



FREE

LONDON DRINKER

Volume 41 No. 5
October/November 2019

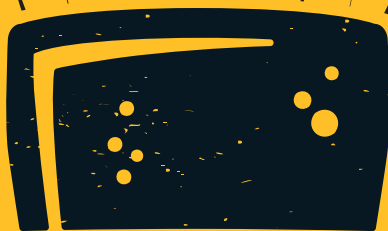


The Blythe Hill Tavern – see page 26 (photo by Michael Slaughter LRPS)

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John Galpin on 020 3287 2966 or mobile 07508 036835;

E-mail: johngalpinmedia@gmail.com.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In line with existing policy (although not everyone appears to have known about it), at this year's Great British Beer Festival CAMRA declined to serve any beers with what it considered to be discriminatory names or artwork. Although CAMRA's stance here is based on its own commitment to inclusivity and diversity, it has wider support. A YouGov survey conducted for Dea Latis, the women brewers' group, found that 68% of those female drinkers who expressed an opinion would be unlikely to buy a particular beer if they saw a sexist advert for it. Such discriminatory attitudes and images are out-of-date. CAMRA national director Abigail Newton said, "Consumer organisations like CAMRA have an important role to play in making women feel more welcome within the beer world. We have already been refusing to stock sexist beers at the GBBF for several years now, but this is the first time we've made such a bold statement. We need to do more to encourage female beer drinkers, who are currently only 17 per cent of the population, despite the fact they make up more than 50 per cent of the potential market. Beer is not a man's drink or a woman's drink, it is a drink for everyone."

Sadly we still have some way to go. The reaction of the Sun newspaper was to claim that CAMRA lacked a sense of humour and listed a number of beers, complete with images, which they said would 'struggle to escape the PC brigade'. This to me smacks of the traditional bully's retort, 'What's wrong with you? Can't you take a joke?' Well, in my experience, a 'joke' which is directed specifically at an individual or group is a not a joke; it is bullying. I also saw a comment to the effect that the policy was a denial of free speech. Free speech, like all rights, brings with it responsibilities which to my mind includes not gratuitously showing disrespect to others. I think that there

is also the question of simple good taste.

As regards beer names in general, I have a fairly minimalist outlook here and would be quite happy if beers just carried the name of the brewery and the beer type, for example Five Points Pale. That, along with the ABV on the pump clip, tells me all I need to know. I do appreciate however that there are historically and culturally significant beer names which I would not want to lose. Hop Back Summer Lightning for instance is named after brewer John Gilbert's favourite P G Wodehouse book.

More seriously, on the wider subject of sexism in the brewing industry, may I recommend an article by Chris Land, the Professor of Work and Organisation at Anglia Ruskin University, called 'Beer has a sexism problem and it goes much deeper than chauvinistic marketing'. You can find it on the academic blog spot <http://theconversation.com> dated 27 August. It makes for disappointing reading, covering the barriers that still remain for women in the brewing industry, including the culture of the industry, sexual harassment, unpredictable or anti-social working hours and even the design of brewing equipment. The findings do not just relate to the larger traditional brewers. It also covers small craft brewers.

Finally, the charity supported by this year's Great British Beer Festival was Stonewall, Britain's largest lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality charity. I'm pleased to say that, on the whole, they were made welcome. After all, they were founded by a group of people who just wanted to use their pub in peace and I think that we can all identify with that.

Tony Hedger

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

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 October and November are listed below. Meetings, visits and socials are open to all – everyone is welcome to come along. A complete calendar listing of CAMRA events within Greater London is available at www.london.camra.org.uk.

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

REGIONAL EVENTS

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

October – Fri 11 (7.30 for 8pm) Gtr London Club of the Year award. Orpington Liberal Club, 7 Station Rd. - **Thu 24** (7pm) Gtr London Cider Pub of the Year award. Kentish Belle, 8 Pickford La, Bexleyheath. - **Tue 29** (8.30) Champion Beer of Britain: Golden Ales Silver award presn to Five Points Brewery. Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, Hackney. - **Wed 30** (7pm for 7.30) John Young Memorial Award presn to Martin Hayes. Cask Pub & Kitchen, Pimlico. - **Thu 31** (7.30) Gtr London Pub of the Year award. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton.

November – Thu 21 (7.30) Brewery Liaison Officers' mtg. Twickenham Brewery, 18 Mereway Rd. - **Wed 27** (7.30) London Liaison Committee (regional co-ordination mtg for London branch reps). Royal Oak (upstairs), 44 Tabard St, Borough SE1.

Website: www.london.camra.org.uk

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

October – Sat 26 East Ham, Plaistow, Isle of Dogs & Limehouse: (12pm) Denmark Arms, 381 Barking Rd, E6; (2pm) Boleyn, 1 Barking Rd; (3pm) Black Lion, 59-61 High St, E13; (4.45) George, 114 Glengall Gro, E14; (5.30) Ferry House, 26 Ferry St, E14; (6.45) Star of the East, 805a Commercial Rd, E14. Public transport will be required at times.

November – Wed 13 (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg. Royal Oak (upstairs), Tabard St, SE1. All CAMRA branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

Website: www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk

LONDON CIDER GROUP

October – Sat 5 (1pm-6pm) Apple pressing. One Tree Hill Allotments, SE23. For more details, visit

http://ianwhite.info/Apple_pressing_afternoon.html - **Tue**

22 Brentford trip: (6pm) Black Dog Beer House 17 Albany Rd; (8pm) Stable (pizza and cider); (9.30) Express Tavern. -

Thu 24 Regional Cider PotY presn. See under Regional Events, above.

November – Tue 12 (7pm) Soc. Southampton Arms, 139 Highgate Rd, Kentish Town NW5.

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

Co-ordinator: Tori Bishop-Rowe,
victoria.bishop.rowe@gmail.com

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



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yeoldmitreholborn.co.uk

CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE 2020
BRITAIN'S BEST REAL HERITAGE PUB GUIDE 2017
MASTER CELLARMAN 2016
East London & City Pub of the Year 2006, 2008, 2010 & 2014
SPBW London Pub of the Year 2013



A SPICY RED ALE WITH A FLORAL AROMA FROM WILLAMETTE HOPS

A COMFORTING AUTUMNAL ALE

Branch diaries

camra-ym; Fb: Greater London CAMRA Young Members Group

BEXLEY

Branch contact: Rob Archer,

branch.contact@bexley.camra.org.uk.

October – Wed 9 (8.30) Mtg. Volunteer, 46 Church Rd, Bexleyheath. - **Sat 12** (dep 10.15am) 2019 Festival workers' trip to Kent Brewery, details from branch contact. - **Fri 18** Spa Valley festival, by rail from Orpington to Tunbridge Wells. - **Sat 26** SE London pubs and micros: meet (12pm) British Oak, 109 Old Dover Rd, SE3.

November – Fri 1-Sun 3 Weekend trip to Cullercoats, Wallsend, for Beer of the Bexley Festival 2019 presn: contact branch for details. - Wed 6 Nov (8.30) Branch mtg focusing on GBG candidacy and surveying. Black Horse, 63 Albert Rd, Bexley.

Before attending socials or meetings we recommend checking as times/venues could change.

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

BROMLEY

Barry Phillips, social.secretary@bromley.camra.org.uk

October – Thu 3 (from 7pm) Beer of the Festival presn evening. Five Points Brewery, Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, Hackney E8. - **Fri 11** (7.30) Regional CotY presn. Orpington Liberal Club Beer Festival, 7 Station Rd, Orpington, BR6 0RZ. - **Mon 14** Chislehurst BR7 soc: (2pm) Gordon Arms, 47 Park Rd; (3.30) Queen's Head, 2 High St. - **Thu 17** Young members (under 40s) soc. Mondo Brewing, 86-9 Stewarts Rd, Battersea SW8. NB. Pre-booking is required via website link. For more info, contact young.members@bromley.camra.org.uk - **Tue 22** Beckenham BR3 soc: (8pm) George Inn, 111 High St; (8.40) Coach & Horses, Burnhill Rd; (9.20) Bricklayers Arms, 237 High St. - **Fri 25** Marden Village TN12 soc: meet 12pm Bromley South Stn for 12:23 train to Marden (change at Sevenoaks); (1.50) West End Tavern, West End; (3.15pm) Unicorn, High St; (5pm) Marden Village Club beer fest, Albion Rd. - **Tue 29** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Shortlands Tavern, 5 Station Rd, Bromley BR2.

November – Wed 6 Brockley & Forest Hill soc: (7pm) Brockley Barge, 184 Brockley Rd. SE4; (7.40) Crofton Park Tavern, 330-332 Brockley Rd; (8.30) London Beer Dispensary, 389 Brockley Rd; (9.50) Blythe Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, Forest Hill SE23. - **Mon 11** Bromley Common BR2 soc: (7.30) Chequers, 177 Southborough La; (8.45) Chatterton Arms, 41 Chatterton Rd; (10pm) Two Doves, 37 Oakley Rd. - **Wed 13** Young members (Under 40's) soc. Brick Brewery, Arch 209, Blenheim Gro, SE15. NB. Pre-booking is required via website link on website. For more info, contact young.members@bromley.camra.org.uk. - **Tue 19** Petts Wood BR5 soc: (7pm) Petts Wood Royal British Legion Club, Queensway; (8pm) One Inn The Wood, 209 Petts Wood Rd; (9.40) Daylight Inn, Station Sq. - **Tue 26** (7.30) Cttee mtg. Graces, 1-3 Witham Rd, Penge SE20. - **Thu 28** (12pm) Dark Beers Festival soc. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton.

Website: www.bromley.camra.org.uk

CROYDON & SUTTON

Social Sec: Terry Hewitt, 020 8660 5931,

contact@croydon.camra.org.uk

October – Wed 2 (8.30) Soc. Old Fox & Hounds, 1 London Rd, W. Croydon. - **Thu 10** (1pm) Soc. Cock & Bull, 26-30 High St, Sutton. - **Wed 16** (8.30) Soc. Skylark, 34-36 South End, Croydon. - **Wed 23** Soc. Sun, 4 North St, Carshalton. - **Tue 29** (8.30) Mtg. Dog & Bull (upstairs), 24 Surrey St, Croydon. - **Thu 31** (7.30) Gtr London PotY presn. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton.

November – Wed 6 Selsdon soc: (8.30) Sir Julian Huxley, 152-4 Addington Rd; (9.30) Golden Ark, 186 Addington Rd. - **Thu 14** (1pm) Soc. Green Dragon, 58 High St, Croydon. - **Mon 18** Purley soc: (8.30) Jolly Farmers, 7 Purley Rd; (9.30) Foxley Hatch, 8-9 Russell Hill Rd. - **Thu 28** (8.30) London Drinker pick-up. Hope, 48 West St, Carshalton.

Website: www.croydon.camra.org.uk

EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch Sec: Andy Kinch, 07757 772564,

elacbranch@mail.com

October – Fri 4 (8pm) Soc. LOSC, Oliver Rd E10. Brewery take over. Doors open 5pm. - **Tue 8** (7.30) Pig's Ear planning mtg. Denmark Arms, 381 Barking Rd, E6. - **Tue 22** (7.30) Pig's Ear planning mtg. Olde Rose & Crown, 53 Hoe St, Walthamstow E17. - **Tue 29** (8.30) National CBoB Silver Award in Golden Ales category presn to Five Points Brewery. Pembury Tavern, 90 Amhurst Rd, E8.

November – Tue 5 (7.30) Pig's Ear planning mtg. Denmark Arms, 381 Barking Rd. - **Tue 12** (8pm) Branch mtg. Leyton Technical, 265 High Rd, E10. - **Tue 19** (7.30) Pig's Ear planning mtg. Olde Rose & Crown, 53 Hoe St, E17.

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk

ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,

contact@enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk

October – Fri 4 (7pm) Soc. Leyton Orient Supporters Club, Oliver Rd, E10. - **Thu 10** (8pm) Spoons Fest. Alfred Herring, 316 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13. - **Tue 15** (8pm) Presn. Orange Tree, Highfield Rd, Winchmore Hill N21.

Thu 24 (8pm) Spoons Fest. Moon under Water, 115 Chase Side, Enfield. - **Thu 31** (Winchmore Hill N21 soc: (8pm) Queens Head, 41 Station Rd; (9.15) Salisbury Arms, The Green.

November – Sat 9 (12pm) Watford Fest. West Herts Sports Club, Park Ave. - **Wed 13** East & New Barnet EN4 soc: (8pm) Prince of Wales, 2 Church Hill Rd; (9.30) Builders Arms, 3 Albert Rd. - **Tue 19** (12pm) Soc. Picture Palace, Lincoln Rd, Ponders End. - **Tue 26** North Finchley N12 soc: (8pm) Elephant, 283 Ballards La; (9.15) Bohemia, 762 High Rd. - **Sat 30** Hertford Ale Crawl: meet 10.30am Moon on Cross, Waltham Cross.

Website: www.enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020 8949 2099, ctaylor2007@freeuk.com

October – Wed 2 (8.15) Branch mtg and Pub of the Year presn. Albion, Fairfield Rd, Kingston. - **Wed 16** Long Ditton to Surbiton: (1pm) George Evelynne. Ditton Hill Rd; (2pm)

WANDSWORTH COMMON

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Thursday Oct 31st 1pm to 11pm

Friday Nov 1st 1pm to 11pm

Saturday Nov 2nd 1pm to 11pm

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FROM WANDSWORTH COMMON STATION

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www.wandsworthbeerfestival.eventbrite.com

Branch diaries

Limping Fox, Rushett Rd; (3pm) Angel, Portsmouth Rd; (4pm) City Arms, Portsmouth Rd; (5pm) Lamb, Brighton Rd.
- **Sat 19** Kingston beer festival workers coach trip to Siren, Elusive and Thames Side breweries. Fare £10 Non-workers £20. Pick up Surbiton 10.30. Book with Adrian 07774 859871 or akpalmer@talktalk.net. - **Wed 30** (7.30) Social evening and presn. Willoughby Arms Halloween beer festival, Willoughby Rd, Kingston.

