



# LONDON DRINKER

Volume 41 No. 3  
June/July 2019

FREE



**The Anglers, Teddington - see page 38**

# WETHERSPOON

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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.

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

**Material for publication**, including press releases, should preferably be sent by e-mail to [ldnews.hedger@gmail.com](mailto:ldnews.hedger@gmail.com).

The deadline for the next edition, August/September 2019 is Friday 12 July

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

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

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

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

## CONTENTS

Branch diaries	6
CAMRA news and events	10
CAMRA Campaigners of the Year	14
The search begins	16
News and views	18
Great British Beer Festival	20
Review of the Pubs Code	22
Pub news	24
The Widow's Son	28
A Titanic event	30
Stop hiding the cider!	30
Brewery news	32
Battersea brewery – an introduction	33
Matters of taste	34
Trade news	37
A walk down Union Street SE1	40
Tasting extra – Moncada Brewery	42
News extra	43
WhatPub update 32	44
Tributes	48
Idle Moments	50
London LocAle scheme	53
Crossword	54



## Welcome to a 'Summer of Pub'

I am well aware that much of our coverage of news about pubs is on the gloomy side. I make no apologies for that; like many of my CAMRA colleagues, I feel strongly that the unfair, cynical and money-grasping activities of the big (and some smaller...) pub owning businesses need to be brought to the attention of as many people as possible, not least you, the pub-goer.

That said, let us not forget the reason why we strive to save and protect pubs; we like them, what they stand for and the beer that they serve. They are the hub of many local communities, hosting a huge range of enjoyable social events. There is, in my humble opinion, nothing (well, almost) better than having a few good pints in good company and if you look at the item about the increase in activity in the night-time economy on page 18, I'm not alone.

CAMRA has launched a new campaign, the 'Summer of Pub' (a paraphrase of the 'Summer of Love'). The thinking behind the campaign is to increase pub-going over the summer and to demonstrate the importance of Britain's pubs, as well as to highlight

how CAMRA's national and local campaigning can work well together. Of course we must continue to campaign for pubs but that doesn't mean that we can't have fun while we do it. If at the same time we can raise CAMRA's profile as a positive, forward-thinking and fun organisation to join, then so much the better.

The campaign will be officially launched on the late May Bank Holiday on 27 May and events will be held on significant dates throughout the summer, including Beer Day Britain on 15 June and the Women's World Cup (7 June to 7 July). Look out for details. The campaign will close on the August Bank Holiday, 26 August. You can find details of events happening throughout the period on [www.camra.org/summerofpub](http://www.camra.org/summerofpub).



I have asked CAMRA's branches across Greater London each to nominate a pub with a nice garden or outside area. Obviously the outer areas are more likely to have pubs with gardens but I thought that readers would prefer a spread across the whole of London. These local recommendations are listed below.

Blacksmiths Arms	Cudham Lane South, Cudham TN14 7QB	Festooned with flowers and has a delightful garden
Builders Arms	65 Leslie Park Road, Croydon CR0 6TP	Secluded garden at the rear – a hidden gem of Croydon
Constitution	42 St Pancras Way, Camden Town NW1 0QT	Canalside; multiple winner of 'Camden in Bloom' award
Duke of Edinburgh Old Orchard	204 Ferndale Road, Brixton SW9 8AG Jacks Lane, Harefield UB9 6HJ	Surprising rear garden Stunning views across the Colne Valley
Orange Tree	18 Highfield Road, Winchmore Hill N21 3HA	Prize winning garden by the New River Walk
Plume of Feathers	19 Park Vista, Greenwich SE10 9LZ	Lots of flowers and an attractive garden
Union Tavern	45 Woodfield Road, Maida Vale W9 2BA	Canalside terrace
White Swan	Riverside, Twickenham TW1 3DN	Views across the river – mind the tide
Wych Elm	93 Elm Road, Kingston KT2 6HT	Attractive garden

You will find full details of all of these pubs, including travel advice and opening times, on CAMRA's WhatPub database – see page 43 for details.

Sadly, the one important aspect of this campaign that we cannot control is the weather; let's just hope that at some point the sun shines. When it does, enjoy! If it doesn't then sit inside...

*Tony Hedger*

## Balancing the books for London Drinker

CAMRA London Region has a vacancy for an Honorary Treasurer, a CAMRA volunteer to look after the regional accounts. The work involves:

- timely invoicing and banking;
- methodical book keeping;
- diligent but patient pursuit of outstanding payments;
- regular contact with the Advertisements Manager and with CAMRA Office staff;
- periodic financial reporting to the London Liaison Committee.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Geoff Strawbridge, Regional Director, [geoff@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:geoff@camraswl.org.uk).

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**East London & City Pub of the Year 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2014**

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



# EXTRA PALE, WITH THE ZING OF CITRA AND DELTA HOPS THE ESSENCE OF SUMMER

# Branch diaries

Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA contacts and events, where branches say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for June and July are listed below. Meetings, visits and socials are open to all – everyone is welcome to come along. A complete calendar listing of CAMRA events within Greater London is available at [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk).

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

## REGIONAL EVENT

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

**July – Wed 31** (7.30) London Liaison Committee (regional co-ordination mtg for London branch reps). Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St, Borough SE1.

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

## LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

**June – Sat 22** Whetstone, Barnet, Cockfosters, Enfield and Winchmore Hill tour: (12pm) Griffin, 1262 High Rd, Whetstone; (1pm) Olde Mitre Inne, 58 High St, High Barnet; (2.15) Cock Inn (formerly Cock & Dragon), Chalk La, Cockfosters; (4.15) Old Wheatshaf, 3 Windmill Hill, Enfield; (5pm) Wonder, Batley Rd, EN2; (5.45) Kings Head, 9 Market Pl, EN2; (6.40) Little Green Dragon, 928 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21. Public transport will be required at times.

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

## YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

Co-ordinator: Tori Bishop-Rowe,  
[victoria.bishop.rowe@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.bishop.rowe@gmail.com)

**June – Sat 15** British Beer Day Exclusive! (start 11am Bermondsey tube station). Historic SE1 brewery and pub tour taking in the history of three breweries, two pubs, a gin distillery and some good grub on route. All with the Craft Beer Man himself, Chris Cheeseman. Tickets are just £10 per person for CAMRA members (usually over £15pp). And hurry, because there are only a handful of places available. Please secure your place by buying a ticket via this secure link: [paypal.me/CAMRAFullertour](https://paypal.me/CAMRAFullertour), and include your full name and email address (ignore the name of link – we can't seem to change it to this event!)

Email group: <http://groups.google.com/group/london-camra-ym>; Fb: Greater London CAMRA Young Members Group

## BEXLEY

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

**June – Sat 1** Nine micropubs walk: start (12pm) Hoppers Hut, 1 Invicta Parade, High St, Sidcup. - **Wed 12** (8pm)

**Branch AGM.** Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Rd, Sidcup. - **Sat 15** (12pm) Soc. Anchor, Sevenoaks.

**July – Wed 10** (8.30) Mtg. Hangar, 37 The Oval, Sidcup. - **Fri 19**

(5pm) Bexley Cricket Club Beer Fest. Manor Way, Bexley.  
Website: [www.bexley.camra.org.uk](http://www.bexley.camra.org.uk); Fb: [camrabexleybranch/](https://www.facebook.com/camrabexleybranch/);  
Tw: @BexleyCAMRA

## BROMLEY

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

**June – Sat 1** Bexley micropubs walk (see above). - **Tue 4** (7.30) PotY award soc. Star & Garter, 227 High St, Bromley. - **Tue 11** Bromley North BR1 soc: (7.30) Crown & Anchor, 19 Park Rd; (8.30) Freeland's Tavern, 31 Freeland's Rd; (9.30) Red Lion, 10 North Rd. - **Tue 18** Hayes BR2 soc: (7.30) Royal British Legion, 14 Station Hill; (8.30) Real Ale Way, 55 Station Approach. - **Tue 25** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Queen's Head, 25 High St, Downe. - **Sat 29** Annual Crystal Palace Triangle tour with Croydon & Sutton & SEL Branches: (12pm) Douglas Fir, 144 Anerley Rd; (1.10) Alma, 95 Church Rd; (2pm) White Hart, 96 Church Rd; (2.50) Postal Order, 33 Westow St; (3.50) Sparrowhawk, 2 Westow Hill; (4.40) Walker Briggs, 23 Westow Hill; (5.30) Faber Fox, 25-27 Westow Hill; (6.20) Westow House, 79 Westow Hill.

**July – Sat 6** SIBA Beer Fest. The Slade, Tonbridge TN9 1HR: meet (10.50am) Orpington Stn for 11.12 train to Tonbridge, thence about 10min walk to the venue. - **Sat 13** Downe village, Keston and Hayes cramble: meet (11.50am) Biggin Hill/Black Horse bus stop Q, for 12pm depart on foot for Downe for lunch (12.45) George & Dragon, 26 High St & Queen's Head, 25 High St; (2pm) depart for Keston (3.30) Greyhound, Commonsides & Fox Inn, Heathfield Rd; (4.15) walk to Hayes (5pm) Real Ale Way, 55 Station Approach. See website for full details. - **Thu 25-Sat 27** (open 12-11) Beckenham Beer & Cider Festival, Beckenham Rugby Club, Balmoral Ave, BR3 3HD (see page 41).  
Website: [www.bromley.camra.org.uk](http://www.bromley.camra.org.uk)

## CROYDON & SUTTON

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

**June – Thu 6** (1pm) Soc. Oval Tavern, 131 Oval Rd, Croydon. - **Tue 11** (8.30) PotY award soc. Claret & Ale, 5 Bingham Cmr, Lwr Addiscombe Rd. - **Thu 20** (8pm) Beer/Cider of the fest award soc. Green Dragon, 58 High St, Croydon. - **Tue 25** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs), 24 Surrey St, Croydon. - **Thu 27** (8.30) PotY award soc: Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton. - **Sat 29** (12pm) Annual Crystal Palace Triangle tour (see above).

**July – Mon 1** (8.30) Sutton soc. Little Windsor, 13 Greyhound Rd. - **Thu 11** (1pm) Soc. Green Dragon, 58 High St, Croydon. - **Wed 17** Coulsdon CR5 soc: (8.30) Smugglers, 320 Chipstead Valley Rd; (9.45) Pembroke, 12-16 Chipstead V. Rd. - **Tue 23** (8.30) S Norwood SE25 soc: (8.30) Craft Cabin (bankcards reqd – no cash), 210A Selhurst Rd; then Sheldverine Goathouse, 7-9 High St. - **Thu 1 Aug** (8.30) London Drinker pick-up. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton.  
Website: [www.croydon.camra.org.uk](http://www.croydon.camra.org.uk)

## EAST LONDON & CITY

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

**June – Thu 20** (8pm) PotY award soc. North Star, 24 Browning Rd, Leytonstone. - **Tue 25** (7.30) Pig's Ear planning mtg. Denmark Arms, 381 Barking Rd, East Ham. - **Sat 29** Roberts Ramble: meet (11.30am for 12pm) Tap on the Line, Station Appr, Kew Gardens Stn; walk to Richmond: 4 other pub stops.

**July – Tue 9** (8pm) Mtg. Horseshoe, 24 Clerkenwell Clo, EC4R 0AG.

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





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# Branch diaries

## ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,

[contact@enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk)

**June – Tue 4** (8pm) Soc. Veranda, Botany Bay Cricket Club, East Lodge La, Botany Bay, EN2. - **Sat 8** (1pm) Gidea Park Micropub, 236 Main Rd, Gidea Park RM2; meet 12pm, Hamilton Hall, Liverpool St Stn. - **Mon 10** (8pm) **Branch AGM** Little Green Dragon, 928 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill. - **Sat 15** Soc: (1pm) River Ale House, 131 Woolwich Rd, East Greenwich SE10; (3.30) Penny Farthing, 3 Waterside, Crayford. - **Tue 25** Lower Edmonton N9 soc: (8pm) Rising Sun, 240 Winchester Rd; (9.30) Beehive, 24 Little Bury St. - **Sat 29** Roberts Ramble joint with East London & City (see above). **July – Thu 4** (8pm) Soc. Arnos Arms, 338 Bowes Rd, Arnos Grove. - **Thu 11** (12pm) Ealing Beer Festival (see page 29). - **Sat 20** (12pm) Epping-Ongar Railway Beer Fest. North Weald Stn. - **Fri 26** (12pm) Picture Palace, Lincoln Rd, Ponders End.

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

## KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

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

**June – Wed 5** (8.15) Mtg. Olde Swan, Summer Rd, Thames Ditton. - **Sat 15** Gibberd Gardens Beer Festival: meet for 12.10 train from Tottenham Hale, arr 12.33 Harlow Mill for a country ramble to the gardens. - **Thu 27** Epsom wander: (12.30) Rifleman, East St; (1.30) Rising Sun, Heathcote Rd; (2.40) Amato, Chalk La; (3.45) Jolly Coopers, Wheelers La; (4.50) Cricketers, Stamford Green Rd; (6pm) Assembly Rooms, High St.

**July – Tue 9** (8.15) Mtg. Albert Arms (upstairs), High St, Esher. - **Sat 13** Coach trip to Dorking, Surrey Hills and Pilgrim breweries. Fare £20. Pick up Surbiton clock tower 10.30am. Fare and bookings to Adrian on 07774 859871 or [akpalmer@talktalk.net](mailto:akpalmer@talktalk.net) - **Tue 16** Pub of the season award (tba). - **Sat 20** Alton by train for bus visits to GBG pubs in the area. Details tbc.

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

## NORTH LONDON

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

**June – Tue 4** Upper Street N1 soc: (7.30) Hope & Anchor, 207 Upper St; (8pm) Vineyard, 178-179 Upper St; (8.45) Taproom, 163 Upper St; (9.30) Kings Head Theatre Bar, 115 Upper St; (10pm) Angel, 3-5 Islington High St. - **Tue 11** (8pm) Mtg. Snooty Fox, 75 Grosvenor Ave, Canonbury. - **Tue 18** Highgate soc: (7.30) Spaniards, Spaniards Rd, NW3; (8.30) Bull, 13 North Hill; (9.15) Wrestlers, 98 North Rd; (9.45) Duke's Head, 16 Highgate High St. - **Tue 25** Muswell Hill soc: (7.30) Maid of Muswell, 121 Alexandra Park Rd; (8.15) Bar & Kitchen, Palm Court Entrance, Alexandra Palace; (9.30) Mossy Well, 258 Muswell Hill Broadway; (10.15) John Baird, 122 Fortis Green Rd. - **Wed 26** (2pm) Soc. Swan, 7 Cosmo Pl, WC1N.

**July – Tue 2** Camden Canal NW1 soc: (7.30) Constitution, 42 St Pancras Way; (8.30) Ice Wharf, 28 Jamestown Rd; (9.15) Engineer, 65 Gloucester Ave; (10pm) Lansdowne, 90 Gloucester Ave; (10.45) Princess of Wales, 22 Chalcot Rd. - **Tue 9** Hornsey High Street soc: (7.30) Great Northern Railway Tavern, 67 High St; (9pm) Three Compasses, 62 High St; (9.45) Hornsey Tavern, 26 High St; (10.30) Victoria Stakes, 1 Muswell Hill. - **Tue 16** (8pm) **Branch AGM**. Calthorpe Arms, 252 Gray's Inn Rd. - **Tue 23** Tottenham N17

soc: (7.30) Ferry Boat Inn, Ferry La; (8.15) Bluecoats, 614 High Rd; (9.15) Antwerp Arms, 168-170 Church Rd. - **Tue 30** Barnsbury N1 soc: (7.30) Drapers Arms, 44 Barnsbury St; (8.15) Foxglove, 209-211 Liverpool Rd; (9pm) Crown, 116 Cloudesley Rd; (9.45) Pig & Butcher, 80 Liverpool Rd; (10.30) Fox on the Green, 1 Islington Green.

