



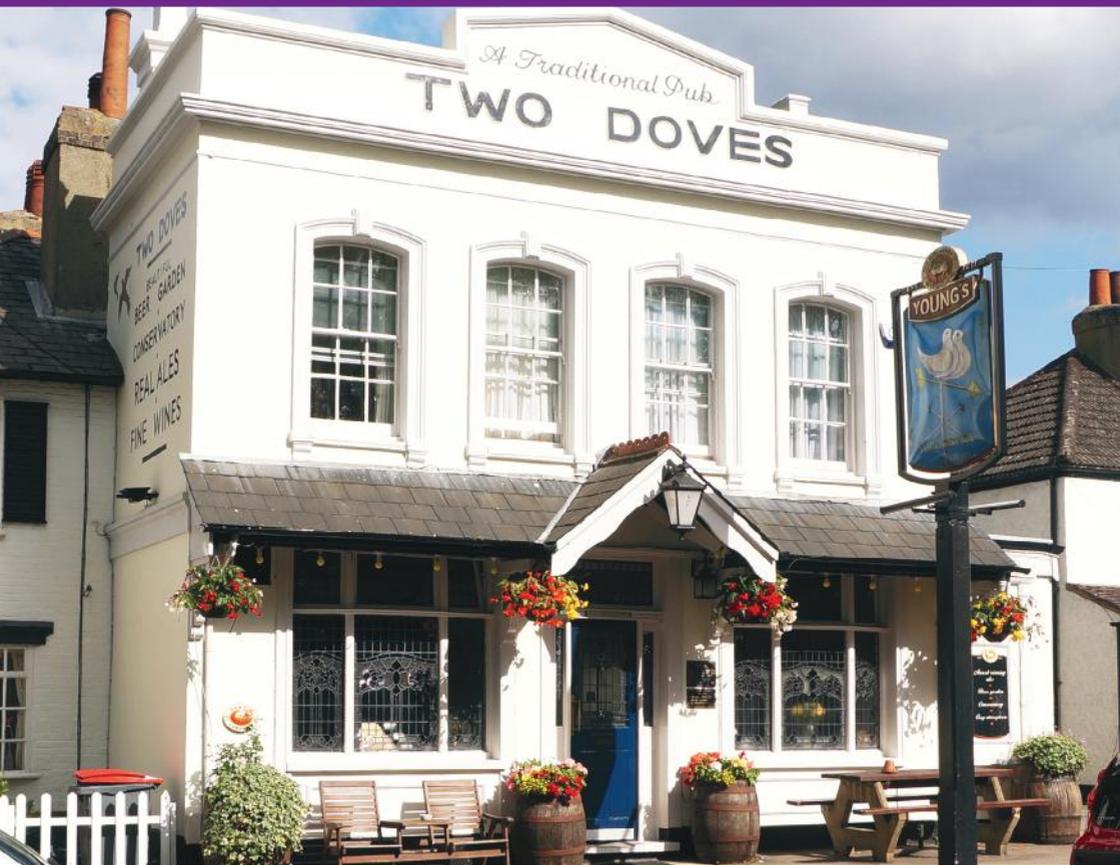
CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

LONDON

DRINKER

Volume 44 No. 3
June/July 2022

FREE



The Two Doves, Bromley Common

See page 26 (Photo by Chris Crowther)

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Wetherspoon supports brewers of all sizes, across the UK and Ireland, so that our customers can enjoy a diverse range of real ales.



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for the facts
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CAMRA held its first AGM and Members' Weekend for two years in Eastbourne over the weekend of 8 to 10 April. It was good to be back and to meet up with so many old friends. I won't go into the various items of CAMRA internal business that were discussed but there was some lively debate and both national chairman Nik Antona and chief executive Tom Stainer made excellent speeches. St Albans MP Daisy Cooper also spoke well. Even if we have lost members through the pandemic, please be assured that the

Campaign is still very much alive and active.

I have not long returned from a holiday that took me to various parts of Great Britain and I have a gripe. In these difficult times, we drinkers very much want to support pubs, both near and far. It would help however if pub operators could help us in this by making it clear when your premises are open. Several times my friends and I came across pubs which, according to their websites, should have been open but were not. Nor were the opening times visible outside the pub. Please could all pubs show customers the basic courtesy of clearly displaying their opening times on the outside of the pub and similarly, if you have a website, please make sure that the times listed are correct. It is better not to have a website than to have one that gives wrong information.

Tony Hedger

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SUMMER OF PUB

Despite these not being the easiest of times, or perhaps because of it, we all need cheering up. Consequently, after a two year break, CAMRA is reviving its Summer of Pub campaign. It was officially launched on the May Bank Holiday. CAMRA's National Chairman, Nik Antona, explained, "The concept behind a Summer of Pub is really quite simple: it's that the easiest way to support pubs is to use them. That is why we will be working with partners throughout the summer to highlight fantastic events taking place and continually rally people down to their local. Pubs have been through a horrendous two years of lockdowns and restrictions and need help to get back on their feet. At the end of the day, you don't need to be a campaigner to make a difference; let's just celebrate a return to normal this summer by raising a glass to the trade!" Summer of Pub will run until the Bank Holiday on 29 August.



CAMRA has created an interactive map to show you which pubs, clubs and taprooms near you are running events, ranging from quizzes and live music to jubilee parties and tap takeovers. Just go to <https://summerofpub.camra.org.uk/>. Events will be held in connection with a number of events, including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend (2 to 5 June), Volunteers' Week (1 to 7 June) and Beer Day Britain (15 June). You can, of course, organise your own events, such as having a Bromley pub walk (see page 26). CAMRA organised beer festivals are also returning. In this edition

you will find adverts for the Thurrock, Ealing and Beckenham festivals, not forgetting the Great British Beer Festival (2 to 5 August).

For this year, CAMRA is supporting the Good Beer Company in promoting Thank Brew, a limited edition 3.5% ABV pale ale, which is the official beer of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The recipe has been developed by Fergus Fitzgerald of Adnams and it is intended that it will be produced by a number of participating breweries. It will be available in pubs in June and all profits from its sale will go to good causes. For more information, go to www.thegoodbeerco.co.uk/thankbrew.

In the spirit of inclusivity, CAMRA is also partnering the Ask for Clive organisation in promoting Pub Pride on 27 May. This will be a night on which venues can celebrate their local LGBTQ+ community and mark the start of Pride Month.

Branch diaries

This is a list of CAMRA Greater London regional and branch events for June and July, as notified at the date of production. **For full details of the events listed below and where no events are shown, please consult the branch website as listed.** If no events are listed, it does not mean that there are none taking place.

Some branches send newsletters to their members by e-mail. To receive these, CAMRA members need to allow the receipt of e-mails in their membership settings. This can be done through the CAMRA website <https://camra.org.uk/> (select Edit Membership Settings).

Meetings, visits and socials are open to all; everyone is welcome to come along. To check on the areas covered by the branches shown below, please go to www.london.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=20208.

REGIONAL EVENT

www.london.camra.org.uk

July

- Wed 27 (7.30) London Liaison Committee; venue to be confirmed

LONDON PUBS GROUP

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

www.londonpubsgroup.camra.org.uk

June

- Sat 18 (12 noon) Daytime pub tour of Teddington, Hampton Hill, Hampton and Hampton Court.

July

- Tue 19 (7.30) Meeting; all CAMRA members interested in pub research and preservation welcome.

REGIONAL CIDER EVENTS

http://ianwhite.info/London_Cider_Events.html

YOUNG MEMBERS' GROUP

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

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

BEXLEY

Rob Archer, branch.contact@bexley.camra.org.uk.

www.bexley.camra.org.uk

June

- Wed 8 (7pm) branch meeting; the Bolthole, Falconwood DA16 2PL.
- Sat 11 (12 noon) crawl by 51 bus; start Orpington Liberal Club BR6 ORZ
- Wed 22 (7pm) Pub of the Year presentation; Long Haul, Bexleyheath DA7 5AE

July

- Wed 13 (8pm) Pub of the Year 2nd place presentation; Robin Hood & Little John, Bexleyheath DA6 8PF
- Wed 27 (7pm) Pub of the Year 3rd place presentation; Broken Drum, Blackfen DA15 9PT

BROMLEY

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

www.bromley.camra.org.uk

June

- Sat 11 (12.30) Summer of Pub social; Five Bells, Chelsfield BR6 7RE
- Wed 15 (7.30) Bromley North Social; Crown & Anchor BR1 3HJ.
- Wed 22 (6.30) West Wickham to Hayes social; Real Ale Way, BR4 0PX
- Mon 27 (7.30) committee meeting; Beckenham Sports Club BR3 5AS.

July

- Sat 2 (12:15) Tonbridge social; Nelson Arms, TN9 1UP (meet Orpington station for 11.56 train)
- Tue 5 (2pm) afternoon social; Rambler's Rest, Chislehurst BR7 5ND
- Sat 9 (12 noon) Crystal Palace Triangle social; Douglas Fir, Anerley SE20 8DL (with C&S and SEL Branches)
- Sat 16 (12.30) Eynsford to Farningham social; Five Bells, Eynsford DA4 0AB. (meet Bromley South station for 11.53 Thameslink train to Eynsford)
- Thu 28 to Sat 30 Beckenham Beer Festival, Beckenham Rugby Club, Balmoral Avenue, BR3 3RD. See page 33

CROYDON & SUTTON

Social Sec: Terry Hewitt, 020 8660 5931,

contact@croйдon.camra.org.uk

www.croydon.camra.org.uk

June

- Thu 9 (8.30) Croydon Pub of the Year Presentation; Claret & Ale, Addiscombe CR0 7AA
- Wed 15 (8.30) branch meeting; Green Dragon CR0 1NA
- Thu 23 (1.00) lunchtime social; Shinner & Sudtone, Sutton SM1 1DT
- Tue 28 (8.30) social; Cricketers Ashburton CR0 7ER

July

- Sat 9 Crystal Palace Triangle Social – see Bromley branch entry
- Wed 13 (8.30) branch meeting; Cryer Arts Centre, Carshalton SM5 3BB
- Thu 21 (8.30) social; Railway, Cheam SM3 8SQ
- Thu 28 (8pm) social and LD distribution; Hope Carshalton SM5 2PR

EAST LONDON & CITY

Branch Sec: Andy Kinch, 07757 772564,

elacbranch@mail.com

www.pigsear.org.uk

June

- Tue 21 (7:30) Pig's Ear Festival planning meeting; Boleyn Tavern, East Ham E6 1PW

July

- Tue 19 (8pm) branch meeting; Holly Tree, Forest Gate E7 0DZ

ENFIELD & BARNET

Peter Graham, 07946 383498,

contact@enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk

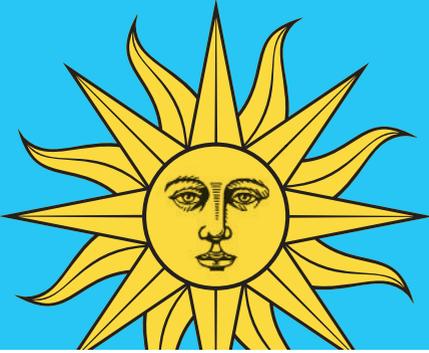
www.enfieldandbarnet.camra.org.uk

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD

Clive Taylor 020 8949 2099, ctaylor20070@freeuk.com

<https://kandl.camra.org.uk/>

twickenham



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DELTA HOPS
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Branch diaries

NORTH LONDON

John Wilson, 07840 111590, jgwnw3@hotmail.com
www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW

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

June

- Wed 15 (8pm) committee meeting; Princes Head, Richmond TW9 1LX

- Tue 28 (8pm) social and Cider Pub of the Year presentation; Sussex Arms, Twickenham TW2 5BG

July

- Wed 6 (8pm) committee meeting; Masons Arms, Teddington TW11 8PJ

- Wed 20 (8pm) meeting; Mute Swan, Hampton Court KT8 9BN (opposite Palace main gate)

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Neil Pettigrew, contact@sel.camra.org.uk; Social Sec:
Andrew Sewell, social@sel.camra.org.uk
<https://sel.camra.org.uk>

July

- Sat 9 Crystal Palace Triangle Social – see Bromley branch entry

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

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

June

- Thu 2 (12 noon) social; Colchester Beer Festival CO1 1NF

- Wed 8 (7pm) social at Thurrock Beer Festival; see advert page 11

- Wed 15 (8pm) Branch Pub of the Year (Essex) presentation; Theobald Arms, Grays, RM17 6HR (date TBC)

- Wed 22 (8.30) social; Colley Rowe Inn, Collier Row RM5 3PA

- Mon 27 (7pm) Branch Pub of the Year (London) presentation; Hop Inn, Hornchurch RM11 1SU

July

- Fri 8 (12 noon) Maidenhead Beer Festival; NMCC Sports Bar, near Furze Platt station SL6 8SP

- Fri 15 (4pm) Alan's birthday social; Gidea Park Micropub, RM2 5HA

- Wed 20 (8.30) social; Stag, Marden Ash (Ongar) CM5 9DH

- Wed 27 (8.30) social; Eastbrook, Dagenham RM10 7UP

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mike Flynn, 07751 231191, info@swl.camra.org.uk
<https://swl.camra.org.uk>

June

- Tue 7 (7.30) branch meeting; Old Sergeant, Wandsworth SW18 4DJ

- Wed 15 (7.30) Pub of the Year presentation; Eagle Ale House, Battersea SW11 6HG

- Wed 22 (7pm) New Malden Evening (with K&L branch); meet Bar Malden, KT3 4HG

July

- Wed 6 (7.30) Pub of the Year runner up presentation; Sultan, South Wimbledon SW19 1BT

- Sat 23 (12.15) GBBF publicity crawl; meet London & South Western, Clapham Junction SW11 1LJ

- Tue 26 (7.30) branch meeting; Trafalgar Arms, Tooting SW17 0RT

WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan, 07854 988152,
branch@watford.camra.org.uk
www.watford.camra.org.uk

June

- Wed 15 (8.30) Watford social

- Thu 23 (8.15) Rickmansworth and Croxley Green social

- Mon 27 (8pm) branch meeting

July

- Sat 2 (12:45) Sarratt social

- Sat 9 (1pm) opening of West Herts Sports Club bar

- Mon 25 (8pm) branch meeting

WEST LONDON

Paul Charlton, 07835 927357,
contact@westlondon.camra.org.uk; Social Sec: Stuart
Duncan, 07432 132933, socials@westlondon.camra.org.uk
www.westlondon.camra.org.uk

June

- Wed 22 (7.30) Annual General Meeting; Carpenter's Arms, Marylebone W1H 7NE

WEST MIDDLESEX

Social Sec: Roy Tunstall, 07585 744533
roy@westmiddx.camra.org.uk
<https://westmiddx.camra.org.uk/>

The electronic copy deadline for the August/September 2022 edition is absolutely no later than Friday 8 July 2022. Please send entries to ldnews.hedger@gmail.com.

London, Capital of Brewing

At the last count, there were around
130 breweries in Greater London.

They are listed on CAMRA's
Greater London Region website:
www.london.camra.org.uk.

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London WC1V 7AA

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Hammersmith W6 9YD

BECKENHAM BEER FESTIVAL

The Beckenham Beer Festival, organised by CAMRA's Bromley branch, returns from 28 to 30 July to the Beckenham Rugby Football Club, Balmoral Avenue BR3 3RD. There will be around 55 real ales and 20 ciders available, mostly from local breweries. There will be a special beer tasting event on the Thursday with renowned beer writer and accredited beer sommelier, Des de Moor. The festival is family friendly with lots of seating, a large outdoor area and London's first Scandinavian food truck, bringing a unique Nordic food experience to the south east! The entry fee is £3 online or £4 on the door (CAMRA members and under 26 free). There is also a special six beer tasting event which is £6 online or £7.50 on the door.

Buy your tickets and beer vouchers at <https://tkcky.camra.org.uk/e/44/bromley-camras-beer-and-cider-festival>. Opening times: Thursday 12 noon to 10.30, Friday 12 noon to 11pm and Saturday 12 noon to 10.30 (or earlier if beer runs out). The nearest rail/tram station is Elmers End (10 minute walk). Buses: 54, 194, 358 or 367 to Eden Park Avenue (two minute walk). Website <https://bromley.camra.org.uk/beer-festival/> or, for volunteers, <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DQZHNBF>.

PIG'S EAR FESTIVAL CHARITY

Those attending the 2021 Pig's Ear Beer Festival, organised by CAMRA's East London & City branch, raised £803.47 for the Speaker of Hackney's charities, which were the Hackney Empire and St Joseph's Hospice.



The cheque was presented to the Speaker, Councillor Michael Desmond (4th left), by members of the organising committee, from left to right, Colette Goulding, Dave Gilchrist, Steve Hall, James Skinner and Mick Lewis. We hope that the Pig's Ear Beer Festival will return to Hackney later this year from 30 November to 3 December. With thanks to Dave Gilchrist for the photograph.

Steve Hall

EAST LONDON & CITY BRANCH CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR

CAMRA ELAC branch's Cider Pub of the Year is the Cock Tavern in Mare Street, Hackney (E8 1EJ). This recognises its range of eight ever changing excellent ciders. Pictured is the manager, Joel Wood, right, receiving the certificate from



Dave Gilchrist, the vice chair of ELAC. Also pictured is Colette Goulding, ELAC branch's cider representative. With thanks to James Watson for the photograph.

