying his own commercial premises is perfectly lawful, whether it is moral or ethical and a cynical use of the law is open to discussion. Bear in mind most tenants have 'fully repairing and insuring' leases under which they are obliged to maintain and insure the premises and to satisfy the landlord's requirements for dilapidations (repairs). It is not just the material value of the buildings that the POB takes back but also the value of the business as a going concern. Having reaped decades of lucrative wet rent, they now snatch the business reputation and trade that the tenant has established. Quite often they are also making the tenant and his family homeless.

One such case is the historic Coach & Horses in Greek Street, Soho, which is arguably one of the most famous pubs in England, largely on account of its former long serving publican Norman Balon who enjoyed the title of 'London's rudest landlord'. The pub featured in Keith Waterhouse's play, Jeffrey Bernard is unwell, about one of the famous journalists who made the Coach their local in the 1980s and 1990s. The no nonsense Balon clocked up some 63 years swearing at punters from both sides of the bar, even changing the name of the pub to 'Norman's Coach & Horses'. Balon took a lease from Taylor Walker in 1943 and lived upstairs in what is now a quaint English tearoom themed vegan restaurant. By the time he retired in

2006, the pub freehold had passed to Punch from whom the current tenant, Alistair Choat, formerly of Smithfield Tavern fame, took a tied lease. Choat kept the spirit of Norman Balon alive, whilst invigorating the tone of the Coach & Horses by reintroducing the time honoured cockney piano singalong every Wednesday and Saturday night, as well as carrying out a tasteful internal refurbishment of the upper floors. Choat and his daughter Hollie have built up the business over the last thirteen years, facing various regulatory and environmental challenges, including a huge excavation on Greek Street for utility works lasting over twelve months. In 2011, the freehold was sold to Fuller's, one of their many acquisitions of well-established pubs. Fuller's tried to remove Choat immediately but, following a protracted legal challenge, Choat eventually won an extension to his lease, and a reduction in rent with the judge taking the three and half years of the proceedings as part of the extension, making the expiry date 2019. Fuller's has made it clear to the Choats that they do not wish to grant them an extension and they are expected to hand over a successful business as well as

CAMRA has long held dear the belief that it is the publican who makes the pub. What is a boozer without a firm governor? The character and tone of any premises is determined by the controlling mind in charge. The rich variety in offer and feel is what makes London's pubscape so special and that diversity is celebrated by Londoners and visitors alike. Every conversion to managed is a further diminution of the personality and vibrancy of London's pub scene. Walk around Soho now and one will find a dominance of pubs from the managed estates of Samuel Smith, Nicholson's (M&B), Fuller's and Greene King. Independent free houses or leased premises with their own autonomy are increasingly rare now in Central London. CAMRA's Greater London Region recently resolved to campaign for greater protection and rights for tied tenants in their struggle against Section 25 notices. We will be seeking support from CAMRA nationally to mount a campaign to change the law to give tenants the option to buy their pub freeholds at a market value. Any tenant facing eviction can be forgiven for regarding a Section 25 notice as just another tactic to thwart them receiving MRO and yet another means by which pub freeholders can circumvent the aims of the Small Business Act and manipulate the Pubs Code. This is precisely why CAMRA has called for a much more robust regulatory regime and firm action from the Pubs Code Adjudicator.

In the meantime, if you fancy a nostalgic cockney knees-up with traditional piano singalong, I can only advise you to follow the van down to Greek Street, and don't dilly dally on the way! The days of the authentic no frills atmosphere in the Coach & Horses will be well and truly numbered if Fuller's deliver a bland 'vanilla' makeover. In the words of Hollie Choat, "It is the characters that run the pub that dedicate their lives to the pub and to Soho. It is that sense of belonging and community that makes this their local." If you can relate to that sense of belonging and you want to help persuade Fuller's to change their minds, join the campaign by dropping into the pub or searching #SaveCoachSoho on Twitter.

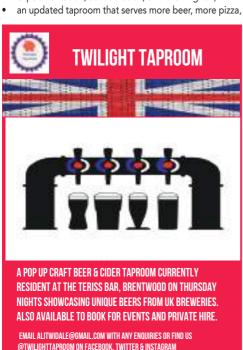
James Watson

Regional Pub Protection Advisor



## **Brewery news**

- Following their 49% investment from Heineken, said to be worth £40 million, Beavertown Brewery have announced that their new brewery and visitors' centre in Ponders End should be up and running by March 2020. Founder Logan Plant told the Propel newsletter, "We are working closely with architects and builders to make sure it will be pretty to look at and fun to be in. As part of the full Beavertown experience, our current home in Tottenham Hale will be retained and repurposed to allow us to expand our Tempus Project barrel-ageing programme. We'll also continue to run a taproom at the Tottenham brewery on Saturdays and one day hope to have a Beaver boat that will chug happily between the two taprooms up and down the river on its own little mini-booze cruise."
- Meanwhile, the Crate Brewery, also canalside in the White Building at nearby Hackney Wick, are going down the crowdfunding route. Their current operation has proved so successful (a million pints and 120,000 pizzas a year) that they plan to expand as follows:
- an innovative new restaurant with beer and sustainability at its core;
- a new state-of-the-art pilot brewery for more experimentation, collaboration, and brewing fun;



- with more seats, and faster service;
- 1,000 square feet of affordable workspace dedicated to encouraging creativity in food and drink;
- a new event space with a year-round programme of cultural events.