November – Sat 2 Rail trip to Windsor pubs: (12pm) Duchess of Cambridge, Thames St, then Carpenters Arms, Market St; Queen Charlotte, Church St and several others.
- **Thu 7** (8.15) Branch mtg. Victoria, Victoria Rd, Surbiton.
Website www.camrasurrey.org.uk

NORTH LONDON

John Wilson, 07840 111590, jgwnw3@hotmail.com;
October – Tue 1 (8pm) Branch mtg. Snooty Fox, 75 Grosvenor Ave, Canonbury N5. - **Sat 5** (3pm) Bookworm soc (after Highgate LSI book sale). Duke's Head, 16 Highgate High St. - **Tue 8** Blackstock Rd N5 soc: (7.30) Highbury Barn Tavern, 26 Highbury Park; (8.15) Bank of Friendship, 226 Blackstock Rd; (9pm) Gunners, 204 Blackstock Rd; (9.45) Woodbine, 215 Blackstock Rd. - **Tue 15** Stoke Newington High St N16 soc: (7.30) White Hart, 69 Stoke Newington High St; (8.15) Rochester Castle, 143 Stoke Newington High St; (9pm) Axe, 18 Northwold Rd; (10pm) Jolly Butchers, 204 Stoke Newington High St. - **Tue 22** (8pm) Cakes and ale tasting. Pineapple, 51 Leverton St, Kentish Town NW5. - **Tue 29** Goodge St W1T soc: (7.30) Hope, 15 Tottenham St; (8.15) Fitzrovia, 18 Goodge St; (9pm) Queen Charlotte, 43 Goodge St; (9.45) One Tun, 58 Goodge St; (10.30) Duke of York, 47 Rathbone St.
November – Tue 5 Guy Fawkes soc: (6.45) Tapping the Admiral, 77 Castle Rd, Kentish Town NW5; (8.45) Grafton, 20 Prince of Wales Rd; (9.30) Gipsy Queen, 166 Malden Rd; (10.15) Stag, 67 Fleet Rd, NW3. - **Tue 12** Kingsland and Newington Green soc: (7.30) Talbot, 109 Mortimer Rd, N1; (8.15) Scolt Head, 107a Culford Rd; (9pm) Railway Tavern Ale House, 2 St Jude St, N16; (9.45) Lady Mildmay, 92 Mildmay Park, N1; (10.30) Alma, 59 Newington Green Rd. - **Wed 13** (2pm) Leisure Class soc. Cross Keys, 31 Endell St, WC2. - **Tue 19** Lower Holloway Rd soc: (7.30) Victoria Tavern, 203 Holloway Rd, N7; (8.15) Lamb, 54 Holloway Rd; (9pm) House of Hammerton, 99 Holloway Rd; (9.45) Duchess of Kent, 72 Prebend St, N1; (10.30) White Swan, 255 Upper St. - **Tue 26** (8pm) Branch mtg. Snooty Fox, 75 Grosvenor Ave, N5.
Website: www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

Roy Hurry, 020 8570 0643(h), 07971 316469(m), rh014q5742@blueyonder.co.uk
October – Thu 3 (8pm) Branch mtg, Roebuck, 72 Hampton Rd, Hampton Hill. - **Thu 24-Sat 26** 19th Twickenham Beer & Cider Festival (see page 33).
November – Thu 14 (8pm) Branch mtg inc. Beer Fest debrief. Prince of Wales, 136 Hampton Rd, TW2.
Website: www.rhcama.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Neil Pettigrew, contact@sel.camra.org.uk; Social Sec:

Andrew Sewell, social@sel.camra.org.uk

October – Wed 2 (7pm) Quiz night. Fourpure Basecamp, Bermondsey Trading Estate, 22 Rotherhithe New Rd, SE16.
- **Sat 5** South Woodham Ferrers Beer Fest, Village Hall, 25 Howbridge Rd/Crouch Vale Brewery. Dep. (11:25) from Stratford Stn. - **Tue 8** (7.30) Cttee mtg & soc Talbot, 2 Tyrwhitt Rd, SE4. - **Wed 16** SE16 soc: (7.30) Angel, 101 Bermondsey Wall; (8.30) Ship Rotherhithe, 39 St. Marychurch St; (9.15) Brunel, 47 Swan Rd; (10pm) Mayflower 117 Rotherhithe St. - **Wed 22** SE18 soc: (7.30) Lord Herbert, 47 Herbert Rd; (7.30) Plum Tree, 154 Plumstead Common Rd; (9.30) Star, 155 Plumstead Common Rd. - **Thu 31** (7.30) Redhill Beer Fest. Village Hall, Station Rd, Merstham (1min from Merstham Stn).
November – Mon 4 (7pm) Cttee mtg & soc. Water into Beer, Tara Terr, Unit 2 Mantle Rd, Brockley SE4. - **Wed 13** Borough SE1 soc: (7.30) Rake, 14A Winchester Walk; (8.30) Old King's Head, Kings Head Yard; (9.30) St. Christopher's Inn, 121 Borough High St; (10.30) Trinity, 202 Borough High St. - **Wed 20** Waterloo SE1 soc: (7.30) Steam Engine, 41 Cosser St; (8.30) Pineapple, 53 Hercules Rd; (9.15) Crown & Cushion, 133 Westminster Bridge Rd; (10.15) Stage Door, 28 Webber St. - **Fri 29** (7.30) Bird & Barrel, 100 Barnehurst Rd, DA7 6HG; (8.45) Kentish Belle, 8 Pickford La, Bexleyheath; (10pm) Rusty Bucket, 10 Court Yard, Eltham SE9 5PR.
Website: <http://sel.camra.org.uk>

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Alan Barker, contact@swessex.camra.org.uk, 07711 971957 evenings or weekends only.
October – Thu 3-Mon 7, Branch Weekend to Stourbridge, West Midlands (by train from London Marylebone), visiting local pubs and breweries. - **Wed 9** (8pm) Soc. White Hart, Kings Walk/Argent St, Grays. - **Wed 16** (8pm) Soc. Railway, Station La, Hornchurch. - **Thu 24** (8pm) Soc. Old Dog, Billericay Rd, Herongate Tye. **Wed 30** (8pm) Soc. Plough, 83 Front La/Ingrebourne Gdns, Cranham. **November – Wed 6** (8pm), Soc. Bell, High Rd, Horndon-On-The-Hill. - **Tue 12** (8pm) Travellers Friend, 496/498 High Rd, Woodford Green. - **Thu 21** (8pm) Soc. 40th Rochford Beer Festival, Freight House, Rochford. - **Thu 28** (7pm) Brentwood soc: (7pm) Twilight Taproom (at the Teriss Bar), 5/7 Hart St; (8.30) Victoria Arms, 50 Ongar Rd.
Website: swessex.camra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, mike.flynn@camraswl.org.uk.
Cycling: Geoff Strawbridge, 07813 358863.
geoff@camraswl.org.uk
October – Tue 1 Cider social via 156 bus route (all times are approximate): (7.30) Woodman, 222 Durnsford Rd, SW19; (8.15) Pig & Whistle, 481 Merton Rd SW18; (9pm) Earl Spencer, 260-262 Merton Rd; (9.40) Park Tavern, 212 Merton Rd. - **Sun 6** (12.30 for 1pm) Spread Eagle, 71 Wandsworth High St. Presentation by Geoff Brandwood to mark the inclusion of the Spread Eagle in CAMRA's National Inventory of historic pub interiors. - **Wed 16** (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Old Sergeant, (John Young Room) 104 Garratt La, Wandsworth.
November – Mon 4 Balham SW12 soc: (7.15) Nightingale,

97 Nightingale La, then to include BBC, Hagen & Hyde, Bedford (times tbc). - **Mon 11** (7.30) Branch mtg (PotY 2019 shortlist & GBG 2021 longlist) Phoenix, 348 Clapham Rd, Stockwell SW9. - **Thu 28** (7.30) Open cttee mtg. Sultan, 78 Norman Rd, Wimbledon SW19.

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

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Mark Fried, 07515 414944, branch@watford.camra.org.uk

October – Tue 15 Watford soc: meet (8.30) Pump House Theatre & Arts Centre, Local Board Rd. - **Tue 22** (8.30) Bushey soc: meet (8.30) Red Lion, 50 High St. - **Fri 25** (8.30) Cider Month soc. Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Long La, Heronsgate. - **Mon 28** (8pm) Branch mtg. Estcourt Arms, 2 St John's Rd, Watford.

November – Thu 7-Sat 9 25th Watford Beer Festival. West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave, Watford. - **Thu 14** (8.30) Post-Beer Festival mtg. West Herts Sports Club. - **Thu 21** (8pm) Annual Darts Tournament. West Herts Sports Club. - **Mon 25** (8pm) Branch mtg. Estcourt Arms, 2 St John's Rd. Website: www.watford.camra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton, 07835 927357,

contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk; Social Sec: Stuart Duncan, 07432 132933, socials@westlondon.camra.org.uk

October – Tue 8 (7/7.30pm) Branch mtg. Walmer Castle, 58 Ledbury Rd, W11. - **Wed 16** Wetherspoon/Hammersmith W6 soc: (7pm) Salutation, 154 King St; (7.45) Plough & Harrow, 120 King St; (9.15) Hammersmith Ram, 81 King St; (10pm) William Morris, 4 King St. - **Thu 24** (2.30) At leisure in Whitehall. Lord Moon of the Mall, 18 Whitehall, SW1.

November – Wed 13 (7/7.30pm) Branch mtg. Star Tavern, 6 Belgrave Mews West. - **Wed 20** Soho soc: (7pm) Clachan, 34 Kingly St; (7.45) Old Coffee House, 49 Beak St; (8.45) Crown, 64 Brewer St; (9.15) Queens Head, 15 Denman St; (10.15) Lyric, 37 Great Windmill St. - **Thu 28** (2.30) At Leisure in Oxford Circus. Argyll, 18 Argyll St, W1F. Website: www.westlondon.camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

info@westmiddx-camra.org.uk; Social Sec: Thomas Black

October – Wed 16 (8pm) Mtg. Duke of Kent, Scotch Common, West Ealing. - **Thu 17** Cider Month soc: meet (7pm) Dodo Micropub, 52 Boston Rd, Hanwell.

November – Fri 1 (9pm) Club of the Year presn. Questors Theatre Grapevine Bar, Mattocks La, Ealing. Open from 7pm. - **Fri 8** Soc. Watford BF, West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Ave. - **Fri 15** (7pm) Soc. Area award presn. Queens Head, 54 Windsor St, Uxbridge. - **Thu 21** (8pm) Mtg. Windermere, Windermere Ave, South Kenton, HA9. Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

Electronic copy deadline for the December/January edition is absolutely no later than Friday 8 November 2019.

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

Seasons Change...



... But Quality Doesn't.

webrew.co.uk



CAMPAIGNING AWARD

As mentioned in the previous edition, on 1 August CAMRA's Enfield and Barnet branch presented Gary Murphy, tenant of Ye Olde Mitre Inne in Barnet with a certificate acknowledging his struggle with both his pub owning company, Greene King, and the Pubs Code Adjudicator.



Gary with Branch Chairman, Peter Graham (right) and Regional Director Geoff Strawbridge

The certificate says 'in recognition of challenging the ruling of the Pub Code Adjudicator'. There was a good turnout and we thank Gary for hosting it and, of course, for all the work he has and continues to put into the cause.

Ron Andrews

Editor's note: You can read Gary's story on pages 18 to 21 of this edition.

BECKENHAM BEER FESTIVAL

Visitors to the recent Beckenham Beer Festival raised the wonderful sum of £462.25 for charity through donations of unused beer tokens and cash gifts. Our main charity this year was St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham. St Christopher's have been providing high quality palliative care for over 50 years and rely on donations to continue their great work. We were delighted therefore to be able to donate £362.25 to them.



The picture, taken in the grounds of the Hospice, shows members of Bromley CAMRA handing over the cheque to Adelle Sanders, Community Fundraiser at the Hospice. CAMRA member Nicholas White (far left) also volunteers at the Hospice providing IT support and help with the gardens. In appreciation of his opening the event, the other £100 was given to the Mayor of Bromley's chosen charities, Careplus and the Latch Project.

Paul Graydon

SURBITON FOR THE SUMMER

Members of CAMRA's Kingston & Leatherhead branch voted for the Black Lion on Brighton Road in Surbiton as their Summer Pub of the Season. The certificate was presented one evening in July which happened to coincide with the pub's quiz night. The visiting members formed a team and came a respectable third. Landlord Mark Sheehy was away and so assistant manager, Phil Gorbell, who had run the quiz, stepped in to receive the award from branch chairman Richard Russell.



Richard (left) and Phil

The pub is owned by Young's and Mark has been the tenant for nearly 19 years. He had previously worked at Liam Hoggs in Rotherhithe and then at another Young's pub, the Red Cow in Richmond. Although of Irish heritage, Mark was born just down the road at Sutton. The Black Lion is well known for charity fund raising and Mark also helps to run the annual Hop Festival on the nearby St Andrew's Square. The pub retains its traditional style and is one of the few pubs in Surbiton where televised sport is available and there is also occasional live music. A recent refurbishment, with which Mark said he was very happy, upgraded the kitchen and converted the letting rooms to being all *en suite*.

Clive Taylor

PIG'S EAR BEER FESTIVAL

Looking to try truly unique, delicious beer and cider? Join us at the 36th Pigs Ear Beer & Cider Festival, Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 December at Hackney Round Chapel, E5 0LY. It's a festival known for one off specials and novel twists on favourites made just for the festival; last year a lucky few got to sample a spicy dark beer brewed in special homage! This year will be no exception with brewers hard at work dreaming up new creations and collaborating with the festival team to debut new-to-cask beers. Expect a huge range of cask ales (particularly dark ales), ciders and perries to drink in or take away. You could even do some Christmas shopping at the British bottle and overseas bars which will feature rare and, in some cases, stonkingly strong bottles, cans and key keg beers such as Het Uilje's Staff Sergeant (18.6%). See www.pigsear.org.uk for more information.

Alexandra Hyde

SOUTH NORWOOD BEER FESTIVAL 2020

Croydon & Sutton CAMRA Branch's next annual festival will take place from 6 to 8 February 2020. As last year the venue will be Stanley Halls, 12 South Norwood Hill, SE25 6AB. For those interested in ancient history, this is our 25th event. Previous festivals were three at Ruskin House,



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Croydon (1993 to 1995), eighteen at Wallington Hall (1997 to 2014) and the last three at Stanley Halls (2016, 2018 & 2019). Full details will be in the next issue of *London Drinker*.

Terry Hewitt

ALL TRACKS LEAD TO BEER AND CIDER!

Between Friday 19 and Sunday 21 July, North Weald station on the Epping Ongar Railway (EOR) rang to the sound of clinking glasses and cheers as over 1,800 people enjoyed the seventh and biggest beer festival held there yet. Despite some inclement weather on the Friday, drinkers were not deterred and sampled a good range of ales, 75% of which were brewed within 30 miles of the railway. Over 102 casks were opened, along with 25 ciders and for the first time some British wine.

On the Friday afternoon, Colchester Brewery came to the platform at North Weald to receive a certificate for winning Beer of the Festival in 2018, with their Cats Whiskers Milk Stout.



Mike Woods, Alan Perryman, Roger Clark and Mark Bullock
(photo by Owen Hayward)

This year's Beer of the Festival was Watson's Coco Nucifera, a raspberry and coconut chocolate milk stout. For the first time at the festival, EOR are pleased to also declare a winning cider: Biddenden's Red Love from Kent.

Lastly, this year's festival charity, Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled (RDA), raised in excess of £800. Barrow Farm is situated at Highwood, not far from Blackmore, close to the Ongar end of the line. There, more than 130 disabled children and adults benefit from horse riding and carriage driving. They are currently fund-raising for a replacement vehicle to transport horses and carriages to shows or events. On behalf of the festival committee, we thank our visitors for kindly supporting this worthy charity.

Plans are afoot for the 2020 event and for the season of ale trains ahead. Keep an eye on the news pages of this magazine and the EOR website for more information.

Alan Perryman

STEVENAGE BEER FESTIVAL RETURNS

The North Hertfordshire branch of CAMRA are pleased to announce the return of the Stevenage Beer Festival after a break of a year. An organising committee has been formed and the festival will be held between 20 and 22 February 2020. The venue is the Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre which is a short walk from both the bus and railway stations. We look forward to seeing our CAMRA colleagues at this event. Full details will appear on the website, twitter, Facebook, What's Brewing and the Hertfordshire newsletter nearer the time.

Bryan Bird

News and views

LATE NIGHT LEVY

Redbridge Council further extended their consultation on introducing a LNL to 11 August. A final decision is expected shortly but reader Colin Price has already seen notices that certain pubs are seeking to amend their permitted hours to close at midnight thus avoiding the levy. As reported last edition, Southwark Council have gone ahead with theirs but the level of objection has been such that they have agreed to review it in a year's time.