Steve Hall

NORTH LONDON BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR

CAMRA North London branch's Pub of the Year for 2022 is the Queen's Head in Acton Street (WC1X 9NB). The award was decided in a vote open to all of the branch's 1,400 members. Branch chairman Colin Coyne commented, "This pub has previously won our branch's Cider Pub of the Year twice (2013 and 2016) but never before managed to win the branch Pub of the Year, despite being shortlisted a number of times . . . that is, until now! It's a lovely late Georgian building, Grade II-listed, with a number of original Victorian features and is well worth coming to look at, and, of course, to try its excellent range of real ales. It's well known for serving one of the best pints of Trinity, brewed by Tottenham's Redemption Brewery, and, at only 3% ABV, it's remarkably tasty and worth a visit to the Queen's Head for that alone."



Pete (left) with Colin

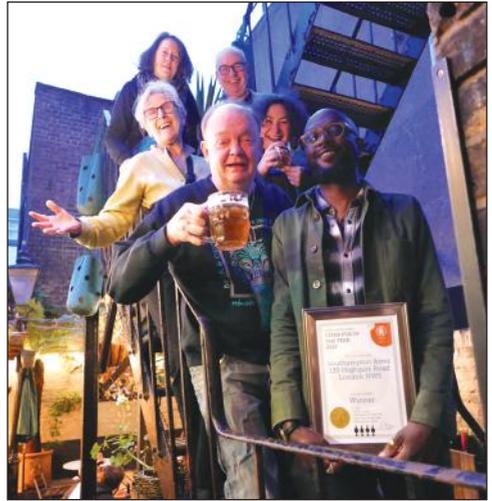
The pub is independently run and has a sister pub in Bermondsey, the Simon the Tanner. Pete Czubala from the pub said, "We're thrilled to be awarded Pub of the Year. We take huge pride in creating a welcoming space at our inner city pub with delicious drinks to be enjoyed. We work hard to make it the much loved haunt for locals, commuters and beer lovers it has become. It feels great to come out of the pandemic with an award that reflects our efforts." The presentation took place on Tuesday 12 April.

Christine Cryne

NORTH LONDON BRANCH CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR

This year's award has gone to the Southampton Arms in Highgate Road (NW5 1LE) for the fourth time, with the Tapping the Admiral, just down the road (NW1 8SU), receiving the runner up award. Branch chairman Colin Coyne said, "The Award is determined by CAMRA members voting for a shortlist of pubs selling real cider in North London. The Southampton has appeared on the shortlist on numerous occasions and has now won it for a fourth time, reflecting its commitment to good traditional cider. It's very unusual to have two pubs near each other selling real cider so we were delighted when another Kentish Town pub, Tapping the Admiral, came a close second in the voting. There is no doubt that Kentish Town really is the place to come for people with discerning palates looking for excellent cider from independent producers."

The Southampton Arms is a traditional ale house with an old wooden bar and walls adorned with memorabilia. The main thrust of this pub is conversation and good cider (and beer) and the arrangement of the tables makes it almost impossible not to make new acquaintances. It attracts people from all walks of life, from students to grandparents; all are welcome. Peter Holt, the driving force behind the Southampton, wanted a different pub, downplaying spirits, lager and wine to concentrate on real ales and ciders from small independent producers. He also wanted the food to complement the pub and came up with the memorable description, 'Ale, Cider, Meat'. No gastro dishes, just good bar snacks: pork pies, sausage rolls, scotch



Colin (with pint) leads the celebrations

eggs, roast pork baps plus veggie options. The Tapping the Admiral is another traditional pub with a similar ethos of welcoming all. Resuscitated after being closed for a number of years, it reopened in 2011 and has won CAMRA North London's Pub of the Year award three times but this is its first award for cider.

Christine Cryne

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WEST LONDON BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR

CAMRA West London branch's Pub of the Year for 2022 is the Carlton Tavern in Carlton Vale (NW6 5EU). Open for almost exactly one year, the Carlton Tavern literally rose from the rubble after it was illegally demolished by a property developer on the day before it was to be listed by Historic England. Westminster Council ordered it to be rebuilt brick by brick to match the original and, miraculously, this happened. Despite the effects of Covid, the Carlton Tavern is now a thriving business. Tenant Ben Martin, who runs the pub with his partner Tom Rees, said, "We're very proud to have won this award in our first year of operation." The certificate was presented by the chairman of CAMRA's West London branch, Alex Langford. Such is the significance of the pub's rebirth, the presentation was attended by members of many CAMRA branches across London and as far away as Shrewsbury & West Shropshire. Also on hand were representatives of the London Brewing Company and Anspach & Hobday, who brew the house beer, appropriately called Build Back Bitter. The presentation took place on Saturday 17 April.



Ben, in the middle, is holding the certificate, with Tim second from right and Alex to Ben's right

The pub was rebuilt from original plans and, fortunately, much was salvaged from the wreckage of the old pub, including tiles, bricks and the original bar and fireplaces. Some of the decorative ceilings were also rescued. The opportunity was taken to redesign the internal layout by moving the kitchen to the basement, which had previously been used as changing rooms for a local hockey team. The inside is quite roomy, stretching around the bar to a dining room at the back. Outside is a garden/patio area which can be used for dining in summer. The pub is halfway between Kilburn Park and Maida Vale tube stations.

Ian Collinson

LOCKDOWN HERO IN RICHMOND

Readers will recall that many CAMRA branches made Lockdown awards to pubs that supported their local community during the lockdown. The Angel & Crown in Richmond (TW9 1JL) was runner up in the London area and was in the top ten for the whole country, which shows a great deal of dedication! On 19 April, Bob Gordon, chairman of CAMRA's Richmond & Hounslow branch, supported by a number of branch members, presented Hannah Lawson from the pub with a special award. During the lockdowns, the pub provided around 70 meals a day for homeless and vulnerable



people, seven days a week, and also passed on food, clothing and sleeping bags donated by local businesses and residents. The team at the Angel & Crown have created a pub that serves the whole community and intends to continue doing so. The pub's own catchphrase is 'a pub with community'.

George Gimber

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL - WINTER

Next year's Burton on Trent Beer Festival will double as the GBBF-Winter for 2023. It will be held in the week commencing 13 February at Burton Town Hall and will include CAMRA's Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition. Bids are being sought for holding the event for the three years 2024 to 2026. Commiserations to CAMRA's Birmingham branch whose tenure was somewhat spoiled by the pandemic.

CAMRA NATIONAL CAMPAIGNER OF THE YEAR

This year's award, announced at the recent Members' Weekend, has been presented to the prominent cider campaigner, Gabe Cook. As well as being a CAMRA author, podcaster, and a regular on national television, Gabe has worked closely with cider specialists and CAMRA's Campaigns Team and volunteers to lobby government for a progressive system of taxation for small cider makers and for an increase in the legally required minimum juice content for cider. CAMRA's Awards Director, Gary Timmins said, "It's a pleasure to formally recognise Gabe's hard work and dedication to the cider cause. He is a tireless campaigner and his endless enthusiasm for cider and perry, and work throughout the last year, has been exceptional."

FINAL CALL FOR SOUTH WEST LONDON CRICKET LOVERS!

We are still recruiting for CAMRA South West London branch's cricket team. Nets are now being held in Battersea Park on Sunday mornings and some fixtures have already been arranged. We just need a few more people to get involved, whether as players, umpires, helping with the organisation or simply supporting (drinking may also be involved). This invitation is open to any CAMRA members in London and you will be welcome irrespective of gender or skill level. If you are interested, please get in touch with Navindh at Navindh@gmail.com.

Navindh Baburam



37th Thurrock Beer & Cider Festival

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

Tuesday 7th June – Saturday 11th June 2022

Entry Price: Tuesday & Wednesday £2 (eve), Thursday £3 (eve), Friday £5 (from 5:00 pm),
Saturday £3 (all day)

Free Admission for card carrying CAMRA members AT ALL TIMES



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Opening times

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: 12 noon – 3pm & 6pm – 11pm

Friday 12:00 noon – 11pm

Saturday: 12 noon – 7pm

Live Entertainment

Thursday evening – **OMG**

Friday evening – **After Hours**

Saturday – **Rumford Morris Men, M.O.I and Naked Apes**

Contact us for more information on:

Website: swessex.camra.org.uk/thurrock.html

Phone: 07960 969462

Facebook: CAMRA Thurrock



Great British Beer Festival

CAMRA's flagship event, the Great British Beer Festival, will return to Olympia in London from 2 to 6 August. This will be the 45th GBBF and, as ever, it will feature a range of live beers from across the British Isles plus a range of traditional ciders and perries. Also, once again, there will be a range of cask ales from the USA and a gin bar, along with the usual wide range of food stalls.

Organiser Catherine Tonry said, "Circumstances outside our control have seen hundreds of beer festivals cancelled across the country over the last two years, so the return of the Great British Beer Festival marks an incredibly positive turn for the beer industry and beer drinkers alike. I think we can all raise a glass to a new chapter of great beer and comradery in a post-pandemic world. Regular visitors to the festival may notice some small changes to the layout this year due to ongoing improvement works at Olympia. Our organising group has worked incredibly hard to put on a good show this year, and we are confident we won't disappoint!" As ever, there will be a number of brewery bars, including old favourites such as Harvey's, Titanic, Five Points and Adnams, and newcomers including Black Storm, Iron Pier, Ossett, Saltaire and Three Tuns. There will be more.

Opening times will be as follows:

- Tuesday: midday to 5pm (trade session) and 5pm to 10.30 (open to the public)
 - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: midday to 10.30
 - Saturday: midday to 9pm
- Last admission is 30 minutes before close.



Tickets are already on sale at <https://gbbf.org.uk/>. An entry package costs £20. This may sound a lot to pay before you even get your first beer but it includes a souvenir glass, a programme and vouchers for your first two half-pints. Check the website for the availability of other packages.

This year there will be no cash taken on the bars. We are presuming that customers will prefer to use bank cards. There will be an alternative available in the form of token cards. Sadly, we are not able to provide a Family Room this year.

CAMRA's podcast *Pubs. Pints. People.* will be recording live from the festival on the Wednesday.

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JUBILEE!

For the extended weekend of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 June, pubs will be permitted to stay open for an additional two hours on each of the three nights. This will apply not just to serving alcohol but also to the provision of regulated entertainment and of late-night refreshment, although only where the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises is taking place.

THE CASK PROJECT

At the beginning of April, the *Morning Advertiser*, the pub trade's leading newspaper, launched a campaign called the Cask Project. Its aim is to stop the perceived long term decline of cask beer and 'reinstall it to its pride of place on the bars of pubs throughout the country'. For this purpose, the MA has joined forces with a number of brewers, including Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company, Greene King, Sharp's Brewery (Molson Coors) and St Austell. This is welcome. The introductory article contained many positive comments about cask beer but also correctly recognised its problems, including poor quality (particularly beer left on too long) and the product's lack of appeal to younger customers.

CAMRA was not invited to participate which, given that we are primarily a consumer organisation, is fair enough. Indeed, CAMRA members may well not agree with at least one of the suggestions in particular. This was that the price of cask beer should be benchmarked against keg craft beers for which customers were said to be 'happily paying up to £7 a pint and more in some cases'. This notion of 'premiumisation' is not new but I suspect that there has never been a worse time to advocate it.

SPRING STATEMENT

In advance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's spring statement, CAMRA wrote to him setting out its concerns over the 'several pressing threats to the sector, the communities that value and support it, and the people working within it'. As delivered however, the spring statement contained almost nothing relating to pubs and brewing. CAMRA's chief executive, Tom Stainer, commented, "With the Office of Budget Responsibility stating that household disposable incomes are set to fall at the biggest ever rate since records began, it looks like we are in for a huge dent in consumer spending which will hit our pubs, social clubs and the breweries that serve them. Coupled with huge rises in costs for businesses in the beer and pubs industry, we urgently needed action to support and save our locals which are a vital part of community life up and down the country. Unfortunately, the Chancellor's announcement contained little new support for pubs and brewers. This will result in costs going up for consumers, who don't have the disposable income with current prices, let alone in a few months' time. CAMRA will continue to campaign for urgent help for pubs, breweries and cider producers in the months and years to come. This should include more help with the burden of business rates, replacing the unfair business rates system entirely, reversing the impending increase in the VAT rate for some goods and services and bringing forward the introduction of the draught duty rate for beer and cider served in pubs."

BUSINESS RATES

The All Party Parliamentary Beer Group also made recommendations to the Chancellor in advance of the spring statement. These specifically concern business rates and came out of the Group's recent inquiry into the subject. They were as follows:

- introduction of an online sales tax so that the digital sector bears its fair share of the tax burden, with the funds raised being used to reduce the costs borne by 'bricks and mortar' businesses;
- a new and specific rates multiplier for pubs, closer to the 1990s level of 32p per £1 of rateable value, to reflect the contribution that pubs make to their communities;
- greater transparency and more resources for the Valuation Office Agency to support the current system of valuation for pubs;
- increased small business relief to include more community pubs, especially in the light of rising utility costs.

The Chancellor did however announce a temporary relief of 50% for hospitality businesses with rateable values up to £110,000 as from 1 April. He also announced that the multiplier would be frozen for 2022/2023. Welcome as this might be, to small businesses especially, it is still 'kicking the can down the road' in terms of proper reform.

CIDER DUTY

There is concern that what is known as the 'farmgate exemption' for duty payable on cider is to be removed. Under this provision, small cider makers who produce less than 70 hectolitres per annum do not pay duty. Most of these producers are part time or part of a diversified farm business. Some 80% of cider producers fall into this category, although their combined output is just a fraction of the total national output. Gillian Hough, CAMRA's real ale, cider and perry campaigns director commented, "This exemption ensures and supports a varied and competitive market for us as consumers. It recognises that real cider and perry, made seasonally and using local fruit, plays a key part in so many rural economies as well as preserving our culture and heritage. Cider and perry orchards can be hundreds of years old and the biodiversity they support has enormous ecological value. Any change to the farmgate exemption would have a devastating impact on cider and perry makers, orchards and rural landscapes and as a consequence the market as a whole."

CAMRA continues to challenge the inclusion of the 40 litre container threshold as part of the reduced rates proposed under the Government's Alcohol Duty Review and has submitted evidence accordingly.

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Although the planning rules have changed over the last few years, registering a pub as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) still makes a significant contribution to preserving a pub under threat. CAMRA's policy here is to support community groups in doing so, rather than seek the registration ourselves. There have always been problems in getting some local authorities to accept that a pub qualifies as an ACV. CAMRA's view is that it does because a community pub, going about its day-to-day business effectively, furthers the social interests and social well-being





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of local people. Some local authorities however expect what are called 'ancillary activities' such as meetings of local groups or sports clubs, fund-raising ventures, special community events and the like. CAMRA's Planning Advisory Group exists to help branches with such difficulties. You can contact CAMRA's National Planning Policy Adviser, Paul Ainsworth, on paul.ainsworth@camra.org.uk. Likewise, Paul would like to hear of any 'interesting' reasons for the refusal of an ACV that local authorities come up with. It is worth noting that as long ago as 2018 the Government began a review of the guidance for ACV listing and CAMRA submitted detailed proposals for improvements. Nothing has been heard since. CAMRA continues to lobby MPs on the matter.

PUBS CODE ADJUDICATOR UPDATE

In an article in the *Morning Advertiser* (8 April), the Adjudicator, Fiona Dickie, set out some recent changes to the Pubs Code. There have been changes to the operation of the Market Rent Only process, principally that a pub tenant now has three months to conclude a deal with their pub owning business (POB) rather than 14 days, a situation which previously often pushed them into an unwanted and expensive arbitration process. The Pubs Code is reviewed every three years and the review for the period ending 31 March 2022 is now due. Given the number of new pub management schemes being introduced by the POBs that fall outside its provisions, you have to wonder how relevant the Pubs Code continues to be. In addition there is an increasing number of cases where POBs are using Section 20 of the Landlord & Tenant Act to refuse tenants new leases so that the POB can convert their pubs into managed houses. It could be that the days of the traditional pub tenancy are numbered.

FUND RAISING FOR THE UKRAINE

In early April, distributors Euroboozer of Hertfordshire managed to rescue the equivalent of some 30,000 pints of beer from the independent Varvar Brewery in Kyiv. The beer has been distributed for sale with the proceeds going to the Red Cross humanitarian relief appeal. Among the pubs that obtained a supply was the Stag and Lantern micropub in Highams Park (E4 9LQ). The photo shows Mel from the pub with ten of Varvar's different beer styles. With thanks to Owen Woodliffe for the news and the photo.



The Drinkers for Ukraine organisation's website (<https://drinkersforukraine.com/>) contains the recipe for Resist, the Ukrainian Anti-Imperial Stout which is being produced by a number of breweries for the same good cause. See the section on Sambrook's in the Brewery News column. Homebrewers are encouraged to have a go as well but don't forget to peel your beetroot!

THE MOONGAZER CHARITY BEERPUSH

After many trials and tribulations, David Holliday finally entered London on 8 April, the ninth day of his 147 mile 'beerpush' from the Moongazer Brewery in Norfolk to St Barts Hospital in aid of the charity Testicular Cancer Awareness.



The photo shows him on the towpath of the River Lea at Chingford with his 75 kilogram load. David raised a creditable £14,000 and his *Just Giving* website will remain open until October. Go to justgiving.com/fundraising/beerpush.