If you are interested in investing, go to cratebrewery.com. As usual, this is a report on developments, not a recommendation. Investments of this nature carry risks to your capital. Please Invest Aware.

- Andy Hayward, the owner and head brewer at Thames Side Brewery has let me know that the brewery will shortly be relocating although it will still be riverside in Staines. Subject to permissions, licences etc, he hopes to have the new premises open in the late spring and they will include a taproom. More details to follow in due course.
- ▶ I've reported on several versions of beer being brewed with left-over bread but Windsor & Eton Brewery have taken it a step further. They have brewed a beer from fresh surplus bread and added the pulp left over from making orange juice to give the beer the tang of marmalade. The beer, called Toast and Marmalade (4.5% ABV), will be available in pubs around London and the Thames Valley.
- ▶ In the Bow Belles crawl that appeared in the last edition, it stated that Hoare & Co brewed at Smithfield. To be precise, the brewery was at Lower East Smithfield, just near St Katharine's Dock which is some way from the market. With thanks to Mick O'Rorke for the information. Compiled by Tony Hedger

# BRAKSPEAR BREWING IN HENLEY

have to admit that this came as a surprise to me. Brakspear, now part of Marston's, have been brewing again in Henley since 2013. They have installed a microbrewery in the Bull on Bell Street. Their main beers, Bitter and Oxford Gold, are brewed at the Wychwood brewery in Witney but Bell Street is turning out beers using the old familiar Brakspear's names. For anyone who wants to investigate further, Brakspear organise brewing heritage walking tours of Henley on the last Sunday of every month. These are led by a Blue Badge guide, last 75 minutes and cost £10. You need to book your places in advance by calling 07770 933117.

Tony Hedger (from a Brakspear press release)





## Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th May 2019

Presented by Kingston & Leatherhead CAMRA and commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of the last RF type buses from service in Kingston

## Kingston Workmen's Club and Institute

Old London Road, Kingston KT2 6ND – Behind the 'falling down' telephone boxes Four minutes walk from Kingston rail and bus stations

• 60+ real ales, many local

• 12 ciders & perries

Hot and cold food

• Plenty of lounge seating

 Two outdoor areas with tables and seating

**Thursday:** 5.00pm-11.00pm, entry £3 **Friday:** 11.00am-11.00pm, entry £3

Saturday: 11.00am-9.00pm or until the beer runs out, entry £1

£1 discount for card carrying CAMRA members

Plus £3 (refundable) Commemorative Pint Glass with 1/3 and 1/2 pint lines Join CAMRA at the Festival and get two free pints!\* This Festival uses tokens at the bar.

## **Intriguing India**

ou would expect India to have some surprises up its sleeve and Southern India is a complex mix of offerings for the seeker of beer. Let's start with the matter of tax on alcohol. Like the USA, much of the power on tax and licensing is devolved to each of India's 29 states. Tamil Nadu, famed for its Hindu temples, is one of the less friendly states in Southern India for beer drinkers. Restaurants and hotels with alcohol licences are not prevalent. Don't be surprised if even the four star hotel that you are in doesn't serve alcohol. As always, there are ways around this; this is India after all. Firstly, some hotels may serve you beer (but only after dark) and sometimes in coffee mugs, appearing on the bill as 'Chef's Special' or 'Cold Coffee'. Alternatively, you can try one of the government-run beer shops. Shops may be a bit of a flattering description. They consist of a frontage with a counter and a grill with a small hole through which to pass your money and get a bottle in return.

Tax on alcohol sold in bars and restaurants is 14.5%. That doesn't sound too bad but in addition there is a 58% tax at production and a further 38% when it passes through the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation, which controls all of the sale of liquor. You can add on another 32% for imported alcohol i.e. an extra 70%. Imported here doesn't mean overseas; it includes beer from other Indian States. Next door, Kerala too has gone down a similar route, charging tax at a whopping 100% on 'imported' alcohol.

Not every state in South India takes the same approach.



What's in that mug?

Pondicherry, once owned by France, is much more relaxed with a plentiful number of bars and restaurants frequented by India's young middle classes, on holiday from the cities. Go further north and Karnataka state is an attractive destination for beer drinkers. Mysore has two microbreweries but that is nothing compared to India's own Silicon Valley, Bangalore, which boasts 40 micro/pub breweries serving the 12.5 million population. Bangalore has been known for its pubs for many years, boasting pub

# The Star Godalming



## **Easter Beer Festival** 19<sup>th</sup> April - 22<sup>nd</sup> April









Ales & Ciders from around the Country

CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE 2008 - 2012 & 2014 - 2018 Surrey CAMRA cider pub of the year 2018 Surrey & Hants CAMRA cider pub of the year 2013 - 2018 Finalist at The Great British Pub Awards 2015/2016/2017/2018

17 Church Street, Godalming, Surrey Telephone 01483 417717 www.starinngodalming.co.uk

## CAMRA WEST MIDDLESEX BRANCH PRESENTS THE 30TH ...

# FALING BEER FESTIVAL



# IOTH JULY- 13TH JULY 2019

12:00PM - 10:30PM (6:00PM SATURDAY) WALPOLE PARK, MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W5 5BG



**OVER 500 DIFFERENT DRINKS!** REAL ALES. BEER FROM WOODEN BARRELS,





IMPORTED BEERS. CIDERS. PERRIES & WINES



LIVE MUSIC \* FOOD STALLS \* FESTIVAL STALLS \* TRADITIONAL PUB GAMES & MUCH MORE

ADMISSION: £3 CAMPA MEMBERS \* £5 NON MEMBERS £3 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT ON GLASSES





























































## **Intriguing India**

crawls over a decade ago. Things have moved on from then. In 2011, Dr Karripa, an ex Budweiser brewmaster, decided to set up a microbrewery called the Biere Club and it's definitely worth a visit. The bar is on two levels with an upstairs balcony (with fermenting vessels) and a downstairs atmospherically lit bar with sports screen and a large mural (ask for the owner to be pointed out to you!). Nestling behind this bar is the main heart of the brewery and it is certain that this small German plant didn't know it was the start of the much bigger scene that has developed.