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

## RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643(h), 07971 316469(m),

[rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk)

**June – Tue 25** (8pm) Mtg & soc. Turks Head, 28 Winchester Rd, St Margarets.

**July – Tue 16** Isleworth TW7 soc: (8pm) Castle, 18 Upper Sq; (8.45) Swan Inn, 1 Swan St; (9.45) London Apprentice, 62 Church St.

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

## SOUTH EAST LONDON

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

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

**June – Thu 6** (7.30) PotY award soc. River Ale House, 131 Woolwich Rd, Greenwich. - **Tue 11** (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc. Bullfinch Taproom, Arch 886, Rosendale Rd, Herne Hill. -

**Sat 15** Queenborough Independence Day (Sheppey): meet (10.30) Lewisham Stn, or Sittingbourne for 12.25 to Queenborough, visiting local pubs inc. Admiral's Arm. -

**Wed 19** Soc: (8pm) Ivy House, 40 Stuart Rd, Nunhead; (9pm) Herne Tavern, 2 Forest Hill Rd; (10pm) Watsons General Telegraph, 108 Forest Hill Rd. - **Tue 25** SE1 Soc: (7.30) Vaulty Towers, 34 Lower Marsh; (8.15) Windmill, 86 The Cut; (9pm) Anchor & Hope, 36 The Cut; (9.45) Lord Nelson, 243 Union St; (10.15) Mc & Sons, 160 Union St. - **Sat 29** Annual Crystal Palace Triangle tour. See Bromley diary above.

**July – Mon 1** (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc. Ale Bar, 443 New Cross Rd, SE14. - **Wed 10** Ealing BF (see page 29): meet (7.30) Cider bar. - **Wed 17** West Norwood soc: (7.30) Horns Tavern, 40 Knights Hill; (8.30) South London Theatre Bar, Old Fire Station, 2A Norwood High St; (9.45) Great North Wood, 3 Knights Hill; (10.30) Hope, 49 Norwood High St. - **Tue 23** Catford SE6 soc: (7.30) London & Rye, 109 Rushy Green; (8.30) Ninth Life, 167 Rushy Green; (9.15) Black Cat, 9 Winslade Way; (10pm) Catford Constitutional Club, Catford Broadway.

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

## SOUTH WEST ESSEX

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

**June – Wed 5** (7.30) Soc. 35th Thurrock Beer Fest, Thurrock Civic Hall, Blackshots La, Grays (see page 11). - **Thu 13** (8pm) Soc. 15th Braintree Beer Fest, Bocking Arts Theatre (ex-Braintree Institute), Bocking End, Braintree. - **Sat 15** (12pm) Soc. 12th Gibberd Garden Beer Fest, Marsh Lane, Old Harlow. - **Wed 19** (8pm) Soc. Colley Rowe Inn, 54-56 Collier Row Rd, Collier Row. - **Wed 26** (8pm) Soc. Barking Dog, 61 Station Rd, Barking.

**July – Wed 3** (8pm) Soc. 41st Chelmsford Summer Beer Fest, Admiral's Park, Rainsford Rd. - **Tue 9** (8pm for 9pm) PotY 2019 (Essex Area) award soc. White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, Grays. - **Mon 15** (7pm) Alan's Birthday Soc. Craft Beer Co, 168 High Holborn. - **Sat 20** (12pm) Soc. Epping-Ongar Railway 7th Summer Real Ale Festival, North



# Branch diaries

Weald Stn. (by vintage bus from Epping Stn (Central Line), or from Shenfield Stn (TfL Rail or Greater Anglia). - **Wed 24** (8pm) Soc. JJ Moon's, 48/52 High St, Hornchurch. - **Wed 31** (8pm) Soc. Traitors Gate, 40-42 Broadway, Little Thurrock.  
Website: [swessex.camra.org.uk](http://swessex.camra.org.uk)

## SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, [mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk).  
Cycling: Geoff Strawbridge, 07813 358863.  
[geoff@camraswl.org.uk](mailto:geoff@camraswl.org.uk)

**June – Tue 25** (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Surprise (new extn), 16 Southville, South Lambeth. - **Sat 29** (from 12.30) Soc. Wimbledon Brewery, 8 College Fields, Prince Georges Rd, Colliers Wood SW19 2PT. Optional brewery tour at 1.30 (for which numbers are limited to the first 20 applicants on the day). Later optional progression to Merton Apprentice, Trafalgar, Sultan.

**July – Sat 6** Croydon & Sutton/South Hants joint Carshalton crawl. See website for route and timings. - **Sat 27** GBBF 2019 Wandsworth SW18 publicity crawl: meet (12.15) Grapes, 39 Fairfield St. Depending on numbers we will split into separate small groups and meet up again later at a pub to be decided on the day. - **Tue 30** (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Hand in Hand, 7 Crooked Billet, Wimbledon Common.

Website: [camraswl.org.uk](http://camraswl.org.uk); Fb: CAMRASwl; Tw: @CAMRASwl

## WATFORD & DISTRICT

Mark Fried, 07515 414944 (M),  
[branch@watford.camra.org.uk](mailto:branch@watford.camra.org.uk)

**June – Tue 4** Watford soc: start (8.30) Prince George, 151 St Albans Rd. - **Sat 15** Saratt Stumble: start (1pm) Cricketers, The Green. - **Mon 24** (8pm) Mtg. Southern Cross, 41-43 Langley Rd, Watford.

**July – Fri 12** (7pm) Watford Rugby Club Beer Festival, Watford Rugby Club, Radlett Rd, Watford. - **Fri 19** Chorleywood soc: start (8.30) Old Shepherd, Chorleywood Bottom. - **Mon 29** (8pm) Mtg. Southern Cross, 41-43 Langley Rd, Watford.

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

## WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton 07835 927357,  
[contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk);

**June – Tue 4** (7pm) Meet the brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 (must check & book with pub). - **Sun 9** (5pm) PotY award soc. Cask Pub and Kitchen, 6 Charlwood St. SW1V. - **Tue 18** (7pm/7.30) Mtg. Portobello Brewery, Unit 6, Mitre Bridge Ind. Est, Mitre Way, W10.

**July – Tue 2** (7pm) Meet the brewer. Union Tavern, 45 Woodfield Rd, W9 (must check & book with pub). - **Wed 10-Sat 13**: Working socs at Ealing Beer Festival. - **Tue 16** (7pm/7.30) Mtg. Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews West. - **Tue 30** (4pm) Soc. Temple Brew House, 46 Essex St, WC2R.

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

## WEST MIDDLESEX

[Info@westmiddx.camra.org.uk](mailto:Info@westmiddx.camra.org.uk)

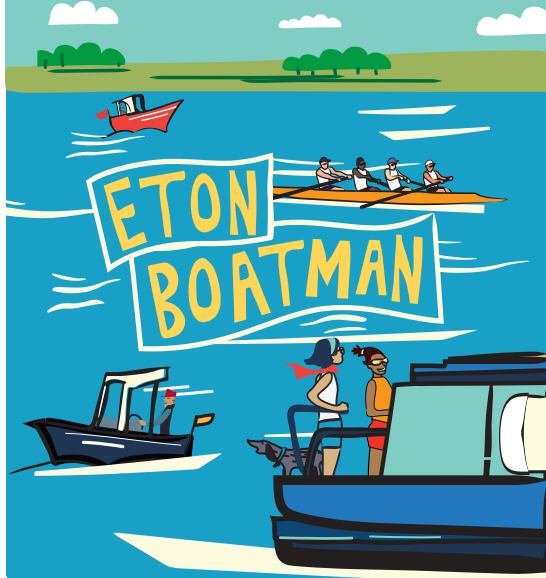
**June – Sat 1** (12pm) Ruislip Beer Festival, Ruislip Rugby Club, West End Rd, Ruislip. - **Thu 6** (8pm) Ealing BF Planning mtg. Forester, 2 Leighton Rd, West Ealing.

**July – Wed 10-Sat 13** 30th Ealing Beer Festival, Walpole Park (see page 29).

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

Electronic copy deadline for the August/September edition is absolutely no later than Friday 12 July 2019.

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



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## BROMLEY CLUB OF THE YEAR 2019

The Orpington Liberal Club has once again won the award for CAMRA's Bromley branch Club of the Year. The club has previously been the Greater London Club of the Year, most recently in both 2017 and 2018. The award was presented to the club on 8 April by long-serving CAMRA local member Tom Phillips. The club celebrated the presentation evening with a tap takeover and 'Meet the Brewer' session with Spartan Brewery.



The photo shows Tom Phillips (front left) with OLC Committee members (from left) Martin Curry, Neil Quamby and Peter Muldoon. With thanks to Chris Crowther for the photo.

**Bob Keaveney**

## EAST LONDON AND CITY BRANCH PRESENTATIONS

**Cider Pub of the Year** – the branch Cider Pub of the Year for 2019 is Williams Ale & Cider House. This busy pub, on the edge of the City in a lane off bustling Bishopsgate, has up to seven ciders and perries available plus seven beers on handpump. The presentation took place on 16 April and was attended by a large number of branch members who all enjoyed the ciders and beers available.



The photo, courtesy of John Pardoe, shows Linda Libby from the branch presenting the certificate to Johnny Grint, operations manager for the Metropolitan Pub Company and Williams Managers Dario Kola and Paul Samoska.

**Community Pub of the Year** – under the stewardship of Tuesday Roberts, the Northcote Arms in Leyton, E11 has developed a strong community ethos and has achieved an entry in CAMRA's Good Beer guide. As recognition of the work that Tuesday and her team have put in, the pub has been given the branch's Community Pub of the Year award.

**Andy Kinch**



Steve Hall from the branch makes the presentation to Tuesday

## NORTH LONDON BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR

The Snooty Fox in Canonbury is CAMRA's North London branch's Pub of the Year for 2019, by a vote open to all 1,400 local CAMRA members. John Cryne, the branch chairman, said, "This is the second time that the pub has taken this award. The award was instigated by CAMRA to promote good pubs that serve the community and the Snooty Fox is an excellent example of that, with their knowledgeable staff welcoming regulars and strangers alike. The pub, originally known as the Grosvenor, was taken on by Nicole Gale and her partner Jonathan ten years ago and they started a concerted effort to turn around a failing pub. The first time the pub won this award was in 2015 but they were also runners up in 2013 and 2012. The Snooty is a very consistent pub." Nicole said, "I am absolutely thrilled and we are overwhelmed to receive this great honour from CAMRA. We have worked really hard to maintain our ales and we are really pleased it has paid off."



From left to right: Jonathan, John, Nicole and Al

Nicole and Jonathan are aided by Al Hunt, who joined them a year ago and looks after the cellar and their beers. He said, "I didn't drink real ale until I started here and now I am hooked. I am only 24 and to be presented with such a prestigious award... it's a massive achievement and I'm lost for words." The Snooty is decorated with 1960s icons and a 45 rpm juke box which gives a retro feel. It has regular DJ'd music, a popular pub quiz on a Tuesday night and several diverse beer festivals, always well attended. An open kitchen provides rotisserie chicken, handcrafted pies and gourmet burgers as well as traditional Sunday roasts. It is a member of CAMRA's LocAle scheme. More details about the pub can be found at: <http://www.snootyfoxlondon.co.uk/restaurant>.

**John Cryne**



# **Thurrock Beer & Cider Festival**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**The Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, Essex, RM16 2JU**

Admission Prices: Tuesday & Wednesday £2 (eve), Thursday £3 (eve),

Friday £5 (from 5 pm), Saturday £3 (all day)

Free Admission for card carrying CAMRA members AT ALL TIMES

Please Note: **CASH ONLY EVENT**



## **Opening Times**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 12 noon to 3pm & 6pm to 11pm

Friday 12 noon to 11pm      Saturday: 12 noon to 7pm

**Over 100 different Beers, 30 Ciders and Perry's  
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Friday evening – **Tritts and The Numbers Band**

Saturday – **Rumford Morris Men, Arfur Doo and The Toerags and Medicine**

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Website: [swessex.camra.org.uk/thurrock.html](http://swessex.camra.org.uk/thurrock.html)

Phone: 07960 969462

Facebook: CAMRATHurrock





## LEISURE CLASS SOCIALS

In April CAMRA's North London branch experimented with a mid-week afternoon social at the Marlborough Tavern in WC1. Branch chairman, John Cryne, explained, "We are conscious that not everyone can get to evening socials so



we thought we would try something different. They are open to all members (and their friends). We were so delighted with the turnout, with people coming from all over London, that we are holding another one on Wednesday 26 June; all are welcome." The venue for the next Leisure Class Social is the Swan, Cosmo Place, WC1, from 2pm.

**Christine Cryne**

## SOUTH WEST LONDON PUB OF THE YEAR

It was with very mixed feelings that a large number of members of CAMRA's South West London branch assembled at the Sultan in South Wimbledon on 17 April. The Sultan had been voted the branch's Pub of the Year for

2018 and the certificate was presented to managers Helen and Steve Tribbel by branch chairman Mark Bravery. The reason for the mixed feelings was explained by Mark, "as well as being a celebration, this is also something of a valediction, as Steve and Helen are leaving the Sultan very soon to take up fresh challenges after around three and a half years at the pub.

The Sultan has long been a favourite of CAMRA members, right back to when



*Helen and Steve*

Hop Back Brewery acquired it in 1994 but, much as we loved the pub before Helen and Steve arrived here, I think it fair to say that they have taken it to new heights. This is the sixth time that the Sultan has won this award, but the second time in three years under their stewardship. What the Sultan has become, in addition to being a provider of excellent beer, is a genuine hub of the South Wimbledon community." We wish Helen and Steve the very best for their new ventures.

**Tony Hedger**

## PIG'S EAR FESTIVAL CHARITY

Since the festival moved to Hackney in 2006 it has always supported the charities nominated by the Speaker of Hackney Council. For 2018, Speaker Clare Potter nominated three charities: Shoreditch Trust's Blue Marble training

project, You Make It and the Hackney Quest Mentoring programme. Each of these charities work with young people, particularly those who are experiencing challenging times in their lives.



*From left to right: Peter Needle, Dave Gilchrist, Speaker Clare Potter, Alan Perryman and Steve Hall*

Festival attendees contributed generously again in December and on 9 April the festival committee were pleased to be able to present Speaker Clare Potter with a cheque for £1,015.22. The 2019 Pig's Ear festival has been pencilled in for 3 to 7 December; make a note in your diaries now!

**Andy Kinch**

## YOUNG MEMBERS TURN BEE KEEPERS!

Young members were delighted to get a sneak preview of Hiver Brewery's bee keeping experience in April when we learnt all about how bees make honey, got to suit up and see some bees in action and, of course, taste their delicious honey beer! Big thanks to the Hiver and Bee Urban for having us. Find more out about Hiver here: [www.hiverbeers.com](http://www.hiverbeers.com)

**Victoria (Tori) Bishop-Rowe**



## REAL ALE PROVES A WINNING FORMULA FOR THE EPPING ONGAR RAILWAY

On Saturday 27 April, the Epping Ongar Railway hosted its first ale train of the season. Over 130 people enjoyed the experience of being served beers from Keppels and Mighty Oak breweries, whilst being hauled through the countryside by vintage diesel locomotives. Beer was sampled from eight different casks alongside two ciders. For the next ale train on June 22 however, the motive power is expected to include the massive American S160 steam locomotive (2-8-0), with a variety of beers from Enfield brewery to be found on the bar. Heritage Routemaster buses connect the railway with Epping Underground station and bookings made two weeks in advance can take



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**WEST LONDON**  
PUB OF THE YEAR 2019



advantage of the bargain £10 fare. Further ale trains are due on 10 August and 14 September.