Trains, Buses and Beers

The Epping Ongar Railway is pleased to confirm its plans for summer 2022. These include a whole weekend of ale trains from 15 to 17 July. There will be bars open at both North Weald and Ongar stations, plus the return of both the Flag & Whistle and the Shunters Arms bars on the trains. With drinks being poured from midday, beer and cider drinkers will be able to enjoy the ambience of heritage trains coasting through the Essex countryside. For this year, the Real Ale Weekend will be advance ticket only; get your tickets via the EOR website as below. Once they're gone, they're gone! In addition, the railway will be operating its regular evening ale trains on 4 June, 25 June and 17 September. Vintage buses will connect with the special services and run into the evening to help people on their way home. For full details of the only ale trains you can get to using an Oystercard, please see www.eorailway.co.uk.
Alan Perryman

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Muswell Hillbilly - a secret in the Mews!

When was the last time there was a brewery in Muswell Hill? There doesn't seem to be any record of commercial brewing in the area in the last 500 years until the Muswell Hillbilly brewery arrived.

The history of the Muswell Hillbilly brewery echoes many others in that it was set up by four home brewers but it is possibly unique in that it is the only brewery in a London mews! At the back of Muswell Hill, this small brewery is certainly hidden away and occupies not one, but two properties in the mews.



The secret brewery

Martin, a former deputy head teacher, explained the brewery's history to the London Tasting Panel and how they acquired their buildings. "The four of us have known each other for a number of years and we were brewing at the end of Pete's garden. We also

spent some time brewing at UBrew, where we learnt from our mistakes. Then Pete's wife told us of a property in the mews and we started brewing on a 100 litre kit which we had purchased from Oddly Brewery. As we were brewing upstairs, it wasn't ideal" said Martin. He continued, "Then we moved into these premises in 2018 and we were lucky to get space at the end of the mews and moved in a 500 litre brewery, purchased from Affinity in 2020."

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But Martin isn't totally happy, "We are seeking bigger and better kit now and we are looking for investment. The current brewery is now quite old and inconsistent. We'd like to do a lager but can't with the current kit and we'd would like to do canning but it's expensive, so we hand bottle."

All of the owners are still working, with Martin doing cover at a school in north London. Pete, who works for UPS, handles the distribution while Bob, a graphic designer, does the design work, including the bottle labels, and Steve, who is a social media entrepreneur, looks after the finances. Steve set up Friends Reunited before selling it some time ago.



Martin with the bottle range

Muswell Hillbilly recently set up a pop up pub in Hornsey. "We think pop ups are a way forward for us" said Martin. "The Archway Tavern, Woodmans and the off licence at the end of the road regularly take our beer. However, we need more people to have heard of us."

Kege conditioned beer – and they don't force carbonate – accounts for 60% of their sales and cask about 5%, with the rest bottled. Martin commented, "We have tried our bottled beer with a few restaurants but they often say it isn't fizzy enough." It is bottle-conditioned.

Although most of the hops used in their beers are fairly well known (including some of the newer English varieties), some of the beers use a hop named N10, which is grown in local gardens. The core beer range is Tetherdown Wheat Beer, which uses a Saison yeast and has notes of lemons and bergamot; Muswell Hillbilly IPA, with the addition of crystal rye (4.8% ABV); Palace Sunset Red Ale with blood orange; Down the Colney Hatch Porter, infused with wood from whisky barrels, and Fortis Green Breakfast Stout (4.8% ABV) with ground coffee. They also regularly do specials. Martin sums up Muswell Hillbilly at the moment, "We are located off the beaten track but the locals like it because we are a bit of a secret." To taste their beers, the tiny 'secret' tap room opens Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. Get there early for a seat! The address is 14 Avenue Mews N10 3NP.

See www.muswellhillbillybrewers.co.uk for more information and, for tasting notes of the beers tasted, go to the brewery section of the regional website www.london.camra.org.uk.

Christine Cryne

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▲ There has been a promising development regarding the **Antelope** in Leyton (E10 7BQ). Having failed with their development plans, the owners are apparently willing to lease out the building as a pub. A group of local residents have shown a serious interest in taking the lease and creating a not-for-profit community pub. There is however a long way to go, especially given the state of the building, but let's wish them luck.

▲ CAMRA's Pub Heritage Bulletin for April reported that the Grade II*-listed **Argyll Arms** in Soho (W1F 7TP) closed on 10 April for refurbishment. This Nicholson's pub is remarkable for the survival of its glazed screenwork, dating from 1895.

▲ The Grade II-listed **Bull** in Highgate (N6 4AB) was acquired in March by Greene King (Metropolitan Pubs). The pub had been home to the Gorgeous Brewery; see the Brewery News column.

▲ I mentioned in the last edition that Punch Pubs were challenging the Asset of Community Value listing for the Grade II-listed **Calthorpe Arms** in Bloomsbury (WC1X 8JR). According to the *Camden New Journal*, Punch's lawyers have told Camden Council that 'The ACV listing of a property can have severe and far-reaching consequences for the owners of listed properties in terms of an owner's otherwise unrestricted ability to dispose of its property as it sees fit and the potential impact on future development of the property'. Er, yes... That is precisely why those campaigning to protect pubs apply for them. In the meantime, Camden Council's Planning Enforcement section are investigating the replacement of some of the pub's etched windows.

▲ Back in 2019, planning permission was granted to convert the **Carlton** in Bethnal Green (E1 4BS) into flats so long as the ground floor pub was retained. During the works the building collapsed but there is confusion as to whether this was because of its condition or it was illegally demolished. Either way, Tower Hamlets Council, just as with its namesake in Westminster, ordered it to be rebuilt. This has now been completed and it looks impressive. It is however being advertised for rent as a commercial unit so sadly it may not return to use as a pub.

▲ This is a sad story as we enter the Summer of Pub. The **Case is Altered**, Harrow Weald (HA3 6SE) enjoys a rural setting on the Stanmore circular country walk. A former cottage dating from 1800 and locally listed by Harrow Council, the independently operated pub has closed permanently because of a dispute with the Council over the adjacent Old Redding (Harrow View Point) car park. Given its rural location, the pub needs the car park to operate normal pub hours. The Council however are closing the car park early because of serious public order problems. The leader of the Council told the *Harrow On-line* website that 'local residents were understandably distressed at the area becoming a no-go zone'. He added that no compromise could be reached with the pub's operators over the management of the car park. It is likely that the pub considered the cost of remedial proposals to be unaffordable.

▲ The Cricketers Kingston Community Association, supported by CAMRA's Kingston & Leatherhead branch, has been successful in having the **Cricketers** in Kingston (KT1 2UL) listed as an Asset of Community Value. This is, inevitably, just the start. The Association would be interested in taking on the pub as a community local if a reasonable price could be agreed. The owners, having been refused permission to convert the pub to residential use, are offering the freehold for sale or to grant a lease but the campaigners feel that the price being asked is unrealistic.

▲ It was announced through social media on 26 April that the live music venue **Nambucca** in Holloway (N7 6LR) is to close for good on 14 May. It went on to say, "we have tried everything we can to keep Nambucca going." This small 300 capacity venue has played host to acts such as Frank Turner, Kaiser Chiefs and the Libertines. Grassroots music venues such as Nambucca often don't own the freehold of the building that they occupy and this means that they are at the mercy of market forces. In a statement released on Twitter, the Music Venue Trust described the closure as a terrible blow and went on to say that the only way to save grassroots venues is for the music community to own their own venues. With thanks to Joanne Scott.

▲ I have received the following note from Colin Price about the **Peacock** in Stepney (E1 0QW).

"As the source of some of the information about the **Peacock** in Aylward Street, Stepney quoted in April's *London Drinker* may I provide some updated information. The information that the **Peacock** has closed to allow its upper floors to be converted into accommodation and the pub is to be retained and should reopen, although with a somewhat different layout, in six months' time came from a website www.londonpubexplorer.com/ which I had not come across before. It appears that this information may not be totally accurate. If, as you state, planning permission was granted in 2009 with a condition that work was to be started within three years then this permission is no longer valid. I did visit the site of the **Peacock** in mid-April and although the pub has closed, no work has been started yet and I understand that the developers have made a fresh application for planning permission."



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The Peacock (photo by Colin)

Editor's note: Colin is correct. A check of the Tower Hamlets planning website just before we went to print showed that the following application had been submitted on 4 April: *Conversion and extensions to existing Public House to provide 5 residential units* (reference PA/22/00637/A1).

▲ In the December/January edition (Trade News) I mentioned that Fuller's had refused a new lease to the tenant of the **Plough** in East Sheen (SW14 7AF). In a bizarre development the displaced tenant then had a large wooden hoarding erected around the pub's beer garden and outside areas. Unfortunately for him, part of the hoarding obstructed the footpath and the last report was that Richmond upon Thames Council were going to take action to remove it.

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Fuller's were intending to renovate the pub and it was due to reopen about now.

▲ Disappointing news of the **Porcupine** in Mottingham (SE9 4QW). After a nine year battle with Lidl, led by the Porcupine Development Committee, the Planning Inspectorate has decided as follows, *'The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the demolition of the existing public house and the erection of an A1 retail foodstore.'* The objectors have no right of appeal under the regulations as they stand. The permanent loss of one of the very few pubs in that part of Bromley is to be very much regretted. With thanks to Norman Warner for the update.

▲ I have mentioned the highly entertaining *Deserter* podcast (deserter.co.uk) several times over the years. The people behind it have now joined up with south London pub operators, Camberwell Shark, to open a new micropub called the **Shirker's Rest** in a former shop in Lewisham Way, near Goldsmiths University. We wish them well with the venture.

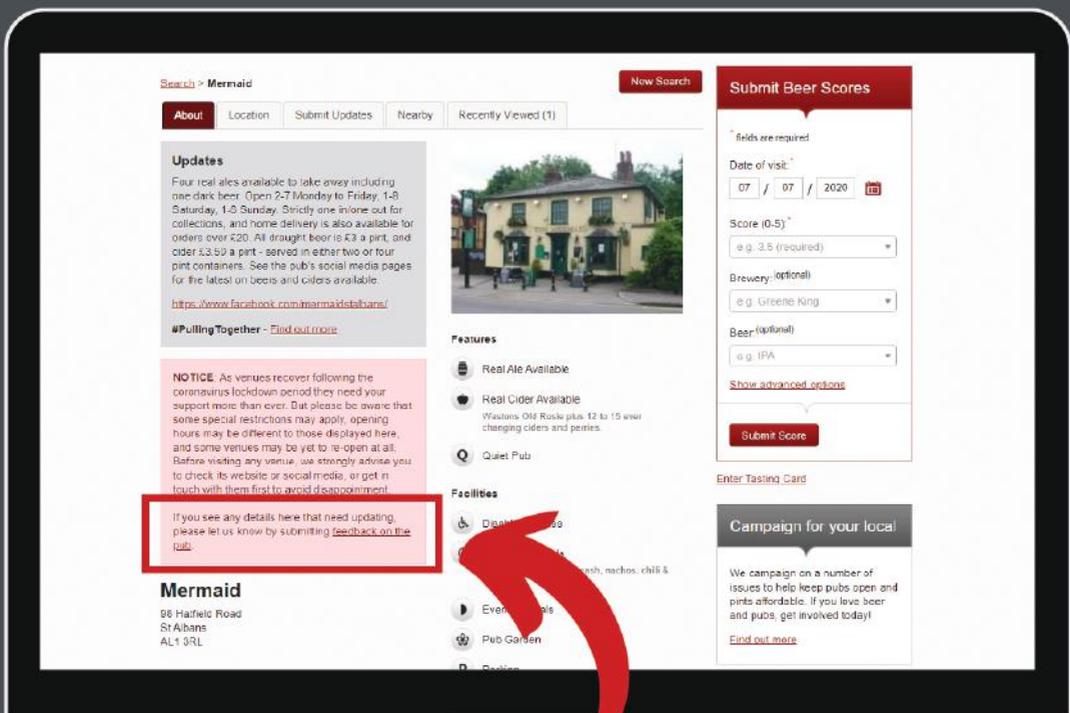
▲ The former Wetherspoon's outlet, the **Drum**, in Leyton (E10 7EQ) has been acquired by the Laine Pub Company and has reopened as the **Spark House**. The décor will feature light-based installations curated by a local artist.

▲ I mentioned recently the campaign to install defibrillators in pubs for use by the local community. One pub running its own campaign is the **Sultan** in South Wimbledon (SW19 1BT), which happens to be my local. On 3 May, in recognition of their efforts, the pub had a visit from the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. Mr Khan is, of course, the recipient of a CAMRA Golden Award (see last edition) and the Sultan was a very close runner up in CAMRA South West London branch's Pub of the Year competition this year.

▲ The **Two Brewers** in Holloway (N7 8UR) is under threat again. Having failed in 2018, the owners have submitted new plans for its demolition and replacement by a four storey block with a bar on the ground floor. The owners claim that, although it was once a thriving community local, the pub is no longer financially viable and redevelopment is the only way to retain it. One of the local residents who campaigned against the redevelopment last time told the *Islington Tribune* that the proposed new building was *'out of keeping with the surrounding properties'* and was *'vastly different'* to the existing building. In the same article, Joanne Scott, CAMRA North London branch's pub protection officer, warned that this could be a *'Trojan horse scenario'* and that there was no certainty that the proposed replacement bar would ever open.

▲ Further to the report in the last edition, previous operator Christo Tofalli announced on Facebook that he had assigned the lease of **Ye Olde Fighting Cocks** in St Albans (AL3 4HE). The pub was reopened on 4 April by a new team that includes a previous manager and head chef at the pub. Curiously, the story attracted the attention of animal rights group PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). They asked the new management to amend the name to remove *'fighting'* but there will be no change of name.

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www.whatpub.com



Campaign
for
Real Ale

ANSPACH & HOBDAY – MAKING THE DARK SIDE THE FUTURE!

Despite all of the problems that the hospitality industry has faced over the last two years, it is good to see that some businesses are flourishing. Set up eight years ago by two friends, the Anspach & Hobday Brewery has grown from sharing an arch in Bermondsey with Bullfinch Brewery to having its own 1,400 litre plant in Croydon. The move from the arch took place in 2019, with the enlarged brewery opening the following year. Paul Anspach explained, “We originally started the brewery concentrating on bottles but by the time we came to move, we hardly had any bottle accounts. The new brewery had space for a canning line and that saved us during the pandemic.”



Messrs Anspach and Hobday

But this move is not the end of the growth and Anspach & Hobday have been seriously considering their future. “We have produced a nitro keg porter called London Black and have been pushing it into outlets (many of them new). We are prepared to fit the dispense equipment and it means we have a ‘craft’ product that is on the bar all the time rather than being on a rota, as we are with the other beers. Currently, the beer is in around 50 outlets and it accounts for around a quarter of our sales but we are looking to grow it to 50%”, said Paul. This growth means they need more brewing capacity. Paul continued, “We’re currently brewing twice a day and want to expand and double capacity so we are seeking some second hand kit. To create the space, we are taking on a new building in Croydon so that we can separate warehousing from brewing.” The 4.4% ABV porter is creamy with sweet fudge notes and a hint of black treacle overlaid with a dry roasty character. You can find the beer at any of their three tap rooms, Archway in Bermondsey, the Pigeon in Camberwell and the Croydon Tap; see www.anspachandhobday.com. “London Black is a key part



The brewery tap

of our plans going forward”, said Paul, so the future certainly looks dark but not dismal for Anspach & Hobday!

Christine Cryne

GORGEOUS

The brewery’s home since 2016, the Grade II-listed Bull in Highgate (N6 4AB), was sold in March to Greene King (Metropolitan Pubs). Gorgeous have put their brewing kit in store and are actively looking for another site. They intend to continue brewing. The company has another pub, the Plough at Sleepshyde (AL4 0SE).

MONCADA

It has now been confirmed that the Dollis Hill based brewery closed at the end of last year. Coincidentally, there is a report that their brewing kit has been sold to Anspach & Hobday.

SAMBROOK’S

A new dark mild called Night Shift recently appeared in the Brewery Tap at the Wandsworth Ram Quarter. At 3.5% ABV it is seriously moreish yet still achieves a great balance between coffee-ish biscuity malt and a restrained fruity hop finish. It was available throughout CAMRA’s traditional mild month of May and features, along with a dozen other UK milds, at the Born to be Mild festival, scheduled to be held at the Tap over the weekend of 27 to 29 May.

Also expected late in May is a collaboration between the two John’s (Hatch and Keeling) in the form of a 5.5% ABV ESB to be called Twisted Griffin. Sambrook’s will also be brewing Resist, the beetroot flavoured Anti-Imperial Stout jointly with the Westerham and Ramsgate breweries, to raise funds for the Ukraine humanitarian appeal. (See News and Views on page 16). It will be available in kegs and cans only and should be ready by the time that you read this. I’m looking forward to these!

Finally, John Hatch has a monthly Design a Beer competition that allows a neophyte brewer to design a beer and then brew it with the legend that is Mr Hatch. May’s winner was a rhubarb beer called Topknot IPA.

Peter J Sutcliffe (Brewery Liaison Officer)



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TRUMAN'S

There are going to be significant changes at Truman's following the take-over of the company by part of its existing management team. The company, formed in 2010, is leaving Hackney Wick and will be based at the old Truman's brewery site in Brick Lane. They will continue to operate the Truman Social Club in Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow, the Newman Arms in Fitzrovia (see page 32) and their bar at London City Airport. Their online shop will also continue trading. In September the operation will be rebranded. Their beers will now be brewed under contract, hopefully by a brewer in London.

WIMBLEDON

Congratulations to Wimbledon Brewery on winning two accolades at the recent International Brewing Awards. These were a Gold in the International Strong Beer (Speciality) (ABV range 7 to 9.9%) class for their magnificent 2019 vintage XXXX barley wine and a Bronze for their Wimbledon Gold lager in the Keg Lager (ABV range 4.5 to 6.9%) class. The awards were presented at a very elegant ceremony at the Guildhall (City of London) in April.



