Upstairs at your local Wetherspoons (see page 20)
Real character doesn’t happen overnight. Nor are hidden depths immediately obvious. But given time, they emerge.

WHEN YOU’RE READY, YOU’LL FIND IT.
When I had a final read through my column for the last issue, I was struck by the number of different organisations that I had quoted from. There were fourteen in all, ranging from Action on Smoking & Health to the Wine & Spirit Association. I found myself asking who exactly are all these people and what do they want with us, the readership of London Drinker? They fall into two main groups; four of them were drinks industry trade organisations and five of them were health pressure groups.

The motives behind the trade organisations are straightforward enough; they are trying to protect their business at a difficult time. The Independent Family Brewers of Britain and the Small Independent Brewers Association each represent their particular corners of the brewing trade and, whilst their aims are inevitably similar, they are not always in harmony - for example over Progressive Beer Duty where the middle-sized players of the IFBB feel that the small boys of SIBA are taking unfair advantage.

The British Pub and Beer Association on the other hand describe themselves as the leading organisation representing the UK beer and pub sector. Their members account for 98% of beer (not just cask ale, of course) brewed in the UK and own more than half of Britain’s 58,000 pubs, employing over 600,000 people. In other words, they represent the ‘big boys’ in both the brewing and pub chain sectors. At least we know who are behind these organisations and understand their obligations to their shareholders as opposed to their customers.

I am less clear as regards the health lobby. To look at the recently-formed Alcohol Health Alliance UK, according to their website they “bring together medical bodies, patient representatives and alcohol health campaigners”. Their mission is to “reduce the damage to health caused by alcohol misuse” and, working together, Alliance members will “highlight the rising levels of alcohol health harm, propose evidence-based solutions to reduce this harm and influence decision makers to take positive action to address the damage caused by alcohol misuse”. They say what they want to do but they do not say why. There cannot be a financial motive, apart from NHS budget savings. Let us hope it is just the genuine altruism of the medical profession rather than their being the vanguard of the so-called New Puritanism. You do have to wonder...
however if, following the smoking ban, there might be zealots looking for a new target. Will their way of ‘addressing the damage’ be the eventual banning of alcoholic drinks?

I had a similar feeling when listening to a senior police officer being interviewed on the radio about a serious drink-related crime. His view was that raising the price of and reducing the availability of alcohol was the answer. I wondered if he was a teetotaller whose personal view might be colouring the opinion that he gave as a police spokesman. I don’t know the answer to that and I apologise if I was wrong to have doubts but, if he is, then I think that I am entitled to know. It is relevant to his comments.

No-one can dispute that excessive alcohol consumption causes ill-health; anyone who has ever had a hangover knows that. If however some organisation or individual is telling me how to live my life, then I want to know why. I am sure that none of them ever say anything that is not true. But there is such a concept as context. All I ask is that they give us the full picture - that Alcohol Units had no basis in research, for example - and credit us with the intelligence to weigh up both sides of the argument and come to our own decisions.

Tony Hedger

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Beer – the cause of, and solution to, all of life’s problems Homer Simpson

Happy New Year – or possibly not…

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year but, for us beer drinkers, it may not be. Disturbing reports are coming through as to the consequences of last year’s bad weather. The price of hops and barley for malt has risen alarmingly. One report that I received from a friend who works for a small brewery ‘up North’ was that they were now paying 170% more than last year for hops. There have also been increases in associated costs such as aluminium and glass for containers which are not helping, as well as other external influences such as the use of crops for bio-fuels and the drought in Australia. Last year I asked about £3 pints. This year we may be lucky to get away with paying £4.

CAMRA’s Head of Research, Iain Lowe, whilst accepting that some increase was inevitable, is somewhat sceptical and suspected that this increase also included the usual pre-budget price rise. CAMRA are campaigning for a penny cut in beer duty in the forthcoming budget to offset the price rises.

It may not be much consolation, especially to those of us who like the occasional glass, but European wine prices are also going up for the same reasons, with Champagne being especially badly hit.

This is all a sad contrast to the optimism of the Intelligent Choice report mentioned in the last issue. It is seriously bad news and may well be more damaging to the pub trade in the long run than the smoking ban. A spokesman for the British Pub and Beer Institute on the Radio 4 Today programme was predicting continued pub closures for another four or five years. Community Pubs Week now becomes more important than ever. ‘Use it or lose it’ is not just a slogan. For more information, check the website: www.pub-sweek.org.

We now look forward to what this year’s weather will bring. Hopefully it will be an abundant harvest and the law of supply and demand will put raw material prices back to normal level and beer prices will go down. Cor! That pig came in low…

Changing tastes

Following on from the above, a further consideration as regards malt supplies is quality. This has been poor because of the wind and rain and, to allow for this, maltsters are adding in higher amounts of dark malt. So we may also see our pints getting darker and changing flavour slightly in the next few months. I am told that the logic behind this is that a higher roast may hide the...
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Featuring ales such as:

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THE MOON UNDER WATER 1327 London Road, Norbury. Tel: 020 8765 1235
THE WHISPERING MOON 25 Ross Parade, Woodcote Road, Wallington. Tel: 020 8647 7020

wetherspoon
One way that some Germans are dealing with the situation is to set up ‘smoking clubs’ where members pay a subscription to smoke and drink in privately rented rooms. More interesting is the approach taken by the states of Saarland and Saxony. Bearing in mind that the concept behind banning smoking is primarily to protect the health of employees, local bars in those states are exempt from the ban so long as the sole person serving is the owner.

An indication of how the Germans feel about smoking comes from an industrial tribunal case where the owner of a tele-sales company was being sued for sacking all of his non-smoking employees. He maintained that non-smokers “interfere with corporate peace” because “they just complained all the time about smoking and I don’t like grumblers”.

Figures have yet to come in for faults in lower quality malt and that dark malt has more flavour, so that not quite so much of it will be needed in the mash.

Smoking ban

As mentioned previously, the ban in France started in the early hours of 1 January. It was however delayed by a few hours so that smokers could have one last gasp New Year. What, to be honest, caught me by surprise was that a ban also came into force in Germany. A third of Germans smoke and the ban has not gone down well. Ulrich Kasisk, the owner of a chain of pubs in Berlin said: “the right to smoke in a pub is one of the last vestiges of freedom and it is worth fighting for.” We have heard similar sentiments in this country of course but, bearing in mind that the previous smoking ban was attempted by the Nazis, perhaps not with the same depth of feeling.

Christmas and New Year but the downward trend in beer sales continued in November, according to analysts at Blue Oar Securities. The comparisons for September, October and November 2007 against the same months in 2006 showed falls of 8.2%, 7.7% and 9.7% respectively.

Meanwhile, in Catsfield, East Sussex, the landlord of the White Hart has banned the entire Parish Council, all 12 of them, because they objected to his new smoking shelter. The Council Chairman said: “Considering it’s a village pub, it’s hard to believe how many people from the village are banned from it”.

Round and about the pubs

Watford & District’s Pub of the Year, the Land of Liberty, Peace and Plenty has made it into the last four of CAMRA’s National Pub of the Year Competition. This is a

A genuine traditional family pub situated in a quiet side road, yet just 100 yards from the Grand Union Canal and Hanwell flight of locks. Idyllic cycle and rambling routes. Timothy Taylor’s Landlord always alongside Deuchars IPA and London Pride.

10 minutes from Hanwell BR station. Tube - Boston Manor.
tremendous achievement and our congratulations go to Martin Few and Gill Gibson for whom this is a deserved reward for much hard work. They are up against pubs in Gloucestershire, Merseyside and Scotland. If you want to check it out for yourself, the address is Long Lane, Heronsgate, Hertfordshire, WD3 5BS (01923 282226). The result will be announced on 15 February as part of Community Pubs Week.

Geronimo’s temporary Baby Betjeman outlet at the new St Pancras International station has added a second cask beer on gravity. Sharp’s Doom Bar Bitter was spotted alongside London Pride in January.

The Beer Circus in Croydon may reopen but it may be as a wine bar.

The Anchor & Hope in The Cut, Waterloo has headed the list in The Top 30 Gastropub Awards as organised by PubChef magazine. The award was decided by 400 pub food experts including gastropub operators and chefs, restaurant critics, food writers and industry chefs. Er... any beer drinkers? The A&H is famous for not taking bookings and rumour has it that even Gordon Ramsay and Kevin Spacey have been turned away. This has now changed for Sundays, however, with a recently introduced set menu of three courses for £30 when everyone is served together at 2pm. Eight other London establishments featured in the Top 30.

Broken Foot Inns has exchanged contracts with Capital Pub Company on Boaters in Kingston-upon-Thames, subject to landlord’s consent, the landlord being the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. The riverside pub, described as highly desirable, being completely free-of-tie and in an exceptional location, will be Capital’s first free-of-tie site and there are plans for a £200,000 refurbishment.

Richmond & Hounslow Branch report more pub closures, particularly in Hounslow where Fullers have put up for sale (as retail premises) ‘Shannons’ (formerly the Chariot) in the High Street. Also in the High Street the Larkin Inn has closed. The Cross Lances, formerly a GBG regular (also Fullers) is closed for renovation, but all signage including the name and Fullers logo has been removed, so it does not look promising. Along the road (just in Isleworth) another Fullers pub, the Royal Oak, has ‘lease for sale’. Similarly it is reported that several Young’s pubs are also now ‘for sale’ namely the Castle, Isleworth (which has been for some time), the Charlie Butler in Mortlake and the Queen Dowager in Teddington. There are reports that the Red Cow in Richmond...
News round-up

We didn’t include anything about Carlsberg and Heineken’s joint bid for Scottish & Newcastle in the last issue because the story appeared to have lapsed but it has livened up again. To remind readers, the master plan, apparently, is that S&N will be broken up with Heineken taking over S&N’s UK operations and Carlsberg taking S&N’s operations in France, Greece and more importantly, their half of Baltic Beverage Holdings, in which Carlsberg are S&N’s partners. The Eastern European markets are seen as more attractive than the UK at present.

Stung particularly by what they saw as a betrayal by Carlsberg, S&N initially rejected the bid, describing it as ‘unsolicited and unwelcome’ and urged shareholders to take no action. However, as Adam Withrington of the Publican commented, perhaps given the current state of the market, there isn’t room for four national brewers any more and one has to go. Also, Carlsberg are rumoured to want to pull out of the UK and this would be a way of doing just that.

The latest is that the bid, originally 720p per share, has been increased again from 750p to 780p per share, valuing S&N at £7.6 billion, but S&N will only consider an offer of 800p per share which equates to £7.8 billion, the difference being £200,000 – just 2.6%. The Carlsberg Chief Executive responded: “I do think they are close to what I would call gambling with shareholders’ interests” and that the consortium had been “pushed to the edge” although they have not ruled out a further increase. Carlsberg are however already looking at having to fund their share with Denmark’s largest ever rights issue.

There has now been a significant change in that whilst the consortium say that they will not turn the bid ‘hostile’, S&N have now put a value on themselves which reminds me of the end of an old joke: “Madam, I think that we have established what you are, we are now just haggling about the price”. The current deadline is 21 January. If nothing happens by then, under Stock Exchange rules it all goes on hold for six months. SABMiller are rumoured to be watching the situation.

Another independent European brewery has sold up with SABMiller agreeing to buy Dutch brewer Grolsch for 816m Euros. The firm says that it did not seek the takeover but the price was a good one with SABMiller keen to add to its existing portfolio which includes Peroni and Pilsner Urquell. Grolsch has been brewed in Enschede since 1615 and has 15% of the Dutch market. SABMiller see potential for the brand across Africa and Latin America. The proposed takeover will not affect the distribution agreement for the UK currently held by Coors for the time being.

Punch Taverns has said it is not in talks regarding a £5 billion takeover of rival Mitchells & Butlers (M&B). Reports had suggested that Punch was in the early stages of considering an approach for the operator of the All Bar One and Harvester chains.

Health and welfare

I said that we would hear more from the Alcohol Health Alliance. They will be campaigning for increased taxes on alcohol, bans on advertising, warnings on labels and a reduction in the drink driving limit.