Alas, the handpumps are only decorative

The beer range is quite creative. Alongside the obligatory wheat beer and IPA, there was a Scotch Ale, stout and a Christmas beer. For beers with a stronger American influence, then head for Arbor. It's part of a growing expansion of the Arbor Brewing Co in Michigan, who also have a brewery in Goa. This large, subtly lit, roof top brew pub opened in 2012. The sparkling polished brewery is on display behind glass alongside the bar. For a bit of education, head to the toilets (seriously). On the back of each door is a huge poster (Arbor does nothing by halves) detailing a particular beer style describing what it is and something interesting about it such as Hefeweizen being the 'first beer to get an exemption from Reinheitsgebot'. A great read!

For something else completely different, head off to the Bangalore Brew Works, which you will find on the 10th floor of the Prestige Building. Here, not only will you find an open terrace with splendid views over Bangalore and plenty of kites (birds not the toys) but also a roof top pool! Maybe a London brewer might like emulate!

So what of the future? Pondicherry decided last year to change its legislation. It will now allow microbreweries to begin brewing. Why? Because they believe it will be good for tourism and, incidentally, local income too... and good news for beer drinkers. Go and enjoy!

For more details on the breweries, more photos and beers, see http://presnyourbeer.siteleo.me

## **Christine Cryne**



THE FORESTER LACING
NORTHFIELDS
WIS PEP

THE BEER
FESTIVAL IS
BACK

THE BACK



## **Book review**

Readers may be interested in a book called Heineken in Africa by Olivier Van Beemen. It is the outcome of five years' research into how Heineken have virtually taken control of the beer market in twelve African countries where they have their own breweries and joint ventures and the methods that they have used. For more information, take a look at heinekeninafrika.wordpress.com/heineken-in-africa.

The author appeared at a presentation organised by the Forum of Private Business and prominent licensed trade campaigner, Dave Mountford, on 26 February. Unfortunately, we found out about this too late to include it in the last edition.

Tony Hedger

## **Norwich - City of Ale**

congratulations to Dawn Leeder, co-chair of the City of Ale organisers, who won the Innovator of the Year award at this year's Personality of the Year awards, organised by trade magazine, *Imbibe*. Dawn is the licensee of the Birdcage in Pottergate. This year's event, the eighth, will be held from 23 May to 2 June. Full details are available from https://cityofale.org.uk/.

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



## 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 31

hatPub? 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 real ale); all pubs that add or remove real ale; 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.

## NEW & REOPENED PUBS & PUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

#### **CENTRAL**

EC1M 6JH, CHARTERHOUSE BAR, 38 Charterhouse St. Repositioned as BEERHAWK CHARTERHOUSE. Bar & bottle shop. Real ale, keg and bottles.

**EC1A 7EB, LINO** (Wright & Bell), 90 Bartholomew Close. Opened in former Lino factory. More restaurant than bar. Keg beer.

EC4M 9DD, PITCHER & PIANO (ex-Marston's), 67-69 Watling St. Was an Argentinian restaurant. Reopened as JUNO ROOMS by Urban Pubs & Bars. Keg beer, bottles and cans.

EC4N 8AD, TAPPIT HEN (Davy's), 21-23 St Swithins La. Part of Davy's chain. Modern wine bar and restaurant. Three keg beers

WC1X 8DP, BREAD & ROSES AT THE CHAPEL, 308-312 Grays Inn Rd. Opened in Jan 2019, a sister pub to Bread & Roses in Clapham in partnership between the NUJ and the Workers Beer Company. One real ale: Fuller's London Pride + keg from Hackney.

W1D 7PJ, WHITE HORSE (Samuel Smith), 45 Rupert St. Samuel Smith Old Brewery Bitter has been available from wooden casks since the summer of 2018.

#### EAST

E1, BAR & BLOCK (Whitbread), 66 Alie St. Attached to the Premier Inn. Modern bar and restaurant replacing Thyme bar. 12 keg lines.

**E1W 1YY, CAPE BAR** (ex-Parity Bars), 5 Thomas More Sq, Nesham St. Reopened as the **MORETOWN BELLE** operated by Belle Pubs & Restaurants. Three real ales from the Marston's range.

E14, STAR OF THE EAST (Ei Group), 805a Commercial Rd. Reopened by the Old Spot Pub Company set up by Ei Group with partners Dave Ford (Director at Field to Fork) and Bernard O'Neill (Director at Productivity Mentor), both experienced operators who currently run an award-winning pub in Warwick and other restaurants in London. Fuller's London Pride and 3 changing real ales from the likes of East London Brewing and Rebellion.