The photo shows, left to right, Mauro Frater and Michael Prentice, joint Lead Brewers, and the legendary Derek Prentice, the Brewing Director. With thanks to the organisers for use of the photo.

Martin Butler (Brewery Liaison Officer)

BROMLEY PUB WALKS

The southern part of the borough of Bromley is almost entirely rural and includes the attractive villages of Downe, Chelsfield, Cudham and Pratts Bottom. The area has several excellent pubs and many miles of footpaths and tracks; the London Outer Orbital Path (the Loop) passes through and the North Downs Way is close to its southern boundary. If you are looking for somewhere to enjoy CAMRA's Summer of Pub, this could be a possibility.

In 2019, CAMRA's Bromley branch published the first edition of *Bromley Pub Walks*, a series of online guides to the many walking routes linking the pubs and clubs in this area. More routes have recently been added and the *Bromley Pub Walks* network now has 32 routes, directly linking 34 of Bromley's pubs and clubs, including five that are listed in the 2022 *Good Beer Guide*. Another ten routes just cross the border into Kent and Surrey, so you can also visit pubs there. Further routes are currently being prepared.



The Blacksmiths Arms at Cudham

The routes include paths taking you past Down House, the former home of Charles Darwin, through Orchis Bank, the valley where Darwin studied orchids, and past the site of the Wilberforce Oak, with its links to the ending of the slave trade. Other routes pass through the National Trust woodland named in honour of William Willett, the campaigner for daylight saving time, and you could even visit the highest pub in Greater London (at approximately 220 metres above sea level).

Each route is a link between two locations, with the walks ranging in distance from less than one mile to about five miles. Two or more routes may be combined to form longer one-way or circular walks to suit your mood or stamina.

You don't need to use a car to access the *Bromley Pub Walks* network; currently every pub or club on the network has a nearby public transport connection on at least six days of the week. Access from central London is easy, as there are rail stations at

Hayes, Chislehurst, Petts Wood, Chelsfield and Knockholt, all within Zones 5 or 6.

Each guide contains all the information you need for your chosen route, including details of public transport connections, an indication of the nature of the terrain (how easy or difficult the walk is), and, most importantly, a list of the pubs or clubs on the route. The guides are all free to view or to download from the Bromley CAMRA website at <https://bromley.camra.org.uk/pub-walks/>.

This edition's cover photo features one of the pubs in the area, the Two Doves at Bromley Common (BR2 8HD).

Bob Keaveney (who also took the above photo)



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The CAMRA Greater London regional Pub of the Year competition returns to its usual spring timetable this year, with the 13 local branch Pubs of the Year for 2022 due for careful unannounced visits from the judging teams from each branch no later than early July.

The branch winners this year include six micropubs and several entries that are new to the regional competition.

Bexley: The **Long Haul**,
 149 Long Lane, Bexleyheath DA7 5AE
Bromley: The **One Inn the Wood**,
 209 Petts Wood Road BR5 1LA
Croydon & Sutton: The **Hope**,
 48 West Street, Carshalton SM5 2PR
East London & City: The **Olde Rose & Crown**,
 53 Hoe Street, Walthamstow E17 4SA
Enfield & Barnet: The **Little Green Dragon**,
 928 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21 2AD
Kingston & Leatherhead: The **Wych Elm**,
 93 Elm Road, Kingston KT2 6LN
North London: The **Queen's Head**,
 66 Acton Street, King's Cross WC1X 9NB
Richmond & Hounslow: The **Jolly Coopers**,
 16 High Street, Hampton TW12 2SJ
South East London: The **River Ale House**,
 131 Woolwich Road, Greenwich SE10 0RJ
South West Essex: The **Hop Inn**,
 122 North Street, Hornchurch RM11 1SU
South West London: The **Eagle Ale House**,
 104 Chatham Road, Battersea SW11 6HG
West London: The **Carlton Tavern**,
 33a Carlton Vale, Kilburn NW6 5EU
West Middlesex: The **Owl & The Pussycat**,
 106 Northfield Avenue W13 9RT

The winner will go through to the super-regional round of the national competition from which four finalists will emerge from the 16 regional entries, one of which will become CAMRA's National Pub of the Year. For more information, go to <https://camra.org.uk/pubs-and-clubs/awards/pub-of-the-year/>.

This year, the revised criteria used for the later stages have been adopted for the London regional competition. The following categories and weightings duly reflect greater emphasis on hygiene in the context of continuing precautions against Covid spread, as well as appropriate zeal for real ale.

Quality and condition of real ale/cider/perry x2
 Promotion and knowledge of real ale x2
 Cleanliness and staff hygiene x2
 Community focus and atmosphere x2
 Service, welcome and offering x1
 Style, décor and furnishing x1
 Sympathy with CAMRA aims x1
 Overall impression and value x1

All members looking for excuses to visit the pick of our pubs from right across the region are invited to contact their branches to join in the comparative judging exercise. Enjoy it: someone has to do it!!

Geoff Strawbridge
 Greater London CAMRA Regional Director

HARVEY'S LONDON TAPROOM

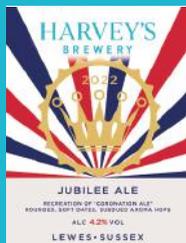


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Welcoming to all

Following on from Christine Cryne's article 'Is the beer industry unwelcoming?' in the April/May issue of *London Drinker*, I would like to give readers a little more detail about the activities and ethos of Ignition Brewery.

Ignition began when director Nick O'Shea realised that 94% of people with a learning disability were unemployed and decided to do something about it. He founded Ignition, which employs and trains people with learning disabilities to brew beer and to serve that beer in the taproom. Ignition is a not-for-profit organisation which makes enough money to cover operating expenses and pay people with learning disabilities the London Living Wage.

Ignition employs a head brewer and a bar manager, who supervise and oversee the training of the team members who have learning disabilities. In some ways, the business model is the opposite of the norm; it's not constantly looking to make its processes more efficient as the purpose is to provide as many opportunities as possible to those who might otherwise be unable to find a job. The more beer they produce, the more jobs they hope to be able to create. As Nick says, "the ethos is simple: our team have a lot to offer and, with the right support and care, they can make beer that competes on the open market. Our patrons buy our beer because it tastes great, as well as because of who brewed it."

The brewing kit is relatively small at just 2.5 brewers' barrels. Brewing usually takes place once a week and all the bottling and kegging occurs on the premises. The team take part in all the brewing processes and Ignition looks to build on their practical skills and make their day-to-day experience more rewarding.



Jazz in the taproom (photo by Suzi Corker)

In the front of the building that houses the brewery itself is the taproom, which was completely refurbished in August 2021 to provide a more comfortable and homely space for drinkers. Given Ignition's ethos, it's no surprise to learn that we aspire to make the taproom as welcoming as possible to all who enter. The taproom serves three Ignition brews in bottle-conditioned form and four from Ecofoss kegs (the beer is conditioned in the keg and no gas touches the product). The four regulars are: South of the River (a 4.2% ABV pale ale), Jump Start (a 4.6% ABV IPA), Well Oiled Machine (a 4.8% ABV London porter) and GTI (a 5.5% ABV double dry-hopped APA). There is also a range of specials that changes throughout the year. The current special is Spark Plug, a 3.8% ABV single-hopped extra pale ale.

The taproom, at 44A Sydenham Road SE26 5QF, is open from 5pm to 9pm on Thursdays, 5pm to 10pm on Fridays and 2pm to 10pm on Saturdays.

Dave Rathborne
Head Brewer, Ignition Brewery

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THE TURK'S HEAD, TWICKENHAM 29 / 30 JUNE | **THE BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, ROMSEY** 4 JULY
THE BEAR OF BURTON, CHRISTCHURCH 5 / 6 JULY | **THE JOLLY FARMER, ALTON** 7 / 8 JULY
THE PRINCE BLUCHER, TWICKENHAM 10 JULY | **THE CHINEHAM ARMS, BASINGSTOKE** 11 JULY
THE SHIP INN, LANGSTON 12 / 13 JULY | **THE RED LION, SOUTHWICK** 14 JULY
THE GUN, DOCKLANDS 16 JULY & 20 AUGUST | **THE CROMWELL ARMS, ROMSEY** 18 / 19 JULY
THE FOX & HOUNDS, LYNDHURST 20 / 21 JULY | **THE HAMPSHIRE HOG, CLANFIELD** 22 / 23 JULY
THE CASTLE, HARROW 25 / 26 / 27 JULY | **THE VANSITTART ARMS, WINDSOR** 28 JULY
THE BELL, OUTWOOD 30 JULY | **THE QUEEN'S HEAD, KINGSTON** 2 AUGUST
THE VIADUCT, HANWELL 3 AUGUST | **THE PAPER MILL, APSLEY** 4 AUGUST
THE QUEEN'S HEAD, BROOK GREEN 5 / 6 AUGUST | **THE GEORGE IV, CHISWICK** 8 / 9 AUGUST
THE KING & QUEEN, CATERHAM 10 AUGUST | **THE LINKS TAVERN, LIPHOOK** 11 AUGUST
THE TALKHOUSE, STANTON 14 AUGUST | **THE BOAT, BERKHAMSTED** 15 AUGUST
THE CROSS KEYS, GREAT MISSENDEN 16 AUGUST | **THE JOLLY FARMER, WORPLESDON** 17 AUGUST
THE BEAR OF RODBOROUGH, STROUD 21 AUGUST | **THE ROSE & CROWN, EALING** 22 AUGUST
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Auntie's boozers revisited

On 13 April, the London Pubs Group held an evening tour of Fitzrovia, W1, which, in part, followed in the footsteps of a previous event in December 2008 visiting pubs that had associations with the BBC (hence 'Auntie') and artists and writers who once worked or resided in the area. The name Fitzrovia, believed to have been coined in the 20th century, derives from the name of the man who became Lord Southampton, the Hon Charles Fitzroy. He developed the area, centered on Fitzroy Square, in the 18th century and by the 1930s and 1940s it had become known as the haunt of artists and writers.

Proceedings commenced in the **Flying Horse** (formerly the Tottenham) at 6 Oxford Street. This famous pub is not only Grade II*-listed but is also on CAMRA's National Inventory of Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest. This is the last-remaining pub on Oxford Street and was built in 1892-93 in a florid Flemish Renaissance style to the designs of architects Saville & Martin. The pub now consists



Mirror in the Flying Horse

of a long single space, arising from the amalgamation of two rooms in the original Victorian pub. The rear section has some of the most exceptional and rare Victorian pub fittings seen anywhere, including mahogany panelling, back-painted mirrors, embossed tiling and plain mirrors. A remarkable series of paintings features women representing three of the four seasons. The fourth painting 'Winter' has disappeared, although it's just possible it might survive beneath the modern panelling

beside the entrance. After more than a century as the Tottenham, the pub reverted to its earlier name in 2015. Once part of Ind Coope (Allied Breweries) estate, by 2005 it was being operated by Mitchells & Butlers, who, as a brewery, had merged with Bass in 1961. The pub is now part of the Nicholson's chain; such is the topsy-turvy pub world that emerged from the 1989 Beer Orders. The current beer offering includes Adnams Ghost Ship, Fuller's London Pride, Sharp's Doom Bar, Weston's Old Rosie and Rosie's Pig Ciders and one guest ale, usually from a microbrewery.

A short walk west along Oxford Street led to the **Wheatsheaf** at 25 Rathbone Place. The pub was frequented by the writer, Julian Maclaren-Ross who immortalised it in his book *Memoirs of the Forties*. It was also the place where the poet, Dylan Thomas met his future wife, Caitlin Macnamara.



Inside the Wheatsheaf

It was built in 1931 by Younger's Brewery to a design by J S Quilter & Son in their familiar London 'Scotch House' half-timbered style (see also the Coach & Horses, Bruton Street W1, and the former Pillars of Hercules in Greek Street - now called Jim Loves Gloria). In *Memoirs of the Forties*, Julian Maclaren-Ross described it thus: "It had mock-Tudor panelling and, inset around the walls, squares of tartan belonging to various Scottish clans." Some of the latter, the "windows of armourial glass" and other features have survived opening-out and modernisation. Over the entrance door is a particularly pleasing stained-glass depiction of the eponymous wheatsheaf. Sharp's Doom Bar is the usual real ale sold here.

After continuing north along Rathbone Place to the junction with Percy Street, turning right and crossing over to Charlotte Street, we reached the **Fitzroy Tavern**, 16 Charlotte Street. The pub originally opened as the Hundred Marks but gained its present name in 1919, no doubt in part due to teutonophobia after WW1. Later owned by Hoare & Co and then Charrington, it was one of Sam Smith's first London acquisitions in the early 1980s.

Among the notables who once frequented it were Jacob Epstein, Dylan Thomas (of course!), Augustus John and George Orwell. It is not a listed building nor is it on any CAMRA Inventory but it is included on CAMRA's list of Outstanding Conversions and Restorations. The description is as follows, "The building started life as a coffee house in 1883 and became a pub in 1887. A fantastic transformation by Sam Smith's in which a large island bar serves six separate drinking areas with screens, some connected



Screen in the Fitzroy Tavern

internally. There is a profusion of etched glass, mirrors, tiles and wood panelling. The pub has a distinctly bohemian history from the 1920s, frequented by eminent literary figures, artists, musicians, politicians and many other notables. More than just a London public house, it won the CAMRA Pub Design Award for refurbishment in 2017." Prior to this, the pub had operated with one continuous bar counter serving a single space, until the individual bar divisions, as featured in the original floorplan and design, were reinstated in 2015. It is said to be the only pub with its own written biography. Sadly, for our visit, part of the pub was hired out for a private party and the service was disappointing. No doubt this was just a temporary problem.

Following this disappointing experience, we made our way across Charlotte Street and through Percy Passage to the little **Newman Arms**, 23 Rathbone Street. This former beer house, dating from 1863, later a Charrington pub, is now Truman's central London eyrie. No original fittings remain alas. It has a rather plain, modern bar on the ground floor with additional seating in the cellar. The pub was another favourite of Orwell, and was known to Julian Maclaren-Ross as the Beerhouse because it did not have a spirits licence. Newman Passage to its left was known to Maclaren-Ross as

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Auntie's boozers revisited

"*Jekyll and Hyde Alley because it was the sort of place through which Mr Hyde flourishing his stick rushes low-angle on the screen*". It later featured in the opening scene of the notorious film *Peeping Tom*, made by Michael Powell in 1960. Two Truman's ales plus one changing guest are usually available. The pub's side door leads into the eponymous passage and then to Newman Street.

A route via Mortimer Street and Great Portland Street brought us to the **George**, 55 Great Portland Street. First established on this site in 1677, it was rebuilt to the designs of Board & Walters in 1878 (although other sources say 1860s). The 1989 *Real Beer in West London* guide lists the George as a Clifton Inns free house which indicates a former ownership by Watney. The Grade II-listed building is also on the CAMRA's London Regional Inventory of Pub Interiors of Special Historic Interest and the description includes, "A popular pub in the heart of Fitzrovia... It has now been turned into a single drinking space, yet it is still well worth a visit for its collection of surviving, excellent late-Victorian fixtures and fittings. The panelled bar counter seems original and behind it is a magnificent five-bay back-fitting with etched and gilded mirrors with the sprays of flowers and foliage that were so popular with pub fitters of the day... The most appealing part of the pub is the left-hand side with its wood-paneled walls, more etched and gilded mirrors and delightful ceramic panels. The rear area has the air of a gentleman's club, fully panelled to the ceiling and decorated with mirrors and tiles... A sympathetic refurbishment prior to the pub's reopening in 2022 has left the heritage features unaffected." The pub was nicknamed the Gluepot by the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham as he claimed his musicians were always getting stuck in there. The modern vogue for dimly-lit bars with tea-lights on the tables meant however that the splendid décor could not really be properly appreciated during our visit. Purity Mad Goose, St Austell Tribute and Thornbridge Jaipur are normally available here.

We reached our final venue by turning left into Great Portland Street and continuing north to New Cavendish Street to the **Stag's Head** at 102 New Cavendish Street.

Like the Wheatsheaf, this is a former Younger's pub but in contrast is a rare survival of late-1930s streamlined *moderne*. It occupies the ground floor of an office block built in 1939-40 by Marshall & Tweedy for Cranleigh Estates. Naturally, the pub was yet another favourite of Dylan Thomas and also of the actress Ellis Powell. She played the title role in the BBC radio drama series *Mrs Dale's Diary* which ran from 1948 to 1969. In 1963 she was sacked in favour of Jessie Matthews, allegedly in part due to her drinking habits. This event was said to have inspired the 1964 play and 1968 film *The Killing of Sister George*. The pub is on CAMRA's London Regional Inventory with this description, "In complete



contrast to late-Victorian ornateness, this corner-site pub is a rare example of late 1930s sleek streamlining. The builders were the Scottish brewers William Younger who had previously gone for a nostalgic, half-timbered style for their pubs dotted over central London. Now no more fancy foliage or gritty materials, just a smooth brick building with a rounded corner and metal windows. Note the metal door and curving glass to the right-hand entrance. The interior is (and no doubt always was) a single space with a servery with a panelled bar counter along the rear wall. In contrast to the exterior, there is little sense of modernity here because the extensive wall panelling does hark back to the ever-popular Tudor revival. Youngers seem to have been setting out their stall to cater for stand-up drinking by workers from the surrounding offices, hence the peninsula-style projections to prop up customers and their drinks. All in all, a rather special survivor." Julian Maclaren-Ross used to drink here to meet BBC contacts but later switched to the George. One night, after being refused service in the Stag's Head, he called the police but was himself arrested for being drunk and disorderly. The Stag's Head is in CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide 2022*. Tring Side Pocket for a Toad and one other changing Tring ale are usually on offer. One unusual feature was that, as the pub quietened towards closing time, it was noticeable that, depending on where you were, trains on either the northbound or southbound Victoria Line could be heard passing underneath.