THE PRICE OF A PINT

I do not normally cover rival publications but the review of the 2020 edition of the Good Pub Guide in the *Morning Advertiser* contains some interesting, if not entirely unexpected, information about beer prices. There are now four areas where you can expect to pay more than £4.00 for a pint. These are Sussex (£4.02), Scotland (£4.03), Surrey (£4.06) and, of course, London (£4.57). The cheapest (or most reasonable, if you want to look at it that way) are

Herefordshire (£3.48), Northumbria (£3.52), Yorkshire (£3.53) and Staffordshire (£3.54).

PUB PROTECTION STRATEGY

CAMRA's Greater London Region has recently updated its Pub Protection Strategy document (version 4.1). If readers would like to see what it says, it is available on the regional website www.london.camra.org.uk/ under Pub Protection.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

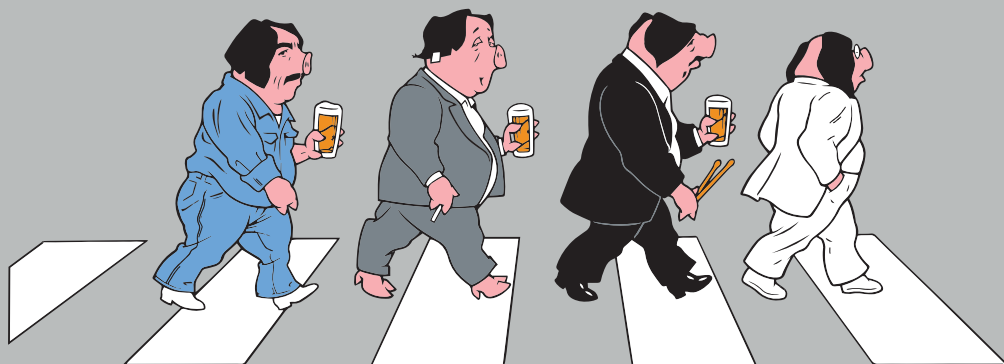
If you are interested in the social history of brewing you will enjoy *Brewing Stories*, a project set up and run by the educational charity digital:works. It focuses on the three Thames side breweries in West London, the Stag Brewery (Watney's) in Mortlake, the Griffin Brewery (Fuller's) in Chiswick and the Ram Brewery (Young's) in Wandsworth, all of whom were major employers. The project is supported by Fuller's brewery, Chiswick Archives, Richmond Local Studies Centre and the Wandsworth Heritage Service.

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There is a set of interviews which you can either read or listen to and some films. Most readers will recognise some of the interviewees but the unsung heroes are worth a listen. The website address is www.brewingstories.org.uk. Many thanks to Roy Tunstall for bringing it to my attention.

... AND FINALLY

An important role for the traditional pub has always been to provide a meeting space for local groups and societies. I was however surprised to hear that the Brighton

branch of the Flat Earth Society meet in a pub called the Globe.

Tony Hedger

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

Pubs Code Adjudicator update

Submissions to the review into the Pubs Code closed on 22 July but before the outcome can be known, the Adjudicator, Paul Newby, has announced that he will not seek reappointment when his four year term ends next May. This may be for the best all round. Mr Newby, told the Morning Advertiser, "The introduction of the pubs code has been a major regulatory intervention in the long-established tied pub model and a business culture ingrained over many years. This has not been an easy task with significant resistance and conflict along the way. Even so, three years on, the tied-pub landscape is different compared to July 2016 when the code came into force, the principal effect being to rebalance the relationship between pub tenants and their regulated landlords, giving tenants greater control over their business and the opportunity to make better informed decisions and the best choices for them. I am proud to have played my part in that."

Nik Antona, CAMRA's National Chairman, commented, "As the first person to hold the role of PCA, we recognise the challenge of the new legislation and awful track record of behaviour by pub companies Newby took on when he was appointed. He and his deputy, Fiona Dickie, have made progress pushing pub companies to waive confidentiality on decision notices so that pub tenants finally have access to vital information when in disputes with their pub owning company. Unfortunately, it is clear that the pubs code is failing. It needs immediate reform to allow Mr Newby's successor to deliver on the intended aims of the code and to finally get a fair deal for tenants. We hope that this will be an outcome of the current statutory review."

The chief executive of the Forum of Private Business, Ian Cass, said, "If anything, the situation has worsened during the past three years, with the PubCos using practices to circumvent the Market Rent Option that would not be tolerated in other parts of industry. In no way have we seen the Adjudicator successfully putting any pressure on the major PubCos to address the issues that materially penalise tied pubs, and it is well time that he stood aside to allow someone else to take over his role and do so. In his parting statement, Mr Newby actually acknowledges that he has not made the progress that was expected and it is disappointing that it will still be a further nine months before he formally leaves the position. We have yet to see a single PubCo genuinely apply the Market Rent Option, nor have we seen any being forced to by the PCA. Put simply, Mr Newby has

completely failed to achieve the principle that 'the tied tenant shall be no worse off than the free of tie' and the principle of 'fair and lawful dealing' is further away than it was at the inception of the Code, as the PubCos use a variety of new, unfair business practices to thwart the legislation. The Forum is calling on the Government to appoint a replacement who will have the experience, integrity and understanding of the key issues, to ensure that the objectives of the Pub Code are now properly enforced and that the unfair treatment of tied pub landlords and landladies is properly addressed once and for all."

On the other hand, Brigid Simmonds, the outgoing chief executive of the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) (the pub companies' trade body), said, "The evidence suggests that the Pubs Code and the Adjudicator are doing the job they were meant to do; regulating the relationship of pub operator and publican. It is still early days for a Code which had no transition period and where guidance and decision making has been slow. On that basis, this review should acknowledge that the Code is a work in progress. The Government and Adjudicator should work more closely with industry and tenants to ensure that leased and tenanted pubs remain a great way to run a business for many generations to come."

It is important that critics of the way that the Pubs Code has been applied continue to highlight the problems because the review must bring about significant changes. In the last edition I mentioned the case of publican Gary Murphy and Gary has now kindly supplied us with chapter and verse, as described on pages 18 to 21. I also mentioned that CAMRA was conducting a survey of tied pub tenants in England and Wales. Some 400 responses revealed significant failures in the Pubs Code in that 75% of tenants reported that they don't think they are treated fairly and lawfully by their parent pub companies, while 73% felt that they were worse off than a free of tie tenant when the code is supposed to guarantee parity. Furthermore, one in five tenants who have legal rights under the Code was completely unaware of the Market Rent Only option which is a key component of the legislation allowing them to buy beer on the open market. Here is Nik Antona again, "We wanted to gain an accurate picture of the views of tied licensees in England and Wales. The Pubs Code Adjudicator currently relies on pub companies to audit licensees' opinions, which we believe has skewed responses. It's clear

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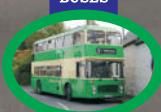
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Pubs Code Adjudicator update

from our survey that there are significant failures with the current Pubs Code. With a new Prime Minister and Cabinet, the ongoing review is the first chance for the new Government to show that they will be taking positive action to support tied pub tenants and consumer choice." The results of the CAMRA survey have been submitted to the Government to feed into the review. You can read the full submission on the CAMRA website at www.camra.org.uk/campaign-resources. Readers who support CAMRA's position here could assist by writing to their MP to draw their attention to what CAMRA has had to say.

I also mentioned the situation as regards dilapidations, the end of lease assessment of repairs. A particularly strange case has come to light, concerning the Fox & Duck in Petersham (TW10 7AD). The case has been reported in the papers, including the *Financial Times*, so I will just give a short account here. The tenant, Priti Biswas, has held an Ei Group lease since 2006 and the pub is managed for her by her daughter Louisa and her partner Colin. The situation became somewhat sinister in 2017, two years before the end of the lease, when Ei claimed that the family wanted to re-assign their lease and submitted a dilapidations bill for £248,000. Louisa insists that no such request was ever made and took her dispute to the Pubs Code Adjudicator in November 2017. As Louisa commented, "We could probably build a new pub for what they wanted in dilapidations. We'd like to go down the MRO (market-rent-only option) route or buy the place but I'm convinced Ei want

us to leave so they can put their own manager in or develop the site for residential property."

The family maintain that Ei had not previously mentioned any problems and had only ever had one inspection. Deputy Pubs Code Adjudicator, Fiona Dickie, intervened and there was a protracted dispute over what records had been kept and which notices have been served although the PCA could not adjudicate because some of the events predated the introduction of the Pubs Code. The family also engaged their own surveyor. The bill was subsequently revised to £110,217, 44% of the original, being £86,000 for the works inclusive of VAT plus fees. Having backed down on the dilapidations, Ei Group then issued a Section 25 notice refusing the family a new tenancy despite their wish to stay on. The matter continues although a spokesperson for Ei Group said, "These allegations are completely unfounded and we reject any accusation of improper behaviour."

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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Do we have an independent Pubs Code Adjudicator?

Two years ago, for the October/November 2017 edition, I wrote an article on the exploitation of the beer tie and how my attempt to break free of the tie using the market rent only (MRO) option of the Pubs Code was thwarted by Greene King. I finished that article by telling you that I was taking a complaint to the Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA).

Here I tell the quite incredible tale of deceit, climbdown, collapse and cover-up arising from that complaint . . .

Deliberate derailment: There is no doubt that MRO has been deliberately derailed in a number of ways.

It was originally intended that MRO would be delivered easily by a relatively simple change to existing leases and a process of independent assessment of market rents. In the event of a dispute arising, a tenant could pay the PCA £200 to resolve it in accordance with the principles of the Pubs Code: fair and lawful, and that a tied tenant should be no worse off than a free of tie tenant.

However, this was obviously not what the Pub Owning Businesses (POBs) had planned. From the outset, they demanded unnecessary and onerous new leases for all tenants who wanted MRO. The only way to dispute these 'unreasonable' proposals is for a tenant to enter into a PCA arbitration which has turned out to be much more lengthy and expensive than originally anticipated. At the same time, POBs demanded that tenants had to pay for a further expensive arbitration to calculate the tied rent for the delay caused by the PCA MRO arbitration.

As it transpires, tenants either need a law degree or they need to employ advisers and experts to get through a PCA arbitration, and the process time for disputes to be 'resolved' has been two or three years in many cases. The PCA has produced no binding statutory guidance that could easily have resolved many of the issues and they do not make any effort, as a court would, to treat tenants as litigants in person with a naturally more limited understanding of the law than the costly POB lawyers.

In addition, the PCA has been unable to give straight answers to any questions asked by tenants or their representatives. Indeed, the PCA appears to have a completely unfathomable hostility towards tenants, the very people they were set up to protect.

The result has been that many pub tenants, like me, were forced to abandon their new legal rights just to pay a fair rent and to buy their beer from where they choose. Put simply, the PCA and the POBs have made it all too difficult.

This strategy of obstruction was made possible because somehow the provision in the original draft of the legislation for an MRO rent to be backdated was removed. This meant that there was no financial liability for POBs if they delayed matters. Indeed, POBs benefit from making it as difficult and as slow as possible because during the delay they hold on to the tie and all its financial benefits to them – and all its disadvantages to publicans.

However, I spotted a problem with their strategy very early on, at mid-term rent reviews in particular. Taking the Pubs Code and my lease together, I could not see how the POBs' obstructive tactics could apply lawfully. This is because most existing leases include backdating provisions that can easily utilise a MRO rent to generate a fair backdating settlement. Further, these backdating provisions in existing leases provide legal justification for MRO being delivered by a simple change

to the existing lease. To do otherwise, and deliver MRO by a new lease as proposed by the POBs, results in these backdating rights in existing leases being sidestepped. This seems undoubtedly to be an 'unreasonable condition' in breach of the Pubs Code.

In addition, it seems to me that imposing an additional and costly arbitration upon a tenant if they choose MRO has to be in breach of the detriment provision in the Pubs Code.

Complaint: I made these points to Greene King during my MRO attempt in late 2016/early 2017, but they would not engage constructively. I consulted lawyers, but I could see no reasonable way around the issues without a long legal dispute while I was still shackled to my old tied rent and with a full tie to Greene King products. I decided, therefore, to agree the best tied rent I could, together with some purchasing freedoms, and, once that was signed, I then complained to the PCA in April 2017.

I submitted the complaint under the general detriment provision of the Pubs Code. It took eight months and some extraordinary correspondence with the PCA for them even to accept that my complaint could be considered under this provision.

I could not understand why the PCA were being so difficult but, looking back, I had made the reasonable assumption that the PCA had understood the Pubs Code. In particular, it seems to me now that the PCA had not even read Regulation 28 of the Pubs Code which had been identified by my barrister as a major barrier to the POBs' approach in relation to mid-term rent reviews.

In the period of consideration of my complaint, I made contact with a number of key tenant campaigners – Dave Mountford and Chris Wright to mention a couple. I started to become active and I managed to muster some press attention for the anomalies that I had discovered. I wrote to the PCA on a policy level as the matters I raised affected everyone at a mid-term rent review. My correspondence was repeatedly rebutted by the PCA saying that I had to await the outcome of my complaint.

Fiona Dickie, the new Deputy Pubs Code Adjudicator at the time, was given my complaint. A qualified barrister, she arrived in post in November 2017. She made some substantive arbitration decisions which had not materialised prior to her arrival. She also wrote some statutory advice on whether MRO should be delivered by a new lease or a variation to an existing lease. This seemed reasonable and appeared to support many of the points in my complaint, albeit the level of clarity was still limited. I naively thought that this would be addressed when she dealt with my complaint.

I was to be disappointed. Extraordinarily, at the BEIS (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) Scrutiny Committee in June 2018, Ms Dickie disparagingly described tenant representatives as 'a few loud voices'. These are people who have spent many years, mostly as volunteers, trying to protect tenants from these big companies and who brought about the change that was supposed to be delivered by the PCA. They deserve recognition and respect for what they have done and continue to do: there is absolutely none from Mr Newby or Ms Dickie.

In addition to the statutory advice that Ms Dickie issued in March 2018, Mr Newby had also previously written some statutory advice in July 2017 that I had not originally seen and had not fully digested until later in the process of my

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complaint. That advice did not support my position at all. When I eventually got proper sight of it – I am not sure when – I immediately knew that it was confused on the interpretation of the Pubs Code, but all I could do was wait for the PCA to deal with my complaint as they would not engage with me otherwise.

Funnily enough, Greene King also did not mention Mr Newby's statutory advice in their defence of my complaint. This makes me certain that they also knew it was legally incorrect even though the Advice Note said that they had agreed it. It is also interesting to read back the correspondence from Greene King's solicitors, as they clearly use language that indicates that they knew that what they were doing was deliberately obstructive.

In terms of the PCA I really do not know who knew what at any particular point. However, I can say that I have correspondence sanctioned by Mr Newby and Ms Dickie that shows an extraordinary level of ignorance on parts of the Pubs Code relating to the issues I raised. It is also evident in the language used in several documents produced by the PCA that they completely misunderstood the relationship between the Pubs Code and existing leases.

Mr Newby's judgment: In September 2018 I finally received the outcome of my complaint. Ms Dickie had washed her hands of it after being arbitrator on it for 10 months and Mr Newby took it upon himself to determine that I was completely wrong.

He claimed that Greene King were fully and lawfully correct; it was not detrimental that Greene King had a policy to ignore the backdating rights in current leases; and it was not detrimental that Greene King were insisting upon another arbitration at a cost of up to £20,000 if I did not desist from pursuing MRO.