E18 2PA, WHITE HART (Ei Group), 159 High Rd. Reopened and renamed GALLERY as a fine dining establishment although you can drink without buying a meal. The ground

floor bar has a couple of keg beers. There is also an upstairs cocktail bar.

ROMFORD (RM7 0QA), HAVERING WELL (Ei Group), 148 Rush Green Rd. Reopened in January 2019 as part of Ei Group's Craft Union managed division after nearly 6 months' closure. Still no real ale.

#### **NORTH**

N1 1LX CURED, 209-211 Liverpool Rd. Now reopened as FOXGLOVE under a lease operated by KPS Pub Co. Four changing real ales.

N1 8LX, PURPLE TURTLE, 108 Essex Rd. Having closed by 2005, served in the interim as a restaurant and then as a London Cocktail Club bar with no draught beer. Reopened December 2018 as HOMEBOY, an Irish cocktail-oriented bar. No real ale.

N1C 4AS, BEER + BURGER STORE, 1A Arthouse, 1 York Way. Third branch opened in January.

N1C 4UR, CHAPEL DOWN GIN WORKS, Goods Way. Offers three keg beers from the Curious range. Onsite gin distillery.

N4 2DX, T.BIRD, 132 Blackstock Rd. Small bar in a former shop; two handpumps with one beer on at a time rotating between such as Jennings Cumberland and Redemption Trinity.

N7 6NE, FILTHY'S (ex Star), 274-276 Holloway Rd. Having closed in 2015 to become a restaurant, now restored as a pub, ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR, offering two real ales: Sharp's Atlantic and Doom Bar. Was PRINCE OF WALES, HOBGOBLIN, HERBERT CHAPMAN.

N10 3NP, MUSWELL HILLBILLY TAPROOM, 14 Avenue Mews. Opened in June 2018 offering four keg lines: two from the brewery and two guests.

N16 9PX, BERGEN HOUSE, 47 Newington Green. New bar & restaurant in former takeaway premises. No real ale.

N16 9PA, STOKEY, 142 Albion Rd. New bar & restaurant opened in 2017 in former cafe premises.. No real ale.

N16 6TY, TURNPIKE HOUSE (Ei Group), 270 Stamford Hill. This pub reopened at the beginning of February as a Craft Union pub (Ei Group, managed house). Four new handpumps installed; real ale to include Fuller's London Pride

N19 5NQ, OLD CROWN (Ei Group), 90 Highgate Hill. Having become TOURIAN LOUNGE in 2018, now has four (keg) draught beers.

#### **NORTH WEST**

**NW1 6UB, GLOBE** (Wellington), 47 Lisson Grove. Real ale reinstated: two beers from Greene King.

**NW5 2TG, NEIGHBOUR** (Urban Pubs & Bars), 300 Kentish Town Rd. Opened in 2017 in former restaurant premises. London keg beers. No real ale.

NW8 8NG, RICHMOND ARMS (Ei Group), 1 Orchardson St. Having closed and been sold in 2018, this Regional Inventory pub has reopened as the THREE FALCONS. Real ale reinstated after several decades absence: Fuller's London Pride.

#### **SOUTH EAST**

**SE1 7BL, HERCULES TAVERN (MADIGAN'S),** 2 Kennington Rd. After several stints as restaurants of one form or another, the **HERCULES** is now back as a pub under the ownership of Fuller's. Extensive range of cask and keg beers and ciders. All day food including breakfast.

**SE14 6TA, ALE BAR,** London Theatre, 443 New Cross Rd. One time basement theatre bar now open to all following relaunch in mid-February at the London Theatre on New Cross Road. A wide range of cask and keg beers along with a selection of gins. Real ale from Kent is sold from boxed polypins (or smaller) on gravity dispense from a cellar room behind the bar counter. Recently a house beer from Headcorn Hop, a new Kent brewery.

**CROYDON (CRO 1RJ), WE'REHOUSE CROYDON,** 34 Surrey St. Reopened December 2018 as **MR FOX**. Cocktail bar selling craft beers.

**SELSDON, SOUTH CROYDON (CR2 8LB), GOLDEN ARK**, 186 Addington Rd. Micropub opened January 2019 with four handpumps and five KeyKeg lines.

#### **SOUTH WEST**

**SW4 9DW, GIGALUM**, 7-8 Cavendish Parade. Converted to **PERKY NEL** by Livelyhood in February. Real ale introduced: two changing local beers on handpump (e.g. By the Horns, Signal) alongside a range of keg taps.

High Rd. Relocated from Blackfriars on 21 February to former café premises previously PUZZLE, CLARENCE, BALHAM ARMS and BALHAM HOUSE. No real ale; at least two Krombacher beers on draught.

**SW14 7PU, KEW BREWHOUSE** (Kew Brewery), 477 Upper Richmond Rd West. The brewery opened a bar/taproom early December 2018.

SW16 1EX, CHALKPIT, The High Parade, 20-21 Streatham High Rd. Opened November 2018. Food led, no real ale; keg range served in two thirds measures and card payment only. Closed Mon & Tue.

**SW19 1NE, BAR & BLOCK** (Whitbread), 153-161 The Broadway. One of a small steakhouse chain, opened 8 February as the bar/restaurant of a new Premier Inn and with its own entrance, on the site of the demolished SW19/Bar Café/Henry J Beans (2012 closure and 2017 demolition not previously reported). Plenty of keg but no real ale.