The London Pubs Group (LPG) tours are conducted in a relaxed manner and no formal membership or registration is required. Although the suggested itinerary and approximate pub stop times are always published on the LPG website, participants are free to vary the route, take in extra pubs or omit others as they please. You travel at their own pace and newcomers are always welcome. There is no 'guide's umbrella' to follow here!

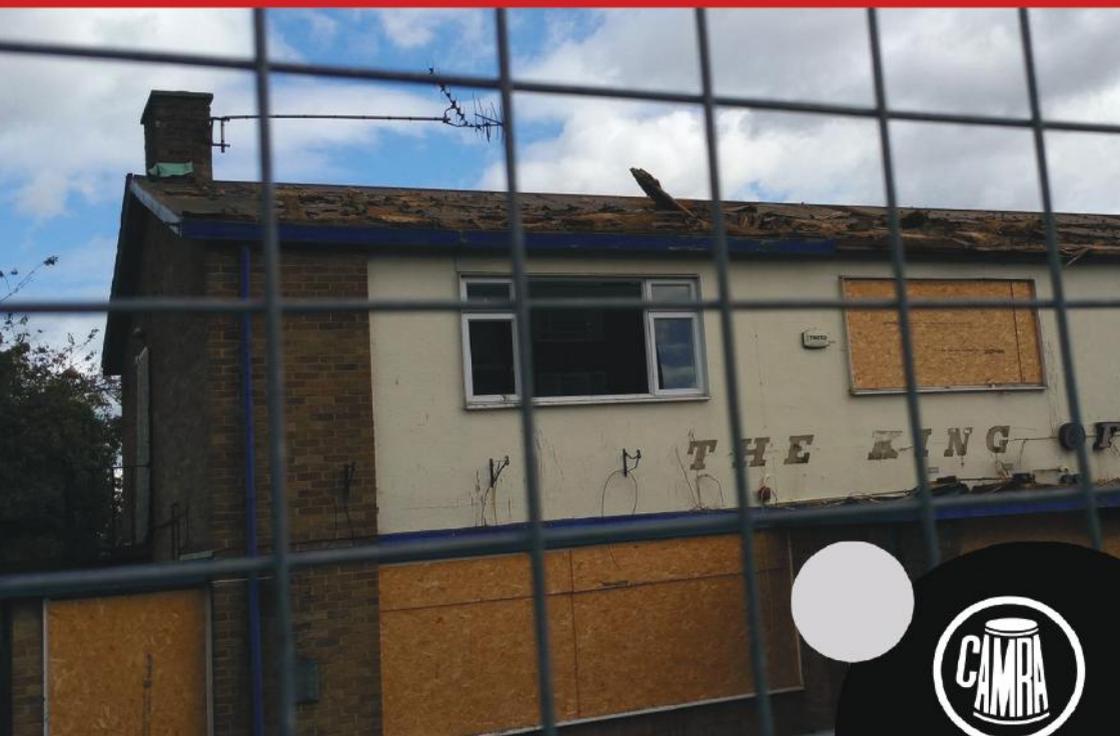
Jane Jephcote and Kim Rennie

REAL ALE

CAMRA defines real ale as **live beer**: 'beer that, when first put into its final container, contains at least 0.1 million cells of live yeast per millilitre, plus enough fermentable sugar to produce a measurable reduction in its gravity while in that container, whatever it may be'. Within this definition comes **cask-conditioned beer** which is defined as 'live beer that continues to mature and condition in its cask, any excess of carbon dioxide being vented such that it is served at atmospheric pressure'. It should be left to settle and condition in the cellar, for up to ten days if necessary and served at cellar temperature, which is 11 to 14°C.

Is your local pub under threat?

CAMRA has the tools to help you save it



camra.org.uk/saveyourlocal



Campaign
for
Real Ale

FULLER'S NEWS

Fuller's held their charity Bridge Walk in early May. The beneficiaries this time were Special Olympics Great Britain who provide year-round sports training and competition opportunities for all people with intellectual (learning) disabilities in England, Scotland and Wales.



Over 80 members of staff from all areas of the company took part, along with a number of Special Olympics athletes, walking the 26 miles from Fuller's offices at Pier House, near Kew Bridge, to the Sail Loft in Greenwich. This involved crossing over the Thames 19 times, using 18 bridges and once under, via the Greenwich Foot Tunnel. They raised over £25,000. For more information about Special Olympics GB go to www.specialolympicsgb.org.uk.

Fuller's are also, once again, bringing some culture into our lives. *Shakespeare in the Garden* returns for its 11th season from 20 June to 17 September. The theatre company Open Bar will be giving 93 performances of the Comedy of Errors and the Taming of the Shrew at 59 selected pubs. For more information and to buy tickets, go to fullers.co.uk/Shakespeare.

Opera in the Garden is also returning. The Rogue Opera Company will be performing a selection of highlights with 23 performances at 23 pubs from 14 June to 28 July. For details and tickets, go to www.fullers.co.uk/event-finder/opera-in-the-garden.

WETHERSPOON'S NEWS

According to their latest financial report, JDW are trading at less than 5% below their 2019 levels. They are expecting to break even over their current financial year, which ends on 31 July.

I have mentioned previously that JDW were planning to open a new outlet in a Grade II-listed former bank at 222 Strand (WC2R 1BA). This plan appears to have been abandoned. No reason is known and any further information would be appreciated. Possibly as an alternative, JDW are reported to be interested in taking over the former TGI Fridays outlet in Bedford Street, Covent Garden (WC2E 9HZ). Some local opposition is reported. They have also acquired the freehold of one of their existing pubs, the Beehive in Brixton (SW9 7DG) and the lease of the Waterfront on the river at St George Wharf at Vauxhall.

CITY PUB GROUP

CPG, who now have 41 pubs, report a strong financial position with their results for the financial year ended 26

December 2021 showing an improvement on 2019. They are looking to add around a further 25 pubs to their portfolio by the end of 2023, including a new premium concept called Damsen and Wilde. Chairman Clive Watson told the *Morning Advertiser*, "Following the reversal over the festive season, trading is now beginning to build in momentum and we look forward to an uninterrupted summer's trading. We are emerging from the pandemic in the strongest financial position we have ever been in and therefore have signalled our intention to recommence dividends in the autumn." CPG have however disposed of six pubs, five of them to Portobello Starboard (see below).

PORTOBELLO EXPAND

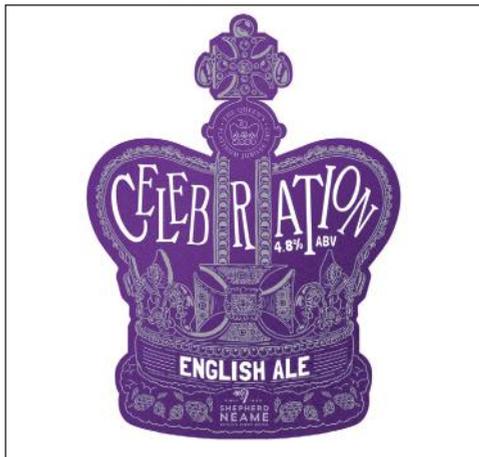
As mentioned above, Portobello Starboard Ltd, the pub owning and operating division of the Portobello group, has acquired six more pubs, this time from the City Pub Group. Only one is in London, the Travellers Friend in Woodford Green (IG8 0PN). Portobello Starboard are backed by private equity firm Zetland Capital and have recently secured £40 million of additional funding from OakNorth Bank to finance further growth. Watch this space.

PROSPECT PUBS & BARS

This small chain have opened their sixth pub and their first in London. This is the Cambria in Camberwell (SE5 9AR) which had been closed for three years. See the WhatPub Update for more details. Prospect is owned by Mark Draper and Dan Shotton, previously of Redcomb Pubs which they sold to Young's in 2019.

SHEPHERD NEAME NEWS

Sheps have produced a limited edition beer to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Celebration English Ale (4.8% ABV), which features local East Kent Goldings and Kentish Challenger hops, will be available on draught at a selection of pubs across their estate over the Jubilee bank holiday weekend. Sheps hold Royal Warrants for their Spitfire beer and Grants Morella Chery Brandy. The company is also planting 70 trees at pubs across its estate as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project.



As from April just gone, Sheps have become the official beer supplier to the University Boat Races. Their beers were available at the 'fan parks' in Funnival Gardens, Hammersmith, and Bishops Park in Fulham. Much nearer to home, Sheps have become the principal long term backer of the very popular Faversham Hop Festival. The event faced cancellation until new sponsors stepped in and it is now scheduled to go ahead on the weekend of 3 to 4 September.

NEW BEERS FROM GREENE KING

In March, GK launched four new beers marking its entry into the craft beer market. The beers will be available in both GK tied houses and the free trade. Two of them, Flint Eye, a 4.5% ABV dry hopped lager, and Level Head, a 4% ABV session IPA, will be part of GK's core range. Western Zeph, a 5.4% ABV West Coast IPA, and Subterranea, a 6.2% ABV oatmeal stout, are limited edition brews.

NEW BRAND FROM STONEGATE

Stonegate are setting up a new premium pubs operation called the Chapter Collection. These will be food-led, primarily city centre venues. The pubs will be converted from their existing portfolio and the first is the Clerk & Well in Clerkenwell Road (EC1R 5DU), which has recently been refurbished accordingly. Its website does not mention cask beer. Cocktails and gin however are prominent.

SAD LOSS

Not a London brewery, I know, but they had many fans. Very sadly, the Kelham Island Brewery in Sheffield has announced that it is to close permanently after 32 years. Their best known beer, Pale Rider, was CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain back in 2004. Their pub, the Fat Cat, will however remain open. (The nearby Kelham Island Tavern has no connection with the brewery.) There is a worrying trend in long-established medium sized independent breweries closing.

LEARN AND DISCOVER

Don't forget to visit the Learn and Discover section of CAMRA's website (<https://camra.org.uk/learn-discover/>) for all you need to know about beer, cider, perry and pubs.

The new series of the CAMRA podcast, *Pubs. Pints. People.* continues. This season, the show is on tour, visiting local CAMRA branches around the country. Episode 3 will be available from Wednesday 1 June. It will be taking a look at celebratory brews for the Jubilee bank holiday weekend and will include a contribution from Fergus Fitzgerald of Adnams about the Thank Brew mentioned in our article on CAMRA's Summer of Pub campaign. It is available through most podcast platforms (Apple Podcast, Spotify or CAMRA's own Acast channel).

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Signature continues its high notes!

Eight huge shining silver silos are the first things that strike you on the approach to Signature Brew. Based on a trading estate off Blackhorse Lane in Walthamstow, this might not be in keeping with the image of a brewery that has twice won SIBA's Brewery Business of the Year award but is a reflection of a modern craft brewery, which melds the modern with the traditional and adds in a few musical overtures to round things off.

Signature started in 2011 when two cousins, Sam McGregor and Tom Bott, got fed up with drinking 'rubbish beer' at music gigs and decided to do something about it. They started cuckoo brewing to supply venues with 'beer with taste'. The pair were well placed to do so. Sam's background was in music and Tom's family have been brewing for forty years; his father and uncle set up Titanic Brewery in Stoke on Trent. The ethos was to work with bands and venues to produce 'own label' beer thus helping to ensure that venues took Signature's beer.



The brewery, with the silos

Tom and Sam did this until 2015 when they decided it was about time they set up their own brewery rather than relying on others. They opened their first brewery in 2016 when it was still just the two of them. Tom said, "We gradually started to get the brand established, including at festivals and other outlets. We helped to found more recognition of uniting people with the idea of great beer and great music; everything from jazz to rock."

Signature left their original home in Leyton in 2018, to move to their new home which was crowdfunded, as was their first brewery. The old kit was sold (to Ascot Ales), allowing the new brewery to have a complete step change. As the world opened up after Covid in 2021, they put in a new stand-alone tap room at the front of the brewery, complete with a roof terrace. Tom said of the pandemic, "It was the small packaging that kept us going during lockdown. We only furloughed the events and tap room staff with the rest helping us pack boxes on rows of tables! We are also pleased that we were able to help musicians during this time. We introduced the 'Pub in a Box' with musicians delivering the packages."

The London Tasting Panel were keen to look around the

sparkling modern brewery and so Tom Unwin, the head brewer (and son of one of the founding members of London CAMRA) showed the Panel around his empire. Tom has brewed with a number a breweries, including Brodies and most latterly with Stockholm Brewing Company for four years, before joining Signature in 2017, becoming head brewer the year after.



The two Toms

Tom U started his tour with the silos. "Two of the silos are for malt, Super Pale Malt and Pale Malt with the other six, which are 200 hectolitres in volume, solely for producing our lager. They are temperature controlled and the beer is kept there for five to six weeks. We start at 4° C reducing it to 0° C about a week before the beer is finished. The weight of the liquid helps the beer to drop but we also centrifuge to ensure clarity." Signature use various dry yeast strains. Tom U explained, "We currently mainly use dry yeast but we are investing in a lab that would help us move more towards wet yeasts." All the ales use top fermenting yeast, with a Californian yeast being the most used due to it contributing a low flavour profile.

The water is treated using reverse osmosis (something many London breweries would die for) before brewing starts in the 32 hectolitre plant. The water is then treated with acidulated malt to adjust the pH. Brewing takes place three times a day, five days a week, using hop pellets and, more unusually, their own milled malt; the small mill is on the first floor at the back of the brewery. "This enables us to control the size of the milled grain so that we can maximise the efficiency of the brewing" said Tom U.

The hops are mainly used in the whirlpool with a little being added in the copper which allows the aromatics to be retained rather than boiled off. The finished beer (except the lager) is then put into one of the ten tanks. They also have a pilot plant with a 118 litre brew length along with four one barrel conical fermenters, which, Tom explained, replicates the main kit well.

The core beer range is Roadie, Signature Lager and Backstage IPA with a split of 70% keg, 20% can and 10% cask. There is still a commitment to keep cask beer going and they recently installed two handpumps in the Tap Room (they can be found to the far left on the bar).

Signature continues its high notes!



The taproom stage

Tom Bott was asked if, looking back, there was anything he would have done differently. He replied, "The first few years when we were cuckoo brewing were fun, meeting the bands and attending gigs but if we had started our own brewery earlier, we would be further along our journey." But the days of music gigs are by no means over. The brewery doubles as a music venue, so you can watch a band and have a beer among the fermenters!

And to leave the last word to Tom Bott as regards Signature's ethos, "We are well plugged into the history of beer. Sitting with people and drinking beer is one of the best things that exist. If this isn't fun, we shouldn't be here."

For details on the music events and tap room opening hours see www.signaturebrew.co.uk. For tasting notes (and more photos) see the brewery section of the London Regional website www.london.camra.org.uk.

Christine Cryne

Signature are part of the Blackhorse Beer Mile, which also includes the taprooms for Exale, Beerblefish, Hackney Brewery, Wild Card and the Truman's Social Club.

Are you a CAMRA member?

If not, why not join?

See page 53 for details.

THE HOPE CARSHALTON

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An afternoon in Clapham

One afternoon back in February I decided to visit a few pubs in the Clapham High Street area which I hadn't been to for a few years. Exiting the station I passed the Railway pub and, going under the railway bridge, headed to the Clapham North, which is, appropriately, opposite Clapham North tube station. This pub was previously called the Bedford and presumably refers to a local landowner, the Duke of Bedford perhaps, because there is also a Bedford pub not too far away in Balham or were the pubs just named after the roads they are on?



I had last visited this imposing two storey red brick pub six years ago when I had a very good glass of Young's Gold for £1.95. This time however, as I approached the bar, I saw that none of the pumps were badged up. The barman said the real ales had run out and he didn't have any more in the cellar so I bade farewell and headed up along Bedford Road to the Falcon.

This hard to miss two storey pub, just before the railway arches, is painted yellow all over. On venturing inside I found a large island bar of varnished wood, matching the floor. Around it is a mixture of seating, with a comfortable bench in the front window, some high benches and dining tables to the side and rear. The walls are a gastro greeny colour, while the ceiling is of pale cream squares. On the walls there are framed pictures of falcons no less.



For the better weather there is plenty of outdoor seating at the front. At the bar, this M&B pub was offering just two ales, Doom Bar and Dark Star Hophead. Usually there is also Tim Taylor Landlord but it wasn't on so I went for the Hophead at £5.35; it was quite average. Seven years ago when I visited here there were four ales on, including Tim Taylor Boltmaker at £4.15. It was fairly busy that day but this afternoon there were only a few customers in. It was however pleasant enough.

Next I proceeded under the railway arches for a few hundred yards before taking a right turn which led me to a

path through blocks of flats, which brought me out by the Coach & Horses. There was no real ale as far as I know so I carried on a short distance to King & Co. This is not its original name; it was first called the Kings Head (the side road gives it away being called Kings Head Lane) but more latterly it has been the Grey Goose, Smoke Room and 100.