I have collected a large number of cuttings on this subject but I think that we all feel bad enough at this time of year so I will give it a rest for this issue. All I will add is that, in 1893, Dr Thomas Allinson – he of the bread fame – issued a pamphlet advising people to exercise daily, take regular holidays, eat less salt and more fruit and vegetables and not to smoke or drink. The General Medical Council’s response? He was promptly struck off.

Law and order

The pressure on the big supermarket chains continues, after a fashion. In a House of Commons debate on the pricing of alcohol, John Grogan MP, with regret, he said, described Sir Terence Leahy of Tesco as “the godfather of British binge-drinking”. This was after health minister Ben Bradshaw had already said that he was prepared to change the law to stop shops and supermarkets selling alcohol below cost price. This will however not be before the independent review (here we go again) which he has commissioned into the relationship between the discounting of alcohol and harm to health reports next summer. Must be urgent then... Just as well that England are not participating in the European football championship.

Tesco described Mr Grogan’s comment as wrong and offensive and maintained that they were playing a leading role in efforts to combat alcohol problems. Others to disagree with Mr Grogan were Progressive Vision, described as a liberal (or libertarian?) think-tank, who said that Tesco deserved thanks for selling cheap booze in the run-up to Christmas and that: “Responsible adults should raise three cheers for Tesco and two fingers to the nanny state”.

This does however contrast with a proposed change to existing rules whereby pubs and supermarkets will be granted longer licences to sell alcohol without the public receiving any warning and with less notice for residents to appeal. This was unveiled by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport with the intention being to cut bureaucracy for
The BOTTLE of BRITAIN

www.spitfireale.co.uk
pubs, clubs and shops. A spokesperson for the DCMS said: “There is absolutely no question that a local council would use this simplified process to grant additional hours to a pub that is of concern to the police and local residents.” Is it me or can you read that comment two ways?

**News from Wetherspoons**

JD Wetherspoon are reported to be arranging Wi-Fi access throughout their entire 681 estate. Customers will be able to log on for a limited time for free during opening hours. Presumably, these connections are not to be used for playstations. JDW are now putting restrictions on children being on their premises. Customers with children will be restricted to two alcoholic drinks only and will be expected to leave 30 minutes after they have finished their meal. A spokesman on the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme explained that the pubs do not have facilities for entertaining children.

Meanwhile, JDW have won an eight-month battle with Kingston-upon-Thames Council to open a pub in the former police station in New Malden, Surrey. The Council twice refused them a licence after strong opposition from local residents including a 1,000-name petition, but one was granted on appeal to magistrates. Even so, JDW have had to accept that the pub can have no video screens, no music and must close at 11.30 Fridays and Saturdays.

If you have ever wondered why you cannot upgrade to more expensive drinks with food offers in JDW pubs, Tim Martin has the explanation: “Wetherspoon has a prehistoric software system for its tills, called Prizm. Prizm can just about add and subtract and we tried to do these upgrades but it blew a gasket. We’re upgrading our software over the next two to three years and will then be able to do what (customers) ask”. As the Morning Advertiser commented, you couldn’t make it up.

**News from Fuller’s**

Fuller’s results for the half-year ended 29 September 2007 were encouraging. Revenue was up by 3% and adjusted profits before tax up by 11% to £12.1 million. The company has also reduced its borrowings by £24 million which has considerably strengthened the balance sheet. £3 million has been spent in preparation for the smoking ban and the Managing Director of Fuller’s Inns, Simon Emeny, said that there had been no surprises so far on what has happened since the introduction of the ban, the next 4/5 months will be a challenge but they consider themselves to be well prepared for the winter impact of the ban. Food now
“What’s the matter, Lagerboy, afraid you might taste something?”

HOBGOBLIN
Deliciously dark

www.wychwood.co.uk
comprises 29% of total pub sales in the managed estate where revenue was up by 5% and like-for-like sales up by a similar amount.

Fuller’s now have 363 premises of which six are designated as hotels, split between 150 managed houses and 207 tenancies. Only 150 (41%) of these are now in London; the majority of pubs are spread across Hampshire (74), Surrey (24), West Sussex (22) and Berkshire (20). As previously reported, the Gales name is gradually disappearing and they continue to look out for pub acquisitions.

On the brewing side, revenue has grown by 4% and total real ale production grew by 3% compared to the reported overall 5% fall in the UK cask market. Altogether a very positive outlook with London Pride holding its position as the UK’s leading premium ale.

News from Young’s

Youngs are not doing too badly either. Turnover for the six months ending 29 September rose 11.9% with operating profits up 72.1% to £12.1 million. During the period they purchased one pub for £3.5 million and invested £4.9 million in others. They were due to receive the £58.7 million for the sale of the Wandsworth site at the start of 2008, although £35 million of this is earmarked to reduce borrowings.

The company is still looking to expand. Chief Executive Stephen Goodyear said that the market for pubs is patchy at the moment and that they were not interested in pubs at the bottom end but they would have “little trouble” in raising £200 million to fund a major pub deal if the right one came along.

Wells and Young’s have launched a £2 million advertising campaign for Young’s Bitter called Urban Retreat. The target audience is commuters at ten key railway stations and will include sampling at these stations and branded Oyster Card wallets.

Chris Lewis, Director of Marketing for W&YBC explained: “the Urban Retreat message for drinkers is that a pint of Young’s Bitter is a civilised pint in the madness of their city”.

Round and about the breweries

There has been a change of brewer at Grand Union. Marc Broe has moved back to the States and he has been replaced by Rainer Dresselhous. Rainer did his scholarship in brewing near his home town of Cologne, Germany and, as part of his training, did a six month stint at the Budweiser Brewery in America. Since his arrival in the UK he has worked at several London small independent breweries, e.g. Mash and Meantime.

Twickenham Fine Ales are prospering with increased sales thanks to an expanding number of outlets, the Rugby World Cup and exchanges with other breweries. TFA won the Beer of the Festival
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wetherspoon
award at Twickenham Beer Festival for the third year in a row. They obviously have the measure of local tastes. They are working towards raising brewing capacity to three brews per week rather than the current two, allowing them to brew and sell a maximum of roughly 125 casks per week.

Just to illustrate the various pressures on breweries, Cobra Beer Ltd, the curry house lager specialists, have been fined £20,500 after admitting failing to recover and recycle their packaging waste. The firm also admitted failing to register with the Environment Agency as a producer of packaging waste.

There is a brewery in Portsmouth. Irving and Co, set up by Malcolm Irving, former brewhouse with Gales, has set up a microbrewery in Farlington and thereby Portsmouth’s only brewery. Their first beer, called Red Plum and named after HMS Edmunds, was a 5% abv fruity Christmas special. Other beers to come are reported to be Frigate at 3.8% and Invincible at 4.6%.

Greene King set a new record by serving what they claim was the longest round of drinks ever, to celebrate the return of the 1st Royal Anglian Battalion from duties in Afghanistan. A total 230 pints of Greene King IPA were served up in just ten minutes at the Brewery Tap in Bury St Edmunds. Greene King staff raised £1,000 for the families of the nine men lost to the Battalion and the 58 injured in Afghanistan. Good on them. Whilst mentioning Bury, GK’s Visitors’ Centre has been commended in BBC Radio Suffolk’s annual awards as a Best Small Attraction. They receive 10,000 visitors per annum.

Local brewers’ direct delivery scheme wins top retailing award

On 30 November Britain’s local breweries were announced the winners of a major award for retailing, beating supermarket giants Sainsbury’s and Tesco: SIBA (The Society of Independent Brewers), which represents more than 400 breweries in the British Isles, was recognised for the best national retail initiative in BBC Radio 4’s Food and Farming Awards 2007.

The accolade was awarded to SIBA’s Direct Delivery Scheme (DDS), which allows local brewers to sell their distinctive beers to pubs, supermarkets and off-licences belonging to national and regional chains. DDS is centrally administered from North Yorkshire, where all orders are taken and invoices dispatched, but the breweries themselves deliver their beers directly, cutting down on food miles. The scheme also ensures that the beer is fresh when it reaches its destination, instead of having been lying in a wholesaler’s warehouse or pub chain depot for weeks.

Launched only four years ago, the scheme has benefited not only small brewers, who previously found difficulty in selling their ales individually to pubs owned by chains, but also customers in pubs run by Admiral Taverns, Enterprise Inns, New Century Inns, Orchid Pub Co and Punch Taverns. Supermarkets and off-licences taking advantage of DDS include Threshers, Asda and Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

Nick Stafford, managing director of the non-profit-making DDS, said: “We are delighted to win this award. We are at the forefront of brewing local beers for local people in local pubs and shops, and we are proud to have worked so hard to establish a truly sustainable business.”

Response to Roger Protz

In the latest issue of Beer, the supplement to the CAMRA newspaper ‘What’s Brewing’, Roger Protz has contributed a very nice article about the Bricklayers Arms in Putney. There is one point that Roger makes that I must take issue with. Roger says: “They would never admit it but I suspect the judges who chose the current CAMRA London Pub of the Year had a relatively easy task”. Well, as one of those judges, no I wouldn’t admit it because it isn’t true. The shortlist for 2007 was impressive and it was not easy to measure a very diverse group of pubs, ranging from traditional locals such as the Wonder in Barnet and food-orientated outlets such as the Lion in Teddington, against the standard CAMRA criteria. We certainly made the right decision but the other pubs on the list all had their respective merits.

And finally…….

I know that we have had some weird and wonderful beer adverts over the years but apparently there are some going out now in Australia for Victoria Bitter featuring the cricketer Shane Warne dressed up as his own mother, his own father and even his own baby.

Look out for Bionade, ‘The health drink that looks like beer’. Launched in the UK just before Christmas, it is aimed at beer-drinkers in having a ‘similar malty, tangy taste’ and has proved popular in Scandinavia, Italy, Switzerland and Spain. It is produced by the Peter brewery in Bavaria and was a diversification intended to keep the firm going when they were being squeezed out of normal brewing by the major brands. Dieter Leipold, the master brewer spent five years finding a way in which the fermentation process could be used to turn sugars into something drinkable but alcohol-free and still adhering to the German beer purity laws. I have not seen it on sale here yet. Any reports, anyone?

Tony Hedger
Exceptional

Bronze Medal Winner
Strong Bitter Category

“S.A Gold is a refreshingly hoppy, premium golden ale brewed to 4.7%. The beer is late-hopped using Cascade and Styrian Goldings, giving it complex and refreshing citrus aromas and flavours. It’s delicious on its own and also makes a great accompaniment to food.”

Bill Dobson, Head Brewer

Please enjoy responsibly

www.sabrain.com
CAMRA research has shown that 56 pubs are closing in Britain each month, and thousands more face an uncertain future. The majority of these pubs are not high street chain bars or theme pubs, but community pubs, recognised as important amenities for local people. The local pub, after all, is often the heart of the community.

After four years of running National Pubs Week, last year CAMRA changed the focus of the event to reflect the need to retain pubs that serve the community. Nothing can match the British pub for its service and atmosphere. Yet pressures from deep discounting of alcohol in supermarkets, massive levels of tax on beer in the UK and skyrocketing property prices, have seen the traditional British pub under more threat than ever before.

CAMRA is issuing a call to action for all those who want to secure a future for their local. By rallying behind your community pub this February you will be showing your support for the irreplaceable backbone of British life.

If you think your local would benefit from Community Pubs Week, go to www.pubsweek.org and order an information pack. Licensees who would like to get involved that week can also freely list there what events they will be running. If you run a pub and want to get involved in CAMRA’s Community Pubs Week see pages 30 and 31 for the local CAMRA branch contacts.

MARGATE FOR EASTER?

As advertised on page 52, the Thanet branch of CAMRA are holding their third Easter Beer Festival, once again at the Winter Gardens in Margate, from noon to 10.30 on Good Friday and Saturday 21 and 22 March. This year visitors from London should find the train journey a little easier than 2007 as there are no planned engineering works on the line.

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£7 per person (£6 concession).