The main event of the year is the summer beer festival, hosted in a marquee at North Weald station. This year's event, 19 to 21 July, will feature over 80 beers and 20 ciders and there will also be bars on both trains due to be in service. New for 2019 is a 'bumper' fare allowing visitors to pay for their glass, travel and first set of beer tokens in advance. Priced at £25, this gives a discount when compared with purchasing all three separately. Visitors will need to exchange their online ticket at the station booking office at North Weald. The additional connection to and from Harlow Town railway station returns, this time departing Harlow at 10.50 and 12.15. For the first time it will also serve Harlow

bus station. Buses will return to Harlow from North Weald at 4.45 and 6.45.

On the beer front, this year's event is themed around two locomotive related anniversaries. To celebrate the 100th birthday of steam locomotive *Isobel*, there will be ales from Newcastle, where the locomotive was built, and Manchester, where the engine spent its life working for ICI Chemicals. Our resident Class 31 diesel locomotive class, 31 438 reaches sixty years since manufacture and will be celebrated with beers from East Anglia, where these locomotives took charge of express, local and freight services.

For more information and to book tickets, see [www.eorailway.co.uk](http://www.eorailway.co.uk).

**Alan Perryman**

## CAMRA Campaigners of the Year

The good people of St Albans had a terrible shock on 1 April. Two of the city's most famous pubs, the Boot and Ye Old Fighting Cocks closed down. The Boot, Grade II-listed and dating from 1500, had a fence around it bearing a sign saying 'Pub closed due to unsustainable business rates' while Ye Olde Fighting Cocks, with origins in the 8th century and possibly the oldest pub in Britain, had a sign saying that it would be turned into residential properties with a luxury spa. It was, of course, an April Fool's prank but one with a serious message. The Boot's business rates had

increased by 87% to £31,000 a year while Ye Olde Fighting Cocks' increased by a massive 280% to £51,000 a year.

This set off a chain of events that has led to the owner of the Boot, Sean Hughes, and his campaigning colleague, Christo Tofalli, who runs the Ye Olde Fighting Cocks, being given CAMRA's Campaigner of the Year award. They had started their Save St Albans Pubs Group in 2017 following that year's business rates review. They began with a petition and secured the support of local MP Anne Main. They then encouraged both pub owners and pub users to write to the Government and secured a detailed meeting with Treasury officials. The campaign subsequently went national with the formation of the Save UK Pubs network.

The nomination for the award was made by CAMRA's South Hertfordshire branch. This included local resident and leading beer writer Roger Protz who said, "Sean and Christo's efforts to campaign on this important subject are truly inspirational. They're shining examples of how you don't need to be well connected in the halls of Westminster or the head of a large campaign organisation to bring about change. I'm incredibly proud to be a St Albans resident and see my locals campaign on such an important national cause."

Sean Hughes, landlord of the Boot said, "We are delighted to collect this award on behalf of all St Albans landlords who deserve recognition with this accolade. We set up the group to show the Government that this kind of taxation rise is not only unfair but is also destroying people's businesses and leading to pub closures. The campaign has grown national and we will not stop until we have fair business rates for all pubs in the UK. We encourage the rest of the country to get involved and we strongly urge the Government to cap rates increases and launch an urgent review of business rates on pubs before it is too late – once a pub is gone, it is gone forever."

The award was presented at CAMRA's recent Members' Weekend in Dundee and received by South Herts branch secretary Steve Bury who passed it on to the winners on 10 May at the Boot, 4 Market Place, AL3 5DG.

**Tony Hedger from CAMRA sources**

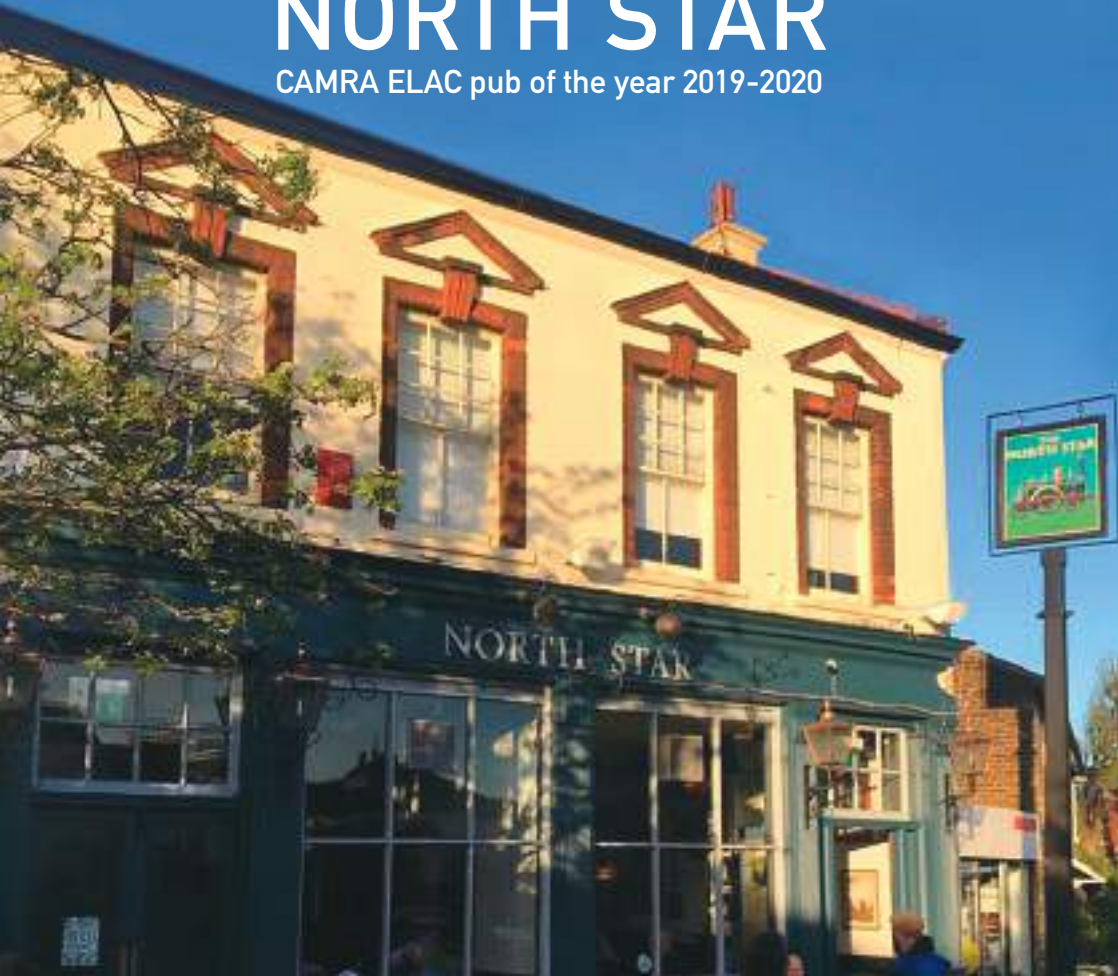
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# THE NORTH STAR

CAMRA ELAC pub of the year 2019-2020



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CAMRA ELAC Community pub of the year 2018-2019

CAMRA good beer guide 2014-2019 inc

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# The search begins . . .

As usual at this time of year, volunteer judges from each of CAMRA's London branches will be visiting the thirteen branch Pubs of the Year to decide which will be the Greater London Pub of the Year. The winner then advances to the 'super-regional' round from which four finalists will be judged for the 2019 National Pub of the Year, a highly valued prize in the trade. The winner will be announced next February.

This year's London competition includes last year's winner, the **Little Green Dragon** at Winchmore Hill and runner up the **Hope**, Carshalton as well as a much earlier regional winner, the **Sultan** in South Wimbledon and five more recent contenders: the **Cask Pub & Kitchen** in Pimlico, the **Masons Arms**, Teddington, the **Penny Farthing** in Crayford, the **Snooty Fox** at Canonbury and the **Star & Garter**, Bromley.

New to the competition are the **Albion** in Kingston and the **North Star**, Leytonstone, plus another three micropubs to compare with the Little Green Dragon and the Penny Farthing. These are the **River Ale House** at East Greenwich, the **Gidea Park Micropub** and the **Owl and the Pussycat**, Northfields' brewpub.

You can help choose the CAMRA Greater London Pub of the Year. The more, the merrier! If you would like to join in, contact your local CAMRA Branch (see the Branch Diary pages). The process involves visiting each pub and assessing it against six criteria: quality of real ale, cider and perry; style, decor, furnishing and cleanliness; service, welcome and offer; community focus and atmosphere; alignment with CAMRA principles and overall impression. You will find the judging guidelines on the regional website: [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk), but judges' marks are necessarily kept confidential throughout the competition.

**Geoff Strawbridge**



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**NEW** [WWW.THEHOLEINTHEWALL-PUB.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEHOLEINTHEWALL-PUB.CO.UK) – CHICHESTER



## HAPPY COINCIDENCE

I am informed that this year National Beer Day (15 June) and Father's Day (16 June) fall over the same weekend. Now there is an opportunity for some resourceful publicans.

## GLA LOOKING TO BOOST CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of his plans for the culture and creative industries sector, the Mayor of London is appointing a GLA staff member to protect and help grow London's cultural infrastructure, including music venues, community assets, theatres, artist studios, pubs, LGBT+ spaces, night clubs and heritage buildings. This will include actual casework on 'at risk' cases in conjunction with local authority planning, licensing, regeneration and culture teams, community and voluntary organisations, businesses, other GLA teams, TfL, the Police, Historic England, the Theatres Trust and the Music Venue Trust. Sadly, it is too late for readers to apply because the closing date was 26 May.

## NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY IMPROVES

According to the latest Deltic Night Index, as reported in the *Morning Advertiser*, in the first quarter of 2019 average consumer spend on a night out (6pm to 6am) increased in real terms by 15.5%. The length of time that people spent on nights out also increased. Most people rely on personal recommendations for venues and 70% of those questioned said that their main reason for going out was to meet up with friends. Despite the increased spend, half of those questioned thought that a night out was still too expensive.

## LATE NIGHT LEVY REVIEW

The Police and Crime Act 2017 included amendments to the way that Late Night Levies (LNLs) operate. These included extending the levy to premises selling refreshments but not alcohol and allowing local authorities to impose the levy on specific parts of their area, rather than the whole. These have yet to come into effect though, and the Home Office has decided that further consultation is required. No timescale for this has however been announced. This follows a House of Lords Select Committee saying that the levy in its current form had failed to achieve its objectives and should be abolished.

As reported in the last edition, the boroughs of Southwark and Redbridge have announced that they will be consulting on the introduction of a LNL, to be introduced in September and October 2019 respectively.

## IN A SPIN

Here is another example of the additional costs faced by pubs and bars. Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) have introduced a new tariff called SFE (Specially Featured Entertainment) which covers events that feature recorded music presented by disc jockeys and discos. The cost is estimated to be increasing by 130%. Kate Nicholls, the chief executive of UKHospitality pointed out, "It is not just nightclubs and large venues that will be hit, either. Village pubs that host weekly discos will be strangled by the charge and there is every chance that such events, upon which many

pubs might rely, will be forced out altogether." Then again, it is hard to deny the musicians involved decent royalties for their work.

## HACKNEY RESTRICTIONS

Hackney's revised Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP), under which new venues must close at 11pm on weekdays and midnight at weekends and not permit outside drinking after 10pm, is being challenged by a residents' group called We Love Hackney. The group has been granted an application for judicial review of the policy; the hearing is awaited. WLH has raised more than £20,000 through crowdfunding to cover its legal costs but the eventual bill may be more than double that.

## ON THE CARDS

An increasing number of pubs are now going cashless, accepting only debit and credit cards for payments from customers. At least one pub chain in north London has taken this option. I can sympathise. The charges levied by the banks for supplying cash and change are ridiculous for what is essentially drawing out your own money and there is also the question of security. Night safes are now few and far between and no-one wants to leave the cash takings overnight in a lock-up pub (no doubt a 'Trojan horse' conversion). My concern is that the customer is properly forewarned. There need to be notices on the outside of the pub. It would be very bad practice if a customer ordered, was served and only then was told 'card only'. That can only lead to bad feeling.

## MINIMUM PRICING INTRODUCED IN WALES

The Welsh Government has announced that it will introduce minimum unit pricing for alcohol at a 50p minimum unit price. Brigid Simmonds, the chief executive of British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA), said, "We look to the Welsh Government to provide clarity as to how and when MUP will be implemented. The BBPA has always been concerned about imposing conditions which penalise responsible drinkers and there is no denying that this decision will cause uncertainty, but what is important now is that industry is given a break from any further blanket regulations. This will also allow MUP to be properly assessed as a policy to reduce alcohol-related harm."

At CAMRA's recent members' Weekend, a motion was passed calling on its National Executive to campaign for the urgent introduction of minimum unit pricing for England (with provisos on the maximum amount per unit).

## NUMBER OF NEW BREWERIES FALLS

A survey by finance analysts UHY Hacker Young, as reported in the *Morning Advertiser*, indicates that the craft brewery boom is slowing up. 179 new breweries opened in 2016 and 395 in 2017, but in 2018 there were just eight.

At the same time, there is concern that many beer drinkers are not aware that what they think are craft beers brewed by small breweries in fact come from the multinationals. SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers, recently conducted a survey which showed that 98% of the consumers contacted





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THE JOLLY FARMER, ALTON 2 AUGUST | THE OAK, ASTON CLINTON 3 AUGUST  
THE KING'S HEAD, WICKHAM 4 AUGUST | THE FROG & WICKET, EVERSLEY CROSS 6 AUGUST  
THE CALLEVA ARMS, SILCHESTER 7 AUGUST | THE MILL, ELSTEAD 8 / 9 AUGUST  
THE WHITE BUCK INN, BURLEY 13 / 14 AUGUST | THE ALICE LISLE, RINGWOOD 15 AUGUST  
THE KING & QUEEN, CATERHAM ON THE HILL 17 AUGUST | THE LINK'S TAVERN, LIPHOOD 22 AUGUST  
THE RED LION, CHALTON 27 AUGUST | THE FIVE BELLS, LEIGHTON BUZZARD 28 AUGUST  
THE ROSE & CROWN, EALING 29 / 30 AUGUST | THE ANGLERS, TEDDINGTON 3 / 4 SEPTEMBER  
THE RED LION, BARNES 5 / 6 / 7 SEPTEMBER | THE DUKE OF KENT, EALING 12 / 13 / 14 SEPTEMBER

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thought that a beer brewed by any major brewer could not be 'craft', 43% of them believed that a craft beer could only be made by a small brewery and 42% said that a craft brewer must be independent.

SIBA do however have an 'Assured Independent British Craft Brewer' logo which its members can put on their products and this certifies that the beer comes from a 'truly independent brewer who is a sole trader, a partnership, a limited company or a public company but is not a subsidiary of a larger firm with attendant or other subsidiary brewing interests.'

## NATIONAL BEER

I have news of a new outlet for small breweries. The National Theatre has a craft beer bar, the Understudy, but this has now been joined by a pop-up bar in a shipping container called the Otherstudy. It is located on the riverside outside the NT and will host a programme of 21 weekly tap residencies from breweries across the country.

## PLASTIC RINGS

The campaigning group 38 Degrees has opened a petition calling on the brewing trade to end the use of the plastic rings that are used to hold together multi-pack cans of beer and cider. As they say, these fill up landfills, kill wildlife and pollute oceans and it is unnecessary because there are environmentally friendly alternatives that breweries could use. Indeed, Guinness have already announced that they will be changing to using cardboard sleeves and others, but not all, are expected to follow. In mid-April the petition

already has 175,000 signatures and 38 Degrees were planning to hand it in when it reached 200,000.