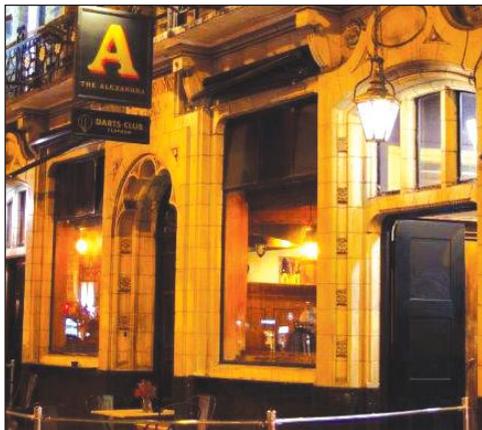
The white painted building is quite inoffensive but, with two storeys, it is somewhat dwarfed by the newer adjoining building. Inside it is all very basic with a centre three-sided bar and an open kitchen to one side. The floor is wood and the seating is mainly steel tube wood chairs, like being in school. There are some high seats to the side and the wood framed fireplace has a clear mirror above it. The colours are mainly green and cream, with some yellow and some exposed brickwork, with the back wall covered with various mirrors. The pub is operated by Portobello and so it was not surprising to find on the bar Portobello APA and Market Porter, which I went for at £4.40; it was good. Adnams Southwold Bitter was also available. I first came to this pub in 2016 and the ales were all from the Little Beer Co of Guildford, which no longer operates. Then I had a pint of Little Smooth Stout for £4.10, so I suppose a rise of 30p in six years is not bad.

Finishing my beer I headed up towards the High Street and on the corner is the Belle Vue. It is a fair size pub on a very busy corner, done out in cream and green. Inside it is all quite rambling with different seating areas all around the centre three sided angled bar. It is all green and cream with some exposed brickwork to the rear, covered by a lot of hanging foliage which spread to the ceiling.



An afternoon in Clapham

There is a wood floor, lots of framed pictures on the walls and the ceiling features cross beams with plaster frieze designs. There was only one beer on, Adnams Ghost Ship, which at £5.30 I went for and it was good. I first came to this pub nine years ago when there were three ales on, Doom Bar (have we grown to love it?), a Greene King house ale and Adnams Gun Hill, which I had for £3.60. I think it was a dark ale but on referring to GBGs of the time there are no tasting notes, so didn't anyone drink it?



It was now 6.30 and was busy enough in this very ambient pub but I had to mind all the dogs lying about when stepping out to the door.

Turning left along this very busy road, I soon reached the Alexandra, with its very ornate styled frontage and it didn't disappoint inside either. It is all very wooden and traditional, revolving around a large three-sided island bar.

There are lots of wood beams, various seating areas and a two-tone green colour scheme. It seems that green is very popular around here. There are various TV screens so it is obviously quite sport orientated but very popular at that. It is a GK pub with IPA and Abbot but I went for the guest ale, Sambrook's Drop Kick at £5.30; it was good. I had also been in this pub nine years ago, it was GK then but with different ales on: London Glory and Yardbird plus a guest ale, Adnams Ghost Ship at £3.50.

I decided that this would do for today, so headed back to Clapham Junction. I stated walking but a bus turned up so I jumped on that. No, I didn't go straight home. The 'Spoon's at Clapham Junction, the London & South Western was too tempting so I popped in for an Oakham's Sankandar, just to finish off. It was an interesting afternoon in Clapham and there are several other pubs that I didn't visit, so another time maybe.

Clive Taylor

BEER TASTINGS

Christine Cryne, beer tutor, Master Trainer and member of the British Guild of Beer Writers, is holding two events in July which readers may find of interest.

Beer & Snacks – Face to Face

Tuesday 5 July (7.30) – Snooty Fox, Canonbury N5 2NN

Often when you visit a pub, you eat snacks but have you ever thought about which beer goes best with which snack? This is your chance to find out more and there are many more snacks than just crisps! This fun session will team five beers with five different snacks, which Christine will talk you through. The Snooty Fox has won CAMRA's North London Pub of the Year twice. The event will last about 90 minutes. To book go to <https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/65/beer-snacks>.



Beer & Cheese – Face to Face Friday 8 July (2pm) – Maidenhead Beer Festival

Is there a better way to spend a Friday afternoon than eating cheese and drinking beer? Come along and see how the complexities of the flavours in beer marry with the luscious flavours in cheese, again, all talked through by Christine. To book, go to <https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/54/beer-cheese-tasting>. For details of the festival, go to <https://maidenheadbeerfest.camra.org.uk/>.



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ELAC CAMRA City Pub of the Year Award for 2016

Werewolf - the spookiness finally begins!

After many, many months, the Werewolf Brewery & Taproom has finally opened!

Rich White, an American, who used to be the head brewer of the London Brewing Company, decided to set up a brewery a couple of years ago but has been beset by a number of issues, not least the Covid pandemic. The brewery, close to Camden Road Overground station, is another one in a railway arch and houses both the brewery



Rich in the brewery

and a small tap room with an outside yard in which sits a carriage from a ghost train. But Rich, who is a lover of horror films, has extended the spooky features to the brewery itself, as can be seen by the murals and effigies.

Brewing once a week, there are four fermenters, two new and two acquired from the House Brewery, which was based in the Prince. Currently, the beer is all draught keg but a canning line will be added in due course. The core range reflects the creepiness: Stray Cat, Session Ale (3.4% ABV); Moonstomp, a rice lager at 4.5% ABV; an APA called



Spot the ghost train!

Psychobilly (4.8% ABV); Creepster, an American Brown IPA (5.1% ABV) and a Rye IPA named Horrorshow (6.1% ABV). To see the eeriness for yourself, the tap room opens at weekends 4pm to 9pm Friday and 12 to 9pm Saturday; see <https://werewolfbeer.com>.

Christine Cryne

HARVEY'S AT THEIR IMPERIAL BEST!

Having missed two years because of the pandemic, CAMRA's Champion Bottled Beer of Britain competition returned in early May. The final round, the culmination of a series of local member voting and regional judging events throughout the year, was held at Coventry Beer Festival.

The winner was Harvey's Imperial Extra Double Stout (9% ABV). This was the second time that this beer had won the competition, having been successful in 2015. Harvey's brew in Lewes, East Sussex, and their joint managing director and head brewer (and recent High Sheriff of East Sussex), Miles Jenner, said, "We are all thrilled to learn of this award. The beer is an authentic recreation of a classic style that was popular in the early nineteenth century, when Harvey's commenced trading. It has received many accolades since we first brewed it in 1999. For it to take the Championship twice, in the space of seven years, speaks volumes for this uncompromising strong stout."

This year there was a tie for the silver award between Hobson's (Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire) Dhustone Stout (4.3% ABV) and Runaway Brewery's (Manchester M4) Runaway IPA (5.5% ABV).

The announcement was made by Laura Emson of CAMRA's National Executive, who said, "The Champion Bottled Beer of Britain competition is a national celebration of bottle-conditioned beer and is the culmination of hard work by local brewery teams from across the country and CAMRA members who select and judge the beers regionally. The pandemic helped remind us all just how important bottled and canned beer is, and we're incredibly lucky to have such a huge breadth and variety available in bottles these days. Alongside these fantastic winning brews, I'd recommend consumers keep their eye out for our 'One to Try' sticker, a true indication of quality."



The judges at work

Some 35 years ago I sat in a pub in Stoke-on-Trent, a student hoping to stave off the inevitable pricking of the bubble in a post-degree reality, by wishfully stating to a friend that it would be good if we could work out a way of staying in the pub and getting paid for it. Well, as they say, be careful what you wish for. Fast forward to 2022 and I am about to launch my 10th historical Pub Tour of London in as many years.

If you want to know Paris, go to the cafes; if you want to know New York, go to the delis and if you want to know London (you are one step ahead of me here, I suspect), then you go to the pubs. I'm aware that I'm preaching to the converted, but the rich tapestry of London and its inhabitants, woven down through the years, is best seen in its pubs, taverns, inns and alehouses. Treasures all; we ignore them at our peril, for as Hilaire Belloc famously said, "*But when you have lost your Inns down your empty selves, for you will have lost the last of England*".

This tale begins over a decade ago with the foolhardy, though ultimately rewarding, acceptance of a challenge to find London's oldest pub. Debate rages and criteria range and though I feel that particular challenge has been put to bed (the Seven Stars on Carey Street by the strictest measure), it set off in motion the singular chain of events that has led to ten historical pub tours. As I research each neighbourhood of London in an exacting and painstaking process of narrowing 20 to 30 pubs down to five or

six (it is a sacrifice I am prepared to meet head on), I also look out for stories and buildings and tucked-away gems and build a route between pubs accordingly.

Of course, there is time in each pub for a drink and I freely distribute beer, gin and port recommendations. The nature of the research means I am forced to try as many different drinks as I can. It is a noble struggle! I now run two public tours a month, rotating through the current ten tours over the months, though most of the tours I run are private ones, where groups choose their tour, date and start time.

Altogether, it is a magical combination of wonderful history, amazing pubs, great drinks and friendly company, all tied together with a warm, light hearted commentary over the course of a three hour tour. We tumble down alleyways, wander into lost squares and through portals in time to visit the oldest and the most incredible drinking venues in the world's most fascinating city.

If this article has piqued your interest, please have a look at my website www.londonpubtours.weebly.com. There is a contact form on the website but to enquire further or book, please email me at vicnorman@postmaster.co.uk or call/text me on 07504 977267.

I look forward to seeing you on a tour some day and together we will drink in the history.

Vic Norman – Dragon & Flagon Tours

Letters

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

MEMORIES OF THE MAGDALA

It was good to see the recent report that the Magdala in Hampstead has reopened. In the early 1980s a group of us had 'lunch' there every weekday. The walls above the panelling in the saloon bar were then adorned with such exotica as a puffer fish in a glass case and a coco du mer (the first time I'd seen one). In the days before computer tills Pat the barman would tot up the cost of a round in his head while serving and, if you weren't fast enough getting your money out, he'd be serving someone else and doing more mental arithmetic while he waited for you. No staring into the distance while thirsty

customers fret and a punter searches for a note or a card as now happens. The lady licensee and an antipodean barmaid did all the cooking. As we ate every day we were often asked what we would like the special to be the next day. Liver, bacon and onion casserole was the favourite, homemade of course. Beer was Charrington's IPA or Bass. I drank a lot of the latter. Guest beers were very much a thing in the future.

Peter Miller

BEER RANGE AND QUALITY

Just read the latest *London Drinker* and a good issue it is. Here in Birmingham, and on my travels with my London based friends, we too have noticed fewer hand pumps purely because of diminished trade. However we do feel this has led to a dramatic improvement in the quality of the real ale we have been drinking. We suppose it's because more throughput of one real ale is much better than the many pre-Covid pubs who had rows of pumps with insufficient turnover to make their beers even vaguely worth drinking. Every cloud as they say!

Brian Moore

A VIEW FROM THE NORTH

I'm a long-standing CAMRA member, living in the north east of England, about 250 miles north of Kings Cross but I'm an

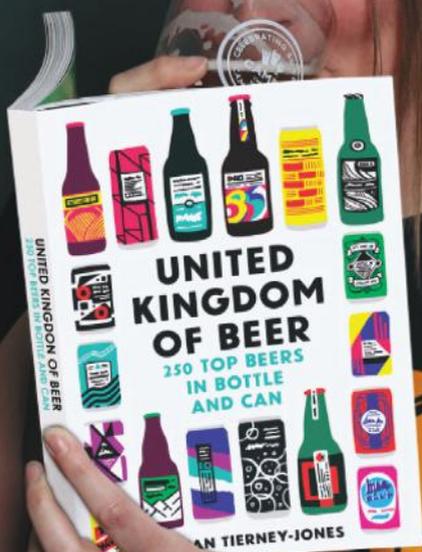
ex-Londoner, with connections to the place still. I love the *London Drinker* and simply want to thank everyone who's involved in its production and distribution. I greatly appreciate the level of detail in all aspects of the articles. People must be putting hours into this stuff. When I get a copy I go through it and mark off all the things I can pass on to various mates, in or out of the Capital, while noting, and swearing to visit one day, all your regular advertisers. (There's one right below 'Letters' on page 39, the Wenlock Arms. Yep, I've sought that one out, as a result!) Thanks for me being able to see the first two of this calendar year go to the King Charles I, a pub I also first learned about from an item in a previous issue. Some of us old geezers are in danger of getting left behind, more so since the Covid era drove a horse and cart through so many aspects of our ways of life. So, where there's a hard copy option, trustworthy and well-researched information plus some pub adverts with landline telephone numbers, I'm in! Anyone fancy adding, to Pub News, where it's true, 'the current management is fully committed to always having a cash payment option'? I'd visit those bars as priority! As long as the beer was right. Cheers!

Brian Dixon

Not my usual

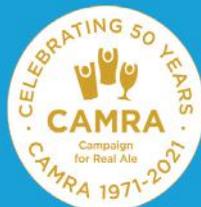
“I like a beer that’s
a bit different...
found so many great
ones in this book!”

Amy from Ware



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WHAT IS WHATPUB?



WhatPub? is CAMRA's on-line pub database. It is available for all to use, not just CAMRA members; just go to <https://whatpub.com/>. It features nearly 38,000 pubs which normally serve real ale plus records of pubs that do not sell real ale or have closed. All of the information has been compiled by CAMRA members and no fee is charged – or sought – for inclusion. You can search by specific pub name or general location. It is also possible for all users, again not just CAMRA members, to submit updates for entries (factual ones, not contentious customer reviews, please!).

You will find opening times, descriptions, facilities, maps and of course details of the real ale and cider on offer. Every effort is being made to update entries to show each pub's current situation but, as readers will appreciate, this is a substantial undertaking so we cannot guarantee that every entry will be updated immediately.

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

WhatPub? update 50

whatpub.com

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 & CLUBS CONVERTED TO REAL ALE

INNER LONDON

E10, DRUM (Wetherspoon), 557-559 Lea Bridge Rd. Reopened as **SPARK HOUSE** by Laine selling one of their beers and a guest ale.

E15, QUEENS HEAD (Craft Union), 5 West Ham La. Now selling Sharp's Doom Bar.

E17, SIGNATURE BREW BREWERS BAR, Unit 15, Uplands Business Park, Blackhorse La. Real ale reinstated.

E20, STRATFORD HOTEL, 20 International Way. Hotel, Bar & Brasserie adjacent to the DLR entrance of Stratford International Station. Three bars. Bottled beer from Redchurch brewery.

EC1, CAFE KICK, 43 Exmouth Market. Cafe with table football and showing live sport. Decorated with flags, Seating outside. Opened in 2005 but recently added Mahou as a draught beer. Bottles also available.

EC2, LALALAND, 17-19 Great Eastern St. Based on the old Dinerama site. A collection of street food vendors, bars and music. The venue also has a plunge pool, waterfalls and palm trees.

EC3, JEWRY, Centurion House, 37 Jewry St. Reopened.

N12, MALT & HOPS (Milegate), 891 High Rd. Reopened after many years of closure and now selling real ale. First offerings were St Austell Tribute and Whitstable Bay.

N16, MILDMAY CLUB & INSTITUTE, 34 Newington Green. Now trialling real ale. Usually a single cask on gravity from a Thursday evening.

N22, EARTH TAP, Blue House Yard, 5 River Park Rd. Reopened as **LUDO'S**. Beer list at beginning May shows keg

beers and bottled beers from Lost & Grounded, Five Points and Jiddler's Tipple, plus keg ciders.

NW5, CAPS & TAPS, 141 Fortress Rd. As well as being a bottle shop this establishment now has five keg taps for serving and drinking on the premises. The fridges stock over 300 different beers, plus varieties of 'natural wine' and cider. The up-to-date draught list can be found on their website.

SE5, CAMBRIA (Heineken), 40 Kemerton Rd. Having been closed for almost 3 years, the Cambria reopened in March as the first London outlet of the small Prospect Pubs & Bars chain established by the original founders of Redcomb Pubs (sold to Young's in 2019). Substantial refurbishment included moving the bar back to create a larger drinking area and the addition of a rear garden room with retractable roof. The smart, spacious interior retains its wood panelling and flooring. At the rear is a spacious outdoor area complete with a mural by local Brixton Brewery. Three changing real ales.

SE9, M'ARKS SKY BAR, 168 Eltham High St. Opened on 11 April, the transformed empty shell above the Vue Cinema is a large venue capable of accommodating perhaps 300 seated and standing customers surrounded by upmarket furnishing. There is an outdoor balcony for views of the High Street and Shooters Hill. Draught beers are keg only. A range of small tacos and tapas is available.

SE10, BREW BY NUMBERS BREWERY TAPROOM (MORDEN WHARF), Southern Warehouse, Morden Wharf Rd. In late 2021 the main brewing operation relocated from Bermondsey to a far larger warehouse site overlooking the Thames at Greenwich. The taproom has spacious indoor and outdoor seating, the latter with fine riverside views, and offers around 10 beers on tap including a number of guest brews. The original Bermondsey site retains a taproom and pilot brewing kit.

SE11, BROWN DERBY (Stonegate), 336 Kennington Park Rd. Reopened and now **DERBY**.

SE18, SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB, Lowood, Eaglesfield Rd. Sells the cask version of Greene King IPA.

SW11, ADDRESS, 35-37 Battersea Rise. Former Cote Restaurant reopened by Darwin & Wallace with usual selection of keg beers.

SW18, SPREAD EAGLE (Young's), 71 Wandsworth High St. Reopened. Young's Bitter; Special and St Austell Proper Job.

SW18, SCHOONER, 13 Barley Walk, Ram Quarter. Opened in 2021 in new build on the former Ram Brewery. Craft beer.