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*hosted by the former guide to the Sherlock Holmes TV Exhibition* 1½ hours from 2pm Sats from the Croque Monsieur Coffee Shop, Baker St. opposite the Sherlock Holmes Museum

£7 per person (£6 concession).

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IAN PARKER BAND + Stone Foundation

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BRITISH BLUES EXPLOSION #2
AYNSLEY LISTER Band + Dani Wilde

Sat 23 Feb: £12.50 Adv/ £15 Door
NICK HARPER + Holly Rose

Fri 7 March: £12.50.00 Adv/
Ska Special: check website

Fri 21 Mar: £15.00 Adv/ THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG

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NINE BELOW ZERO
ONLY LONG IN DATE

Fri 30th May: £16.50 Adv/
ALBERT LEE & Hogan's Heroes

Fri 4, 11, 18 Apr: £20.00 Adv/
CHAS & DAVE & friends

Sun 6 Apr: £12.50 Adv/
JON CLEARY & THE ABSOLUTE MONSTER GENTLEMAN
Dave Roberts of Pilgrim Brewery has extended an invitation to any CAMRA branches who would like a brewery trip.

“Whilst we ran the Rising Sun we became increasingly aware that we were unable to maintain our usual jolly visits programme for CAMRA members. If any branches would like to help me redress the balance, please contact Ruth at the usual number and, talking of redressing, my invitation is open any other interesting bodies as well!” said Dave.

During 2007 Pilgrim celebrated their 25th anniversary with ‘Silver Sovereign’ and you might have seen other new beers such as Weald, Moild and Wild Winter Berry. Further new seasonals will be added this year, so please check us out at www.pilgrim.co.uk

The Capitol in Forest Hill, a Grade II listed former cinema, had its Wetherspoons Autumn beer festival with the addition of a number of barrels on a stillage on the bar. This created a great interest from the drinkers, as it seems many customers had not seen beer dispensed by gravity straight from the barrel. It was such a hit that the beer for the whole two weeks festival ran out in the first week and they had to reorder. The Capitol are now organising a mini weekend festival of ciders on gravity dispense.

During the festival they had trips round the top of the building and out on to the roof, not normally open to the public. Up into the old circle with dusty old seats to get a different perspective of the pub (see cover photograph) and quite spooky walking around the old stairwells and rooms just lit by candles.

They are making a very committed effort to provide a good selection of real ale, including having a representative come to our branch meetings. With the Wetherspoons range of different ciders, cider is selling well in the Capitol and they are also looking to do more promotion of this fine drink.

If you have not visited this pub then please make an effort, as it is a lovely place to enjoy the architecture and to have a drink. Small groups can arrange for a trip upstairs for just a small donation to charity.

The Capitol SE23, 020-8291 8920 - just a minute’s walk from Forest Hill Station and on a number of bus routes.

Ian White
More new words

*Toujours Tingo*, the sequel to *The Meaning of Tingo*, invites you to discover the meanings of bizarre and brilliant words that will change the way you see the world. Here is some more drinking vocabulary:

There are many interesting mixtures of beer in the world including **der Diesel** (German) a mixture of beer and cola.

And no-one wants to risk being caught without one as this Dutch system aims to prevent: **bufferbiertje** (Dutch) the beer that is standing next to the beer you’re drinking and serves as a buffer in case you finish drinking your beer before you have a chance to get the barman’s attention (literally, buffer beer)

A beer belly in Austrian German is a **Backhendlfriedhof** (literally, cemetery for fried chickens)

*Toujours Tingo* - More extraordinary words to change the way we see the world by Adam Jacot de Boinod is published by Penguin Press, ISBN 9780140515862.

To order your copy for the special price of £8.79 (rrp £10.99) with free p&p in the UK, call 01624 677 237 and quote ‘Toujours Tingo offer’.

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Priory Arms

*a genuine free house*

The Cask Marque logo guarantees the quality of our beer. Our ever changing range includes...

- Hop Back Summer Lightning, Adnams and Harvey’s Best always available.
- 1st floor Function Room - 60 capacity.
- An extensive range of continental bottled beers.
  - 20 wines by the glass or bottle.
  - Traditional Sunday lunch.
  - Sunday night trivia quiz.

Food available:
- Monday - Friday: 12:30 - 2:30pm
  6:30 - 9:30pm
- Saturday: 1:00 - 9:00pm
- Traditional Sunday Lunch: 1:00 - 6:00pm
Decades of brewing expertise have gone into making Young's Bitter a favourite of those who value great cask ale. Available on discerning bars across the capital - you’ll find the great pint you’ve always enjoyed.
Dear Editor

Hands off our village pump!

I fear that the Arsenal Village could be one step closer to being converted into a massive concrete cemetery.

The latest rumour to gather momentum is that the Auld Triangle (alias the Plimsoll) is being prepared for demolition and that this historic site will be transformed into yet another block of flats. This is the only pub in this residential area and it is strategically located at the meeting point between Plimsoll Road and St Thomas’s Road, where it is only a couple of minutes away from Finsbury Park, yet it is conveniently tucked away behind the scenes. So it is an oasis in an otherwise deserted street, and as well as serving the local community it also attracts musicians from across London.

This pub’s purpose is not just to serve customers; its very existence can serve as a deterrent to crime, and this benefit must surely outweigh the drawbacks of any perceived noise nuisances. On a street like St Thomas’s Road, one community pub can be worth a dozen police community support officers. If this pub is allowed to close then St Thomas’s Road could become a mugger’s paradise from dusk to dawn. Residents will fortify their homes, anonymity will prevail and this once vibrant part of Islington will start to resemble downtown Johannesburg. Closure of this pub will devalue the surrounding homes; and I’m referring, of course, to the overall value of a home, not just its dubious market value.

However, the one ray of hope is that it will be very difficult for a Liberal Democrat councillor to condone this type of development, because on 26th March 2007 their former leader, Sir Menzies Campbell attended a rally in Westminster and pledged his party’s support for the Sustainable Communities Bill ‘unequivocally’. (Evening Standard, 27th March 2007). Even a Martian would know that communities couldn’t possibly be sustained through irreversible closure of their meeting places.

I will end with a simple message for any property developers who might be encircling this plot of land: hands off our village pump and please exercise your vandalism elsewhere!

Ian Shacklock
London N4

Dear Editor

I never fail to be amazed by Wetherspoons. On Sunday evening (November 18th) I went to my local (the Ledger Building) to catch the last day of the festival (dubbed the ‘University of Ale’). Not a
Letters

A genuine Free House featuring a selection of the very best in Cask Ales, Traditional Cider and Perry

- Mild always available
- Liefmans Kriek on draught
- Wide selection of continental bottled beer including Duvel and Chimay
- Function room free to CAMRA members
- Thursday night is Quiz Night
- Jazz piano Sunday afternoons
- Jazz/Blues every Friday and Saturday evening
- Open daily from midday

26 Wenlock Road
London N1
020 7608 3406
Nearest Tube stations are Old Street (exit 1) and Angel. Wenlock Road is off City Road via Windsor Terrace
http://www.wenlock-arms.co.uk/

festival ale in sight!

Luckily the Pembury Tavern had a festival on that weekend so I was happy to sample excellent ales and high quality ciders in a convivial atmosphere. The Pembury also managed to get almost as many beers as Wetherspoons (over eighteen days, well almost eighteen) into the four day event.

Gordon Joly

Dear Editor

JD Wetherspoons received wide media coverage recently for its policy of serving a maximum of two drinks each to customers bringing in kids for a meal. This is because of bored little ‘uns running amok. As both a parent and someone who appreciates a peaceful pint I have educated my kids about how to behave in pubs. Sadly some parents lack this ability - and generally can’t control their offspring outside the pub environment either. The nub of the problem is not the kids but the adults. I have drunk in pubs all over London and further afield and I can’t recall kids being a headache. However I have experienced loud-mouthed, aggressive and downright uncouth adults on several occasions.

Few people are put off pubs through a fear of unrestrained kids; but many more are worried about unruly or short-fused adults (often teenagers). Wetherspoons’ spokesman says they don’t have play facilities like a Whacky Warehouse and nor should they. What they should be considering is some kind of giant playpen, with appropriate infantile amusements, for loutish, sewer-mouthed adults lacking in the brain-cell department. And, if need be, I’d sooner endure a few recalcitrant kids than return to the days when families were treated like lepers in many pubs.

Bob Barton
Hayes, Middx.

Dear Editor

In last year’s London Drinker you printed two letters from me about the Plough in Ilford. The pub and its free standing sign were demolished in December 2007 and the building of a health centre on the site has commenced.

Colin Price

Dear Editor

In an ideal world, Capital Pubcheck and even advertisements (!) might do the same.

The result would be that those of us stuck in lonely garrets with only an A-Z and a computer for company could do their armchair drinking with pinpoint accuracy.

Ian Collinson
London W10 etc

(For your editor, the extra task of checking postcodes to ensure such accuracy would be the final straw; sorry – Ed)
CAMRA (SOUTH WEST LONDON) PRESENTS

18th Battersea Beer Festival 2008

The 18th Battersea Beer Festival

Over 100 Real Ales from across Britain
Ciders and perries - Foreign beer - Food

6 - 8 February 2008
Open Wednesday to Friday, from noon till 11pm

Grand Hall, Battersea Arts Centre
Lavender Hill, London SW11
10 minutes walk from Clapham Junction Station

£2 admission (£3 after 5pm)
£1 discount for CAMRA members at all times
THE BRICKLAYER'S ARMS
2ND ANNUAL YORKSHIRE BEER FESTIVAL
22ND 24TH FEBRUARY 2008

40 BEERS FROM THE LARGEST COUNTY IN ENGLAND

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS MAJESTIC BRASS AND HAMMERSMITH MORRIS MEN

PLUS TIMOTHY TAYLOR'S 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ALE

32 WATERMAN ST. PUTNEY
WWW.BRICKLAYERS-ARMS.CO.UK
LONDON DRINKER

Beer & Cider Festival 2008

Camden Centre, Bidborough St, WC1H 9DB
(Nearest tube King’s Cross St. Pancras)

Wednesday 12th March 12 - 3 5 - 10.30pm
Thursday 13th March 12 - 3 5 - 10.30pm
Friday 14th March 12 - 10.30pm

Admission free Wednesday & Thursday lunchtimes,
£3 at other times,
£1.50 for CAMRA members.
Last admission 10 pm
Organisers reserve the right to refuse admission

www.camranorthlondon.org.uk/ldbf
Third BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL

27-29th March 2008

Sidcup Sports Club
Crescent Farm, Sydney Road, Sidcup DA14 6RA
Stations New Eltham/Sidcup
Buses: 51, 160, 229, 233, 269, 286, 321, 492 N21

60+ Beers & Ciders

Souvenir glasses, snacks, Live entertainment Thu/Fri Eve

More information available on www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

Admission:
Thursday 27 March 6pm-11pm £2, CAMRA members £1
Friday 28 March 11am-5pm £2, CAMRA FREE
5pm-11pm £2, CAMRA members £1
Saturday 29 March 11am-11pm £2, CAMRA members £1

All rights of admission reserved; Don't drink and drive!
Welcome to our regular details of London CAMRA contacts and events. This is where branches can say what is happening in their areas that might be of interest to drinkers across London. Events for February and March are listed below.

Branch meetings and socials are open to all - everyone is welcome to come along.

## LONDON REGIONAL EVENTS

**March – Wed 26** (8pm) London AGM and Liaison Committee (Regional co-ordination meeting for London Branches). Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1. Secretary: geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk

**LONDON PUBS GROUP**

*Jane jephcoate 020-7720 6327, jephcoate@hotmail.co.uk*

**February** – **Sat 16** Daytime Crawl of Notting Hill, Kensington and Bayswater: (12 noon) Elgin, 96 Ladbroke Grove, W11; (1pm) Cock & Bottle, 17 Needham Rd, W11; (1.45pm) Windsor Castle, 114 Campden Hill Rd, W8; (3pm) Churchill Arms, 119 Kensington Church St, W8; (4.15pm) Mitre, 24 Craven Terrace, W2; (5pm) Victoria, 10a Strathearn Place, W2. Public transport will be required at times.