When I put it as starkly as this, I'm sure readers will wonder how on earth Mr Newby came to these conclusions as it's obvious that I was being penalised by Greene King for considering MRO but Mr Newby justified it. He is a statutorily appointed lawmaker and judge who defies logic and can determine and deal with issues in any way he chooses. The normal conventions of integrity, openness and transparency of a public body do not appear to exist with the PCA unless you force them upon him with political or judicial intervention.

I protested at both a case and a policy level that the PCA had misunderstood the Pubs Code and how it interfaced with my lease. I even obtained a refreshed legal opinion from my counsel which I provided in full. It highlighted a very clear anomaly with Regulation 28. However, even when faced with a glaring error in black and white, Mr Newby stuck to his guns and closed my case. He also ordered me to pay the maximum amount of costs to Greene King of £2,000. I have not paid that and Greene King has not pursued it with the normal vigour they have for outstanding monies.

I thought about an appeal to the High Court, but I concluded that the detriment provision in the Pubs Code did not provide a comprehensive and clear enough resolution to justify that expense and risk. My legal team, who I could only afford to deploy piecemeal, were also very unsure of the whole picture. I thought, therefore, that I should continue to pursue the issue on a policy level.

In the meantime, Mr Newby was insisting that my arbitration result should be published. This was before he had even published the PCA policy on lifting confidentiality. I said no

because the judgment was legally incorrect and I did not want it to set an incorrect precedent. Mr Newby, however, would not accept my no to the point that I had to threaten him with an injunction to desist. He obviously wanted to close the matter down completely, but I was not allowing that to happen.

The PCA then went further and tried to close down my communications. Mr Newby refused to deal with me or my solicitor on a policy level, even though Chris Wright had appointed me as a representative of the Pubs Advisory Service. It took a letter from my MP, Theresa Villiers, to the Pubs Code Minister pointing out that the PCA, as a public body, had a duty to respond to questions by a clearly interested party.

Following this and within weeks of him ruling against me, saying there was no issue and that he would not engage further, Mr Newby finally admitted on 22 January 2019 that there was a legal anomaly in his interpretation of Regulation 28 of the Pubs Code. He undertook to consult POBs but he would not give a timescale for doing so.

As the weeks went into months waiting for Mr Newby to confirm his position, I got involved in some other PCA cases with other POBs. I could see that Mr Newby and Ms Dickie continued to ignore the anomaly and were making legally incorrect decisions. In one case in particular, solicitors acting for El Group (Enterprise) gave the whole game away. It was not just Regulation 28; there were numerous Pubs Code Regulations at odds with the POB obfuscation tactics. It also became clear that the PCA did not even have jurisdiction for all of the issues and that their statutory advice issued in July 2017 was legally incorrect on a number of levels.

In the continued absence of the PCA saying anything substantive enough for a judicial review, I turned the focus to the POBs on those specific issues which I considered were not, in fact, within the PCA's jurisdiction. I threatened to take El Group to court on behalf of their tenants if they would not explain their position by 28 June 2019. I had crowdfunded some of the funds to do so and I had lined up some tenants for whom I could act.

Climbdown: Finally, on 7 June 2019 the PCA moved. They withdrew their statutory advice of July 2017 and issued new statutory advice that stated the correct position on Regulation 28. This was a huge and humiliating climbdown for them. That statutory advice was akin to a court judgment and had been in place for nearly two years. They had until that point refused to listen to my 'loud voice'.

However, they did not explain what they had got wrong in the old advice, they did not fully explain the new position for tenants and they did not devise any remedies for tenants who had lost as a result of this major error.

I have asked the PCA to explain these matters; other tenant bodies have asked; the press has asked. The PCA repeatedly refuses to do so. Their core line is that they are allowed to change statutory advice. They also say that they are consulting the industry on 'best practice'. But this is not a best practice issue: it's a definitive position and what has happened is a significant misrepresentation of contractual and statutory rights.

There are tenants who have been billed higher rents than the PCA now says are permitted because of Regulation 28. There are tenants who have accepted new leases that they

Do we have an independent Pubs Code Adjudicator?

didn't have to and have lost out on tens of thousands of pounds on backdating. There are also many tenants who have abandoned their rights or who simply did not take them up because the process was misrepresented.

It is unfathomable why a supposedly independent public body would refuse to elaborate on this almighty mess.

Ministers also refuse to comment, saying that it's the PCA's responsibility to manage the Pubs Code. The British Pub Confederation wrote to the Business Minister calling for Mr Newby's head. There has been no substantive response that I am aware of.

I have also asked POBs to explain their position following the new PCA stance and not one will respond. Greene King has even refused to explain to me as one of their leaseholders how the matter impacts upon our lease.

Using the Freedom of Information Act, I asked the PCA to see the correspondence between the PCA and the POBs agreeing the now withdrawn Statutory Advice Note. The PCA has refused and I am having to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

I also asked the PCA if they can set aside my clearly incorrect PCA arbitration judgment so that I can address the matter with Greene King by other means. The PCA refuses to do so and has just referred to previous correspondence. They have not even explained what powers they have in this regard.

There is a complete wall of silence that I know will not be broken until I get a reasonable chance of an intervention from a court. That is not as easy as it seems, given the PCA's role as lawmaker and judge and the way events have unfolded. However, I am confident that we will find a way through.

I have a complaint lodged with Mr Newby's professional body and another raised with him about his conduct of the whole matter. I am also reviewing whether I also have grounds to lodge a complaint about Ms Dickie's professional conduct.

The Statutory Review of the Pubs Code is underway and we can only wait to see what is concluded. I have to say that I am not confident that it will bring about the breadth of change needed to protect publicans and open the POB cartel to smaller brewers.

One thing of which I am certain is, however, that tenants will continue to be let down if there is no change of leadership in the PCA. Tenants and their representatives have zero confidence in them. I find it incredible that either of them can look any tenant in the eye, but they do.

In response to everything that has gone on, the PCA has announced a formal investigation, its first ever, into the stocking requirements of Heineken and Star Pubs and Bars. While this is certainly an issue that needs looking at, there are, as described above, much more significant issues that should have already been investigated in the first three years of wasted opportunity for the Pubs Code.

To me, there is only one conclusion. We don't yet have a truly independent PCA – and we desperately need one to save our favourite tenant-operated drinking pubs.

Gary Murphy, Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet

Editor's note: Gary's article was written before Mr Newby announced that he would be standing down at the end of his current contract (see page 14).

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The borough of **Tower Hamlets** has added 37 pubs to its Local List of buildings of 'architectural, historical and townscape significance'. These pubs are those standing outside conservation areas. This measure is perhaps not as strong as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing although, following the general removal of permitted development rights in 2017, ACVs are not as crucial as they once were and a Local Listing still adds weight to appeals against development, the presumption being that the structure is worth keeping. In any event, to date, Tower Hamlets have only listed six pubs as ACVs. These include the Ferry House (E14) and the Widow's Son (E3), both of which were nominated by CAMRA's East London and City branch.

CAMRA's national chairman, Nik Antona, commented, "It is fantastic to hear that Tower Hamlets has taken concrete steps to protect 37 historic pubs across the East End. Pubs play a hugely important role to our heritage, wellbeing and national economy, from stunning architectural designs that have stood the test of time, to street-corner locals that still offer a communal space for local people to meet and make friends. Using local listings is an innovative way to give pubs extra protection and sets an example that other local authorities may wish to follow. The pub and beer industry supports nearly 900,000 jobs across the UK and contributes £23.6bn to our economy – their importance simply cannot be overstated."

This was echoed by a spokesman for the council who said, "Pubs have been the beating heart of communities in the East End for generations. They are local landmarks and valued additions to the landscape in our borough. Many of those that remain still have their original features intact: a charming nod to a bygone era. Sadly, across the country, we have seen more and more examples of traditional venues closing in recent years and it is right that, where we can, we take steps to protect these heritage assets. The pubs that are being put forward for local listing on this occasion are all located outside conservation areas. By using the local listing process, we are able to provide them with a degree of protection that they otherwise wouldn't be afforded."

This explains why certain pubs are not on the list. Tower Hamlets currently has 130 pubs (75 fewer than in 2001) so this is a substantial tranche but there are certainly others worthy of inclusion.

According to the *Morning Advertiser*, some pubs on the list were drinking haunts used by the Kray twins. Pub protection had a very different meaning in their day.

Back in 2014, the **Black Lion** in Bayswater, which dates back to 1704, changed hands for £2 and redevelopment seemed inevitable. Nothing then happened until 2016 when developers Fenton Whelan (FW) were granted planning permission by Westminster City council to demolish the pub and adjoining buildings and build a £450 million scheme for 55 flats in a nine-story block. The site was in the Queensway Conservation Area and some 1,500 objections were received, including ones from CAMRA, the Victorian Society and Historic England. Council officers advised that demolishing the existing buildings would have a harmful impact upon the architectural, historic and aesthetic characteristics of the conservation area. The grant of permission included so-called 'planning gains' under which

FW would pay the council £8.5 million to help it fund affordable housing and a further £2.5 million towards improvements to public spaces. The project was then vetoed by the Mayor of London, then Boris Johnson. Sadly, the threat has now reappeared. The current mayor, Sadiq Khan, has reversed the decision following an offer from FW to increase the affordable housing payment to £11 million and contribute a further £4.8 million to the Community Infrastructure Levy, which pays for major projects such as Crossrail. Protestors, led by Alastair Lee, have petitioned Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, to intervene and a spokesman said that if Mr Jenrick received an official call-in request, he would 'give it consideration'. Mr Lee, an Australian, is amazed that buildings he admires are facing demolition. As he remarked, 'They're even older than my country'.

Renowned for its jazz, the **Brewery Tap**, Brentford closed under its existing management on 31 August. According to a statement issued by Fuller's, the tenants decided to close down because of the loss of trade and disturbance caused by building works close by. Fuller's hope to safeguard the pub's future and will be consulting with the developers accordingly, but for the time being it remains closed. The pub is raised above street level – the wonderfully named Catherine Wheel Road – as a precaution against flooding from the River Brent. The brewery in question is the Grand Junction Brewery which was adjacent. This was taken over by William Gomm's Beehive Brewery in 1877 and then acquired by Fuller's in 1908. It was rebuilt in 1928 by C E Mallows in the 'arts and crafts' style. Let us hope that Fuller's persevere with this special pub.

Sad news about the **Earl Haig**, Crouch End. Not surprisingly, Haringey Council's planning committee have granted permission for this distinctive building to be converted to a children's nursery. Curiously, the Council decided that rather than being classed as A4 (pub or other drinking establishment), its current use was 'general community' so the Local Plan policies protecting pubs did not apply.

There has been a pub on the site of the **Old Pack Horse**, Chiswick, since at least the 17th century. The current version, which features some splendid exterior tiling, was rebuilt in 1910 by one of our most illustrious pub architects, T H Nowell Parr. It is Grade II-listed and its interior is regarded by CAMRA as being of regional importance. As





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built and in the usual style of those days, the pub was split into a number of separate rooms. Mr Nowell Parr divided one side of the pub by using a distinctive Tudor-style archway. Sadly, the current owners, Fuller's, decided to open up the pub by removing the arch and they replaced it with a somewhat inelegant metal beam, as can be seen in the photo. Note the archway behind the bar. For a listed building, these works required consent from the local planning authority; this was not obtained. The situation was brought to the attention of CAMRA's London Pubs Group whose chairman Jane Jephcote (see right!) notified the London Borough of Hounslow accordingly. They served an enforcement notice requiring reinstatement. Fuller's responded quickly and properly by commissioning a 'heritage technical note' which detailed the remedial works required. Hounslow council approved the plans and issued the necessary listed building consent in mid-August. The archway will be restored in materials matching the original in due course. I'm sure that Fuller's, who own a number of listed and historic buildings, did not deliberately intend to flout the regulations here but I'm sure that they will be reviewing their internal procedures. Our heritage – and the law! – must be respected.

Good news, for now at least, about **the Squirrel** in Maida Hill. As reported in the last edition, the upper floors have already been converted into flats and owners the Cowell Group requested planning permission to do likewise to the remainder of the building by turning the ground floor and basement into five flats. Westminster City council have however refused the application. The pub is included on CAMRA's *Inventory of Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest* so had the proposal gone through, that would have been lost. The Cowell Group have however indicated that they will appeal. The pub has been closed for the last ten months after lessees, Faucet Inn, went into administration. The Cowell Group have a portfolio of properties in Soho, Holborn and Pall Mall and director Adrian Levy was quoted in the *MyLondon.news* news site as saying that the firm had tried for two years to find a new tenant, but with no luck. He continued, "People talk about wanting to save the pub but the local community didn't use it enough when it was open, so it wasn't profitable. We have had the building for about nine years. We didn't want the pub to close down. But if you've got an empty building, what do you do? Especially when London has a housing shortage." Labour councillor Tim Roca, who is campaigning to save the pub, said, "We're relieved the council has backed the community campaign to reject this application and save a much loved local pub. The area has lost so many to developers in recent years despite proof that, if well-run, they are viable, popular places where people come together. We want to work constructively with the owners to see it restored to the thriving local pub it used to be." Westminster City cabinet member for planning, Richard Beddoe, added, "It's vital we do all we can to save this sort of pub from the wrecking ball. Through our new city plan, we're putting policy in place to preserve pubs and all the character they bring to our communities."

The **Washington**, an imposing Victorian corner pub in Belsize Park NW3, recently had a change of management. At this point it was realised that the plaque commemorating its place in CAMRA's *National Inventory of Historic Pub*



Interiors had disappeared. Jane Jephcote of CAMRA's Heritage Pub Group worked with CAMRA's North London branch to put the matter right and Jane was delighted to hand over a replacement plaque to Antonia Orpen, the 'first lady' of this lovely Grade II-listed building which has many surviving Victorian features, such as the Corinthian columns flanking the door, painted

mirrors and mosaic floors. For more details visit: <https://whatpub.com/pubs/NLD/6072/washington-london>.

Christine Cryne

Readers will recall that the owners of the Grade II-listed **White Hart**, New Cross, the Wellington Pub Company, had applied for planning permission to convert the upper floors of the pub into flats, at the predictable expense of the pub's business as a music venue. This was confirmed when the Environment Agency recommended that, were the conversion to take place, sound insulation would be required, opening hours restricted and live amplified music banned. Urged on by the publicans, brothers Patrick and Joseph Ryan, customers and local residents appealed against the application and Lewisham Council refused both planning permission for the flats and the necessary listed building consent. One objector, as quoted in the *Morning Advertiser*, said, "The management and staff working under Paddy have worked wonders in turning around a pub which was virtually always empty into a welcoming, vibrant venue which attracts people from diverse backgrounds who live locally or from further away. It has been a significant success story and it would be such a shame if it had to close."

In our June/July edition I mentioned that the owner of the **Winchester** in Highgate was attempting 'salami slicing' tactics in trying to convert parts of the pub to residential use bit by bit. The subject of the latest scheme was the function room at the back of the pub. I'm pleased to say that Haringey Council have listened to the vociferous local objections and have refused planning permission. Alas, it is unlikely that this is the end of the matter.

Compiled by Tony Hedger, except where credited

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THE BLYTHE HILL TAVERN

The Blythe Hill Tavern, as featured on the cover, has just joined an elite list of fewer than 300 pubs spread across the entire country: CAMRA's *National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors*. This recognises pubs whose interiors haven't changed much in over fifty years or have features or rooms of national significance. The BHT was refitted, probably in the 1920s, and its layout reminds us how things were very different then, with separate rooms appropriate to a more hierarchical society. There are still three rooms arranged round the servery. The only major change has been the loss of the off-sales, now incorporated into the public bar on the right-hand side.