W1, 5TH VIEW (Waterstones), 203-206 Piccadilly. Reopened.
W1, COACH MAKERS ARMS (Cubitt House), 88 Marylebone La. Real ale reinstated with beers from Allsopp's
W1, LONDON GIN CLUB (Inception), 22 Great Chapel St. Downstairs gin palace with some draught keg beers available from the Shepherd Neame stable.

W1, PERCY & FOUNDERS (Open House London), 1 Pearson Sq. This site reopened in early 2022, renamed **ARBER GARDEN**. Self-described as 'A new public house, dining room & gin garden adjoining the stunning Fitzrovia Chapel. A pub inspired by the legendary botanist and philosopher Agnes Arber.' Various draught (keg) beers are available. The operators also run the **LIGHTERMAN** at King's Cross and the **BROADCASTER** in Shepherds Bush.

W2, BAR & BLOCK (Whitbread), North Wharf Rd. This venue follows the established Bar & Block format, essentially a spacious modern steakhouse incorporating a well-equipped bar with dedicated drinking tables and stools. Guinness and a selection of keg beers are available (Prahva, Madri, Brewdog IPA, St Miguel, Peroni and Camden Hells), plus Aspull cider.

W2, POMONA'S (Stonegate), 47 Hereford Rd. Reopened after lockdown in March 2022 with original name **PRINCESS ROYAL**. Refurbishment during the prior closure included some restoration of original features, including the exposure of the pub name mosaic in the entrance porch. The present incarnation, as part of the small Cubitt House chain of London pubs, is very much food, wine and cocktail focused, but with a range of keg beers and up to four real ales. Allsopp's; Fuller's London Pride; Hook Norton Hooky and Timothy Taylor Landlord.

W4, FULLERS BREWERY SHOP (Asahi), Chiswick La. Has been operating for many years. Regularly sells Dark Star Hophead; Fuller's ESB and London Pride and two other beers. The Fuller's brewery shop includes an experimental pilot brewery and a 'Growler Bar' where you can sample some of Fuller's cask beers and/or fill-up a growler to take home.

W5, TEATRO HALL (St George/Albion & East), 61 New Broadway. Part of the Albion & East 'Hall' chain (Allora, Martello, Sarata and Canova), containing a full production urban distillery, tasting room and bottle shop. Opened in the Filmworks site opposite Ealing Town Hall in April 2022. Along with a house lager, they have 'five draught beers which change all the time, working with local breweries and suppliers'. They are not listed anywhere so you have to ask the bartender what they have on!

W12, CONINGHAM ARMS (Stonegate), 191 Uxbridge Rd. Real ale reinstated: Sharp's Doom Bar.

OUTER LONDON

BECKENHAM, SLUG & LETTUCE (Stonegate), 150-156 High St. Now owned by RedCat and renamed the **MANOR HOUSE** following refurbishment. Up to three real ales available.

BROMLEY, CROWN HOTEL (Punch), 46 Plaistow La. Renamed **CROWN IN SUNDRIDGE** and real ale reinstated: initially Sharp's Doom Bar and Timothy Taylor Landlord.

BROMLEY, BROOMFIELDS, Bromley Arena, Hayes La. This new bar, located within the Glyn Beverly Stand at Bromley Arena in Hayes Lane, opened for the first time on 2 April. Two cask ales were available on opening day.

FELTHAM, AIRMAN (Stonegate), Hanworth Rd. Reopened with no real ale, lease still on the market.

SIDCUP, BLACK BOY (Heineken/Town Centre Inns), Southspring. Real ale returns in the form of a changing beer such as Sharp's Atlantic.

WEMBLEY, FLEADH, 278 Preston Rd. Finally reopened two years after lockdown.

PUBS & CLUBS CLOSED, CONVERTED, OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

INNER LONDON

E1, GUN (Heineken/East London Pub Co). No longer sells real ale.

E1, THOMAS NEALE. Closed since May 2021 due to works.

E8, HAND OF GLORY (JaguarShoes Collective). No longer sells real ale.

E14, PAGINATION. Closed - due to reopen as a London Cocktail Club.

EC1, BLEEDING HEART TAVERN. Closed for refurbishment.

EC3, DIRTY MARTINI (Minorities). Closed.

EC3, MISSOURI ANGEL (Searchgrade). No longer sells real ale.

EC4, FINE LINE (Fuller's), 1 Bow Churchyard. Renamed **SAINT**. No longer sells real ale.

EC4, SAINT (Fuller's), Paternoster Sq. Closed and now a building site.

EC4, WHITE HAUS (Stonegate) No longer sells real ale.

N1, REGENT (LHR Pubs). No longer sells real ale.

N1, THORNHILL ARMS (Heineken). No longer sells real ale.

N1, THREE JOHNS (Urban Pubs & Bars). No longer sells real ale.

N4, PARK TAVERN. No longer sells real ale.

N18, BEERBLEFISH TAKEAWAY. Now closed, having moved to Walthamstow.

NW1, EUSTON TAP (Bloomsbury Leisure Group), West & East Lodges, 190 Euston Rd. The Cider Tap in the East Lodge has now reopened - Tuesdays to Saturdays - good news for trad cider drinkers.

NW1, JOES. Closed, future uncertain.

SE1, BRITANNIA (Only Pub Company London). No longer sells real ale.

SE5, OLD DISPENSARY (Weiser Bars). No longer sells real ale.

SE7, ROYAL OAK (Heineken). No longer sells real ale.

SE9, WHITE HART (Stonegate). No longer sells real ale.

SE10, VANBRUGH (Hamna Wakaf) Closed in March after 18 years of current licensee's tenure. Seeking new lessee.

SE12, OLD TIGERS HEAD (Heineken UK/Caskaway Taverns). No longer sells real ale.

SE19, WALKER BRIGGS (Portobello Pubs). No real ale. Handpumps removed.

SE20, ALEXANDRA. No longer sells real ale.

SE20, BRIDGE HOUSE (Heineken). No real ale.

SE23, HONOR OAK (Heineken UK/Laine). Another Laine pub ceases to sell real ale.

SW2, CROWN & SCEPTRE Closed on 22 May; lease

terminated. Landmark site under threat of development. Future uncertain.

SW6, OYSTER ROOMS (Wetherspoon). Closed; planning already granted to convert to restaurant.

SW11, CROWN (PubLove). No longer sells real ale.

SW11, LOST & CO (South West Bars). Renamed LOST SOCIETY. With no beer on draught at all it no longer qualifies as a pub.

SW11, PLOUGH (Young's). Sadly, the handpumps are now unused.

SW16, VALE (Heineken). Closed in March after licence was suspended following violence. Future uncertain.

SW17, GRAVENEY & MEADOW. No longer sells real ale.

SW19, O'NEILL'S (M&B). Closed Autumn 2021. Change of use to restaurant application submitted March 2022.

WC1, BOUNTIFUL COW. Currently not serving real ale.

WC2, BEER HOUSE (SSP), Charing Cross Station. Reported closed. Future uncertain.

W1, TWO FLOORS (Shaftesbury/Barworks). Closed for major building works by Shaftesbury Estate.

W2, SUSSEX ARM. No longer sells real ale, handpumps removed.

W4, MOOT BAR (JLK Bars). Not reopened since lockdown.

W4, UNION BAR (The Union). No longer sells real ale.

W6, DUKE OF HAMMERSMITH (BrewDog). No longer sells real ale.

W10, ARIADNES NECTAR. Closed.

OUTER LONDON

BARKING, BARKING DOG (Wetherspoon). Closed in March for a period of around 2 years, while the existing premises in Trocoll House is rebuilt and extended. The development is planned to provide 198 new homes, including a 28 storey tower.

BECKENHAM, BR3WERY. No longer sells real ale.

BECKENHAM, WHITE HORSE (M&B). No real ale and handpumps removed.

BEKLEYHEATH, JOLLY MILLERS (Brakspear Pub Co). No longer sells real ale.

BROMLEY, WHITE HORSE. No longer sells real ale.

BROMLEY COMMON, CHATTERTON ARMS (Craft Union). No longer sells real ale.

COULSDON, JACK & JILL. No longer sells real ale.

CROYDON, BULLS HEAD. No longer sells real ale.

CROYDON, SKYLARK (Wetherspoon) Closed on 27 March. Future uncertain.

HAM, HAND & FLOWER. Closed, repossessed by landlord.

HARROW, O'NEILL'S (M&B). Closed March 2022. Future uncertain.

KINGSTON, GAZEBO (Samuel Smith). Closed, new management team apparently being sought.

NORWOOD GREEN, LAMB. Closed. Future uncertain.

ROMFORD, WHEATSHEAF. No longer sells real ale.

SIDCUP, CHARCOAL. Closed after serious fire damage in May 2020. Future uncertain.

WOODFORD BRIDGE, LA SALA. Converted to a restaurant.

OTHER CHANGES

INNER LONDON

E1W, PROSPECT OF WHITBY (Greene King). No longer Locale accredited.

E8, FIVE POINTS BREWERY TAPROOM (Five Points). LocAle accredited for Five Points beers.

E11, WALNUT TREE (Wetherspoon). No longer LocAle accredited.

E17, BEERBLEFISH BREWING TAPROOM. LocAle accredited for Beerblefish beers.

EC1, CRAFT BEER CO. No longer Locale accredited.

EC1, EXMOUTH ARMS (Urban Pubs & Bars). No longer Locale accredited.

EC3, HOOP & GRAPES (M&B). No longer Locale accredited.

EC3, LIBERTY BOUNDS (Wetherspoon). No longer Locale accredited.

EC4, SIR JOHN HAWKSHAW (Wetherspoon). No longer Locale accredited.

N1, KNOWHERE SPECIAL. Renamed again **NO SUCH PLACE**.

N1, UPPER HOUSE (Heineken). Renamed **JACKS BAR**

N6, BULL (Gorgeous Pubs). Acquired by Metropolitan Pub Co, a sub-brand of Greene King. Future of brewery unclear.

N13, WISHING WELL (Stonegate). Converted to Craft Union format, no real ale.

N20, GRIFFIN (Heineken/Laine). Now independent, no longer operated by Laine. Offering two regular ales: Sharp's Doom Bar and Courage Best, plus one guest, often Landlord or Tribute.

NW3, SPANIARDS (M&B). No longer Locale accredited.

NW6, ALLIANCE. Taken over by same operators as the CLIFTON NW8. Brakspear Gravity; Purity Pure Gold and Sharp's Doom Bar available on reopening.

SE18, EARL OF CHATHAM (Stonegate). Converted to Craft Union format.

SE25, PORTLAND ARMS (City Glen Pub Co). Now has LocAle status for unspecified breweries.

SW3, BUILDERS ARMS (Stonegate). This venue is now part of the small Cubitt House chain.

SW14, PLOUGH (Fullers). Closed since November 2021 following end of tenancy. Being converted to managed. Should reopen shortly.

SW19, HORSE & GROOM (Craft Union). Awarded LocAle status for the Wimbledon beer.

W3, WISHING WELL (Craft Union), 61 Old Oak Common La. Renamed **MORTON ARMS** after Acton sporting legend Geoff Morton.

OUTER LONDON

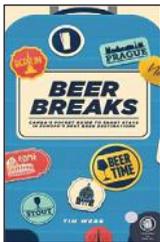
CARSHALTON, CRYER ARTS CENTRE. Now has LocAle status for Surrey Hills beers.

CHEAM, OLDE RED LION (Stonegate). Now has LocAle status for unspecified breweries.

HAMPTON WICK, FORESTERS ARMS (Heineken). No longer sells Park beers and has adopted Sharp's Doom Bar as their regular beer, with varying beers from Twickenham and Surrey Hills.

HIGH BARNET, OLDE MITRE INNE (Greene King). Converted to managed. Now more focused on Greene King beers.

NORTHWOOD, MISTY MOON (Quillrise). Renamed **THREE WISHES**



BEER BREAKS

Beer Breaks is the latest book from Tim Webb, author of the best-selling Good Beer Guide to Belgium. Listing 30 destinations across Europe, from Amsterdam to Wrocław, the book includes a review of each location, with selected tourist highlights, food recommendations, itineraries for first-time visitors, accommodation and travel options, plus some recommended beer bars, cafes and brewery taps where the reader can experience the best of each city's burgeoning beer scene. If you fancy taking the Summer of Pub a bit further than your local, this could be the guide for you. The book is available online through the CAMRA Shop at <https://shop1.camra.org.uk/product/beer-breaks/>. The cover price is £14.99 but there is a discount for CAMRA members (don't forget to log in before placing your order).

Publisher: CAMRA Books; ISBN: 9781852493646; 192 pages; Dimensions: 216 x 127 mm.

Copies of *London Drinker* are distributed by CAMRA volunteers to some 1,200 pubs and clubs in and around Greater London. It is also delivered direct to all of their outlets in the area by J D Wetherspoon's and Fuller's distribute copies to many of their managed houses. The magazine is available online and a link is e-mailed to all CAMRA members in Greater London who have opted to receive electronic communications.

Alternatively, go to www.london.camra.org.uk.

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News extra

Here are some late items, received after the rest of the magazine was completed.

NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR THAMESMEAD

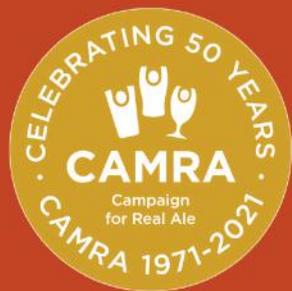
The Rock Leopard Brewing Company was set up in 2017 and, up to now, has been brewing courtesy of other brewers with spare space. They have however now decided that it is time to have their own premises and are crowdfunding to build a brewpub at Thamesmead, as part of a major regeneration project, which will serve as a community hub as well as a brewery and taproom.

Rock Leopard's founder, Stacey Ayeh, explained, "On the whole, I think what sets craft beer apart from big beer is the stories behind the breweries and, when done right, the positive impact they have in their communities. Seeing the passion and dedication that goes into making these delicious drinks really adds to the pride people can feel about their community. It's time to expand that community and show it could be possible to expand ownership and agency." The company also plans to provide jobs and skills training through an NVQ programme offered to students at the nearby Shooters Hill Sixth Form College. For more information, go to <https://www.rockleopardbrewing.com/>.

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE. . .

Ponders End, the south east part of Enfield, faces losing its last remaining pub. The mock-Tudor Goat in the High Street (EN3 4HB) dates from the 1930s and is locally listed, although it is believed that there has been a pub on the site since 1778. The pub is described as a 'local community meeting-place' with a diverse range of customers. Greene King sold the pub to Ponders End Properties in 2018. There were applications submitted to turn the site into residential units but nothing happened on that score and, according to the *Tottenham Independent*, the pub has been on the market since November 2020. No interest has reportedly been shown in either the leasehold or the freehold.

The owners are now applying for a change of use into a restaurant. Phillip Ridley, the local pub protection officer for CAMRA's Enfield & Barnet branch commented, "The Goat is a great pub that sells real ale and is the last place in walking distance from Ponders End where you can just turn up on your own, meet local people, socialise and have a meal there. It would be a devastating blow to the local community if this turned into a restaurant." Local residents were encouraged to have their say on the proposal but, unfortunately, consultation will have closed by the time that readers see this.



It's Festival Season

CAMRA beer festivals are ready
to welcome you back!



Find your local
CAMRA beer festival
camra.org.uk/festivals



Sumer is icumen in, *Lhude sing cuccu*

I must remember to get myself an up-to-date dictionary. Welcome to summer; here's hoping for a good one. But first let's cause some anguish with the number puzzles:

1. 224 O in a S
2. 32 P in a S of CM
3. 7 RN on BSMB
4. 3,097,600 SY in a SM
5. 1819 B of QV
6. 2 K of SP (to H and H)
7. 77,500 SM (approximately) is the A of the O-TA
8. 53 S in TT-T
9. 35,274 O in a T (or MT)
10. 540 D is the S of the A of a P

I don't know why but this time 5BY4 is about the largest lakes in the United Kingdom. It might be just following on in my brain from the big islands last time. You might notice that all ten of them are in either Scotland (seven) or Northern Ireland (three). If you are not sure which are which, you should get a clue from the spelling of the 'L' words; but that's not the puzzle – sorting them into size order is:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1. Loch Maree | A. | 1st (147.87 square miles) |
| 2. Loch Shin | B. | 2nd (42.28 square miles) |
| 3. Loch Awe | C. | 3rd (27.45 square miles) |
| 4. Loch Ness | D. | 4th (21.78 square miles) |
| 5. Loch Lomond | E. | 5th (13.3 square miles) |
| 6. Lower Lough Earne | F. | 6th (14.85 square miles) |
| 7. Upper Lough Earne | G. | 7th (11.03 square miles) |
| 8. Loch Tay | H. | 8th (10.3 square miles) |
| 9. Loch Morar | I. | 9th (10.19 square miles) |
| 10. Lough Neagh | J. | 10th (8.7 square miles) |

You may be interested to know that, for comparison, the largest lake in England is Windermere at 5.69 square miles – or maybe you are not, but you know now. And while I'm at it, you're probably not interested that Wales's largest lake is Llyn Tegid at 1.87 square miles.

Right, it's Trivia Time now – a bit of a mixed bag this time; I didn't want you get complacent ('cos I'm mean like that). But then, you wouldn't want ten questions about the colours of animals under their hair, would you.