**March** – **Wed 12** (7.15 for 7.30) Mtg, Royal Oak, Tabard St, SE1 (upstairs). All branches and members interested in pub research and preservation welcome. Website www.londonpugroup.co.uk

**BEXLEY**

*Martyn Nicholls 01322 527857 (H), contact@camrabexleybranch.org.uk*


**March** – **Wed 12** (8.30) Mtg. Royal Oak (Polly), Bexleyheath. - **Thu 27-Sat 29** 3rd Bexley Beer Festival (see page 29). Website: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

**CROYDON & SUTTON**

*Michael Fairweather 07905 611978, 0203 039 0379 (H)*


**March** – **Tue 4** (8.30) Social. Moon under Water, London Rd, Norbury SW16. - **Thu 27** (8.30) Mtg and selection of Pub of the Year. Windsor Castle, Carshalton Website: www.croydoncamra.org.uk

**ENFIELD & BARNET**

*Acting Branch contact Ron Andrews 020-8524 4239 (H), branch mobile 07775 710008 at event.*

**February** – **Wed 6** (from 7pm; meet at products stall every half hour) Beer Festival Social. Battersea Beer Festival (see page 26) - **Tue 12** (9pm) Social. Tally Ho, 749 High Rd, North Finchley

**N12** – **Sat 16** Real Ale Ramble in Rural Enfield., Meet (11am to noon) Wonder, 1 Batley Rd, Enfield EN2, hoping then to visit Fallow Buck, King & Tinker, Pied Bull and Rose & Crown before returning to Enfield. At this time of year paths are likely to be muddy, so wear suitable footwear, and if possible carry a pair of indoor shoes for inside the pubs. In the event of very poor weather we will visit nearby pubs back into Enfield Town. - **Wed 20** (8pm) GBG selection and social. Builders Arms, 3 Albert Rd, New Barnet EN4. - **Sat 23** Crawl by bus. Meet (noon) White Swan, 243 Golders Green Rd NW11. - **Wed 27** (9pm) Social. Jim Thompson’s, 889 Green Lanes, N21

**March** – **Wed 5** (9pm) Hadley Hotel, 113 Hadley Rd, New Barnet EN5. - **Wed 12** (from 7pm; meet at products stall every half hour) Working Social. London Drinker Beer Festival (see page 28). - **Tue 18** (9pm) Social, Red Lion, 371 Hertford Rd EN3. - **Thu 27** (9pm) London Drinker pick up and social. Kings Head, 84 High St, New Barnet EN5. Website: www.camra-enfield-and-barnet.org.uk

**KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD**

*Clive Taylor 020-8949 2099 (H), 020-8540.1901 (W), ctaylor2007@freeuk.com*

**February** – **Tue 5** (8.30) Cttie mtg. Wych Elm. - **Wed 6** (Eve.) Social. Battersea Beer Festival (see page 26). - **Wed 13** (8pm) Branch AGM. Willoughby Arms, Willoughby Rd, Kingston. - **Wed 20** (8.30) Pubs Week social. Albert Arms, High St, Esher. - **Sat 23** Pubs Week crawl of Epsom: (12.30) barley Mow, Pikes Hill, then Railway Guard, Old Kings Head, Rising Sun etc. - **Mon 25** (8pm) GBG selection mtg. Waggon & Horses, Surbiton Hill Rd, Surbiton.

**March** – **Mon 10** (8.15) Mtg. Berrylands, ChilTERN Drive, nr Berrylands rail sta. - **Wed 12** (8pm) Social. London Drinker Beer Festival (see page 28). - **Sat 16** (8.30) Evening visit to Ashtead. 19.58 train from Raynes Park. Meet Woodman, Barnett Wood La, across green from sta, then Brewery Inn and Leg of Mutton & Cauliflower. - **Thu 27** Curry night in New Malden: (7.30 for 8pm) Bar Malden, (next to rail sta), then to nearby Indian restaurant. Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk

**NORTH LONDON**

*Social contact Steve Ducker 07910 151494, steve.ducker@yahoo.co.uk; Branch contact John Cryne 020 8452 6965, john.cryne@uk.pwc.com*

**February** – **Tue 5** (8pm) Final London Drinker Beer Festival planning mtg. Oakdare Arms, 283 Hermitage Rd N4. - **Tue 12** (8pm) Social, Beer Festival and Grand Union tasting. White Horse, Surbiton Hill Rd, Surbiton.

**March** – **Mon 10** (8.15) Mtg. Berrylands, ChilTERN Drive, nr Berrylands rail sta. - **Wed 12** (8pm) Social. London Drinker Beer Festival (see page 28). - **Sat 16** (8.30) Evening visit to Ashstead. 19.58 train from Raynes Park. Meet Woodman, Barnett Wood La, across green from sta, then Brewery Inn and Leg of Mutton & Cauliflower. - **Thu 27** Curry night in New Malden: (7.30 for 8pm) Bar Malden, (next to rail sta), then to nearby Indian restaurant. Website: www.camranorthlondon.org.uk

**RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW**

*Brian Kirton 020-8384 7284 (H), briankirton@blueyonder.co.uk*

**February** – **Tue 5** (8.30) Mtg with GBG 2009 final selection. Prince of Wales, 236 Hampton Rd, Twickenham. - **Tue 12** (8pm) New Members’ evening and Beer of the Festival certificate presentation., Twickenham Fine Ales, Ryecroft Works, Edwin Rd, Twickenham. - **Wed 20** (8pm) Community Pubs Week event, Roebuck, 130 Richmond Hill, Richmond.

**March** – **Wed 12** Teddington crawl: (7.30) Tide End Cottage,
WATFORD & DISTRICT

Andrew Vaughan 01923 230104 (H) 07854 988152 (M)

February – Tue 5 Social: (8.30) Ox, South Oxhey; then Partridge, Carpenters Park; Nascot Arms, Watford.
- Thu 14 (9pm) Quiz night, Southern Cross, Watford.
- Sat 16 Community Pubs Week visit to GBG entries: (12.30) Sportsman, Croxley Green; then Rose & Crown, Rickmansworth and Land of Liberty, Peace & Plenty, Heronsgate.
- Mon 18 Community Pubs Week visit to GBG entries: (8pm) Compasses, Abbots Langley; then Southern Cross, Watford.
- Wed 20 Community Pubs Week visit: (8pm) Black Boy, Bushey Heath; then West Herts Sports Club, Watford.
- Fri 22 Pub of the Year presentation: contact branch for details.
- Mon 25 (8pm) Mtg. Estcourt Arms, Watford. - Fri 29 Leap Year Pub presentation: contact branch for details.

March – Wed 12 Social at London Drinker Beer Festival. (see page 28). Meet at products stall hourly from 6pm.

Website: www.watfordcamra.org.uk

WEST LONDON

Kimberly Martin 07717 795284, KimberlyMartin@yahoo.com

February – Mon 4 (7.30) GBG Preliminary selection mtg. Antelope, 22 Eaton Terr, SW1. - Wed 6-Fri 8 (7.30) Working Social, Battersea Beer Festival (see page 26). - Mon 18 (7.30) GBG final selection mtg. Antelope, as above. - Sat 23 (2pm) Community Pubs Week social and SW1 Guide survey kick-off. Lord Moon of the Mall, 18 Whitehall.


Website: www.westlondon-camra.org.uk

WEST MIDDLESEX

Social Secretary Roy Tunstall 07960 031399, socals@westmiddx-camra.org.uk; Branch contact John Bush 07739 105336, contact@westmiddx-camra.org.uk


- Sat 29 (1pm) Bakerloo Line crawl: Hatch End to Wembley Central calling at Moon & Sixpence, Letchford Arms, Sarsen Stone, Travellers Rest, Windermere, Bootsy Brogans, and terminating at JJ Moons/Bear.

Website: www.westmiddx-camra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST LONDON

Mark B recovery 020-8540 9183 (H), 020-7147 3826 (W), markbrawer@blueyonder.co.uk


March – Tue 18 Wandsworth riverside crawl: (7.15) Waterfront, Baltimore House, Juniper Drive, Battersea Reach; (8.30) Ship, 41 Jews Row; (9.45) Cat’s Back, 86 Point Pleasant.

Website: www.swlcamra.org.uk

SOUTH EAST LONDON

Roz Cox 07796 272730 (M) or 020 8697 6939 evening or weekends only, roz@selcamra.org.uk

February – Mon 4 (8pm) Cttce mtg and social. Ashburnham Grove, Greenwich. - Mon 11 SE1 Social crawl: (7.30) Founders Arms, 52 Hopton St, Blackfriars; then (8.30) Brew Wharf; (9.30) Barrow Boy & Banker; (10.15) Horniman at Hays.
- Sat 16 Community Pubs Week Bromley crawl: (3pm) Red Lion, 10 North Rd; then (4.30) White Horse; (5.30) Prince Frederick; (7pm) Crown & Anchor; (8pm) Anglesey Arms. - Thu 21 : (8pm) Community Pubs Week social. Blythe Hill Tavern, 319 Stanstead Rd, Catford, SE23.
- Mon 25 (8pm) Catford Beer Festival meeting. Bricklayers Arms, 141-143 Masons Hill, Bromley BR2.


Website: www.selcamra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST ESSEX

Acting Branch contact Alan Barker suwsexy@essex-camra.org.uk


March – Tue 4 (8.30) Social. County (ex-Horns Tavern), 134 Community Pubs Week visit: (8pm) Community Pubs Week visit to GBG entries: (12.30) Potbelly Brewery Trip, South Woodham Ferrers, then Queens Head, Chelmsford, by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford-Le-Hope: contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215.

March – Tue 4 (8.30) Social. County (ex-Horns Tavern), 134 Community Pubs Week visit to GBG entries: (12.30) Potbelly Brewery Trip, South Woodham Ferrers, then Queens Head, Chelmsford, by minibus from Chadwell Heath, Romford, Upminster and Stanford-Le-Hope: contact Graham Platt on 020-8220 0215.


New website: essex-camra.org.uk/suwsexy

Electronic copy deadline for the April/May edition: 12th March 2008. Please send entries to geoff@coherent-tech.co.uk.

8 Ferry Rd, then including half-hourly Oak, Teddington Arms, Boated Mallard, Builders Arms, Queen Dowager, Hogarth. - Thu 27 (8.30) Mtg. Halfway House, 24 Priests Bridge, SW14 Advance Notice: Thu 24 April Branch AGM. Venue to be announced.

Website: www.rhcama.org.uk

Branch diaries
A group of lesbian and gay members of the Campaign for Real Ale organising to extend the Campaign to the lesbian and gay community. All welcome to all events. Or visit our website at http://www.lagrad.org.uk. The group convenor can be contacted on info@lagrad.org.uk.

The Greater London Group meets at 7pm on the second Monday of every month alternating between a ‘business’ meeting in the basement of the Half Way, 7 Duncannon Street, WC2, 020-7930 8312 (even numbered months – Feb, April…) and a new members’ social upstairs at Comptons, Old Compton Street (odd numbered months – Jan, Mar…) with London Pride and Greene King IPA at £1.50 a pint (on sale downstairs) – happy hour all evening. There are also other events elsewhere in Greater London between these meetings. The next of these is a pub crawl on Wednesday, 5 December starting at 7pm at the Charles Dickens, 160 Union Street, London SE1.
Apologies for the non-appearance of this Update in the December/January issue, owing to production difficulties. It is included here, with minor corrections to the version that was placed on the website at the end of November. Update 199 will be printed in the next issue.

The aim of ‘Capital Pubcheck’ is to share information about the latest happenings on the London pub scene including new pub and bar openings, name changes, acquisitions, closures, notable changes to beer ranges etc.

Information is gathered from a variety of sources including London Drinker readers, individual CAMRA members and branch contacts, breweries, pub operators, landlords etc. If you would like to contribute to ‘Pubcheck’ please send your news to the address below.