The saloon



The back bar

The survival rate of the fittings, such as the panelling and the benches with their attractive carving along the tops, is remarkable. Interwar fireplaces also remain, notably that in the saloon (left) with a lovely grey-blue tile surround. Heritage apart, this is a delightful, friendly pub for a drink with an awesome range of real ales and ciders. And card-carrying CAMRA members get a 10% discount! All round, what could be better?



The right side bar

The full address is 319 Stanstead Road, SE23 1JB. The nearest stations are Catford and Catford Bridge.

Geoff Brandwood (CAMRA Pub Heritage Group)
with photos by Michael Slaughter LRPS

THE OLDE MITRE



Pubs which are included on CAMRA's *National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors* are presented with certificates to mark their inclusion. Most commendably, CAMRA's East London and City branch have started a programme of replacing those certificates which have been lost over time for some of their best known pubs.

The Olde Mitre is a Grade II-listed building hidden in the alley between Hatton Garden and Ely Place (EC1N 6SJ). It features extensive wood panelling in both bars and the snug. There has been a pub on this site since 1546 although the current building dates from the 18th century. The replacement certificate was presented with due ceremony to manager Judith Norman and her team. This popular Fuller's pub has seven handpumps with two regular and five changing beers. The photo shows, left to right, bar staff Elisa, Francesco and Giovanni, manager Judith Norman and ELAC branch secretary Andy Kinch

THE BLACK FRIAR

This busy Nicholson's pub stands on a sharply triangular site opposite Blackfriars station. It was built in 1871/2 but what makes it so special is the remodelling from about 1905 which created the exquisite facade and specular interior in the now very rare Art Nouveau style. Friars in marble and



brass carouse their way around the pub's interior and exterior and the grotto (dining area) is clad in matched Italian marble topped with Romanesque ceiling gold leaf. A sight to behold! The pub has ten handpumps with three regular and seven changing beers. The photo shows, left to right, bar assistant manager Joanna Pereira, Andy Kinch and assistant manager Ali Yavuz.

Andy Kinch (Photos courtesy of John Pardoe)

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Champion Beer of Britain

As is now traditional, CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain was judged at this year's Great British Beer Festival in August. Congratulations to Five Points who won London's only award, although Surrey Hills are not that far away. The full list is:

Supreme Champion Gold	Shere Drop, Surrey Hills Brewery
Supreme Champion Silver	Afghan Pale, Grey Trees Brewery
Supreme Champion Bronze	Citra, Oakham Ales

RESULTS BY CATEGORY

Mild

Gold	Gravediggers, Church End Brewery
Silver	Malt Shovel Mild, Fernandes Brewery
Bronze	Maggs Magnificent Mild, West Berkshire Brewery

Bitter

Gold	Ay Up, Dancing Duck Brewery
Silver	Hobby Horse, Rhymney Brewery
Joint Bronze	Edith Cavell, Wolf Brewery and Laughing Gravy, Ulverston Brewing Company

Best Bitter

Gold	Shere Drop, Surrey Hills Brewery (overall Gold)
Silver	Trawler Boys, Green Jack Brewery
Joint Bronze	Preservation Fine Ale, Castle Rock Brewery and Darwin's Origin, Salopian Brewery

Strong Bitter

Gold	Afghan IPA, Grey Trees Brewery (overall Silver)
------	---

Silver	Iron Duke, Irving
Bronze	Fallen Angel, Church End Brewery

Golden

Gold	Citra, Oakham Ales (overall Bronze)
Silver	Pale, Five Points Brewing
Joint Bronze	Heart & Soul, Vocation Brewery and Prince Bishop Ale, Big Lamp Brewery

Speciality

Gold	Vanilla Stout, Bingham's Brewery
Silver	Chocolate Guerilla, Blue Monkey Brewery
Bronze	Brazilian Coffee & Vanilla Porter, Colchester Brewery

The following categories were judged at the GBBF Winter earlier this year:

Strong Mild/Old Ale	Excalibur, Tintagel Brewery
Porter	Porter, Calverley's Brewery
Stout	Inncognito, Plain Ales Brewery
Barley Wine/Strong Old Ale	Audit Ale, Lacon's Brewery

From a CAMRA press release

Editor's note: see the Branch Diaries (Regional Events) for details of the presentation to Five Points.



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WHAT'S IN A NAME (AGAIN)?

Young's, who still have the rights to their beer brands despite not brewing them, announced in early August that Bitter will henceforth be called 'London Original'. Given that it is not brewed in London and isn't original, this is lost on me. I am a member of South West London branch, Young's traditional heartland, and the change has not gone down well. As my branch chairman, Mark Bravery, observes, this appears to be more evidence of the edging out of 'bitter' as a beer name. Special now becomes 'London Special'.

Curiously, at the Great British Beer Festival, a banner appeared saying 'Fuller's London Pride – the Original Original'. I don't understand that either, although I'll admit to taking one of the t-shirts that they were handing out.

Following its purchase earlier this year, Young's have reopened the Manor Arms in Streatham (SW16 6LQ) after an 'extensive refurbishment'.

BEER IS STILL BEST

Apparently 2 August was International Beer Day. As part of the publicity for it, data analysts CGA issued a survey, as reported in the *Morning Advertiser*, saying that beer still represents 48% of drink sales in Britain. This is despite sales of cask beer having fallen by nearly 10% over the last year. This is balanced out by craft beer sales rising by over 20% over the last two years. It would be interesting to know what definitions they used. Still, it means that the brewing industry is doing well.

HEINEKEN PUB SALE

According to a report in the *Evening Standard* (27 August), Admiral Taverns are the most likely buyers of the 150 pubs which Heineken put up for sale in July. The price is reported to be around £60 million. The deal would give Admiral an estate of over 800 pubs.

FULLER'S NEWS

Fuller's were in a strong financial position when they sold their brewing operation. For the year ended 30 March, sales increased by 4.9% in their managed pubs and hotels and 1% in the tenanted estate. The company's overall revenue increased by 7% to £431.1 million although profits are likely to remain the same as last year. Interestingly, they are putting more pubs out to tenancy which, according to Chairman Michael Turner, 'remains an essential part of our business model'.

WETHERSPOON'S NEWS

At the end of July, year-to-date sales were up by 7.4%. According to the *Morning Advertiser* however, Chairman Tim Martin has decided that there will be no further openings in the current financial year. The year had already seen five openings and nine closures.

Mr Martin hit the headlines recently by announcing that the price of a pint was being reduced by 20p in all of its 879 pubs. It does however only apply to one beer, Greene King Ruddles Best, which will be available for between £1.39 and £2.89, depending where the pub is and which price band it is in. This arises from Mr Martin's stance on leaving the European Union. Presumably he buys in Ruddles Best at a price that allows him to do this. I wonder what GK's new owners will think.

JDW are however still investing in pubs. The Moon & Stars

in Romford closed in August and is scheduled to reopen in November after a £1.1 million refurbishment which will see a complete interior redecoration and improved toilets. The main new feature however will be a roof garden. An additional 15 full and part time jobs will be created.

MARSTON'S TACKLE DEBT

In order to deal with their £200 million of net debt, Marston's are proroguing their planned investment of £70 million in new-build pubs. Although sales are currently flat, the company believes that it can clear the remaining debt from income generated by its pub and brewing operations, meaning that the raising of £120 million from pub disposals as originally planned may not be necessary.

CITY PUB GROUP

Clive Watson's company now has nearly 50 pubs, including 17 in London. He describes the company as 'predominantly a wet-led operator, albeit one that serves good food'. As he told the *Mail On-line*, they 'target cathedral cities where, in most cases, there is a large student population, lots of tourists coming along and lots of local businesses. But I don't like to be on the high street, I never have done. We prefer to be in slightly off-pitch locations, though still near to the footfall. Slightly off the beaten path has a couple of advantages. Firstly, there are no extortionate rents, while it is also more difficult for a rival operator to set up shop next door'. The formula appears to work. Sales in 2018 rose 22% to £45.7 million with profits increasing 28% to £7.9 million and prospects for the current year also looking good. Given that the hospitality industry is notorious for the way staff are treated, CPG does not use zero hours contracts and all pub staff are on are on a weekly bonus scheme. There is an extra £1 an hour if the pub meets its target, rising to £1.50 if it is exceeded. As Mr Watson says, "At the end of the day, you can have the best pub in the world, in the best location with the best design, but if you don't have the right staff, you'll be found out eventually."

LUNAR CYCLE

The Hunter Pub Company recently opened their first outlet, the Hunter's Moon, on the Fulham Road between the Royal Marsden Hospital and that long lost favourite, the Queen's Elm. The pub, which features 'rustic-chic' décor, is, as you might expect from the area, food-led. The company plans to open a further two sites over the next two years.

BARONS PUB COMPANY

This is another relatively new chain to look out for. They recently acquired two pubs, in Ripley and Woking, Surrey so now have ten up-market pubs out to the West of London. They hope to increase this to fifteen in five years or so.

ODDS AND ENDS

Camden Town Brewery have been appointed exclusive beer suppliers to Arsenal Football Club and their beer will be available at all three bars at the Emirates Stadium.

Shepherd Neame has reached a deal with Thailand's Boon Rawd Brewery to become the sole UK distributor of Singha beer. The beer will continue to be imported. Shep's will not be brewing it.

Compiled by Tony Hedger

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Sorry: I know that isn't original but it does seem so appropriate. In the current climate it comes as no surprise that Greene King, brewers and operators of around 2,700 pubs – including many in London – has been sold. What is curious is the identity of the buyer. I would not have been surprised, although saddened, if it had been AB InBev or Carlsberg but this has come out of left field. The buyer is a company called CKA Bidco, specially created for the purpose by Li Ka-Shing, said to be Hong Kong's richest man, and his son Victor, as part of their CKA Group. CKA Bidco is incorporated in the Cayman Islands and listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange. The reported purchase price is £2.7 billion and CKA Bidco will also take on GK's £1.9 billion debt. CKA Group's business interests in this country already include the chemists Superdrug and the telecoms company Three plus shares in various utility companies and a substantial property portfolio. They also own 162 pubs which they currently lease to GK. The deal is subject to ratification by GK's shareholders at the company AGM on 13 September but given that they are in line for a 50% premium, it is hard to see the majority refusing it.

Nik Antona, CAMRA's National Chairman said, "The news that Britain's largest pub and brewery company has been sold to an international asset company is very concerning for our beer scene. We are always wary of one company controlling a large share of the market, which is seldom beneficial for consumers. Greene King has been in operation for over 200 years and it is a very sad day to see such a well-known, historic and respected name exit the brewing and pub business. We hope that Greene King will continue its operations as normal without any disappointing changes. We will be calling on the new owners to retain the current pub portfolio to safeguard thousands of pubs and jobs across the country."

The non-executive chairman of CKA Bidco, George Magnus, was quoted in the *Metro* as saying that CKA 'saw the brewer as a good buy because it expected pubs to remain an important part of British culture', that they will keep to GK's existing strategy and that there will be no 'headcount reductions'. That sounds promising but CKA is essentially a real estate company and so it is hard to see them resisting the temptation to 'rationalise' GK's property holdings.

Readers may recall that during a state visit in 2015 the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, took the visiting Chinese president, Xi Jinping, to his local near Chequers, the Plough at Cadsden, and introduced him to GK IPA. It has been a leading brand in China ever since. A Chinese investment company bought the pub shortly after.

The chief executive of the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA), James Calder said, "Many small independent brewers have beer on the bars in Greene King pubs. We hope yesterday's announcement won't impact on the choice both landlords and consumers have when picking a local beer. We look forward to working with Greene King's new owners to ensure these pubs continue to have access to the widest choice and quality of beer possible that can only come from small independent brewers."

Taking a wider view, the weakness of sterling has seen investors from China and Hong Kong make a large number of acquisitions in the UK, so this follows a trend. At least one analyst also ventured the view that this might be a good time to move cash out of Hong Kong. GK used to pay substantial dividends to its UK shareholders, not least pension funds who will now lose this particular investment opportunity. There might also be Corporation Tax issues.

Several analysts have speculated that this sale might provoke further takeover activity. Both Fuller's and Young's were named as possible targets while the stalemate at Mitchells and Butlers, where half of the shares are split between rival camps, may be broken.

This is a good point at which to repeat what Tom Stainer, CAMRA's Chief Executive, said to the *Morning Advertiser* following Stonegate's takeover of Ei group, "You always see these cycles of expansion and contraction where you suddenly get an explosion of smaller operators and it seems natural the bigger operators will respond to that by making acquisitions. We have seen a trend recently of big, national or even international brewers starting to buy up smaller breweries, maybe that comes with established craft credentials as a response to the development of the beer market. In all businesses, you see this with the big guys who have the buying power, it is part of their strategy. We may see pub companies eyeing up the Stonegate and Ei Group deal, saying 'we need to compete with that, we need to be of a similar size otherwise we are going to start to lose out'. Changing consumer habits and behaviour is a given and everyone is talking about that. Potentially, consumers have less money to spend and so they are more careful about how they are spending their disposable income on other leisure activities. This means the pub industry has to be much more agile and much cleverer in what they are offering to ensure they are appealing to everyone in society. The industry has thankfully, been talking properly for several years now about diversity and inclusivity. Pubs need to ensure they are getting that right because they can't afford to be turning away about half of their potential customers (male/female divide) by not offering things that appeal to them."

Compiled by Tony Hedger from various press cuttings and with some help from John Crysne




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FIVE POINTS PRESENTATION

Hackney's Five Points Brewing Company won the silver award for their Pale Ale in the London and South East Region round of the Champion Beer of Britain competition. Members of CAMRA's East London & City branch, led by brewery liaison officer Vincent Stops, visited the brewery on a hot thundery evening in July to present the award, the



latest of many, to this popular and successful business. The photo shows Vincent presenting the award to the managing director of Five Points, Edward Mason, and brewer Greg Stork. Following the presentation the ELAC contingent moved on to the nearby Pembury Tavern, now run by Five Points, to sample some of their excellent beers.

Andy Kinch

Editor's note: Five Points Pale went on to win the silver award in the Golden beers category in the Champion Beer of Britain final judging – see page 28. More of this in the next edition.

FOURPURE BREWING

Fourpure have used the investment from the Australian company Lion to open a new tap room in Rotherhithe New Road (SE16 3LL). The bar, called 'Basecamp', featuring 43 taps serving all of the brewery's beers, a shop and a live music area, is open seven days a week. See www.fourpure.com/tap-room-and-tours/tap-room.

FULLER'S (ASAHI)

Asahi Europe Ltd are sponsoring the Best Beer & Travel Writer award in this year's Guild of Beer Writers Awards. Their participation is allowing the Guild to increase the prize money to £1,000 for the winner and £500 for the runner up.

CAMRA Regional awards

CAMRA's Regional Pub of the Year for 2019 is the Hope in Carshalton and the Regional Club of the Year award has gone to another old favourite, the Orpington Liberal Club. The winner of the John Young Memorial Award is Martin Hayes, founder of the Craft Beer Company. Our congratulations to all involved accordingly. The dates for the presentation of these awards are given in the Regional Events section of the Branch Diaries. There will be full coverage in the next edition.

The awards will be presented at the Guild's annual dinner in December.