## CAMRA PUB HERITAGE WEBSITE

I'm pleased to report that, after a long period of technical problems, CAMRA's Pub Heritage website is back up and running. It is accessible to all, not just CAMRA members. If you like pubs, you will find this site fascinating. You can search for individual pubs or by areas if you want to find places to visit on your holidays. Go to [pubheritage.camra.org.uk](http://pubheritage.camra.org.uk).

## EARLY DOORS

Works to widen the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon have revealed several interesting archaeological finds, including a woolly mammoth tusk, a forgotten medieval village, some ancient burial grounds and evidence of what could possibly be the first beer brewed in Britain. Evidence dating back to the Iron Age (400BC) has been found along with signs of porridge and bread making. Quoted in the *Shropshire Star*, Dr Steve Sherlock, the project's lead archaeologist, said, "It's a well-known fact that ancient populations used the beer-making process to purify water and create a safe source of hydration but this is potentially the earliest physical evidence of that process taking place in the UK." As beer writer Roger Protz commented, East Anglia is the source of some of the best brewing barley in the world.

**Compiled by Tony Hedger**

## GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

The (almost) final line-up of breweries who will have a brewery bar or dedicated space on a bar is as follows: Adnams, Brewery of Angels and Demons, Anspatch & Hobday, Arkell's, Bedlam, Beer Monkey, Big Hand, Bishop Nick, Bradfield Brewery, Dawkins, Five Points, Gorgeous Brewery (see page 36), Greyhound, Harvey's, Loch Lomond, Moon Gazer, Padstow, Quantock, Reunion, St Austell, Tatton, Titanic, Twickenham and West Berkshire.

Details of the entertainment at this year's festival have been announced as follows:

**Tuesday 6 7.15pm & 9pm Chaminade**

Festival favourites; one of the most established string quartets working in the field of background music with a comprehensive and constantly expanding repertoire, encompassing music suitable for most occasions and appealing to all ages and musical tastes.

**Wednesday 7 6pm to 10pm Silent Disco**

Find out about the silent disco phenomenon at the Great British Beer Festival! Free of eardrum shattering speakers and run solely on wireless headphones, we'll have a DJ bringing you three different channels of music to dance to. Headsets can be hired at the stage for a £10 deposit.

**Thursday 8 1pm & 2.30pm The Spinners Legends**

The Spinners folk group, television favourites for many years, split up in 1988 but original members Hughie Jones and Mick Groves have reunited, to great acclaim not only in their native Liverpool but up and down the country.

**Thursday 8 7.15pm & 9pm The Bogus Brothers**

Simply the ultimate party band; Yorkshire's Bogus Brothers present a high-energy show filled with humour and mad onstage antics (in their trademark kilts) with something for everyone.

**Friday 9 1pm & 3.15pm Swallow**

Classic rock covers band from Reading, formed in 2002 by old school friends vocalist Jane 'Jetblack' Setter and bass player Diane 'Mistress Mercy' Fox. The band are regulars at Reading Beer Festival. Their motto - "We just like to ROCK".

**Friday 9 7.15pm & 9pm Bulsara & his Queenies**

This remarkable seven piece band performs the songs of Queen to an exceptional standard, maintaining their own identity rather than just being another tribute band although lead vocalist Gareth Taylor's vocal resemblance to Freddie Mercury is extraordinary.

**Saturday 10 2pm & 4pm Fulham Brass Band**

Formed in 1895, Fulham Brass Band is one of the most central of London brass bands. Its friendly, sociable and ambitious team has welcomed players from all over the world and has become the playing 'home' for many people moving to the Capital to work or study. In recent years, the band has been climbing the competition divisions and, from January 2020, will enter the prestigious Championship Section.

The bars at this year's GBBF will still be mainly cash, so come prepared. In passing, the GBBF is sourcing biodegradable plastic bags this year.

*From a CAMRA press release*

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# Review of the Pubs Code

The start of the anticipated statutory review of the Pubs Code and the activities of the Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA) was announced by the minister responsible, Kelly Tolhurst, the MP for Rochester and Strood, on 30 April. This review was always scheduled to happen and has not arisen because of concerns over the Code's operation. The review will last for 12 weeks and will focus on whether, in the period to 31 March this year, the Code has achieved its purpose of ensuring that tied tenants have been treated fairly by the pub owning businesses (POBs). Those invited to contribute are tied tenants, past and present, their representative bodies, trade bodies and the PCA himself. Contributions can be submitted through the review's website [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pubs-code-and-pubs-code-adjudicator-statutory-review](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pubs-code-and-pubs-code-adjudicator-statutory-review). The e-mail address is [PCAreview@beis.gov.uk](mailto:PCAreview@beis.gov.uk). There will be a report issued in due course.

CAMRA's chief executive, Tom Stainer, said, "The introduction of the Pubs Code could have marked a turning point for England's community pubs but, since it came in, we've seen pub companies use every trick in the book to prevent the legislation from achieving what it set out to do. When Parliament brought in the pubs code its intention was for Market Rent Only to be a realistic option, and that simply hasn't happened. This review is therefore essential and welcome, but for communities to stop losing pubs to predatory, short-term business practices, it must lead to meaningful reforms and to a code that is fit for purpose." I'm sure that CAMRA will be contributing.

Brigid Simmonds, chief executive of the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA), the POBs trade body, commented, "The six companies covered by the Pubs Code have always been committed to working within both the letter and spirit of the legislation to support the success of leased and tenanted pubs and publicans alike. While there have been some challenges with parts of the implementation of the code for all involved, the BBPA and the companies covered by the code continue to work closely with the Adjudicator and other stakeholders to resolve these. The BBPA welcomes this consultation as a valuable opportunity to assess the ongoing

impact of the Code and the effectiveness of the Adjudicator, as well as to make suggestions for improvements."

Ms Tollhurst said that she was 'committed to ensuring the review is based on good evidence, which includes survey data, statistics and allowing all those who have an interest in the code to tell us about their experience.' The minister does not however have the confidence of all involved, especially following her comment in an interview with the *Morning Advertiser* that she saw 'negotiation to become the norm, with arbitration very much the exception.' As a long-standing member of the Parliamentary Business, Innovation and Skills committee, she would have known that this was not the code's intention. Consequently, on 12 March, Greg Mulholland and Simon Clarke, as chair and secretary respectively of the British Pub Confederation wrote to her saying, 'This statement shows a worrying lack of understanding about the fundamental nature and purpose of the Pubs Code legislation. The Pubs Code is a statutory code, backed by a statutory adjudicator, and as such confers clear and defined rights on tenants that the Adjudicator is supposed support, clarify where necessary and uphold. It is not, and was never intended to be, simply another tool for 'negotiation'. They also added that 'the whole point of the Pubs Code is that it is a statutory code with statutory rights, not just a framework for negotiation – and indeed one of the chronic problems facing tenants is that pub companies thwart the rights of tenants by deliberately prolonging negotiation, when the Code should prevent them from doing so.' It was an excellent letter but unfortunately too long to reprint here. Watch this space...

Finally, as an example of the sort of practice that POBs indulge in, when calculating rent levels they have been using the price of 72 pints per firkin as income despite it being acknowledged by HMRC that casks cannot yield this quantity because of sediment and ullage (plus, I believe, the occasional under-filling). The PCA said that this could be dealt with 'within the existing statutory framework.' It is one thing to play fast and loose with the terms of the Code but surely not with the Laws of Physics.

**Tony Hedger**



The Government has recently announced a public consultation on the Pubs Code. CAMRA believes this legislation should be reformed in order to help safeguard pubs across England and Wales.

Please have your say and take part in the consultation. For more information, see [www.camra.org.uk/pubs-code](http://www.camra.org.uk/pubs-code)



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► Congratulations to Mick and Sarah of the **Alexandra** in Wimbledon who won the Best Community Engagement Pub award in the recent Young's Brewery Awards. I have previously mentioned their 'open door' Christmas dinners.

► It is beginning to look as if we are having the same issue with hotels as we had with pubs becoming de facto restaurants. The Grade II-listed **Audley** in Mayfair has been closed by operators Greene King while the top three floors are turned into hotel rooms. The pub is a wonderful example of late Victorian red brick and pink terracotta with an equally splendid interior, said to be more akin to a gentleman's club. Let us hope that this is retained.

► Interesting developments at the **Baring Hall Hotel**, Grove Park (SE12). The pub, which is listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and has recently been Grade II listed, has been put up for sale by the Antic group because, as I understand it, they need to repay some of the funding to their private equity backers, Downing. Plans for redevelopment were fought off before Antic acquired it, and there was some fire damage. Local campaigners have set up a company, the Baring Trust, with the aim of purchasing it and returning the pub to its former glory, including the hotel. We wish them well. The pub remains open in the meantime.

► Pub names often tell a tale, so I was unhappy to learn that

Marston's intend to change the name of the **Bear** at Noak Hill (Romford RM3 7LL) once the current refurbishment is complete. According to the *Romford Recorder*, the pub has been called the Bear since 1715 but this was reinforced sometime in the 1950s when the publicans met a zoo owner who sold them a bear called Rhani. Rhani lived in a cage at the rear of the beer garden and, when Rhani died, a replacement, Honey was acquired. The landlords retired in 1974, as did Honey, in her case to a zoo in Cambridgeshire. Marston's want to rename it the Deer's Rest because deer often wander into the garden. Locals have set up a petition calling for the pub to remain the Bear.

► This looks like another Section 25 case. The licensee who has run the **Brewery Tap** in Brentwood for 18 years has been refused an extension to his lease and the pub will become a managed house under Ei Group's Craft Union offshoot. The licensee, Ian Boyd, describes the Brewery Tap as 'tiny' and told the *Morning Advertiser* that the way he ran the pub to avoid antagonising neighbours appeared to be at odds with Craft Union's stated method of operation. The local community launched a petition calling on Ei Group to change their mind and it reached over 1,000 signatures in 24 hours. Both the local council and MP are against the take-over. An application to have the pub registered as an Asset of Community Value is being made although this may not help in this particular situation. Mr Boyd has also approached Ei Group with a proposal to buy the freehold of the pub.

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► The battle to save the **Chelsfield** in Bromley continues. In February the council unanimously rejected the planning application from Punch Partnerships (PML) Ltd, taking the view that the plan was obviously commercially driven and showed no respect for the community. Punch's solicitors told the council that they should 'strive to resist being unduly persuaded by the volume of objections against the application'. In other words, 'ignore the peasants, however many of them there are'. What breath-taking arrogance! Punch have, predictably, taken the case to appeal and the council have equally unanimously agreed to continue the fight. They have been supported by the local MP, Jo Johnson, who wrote to the Planning Inspectorate in no uncertain terms asking for the appeal to be rejected.

► After a £300,000 refurbishment, Shepherd Neame have reopened the **Cheshire Cheese** in Little Essex Street, the Temple. It was built in 1298 in the 'Improved Public House' style by renowned pub architect T H Nowell Parr for Style & Winch's Brewery. It is now Grade II listed. The ground floor



bar has been given a 'contemporary feel' while there is a wine bar in the basement and a 'function and meeting facility' on the upper floor. Sheps have also acquired the Compton Cross in Soho.

► I was sad to learn from CAMRA's East London and City branch that the **Dispensary**, in Leman Street, Aldgate, a regular Good Beer Guide entry and former branch Pub of the Year, has closed. It is understood that a recent rent increase has made it impossible for Annie and David, who ran the pub for 13 years, to continue.

► A planning application has been lodged to turn the **Earl Haig** in Crouch End into a nursery. Although the agents selling the property are still insisting that the pub had not been viable, many local residents disagree and are concerned about the loss of what they regard as a community asset. They are trying to have the former British Legion hall listed as an Asset of Community Value. John Cryne, the chair of CAMRA's North London branch, told the local paper, the *Ham & High*, that he had lodged an objection to the plans. He said, "Previous attempts to

*change from community use have been rejected before and I urge that they be rejected again. The value that a pub has as a community facility is now well recognised."*

► To update the story of the **Grosvenor** in Stockwell (page 32 of the last edition), it reopened on 22 March and happily is being run by Tom Power, the licensee of the Priory Arms SW8. There are five cask beers available plus two ciders and 18 more beer taps. The full address of the Grosvenor is 17 Sidney Road SW9 0TP, halfway down Stockwell Road between Stockwell and Brixton. ([whatpub.com/pubs/SWL/3931/grosvenor-stockwell](http://whatpub.com/pubs/SWL/3931/grosvenor-stockwell)).

► I get frequent reports of pubs catching fire or being illegally demolished but the **Jester** in Cockfosters has had both! Barnet council issued a Section 125 notice instructing the owners to rebuild the pub. The owners appealed but the order was upheld. They have now appealed further and this should be being heard about now.

► Good news. The **Maggie and Crown** in Brentford, which is adjacent to but not part of a development in Brentford High Street, was to be closed for the duration of the works. Happily someone has had second thoughts and it has since reopened under a new licensee. It is understood that there is no long term threat to the pub.

► According to the *Ham & High* again, the ground floor of the **Old White Bear** in Hampstead was going to reopen as a pub with the owner granting a lease to Bramley Bars. Nothing has happened however and the owner, who also runs a school which uses the upstairs floor, is reportedly in dispute with the authorities.

► The **Squirrel**, formerly the Skiddaw, in Maida Vale is under threat. The upper floors have already been converted to flats and an application has now been submitted to Westminster Council for the conversion of the remainder. This has the potential to be a classic 'Trojan horse' case. The pub, which dates from 1881, is included on CAMRA's National Inventory of Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest and there is obviously concern that these important features will be lost. The pub was formerly operated by Faucet Inn and, as usual, the agents for the developers are claiming that the pub is not viable and that they are doing the local community a favour by converting it into flats. The local community appears not to agree however, as illustrated by a recent protest meeting outside the pub, which included the local MP and a six foot tall squirrel. CAMRA's West London branch are involved in the campaign and have lodged a comprehensive objection to the development. Previous attempts to add an extra floor and extend the building were however rejected so there may be hope.

► Also gone is the **Water Poet** in Spitalfields. The pub, named after John Taylor, the Waterman Poet (1578 to 1653), will be demolished as part of the controversial Norton Folgate development. The pub was rebuilt in 1904 and although the new development will apparently include a pub, it will hardly be a replacement.



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► For the second edition running, I'm pleased to report on a pub that was turned into a restaurant and has now reverted to being a pub. The **Watermans Arms**, an ex-Watney pub next to the Bulls Head in Barnes, closed in the 1980s and became a succession of chain restaurants. It has now been reopened as a proper pub.

► There is also a **Watermans Arms** in Water Lane, Richmond. It is one of the oldest pubs in the area, dating back to at least 1660 and rebuilt in 1898. It closed in March and has reportedly been sold by the Ram Pub Company (Young's). It is no longer listed on their website.

► Here we go again. The **Winchester Tavern** in Highgate has already had its upper floors, once the hotel rooms, converted into flats. Now an application has been submitted to similarly convert the function room behind the pub. The pub has been an Asset of Community Value since 2015 but was closed in 2016. According to the local paper, the *Ham and High*, Haringey council has indicated that the application could be accepted so long as the pub remained viable. The developer's agents have suggested that the pub could be moved to the basement. The local residents' group have rejected this on a number of grounds, not least access, and are campaigning against the proposal. They have support from local councillors. The pub was incidentally originally the Winchester Hall Hotel, which can be seen on its exterior ironwork.