New openings reported this time include a rescued, listed pub in EC1 Smithfield, a replacement pub in Teddington selling local micro brewed beers, Gordon Ramsay’s third pub acquisition in W4 Chiswick and a new Capital Pub Co outlet in Kew. The latter company has also acquired two former Puzzle pubs in SW18 Earlsfield and W6 Hammersmith. Details are provided of two pubs newly converted with Scottish and Polish themes respectively in SW2 Brixton and W6 Hammersmith.

The destruction of our pub heritage continues across London with 31 newly reported closures, demolitions or conversions to other uses, together with the demolition or conversion of a further 23 previously reported closed. These include two which CAMRA tried unsuccessfully to save, in SE18 Woolwich and W2 Paddington.

A new pub guide, *Around Royal Richmond upon Thames* covering SW14 Mortlake and Sheen, Kew (TW9), Richmond (TW9/10) and Ham & Petersham (TW10) was published by CAMRA Richmond & Hounslow branch in October 2007. The guide updates the coverage of those districts in the comprehensive 1997 *South West London Pub Guide* and, as from next edition, Capital Pubcheck will include cross references to it.


If you would like to report changes to pubs or beers, please write to: Capital Pubcheck, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR or email: capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com.

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

#### CENTRAL

**EC1, FOX & ANCHOR**
115 Charterhouse St.
Reopened in early November. Fuller: London Pride, Nethergate: Umbel Ale, Old Growler; Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; 2 guest beers (e.g. Nethergate seasonal, Sharps Cornish Coaster); Aspall Draught Cider on tap. Grade II listed pub, abandoned to its fate by M&B a year ago along with several other historic Nicholson pubs and rescued by leading hotelier Richard Balfour-Lynn as an independently run, genuine Free House. Sympathetically refurbished in traditional style with original wood-panelled fixtures and fittings retained. Exposed beams. Adnams: Bitter; Taylor: Landlord. Also range of good but expensive bottled beers. (£79, U110, U157, U191)

**WC1, EASTON**
22 Easton St. Taylor: Landlord. Formerly QUEENS HEAD. Reinstatement of real ale. (£98, U117, W18)

**E1, INDO**
133 Whitechapel Rd. Wells: Bombardier. Formerly OLD BLUE ANCHOR. (£70, U85, U144, U153)

**E2, CARPENTERS ARMS**
73 Cheshire St. Reopened and pleasantly furnished. Adnams: Bitter; Taylor: Landlord. Also range of good but expensive bottled beers. (£79, U110, U157, U191)

**E2, SHAKESPEARE**
460 Bethnal Green Rd. Fuller: London Pride – not always available. (£85, U89, U92)

**E7, RAILWAY TAVERN**

**E8, LMNT**
316 Queensbridge Rd. No real ale – keg beer added to bottled beers in this bar/restaurant. Formerly DUKE OF RICHMOND. Reinstate on pub database. (£112, U76, U158)

**E8, PRINCE ARTHUR**
95 Forest Rd. Reopened after careful refurbishment. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Fuller: London Pride, on unmarked handpumps. Formerly LADY DIANA. (£113, U98, U119, U130, U158, U187)

**E15, CAFÉ POINT**
Ibis Hotel, 1A Romford Rd. No real ale. Free House/hotel bar in modern style, open to non-residents. (£119, U170, U176)

#### EAST

**E1, INDO**
133 Whitechapel Rd. Wells: Bombardier. Formerly OLD BLUE ANCHOR. (£70, U85, U144, U153)

**E2, CARPENTERS ARMS**
73 Cheshire St. Reopened and pleasantly furnished. Adnams: Bitter; Taylor: Landlord. Also range of good but expensive bottled beers. (£79, U110, U157, U191)

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**E15, CAFÉ POINT**
Ibis Hotel, 1A Romford Rd. No real ale. Free House/hotel bar in modern style, open to non-residents. (£119, U170, U176)

#### NORTH

**N12, TORRINGTON**
4 Lodge La. Front part already
Discover the **two sides** of the ‘All New’ Narrowboat

A unique canal-side pub serving real ale to the heart of Islington

Serving Fuller’s London Pride, Adnams Best & Broadside

Two bars including The Towpath Bar

Function Room/Bar available

The Narrowboat
St Peter Street
London N1

_for more information telephone 020 7288 0572_
reported converted to Starbucks coffee outlet (see U184) but back part on Lodge Lane retained and renamed **3 OCEANS**, a Free House/bar and Indian restaurant. No real ale. Formerly **TORRINGTON ARMS** (N112, U120, U160, U180, U184)


**NORTH WEST**

**NW1, BABY BETJEMAN**, Upper level concourse (south east corner), St Pancras International Station. Fuller: London Pride, racked bright, served by gravity from a cask on the bar (£3/pint, £1.55/half). Temporary Free House/bar & kitchen operated by Geronimo Inns on the open concourse close to Paul Day’s ‘Meeting Place’ bronze sculpture, pending the creation of the ‘Betjeman Arms’ inside the adjacent vacant unit, formerly the Shires Bar, due to open in spring 2008. Food, bottled beers. Open daily 7am (for breakfast); 10am (for alcohol) -11pm.

**SOUTH EAST**


**CROYDON, MILAN BAR**, Unit C, ex-Grants Dept Store, 14-32 High St. Greene King: Abbot; Marston: Pedigree in ground floor bar only. Real ale reinstated at the only known fizz Wetherspoon (Lloyds No 1) outlet. (U169, U177)

**CROYDON, OAKFIELD**, 166 St James Rd. Reopened. No real ale, H unused. Formerly **OAKFIELD TAVERN**. (3SE245, U55, U98, U197)

**SOUTH WEST**

**SW2, HOBOGOBLIN (GEORGE CANNING)**. Renamed **HOOTANANNY**, one of two bars in the UK so named, operated by the same Enterprise leaseholder, the other one being in Inverness. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA (£3.10/pint, £1.60/half); guest beer. Live music every night (free admission) and Thai food. (SW52, U184)

**SW11, BAR SOCIAL**, 245 Lavender Hill. No real ale.
Free House/bar newly opened in former restaurant premises.

**SW11, INIQUITY**, 8-10 Northcote Rd. No real ale. Free House/bar recently opened in former shop premises.

**SW11, KISSE BAR**, 43 Lavender Hill. No real ale. Free House/bar & restaurant opened ca 2003 but not previously reported.


**SW11, OSMIUM**, 64-66 Lavender Hill. No real ale. Free House/bar recently opened in former shop premises.


**SW17, LONG ROOM**, 130 Mitcham Rd. Fuller: London Pride or another. Real ale reinstated in summer 2007. Formerly MITRE. (SW110, BM18, U195)

**SW18, ROYAL OAK**, 135 East Hill. Black Sheep: Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale. (SW114, U152, U177, U195)

**SW19, NELSON ARMS**, 15 Merton High St. Greene King: IPA; rotating best bitter from Punch list. Reinstatement of real ale. (SW118, BM28)


**HAM (TW10), HAM BREWERY TAP**, 4 Ham St. Shepherd Neame: Spitfire; Young: Bitter. Reinstatement of real ale. Now Admiral, ex-Marr Taverns. (SW136, U171)


**PETERSHAM (TW10), DYSART (THE)**, 135 Petersham Rd. Reverted to DYSART ARMS after an unreported spell as CAFÉ DYSART. Adnams: Bitter; Sharps: Doom Bar. Large front patio area with no smoking section. Children welcome until early evening. Now Enterprise, formerly leased to Corporate Catering. Open 11-11 Mon-Sat, 12-10.30 Sun. (SW136, U140, U171)


**SUTTON (SM1), SMOLLENSKY’S METRO**, 12 High St. No real ale. A Free House/bar in former shop premises.

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**WEST**

**W3, GEORGE & DRAGON**, 183 High St. Reopened in

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**2008 WINTER BEER FESTIVAL**

35 REAL ALES AND CIDERS

Blues band appearing 9pm - 11pm

Thursday: Roy Mette

Saturday: Uncut

Thursday 28th February
6 pm - 1130 pm
Friday 29th February
12 noon - 12 midnight
Saturday 1st March
12 noon - 12 midnight
Sunday 2nd March
12 noon - 11 pm

The White Hart, Kings Walk, Argent Street, Grays, Essex, RM17 6HR
Tel: 01375 373319
2006. Fuller: Chiswick Bitter, London Pride. (W81)

W3, SOUTHERN CROSS, 106 High St. Renamed BELVEDERE after the Belvedere Palace in Warsaw. Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; Fuller: London Pride. Refurbished as a Polish theme pub with Polish food and bottled beers (including Royal Unibrew Brok Strong 7%, £3.45/bottle). Now Laurel, ex-Chart City Ltd. (W86)

W4, DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, 126 Devonshire Rd. Renamed DEVONSHIRE. Fuller: London Pride. Acquired from Enterprise by Gordon Ramsay as a gastropub. Formerly O’NEILLS AT THE MANOR TAVERN and originally MANOR TAVERN. (W88)


PUBS CLOSED OR CEASED SELLING REAL ALE

CENTRAL

EC1, BARLEY MOW, Free, closed again and to let. (E9, U121, U139, U194)

EC1, LONG LANE, Free, closed again and for sale. Formerly RED COW (YE OLDE). (E22, U76, U121, U189, U196)

EC2, ALL BAR ONE, 127 Finsbury Pavement, M&B, ex-Bass, H removed. (U151)

EAST

E8, AMP, Free, closed and premises empty. Formerly MADDIGANS (OF MARE STREET), HOBSONS CHOICE and HORSE & GROOM. (E113, U132, U184, U187, U192)

E8, BROWNLLOW ARMS, ex-Wiltshire, now demolished. (E111, U71, U158)

BARKING, BULL, ex-Bass (East London Pub Co), H unused. (X10, U159, U163, U164)

BARKING, VICTORIA, Free, H now removed. (X12, U157)

HORNCHURCH, FATLING & FIRKIN, ex-Spirit, no real ale. (X71)

HORNCHURCH, KINGS HEAD, Free, ex-Watney, closed and believed to be destined to become a pizza restaurant. (X71, U160)

ILFORD, PLOUGH, ex-Bass, demolition now under way. (X73, U181, U194)

ROMFORD, DURHAM ARMS, Spirit, ex-Ind Coope (Romford), no real ale. (X100)

SEVEN KINGS, JOKER, Greene King, closed and sold to a housing development company for between £1.5 million and £2 million, according to local press. (X105, U172)

NORTH

N1, MARIE LLOYD, Enterprise, closed and interior stripped, future uncertain. (N51, U184)

N12, AUTUMN HOUSE, Marston, ex-Wizard, no real ale. Formerly BELGRAVE, O’NEILLS and PAGES BAR. (N111, U110, U160, U163, U168)

N15, CONNAUGHT TAVERN, ex-Taylor Walker, Already reported demolished; flats now under construction on site. Formerly BELL. (N123, U165, U186, U194)

N15, ROSE & CROWN, Free, now demolished and flats under construction. (N125, U185)

N17, PLOUGH, S&N, now converted to betting shop, although hanging sign retained. (N135, U106, U165, U185)

N17, WATERS EDGE, Free, now converted to Lee Valley Canoe Centre. Formerly WATERS EDGE INN. (N137, U157, U168, U173)

N19, HANLEY ARMS, ex-Watney, now converted to Islamic religious centre. (N144, U164)


BARNET (EN5), DANDELION, ex-Bass, closed. Formerly AVENUE, FELIX & FIRKIN and DANDY LION. (N250, U120, H19, U160, U167, U193)

NORTH WEST

NW1, RAT & PARROT, Spirit, now converted to ‘Masala Zone’ Indian restaurant. (N174, U187)

NW3, GERTIE BROWNES (AT THE COACH & HORSES), ex-Courage, planning application now submitted to Camden Council for conversion to housing. Building work has commenced. (N184, U159, U174, U191)

NW10, BASKET & BRIEF, Free, closed and gutted, future uncertain. Formerly KATIE O’CONNORS BAR. (N223, U192)

NW10, SPOTTED DOG, S&N, closed in summer 2007 for possible conversion to flats. (N225, U106)

HARROW (HA1), APOLLO, Spirit, closed and boarded up. (W150)

HARROW (HA2), TIMBER CARRIAGE, Spirit, now demolished. (W155, U197)

SOUTH EAST

SE6, RUTLAND ARMS, Free. The developer/owners are now considering retaining the ground floor as some form of bar, following the campaign to try to save it from housing conversion. (SE68, U192, U195)

SE15, RAILWAY TAVERN, ex-Courage, demolished and replaced by a block of flats. (SE139)

SE18, DIRECTOR GENERAL, Free. Locally listed traditional pub of character demolished by Greenwich Council to make way for civic offices with a replacement ‘pub/restaurant’ unit on the ground floor. A sad loss to Woolwich and poor example by the local planning authority to other pub owners with development aspirations in a borough which has already lost 30% of its pubs in the last 12 years. (SE167, U193, U195)

SE18, LORD CLYDE, Free, H unused, but planning permission for conversion to flats refused. (SE169)

SE18, ROSE & CROWN, ex-Whitbread. Planning permission now granted for conversion to residential use with ground floor retained as a bar/restaurant. (SE172, U196)

SE26, DUKE, Enterprise, planning application to demolish now submitted to Lewisham Council. Formerly DUKE OF EDINBURGH. (SE222, U149, U197)

BEXLEY, JACOBEAN BARN, M&B, ex-Whitbread (Beefeater), H removed. Now branded by M&B as a ‘Miller & Carter steakhouse and pub’. (U85)

CROYDON, BAR LATINO, Free, ex-Whitbread, closed
WHAT’LL IT BE THEN?
A PINT OF THE USUAL, OR A
LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE?