**FELTHAM (TW13 7EJ), REUNION ALES**, Unit 16 & 17 Vector Park, Forest Rd. Now has a taproom, which reopened February 2019 after a break. Open Fridays 5-10. Two cask real ales, keg draught beers as well as cans for takeaway.

KINGSTON (KT1 2UL), CRICKETERS, 20, Fairfield South. Pub has reopened under new management but with the offer much as before. Fuller's London Pride and Sharp's Doom Bar on handpump.



## WhatPub? update 31

Comfortable and stylish upmarket bar located at the side of the Richmond Harbour Hotel & Spa at the top of Richmond Hill. No real ale, just three keg beers on tap.

#### WEST

**W2 6EY, SMITH'S BAR & GRILL** (London Restaurants Ltd), 25 Sheldon Sq. Two real ales such as Black Sheep Best Bitter and Shepherd Neame Whitstable Bay Pale Ale.

W4 1PD, CROWN (Harcourt Inns), 210 Chiswick High Rd. New gastropub in Chiswick's police station built in 1872. Was Carvosso's restaurant. Fuller's London Pride and Timothy Taylor Landlord plus a changing beer such as Thornbridge Lord Marples.

W12 7TU, W12 STUDIOS, 195 Wood La. Part of the old BBC Media Centre. Keg beer.

**TEDDINGTON (TW11 0AB)**, **PARK** (Young). Reopened after refurbishment. Young's Bitter and Special plus St Austell Proper Job.

YIEWSLEY (UB7 7DQ), DE BURGH ARMS, High St. Real ale reinstated: Fuller's London Pride on gravity, others on handpump and guests to follow.

## PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

#### CENTRAL

EC1V 2QH, BAVARIAN BEERHOUSE, 190-196 City Rd. Closed. Building being developed.

**EC1V 8AP, CORNER BAR**, 125 Central St. No real ale. Three handpumps unused.

EC1V 9BD, LOST RIVER. Having opened by February 2018, closed by May 2018!

EC1Y 2BJ, NÚALA (NTD Restaurants Ltd). Closed suddenly in Jan 2019.

**EC2A 3AY, BEDROOM BAR**. Renamed LIGHTHOUSE BAR & CLUB. No draught beer.

**EC3N 2AU, BAVARIAN BEERHOUSE,** 9 The Arches, Crutched Friars. Closed owing to rent increase. Due to reopen as a German beer cellar in May.

#### EAST

E4 8DD, MOUNT. Closed, future uncertain.
E14 3BD, LORD NELSON (Star). Closed, for lease.
E14 8HH, 5B URBAN BAR. Now a live music club/venue.
E17 9HQ, WILD CARD BREWERY RAVENSWOOD.
Renamed WILD CARD BREWERY BARREL ROOM. No real ale.

#### NORTH

N1 6NN, ELECTRICITY SHOWROOMS (Barworks). Closed in 2018, reopened as NIKKI's from Adventure Bars. No draught beer.

N16 OPH, STOKEY BEARS. Closed, lease for sale.

N17 9NF, LOCK DINING BAR. Was HERON. Became Cornelius Restaurant c.2011 and was demolished for redevelopment in 2017.

#### **NORTH WEST**

NW2 3HY, McGOVERNS. Closed in Jan 2019.

NW6 6NH CALDO BAR & KITCHEN Now renamed KITCHEN 79, still operated by the same management but no longer selling real ale.

HAREFIELD (UB9 6PE), BEAR ON THE BARGE (Star). Closed, Lease for sale.

HARROW (HA1 2DH), JUNCTION (M&B). No real ale. Handpumps removed.

NORTHWOOD HILLS (HA6 1NZ), LOCKER ROOM. No real ale. Handpumps removed.

WEMBLEY (HA9 6AH), THIRSTY EDDIE'S. Closed and for sale.

WEMBLEY (HA9 0EW), WATKIN'S FOLLY. Closed.

#### **SOUTH EAST**

**BELVEDERE (DA17 5QH), BELVEDERE** (Admiral Taverns). Sold in December 2018, now closed, future uncertain.

BROMLEY (BR1 3JX), WHITE HORSE (Birdsall Inns), 64 Palace Rd. Real ale discontinued.

CONEY HALL (BR4 9HZ), CONEY (Star), 35 Croydon Rd. Real ale discontinued.

CROYDON (CRO 1SX), BULLS HEAD, 39 Laud St. Handpumps now unused.

**THORNTON HEATH (CR7 7JA), GMZ WINE BAR**, 68 Brigstock Rd. Permanently closed since June 2018.

WELLING (DA16 1LS), LORD KITCHENER (Milton Pubs & Taverns). Sold and closed.

#### SOUTH WEST

**SW4 7UL**, **KAZBAR**. Already reported closed; now demolished. A notice on the hoarding indicates Clapham Taverns Ltd as the operators of East London Pub Company's future venue on the site.

SW11 1SL, STIRRED. Converted to a Mexican restaurant. Was NAPIER ARMS, ONE TWO SIX, ARTISAN & VINE, JACKSONS and BAR 366

#### WEST

**SOUTHALL (UB1 1NG), HAMBROUGH TAVERN** (ex-Wellington. Boarded up. Planning application submitted to demolish and replace with hotel.

TWICKENHAM (TW2 5EL), RIFLEMAN (Ei Group). Closed. Freehold reported to have been one of the 370 pubs sold to Tavern Propco Ltd.

## OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & CASK BEER RANGES

#### **CENTRAL**

EC2N 1HU, BABBLE (Stonegate). Rebranded as a BE AT ONE in March 2019. No draught beer.

EC2A 2DU, WORSHIP STREET WHISTLING SHOP (Fluid Movement). Repositioned as LONDON COCKTAIL CLUB with no beer.

## WhatPub? update 31

EC3N 1DD, ABBEY (Stonegate). Rebranded as a SLUG & LETTUCE. No real ale.

EC4M 7RD, CORNEY & BARROW (Drake & Morgan). Renamed LITTLE FABLE.

WC2N 6PA, OPAL BAR. Became HUNGERFORD HOUSE BAR & KITCHEN operated by Baby Bull Group replacing Circa The ClubOpal Bar. Keg beer. Beneath is a gay dance club linked to Circa Soho and with different opening hours. W1T 6BB, LUKIN (M&B). Reopened as LORE OF THE LAND, leased by Guy Ritchie's Fatboy Pub Company, featuring three real ales from Gritchie Brewing Company's 20bbl brewery at Ashgrove Farm on the Wiltshire/Dorset border.

## **EAST**

E14 4DH, FINE LINE (Fuller's). Renamed LIMEHOUSE. E17 3PR, CYPRUS EMPIRE. Renamed EMPIRE LOUNGE. Still no real ale.

**E14 7LS, QUEENS HEAD** (Young). Now a free house but still serving Young's Bitter.

ROMFORD, RETAILERY (Havering Council). Renamed 80-84 MARKET PLACE in early February 2019 after its not for profit operators lost their council grant. Still no real ale.

#### **NORTH**

N16 7XJ, BARDENS (Grace Land), 36-38 Stoke Newington



Rd. Extended and renamed **RED HAND**. Keg only: 16 taps and a selection of bottled beer in 750ml sharing bottles.

#### **NORTH WEST**

NW6 7JR, TRICYCLE THEATRE BAR. Following a thorough refurbishment of the theatre, reopened as KILN THEATRE BAR with up to six keg lines including Hackney. Open to all but currently only when there is a performance.

**NW10 5JX, WILLIAM IV** (Wellington). Operator now Wiguho Ltd. Taken over late 2018 by Jean-Marin Bolot, who has worked in property and hospitality in the UK and France. Wainwright's Bitter and Young's Bitter.

### **SOUTH EAST**

SE1 9SG, LONDON BRIDGE PUB & BAR (Fuller's). Renamed TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

#### SOUTH WEST

**SW2 4AH, CROWN & SCEPTRE** Sold by Wetherspoons to a private investor, closed for 4 days and reopened on 1 March run by LT Management Services (see page 32). Two regular and several guest beers will reflect customer preferences.

SW14 7DE, BEAR KICK (Bear Kick Ltd). Renamed ENROUTE 505.

SW16 5HN, MITCHAM MINT (Star). Renamed VALE on 14



February after comprehensive refurbishment by operator North and South Leisure but with the same management. Bath Gem, Fuller's London Pride, a 3.6% house beer - Vale Pale Ale brewed in Burton by Marston's - and possibly a quest beer.

#### WEST

W5 1QP, VILLAGE INN (Redcomb). Young's Bitter, Special and St Austell Tribute regularly available with a guest (recently Twickenham) following Redcomb purchase by Young's.

For an expanded list of updates, visit london.camra.org.uk/londondrinker

These are the ten London pubs which Young's have acquired from Redcomb Pubs (see Trade News page 26).

SW1A Old Shades WC2N Theodore Bullfrog

Alphabet (leased from Star) N1

SF10 Coach & Horses

SE13 Station Hotel (leased from GK) SF22 Cherry Tree (leased from Wellington)

RR7 Bickley (leased from GK)

East London Brewing, Hammerton, Redemption

East London Brewing, Redeption, Twickenham

Rebellion, Reunion, Southwark, Twickenham

SW16 Manor Arms Lockhouse W2 W5 Village Inn

Sambrook's Junction

## **London LocAle scheme**

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

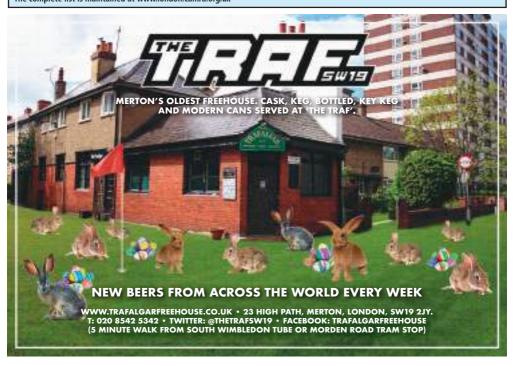
Golden Lion 88 Royal College Street NW1 0TH Lady Hamilton 289 Kentish Town Road NW5 2JS Moon Under Water 115/117 Chase Side EN2 6NN Queen's Head 54 Windsor Street UB8 1AB

The following pubs have left the scheme.