HAMMERTON BREWERY

After a recent expansion, Hammerton's tap room is now open every Friday and Saturday from midday to 10pm. Their website says that they are also dog friendly and that tiny humans are welcome until 8pm. Food is usually available from visiting street food vendors and there is a 'happy hour' on Friday from 4pm to 7pm when any pint from their core range is £4. Hammerton continue to develop new beers; Crunch, their peanut butter milk stout (KeyKeg), has been particularly successful.

Gerard Tierney

SAMBROOK'S

Congratulations to Sambrook's who won a gold medal at the World Beer Awards for 2019 with their amazing 10.4% ABV Russian Imperial Stout.

MORE AWARDS FOR LONDON BREWERIES

Having won the Glen Payne Rising Star Award last year, Fourpure once again featured in the International Beer Challenge, organised by *Drinks Retailing News*. This time, they took the Supreme Champion award for Design & Packaging with their Pioneer range. Moncada also received a gold medal for their Blueprint Design.

On the beer side, Fourpure also featured here with a gold for their Session IPA. Brew by Numbers were also successful with Chapter 2, an elderflower, barrel aged saison which was a collaboration with Kent's Curious Brewing. The latter went on to win the UK Brewer of the Year.

The Awards have been running for 23 years and feature beers from 39 countries, so competition is fierce. For the full list of winners, see www.internationalbeerchallenge.com.

Christine Cryne

NEW BREWERIES

Ones to look out for are Bowtie Brewers (Watford), Jawbone Brewing (Twickenham) and Ealing Brewing (Brentford). It is reported however that Tottenham based Brewheadz have ceased operating.

**Compiled by Tony Hedger,
compiled where otherwise credited**

Pints at the pump

On Sunday 25 August I paid a visit to the Contemporary Cask Ale festival which was held at Walthamstow's Grade II-listed Pump House Museum. There were 12 casks on offer, along with a handful of beer in KegKegs, plus soft drinks and toasts.

The surroundings of the museum, with its original Victoria line tube train and working machinery, made a great location to imbibe the diverse range of ales available. Local breweries such as Howling Hops, Hale, Pressure Drop, One Mile End and Redemption were all featured. For more information go to <https://e17pumphouse.org.uk>.

Alan Perryman



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London pub numbers

Some interesting figures have been released by the Greater London Authority (GLA) regarding the number of pubs in London. They show that, having reduced by some 25% since 2001, Greater London had a total of 3,540 pubs in March 2018, an increase of ten over 2017. There were increases in eleven boroughs, no change in nine and net losses in thirteen. The boroughs showing an increase were Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Hackney, Harrow, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster. Happily, the number of live music venues, which have proved very vulnerable, has risen while the number of LGBTQ+ venues remained stable for a second year running.

CAMRA's Greater London Region keeps its own figures which are based on slightly different criteria. Consequently our numbers differ but not significantly. The GLA's figures are, of course, net. This means that they hide the point that we are still losing around 100 traditional pubs a year and they are being replaced by brewery taps, micropubs and new developments. We are certainly not getting 'like for like'. As regional secretary Roy Tunstall told the BBC, 'while we welcome new bars, we deplore the loss of the traditional pub!'

Another small scale but interesting development are pubs that were converted to restaurants but in the current economic climate are reverting to being pubs. Two examples of this are the Watermans Arms in Barnes and the Steam Packet in Kew, a former Café Rouge.

The GLA also conducted a survey which found that 74% of Londoners think pubs are important for the capital's cultural heritage while 45% visited a pub at least once a month. Pubs remain a major attraction for tourists with 54% visiting one during their stay, 68% to socialise and 27% to eat.

Mayor Sadiq Khan said he was doing everything in his power to

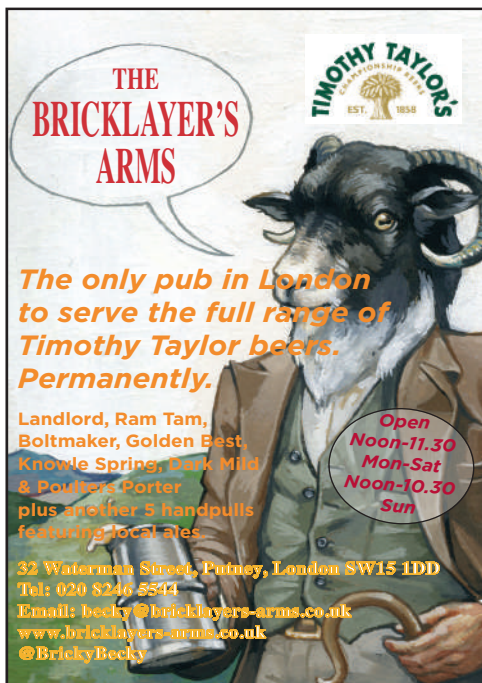
support the pub trade and London's cultural venues and certainly CAMRA's Greater London region appreciates being able to contribute significantly to the draft London Plan, which now protects beer gardens and includes the 'agent of change' principle for soundproofing new developments.

The *Evening Standard* covered the GLA report on 29 August. It was good to see them do so but their comment about the turnaround being down to a 'surge in microbreweries' was somewhat over the top. They did however quote some significant statistics from the report. London's pubs are split almost equally between large pubs (employing more than ten people) (52%) and small pubs (48%). Pubs in London employ around 46,000 people but only 29% of these are paid the London Living Wage.

CAMRA's Chief Executive, Tom Stainer, commented, "We applaud the work that the Mayor's Office has done to highlight the vital role pubs have to play in London, and to call for more to be done at other levels of Government to work to prevent closures. We know that pubs across the UK, and especially in London, have been struggling with unfairly high increases in business rates bills, while a lot of pub tenants are also squeezed due to having to buy beer through their pub companies at high prices. This means that pubs have to raise their prices, which means that pub going becomes increasingly unaffordable for the average person. Stability is absolutely what beer and pubs in London need right now, which is exactly what we will be telling the Chancellor when we next have a Budget. We look forward to working more with the Mayor's Office in future to highlight the amazing economic and social value of the capital's pubs."

If you want to view the figures for yourself, go to <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/figures-show-year-of-stability-for-londons-pubs>.

Tony Hedger



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WINDSOR & ETON – A RIGHT ROYAL WELCOME

There can be no better way to come into Windsor than by boat along the Thames with the splendid views of the castle as you approach but the day was made even more special by a visit to the Windsor & Eton Brewery (WEB), brewers 'by appointment to the Queen'.

WEB occupy a group of units on a small industrial estate where it has been since it was set up in 2010. The project started when Paddy Johnson stayed the night with Will Calvert while 'doing John O'Groats to Land's End'. They were both between jobs and Paddy suggested starting a brewery and it went from there. The brewery's founders were (and still are) a mix of four friends and ex colleagues. Paddy and Will met whilst working at the now defunct Courage Brewery in Bristol and Will met Jim when he was at nearby chocolate makers, Mars. Jim brought in his brother, Bob, who worked at Heinz. The partnership seems to have worked as each person contributed a different skill set. Paddy and Will brought brewing experience, Jim is a process engineer; ('Pretty useful when setting up a brewery' said Will) and Bob's background is marketing. Despite not having a London postcode, WEB were founder members of the London



Brewers Alliance (LBA) and Paddy remains a corresponding member of LBA's committee.

The brewery has the same brew length as when they started (15 barrels) but the number of fermenters has grown substantially since my last visit during the Olympics, when WEB hosted a brewery visit as part of CAMRA London's 'London, City of Beer' event. In 2012, there was some spare space on the ground floor but no longer, with 13 fermenters, a rack of wooden barrels for ageing beer and a mezzanine is used for storing malts.

The brewery have toyed with the idea of buying a malt mill but space and noise have put them off, explained Will although, somewhat ruefully, he noted that it might improve yields. The hops are stored next door in a cold store and, with the exception of the lager, which uses a wet Czech yeast, all the yeasts pitched are dry.

The first beer produced was Guardsman, a traditional British style bitter. This is still included in a range that covers a variety of styles and, of course, there is also the Uprising brand, where the beers are a bit more edgy. These were created by Paddy's son who has since departed for the north and is brewing with Black Jack in Manchester. Regardless of the change in the market, 50% of the beer production remains cask, with a third keg and the remainder, small packaging (can and bottles). These days, WEB brew about eight or nine times a week and employ 30 people. Will commented, "We keep getting a little bit bigger and our aim is to get beer into our own premises but we'll look for 'windfall' opportunities regarding outlets rather than chasing. We are looking for a diverse estate."

The brewery has its own tap room (open six days a week), alongside their shop, the George in Eton and they also supply the Old Court Bar, which is attached to the Old Court

Arts Centre. The latter fits in with Will's ethos, "This is my home town. I want to leave something behind that has been a contribution to the community."

Another good example of this is the Swan pub, near Greenham School. It was listed as an Asset of Community Value but had stood derelict for three years. A Community Interest Company was set up to buy the pub. A quarter is owned by the school, a quarter by Windsor and Eton and a half by the community. The school specialises in working with youngsters who have been excluded or have other issues and has the objective of getting them work ready; the Swan has a 'schoolroom' on the upper floor.



Will introduces the lion to John Cryne

Another charitable activity involves the sponsorship of a lion as part of the Lions of Windsor arts project which supports local charities. For more information on the Lions, visit <https://lionsofwindsor.org/>

So what of the future? I'll leave the last word to Will: "We want to be seen as one of the top regarded brewers through awards, bloggers and drinkers. It's what people say about us that counts."

SMALL BEER, BIG FLAVOUR!

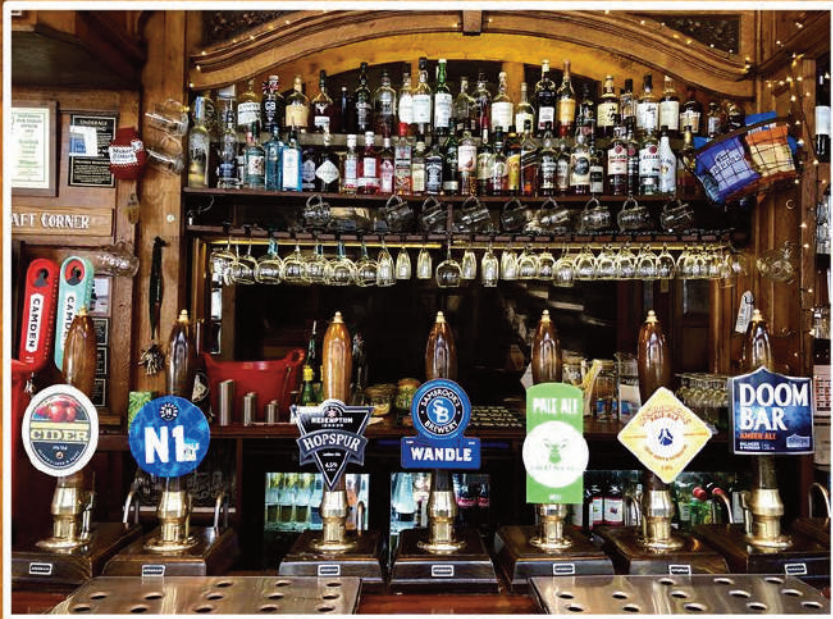
One day in a pub, where all good ideas originate, after a pint or two, Felix James and James Grundy were bemoaning the fact that it was next to impossible to get a beer around 2% ABV. Felix explains, "I was fed up with beers designed to blow your head off. All we wanted was a good tasting beer that wasn't necessarily a mad craft beer." Since that day five years ago, the pair have designed and built a unique brewery in order to pursue that objective. They now brew a range of beers with an ABV of 1% to 2.7% from which to choose.

So where did it all begin? Felix became involved in brewing at Mortlake and then Fuller's but it wasn't beer that brought the pair together; it was gin. The pair met at Sipsmiths, the distillers, where Felix was the head of operations and James was the head of sales. It was playing about on Felix's 1.5 barrel brewing kit every weekend for a year that turned what they both thought was a bit of a joke into something they thought had a future. The next step was getting the money, which they did through a small panel of investors. This enabled them to buy a 30 barrel plant which was not exactly starting small, although their original tiny plant is still proudly on display in the corner and is still used from time to time for test brews.

The brewing kit is housed in a cavernous industrial unit, with a high ceiling, a balcony with a meeting room and another unit next door for offices. It's large enough so that their mini (with its bar) can be overlooked as it hides in the corner and there is plenty of space to hold comedy and music events. "They are really popular", commented Felix; "People can come along, have a few beers and go to work next morning without a hangover". The space has been used for wedding receptions but they don't have a wedding

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licence yet; there seemed to be some concerns on safety grounds about the bride coming down the high steps from the upper part of the brewery in a flowing dress!

The brewery set up is unusual. Felix explained, "The brewery suppliers wouldn't believe my design would work but it does. We only use 1.5 pints of water to brew a pint of beer and we don't wash down like most breweries. It's all CIP" (clean in place). That is not the only unusual thing about the brewing process. They store their beer from three weeks for their Session Pale to eight weeks for the Lager. This maturation reduces the gluten in the beer; all the beers are low in gluten and the Lager is gluten free. The Pale and Lager are joined by a dark lager (their weakest beer at 1% ABV) and a brown beer called Steam, which is their strongest at 2.7% ABV.



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Volume has been growing. It started as 80% bottle; "Selling to upmarket outlets such as the Ivy", said Felix. After a year it was all getting a bit much so the pair brought in Mike, who came down from the Edinburgh Beer Factory to be the head brewer, releasing Felix 'to get on with the finances'. All the bottling is done off site and they are now testing cans.

So is their idea of lower alcohol beer new? Well, history shows it has been around centuries. Sometimes called small beer, table beer or even breakfast beer, these beers are recorded in medieval times as having been consumed daily even by children, because of poor water quality. In the eighteenth century, people involved with heavy physical work would drink more than a gallon a day of this type of beer. It has also been surmised that the beer being drunk in William Hogarth's Beer Street painting (1751), which promotes beer drinking over gin, is actually table beer.

Felix lamented that small beer fell out of favour in the 1950s. Although UK's Mackeson Stout at 2.8% ABV is still around, beers of this strength remain relatively rare. On each of Small Beer's bottles is an explanation that sums up their goals succinctly, 'We are the first designated small brewery to reignite the lost art of brewing classic beers below 2.8%'. With their burning commitment and the trend towards sensible drinking, Small Beer are likely to be around for a while.

Full tasting notes can be found on the regional website on the links in the breweries page: www.london.camra.org.uk.
Christine Cryne

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

EC3, SIMMONS, 35 Eastcheap. Another Simmons cocktail and keg bar opened in September in a listed building.

WC1, DOUBLE STANDARD, Standard Hotel, 10 Argyle St. Hotel bar in the former Camden Town Hall annexe with own entrance in the alley between Euston Rd and Tonbridge St well known to London Drinker Beer & Cider Festival attendees! Keg beer.

WC1, FULWOOD, Cromwell House, 14 Fulwood Pl. Renamed **HORSE & WIG**. Doom Bar now available on handpump.

EAST

E2, TAPROOM BY BETHNAL GREEN, Railway Arch 162, Malcolm Pl. Taproom showcasing local breweries. 24 taps.

E9, GREENHOUSE, Unit 1, 96 White Post La. Canal side bar and music venue. Keg beer.

E10, GRAVITY WELL TAPROOM, Arch 142, Tilbury Rd. Brewery taproom in a railway arch, specializing in pale, hoppy beers.