Allow us to introduce you to an
old friend. Fuller’s ESB, three
times Champion Beer of Britain,
seen here in its smart new livery.
Don't worry, the beer’s just the
same as ever. But if it's been a while,
maybe it's time you reacquainted
yourself with its uniquely rich,
deliciously fruity flavour and long,
satisfying finish. It could well be the
happiest reunion of your life.

ESB. THE CHAMPION ALE.
and boarded up along with surrounding buildings. Formerly KINGS CELLARS, KAISER BILL’S and GOODY’S. (3SE243, U55, U82, U98, U138, U184)

CROYDON, CROWN, 90 Stanley Rd, Enterprise, now being converted to residential use. (3SE239, U184)

CROYDON, GOOSE & CARROT, ex-Taylor Walker, now demolished along with surrounding buildings. Formerly HORSE & JOCKEY, originally BRIDGE HOTEL. (3SE236, U44, U55, U153, U191)

CROYDON, NEW INN, Free, closed. Formerly BLARNEY STONE, originally WELLINGTON. (3SE251, U83, U98, U108)

SOUTH WEST

SW2, CHESTNUT, Enterprise, now being demolished for replacement by flats. (SW52, U191)

SW2, KING OF SARDINIA, Bass, now likely to be replaced by flats. (SW53, U191)

SW2, TWO WOODCOCKS, ex-Conway Taverns, now converted to ‘Brazas’, a Portuguese café. Delete reference to offices in U195. (SW54, U173, U195)

SW8, HORSESHOE, Free, demolished. (SW78, U167)

SW11, GARDENERS ARMS (JACK BEARDS AT), Enterprise (CC Taverns), H unused. (SW89, U163)

SW11, MEYRICK ARMS, Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur, no real ale. (SW89)

SW11, PLOUGH, Young, to be demolished: sale of freehold confirmed but new Young’s pub to be built into ground floor of planned development on the site, scheduled to open in mid-2009. (SW89, U195, U197)

SW11, PRINCES HEAD, Enterprise, ex-Whitbread, no real ale. (SW89)

SW11, STAG, Phoenix, converted to an Indian restaurant. (SW90, U157)

SW14, LORD NAPIER, ex-Inntrepreneur, substantially rebuilt and now converted to residential use. (SW98)

SW14, QUEENS ARMS, Free, not demolished as reported in U141 but substantially rebuilt and converted to residential use. (SW98, U138, U141)

SW17, ROUNDED OAK, Marston (ex-W&G), closed, future uncertain. Formerly GORDON BENNETT. (SW109, BM19, U192, U195)

SW18, BREWERY TAP, Young, closed, future uncertain. (SW111, U125)

CHEAM (SM3), QUEEN VICTORIA (MR Q’s), ex-Ind Coope, demolished. (SW131, U185)

CHESSINGTON (KT9), MAVERICK, Greene King, H unused. Formerly PICKLED NEWT (PORT OF CALL). (SW134, KT14)

KINGSTON (KT1), A BAR 2 FAR, Free, converted to ‘Strada’ Italian restaurant. (U165, KT18)

KINGSTON (KT1), DUKE TAVERN, 80 Cambridge Rd, ex-Inntrepreneur, now demolished. Note correct address. (SW141, U163, U172)

KINGSTON (KT1), LITTEN TREE, ex-SFI, closed since September 2006. (SW143, KT24)

MITCHEAM (CR4), THREE KINGS, S&N, now being converted to a Chinese restaurant and Chinese medicine shop. (SW147, U157, U181)

MORDEN (SM4), CROWN, S&N (Globe), closed for alternative use. Was BIG HAND MO’S for a while. (SW150, BM38, U191)

MORDEN (SM4), GEORGE INN (HARVESTER), M&B, H now removed. (SW150, BM38, U191)

MORDEN (SM4), TAVERN. Reverted to MORDEN TAVERN, Enterprise, H unused. (SW150, BM39)

RICHMOND (TW9), ALL BAR ONE, M&B, ex-Bass, H removed. (SW154, U189)

RICHMOND (TW9), BLACK HORSE, Free, confirmed now converted to residential use. (SW154, U189, U191)

RICHMOND (TW9), CENTRO, Free. Renamed CAFÉ REZ but subsequently converted to ‘Carluccio’s’ Italian restaurant. (U187)

RICHMOND (TW9), DOME, ex-Whitbread, converted to ‘Strada’ Italian restaurant. (U146)

RICHMOND (TW9), MAGNUM’S TEN, Corporate Catering, converted to ‘So Bar’ oriental restaurant and cocktail bar. (SW155)

RICHMOND (TW10), THREE PIGEONS, Free, now demolished. (SW159)

SURBITON (KT5), BRITANNIA, Enterprise, demolished. (SW161, U140, KT39)

SURBITON (KT6), CORKY’S, 73 Claremont Rd. Renamed SELS but subsequently converted to a restaurant. Note correct address. (U172)

SURBITON (KT6), RED LION, M&B, ex-Six Continents, closed and boarded up. (SW162, U164, KT43)

SUTTON (SM1), LITTEN TREE. Renamed REVOLUTION, H removed. Now Inventive Leisure, ex-SFI. (SW166)

SUTTON (SM1), VICTORY, Marr Taverns, closed and boarded up by February 2006. (SW167)

WEST

W2, ARCHERY TAVERN, ex-Hall & Woodhouse. Now converted to ‘Angelo’s’ French restaurant. A sad end for this popular, historic, Grade II listed pub which once again demonstrates the ineffectiveness of the planning process to protect our pub heritage when owners (in this case the Church Commissioners) sell out to the highest bidder. (W70, U187, U197)

W11, PELICAN, Free, closed due to repossession order. (W120)

FELTHAM (TW13), NEW MOON, Free, closed and awaiting demolition for redevelopment. (W137)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), LARKINS CELLAR BAR, Larkin Inns, closed. Formerly Larkin Inn. (W170, U195)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), RIFLEMAN, JT Davies, now converted to Lebanese restaurant. (W170, U195)

HOUNSLOW (TW3), SHANNONS, Fuller, closed and to let. (W170)

OTHER CHANGES TO PUBS & BEER RANGES

CENTRAL

W1(May), CLARENCE, - Adnams: Bitter: +Taylor: Landlord; +guest beer. (W58)

W1(May), HENRY’S. Now Tattersall Castle pub co, ex-Spirit. (W60)

EAST

E1, BLACK BULL, 199 Whitechapel Rd. Renamed BAR NAKODA but retains two or three Nethergate beers and now also specialises in authentic Indian cuisine. Apologies
for erroneous entry in U197 referring to conversion to restaurant (see also CORRECTIONS below).  

(E61, U110, U161)

E1, L’OASIS, 237 Mile End Rd, -Wadworth: 6X; 
+Adnams: Bitter; +Taylor: Landlord unusually on gravity dispense (G) direct from the cask.  Good beer and food in a nice unpretentious environment.  Formerly THREE CROWNS.  
(E74, U71, U136, U156, U160)

E2, OLD GEORGE, -John Smith:Bitter; +Wadworth: 6X.  
(E83, U189)

E5, PRIORY TAVERN.  Renamed ECLIPSE by early 2005 and now renamed again to ELDERSFIELD.  (E100)

NORTH

N1, PRINCE REGENT.  Renamed simply REGENT, -beers listed; +Flowers: IPA.  Refurbished.  Formerly STONE BAR, a spell as a restaurant and previously NOLIA’s CAFÉ BAR.  
(N53, U141, U173)

N2, BALD FACED STAG.  Now operated by Realpubs Ltd, ex-Punch.  
(N65, U161, U163, U197)

N2, MADDENS, +guest beer (e.g. Cottage).  Now has in-house Thai kitchen (12-9).  Formerly WELSH’S (ALE HOUSE).  
(N67, U120)

(N70, U151, U169)

N3, JOINERS ARMS.  Now simply JOINERS, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride.  Now M&B, ex-Bass  
(N69)

N4, FALTERING FULLBACK, -beers listed; +Fuller: London Pride.  Formerly SIR WALTER SCOTT.  
(N77, U155)

(N104, U106)

N14, WOOLPACK, -beers listed; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen; +guest beer.  
(N120, U106)

BARNET (EN5), HADLEY HOTEL, -beers listed except Fuller: London Pride; +Adnams: Broadside; +Greene King: IPA; +guest beer.  Now Free, ex-Watney.  
(N250)

NORTH WEST

NW3, FLASK TAVERN, +Courage: Directors; +Wells: Bombardier.  Sympathetic refurbishment with new furniture and retaining public bar.  
(N185)

SOUTH EAST

SE18, PRINCE ALBERT (ROSES), 49 Hare St.  Sale fell through and the owner has relet to new licensees who have retained a guest beer policy.  Two beers from Cottage, Fuller and Shepherd Neame regularly available.  
(SE171, U196)

SE22, HERNE TAVERN.  Now leased from Punch by Palmerston Partners.  Guest beers are from the Punch ‘Finest Cask’ range.  Was O’REILLY’S for a while.

Join John & Heather at

The Brewery Tap

Three rotating Real Ales  
(many from micro-breweries)

Fuller’s London Pride and Adnams Bitter permanently and now we often stock mild ale and Aspall’s Suffolk Cider.

 unprecedented pub grub, home cooked and served every lunchtime.

 Traditional Sunday Roast.

 Quiz on Mondays from 8.30pm.

 Open all permitted hours.

 Digital juke box.