► I mentioned the **Worcester Park** in the last edition. Clive Taylor has sent me this rather sad photo; note the ironic sign. Clive also mentioned that the first pub on this site was built in 1794 and was rebuilt in 1865 and 1936. In 2002 the Spirit Group spent £1 million on a refurbishment but ten years later the pub was closed.



Compiled by Tony Hedger

**Check the Beer Festival Calendar  
and visit the  
London Events Calendar at  
[www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk)**

## The Widow's Son

**P**ublic houses have been at the heart of communities and for centuries have been guardians of tradition. For the Widow's Son in Bow, East London, Good Friday brings about not only a celebration of Easter but also a commemoration of sailors who never returned to port.



Legend has it that the pub was built on the site of a widow's house and one Easter (possibly during the Napoleonic Wars) she baked a hot cross bun in anticipation of the return of her only son. Sadly, her son never returned but, each year until she passed away, she baked a new bun and put it in safekeeping for the day he did return. When

the pub was built, the store of buns was discovered and the tradition was born. Every Good Friday sailors from the Royal Navy come to place a freshly baked bun in a net above the bar.



In 2015, the bar closed and it was feared that this unique tradition would be lost. Happily however, in 2017, Bun Day and the sailors returned!

**Alan Perryman**





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# A Titanic event

One Saturday in February, members and workers from last year's Kingston beer festival made the journey to Stoke on Trent to make the presentation of the Beer of the Festival award. As voted for by the festival's customers, this was Titanic Brewery's Chocolate Vanilla Porter. Most members made the trip by train to Stoke then by various methods made their way to the brewery in Burslem. Once there we all enjoyed the beers while listening to Malcolm who gave us the history of the brewery and their current developments. We also enjoyed our portions of what is known locally as 'Lobby', the universal stew with anything lobbed into it.

On leaving the brewery the party headed into the centre of Burslem to sample some of the local hostelries, which included two GBG pubs and a micropub conveniently situated around St John's Square. First however we called



at the Bulls Head, a good traditional locals pub owned by Titanic, which gave us the chance to try some of Titanic's other ales. I went for the Crimson Sunset at £3.40, and, of course, it was good.

Just a few steps along the square was the Duke William, an attractive Tudor style corner building which has a regionally important historic Interior. It has retained its

original island bar, with various bar areas all around. There were six ales available. I went for the Wincle Brewers Dog at £3, and it was very good. Some of the crew did try Jonnies, the micropub, but I heard it did get rather cosy with Port Vale playing at home.



We got the bus back to Stoke station and on the platform we found a Titanic bar. So with twenty minutes to spare, it was time for a half of Plum Porter to finish off the day.

*Clive Taylor*

## London, Capital of Brewing

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

## STOP HIDING THE CIDER!

Thirty years ago, when I first moved to England, places where real cider drinkers could find their favourite drink were limited to CAMRA beer festivals and a few pubs dotted around the country. We live in a very different world now, with customers being able to find at least one real cider in many pubs, with some selling a good selection. The increase in producers also means that some are able to support local businesses. This means that during my travels around the country, there is generally a pub nearby where I can enjoy a real cider, but there are times when I miss out on this opportunity because I haven't noticed that it is available. This is something that happened on a number of occasions on a recent tour of pubs around a city I was visiting.

As someone who appreciates a quality real ale, on each occasion when entering a pub I would see an interesting range of real ales prominently displayed. Having bought something to my taste, while walking round the pub or sometimes when leaving, I would find a discreetly positioned list of real ciders that I would have loved to have tried. So, what would have helped me to spot the ciders and perries on offer? On entering the pub, make sure that the products are clearly noticeable in all parts of the bar, particularly where customers will be making the decision on what they would like to drink. If it is not possible to list all the products available, a poster or notice letting them know that real cider is available will prompt them to look for the full list or ask at the bar. Posters to demonstrate that real cider is available can be obtained from the CAMRA Office or via your local CAMRA branch.

Hopefully, by promoting and publicising that you offer real cider, it will not only help visitors who already appreciate it, but may well encourage new people to try it.

*Andrea Briers, Chair of the Cider & Perry Campaigns Committee (aka APPLE)*

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## CONCERN GROWS OVER RAILWAY ARCHES

Following Network Rail's recent sale of their railway arches to the private equity company Blackstone, an organisation called Guardians of the Arches ([www.guardiansofthearches.org.uk](http://www.guardiansofthearches.org.uk)) has been set up by sitting tenants across London to engage with the new owners to keep the arches sustainable and affordable. There is concern that Transport for London, who also own a number of railway arches, are using the sale to Blackstone as an excuse to increase their rents and that Blackstone themselves will do the same. There was a meeting on 25 March, organised by Pete Hills of Hackney Brewery when the Guardians, along with the East End Trades Guild, met with the Mayors of Hackney and Tower Hamlets to discuss the situation.

## BIG SMOKE BREW CO.

Big Smoke have completed their move from behind the Antelope in Surbiton to a 5,000 square foot site on an industrial estate in Esher. The new 33-hectolitre brewery plant, along with six 65 hectolitre fermenters, will increase capacity fourfold and a high-speed canning line has also been installed. There is also an on-site taproom for tours and tastings. Co-founder James Morgan said, "We've gradually built up a loyal following and the new brewery allows us to distribute nationally and target both the off and on-trade whilst maintaining control of our process and achieving a high quality, consistent product. We will continue to make the kind of beer that we like to drink – refreshing, balanced and flavoursome using sustainably sourced ingredients."

## BOHEM GO WEST

North London brewers of traditional Bohemian-style lagers, Bohem, have collaborated with St Austell to produce Otakar Brut Lager (6.4% ABV). It was brewed in London by Bohem's Petr Skocek and St Austell's Roger Ryman using the decoction method. The yeast is the one with which St Austell brew their Korev lager and the malts are Pilsner, Cara Gold, Acid Malt plus maize. The hops are Magnum, Hersbrucker and Saaz, and it is dry hopped with Nelson Sauvin which gives lemon and grapefruit notes. The beer, which is lagered at low temperature for six weeks, takes its name from a number of kings of Bohemia. It has been produced as a limited single run and is available in both keg and can.

## FEARLESS NOMAD

Brewing kit has been delivered to the Black Dog Beer House in Brentford and they hope to start brewing in June.

## FOURPURE

The major Australian brewery, Lion, has taken over the Huddersfield based Magic Rock brewery. I was surprised to read that Lion already own Fourpure in Bermondsey. This happened in July 2018 but somehow I missed it at the time.

## FULLER'S (ASAHI)

I have not seen a formal announcement but I understand that the vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting was 90% in favour of the sale. There were some protests. Asahi have announced that Fuller's brands now form part of their portfolio, along with Peroni, Kozel and Meantime and will be marketed across Europe.

Fuller's head brewer, Georgina Young, has moved on, or more accurately, back. Having begun her career with Smiles Brewery in her home town of Bristol, she is returning there to be head brewer for Bath Ales at their Hare Brewery in the suburb of Warmley. The brewery, which opened a year ago, has a shop and tap room and George, as she is usually known, will be in charge of all aspects of the brewing and packaging operation.



## THAMES SIDE BREWERY

Owner and head brewer, Andy Hayward has confirmed that the brewery is about to move to their new premises, a former Sea Cadets building on the riverside near Staines Bridge. As well as the brewery, it will have a viewing and tasting area downstairs, a full bar with balcony upstairs plus a riverside garden. There will be a stage upstairs for live music events. There are still last minute jobs to do, especially as the building had been empty for six years, but Andy hopes to open mid to late June. Andy is also very kindly offering a 10% discount on real ales upon production of a current CAMRA membership card.

## SAMBROOK'S

Sambrook's are resurrecting their 'Beer by the River' event and this will be held on Saturday 13 July within the old brewery site in Wandsworth. They will also be holding their Summer Party at the brewery on Saturday 8 June which will see the reappearance of their most popular seasonal beer, Lavender Hill.

**Peter Sutcliffe**

## WIMBLEDON WIN AWARDS

Congratulations to Wimbledon Brewery who won two Gold medals at the recent International Brewing Awards. They were for Copper Leaf in class 2 of the cask ale competition (3.9% to 4.3% ABV) and Wimbledon Pale in class 1 of the keg ale competition (2.9% to 4.4% ABV). The awards ceremony was held at the City of London Guildhall on 1 May.

**Compiled by Tony Hedger**

**At 30 April 2019, CAMRA  
had 19,080 members, of  
whom 18,525 live in the  
Greater London area**



# Battersea brewery - an introduction

This new brewery and tap room which opened in November 2018 lies within the rapidly developing site around the iconic Battersea Power Station. The head brewer, Tom Mahoney (pictured) discovered craft beer when he was a student in Texas and has learned his trade as an apprentice (later as lead brewer) at the Dorking Brewery and more recently as senior brewer at Five Points Brewery in Hackney. Innovation and experimentation are the order of the day, with four semi-regular beers being complemented



by seasonal beers, which at the time of writing were a delicious Scotch Ale at 6% ABV on keg and a classic, balanced and moreish cask English bitter called Ernest (4.2% ABV), which is the name of a UK hop variety used mainly by Whitbread in the late 19th century and subsequently largely forgotten – but thankfully not here.

The logo for Twilight Taproom. It features a red background. At the top left is a circular logo with a crown and the words 'Twilight Taproom'. To the right of this is the text 'TWILIGHT TAPROOM' in white capital letters. Below the text is a large Union Jack flag. At the bottom is a black silhouette of a beer tap with four handles, each dispensing a different colored beer into a glass.

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The four semi-regulars are Unfiltered Lager (pilsner style at 5% ABV with Bohemia, Carapils and Munich malts and hopped with Satz and Magnum); House Beer (a Kolsch-style beer at 4.2% ABV with Bohemia and Vienna malts and hopped with Hallertau Mittelfruh); IPA (a big flavoured yet balanced bitter at 6% ABV with Low Colour Maris Otter, wheat malt, CaraPils, flaked oats and Comet and Simcoe hops) and, deep breath, a Session ale at 3.8% ABV, (a light APA with Low Colour Maris Otter, wheat malt, Golden Naked oats and Ekuantot and Mosaic hops). A 6.8% ABV double-dry-hopped IPA has also appeared occasionally!

There are usually two beers available on cask with another four or five on keg. A further five keg taps serve beers from other London micros such as Kernel, Fourpure, Meantime or Five Points. At least one of these will usually be a porter or a stout. Food is simple with quality UK cured meats and cheeses served as toasties, nibbles or platters. For the adventurous, why not expand your beer knowledge with a 'Beer Master Class' at £20 a head or a 'Brewery Experience Day' at a bargain £60 per person with plenty of tasting included, of course.



The brewery and taproom can be found at 12 to 14 Arches Lane, SW11 8AB. Currently, the best way to get there is a 15 minute walk up from Battersea Park mainline station or a bus to the south side of Chelsea Bridge and a short walk along the river, underneath the railway bridge and then immediately right. Hopefully, by the end of 2020, they will be right by a tube station on the new Northern Line extension. You can contact them via [hello@batterseabrew.co.uk](mailto:hello@batterseabrew.co.uk) or see the website: [www.batterseabrew.co.uk](http://www.batterseabrew.co.uk).

**Peter J Sutcliffe – Brewery Liaison Officer**

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

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

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

## A SUBTERRANEAN BREWHOUSE

**S**ituated near the bustle of Fleet Street, the five barrel Essex Street Brewery is hidden beneath your feet in the cellar of the Temple Brewhouse. Vanessa de Clac is in charge; one of a handful of brewers in the Capital. In common with some other brewers, she is part of the influx of people from outside the UK who are bringing us their own traditional beer styles, sometimes with their individual take on their beers.

Vanessa's background is an interesting one for a brewer. She comes from Rioja in Spain, more famous for its wine, where she studied chemistry and microbiology. She came to the UK fifteen years to study garden design. When she finished, she did some bar work, loved it and her interest encouraged her to remain in the industry. She was working for the City Pub Group as a support manager when, five years ago, the company bought the Temple Brew House, with the brewery due to open a year later. When she heard that there was going to be a brewery, she applied to be brewer and got it! While the brewery was being built, CPG allowed her to work four days a week in her normal role with one day a week training which was with Brew Lab in the North East. She is Essex Street's only brewer, brewing all on her own without any assistance: 'I have muscles' she said. Vanessa quipped that her size may have had something to do with her getting the job: 'I'm small and there isn't much room in the brewery'. What she lacks in stature she makes up for with her enthusiasm for brewing, with her excitement showing through as she talks about her beers. Two regular beers have been brewed since the beginning, Tempale and



Temp APA. These have since been joined by a gluten free Porter but, like all brewers, she likes to experiment. Take the Seaweed Gose; there can't be many brewers who would go to collect all the seaweed on her own. The beer was then brewed in the company of 15 women as part of International Women's Day.

Most of Essex Street's beers are designed for quaffability, usually below 5% ABV. Vanessa explained 'If someone comes in and has a 6% ABV beer, they are likely to have only one. Lower alcohol beers encourage people to try a couple'. Vanessa took the London Tasting Panel through a range of her beers, both cask and keg and, when asked if anyone would like a nightcap, the overwhelming request was for her Intercity Stout, a creamy 6% ABV complex brew with creamy milk chocolate and roasty coffee notes. Enough said!



FULLER'S

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# Matters of taste

## GORGEOUS GROWING GREATLY!

Visiting the Gorgeous Brewery I'm tempted to say 'what a difference a year makes'. This five barrel brewery can be found at the Grade II-listed Bull in Highgate, which is, according to the Sunday Times, one of the best places to live (Highgate, that is, not necessarily the pub!). Originally it was a one barrel plant, which was included when brother and sister Rob and Samantha Loub acquired the pub from the London Brewing Company who moved to the Bohemia in North Finchley. The set-up that they inherited however



involved brewing in the kitchen and having the fermenters in the cellar, so was not the most ergonomic of arrangements. Rob and Samantha however had a vision. Major investment in 2018 brought about a new brewery building, secluded at the back of the pub alongside a pristine wooden decked outside area and this has totally transformed the situation.

Walking into the brewery you are greeted by sparkling stainless steel tanks. The head brewer, Reuben, and Joe, his assistant were hard at work hand bottling beer when we visited.




"We brew around twice a week," explained Reuben, "with 40% cask and the rest bottle and keg. Over two thirds of the beer is sold outside the pub to predominantly local outlets." Gorgeous's Lager, Guzzla, is the biggest seller in the pub but two golden ales, Gyrocopter (4.1% ABV) and Goofyhoof (4.6% ABV) are also popular. These are regularly complemented by a bitter (Glowfly) and a stout (Gravedigger), plus others. Eagle eyed readers will notice that all the beers begin with a 'G'. Like most brewers, Reuben likes to experiment. He explained, "I'll talk to customers to help me refine and tweak recipes." One of the latest 'G's is Gatsby, a bottled Brut IPA, which is a collaboration brew with Crate Brewery. This is a very dry, sparkling beer (5.8% ABV) with a final gravity of 1000 (see below), brewed with an enzyme called amyloglucosidase 300. Who knows what the next 'G' will be? To find out, the pub's address is 13 North Hill, N6 4AB and it is open midday to 11.30 (midnight Friday and Saturday).

**Note:** you will often come across beers quoting an original gravity (OG) such as 1038 or 1050. This relates to the fermentable sugars in the beer and has a direct relationship to the alcohol content. 1000 is the OG of water but that doesn't mean the beer has zero alcohol. It means that, in this particular beer, all of the sugars have been fermented out and it actually has an alcohol content of 5.8% ABV. Drink carefully!