2A Streatham Hill SW2 4AH Crown & Sceptre Hop & Vine 18 High Street HA4 7AN Sun 4 North Street SM56 2HU

Regularly available but no longer guaranteed

There may be more information on these pubs in our WhatPub? update column. The complete list is maintained at www.london.camra.org.uk





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www.churchillarmskensington.co.uk



THE HOLLY BUSH
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www.hollybushhampstead.co.uk



THE DOVE

19 Upper Mall, Hammersmith,
London W6 9TA

www.dovehammersmith.co.uk



YE OLD MITRE
1 Ely Court, Ely Place, London EC1N 6SJ
www.yeoldemitreholborn.co.uk



**OLD BANK OF ENGLAND** 194 Fleet St, London EC4A 2LT **www.oldbankofengland.co.uk** 

## **Idle Moments**

Well, spring has arrived; I can tell because we are alternating between sunshine and showers and the wind is blowing the recycling bins up and down the close. Still summer was nice while it lasted, back in February.

Here's a quotation about spring from EY Harburg, writing in *Tennyson Anyone*? in 1965:

In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love;

And in summer, and in autumn, and in winter – see above.

So, while they stoke the fire in the saloon bar let's have a few number puzzles:

- 1. 7 P for a PT in RU
- 2. 5 M of P
- 3. 8,760 H in a Y (ELY)
- 4. 7 NG in the PT
- 5. 2 B in a P (on FPP)
- 6. 6,996 TRS by DB
- 7. 4 GG in the SS
- 7 FOWC of MS
   49 T for E by RU

10. Dunster Castle

10. 6 F on a C

For 5BY4 this time I thought I would do a list of stately homes and link them to the noble families (or earls, dukes etc.) that own(ed) them. That got complicated however because a lot aren't linked to such ennobled families so, instead, I pulled out the National Trust Guide and set you the task (if you should accept it) of deciding in what county each of these notable residences are located:

1.	Hughenden Manor	A.	Norfolk
2.	Croome Court	В.	Buckinghamshire
3.	Hardwick Hall	C.	Worcestershire
4.	Felbrigg Hall	D.	Greater Manchester
5.	Seaton Delaval Hall	E.	Derbyshire
6.	Dunham Massey	F.	Northumberland
7.	Polesden Lacey	G.	Lincolnshire
8.	Tattershall Castle	H.	Somerset
9.	Lanhydrock	l.	Surrey

There, that was easy, wasn't it? I thought that for the Trivial Knowledge bit I would do a set of questions about New Zealand. I managed to do four before I ran out of questions that I thought weren't either too obvious or too obscure to be of interest (So why worry this time? I hear you cry) and I started wandering off to other subjects (like most times):

J.

Cornwall

- What city in New Zealand was rebuilt in Art Deco style after it was almost completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1931?
- Who is the current Prime Minister of New Zealand (at 1 March 2019)?
- 3. What respectively in Maori are Te Waipounamu and Te Ika a Māui?
- 4. Still in New Zealand, what is a kakapo?
- 5. What species of creatures comprise the order Sirenia?

- 6. What kind of creatures are Cetaceans (and their two parorders Odontoceti and Mysticeti)?
- 7. Under what name did Erik Weisz (1874 to 1926), born in Budapest, become one of the biggest names in the world of entertainment?
- 8. Who were born in the Palace of Placentia on 28 June 1491, 18 February 1516 and 7 September 1533 respectively?
- Built in 1433 and first called Bella Court, where was the Palace of Placentia located?
- 10. A painting in the National Gallery by Paul Delaroche depicts which event that took place on 12 February 1554? I'll give you a clue; although Delaroche was French, the event took place in the Tower of London. (I must be getting soft in my old age!)

So there we are then. By the time the next Idle Moments appears it will be just about summer – the thermals can come out again. Enjoy the surfeit of bank holidays over the next couple of months.

## **Andy Pirson**

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

#### NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 1. 3 Wheels on a Motor Bike and Sidecar
- 2. 8192 Bits in a KiloByte
- 3. 4 Atomic Number of Potassium
- 4. 7 Iron Golf Club is a Mashie-Niblick
- 5. 10,000 Angstrom Units in a Micron
- 6. 30 Edges on a Dodecahedron
- 7. 8 Black Pawns in a Game of Chess
- 8. 4 Rocky Planets in the Solar System
- 9. 7 Points on the Big Star on the Australian Flag
- 10. 1994 Comet Shoemaker-Levy Nine Collided with Jupiter

5BY4: Kings and queens - reigns in years/days:

1.	George I	12/315
2.	George II	33/137
3.	George III	59/97
4.	George IV	10/149
5.	William IV	6/360
6.	Victoria	63/217
7.	Edward VII	9/105
8.	George V	25/260
9.	Edward VIII	0/326
10.	George VI	15/58

#### **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:**

- The canton of a flag is the top corner by the pole (e.g. the blue area with the stars on the flag of the USA).
- Who was Samuel Coleridge-Taylor? He was a musician and composer (born 1875 in Holborn and died 1912 in Croydon), perhaps best known for three cantatas based on Longfellow's poem, Song of Hiawatha).
- 3. The original presenter of ITV's Sunday Night at the

## **Idle Moments**

- London Palladium (before Bruce Forsyth) was Tommy Trinder.
- The first King's Christmas message to the nation was made by George V, in 1932.
- The Queen's Christmas message was first televised in 1957.
- The television programme created by Tony Warren which has a theme tune written by Eric Spear is Coronation Street.
- 7. The country which adopted a national flag of plain green (with no design added) in 1977 is Libya.
- 8. The part of the British Isles known in its own language as Ellan Vannin is the Isle of Man.
- 9. At about 41km, the longest fresh water loch in Scotland is Loch Awe.
- 10. And finally the deepest Loch in Scotland, at a maximum of 310 metres, is Loch Morar.