68 High Street, Wimbledon Village SW19 (10 minutes walk from Wimbledon station)

020 8947 9331

email: thebrewerytap@hotmail.com
(SE200, U192, U196)

SE22, CRYSTAL PALACE TAVERN, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter, Broadside; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Now Punch, ex-Taylor Walker. (SE198)

SE22, UPLANDS. Now Barter Inns, ex-Labatts. Formerly UPLAND TAVERN. (SE201, U102, U120, U179)


CROYDON, OLD DERBY. Renamed DERBY (THE) after refurbishment. Still no real ale. Formerly PADDOCK and originally DERBY ARMS. (3SE239, U82, U98, U155)

SOUTH WEST

SW1(B), SUNDIAL. Renamed BELGRAVIA, -beers listed; +Greene King: IPA; +Young: Bitter. Formerly NILE, originally RED LION. (SW39, U133, U147)

SW11, BAR RISA, 49 Lavender Gardens. Renamed RISE, still no real ale. Note correct address. Formerly CORNET. (SW87, U160)

SW11, BATTERSEA BAR, now Admiral, ex-Punch, ex-Allied, H now removed. Formerly CHOPPER. (SW87, U196)

SW11, CAREY’S 5. Reverted long ago to BRITISH FLAG, still no real ale. Now free, owned by licensee of nearby Haberdashers Arms and open only until 7pm Mon-Thur; 9pm Fri/Sat; and 6pm Sun. (SW87, U174)

SW11, HABERDASHERS ARMS, Punch, ex-Allied, but free of tie. H still unused but reinstatement of real ale now a possibility. (SW89, U157)

SW11, CROWN, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter; + Fuller: London Pride. Still proudly parading as CROWN HOTEL on original Truman frontage, but now Enterprise, leased to CC Tavens trading as Jack Beards and so gratuitously badged as ‘JACK BEARDS AT THE CROWN’. The only traditional pub left on Lavender Hill selling cask ale, notwithstanding. (SW87)

SW11, FOX & HOUNDS, -beers listed; +Deuchars IPA; + Fuller: London Pride; + Harvey: Sussex Best Bitter. Punch, leased since 2000 by George and Richard Manners as one of a small chain of successful gastropubs. Closed before 5pm Mon and between 3 and 5 Tue-Thur. (SW88, U125, U146, U177)

SW11, FRONT ROOM. Renamed MISH MASH. Free, under new management since mid-October and with reinstatement of real ale in view. Formerly NEW CRAVEN, HARVEYS and HARVEY FLOORBANGERS (BAR). (SW89, U137, U141, U163)

SW11, LATCHMERE, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier; Young: Bitter. Now Barracuda (badged Smith & Jones), ex-Enterprise, Unique and Inntrepreneur. (SW89, U160)

SW11, NORTHCOTE, -beers listed; +two of Fuller: London Pride; Wadworth: 6X or Wells: Bombardier. Now Spirit, ex-S&N. (SW89)

SW11, TAYBRIDGE, -beers listed; +Wells: Bombardier. Formerly PUZZLE and latterly the only pub still owned by the Puzzle Pub Co, though the freehold is now for sale. (U140, U141, U194)

SW17, GARDEN HOUSE, + Wells: Bombardier, but real ale not always available. Formerly GEORGE, previously FREEDOM & FIRKIN. (SW109, BM12, U189)

SW17, HOPE, +Adnams: Broadside. Formerly FAITH & FIRKIN. (SW108, BM13)

SW17, KINGS HEAD, -guest beer. (SW109, BM16)

SW17, SELKIRK, -beers listed; +Caledonian: Deuchars IPA; + Taylor: Landlord. Was FROG & FORGET ME NOT for a while. (SW110, BM20)

SW17, WHITE LION. Renamed HARE & HOUNDS after minimal refurbishment. (SW110, BM21)

SW18, COUNTRY HOUSE (JACK BEARDS IN THE FOG). Renamed FOG, -beers listed except Young: Bitter; + Courage: Directors; + Wells: Bombardier not always available. Now Enterprise, ex-Inntrepreneur via Unique. (SW111, U155)

SW18, PUZZLE. Now Capital Pub Co, ex-Puzzle Pub Co. Formerly SAILOR PRINCE. (SW114, U138, U142, U155)

SW19, COLLIERS TUP, +Greene King: IPA; +Theakston: Best Bitter. Formerly VICTORY. (SW120, BM25)

SW19, WILLIAM MORRIS, -beers listed: +Courage: Directors; +Theakston: Best Bitter, XB. Now Faucet Inns, ex-Broken Foot. (SW121, BM36)

CARSALTON (SM5), OLD DUCKS WINE BAR. Reverted back to WOODMAN WINE BAR. (SW130, U141)

CHEAM (SM3), HARROW. Correct address is 1 High St. Now M&B, ex-Six Continents. (SW131, U151, U165)

CHESSINGTON (KT9), BLACKAMOORS HEAD. Renamed CHESSINGTON OAK by late 2006, -beers listed; +Brakspear: Bitter; +Greene King: Old Speckled Hen. Now M&B, ex-Bass and branded as ‘Sizzling Pub Co’. (SW134, KT14)

CHESSINGTON (KT9), CRICKETERS, -beers listed; +1 changing real ale (e.g. Jennings: Cumberland Ale) from unmarked handpump. Now Punch, ex-Marr Tavens. (SW134, KT14)

CHESSINGTON (KT9), NORTH STAR, -beers listed except Adnams: Bitter; +Theakston: Old Peculier; +Young: Bitter; +guest beer (e.g. Batemans, Wyre Piddle). Now M&B, ex-Bass and branded as an ‘Ember Inn’. (SW134, KT15)

CHESSINGTON (KT9), STAR, -beers listed except Courage: Best Bitter. (SW135, KT34)

KEW (TW9), COACH & HORSES. Now COACH & HORSES HOTEL following the addition of an hotel at the rear in 2001. + Wells: Bombardier. (SW138, U162)

KEW (TW9), RAILWAY, -beers listed; +Adnams: Bitter; + Fuller: London Pride; + guest beers from regional breweries. Formerly FLOWER & FIRKIN. (SW138, U165, U184)

KINGSBURY (KT1), BAR CASA should read just CASA. (U165, KT18)

KINGSTON (KT1), PORTER BLACK, Ram Passage, High St. Reverted to WATERS EDGE. Note corrected title and address. Formerly SHAMUS O’DONNELL’S. (SW144, KT26)

KINGSTON (KT1), RB’S SPORTS BAR. Renamed ESSENCE. Formerly ROYAL BARGE. (SW144, KT26)

KINGSTON (KT2), ROYAL BOROUGH ARMS. Renamed POTTERY. (SW144, U160, KT27)
MORDEN (SM4), BEVERLEY. -Greene King: IPA; +Adnams: Broadside. (SW150, BM37)
MORDEN (SM4), GANLEY’S IRISH BAR. -Greene King: IPA. Formerly JACK STAMP’S BEER HOUSE and originally END OF THE LINE. (SW150, BM38)
RICHMOND (TW9), NW1. Renamed REVOLUTION, now Inventive Leisure, ex-Greenalls. Still no real ale. (SW155)
RICHMOND (TW10), ROEBUCK. -beers listed; +Guest beer. (SW156, U187)
RICHMOND (TW9), SMOLENSKYS. Now SMOLENSKYS METRO. (U187)
SURBITON (KT6), BROADWAY BAR CAFE. -beers listed; +Marston: Burton Bitter; Pedigree. (U174)
SURBITON (KT6), RAT & PARROT. Renamed ST MARKS TAVERN, now Orchid, ex-S&N via Spirit. Formerly FERRET & TROUSER LEG. (SW161, KT43)
SURBITON (KT6), MORITZ WINE BAR. Renamed BAR H2O. (SW167)
SURBITON (SM1), NONSUCH ARMS. Renamed SUTTON ARMS. Formerly HOGSHEAD. (U135, U174, U183)
SURBITON (SM1), RAT & PARROT. Renamed LONG ISLAND ICED TEA by May 2005, now Spirit, ex-S&N. (SW167)
SURBITON (SM1), SCRUFFY MURPHYS. Renamed BRB. Now Orchid, ex-Spirit, ex-Allied. (SW167)

WEST

MORDEN (SM4), BEVERLEY. -Greene King: IPA; +Adnams: Broadside. (SW150, BM37)
MORDEN (SM4), GANLEY’S IRISH BAR. -Greene King: IPA. Formerly JACK STAMP’S BEER HOUSE and originally END OF THE LINE. (SW150, BM38)
RICHMOND (TW9), NW1. Renamed REVOLUTION, now Inventive Leisure, ex-Greenalls. Still no real ale. (SW155)
RICHMOND (TW10), ROEBUCK. -beers listed; +Guest beer. (SW156, U187)
RICHMOND (TW9), SMOLENSKYS. Now SMOLENSKYS METRO. (U187)
SURBITON (KT6), BROADWAY BAR CAFE. -beers listed; +Marston: Burton Bitter; Pedigree. (U174)
SURBITON (KT6), RAT & PARROT. Renamed ST MARKS TAVERN, now Orchid, ex-S&N via Spirit. Formerly FERRET & TROUSER LEG. (SW161, KT43)
SURBITON (KT6), MORITZ WINE BAR. Renamed BAR H2O. (SW167)
SURBITON (SM1), NONSUCH ARMS. Renamed SUTTON ARMS. Formerly HOGSHEAD. (U135, U174, U183)
SURBITON (SM1), RAT & PARROT. Renamed LONG ISLAND ICED TEA by May 2005, now Spirit, ex-S&N. (SW167)

CORRECTIONS TO UPDATE 197

NEW & REOPENED PUBS ETC

E14, BOOTYS RIVERSIDE BAR. Should be under OTHER CHANGES ETC and read: -Tetley: Bitter; +Fuller: London Pride; +Greene King: IPA. (U81)
N1, LINCOLN LOUNGE. Add: Now Free, ex-Whitbread.

PUBS CLOSED ETC

EC1, ROYAL MAIL. Should read: Free, ex-Bass.
E1, BLACK BULL. Delete entry. See OTHER CHANGES ETC above.
SE10, ROSE OF DENMARK. Should read: Renamed 57.
SW11, PLOUGH. Refs should read (SW89, U195).

OTHER CHANGES ETC

EC3, NEW MOON. Add: Formerly HOGSHEAD.
E9, ROYAL INN ON THE PARK. Add: Formerly ROYAL HOTEL.
E17, PLOUGH INN. Add: Originally PLOUGH.
BARKINGSIDE, COUNTY. Should read: COUNTY ARMS.
N20, BLACK BULL. Should read: -beers listed.
N22, FREEMASONS ARMS. Delete entry, correctly included under PUBS CLOSED ETC.
NW1, ALBERT. Add: Ex-Bass. Formerly PRINCE ALBERT.
SURBITON, HOGSHEAD. Add: Greene King, ex-Whitbread.
GREENFORD, RAILWAY TAVERN. Ref should read (W142).

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The market for cask ale in the UK has been declining for several years now and is set to decline further, particularly if mass advertising continues to draw younger drinkers towards characterless lagers and such kiddy-orientated drinks as alcopops and cider over ice.

This is the real message of the report entitled ‘The Intelligent Choice’ and subtitled ‘The True State of the Market for Cask Ale’, mentioned in the December/January News Round-Up. In his report, Pete Brown, who works in drinks advertising and numbers among his clients Heineken, InBev, Diageo, Labatts and Bulmers, attempts to paint an optimistic picture in which the small brewery sector will continue to flourish and diversity of choice will reign. I guess this is down to the way in which people in advertising have to work - putting a positive spin on the product even though the evidence points in a negative direction. However, the figures he uses in the document tell the opposite story.

The report first stresses a number of reasons why cask should do well in future. It has good environmental credentials (low ‘beer miles’); it is drunk predominantly by older people and we have an aging population; the majority of cask drinkers fall into social and economic groups ABC1 and we as a nation are becoming more affluent. The smoking ban is likely to attract more drinkers to pubs and many of them (presumably all these older ABC1s in the population) are likely to drink cask. Consideration of all the foregoing will tell you that it probably isn’t worth all that much in market terms, but it sounds good and has the virtue of not easily being disproved.

Unfortunately, Pete Brown didn’t stop there but wandered into the area of market analysis. No doubt he considered this necessary in order to lay claim to the document’s subtitle but, as a result, he parades figures which, on even a cursory inspection, show that the market for cask ale is set to continue its recent decline. As a consequence, the faintly positive advertising message is fundamentally undermined.