**Christine Cryne**

Tasting notes for the beers from both breweries can be found on the brewery pages on CAMRA's regional website, [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk)


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# Wenlock

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## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

**G**lobal brewing giant AB InBev has decided to change its name for its UK operations. It will henceforth trade as Budweiser Brewing Group UK&I, to take advantage of the 'power and recognition' of the Budweiser brand. I'm sure that if I had conducted a poll among readers you could have come up with something more apposite. BBG, as I imagine they will come to be known, are moving their headquarters to Farringdon. New group president Paula Lindenberg told the *Morning Advertiser*, "We are a fast-paced, ambitious group that dreams big and we have exciting plans ahead for the UK and Ireland."

## APRIROSE ACQUIRE MORE PUBS

**F**urther to my report in the last edition, Aprirose have now acquired a further 45 pubs from property company British Land for £130 million. These pubs are operated by the Spirit Pub Company, which is part of Greene King. They are spread out across the country but one of them is reportedly in Twickenham. This brings Aprirose's estate to just short of 200 pubs and according to their chief executive, they are committed to 'this exciting sector'.

## ON YOUR BIKE

**U**rban Pubs and Bars have opened their 20th site, the Cyclist, in Balham. This is the former JD Wetherspoon

site just down from the station. This is the third former JD Wetherspoon site that UPB have reopened, following those in Highgate and Stroud Green. The Balham site has undergone a £400,000 refurbishment and if UPB think that it is worth that sort of investment, you have to wonder why JDW closed it.

## BEER BOUTIQUE CHAIN CLOSES

**I**t isn't just pubs. At the end of March, the Beer Boutique off-licence company entered into a creditors' voluntary liquidation and all three of its shops, in Putney, Wandsworth and Tunbridge Wells, closed with immediate effect. They ended their farewell Facebook message with the following 'For those looking to get their fix of craft beer in SW London, we would point you in the direction of We Brought Beer.'

## FULLER'S NEWS

**F**uller's now describe themselves as a 'premium pub and hotel operator'. I imagine that consequently they were very pleased to win the award for 'Best Accommodation Operator' in the recent *Publican* awards, organised by the *Morning Advertiser*.

Happily, they seem to be retaining an interest in beer. During May, milds from a number of breweries were available at the Harp in Charing Cross. This featured a beer specially

brewed for the event by Dark Star. Simply called Mild (3.5% ABV) it was brewed with seven different malt varieties and only two English hops: Warrior and EKG. Only 35 firkins of the beer were brewed, most of which went to the Harp, although a few firkins may have appeared at other local Fuller's pubs. 10% of the sales went to the Dark Star Foundation which supports causes local to Dark Star's Partridge Green Brewery.

Fuller's have recently reopened the Anglers by the river at Teddington after a significant refurbishment to this 18th century pub. In keeping with our Summer Pubs theme, the garden is our cover picture. The interior has been completely remodelled and a new first floor function room has been added.

Fuller's have a site in Balham on a long lease which was originally the Jackdaw and Rook pub. The site was subsequently sub-let to a restaurant which has now closed down with the property reverting to Fuller's. Curiously, they have applied to Wandsworth Council for a premises licence in the name of Jackdaw and Rook but have also put the lease on the market with agents AG&G. Covering all bases, I presume.

Readers will be aware of the dispute between Fuller's and the licensee of the Coach & Horses in Soho, Alastair Choat, whom Fuller's are trying to remove using a Section 25 notice. The Coach & Horses is the setting for Keith Waterhouse's famous play *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, in which the journalist is locked in the pub overnight and muses on his life and times. As part of his campaign to remain at the pub, Mr Choat is staging performances of the play in the pub itself starring Robert Bathurst (of Downton Abbey fame). Performances run from 7 May until 1 June, so sadly readers may be too late to see it.

Ironically, apart from Wimbledon Brewery (see page 32) the only other London winners at the recent International Brewing awards were Fuller's who won gold awards for London Porter and Frontier.

## WETHERSPOON'S NEWS

**J**DW announced in March that it was selling 16 more pubs, although this time only one is in London or the South East: the Pennsylvanian in Rickmansworth. According to the *Evening Standard* (8 May), JDW have so far this year spent £70.9 million on purchasing the freeholds of pubs where they had previously just had a lease. This is a reversal of the policy of two or three years ago when they were selling the leases of pubs where they did not own the freehold.

For the first time, JDW's most recent beer festival (March/April) featured some beers that were suitable for vegans. There were however no European beers following chairman Tim Martin's decision in January.

The last financial report, for the 13 weeks to 28 April, saw comparable sales rise by 7.6% and Mr Martin said that he expected trading over the full financial year to be in line with expectations.

## NEW CRAFT PUB

**I** was living locally, many moons ago, when the site over the Underground station at Hammersmith Broadway was redeveloped. The development included a Greene King pub, the Old Trout, which I never felt inclined to use. It has recently been closed but I'm pleased to report that the site has been acquired by the Craft Beer Co and initial reports are enthusiastic. It is at the Fulham Palace Road end of the concourse.

## PUBLOVE OPENINGS

**T**he PubLove pub company, part of Ei Group's Managed Investments arm, are refurbishing two pubs and opening another in their growing chain of pubs combined with backpacker hostels. The pubs all also have a food offering. A £500,000 investment in the Grade II-listed White Ferry House in Pimlico has seen the number of beds available increase to 75. The Steam Engine in Waterloo is having an additional floor added at a cost of £750,000 which will provide 80 beds and make it the company's biggest site so far. Next to come will be the Rose & Crown in Union Street, Borough (see page 42) in which they are investing £450,000 and which was due to open in May.

## GASTROPUB AWARDS

**I**n the Pub News column I mentioned the Estrella Damm Top 50 Gastropubs awards. As well as the Drapers Arms, seven other London pubs were listed. The highest placed three were the Harwood Arms, Fulham (5<sup>th</sup>), the Red Lion & Sun, Highgate (10<sup>th</sup>) and the Marksman, Hackney, (12<sup>th</sup>).

## NEW BOSS AT GREENE KING

**T**he *Morning Advertiser* reports that Nick Mackenzie will succeed Rooney Anand as chief executive of Greene King. He joins them from the entertainment company, Merlin, which operates various businesses such as Madame Tussauds, the London Eye and Sea Life aquariums. A qualified chartered surveyor, he has experience in the trade with Bass and Allied Domecq. He is currently a non-executive director of Thwaites, although he will be stepping down before starting with GK.

Mr McKenzie took over on 1 May 2019 but, despite good sales over Easter (up 2.4%), the share value immediately fell, although only marginally.

## NEWS FROM SHEPHERD NEAME

**T**he June beer from Sheps' Cask Club will be Bella Birra, an 'Italian red rye' beer (4.4% ABV) which is a collaboration with Italian brewers MezzoPasso. There is a passport scheme linked to the Cask Club; details can be found at [www.sncaskclub.co.uk](http://www.sncaskclub.co.uk).

Sheps are also rebranding their best known beer, Spitfire, which was introduced in 1990 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Kent's T20 cricket team, sponsored by Sheps, are already wearing the new logo and



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the full 'roll out' will come during the summer, whenever that might be. It will also apply to Spitfire Gold, which was launched to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and Spitfire Lager, introduced to mark the 80th anniversary of the first flight of the iconic fighter plane.

## THORNBRIDGE KEEP TO CASK

Not a London brewery, I know, but this is encouraging news from Thornbridge Brewery. In a press release they have announced that, against the background of a number of independent brewers returning to producing cask conditioned beer, for them it is business as usual. They report 'a consistent demand for quality cask beer' and in

2018 they brewed over 2 million pints of it! This follows expansion at the brewery near Bakewell, Derbyshire, which included extra fermentation vessels with a canning line to follow this year.

## A RIGHT HANDFUL

Carling have introduced a new pint glass which, because it features vertical grooves and is narrower at the bottom, will enable customers to carry four pints at one go. Well, so they say. I would have thought that it rather depends on the size of your hands and if you can carry over two kilos.

*Compiled by Tony Hedger*

## A walk down Union Street SE1

Towards the end of March I decided to pay a nostalgic visit to the pubs along Union Street: that is, more or less, to walk from Waterloo to London Bridge. This is a run that I used to do some years ago when I worked at Norwood Junction; if I came home via London Bridge I would perhaps visit these pubs. For this trip I did it in the reverse direction starting at the Waterloo end.

This made the first port of call the Ring, which sits on the corner of Blackfriars Road and the Cut. It is a four storey building with the pub name and a picture of a boxer on its curved corner. Inside there is one open bar area with a two sided angled bar. It is quite simply furnished, with a wood floor, dark pink upholstered benches along two sides but with rather unusual single tables, and old style chairs to match.

Around the pale green walls there are many pictures with a boxing theme. The original Blackfriars Ring was situated opposite but was destroyed during the blitz. This pub was rebuilt with a gym and ring upstairs, like the original. When I came here 14 years ago I had the choice of London Pride or Adnams bitter at £2.60. Now the range has expanded somewhat to Doom Bar, Pedigree, 3 Sods Mon Cheri, Leap Year and Watney's (from

Sambrook's I believe). A pint now costs £4.60 but it was good.

When crossing Blackfriars Road to Union Street, look up for the dog with its head in a pot! A few hundred yards along Union Street is the Lord Nelson, a rather square looking brick pub decorated with a lot of flowery painting above the covered outdoor seating area. Inside it is equally quirky with almost every inch of wall space covered with colourful posters and pictures and there is even a large picture of Nelson himself. Halfway along is an L-shaped bar, which leads on to a rear seating area. The tables and seating are not surprisingly rather an eclectic mix; the floor is black slate but with a very jazzy carpet in the centre. There are



various flags and oddments hanging from the ceiling. The ale range was a little limited with only Five Points Pale available at £4.40, but it was very good.

Further down on the other side of Union Street is the Charlotte, with its entrance located underneath the railway arches. The pub name is painted in black and white on the brickwork, and going in through the arched entrance and along the wide approach I came to the bar towards the rear. This is a new pub to me; all rather upmarket with prices reflecting this. It has a wood tiled floor, low seating to the left and high to the right, with more seating along the entrance.







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# A walk down Union Street SE1

There are large drapes looking like old Union flags and along the entrance there are quirky animal pictures on the walls. Above the bar there are some very ornate chandeliers, and butterflies decorate the walls. At the bar there were three handpumps, but only one was on, serving Wimbledon XXB. The other pumps had clips for other Wimbledon beers turned around. A pint of the XXB was a round fiver but it was good. By now it had started to get busy, so time to move on.

Next was the UJ (Union Jack), a three storey brick building on the corner with Great Suffolk Street. Some years ago the pub was faced inside and out with lots of old doors of various colours but that's all gone now. I found the current décor rather dark and uninspiring and not very warm; I was not the only person to think this. It did not appear to discourage



customers however. The small bar is towards the front, which at one end leads to a raised seating area and to the other side a carpeted lounge with upholstered benches, settees, chairs and tables. Quirky pictures, photos and a large mirror decorate the green walls. Even though there were people in, I felt there was definitely something lacking. At the bar there was Tim Taylor Landlord and Marston's 61 Deep. I had an average pint of 61 Deep at £4.60.

I continued to what is now Mc & Sons. In 1992 this was the Red Lion and in 2005 the Charles Dickens. The front of the pub is shop width but inside it goes back a long way,

with the bar on the right hand side. The décor is old style wood, with a wood floor and wall panelling, with the walls covered with lots of old framed photos. When I came here in 2005 there were three ales from Grand Union (who remembers Grand Union?) and three from Adnams at £2.50 a pint. I recall it being quiet then but this time it was



anything but, so I would gather that the current owners are doing something right. There were only two real ales available: Hogs Back TEA and 'Watney's' Party Seven, now costing £4.60 and it was very good. The Thai kitchen here seems very popular and there was an Irish band playing. This certainly is the pub to go to around here.

Continuing towards London Bridge and past the site of the Jolly Gardeners (not so jolly now – demolished!) I was aiming for the Rose & Crown on the corner of Ayres St but it was not open, although it has not closed down. To finish the session I headed to the Rake in Borough Market for a pint of something good, like African Blackberry Stout from Cocksure Brewery. It was served too cold for my liking which is a shame because normally the ales here are very good. Then it was time to head to Waterloo and home after an interesting evening out.

**Clive Taylor**

## Tasting extra - Moncada Brewery

The last two years have flown by for Moncada who are now on their third brewery. While running their previous site in parallel, they moved into their current premises in 2017, opening the tap room in 2018. There are no signs of them moving again for a while.

There has been a lot of change since the brewery was set up by Julio and his wife in 2012. Originally it was all cask and bottle-conditioned beer. These days, it is only 15% cask with a quarter small packaging (cans and bottles) and the rest keg, but it is all unfiltered. James, who works at the brewery, commented that cask sales seemed to be picking up again and he has noted the growing number of bottle shops taking keg beers for filling 'growler' take-away containers.

There is a main core of beers that the brewery produces in bottles, cask and keg: Blonde, Pale, Ruby Rye, Oatmeal

Stout and APA, all under the Notting Hill branding which reflects the brewery's original home. Distribution is mainly in London although they do use a number of small distributors plus Eebria for their bottles.



*The Panel in the tap room*

# Tasting extra - Moncada Brewery

Their biggest sellers are Blonde and Pale but Impy Custard stout has been an unexpected success. Sold under the Blueprint range, the label for their experimental beers, this 10.4% ABV Imperial Stout has created great interest and a loyal following. The beer was available in keg in the tap room and fortunately also in bottles for those who prefer to sip stronger beers at home.

Also available in the Blueprint range are Floor Shaker IPA, a little less alcoholic at 6.2% ABV and, at the other end of strength, a couple of keg Berliner Weisse style sours (Pink Grapefruit and Apricot) at 2.7% ABV, providing a refreshing contrast.

The brewery is near the Staples Corner roundabout, (37 Humber Road, London NW2 6EN) close to the Wing Yip Chinese supermarket. Moncada's large tap room provides a much needed outlet in what is a beer desert. It has plentiful seating, a mix of benches and black sofas, plus a table football machine. To find the tap room and bottle shop, walk in through the brewery doors, go up the stairs (to the right) and you will get a good view of this state of the art

brewery. It has a 35 hectolitre brew length plant with six fermenters, three 'bright' tanks and its own bottling line.



The bottle shop (alongside the bar) is open Monday to Thursday, 11am to 4pm and Friday 11am to 11pm. The tap room is open every Friday (5pm to 11pm) and every first Saturday of the month (12 to 9pm). There are other dates so check their website: [www.moncadabrewery.co.uk](http://www.moncadabrewery.co.uk).

For the London Tasting Panel's tasting notes (including on the Impy Custard), visit the brewery pages of the CAMRA regional website: [www.london.camra.org.uk](http://www.london.camra.org.uk).

**Christine Cryne**

## NEWS EXTRA

### MARSTON'S ARE PREPARED!

**M**arston's have prepared for 'Brexit' by stockpiling £6 million worth of beer. Unfortunately, the article in the *Metro* dated 16 May did not say what sort of beer but I assume that it is imported brands. The article also mentioned that the company had announced its annual profit, up by £5.8 million to £19.2 million.

Marston's are continuing to expand their tied estate. Their chief executive, Ralph Findlay, in an interview with the *Morning Advertiser* on 15 May, said that they are looking to open nine 'new build' pub-restaurants and three more 'lodge' hotels this year plus six and three more respectively next year, at a cost of around £50 million. They have introduced a vegan menu, for which they won the PETA vegan restaurant menu of the year award.

Mr Findlay also added that a further £80 million is being invested in its managed pub estate. This follows a strong trading performance by their wet-led managed pubs, including the 15 former Mitchells & Butlers pubs that they acquired in September. Their tenanted and leased pubs are also performing well and the company currently has no closed pubs.