E14, MUNICH CRICKET CLUB, Unit E2, Hertsmere Rd. German Bierkeller opened in September.

UPMINSTER, UPMINSTER & CRANHAM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB, 316 St Marys La. This club sells real ale: Greene King IPA, Morland Old Golden Hen and a changing beer.

NORTH

N1C, LITTLE CREATURES, 1 Lewis Cubitt Walk. Australian brewers now brewing in King's Cross. Keg beers brewed on the premises.

PONDERS END, ENFIELD HIGHWAY CONSERVATIVE CLUB, 652 Hertford Rd. Real ale confirmed as available: Greene King IPA

NORTH WEST

EDGWARE, MASONS ARMS (Milegate), 75 High St. Pub was erroneously reported as closed. It is open and has been subtitled Clubul Romanesc since 2012.

SOUTH EAST

SE5, PIGEON (Anspach & Hobday), 41 Camberwell Church St. Local brewery Anspach & Hobday opened this bar in late summer 2018 in a former cycle shop. 10 keg beer taps dispensing its own beers and those of 'its favourite brewing friends', also sells wine and gin. Snacks are available and the pub encourages customers to bring in their own food from local catering establishments. No cask ales sold.

SE10, ADMIRAL HARDY, 7 College App. Reopened by Mosaic Pubs & Dining in July. Typical beers include West Berks Good Old Boy, Oakham Citra and the ubiquitous Doom Bar as well as a craft keg range plus bottles and cans.

SE10, GREENWICH TOWN SOCIAL CLUB, 10 Blackwall La. A new social club opened in May as a replacement for the original which was demolished in 2016. Keg beers predominantly from Shepherd Neame.

SE18, PLUM TREE, 154 Plumstead Common Rd. Shop conversion micropub and bottle shop opened in July. Real ales and ciders/perries on gravity dispense from a temperature controlled cellar room. Also 6 keg taps on the back wall behind the bar counter. Initially 5 cask ales but now 4 or often 3.

SE25, ALLIANCE, 91 High St. Reopened as **TRUDE** on 21 August 2019, after nearly a decade of closure. No draught beers available.

BROMLEY, SHORTLANDS GOLF CLUB, Meadow Rd. Real ale has been introduced. Greene King IPA and Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter.

COULSDON, VICTORIA CLUB, 9 Victoria Rd. Two changing real ales.

SOUTH WEST

SW1, LOW SLOW & JUKE (Marston's), 1 Abbey Orchard St. Reopened and taken over by **MUNICH CRICKET CLUB** following the move one block east!

SW4, MONGOLIAN GRILL HOT POT RESTAURANT & BAR, (Ei Group), 29 North St. Reopened by Clapham Leisure as the **OLD TOWN TAVERN** with mostly London keg beers dispensed from 20 taps. Pints £5.50, halves £3, card payments only. Was once NORTH STAR

SW19, WILLIAM MORRIS (Amtel Sheem Ltd), 20 Watermill Way. Real ale duly reinstalled: Doom Bar plus one guest sourced nationally, e.g. Sharp's Cornish Coaster.

WEST

W4, DOME, 85 Strand on the Green, W4 3PU. Having become a Café Rouge in 2005, reverted to a pub under its original name **STEAM PACKET** by Brunning & Price subsidiary Food & Fuel. Initial real ales include beers from Sambrook's, Truman's and Twickenham.

W6, CHEZ MAISS, Broadway Shopping Centre West, Unit 21a-22b, Hammersmith Broadway. Two keg beers.

W6, KINDRED Bradmore House, Queen Caroline St. Combined café, bar, restaurant, live events space, meeting room and co-working venue in an imposing building in the newly refurbished courtyard area of the Hammersmith Broadway station shopping complex. Downstairs area open to the public has a range of keg beers on draught.

SOUTHALL, HAMBROUGH TAVERN. Reopened.

TWICKENHAM, RIFLEMAN (Tavern Propco), 7 Fourth Cross Rd, TW2 5EL. Reopened by Twickenham Brewery as TFA pubs. Three Twickenham real ales and two guests.

PUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, DEMOLISHED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, JAMIES ITALIAN (Jamie Oliver), 409-411 St John St. Closed by Administrator, May 2019.

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EC1, LOUNGE 33. Demolished earlier this year. Was HOLBORN COLONY.

EC2, PITT CUE (Tavern Restaurants). Closed.

EC2, WATERMARK CLUB. Became a Sushi restaurant in 2016 having been vacant for a couple of years.

EC3, CITY SPORTS PUB & GRILL. Reported closed in 2017, became a Vape Shop in February 2019.

EC3, IIAD. Having closed in 2012 following a licence review, demolished c.2018 for new offices with commercial use at ground floor.

EC4, DADO54 (Establishment Hm). Closed.

W1, JEWEL BAR (Novus Leisure), 4-6 Glasshouse St. Closed for demolition.

W1, KINGS ARMS (McMullen), 68 Great Titchfield St. Closed and being converted to managed, including 5 letting rooms

WC2, MABEL'S (Novus Leisure). Closed.

WC2, RETRO BAR (Stonegate). No real ale. Was GEORGE.

WC2, YO! TO GO (SSP), Charing Cross Station. Closed.

EAST

E1W, SLUG & LETTUCE (Stonegate). No real ale.

E1, INDO (Acme Bars Ltd). Closed.

E3, MULLER & BRIGGS. Closed not long after opening.

E6, EAST HAM WORKING MENS CLUB. Closed for demolition. New club planned in ground floor of 5 storey residential development on this site.

E18, SLUG & LETTUCE (Stonegate). No real ale.

BARKING, FRANKIE & BENNY'S (Restaurant Group). Leisure park restaurant and bar closed and for lease.

ROMFORD, DURHAM ARMS, Closed, future uncertain.

NORTH

N3, INTIMATE ISLAND INN. Closed.

N4, HAPPY MAN. Closed, likely to be demolished in the next stage of the Woodberry Down development.

N12, TOOLANS. Handpumps removed.

N16, HAUNT (Counterculture Bars Ltd). Closed September 2018, future uncertain.

N16, STOKEY BEARS (Remedy Bars). Erroneously reported to have reopened as Original Sin which was the existent basement cocktail bar. Pub remains closed.

N17, ELMHURST (Star). Closed following tenant going into receivership.

N21, GRYPHON (M&B). As in all London Harvesters, real ale discontinued in June.

HIGH BARNET, AFTER OFFICE HOURS. Finally demolished. We hope a new bar will appear on the ground floor of a new residential development.

PONDERS END, ENFIELD HIGHWAY WORKING MENS CLUB. Closed. Planning granted to demolish and replace with residential and a new social club on the ground floor.

NORTH WEST

NW1, GOOD MIXER (Max Barney Pub Company). Handpumps removed.

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NW1, LOCK TAVERN (East London Pub Co). Handpump removed.

NW1, MONARCH (Camden Bars). Handpump removed.

NW1, SHAKER & COMPANY (Admiral Taverns). No real ale or real cider.

EDGWARE, JOLLY BADGER (M&B). As in all London Harvesters, real ale discontinued in June

WEMBLEY, PING PONG. Closed, lease for sale.

SOUTH EAST

SE1, CROWN (Wellington), 108 Blackfriars Rd. No real ale

SE1, THOMAS ABECKET (Max Barney Pub Company). Having closed in spring 2018, reopened as a Viet quan restaurant May 2019.

SE6, CATFORD CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB (Antic). Closed having been given 7 days' notice by LB Lewisham.

SE6, PERRY HILL. No real ale.

SE8, ROYAL GEORGE (Samuel Smith). Closed and on the market.

SE15, HOLLYDALE TAVERN (Wellington). Closed. Planning application submitted to change upper floors to residential use.

SE18, PLUME OF FEATHERS. Sold by Ei Group to Dhadda Estates Limited. Closed. Intentions unknown.

SE26, RAILWAY TAVERN. No real ale.

CROYDON, LUNA (Stonegate). Closed in January.

SOUTH WEST

SW1, SPORTS BAR & GRILL VICTORIA (Stonegate). No real ale since March refurbishment.

SW1, WILTON ARMS (Shepherd Neame). Closed early July due to rent increase. The freeholder is seeking a new leaseholder.

SW4, 55 AT THE OAK. Closed for conversion to Tropix, a restaurant and cocktail bar.

SW8, BATTERSEA BARGE. Closed for duration of sewerage works. Was not a pub but a cabaret and party venue.

SW9, EKCOVISION, (Antic). Closed and boarded up since October 2016.

SW11, SLUG & LETTUCE (Stonegate), 4 St Johns Hill. Rebranded as a **SPORTS BAR & GRILL** in April 2019 with no real ale.

SW11, WE BROUGHT BEER. Closed April due to rent increase. Lease on the market.

SW12, FOXLOW. Closed due to refocusing of business.

SW18, VIEW 94. Closed and for sale.

CARSHALTON, PALMERSTON (Ei Group). Closed, lease for sale.

KINGSTON, CRICKETERS. No real ale.

RICHMOND, PITCHER & PIANO (Marston's). No real ale.

WEST SUTTON, GANDER (Stonegate). No real ale.

WEST

W9, WINDSOR CASTLE (Admiral Taverns), 3 Lanark Pl. Reported closed and gutted with lease for sale.

W9, WINDSOR CASTLE (Wellington), 309-311 Harrow Rd. Planning finally granted to extend and convert to student accommodation with dual A1/A3 use on ground floor.

W13, BLACK GEORGE. Closed, future uncertain.

BRENTFORD, BREWERY TAP (Fuller's). Closed because of Brentford redevelopment. Future uncertain.

HAYES, BLUE LAGOON (ex-Enterprise). Planning granted 2019 for change of use to residential. Was GRANGE.

HAYES END, CARPENTERS (Greene King). Closed following sale to 'fledgling pub company' Friends Tavern. We hope will reopen soon.

NORWOOD GREEN, LAMB. Closed for redevelopment inc. four hotel rooms.

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & CASK BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

EC2, BLUEBERRY BAR & KITCHEN. Renamed **SINK PONG**. Rebranded again with 10 table tennis tables.

EC2, SALT POINT BAR (Davy's). Renamed TAPSTER, still keg only.

EC3, CITY ZEBRANO. Renamed **DABBERS**, a 'modern bingo' establishment! No cask but keg beers include Lost Lager, Punk IPA, Dead Pony Club Session IPA and Hop Rocker India Pale Lager.

EC3, JAMIES (Kornicis), 119-121 The Minories. Renamed **CROSSWALL**, still keg only.

EC3, PAUSE (Swizzlestick Bars). Renamed **PATCH**.

WC1, HARRISON (Independent). Now LocAle accredited.

W1, GRAPHIC BAR (Urban Leisure Group). Became another **SIMMONS**.

W1, SOHO KITCHEN & BAR (Soho House). Renamed **CECCONI'S PIZZA BAR** in 2018.

W1, ZEBRANO. Renamed **JAKATA**. Still serves two draught keg beers.

EAST

E2, OLD GEORGE (Ei Group). Now under Bermondsey Pub Co format.

E2, REDCHURCH BREWERY. Renamed **SUNDAYS BREW CO TAPROOM**. Keg beer from the brewery available.

E6, TOLLGATE TAVERN (Greene King). Renamed **SHEPHERD'S INN** and operated by Beckton Tavern Limited. Now a large Lithuanian bar/restaurant with all tables laid for diners. No real ale, but four rarely seen Lithuanian keg beers available.

E8, AUTUMN YARD. Renamed **ALL GOOD BEER**. 6 taps of rotating craft beers along with bottled beers.

HALE END (WOODFORD GREEN), ROYAL OAK PUB & KITCHEN (Greene King). Freehold sold to the True Pub Co **HAVINGER-ATTE-BOWER, ORANGE TREE**, Orange Tree Hill. Now owned by the True Pub Co.

NORTH

N1, HANBURY ARMS. Leaseholder LHR Pubs has purchased the freehold.

N1, HOXTON SQUARE BAR (Mothership Group). Renamed **COLOURS**.

N1, LEXINGTON (Wellington). Now LocAle accredited.

N18, WHITE HORSE (Ei Group). Converted to Craft Union format.

NORTH WEST

NW1, HAWLEY ARMS (Greene King). Sold to the operator Lovely Pubs. London Pride available on recent visit as well as Greene King IPA and a GK brewed house beer.

NW1, MADE IN BRASIL BOTECO. Renamed **NEAR & FAR CAMDEN** and run by the Bar 6 Group.
NW10, ISLAND (Greene King). Sold to City Pub Company.

SOUTH EAST

SE18, TAPROOM SE18. Owner now Molson Coors.
SE18, VOLUNTEER (Ei Group). Reopened in April in Craft Union format.
SE2, ABBEY ARMS (Ei Group). Refurbished and now operated by Dirty Liquor, usually two real ales including Hogs Back TEA.
SE22, PALMERSTON (Ei Group). Now an Old Spot Pub Co managed partnership with Ei Group.
SE27, PAXTON (Greene King). Converted by Greene King to leased. Now operated by the True Pub Co.
BEXLEYHEATH, COACH HOUSE (Greene King). Sold to Downmores Ltd.

SOUTH WEST

SW1, BALLS BROTHERS (Novus Leisure). Renamed **ADRIAN'S BAR & BISTRO**. Bar, bistro and party venue very close to Victoria Station, with a couple of keg beers.
SW1, MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER (Ei Group). Now an Ei Bermondsey Pub Co managed house since refurbishment.
SW1, SLUG & LETTUCE (Stonegate). Renamed **BAY & BRACKET**. Various craft keg beers as well as cask (Pride, Seafarers and Doom Bar), plus boxed ciders.
SW2, ELM PARK TAVERN. Now run by All Our Bars.
SW4, KING & CO. Lease taken on by the Portobello Pub Company.
SW3, BUILDERS ARMS (Geronimo). Lease taken back by Ei Group who have reopened it under a Hippo Inns managed partnership.
SW6, FULHAM WINE ROOMS. Renamed **LITTLE BLUE DOOR**. No real ale but Camden Hells and Pale are on tap.
SW6, KING'S HEAD renamed **COURTYARD**.
SW6, SLUG @ FULHAM (Stonegate) renamed **REDBACK** following refurbishment.
SW9, LA FONDA DE MARIA (Star) became **TITO'S**

PERUVIAN RESTAURANT last August but four draught lagers and Guinness remain available in the bar area to the left. Was once **ROYAL OAK**.

SW11, ZOCALO. Renamed **VINOS Y LICORES**. Still a cocktail bar with draught Beavertown Gamma Ray and Estrella Galicia and Mexican bottled beers served along with a selection of some rare tequila and mezcal.

SW15, NORMANBY (Greene King) reverted to **CEDAR TREE**.

SW16, MANOR ARMS (Young's, ex-Redcomb). Reopened 12 September after refurbishment.

SW19, POD. Became **CYMK** bar in March. Standard keg beers available.

KINGSTON, CANBURY ARMS (Ei Group). Freehold purchased by The Canbury Arms Ltd; current leaseholder Pearmain Pubs.

WEST

W6, DUCHESS (Ei Group). Now operated by the True Pub Co

W7, FOX. Now part of the recently formed True Pub Co. Refurbished August 2019.

W11, RUM KITCHEN (Icarus Leisure Notting Hill Ltd). Renamed **LITTLE YELLOW DOOR**. Sister site to Little Blue Door in Fulham. Draught Camden Hells pale ale and lager besides cocktails etc but no real ale.