1. We all know that polar bears are white, but what is the colour of their skin under all that hair?
2. We also all know that electrical current is measured in amps (actually amperes), but what is measured in volts (commonly referred to as 'voltage')?
3. What widely used household (or laboratory) object was invented by Sir James Dewar in 1892?
4. Cunard currently has a new ship under construction, due to enter service in January 2024. What is its name?
5. Kings Henry II, Henry III, Edward I, Edward IV and Henry VII all had queens consort with what name? And who is missing from this List?
6. And similarly (but different), who was the consort to the Nine Days Queen, Lady Jane Grey?
7. What creature has the binomial name *pulex irritans*?
8. The first example of what technical device was built in 1960 by Theodore H Maiman, working at Hughes Research laboratories in California?
9. What world record did Percy Lambert set at Brooklands motor racing circuit on 15 February 1913?

10. What speed target was exceeded for the first time on 10 March 1956 by Peter Twiss and in what aircraft?

Well, that's about it for this time. You are now officially allowed to go out and enjoy yourselves, unless somebody with more authority than I has some other claim on your time. Have a good summer.

Andy Pirson

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

Number puzzles:

1. 12 Edges on an Octahedron
2. 72 is Two Cubed Times Three Squared (Andy's Age)
3. 2 Staircases on a 'Boris Bus'
4. 6 is at Three O Clock on a Dart Board
5. 10 Acres in a Square Furlong
6. 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
7. 1,728 Cubic Inches in a Cubic Foot
8. 2 Red Lines on the Floor of the House of Commons
9. 10,500 Santander Bicycles in London
10. 160 Fluid Ounces in a Gallon

5BY4 the world's Biggest Islands:

1. Victoria Island (Canada) – 8th [83,897 square miles]
2. Great Britain – 9th [80,823 square miles]
3. Ellesmere Island (Canada) – 10th [75,767 square miles]
4. New Guinea – 2nd [303,381 square miles]
5. Madagascar – 4th [226,658 square miles]
6. Borneo – 3rd [288,869 square miles]
7. Baffin Island (Canada) – 5th [195,928 square miles]
8. Honshu – 7th [87,200 square miles]
9. Sumatra – 6th [171,068 square miles]
10. Greenland – 1st [822,700 square miles]

General knowledge:

1. Value Added Tax (VAT) was introduced in Britain on 1 April in 1973.
2. Dame Cicely Courtneidge was born on 1 April 1893 in Australia (Sydney).
3. Physician William Harvey was born on 1 April 1578. The fundamental property of the human body he was the first to discover was the circulation of blood.
4. The Times become the first newspaper to publish a daily weather chart in 1875.
5. Scott Joplin, the ragtime pianist and composer, died on 1 April 1917.
6. Tinos I, the United States' first meteorological satellite, was launched on 1 April 1960.
7. David Gower, captain of the England cricket team (born on 1 April 1957), played for Leicestershire (1975 to 1989) and Hampshire (1990 to 1993).
8. The administrative county of Greater London came into being on 1 April in 1965.
9. The Swedish word Ombudsman first came into use in Britain when Sir Edmund Compton became the first Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration on 1 April in 1967.
10. The use of the treadmill as a means of hard labour finally ended in British prisons on 1 April 1902.

I have been drinking cask-conditioned beers for more years than I care to think about and can well remember some outstanding brands that have long since vanished from the scene, albeit that, in some cases, the name lingers on but usually in a packaged format and bearing scant resemblance to the original. Boddington's Bitter, the 'Cream of Manchester', comes immediately to mind; a stunningly dry, hoppy and, at the time, unusually pale brew which enjoyed a fine and deserved reputation for value and quality. It did not take Whitbread very long to put an end to all that once they had acquired the company.

Another victim of the Whitbread brewery steamroller was Wethered's of Marlow, whose traditional, malt tinged tawny bitter enjoyed a similar reputation in the home counties, while Tetley Bitter, when brewed in its rightful home in Leeds, had managed to cultivate almost legendary status. Sadly, there were also far too many smaller breweries up and down the land who succumbed to predatory takeovers during the 1970s and 80s, with the consequent loss of more than a few highly respected, quality beers such as those from Higson's of Liverpool, Morland's of Abingdon, who had the splendid claim to be 'Artists in Brewing since 1711' and Webster's of Halifax. At the same time, most of the major breweries in this country had lost interest in real ale; keg was king. It was less demanding, benefited from a much longer shelf life and made life so much easier for those running the pubs. There would be no tapping and venting of barrels or worries about having to add finings to clarify the stuff, indeed, all you probably needed to know was how to use a large spanner!

It was against this background that I joined CAMRA in its early days, keen to help try and reverse this trend and to maintain as much as possible of our brewing heritage. Over the coming years I took part in branch activities, joined protest marches and rallies and even lobbied parliament on more than one occasion, but I was still looking for some way to become more directly involved in the whole business of brewing and retailing beer and in particular, real ale. I then discovered the existence of the CAMRA Members' Investment Club (CMIC), a group that maintains a low profile but is comprised entirely of CAMRA members who have effectively decided to put their money where their mouths are by contributing modest monthly sums towards a fund, which invests exclusively into businesses directly or indirectly involved in the production and/or distribution of cask-conditioned beer.

From its humble beginnings, the CMIC fund has grown to a value well in excess of £20 million and is managed by a committee of twelve elected Campaign members, who between them have a broad level of expertise in investment fund management, tax planning and the brewing industry itself. Sizeable holdings in major brewers such as Marstons, Heineken and Greene King, as well as pub owning businesses including Young's and M&B provide us with the right to attend AGMs and therefore the opportunity not only to ask searching questions of the board but very often also to bend the ear of individual directors after formal business is complete.

At the other end of the scale, we have also provided limited financial support to a small and very carefully chosen number of established microbreweries such as Loch Lomond, Nethergate, Bedlam and even a couple in Belgium! Needless to say, foremost in the committee's mind is that we are custodians of other people's money and the degree of investment risk in every decision made is always of paramount importance. On the social front, brewery visits both here and overseas are arranged from time to time and are usually over-subscribed, while the CMIC's own AGM is held every June, invariably at the splendid Victoria Hotel in Beeston (near Nottingham), and is one of the highlights of the year in many members' calendars. The buffet lunch has become almost legendary!

The Fund is run along the lines of a unit trust and CAMRA members can invest from as little as £5 per month up to a maximum of £166 (£2,000 per annum). All dividends received are reinvested in order to enhance the overall investment performance, so no income is payable but members can withdraw their own funds at any time without penalty. It must be remembered, however, that investment performance, although very creditable to date, cannot be guaranteed and that the value of any monies invested can go down as well as up. So, if you are a CAMRA member and fancy joining a sister wing of the Campaign that is able to campaign quietly behind the scenes through direct access to influential people within the brewing industry, combined with the very real possibility of turning a profit at the same time, why not find out more about us? Go to: www.cmic.uk.com.

John Westlake

A complete collection of all issues of *London Drinker* back to 1979 is available on our website: www.london.camra.org.uk, scalable to read in larger print.

GEOFF BRANDWOOD

An event to remember the life and work of Dr Geoffrey Brandwood (29 March 1945 to 17 November 2021) was held on Monday 11 April. It reflected Geoff's principal specialist interests: historic pubs and Victorian and Edwardian churches. The event began with a visit to All Saints' Church in Brudenell Road, Tooting, SW17 8DQ, which dates from 1904/1906. The architect was Temple L Moore, the subject of one of Geoff's books. This was followed by a visit to the Kings Head in Upper Tooting Road, SW17 7PB (built by W M Brutton in 1896). The pub has a splendid interior, one of many celebrated by Geoff in his work on historic pubs. With thanks to Jane Jephcote.



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for great beer
and pubs

Reduce
tax on beer

Promote
beer quality

Join CAMRA today
www.camra.org.uk/join

Why should I join CAMRA?

CAMRA celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. In those years it has become one of the most successful consumer organisations in Europe. We must not rest on our laurels however. Above all, we are a campaign; we must continue to protect and promote real ale and to protect the great British pub. This work is currently even more important than ever with the consequences of the pandemic continuing to put the hospitality sector under great strain and increasing the risk of pub closures.

CAMRA is led by volunteers, right up to its National Executive. The more of us doing the campaigning, the better. Please think about joining CAMRA.

There are lots of ways that you can contribute. Just using your local pubs regularly is important but there are other tasks such as lobbying MPs, updating pub information, submitting beer scores, liaising with breweries or even distributing magazines to pubs. Now that we are allowed to meet as groups again, we have returned to listing local branch events in our diary section. There are as many, if not more, social events as there are business meetings. If you come along, 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. We appreciate that not everyone has time to give so there are no expectations.

More importantly, you will meet new friends. CAMRA members are a wonderful mix of people of all ages, from all walks of life.

We are also now able to hold beer festivals again. Most CAMRA beer festivals need new 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.

CAMRA also has an active Pub Heritage Group which records, celebrates and helps protect some of the nation's most important community buildings. There are some excellent pub heritage guides available.

CAMRA members can also enjoy a wealth of on-line information on our *Learn & Discover* platform, contributed by experts in their fields. You can also listen in to our podcast, *Pubs. Pints. People*, all about the world of beer, cider and pubs.

The material benefits of CAMRA membership are:

- Access to the 'What's Brewing' website with associated Twitter feed
 - Our quarterly magazine 'Beer' (available either on-line or in print) and including an 8 page news insert
 - Free or discounted entry to most CAMRA beer festivals, including the Great British Beer Festival
 - Discounts on CAMRA books
 - Discounts at some carefully selected holiday companies
 - £30 worth of vouchers (60 X 50p) for use in the pubs of those companies who are participating
 - Discounts at some pubs, at their discretion
- Annual subscriptions (as from 1 July 2021) are:
- Single membership, paid by Direct Debit, £28.50;
 - Joint membership (partner at same address) £35.50.
 - Add £2 if not paying by Direct Debit.

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



ADVERTISING IN LONDON DRINKER

Following our return to having a printed version, to begin with, our advertising rates will stay as follows:

Full page colour £345; Full page black and white £275

Half page colour £210; Half page black and white £155

Quarter page colour £115; Quarter page black and white £90

Call John Galpin on 020 3287 2966 or Mobile 07508 036835

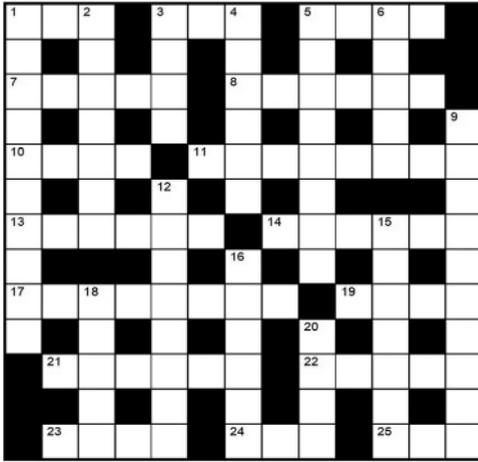
Email: johngalpinmedia@gmail.com or [Twitter@LDads](https://twitter.com/LDads)

London Drinker is published bi-monthly. The August/September edition will be available from Wednesday 27 July. An on-line version will continue to be available.

If you wish to contact the editorial team, please use Ldnews.hedger@gmail.com rather than the address above.

Crossword

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



Name

Address

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

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

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

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

APRIL/MAY SOLUTION



Across

- 1 & 3. I'm part, strangely, of the body. [6]
5. Mark 1 weapon. [4]
7. Seeing this upset about a thousand. [5]
8. Time revolutionary organisation goes on the road. [6]
10. Flower from Dublin maybe, pruned. [4]
11. This is an example of one life, perhaps. [8]
13. Went after men guillotined before taken to court. [6]
14. Two characters leave boozy premiere in theatre. [6]
17. Cleaner aims somehow for outstanding quality. [8]
19. Back what 16 does in the shop. [4]
21. Give up on cancer, perhaps. [6]
22. Frighten with dead relative. [5]
23. Lied about being out of work. [4]
24. Complain about tailless bird that's now extinct. [3]
25. Either way it's no good. [3]

Down

1. Being off carrying money but doing without. [10]
2. Birds in mother's grand pastry dishes. [7]
3. Fellow feeling it in extreme poverty. [4]
4. There'll be trouble at the end of it. [6]
5. Wedding day announced at the seaside. [8]
6. It's linked with tea at home. [5]
9. Writer on film, highly valued, went through. [10]
12. I'm fed ice, being tortured. It's murder! [8]
15. Rubbish on dump I seize. [7]
16. Great man set me up to carry bomb. [6]
18. Change a repair. [5]
20. Thought to be almost perfect. [4]

Winner of the prize for the February/March crossword:
Bill Fullick, Manor Park

Other correct entries were received from:

Ted Alleway, Tony Alpe, H Arnott, L Bamford, John Barker, Hugh Breach, K Breach, Jeremy Brinkworth, Breandan Butler, John Butler, Brendan Casey, Avi Chaudhuri, Kathryn Chuckle-Hard, Hilary Clark, John Clark, Joe Daly, Michael Davis, Mike Dewar, John Dodd, Jonathan Edwards, Elvis Evans, Penny Farthing, Bob Furlong, Gillian Furnival, Richard Garton, Roger Grant, Paul Gray, J E Green, Alan Greer, Richard Gregory, Matthew Griffiths, Caroline Guthrie, Gerry Guthrie, Stuart Guthrie, Peter Haines, 'Shropshire' Dave Hardy, Kevin Harris, John Howarth, Alan Humphrey, Chris James, Carol Jenkins, Claire Jenkins, Eric Johnstone, D M Jones, Joy Knupp, Mick Lancaster, Pete Large, Terry Lavell, Aidan Laverty, Tony Lennon, Marjorie Lopatis, Chris Lovelace, Donald MacAuley, Al Mountain, Dave Murphy, Brian Myhill, Paul Nicholls, Mark Nichols, Mick Norman, Gerald Notley, M Ogenovic, Michael Oliver, G Patterson, Stephen Pegum, Andy Phillips, Mark Pilkington, Portrush Annie, G Pote, Barrie Powell, Jeanette Powell, Russell Prebble, Nicholas Priest, David Renwick, Nigel Roe, Richard Rogers, Max Rose, Sarah Rose, John Savage, Lewis Tanner, Roy Tassi, Ken Taylor, Bill Thackray, Mark Thompson, Andy Wakefield, Colin Walker, George Walker, Martin Weedon, Alan Welsh, Spud Whale, Nigel Wheatley, F P Williams, N Woodford, Ray Wright, K Zemek.

There were also two incomplete and seven incorrect entries.



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- THE UPCOMING



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

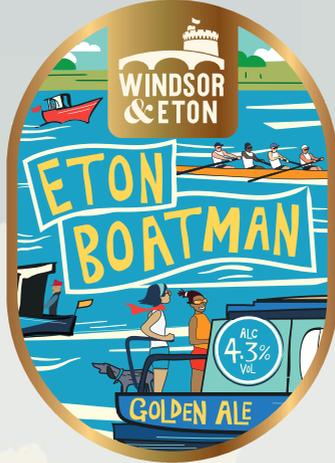
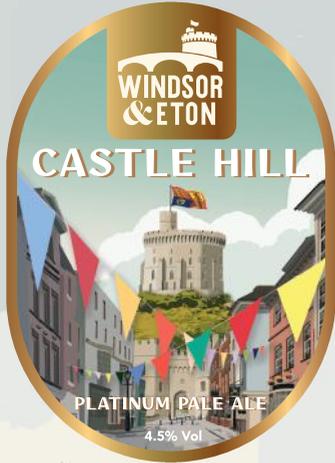
DON'T MISS OUT



THE PILOT, GREENWICH 18 / 19 JULY | **THE ROSE & CROWN, EALING** 20 / 21 JULY
THE DRAYTON COURT, EALING 22 / 23 JULY | **THE CHEQUERS, BICESTER** 26 JULY
THE GREYFRIAR, ALTON 28 JULY | **THE BOATER, BATH** 29 JULY
THE CAMBRIDGE ARMS, BRISTOL 30 / 31 JULY | **THE LINKS TAVERN, LIPHOOK** 2 AUGUST
THE HARE & HOUNDS, OSTERLY 3 AUGUST | **THE KING CHARLES, WINCHESTER** 4 AUGUST
THE LIMEBURNERS, SUSSEX 5 AUGUST | **THE FOX & PELICAN, HINDHEAD** 7 AUGUST
THE OAK, ASTON CLINTON 8 / 9 AUGUST | **THE MILL, ELSTEAD** 10 / 11 AUGUST
THE KING & QUEEN, CATERHAM 13 AUGUST | **THE KING'S HEAD, WICKHAM** 15 AUGUST
THE ANGLERS, TEDDINGTON 17 / 18 / 24 & 25 AUGUST | **THE CALLEVA ARMS, SILCHESTER** 9 / 20 AUGUST
THE FIVE BELLS, LEIGHTON BUZZARD 23 AUGUST | **THE MAYFLY, STOCKBRIDGE** 26 AUGUST
THE NEW FOREST, NEW FOREST 30 AUGUST | **THE ALICE LISLE, RINGWOOD** 31 AUGUST
THE FROG & WICKET, EVERSLEY 1 / 2 SEPTEMBER | **THE WHITE BUCK, BURLEY** 5 / 6 SEPTEMBER
THE RED LION, CHARLTON 7 SEPTEMBER | **THE DUKE OF KENT, EALING** 8 / 9 SEPTEMBER
BEL & THE DRAGON, WENDOVER 12 SEPTEMBER | **THE KINGSWOOD ARMS, KINGSWOOD** 13 SEPTEMBER
THE RED LION, BARNES 15 / 16 / 17 SEPTEMBER

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