### TOP NOSH

**O**n the subject of pub-restaurants, according to a report in the *Morning Advertiser* of 14 May, a survey conducted by the catering equipment company Nisbets has revealed that Britain's favourite five pub meals are Sunday roasts, fish and chips, steak and chips, Hunter's Chicken and scampi.

### THREAT TO WESTMINSTER PUBS

**T**he plans for the House of Commons to relocate to Richmond House in Whitehall during the refurbishment of the Palace of Westminster could have consequences for nearby pubs. The Red Lion, well patronised by politicians and journalists, is likely to end up behind security barriers. Owners Fuller's, who are in talks with the authorities, told the *Morning Advertiser*, "While we appreciate that works are required, we are very concerned about the possible negative consequences these works could have on such a wonderful, highly successful pub."

Another pub, the St Stephen's Tavern could also be affected but owners Hall & Woodhouse would not make any comment.

**Tony Hedger**



## WHAT IS WHATPUB?

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

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

**WhatPub? Update** publishes news items collated by Greater London branches, often from information supplied through the 'Submit Update' button on **WhatPub**. We aim to report all openings and closures of places that satisfy the CAMRA definition of a pub (including those selling draught but not 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**

**EC1, SERATA HOUSE** (Albion & East), 207 Old St. A co-working space, bakery, distillery, bar and restaurant. 5 keg beers.

**WC2, CHESHIRE CHEESE** (Shepherd Neame), 5 Little Essex St. Reopened after refurbishment.

**WC2, DEVEREUX** (Greene King), 20 Devereux Ct. After a period of closure, this venue reopened in March 2019 as 'a proper pub' under independent ownership. Features such as wi-fi and a large upstairs function room are in preparation. Toasties expected soon! Pride & Ghost Ship + 2 changing beers.

**EAST**

**E1, MECHANIC BREWING COMPANY TAPROOM**, Arch 22a, Cudworth St. 9 taps plus bottles.

**E1, OLIVER CONQUEST** (Ei Group), 70 Leman St. Reopened as part of Ei Group's Bermondsey Pub Co managed division. At least two real ales, one being London Pride.

**E8, BEER CLUB TAPROOM**, Hackney Walk, Arches 7 & 8, Bohemia Pl. Bar showcasing local breweries. Taps and bottles.

**E9, DEVIANT & DANDY TAPROOM**, Arch 185, Nursery Rd. Taproom for the Deviant and Dandy Brewery.

**E9, BREWDOG HOMERTON** (BrewDog), 23 Homerton High St. Reopened and reverted to **PLOUGH** by Tiny Dancer Group. Sharp's Doom Bar, Atlantic and a guest beer.

**E11, SOLVAY SOCIETY TAPROOM**, Arch 223, Madeira Rd. Keg beer.

**E17, COLLAB**, 198 Hoe St. Collaboration between Signature Brew and We Serve Humans, a food vendor. At least 12 keg taps.

**NORTH**

**N15, LORD PALMERSTON**, 197 Philip La. Reopened.

**N17, HIGH CROSS**, 350 High Rd. A gravity beer from Redemption has recently been available.

**NORTH WEST**

**NW1, PACK & CARRIAGE** (Macneil), 162 Eversholt St. Reopened but without real ale and substantially reduced keg offering.

**NW6, KINGDOM**, 229 Kilburn High Rd. Reopened and renamed **FIDDLER** as a live music venue run by Vince Power.

**RUISLIP GARDENS, BELL** (Greene King), 298 West End Rd. Reopened and renamed **MASALA COAL AT THE BELL**, a restaurant and sports bar. Handpumps removed.

**WEMBLEY, 182**, 182-184 Preston Rd. Bar/Indian restaurant originally opened in 1995 in retail premises as a private members club. Now open to all. Usual keg beers.

**SOUTH EAST**

**SE1, BRIDGE HOUSE** (Adnams), 218 Tower Bridge Rd. Having closed in 2018, the pub has been taken over, refurbished, reopened in March 2019 and renamed **RAVEN**, with an extensive range of cask and keg beers, by Bloomsbury Leisure who run the nearby Waterloo Tap.

**SE3, DEPOT** (Young's), 7 Peglar Sq. New build Young's house, in the self-styled Kidbrooke Village development close to the station, opened on 17 April. The pub's name refers to the former siting of an RAF station here, storing barrage balloons, and a mural reflects. Lots of exposed brickwork and ducting with a contemporary ambience and furnishings. Young's Bitter, Special and a guest beer (currently St Austell Proper Job).

**SE10, OYSTERCATCHER** (Mosaic Pub & Dining), Kings Lodge, 7 Victoria Parade. Opened 17 April as the first licensed venue in this building next door to the the Sail Loft pub with superb cross river views and riverside terrace seating. Real ales from Sambrook's and Truman's sold only on the ground floor bar counter. Various keg beers are sold as is tanked beer from Battersea Brewery dispensed from copper coloured overhead containers on both floors. Toilets are upstairs. Bar snacks are complemented by a full restaurant menu including steaks and, yes, oysters.

**SE18, EARL OF CHATHAM** (Ei Group), 15 Thomas St. A changing real ale is now available,

**SE18, STAR** (Dirty Liquor (Ei Group)), 158 Plumstead Common Rd. Reopened but the refurbishment has seen many Victorian features and a rare surviving example of a 3 bar compartmentalised interior lost to make way for a large single room with painted bar brick walls. Two cask ales (Landlord, Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter or Hogs Back TEA) and good range of keg beers from local breweries.

**BROMLEY, LOCK & BARREL**, 18 London Rd, BR1. Bromley's latest micropub, opened 3 May on the site of an ironmongers shop, sells a large cask and keg beer range alongside spirit and wine options. The proprietors are committed to a regular rotation of beers from breweries across Kent and London as well as the odd choice from further afield, with a variety of beer styles expected to be on offer.

**CROYDON, RANDALL TAVERN** (Star), Fieldway, New Addington. Cask ale now available (Bombardier).

**SOUTH WEST**

**SW6, EEL BROOK** (Marston Properties), 65 New Kings Rd. Reopened by Cirrus Inns as **BROOK HOUSE**, a mix of restaurant, pub and bar. Mainly laid out for diners but with some space for casual drinkers. A 3.7% Greene King house beer badged as Brook House is on as well as Old Speckled Hen.

**SW9, GROSVENOR**, 17 Sidney St (ex-Punch). Reverted to **GROSVENOR ARMS**. Residual ACV-registered ground floor and cellar refurbished and reopened in March on lease from Golfrate (Hanna Wakaf) by the publican at the Priory Arms. Taps along the wall behind the single bar offer 5 real ales from small breweries nationwide plus two ciders and 18 British and foreign keg beers. Open from 5pm.

**SW11, VAGABOND (BATTERSEA POWER STATION)**, Unit 12 Circus Village West, Circus Rd West, Phase 1 Battersea



Power Station. An 'Urban winery and kitchen' opened early in 2018, one of a small chain of wine bars also offering some KeyKeg beers in two thirds measures.

**SW11, VAGABOND (NORTHCOTE ROAD)**, 4 Northcote Rd. A new addition to the same chain.

**SW13, TREE HOUSE** (Star), 73 White Hart La. Reopened offering London Pride.

**SW13, WATERMANS ARMS** (Wellington), 375 Lonsdale Rd. A restaurant since 1995, now reopened as a pub again by the people behind the Express Tavern in Kew and Sussex Arms, Twickenham. Cask ale on 10 hand-pumps; 20 craft keg lines. Cider also available.

**SW19, WOODMAN** (Goldcrest), 222 Durnsford Rd. Reopened 27 April, stripped down and refurbished under independent ownership. Sharp's Doom Bar and a By the Horns beer (initially Hopadelic), plus a guest.

**KINGSTON, CANBURY ARMS** (Ei Group), 49 Canbury Park Rd. Recently reopened by operator Pearmain Pubs after a major makeover.

## WEST

**W2, MAY GREEN**, Sheldon Sq, Paddington Central. Canal boat with nine craft beer taps.

**W3, PINT OF HOPS**, 73 Churchfield Rd. New bottle shop in former off licence premises. Four 4 keg taps and a large variety of bottled and canned beer.

**W6, YARDBIRD** (Greene King), 17-18 Broadway Shopping Centre. Reopened by and as **CRAFT BEER CO** in May after a major refurbishment to create a 'modern pub with old-school

pub values and real hospitality at its core'. Up to six real ales on handpump plus 20 keg lines and 50+ bottled and canned varieties.

**W10, REAL ALE**, 97 Golborne Rd. A welcome new opening in North Kensington, this is a sister establishment to outlets in East Twickenham and Maida Vale. Keg beers are available on tap to taste and buy in bottles, by the litre. Planned events include tastings and 'Meet the brewer' evenings.

**HOUNSLOW, BELL** (Craft Union), 2 Staines Rd. Real ale reinstated: Sharp's Doom Bar.

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

### CENTRAL

**EC1, WILLIAM BLAKE** (Stonegate). Rebranded as a **SPORTS BAR & GRILL**. Real ale discontinued.

**W1, AUDLEY** (Greene King). Closed for conversion of upper rooms back into hotel.

**W1, FIFTY9** (Stonegate). Converted to **BE AT ONE**.

**W1, GEM** (Stonegate). Converted to **BE AT ONE** with no draught beer.

### EAST

**E1, WATER POET** (Spitalfields Bars). Closed, whole area scheduled for redevelopment.

**E1W, VICTUALLER**. Closed in November and being converted to a gym. Was **THREE SUNS**.

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**E7, FOREST GATE HOTEL** (Star). Real ale discontinued.  
**E11, LUPPOLO**. Real ale discontinued.  
**E13, ARMY & NAVY** (Newham Council). Closed. Planning approved for demolition and rebuilding as housing.

### NORTH

**N1, BULL** (Castle M&B). Real ale discontinued.  
**N1, DUCHESS OF KENT** (Wellington), 72 Prebend St. Closed.  
**N1, RADICALS & VICTUALLERS** (Castle M&B). Real ale discontinued.  
**N8, WELLINGTON** (Trust Inns). Closed.  
**N12, SAFARI CLUB BAR** (Radia Estates). Closed with lease on the market.  
**N22, JOLLY ANGLERS**. Closed and boarded up.

### NORTH WEST

**NW3, HORSESHOE** (Camden Town Brewery). Real ale discontinued.  
**NW6, BLACK LION**. Handpumps removed.  
**NW6, GREEN ROOM**. Real ale no longer available (but may return in winter).  
**NW7, RISING SUN** (Star). Real ale discontinued.  
**NW9, GEORGE** (Punch). Real ale discontinued.

### SOUTH EAST

**SE1, BOTTLE SHOP**. Closed. Business taken into administration.  
**SE10, THIRSTY DRAGON**. A short lived venture that opened in summer 2018 and closed within the year.  
**CROYDON, JOKER** (Brakspear). Handpumps unused.  
**CROYDON, KEG & GRILL** (Ei Group). Handpumps unused.  
**CROYDON, WADDON** (Greene King). Real ale discontinued.  
**FARNBOROUGH, CHANGE OF HORSES** (Ei Group). Closed for a 'short undeterminable period of time' since late March 2019.

### SOUTH WEST

**SW6, MADDISONS** (Ei Group). Closed.  
**SW11, BABEL** (Faucet Inn). Closed November 2018 and reopened mid-April as 'Archer Street SW11' cocktail bar, replicating another in Soho.  
**SW11, POWDERKEG** (Clapham Leisure). Real ale discontinued.  
**SW19, 601 QUEEN'S RD.** Real ale discontinued.  
**KINGSTON, WILLOW**. 'Closed until further notice'.  
**RICHMOND, WATERMANS ARMS** (Young's). Closed for major refurbishment under new tenant. Expected to reopen late summer.  
**WORCESTER PARK, RUMOURS**. Closed and to let.

### WEST

**W2, DRAFT HOUSE** (BrewDog). Reopened as a **BREWDOG** outlet in March 2019. 24 beer taps include a real ale by BrewDog's definition but no cask beer.  
**W4, DUKE OF YORK** (ex Fuller's). Closed, future uncertain.  
**W9, KENRICKS BAR** (Ei Group). Reverted to **FRANKFORT ARMS**.  
**W9, WATERWAY** (Ei Group). Real ale discontinued.

**HAMPTON HILL, WINDMILL** (Admiral Taverns). Closed, future uncertain.  
**HOUNSLOW, LORD CLYDE**. Real ale discontinued.

### OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & CASK BEER RANGES

### CENTRAL

**EC1, THREE KINGS** (Ei Group). Transferred to Bermondsey Pub Co managed format in February 2019.  
**EC4, BELL** (Ei Group). Transferred to Bermondsey Pub Co managed format in March 2019.  
**EC4, FLEET PLACE** (Fuller's). Renamed **CONDUCTOR**.  
**W1, COMPTON CROSS** (Marmalade Pubs). Now run by Shepherd Neame  
**WC2, CHESHIRE CHEESE** (Shepherd Neame). Reopened after refurbishment.

### EAST

**E1, DRAGON** (Shoreditch Bar Group). Renamed **PHOENIX**.  
**E5, CROOKED BILLET** (Ei Group). Sold by Ei Group to existing pub operator London Ordinaries.  
**E8, HEART OF HACKNEY**. Renamed **HACKNEY HEART**.

### NORTH

**N1, BARING ARMS** (Ei Group). Renamed **POET**.  
**N1, NEW ROSE** (Star). Reopened. Gales Seafarers, Adnams Ghost Ship and Sharp's Doom Bar.  
**N16, BIRTHDAYS**, 33-35 Stoke Newington Rd. Reopened as **BREWDOG DALSTON** after short closure.

### NORTH WEST

**RUISLIP, LOUNGE 10**. Renamed **KHO KHO** (KITCHEN & BAR).

### SOUTH EAST

**SE16, BIANCA ROAD BREWERY TAPROOM** (Bianca Road Brew Co.). Moved from 19 Pages Walk SE1 to 83 Enid Street.  
**SE16, QUEEN VICTORIA** (Ei Group). Transferred to Bermondsey Pub Co managed format in April. Fuller's London Pride and a guest (e.g. Twickenham Naked Ladies).

### SOUTH WEST

**NEW MALDEN, ROYAL OAK** (Mosaic Pub and Dining). Reopened with Fuller's London Pride, Hogs Back TEA and three changing beers include local brews; also keg beers from the group's own Battersea Brewery.

### WEST

**W2, 65 WESTBOURNE** (First Restaurant Group). Renamed **HAYDEN** (Pub & Rooms) in early 2019.  
**W2, PRIDE OF PADDINGTON** (Star). City Pub Company took over as the operator of this pub in February 2019.  
**W5, NEW INN** (Young's). Now run as a managed house. Real ales reduced to Young's Bitter and Special.

For an expanded list of updates visit  
[london.camra.org.uk/londondrinker](http://london.camra.org.uk/londondrinker)

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## ALEX KOVACEVIC

Alex passed away on 24 March. Here those who knew him well pay their tribute.

First, Roy Tunstall, chairman of West Middlesex branch: "Tall in height and in stature, to many of us Alex Kovacevic was West Middlesex CAMRA. He joined CAMRA aged 24 before the Branch was formed in 1974, attended the inaugural meeting at the Queen's Head in Cranford and was heavily involved in our activities over the last 45 years. He was the organiser of 12 Ealing Beer Festivals until 2001, also stepping down as Branch Chair in the same year. He later returned as deputy festival organiser until 2016. In recent times he was Brewery Liaison Officer for Fuller's – a role he had previously undertaken for the short lived but well remembered Grand Union Brewery in Hayes. He worked in the press office at GBBF and on various bars and tombola stands at festivals across London. Outside CAMRA he was chair of Durden Park Beer Circle and set up his own handyman company, Mr Reliable, following the sale of his father's shop, SK Radio in Hillingdon. A keen fan of motor racing, he would often be seen at Le Mans. In more recent years he was known to us as 'Granddad'. We express our condolences to his own family and everyone in the wider CAMRA family who knew him."