W12, ASKEW PUB & KITCHEN (Mulberry Group Investments). Now just **ASKEW** while owner renamed True Pub Co.

W12, MAPLE (ETM Group). Renamed **WESTWOOD PUB & KITCHEN**.

HILLINGDON, VINE INN (Milton Pubs & Taverns). Owner renamed Blackrose Pubs and pub recently refurbished. Sadly real ale was not reinstated.

TWICKENHAM, PALM GRILL (Star). Renamed **ROXIE STEAK & TAP**.

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

Tribute

SYDNEY L BENNETT

I'm sad to report the passing of this very talented man at the age of 86. Some readers will recall that the cover of the April/May 2017 featured a trad jazz band. Syd is the one with the banjo. This photo was the subject of some ridicule on Twitter but my purpose in using it was to celebrate live music of all types being played in pubs. Over the years Syd made a huge and respected contribution to that. I got to know him through the appearances of 'Syd and his Jazzers' in my local, the Sultan in South Wimbledon, where the photo was taken. Syd enjoyed good beer, also frequenting the By The Horns brewery tap nearby.

As much as he enjoyed it, jazz was Syd's second love. He was a very talented artist and skilled restorer. Born in South Chingford, he studied at Walthamstow Art School and then the Royal Academy School where he won several medals and landscape awards. He also exhibited at both the Royal Academy and the Royal Portrait Society. I am proud to say that I own several of Syd's paintings of local scenes.

Happily the other members of the Jazzers hope to continue their sessions at the Sultan.

Tony Hedger

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. 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.

BITTER TASTE

Like Nik Wood (letters Aug/Sept edition), I too bemoan the lack of old style session bitters in London pubs. However, the situation may not be as bleak as he makes out. Timothy Taylor renamed their bitter 'Boltmaker' several years ago and it is still very much on sale, including in the Royal Oak in Surbiton near me as well as at the

Bricklayer's Arms. Likewise, Sharp's session bitter has always been called Cornish Coaster and is still very much available, although sadly nowhere near as much as the ubiquitous Doom Bar.

On a separate note, can I please correct the assertion that Sambrook's is 'London's oldest independent brewery'. That accolade surely now belongs to Twickenham Brewery, who were set up four years before Sambrook's in 2004.

John Norman

THE UNION TAVERN

Regarding the survey on prices of beer in pubs near tube stations (Aug/Sep edition – page 16) the statement that the Union Tavern in Westbourne Park has nothing on sale for less than £5.55 a pint is completely untrue. This may apply to the keg craft products (in common with most pubs) but real ales are around £4.60 per pint which is the usual price for the area. On Mondays at least one real ale is priced at only £3.00 per pint. Please put the record straight.

Les Maggs – Chairman of the West London branch of CAMRA

BAD HABITS

Next time you buy a drink, watch the barperson during the course of the pour. They will invariably do one or more of the following with their free hand:

- touch their face and/or ear
- play with their hair
- scratch their nethers and/or re-adjust their underwear
- cough into their arm
- wipe the sides of your glass with their fingers or with a cloth of indeterminate vintage.

I'm not advocating that they should wear chemical suits, simply that they should be made aware that customers find each and all of the above a bit unhygienic and off-putting.

David Docherty

Editor's note: I can't say that I have noticed any of the events that Mr Docherty describes but that of course is his point. Beer is a foodstuff and should be served as such.

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Well, here we are again; summer's over and the equinoctial gales should be starting any time, so it's time to sit by the pub fire with a glass of something warming and waste some time.

From time to time I think back to the days when we did silly things like non-rhyming limericks, so, standing under the shower and thinking back, I thought I would exhume one and see if anybody remembers it. This one was written by Mike Gigg and Chris Leftley and it first appeared in the *Drinker* for May 1988 (Blimey! 31 years ago!). Anybody remember it?

A fair English maiden called Rose
Was well loved by a Spaniard called Jose.
But she hadn't a hope
When he met Penelope
And his love she was destined to lose.

Now, let's have some number puzzles:

- 2 T (C and C)
- 14 PK of E
- 27 P for C the CB in S
- 122 LS is the CG
- 1642 B of B
- 1 P in a PQ
- 23 P of C in a HC
- 30 GV (and an A) by JSB
- 10 C in a F
- 1956 OEEH in S

As last time's 5BY4 was so successful (i.e. no complaints apart from the misspelling of Lacock Abbey), I thought I would do some more of the same (but different ones of course). So here we are – can you match these National Trust houses with their famous occupants:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Quebec House,
Westerham (Kent) | A. Henry James |
| 2. Barrington Court,
Ilminster (Somerset) | B. William Morris |
| 3. Hill Top,
Hawkshead (Cumbria) | C. Colonel Lyle (Tate & Lyle) |
| 4. Smallhythe Place,
Tenterden (Kent) | D. General James Wolfe |
| 5. Sissinghurst Castle,
Cranbrook (Kent) | E. Beatrix Potter |
| 6. Clouds Hill,
Bovington (Dorset) | F. Lord Patrick Lichfield |
| 7. Red House,
Bexleyheath (Kent) | G. Vita Sackville-West |
| 8. Shugborough Hall,
Stafford | H. T E Lawrence |
| 9. Cliveden,
Maidenhead (Bucks) | I. Ellen Terry |
| 10. Lamb House,
Rye (E Sussex) | J. Nancy Lady Astor |

And so to finish, let's have some General Knowledge questions:

- Which Oxford college, the only one to be founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, was established as a seat of learning for the clergy?
- Before Enzo Ferrari set up his own factory, for which company was he the grand prix team manager?

- Thinking of supercars, what did Lamborghini build before cars?
- A British manufacturer now; what company which ceased car production in 1967 recommenced production (to order) of their 4.3 litre Tourer of 1936 under their 'Continuation Series' in 2013?
- Which English King was married to Elizabeth of York?
- Likewise, who was the husband of Adelaide of Saxe Meiningen?
- ...and which king married Matilda of Flanders?
- On January 1956, which song charted twice, performed by Frankie Laine who reached No 10 and Tennessee Ernie Ford who made No 1?
- The Beach Boys reached No 1 in November 1966 with Good Vibrations, but what was their follow-up which reached No 4 in May 1967?
- And finally, which Lennon & McCartney song reached No 11 (by David & Jonathan) and No 1 (by the Overlanders) in January 1966?

So, there we are then; I shall (I expect) be back in the December/January edition, looking forward to Christmas. Have fun in the meantime and don't forget Twickenham Beer Festival (24 to 26 October – see page 33).

Andy Pirson

As usual, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in the August/September.

Number puzzles:

- 60 Treble Twenty
- 6 Dogs in a Greyhound Race (in the UK)
- 23 Piano Concertos by Mozart
- 47 Strings on a Concert Harp
- 12 Furlongs (and 6 Yards) is the Length of the Derby
- 1 is the Natural Logarithm of E
- 53 Countries in the Commonwealth of Nations
- 2 Ends of a Straight Line
- 41 Floors of the Gherkin (30 St Mary Axe)
- 9 Spheres of the Atomium in Brussels

5BY4:

- Leith Hill Place – Ralph Vaughan Williams
- Woolsthorpe Manor – Sir Isaac Newton
- Hughenden Manor – Benjamin Disraeli
- Cherryburn – Thomas Bewick (naturalist)
- Lacock Abbey – William Fox Talbot
- Cragside – Lord William Armstrong
- Monk's House – Leonard & Virginia Woolf
- Chartwell – Sir Winston Churchill
- Bateman's – Rudyard Kipling
- Greenway – Agatha Christie

My thanks go to reader Derryn Brand for correcting the spelling of Lacock Abbey.

General knowledge:

- The device created in 1868 by Christopher Latham Scholes (and still in daily use today) is the QWERTY keyboard.
- Tagalog is the indigenous language of the Philippines.
- The total number of Concorde supersonic aircraft built

Idle Moments

- (actual aircraft that flew, including prototypes) is twenty.
- Of the above Concorde, sixteen actually entered passenger-carrying airline service.
 - The most successful British passenger aeroplane, with a total of 1,280 built and still in production, is the Britten-Norman Islander.
 - By contrast, the total production of the Vickers Viscount (the most numerous 'proper' British airliner) was 445.
 - In 2019 the Kibble balance (developed at the National Physical Laboratory) became the new means for defining the international kilogram.
 - The writer of the book *Out of Africa*, which begat the film of the same name, was Karen Blixen.
 - The Commander of Apollo 17 and the last man (so far) to walk on the Moon was Eugene (Gene) Cernan.
 - Including Gene Cernan (above), a total of three astronauts travelled to the Moon on two occasions. The other two were Jim Lovell and John Young.

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where you matter

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- 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'.



The golden touch

The Golden Lion in Camden was saved from closure five years ago and to show that the campaigning was worth the effort, it has now won CAMRA North London branch's Pub of the Season award. Branch chairman Colin Coyne said, "We are making this award in recognition of the fact that the Golden Lion is a fine example of the success that can be made of a pub that nearly closed. It's a great credit to the previous licensee, Camden Council and the local community which put up such a fight over a long period to stop the pub being turned into flats. With Britain currently still losing 14 pubs a week, we hope that this award will bring heart to other communities who are trying to save their own pub."

Colin added, "This pub is also of historic value and it's on CAMRA's London Heritage list. It is Victorian and still has the original bar-back, complete with stunning bevelled mirrors and the names of two original rooms (Saloon Bar and Private Bar) still visible in bright stained glass above the doors on Pratt Street. It's worth popping in for a bit of history as well as a pint!"



(Left to right): Colin, Trevor, Dave and Aaron

The owner of the pub, Dave Murphy said, "It means everything to us to win such a prestigious award. To show that pubs can come back from the brink of closure and can go from strength to strength, not only in the local community but to demonstrate to the county that pubs are here to stay."

The pub is run by two enthusiastic partners, Aaron, formerly head of marketing at Distinct Pub Co, and Trevor, who was head chef at the Drapers, Islington. The pub remains a community pub, with a welcome for all. It has pool, darts and an acclaimed juke box and, thanks to Trevor, it has also widened its offer by putting in a kitchen serving food every day.

The full address is 88 Royal College Street, Camden Town, NW1 0TH. It is open midday to midnight Monday to Saturday and 12 to 11 Sunday. For more details, visit www.goldenlioncamden.com.

Christine Cryne

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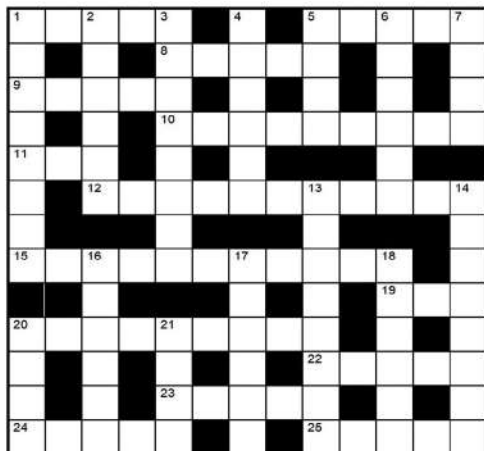
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Compiled by DAVE QUINTON
£20 prize to be won



Name

Address

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

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

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

1. Primarily, can any manager run any good organisation? [5]
5. Hard work but no attempt to discover river. [5]
8. Animal from European country. [5]
9. Fools fail to finish test. [5]
10. One who treats the sexual predator. [9]
11. Ruler with no good family. [3]
12. Managing to fill empty sheep with chopped wet radish. [11]
15. Body heat is moderate before a true fever. [11]
19. A politician's current measure. [3]
20. Extended break beginning for everyone in American resort. [9]
22. In the past it used to be a man's name. [5]
23. Australia has one form of oxygen. [5]
24. Beer supplied for a lord. [5]
25. Confluence of two rivers in the countryside. [5]

DOWN

1. Opt to be crazy. [8]
2. Children following parent as craftsmen. [6]
3. Cruelly tease the art lover. [8]
4. Brownie arrived with rear admiral. [6]
5. Almost perfect notion.
6. Scandinavian man is hard. [6]
7. Sort of provided in a small way. [4]
13. Colour up about anything at all? That's her. [8]
14. Suggestion that article on stage also is reviewed. [8]
16. Clergyman is lost but he makes money. [6]
17. Legendary woman's flower. [6]
18. Short oriental festival. [6]
20. Another meat beat beef starter. [4]
21. Express disapproval of new benefit. [4]

Winner of the prize for the June/July crossword:
H Arnott of Sevenoaks, Kent

Other correct entries were received from:

D Abbey, Ted Alleyway, Tony Alpe, Pat Andrews, C P Babtridge, Lorraine Bamford, John Barker, David Barrett, Newton Bear-Regis, Stephen Block, John Bowler, Tony Bowles, Hugh Breach, Kelvin Brewster, Jeremy Brinkworth, Andrew Brown, Andrew Burman, Breandan Butler, Eddie Carr, Avi Chaudhuri, Brian Collins, Richard Conway, Kevin Creighton, Ebenezer Crutten, Paul Curson, Peter Curson, Joe Daly, Michael Davis, John Dodd, Steve Downey, Elvis Evans, Peter Everett, Penny Farthing, D Fleming, Roger Foreman, Colin Francis, Terry Francis, Bill Fullick, Bob Furlong, Richard Garton, Chloe Gilbey, Christopher Gilbey, Henry Girling, Wendy Golding, E Goobay, Marion Goodall, Nick Goodwin, Roger Grant, Paul Gray, J E Green, Richard Gregory, Matthew Griffiths, Caroline Guthrie, Mrs Gerry Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Peter Haines, 'Shropshire' Dave Hardy, Andrew Hide, Clive Higman, William Hill, David Hough, John Howarth, Alan Humphrey, Mr & Mrs Jeal, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, David Jiggins, Andrew Johnson, Eric Johnstone, Mike Joyce, Roger Knight, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Aidan Laverty, Moira Less, Andy Lindburn, Pauline Lindburn, David Longley, Marjorie Lopatis, Chris Lovelace, Luis & Melody, Donald MacAuley, Ken Mackenzie, Derek McDonnell, James McGuinness, C Maddox, Pat Maginn, Dylan Mason, Glen Metcalf, Rob Mills, Pam Moger, Jan Mondrzejewski, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Barry Nester, Paul Nicholls, Mark Nichols, Mick Norman, Gerald Notley, Liam O'Hanlon, Michael Oliver, Barry Page, Fred Parsons, Nigel Parsons, G Patterson, Stephen Pegum, Andy Phillips, Mick Place, Robert Pleasants, Portrush Annie, Mrs G Pote, Jeanette Powell, Nicholas Priest, Derek Pryce, L Purtle, James Rawle, Wyke Regis, David Renwick, N P Roe, Richard Rogers, Sarah Rose, Stephen Rose, Alex Ryan, John Savage, Pete Simmonds, Ruth Smith, Ian Sneesby, Alan Southgate, Tom Speake, Ephraim Spitchurs, John Standeven, M J Stefenson, Dr Mike Steward, Michael Stiff, Ivor Stiffun, Ryan Storter, Kenny Stott, Russell Sutcliffe, Rosemary Sutherland, Roberto Sykeso, Ian Symes, Pete Taberner, C J Tansley, R Tassi, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Mark Thompson, Mrs F Vida, Andy Wakefield, G Walker, Kathy Warren, T Watkins, Martin Weedon, Alan Welsh, Elizabeth Whale, Tony Whitford, Fred Williams, John Williamson, N Woodford, Ray Wright, Pam Wyde, K Zemek. There were also three incorrect and four incomplete solutions.

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