The print run for this issue of London Drinker is 48,000. 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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## Why should I join CAMRA?

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://ioin.camra.org.uk or search 'ioin CAMRA'.



## **TRIBUTES**

**Chris Stringer** – Chris passed away in January at the age of 60. He was a committed and hardworking member of the Campaign, being the regional director for Surrey and Sussex for many years and latterly deputy chairman of CAMRA's Branches Committee. He was also one of the cider bar managers at the Great British Beer Festival. We send our condolences to his wife, Penny, and his friends in North Sussex branch.

ony Martens – as we went to press, I heard of the death of former CAMRA West London branch chairman, Tony Martens on 8 March. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

Tony Hedger

## **LETTERS**

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

Please e-mail letters to: Idnews.hedger@gmail.com.
If you do not have e-mail, hard-copy letters may be sent
to the same address given for subscriptions on page 3,
addressed to London Drinker Letters.

In both cases, please state 'letter for publication' so as to avoid any misunderstandings.

#### THE ROYAL OAK

ay we thank all the London branches of CAMRA and other cask ale groups for their custom, support and enthusiasm during our twenty-something years at the Royal Oak and particularly for their generous leaving gift. John and Frank

## ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT LONDON DRINKER

Our advertising rates are as follows:

Whole page £345 (colour), £275 (mono); Half page £210 (colour), £155 (mono);

Quarter page £115 (colour), £90 (mono).

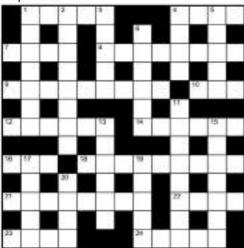
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NEXT ISSUE (JUNE/JULY) IS FRIDAY 10 MAY.
PUBLICATION DATE IS WEDNESDAY 29 MAY.

## Crossword

## Compiled by DAVE QUINTON £20 prize to be won



Name

Address

All correct entries received by first post on 22 May will be entered into a draw for the prize.

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

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

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

#### FEBRUARY/MARCH'S SOLUTION



#### Across

- 1. Give out a great deal, apparently. [5]
- 4. State church is wealthy. [4]
- 7. Knock out performance curtailed. [4]
- 8. A friend out of place, cut off. [8]
- 9. Drink alone in a sexy way. [9]
- 10. Conservative with nothing left to hear. [3]
- 12. Oriental not starting back. [6]
- 14. Minor injury. [6]
- 16. Return rotten fish. [3]
- 18. Fining girl after I give information. [9]
- 21. Criminal hanged up in squalor. [8]
- 22. Happy? Good boy. [4]
- 23. Drink featuring in some advertisements. [4]
- 24. It's big in central Argentina. [5]

#### Down

- 1. Cruel Cockney pronounced innocent. [7]
- 2. Capture prophet and painter. [8]
- 3. Head teachers fall down in school. [5]
- 4. Moral intoned in religious observance. [4]
- 5. Provide for two queens, possibly. [5]
- 6. Plugs; small attachments to a butt. [6]
- 11. Country dweller with a lot of very bad beer. [8]
- 13. Eats without women? [6]
- 15. Army on time to find captive. [7]
- 17. Sailor, to take drugs brings harm. [5]
- 19. Mountainous area of north east China. [5]
- 20. Old French painter's endless retrospective. [4]

Winner of the prize for the December Crossword: Kelvin Brewster, Kintbury, Berkshire.

Other correct entries were received from:

Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, John Bowler, Tony Bowles, Abi Chaudhuri, Kevin Creighton, Ebenezer Crutton, Peter Curson, Michael Davis, Joe & Lynne Ellis, Peter Everett, Gill Furnival, Terry Fyde, Chloe Gilbey, E Goobay, J E Green, Alan Greer, R A Gregory, Matthew Griffiths, Caroline Guthrie, Ms Gerry Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, 'Shropshire' Dave Hardy, Graham Hill, William Hill, Mrs V A Hopkins, David Hough, Alan Humphrey, Chris James, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Eric Johnstone, Hazel Keegan, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Aidan Laverty, Marjorie Lopatis, Mrs McCoy, James McColl, Pat Maginn, John Mannel, Dylan Mason, Jan Mondrzejewski, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Barry Nester, Mark Nichols, Gerald Notley, Liam O'Hanlon, Michael Oliver, Fred Parsons, Mark Pilkington, Mick Place, Portrush Annie, Mrs S Price, Derek Pryce, G Raynor, John Savage, Neil Smith, Ruth Smith, Bill Thackray, Raymond Thomas, Mrs S Vida, Edward Wallhouse, Martin Weedon, Alan Welsh, John Williamson, David Woodward, Ray Wright, Pam Wylde.

There were also 28 incorrect and one incomplete entries.

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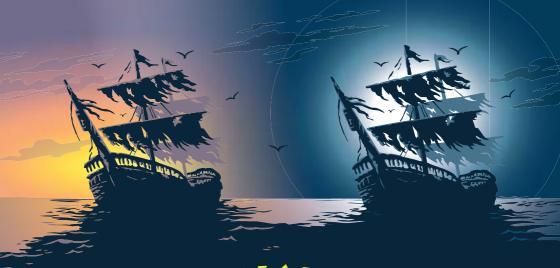
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