John Cryne adds, "GREETINGS! – you didn't need to see the speaker, it could only be the larger than life Alex striding into the room. Sometimes with an odd hat, always with a big smile. When he worked on the tombola stand at our festival, takings soared; customers brought to the stand by his vocal encouragement and bell ringing prowess. It cheered off the nearby bar staff mind but it was sales that counted. From the time when he shared the storage of a glass washing machine used by London Drinker Festival and Ealing to more recent times when he did lots of odd jobs for me, Alex was a true friend. Looks like that back list of jobs won't get done now as I am not sure there is any way of replacing him."

Finally, Georgina Wald, Corporate Communications Manager at Fuller's, said: "We were very fond of Alex in the

Fuller's PR department. He was a lovely man with a very sunny nature – and always time for a chat. He was also an excellent Brewery Liaison Officer. He was never judgemental and always had time to listen to our position and he was understanding of the pressures of modern day business, while still being a diehard real ale fan at heart. That level of balance was always very much appreciated by us, the brewing team and the directors at Fuller's. We knew that Alex had been ill but he always put a brave face on it so we were stunned to hear that he had passed away. We have some great memories and we will all miss him."

## JIM SCANLON

Stan Tompkins writes, "Jim Scanlon, who has died aged 77, played a major part in the development of CAMRA, both in London and nationally from the 1970s. Jim joined CAMRA in 1974 and soon became active in the West London branch. He also worked at the ground-breaking beer festival at Covent Garden in 1975. Jim progressed from the West London branch committee to being chairman of the London Liaison Committee and was elected to CAMRA's National Executive in 1984. He was National Chairman from 1986 to 1988. Jim also served as brewery liaison officer for Fuller's for many years and was also Parliamentary Liaison Officer. After leaving the National Executive Jim served on the Committee of the CAMRA Members' Investment Club from 1989 to 2008. Away from CAMRA, Jim was a keen cricket fan and was a member of the MCC from the 1970s. He also enjoyed canal holidays, overseas travel and regular visits to his native County Kerry. On a personal note, I knew Jim for over 50 years and he was a kind, generous friend and a true gentleman."

Sue Hart adds, "Jim was always a very personable person, very approachable and had a good sense of humour. It is not surprising that he was a very good Parliamentary Liaison Officer, with his ability to converse with people at all levels. He was a good friend to many and will be sorely missed."

## OLAF SCHELLENBERG

Olaf passed away at the end of March. Although based in Glasgow, Olaf supplied imported German beer to the Great British Beer Festival and many CAMRA beer festivals in London. He sourced most of the beers directly himself on trips around Germany and supplied draught products, not just bottles. I think that it is fair to say that he broadened the knowledge of the varieties of German beer available to a new and appreciative audience. Certainly I recall that a number of people used to come to Battersea Beer Festival just to prop up Olaf's end of the foreign beer bar.

Tony Hedger

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



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Well summer is approaching, they tell me, and I must admit that Easter had me fooled into thinking it might be happening. But then we had the May Bank Holiday. But it must be nearly summer – the fire in the Roebuck isn't still alight.

Oh well. Let's have some number puzzles:

- 4 P in a B
- 2 P of the SS have NM
- 8 USPD in O
- 54 TTH of EP
- 12,472 TR by AC
- 240 P for TS in M
- 4 P in a K
- 10 C in a D
- 300 P for a PG in B (TP)
- 2 F (or WF) in a RT

This time I have subtitled 5BY4 'The First No. 1 Ladies'. I was idly (no change there!) musing on what barrel to scrape the bottom of when I thought about going back to the Guinness Book of Hit Singles (I stopped updating in 2000) and I settled on the first ten female singers to have a British No. 1 hit. So here they are with their first hits; can you link them correctly? Please note that these are not the first No. 1 hits by female singers since that would have involved listing a couple of singers twice.

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Secret Love                              | A. Ruby Murray      |
| 2. Little Things Mean a Lot                 | B. Rosemary Clooney |
| 3. (How Much is That) Doggie in the Window? | C. Anne Shelton     |
| 4. My Son My Son                            | D. Kay Starr        |
| 5. This Ole House                           | E. Doris Day        |
| 6. Softly Softly                            | F. Lita Roza        |
| 7. Dreamboat                                | G. Kitty Kallen     |
| 8. Comes A-Long A-Long                      | H. Vera Lynn        |
| 9. You Belong to Me                         | I. Alma Cogan       |
| 10. Lay Down Your Arms                      | J. Jo Stafford      |

And now with a fine display of unoriginality we have some general trivia questions. After not too much despair over what questions to set, I came up with some about landmark buildings in London followed by a few linked to the period of currency of this edition of the Drinker. I put them forward for your delectation and delight (or something like that):

- Who was the architect of Dulwich Picture Gallery? His house, which he designed as both a home and a gallery, stands on the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields.
- The same architect also designed which nationally important building in London, which was replaced between 1925 and 1939 by a new building designed by Sir Herbert Baker?
- Which building, designed by John Francis Bentley in neo-Byzantine style, stands at 42 Francis Street, Westminster, SW1P 1QW?
- Which building, designed by Colin St John and M J Long, is located at 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB?

- Which feature of London Zoo is a Grade I listed building but has been empty since 2004 because it was realised that it provided an unnatural environment for its residents?
- Driving tests (and compulsory 'L' plates for learners) were introduced by Minister of Transport, Leslie Hoare Belisha on 1 June – but in which year?
- The first television licences were also introduced on 1 June, at a price of £2. In which year did this happen?
- The actress, Dame Florence Marjorie Wilcox (nee Robertson) died on 3 June 1986 at the age of 81. By what name was she known professionally?
- Speke Aerodrome opened on 1 July 1933. By what name is it now known?
- Who became President of the USSR on the 2 July 1985? He was preceded by Konstantin Chernenko and succeeded by Mikhail Gorbachev.

And so, with that I shall go and sit in a darkened room for a spell while I try to avoid the party-political broadcasts in the lead up to the EU election. At least it will have happened by the time this gets printed (the election, that is; I haven't a clue about Brexit).

**Andy Pirson**

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

## NUMBER PUZZLES:

- 7 Points for a Penalty Try in Rugby Union
- 5 Moons of Pluto
- 8,760 Hours in a Year (Except Leap Years)
- 7 Noble Gases in the Periodic Table
- 2 Britannias in a Pound (on Fifty Pence Pieces)
- 6,996 Test Runs Scored by Don Bradman
- 4 Gas Giants in the Solar System
- 7 Formula One World Championships of Michael Schumacher
- 49 Tries for England by Rory Underwood
- 6 Faces on a Cube

## 5BY4 (Houses of the National Trust by county):

- Hughenden Manor – Buckinghamshire
- Croome Court – Worcestershire
- Hardwick Hall – Derbyshire
- Felbrigg Hall – Norfolk
- Seaton Delaval Hall – Northumberland
- Dunham Massey – Greater Manchester
- Polesden Lacey – Surrey
- Tattershall Castle – Lincolnshire
- Lanhydrock – Cornwall
- Dunster Castle – Somerset

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- The city in New Zealand which was rebuilt in Art Deco style after it was almost completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1931 is Napier (on North Island).

2. The current Prime Minister of New Zealand (at 1 March 2019) is Jacinda Ardern. (I didn't expect her to be quite so prominently in the news when I set that question).
3. Te Waipounamu and Te Ika a Māui in Maori are respectively South Island and North Island of New Zealand.
4. Still in New Zealand, a kakapo is a large yellow green parrot – uniquely it is flightless.
5. The order of creatures called Sirenia comprises manatees (3 species) and dugongs.
6. Cetaceans are whales. Their two parorders Odontoceti are dolphins/porpoises etc and Mysticeti are baleen whales (such as right and bowhead).
7. Erik Weisz (1874 to 1926), born in Budapest, become one of the biggest names in the world of entertainment as (Harry) Houdini.
8. The people born in the Palace of Placentia were respectively: 28 June 1491 – King Henry VIII; 18 February 1516 – Queen Mary I and 7 September 1533 – Queen Elizabeth I.
9. Built in 1433 and first called Bella Court, the Palace of Placentia was located in Greenwich (where the Old Royal Naval College now stands).
10. The painting in the National Gallery by Paul Delaroche depicts the execution of Lady Jane Grey (the Nine Days Queen) on 12 February 1554 in the Tower of London.

## BOOK PREVIEW

**T**here were no books for review this edition but readers may like to know that CAMRA are planning to publish a third edition of Des de Moor's ever popular London's Best Beer, Pubs & Bars. It is due for release in early 2020. Given the changes that have occurred in London since the last edition, the new one will be a substantial rewrite. As previously, Des is intending to include entries for all London breweries currently in operation.

## LETTERS

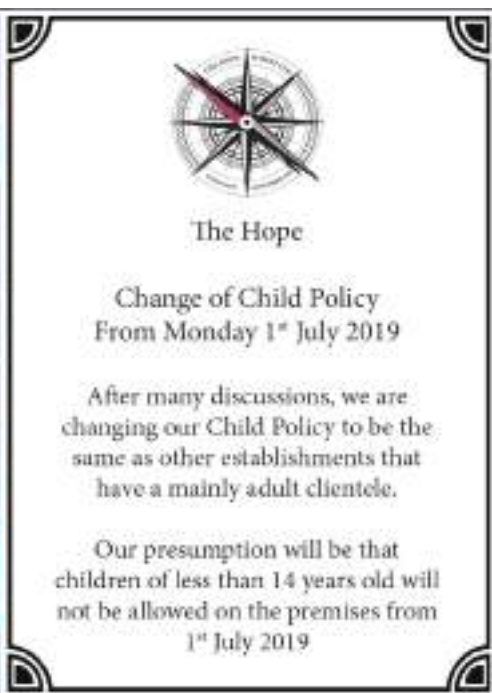
**W**e have not received any for this edition but all readers – not just CAMRA members – are invited to submit letters for publication to *London Drinker* but please remember that the letters column is intended for debate and constructive criticism. The editor reserves the right not to print any contributions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

Please e-mail letters to [ldnews.hedger@gmail.com](mailto:ldnews.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.

*Tony Hedger*

**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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**BEER**  
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LONDON 2019

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Campaign  
for  
Real Ale



# Why should I join CAMRA?

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

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

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

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

Single membership, paid by Direct Debit, costs £26.50 and Joint membership (partner at same address) £31.50. Add £2 if not paying by Direct Debit. Some concessions are available. These rates apply from 1 July 2019. You can find out more at <https://join.camra.org.uk> or search 'join CAMRA'.



## London LocAle scheme

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

Golden Lion 88 Royal College Street NW1 0TH  
Queens Head 54 Windsor Street UB8 1AB

Independent, Sambrook's Junction  
Greene King, beers from among others, Rebellion, Reunion  
and Twickenham

The following pubs have left the scheme.

Duke of Wellington 119 Balls Pond Road N1 4BL  
Hop and Vine 18 High Street HA4 7AN

Frontier Pubs  
Independent, local beers not 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](http://www.london.camra.org.uk).

**SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL**

**FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE • From 5pm, SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> & SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE From 1pm**

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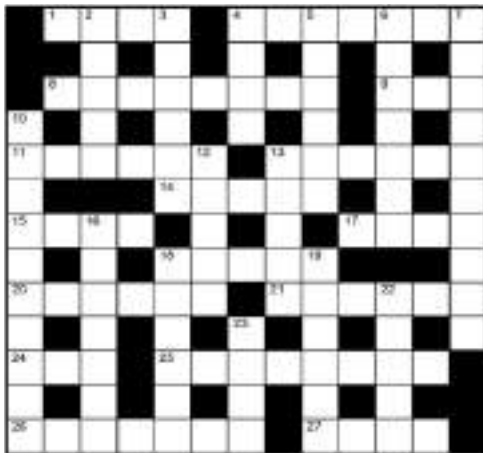
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- LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY 9PM FULL CIRCLE
- CRAFT BEERS
- LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY 1PM DEATH SHEPHERD
- BBQ SATURDAY & SUNDAY
- LIVE MUSIC SUNDAY 2PM TARA HARRIS

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# Crossword

Compiled by DAVE QUINTON  
£20 prize to be won



Name .....

Address .....

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

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

## APRIL/MAY'S SOLUTION



## ACROSS

1. Broken chest. [4]
4. Get hold of old king's fruit. [7]
8. Good, honest beer container. [8]
9. Child's drink. [3]
11. Royals found in New York. [6]
13. He refuses to accept study that is right. [6]
14. Small, friendly host. [5]
15. A cat that's very small. [4]
17. Starts to allay grave robbers' attempt to find a mausoleum site. [4]
18. Crazy British soldiers. [5]
20. Stolen drugs can be exchanged for food. [6]
21. It's built up to accept waves. [6]
24. The present day has nothing but trouble. [3]
25. It's unnecessary to goad skinheads. [8]
26. Give the right name. [7]
27. Went on the grass. [4]

## DOWN

2. Topless relative is free and loose. [5]
- 3 & 6. Film teaches snooker. [13]
4. Try again and again to dance. [4]
5. Song of soldier on the border. [6]
6. See 3.
7. Old bird with a friend on the outside. [10]
10. Run over pheasant. Court action arises. [6,4]
12. Hard work gets women in the chair. [5]
13. Drink before a play. [5]
16. Mail ready to be sent to a remote settlement. [7]
18. Good French material for a hat. [6]
19. It's cowardly to cry out, 'That hurt!' [6]
22. Problem children. [5]
23. Present the woman with a drug. [4]

Winner of the prize for the February/March crossword: Paul Gray, Romford

Other correct entries were received from:

Pat Andrews, Will Barrow, Stephen Block, John Bowler, Tony Bowles, Hugh Breach, Kelvin Brewster, Avi Chaudhuri, Hilary Clark, Richard Conway, Kevin Creighton, Ebenezer Crutten, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Joe Daly, John Dodd, Gillian Furnival, Chris Gilbey, Christopher Gilbey, Nick Goodwin, Richard Gregory, Caroline Guthrie, Ms Gerry Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Peter Haines, 'Shropshire' Dave Hardy, Graham Hill, Chris James, Mr & Mrs Jeal, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Eric Johnstone, D M L Jones, R L P.Keys, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Aidan Laverty, Rosy Leigh, Andy Lindburn, Bill Linskey, Marjorie Lopatis, Donald MacAuley, Ken Mackenzie, James McColl, Derek McDonnell, Pat Maginn, John Manell, Dylan Mason, Pam Moger, Jan Mondzejewski, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Mark Nichols, Gerald Notley, Liam O'Hanlon, Michael Oliver, Stephen Pegum, Alan Pennington, Mark Pilkington, Mick Place, Robert Pleasants, Portrush Annie, G Pote, Nicholas Priest, James Rawle, David Renwick, Nigel Roe, Richard Rogers, Sarah Rose, Alex Ryan, Geoff S, Mary Scanlan, Pete Simmonds, C J Tansley, Colin Thew, Mark Thompson, Jeff Tucker, John Williamson, Mrs V Woodford and Ray Wright.

There were also 12 incorrect, one incomplete and one anonymous entries.

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WESTBERKSBEW

# BIG SMOKE

EST BREW CO. LDN

A close-up photograph of three hands holding tall, elegant beer glasses filled with a golden beer topped with a thick white head of foam. The hands are positioned in a way that suggests a toast or a clinking of glasses. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of green foliage and a person's arm in a light-colored shirt.

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