A bar chart shows how sales of cask ales moved in the period 1999 to 2006 and how they are predicted to move in the next few years. Sales in total declined from 3.5 million barrels per annum in 1999 to 2.4 million in 2006. Within that decline, however, sales by the multinationals fell by about 1.5 mbpa whereas sales by the independent sectors (taken together) rose by 0.4 mbpa. Another pair of charts suggests that in 2006 there were some 5.3 million cask drinkers in the UK if you classified them by age, and 6.0 million if you classified them by social and economic category. For some reason, Mr Brown, in his accompanying text, refers to a figure of 5.4 million. If you assume no significant change in per capita consumption, then this data suggests that there were about 7.8 million cask drinkers in 1999 and that numbers have fallen by an average of around 350 000 per annum. Moreover, the classification of cask drinkers by age shows an alarmingly low number of younger drinkers who choose cask ale.

Another chart shows that whereas the average price of a pint in the off trade remained steady at about £1.00 over the period 1995 to 2006, the price in a pub rose from about £1.50 to about £2.30. In other words, the relative price in the on trade is now 2.3 times that in the off trade. If you factor in inflation, the real cost of a pint in a pub has increased by some 15%. This is scarcely consistent with the contention that pub going (something which has been in decline for several years) is set for a renaissance. And if you don’t drink in a pub or club, then you almost certainly don’t drink cask ale.

So the first thing to worry about is numbers. The number of cask drinkers has been falling steadily and there is only one way to explain what is happening that is consistent with all of the data. It is that cask drinkers are dying off (either literally or because older people often stop drinking alcohol for heath reasons) and are not being replaced in anything like sufficient numbers by new young cask drinkers. It is no good claiming that we have an aging population and that older people are more likely to drink cask. Today’s older people are more likely to drink cask because that was what they grew up with, not because there is some quasi-menopausal process by which our taste buds suddenly awaken during middle age. (If there were, then cask sales would already have been increasing, as the average age of the UK population has been increasing for some years now.)

Falling numbers of drinkers equates to falling sales. The multinationals have decided that there is no future for cask and have been getting out of it in a big way. Indeed the rate at which they have abandoned cask has been faster than the rate at which the total market has declined and it is undoubtedly this which has afforded a measure of growth for the smaller brewers. A proportion of cask drinkers denied their favourite multinational brewed cask ale has switched to a cask ale brewed by a smaller brewer and it is this switching that has acted to the benefit of that sector. Almost certainly, brand switching has not only shielded the smaller brewers from the general decline in the market but
CAMRA has provided them with some temporary growth. This is all well and good, but there’s a problem. The multinationals are now so far out of the market that there is little or no prospect of further switching. So, as the number of cask drinkers continues its seemingly inexorable decline, the smaller brewers will have to bear most of the brunt.

This of course is not how Pete Brown sees it. On the subject of brand switching between the multinationals and the smaller brewers, he writes: “Many regional brewers are seeing sustained growth in their brands and some are becoming national in scope. At the same time, SIBA’s Local Brewing Industry Report reveals that its members are seeing an average annual growth of 7.5%.

There is undoubtedly an element of switching occurring. A proportion of the gains being made by regional and local brewers must be volume coming from the decline of brands belonging to the multinationals. But the gap between decline on the one hand, and growth on the other, is closing. There’s every reason to believe that it will bottom out and soon return to growth - even if it takes a man braver than this writer to stick his neck out and predict when.”

Well, perhaps it really needs a braver man than I to unscramble this wording but what he seems to be saying is that the independent sectors have been reaping some benefit from switching but that once the scope for switching disappears, the independent sectors will do even better. (I guess this is on a par with believing that that Stella Artois is reassuringly expensive.)

The result of combining an attempt to promote cask ale in pubs (obviously a good thing) with an unsuccessful argument that the future market for cask ale should see growth is a document that might lead the casual reader to conclude that there was no cause for concern. This is the danger that CAMRA must avoid. We must face up to the prospect of further market decline and make a concerted effort to identify a coherent strategy aimed at halting, and if possible reversing, this decline.

Brian Sheridan (Brian submitted a detailed critique of The Intelligent Choice to CAMRA’s National Executive, via the London Liaison Committee, at the end of November – Ed.)

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Since 1969 I’ve been a great drinker around E1 and E2: Kray territory. I taught in a school where the ‘brothers’ went, Mape Street Primary. When I got there it had merged with Hague School in Wilmot Street and changed its name to Weavers Field School for maladjusted children. The schoolkeeper, Fred Crutchington and his wife were still there. There was a pub on the end of the school and we drank there regularly until it was knocked down. It had a good Trumans cellar. Not so popular as it had been because the slummy houses from which Weavers Fields emerged were demolished in 1969. Although we never saw the Krays in there they still haunted the place. Fred told us never to accept a drink from them because one day they’d ask you to do them a ‘favour’. He also said that although mum was OK, the rest were bloody evil. The brothers did their first killing when they were 8 when playing on a milk cart: they let the hand brake off and a mate hanging on the back was run over and died. Contrary to folklore, they were not liked in the area but refused to leave.

The pubs Colin Price mentioned (December/January letters) my colleague and I knew well. The Blind Beggar was the most disgusting pub in the area: dark, dingy, dirty, smelly and empty. I only ever went into it once. God knows what George Cornell was doing in there. On the Cambridge Heath side was a Murphys pub, with one still remaining on the other side of the road standing like bastions to a ‘territory’. On the other side of the Blind Beggar was a Whitbread pub. That’s three pubs adjacent to one another. The Whitbread pub was relevant because there was a huge yard for storing barrels ready for loading in Brady Street. (Sainsbury now occupies this entire site.) The Blind Beggar today is not like its former self, thank God, but a tourist pub I do not go into, with the Murphy site their beer garden. Another colleague of mine, a local lad, went into the Murphys pub regularly because his father would take him there and, until he was fourteen, would have to stand outside.

The next pub you mention, the Lion in Tapp St, I got to know well as I ran a special education unit in the Stewart Headlam Primary School playground behind it for 15 years. Stewart Headlam was a helpful priest in the area who stood bail for Oscar Wilde at some time or other. We started drinking in the Lion about 1970 when it was run by two sisters. It was a pretty dingy Trumans pub and the Krays supposedly stored their weapons in its cellar! Later another landlord, bit of a rough diamond, collected a massive pile of coins which, on being pushed over, were going to be barreled and pushed around Bethnal Green to raise even more money. Another colleague at Weavers Fields School had a tennis friend who was married to Evonne Goolagong, the Australian Wimbledon champion. She was going to do the honours and push the pile over for starters. But on the night when everyone was assembled I arrived late with my wife and saw the celebrity leave with her ‘minder’ (East End language). As bold as brass the landlord stood and said that he was sorry but he had spent the pile, and that was it. Later when Mick the Greek was landlord with his Bentley or Roller slowly rotting away outside, he told me that he’d watched the local youths asset strip my education unit one Sunday and did nothing about it! Six months later, after restocking, the same thing happened again.

As for the Carpenters Arms, we drank in there for a while but the landlord who we followed from another pub in the area never mentioned it being in the hands of the Krays. But then owning has two meanings around that area. It was more or less territorial ‘ownership’. That too was not a busy place even though the beer was Trumans and OK.

The demise of Trumans was sad. I did play carols at the Trumans Brewery in Brick Lane once, following which we were beered and dined in the Directors room upstairs. I was involved with a school children’s band though I don’t know what they drank.

Finally I will never forget the legacy of the Grand Metropolitan company who bought out Trumans to get the USA Budweiser on to the shelves in our pubs in this country. Once that was achieved, they closed the brewery down. Thanks very much!

© Roger Hughes, 2008

**DOWN THE RIVER**

A new Wandsworth and Battersea pub guide, *Down the River*, will be launched on 6 February at the 2008 Battersea Beer Festival. Comparisons with the pubs listed in those areas - SW18 and SW11 - in the 1997 South West London Pub Guide show that overall, the proportion selling cask ale has fallen over the last 10 years from more than 80% to less than half of them. There are roughly two thirds now (51) of the number of pubs that sold real ale then (76), but there are four times as many pubs and bars with lager or nitrokeg the only draught beers on offer (55, up from 14).

Battersea has changed much more than Wandsworth in this regard. Wandsworth had 34 and now has 29 pubs serving real ale – we must be thankful for Young’s – but Battersea, with 42 listed in 1997, now has only 22 left. There can be no doubt, however, that the overall quality of the real ale available nowadays has noticeably improved. The new guide, priced £2.00, should help more people to find it.
John Young, the chairman of Young’s Brewery who died in 2006 was well regarded as an advocate of good beer and pubs. To celebrate his memory, the London branches of CAMRA have introduced an annual award to publicly acknowledge an individual or organisation that the London branches believe has done the most for real ale and/or pubs within the Greater London area.

For 2007, the very first award has been given to Michael Hardman. Michael is currently public relations manager of SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers. For many years he was responsible for Young’s public relations, but he was also one of the CAMRA’s founding fathers. Back in 1971, Michael set up CAMRA with three other real ale lovers. He was its chairman until 1973 and the editor of CAMRA’s magazine, What’s Brewing 1972-77 and of the Good Beer Guide 1974-77. From these beginnings would grow the most successful consumer organisation in Europe.

Michael was presented with the award at the opening of the Pig’s Ear Beer Festival at the Ocean, Hackney on Tuesday 4 December. Steve Williams, CAMRA London’s Regional Director said “We are delighted to be giving this award to Michael. He worked with John Young for many years and we are sure John would be delighted that we are giving the first award in his name to someone he knew so well”.

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Being occasional anecdotes, tall tales, notes and experiences from a drinker’s life, all of which are true: for certain values of ‘true’ (I thank Terry Pratchett for this disclaimer.)

11. Not dog-friendly
I was chatting to a gentleman in the Royal Oak, SEL, last year. He told me of the time that he took his dog into a pub in Epping Forest, and was peremptorily ordered out by an officious barman, on the grounds that they were to serve meals later. As he was the only customer, he suggested that as he was only going to have one drink, having the van with him, he would be out well before any meals were served. The officious one then suggested that he take his drink and dog out to that van. Needless to say, he did not avail himself.

When I told my brother in law this tale, he said that the same had happened to him in Cambridgeshire.

12. Being a ‘resident’, after hours
My father told me of this, in the late nineteen fifties or very early nineteen sixties. In certain country pubs, of a Saturday night, if all was going well and the company was good, it was not unknown that a customer would ask the landlord if he did bed and breakfast. If the answer were ‘yes’, the customer would check that this meant that as a resident, he could continue to buy drinks after ‘time’. If the landlord acquiesced, the pub stayed open; no-one ever stayed overnight!

13. Sandwiches ‘after hours’ at the Stoke Rochford Roadhouse
In the nineteen sixties, new legislation allowed a pub to serve after hours, if the customer were having a meal. In one (then) well-known road house on the A1, every round of drinks after ‘time’ automatically included a round of sandwiches. It cannot possibly have met the legal requirement but, as far as I know, they always got away with it.

14. ‘Plain or tainted’
A friend ordered a packet of crisps in a pub. The barman replied with the enquiry: ‘plain or ... tainted?’

15. Leatherjackets
A biker friend of mine went into a pub, to be greeted by the landlord with “We don’t serve leather jackets!” John replied “That’s alright, I don’t eat them!”

16. Manny, Greg: ‘and a half’
In the nineteen eighties, a friend went into a certain pub in Victoria with his colleagues. He ordered five pints. When they arrived, they were all short
measure, so he ordered a further half. He proceeded to top up the pints from that half, emptying it. A couple of weeks later, he was in the same pub, and again got short measure. This time however, one of the other staff who had recognised him, elbowed his colleague aside, and said “Let me top these up for you, Sir.”

Much more recently, Greg Tingey used the same ‘and a half’ technique in the Mad Bishop and Bear, at Paddington: as he later wrote to London Drinker. In each case, the half was just sufficient to top up five pints: a 10 percent shortfall.

17. Pewter pot up to light
Back in the eighties, people would often hold their glasses up to the light, either to assess clarity or to admire it. This was seen by the trade as pseudy and an unwarranted slur on their cellarmanship. One night, I was in a pub when the landlord filled up his pewter tankard, mischievously held it up to the light, and commented that it looked good.

18. Bass, E: both pumps on same cask
I used to be a regular in one of the City pubs, long ago. As it was a Charrington’s house, it had both Bass and Worthington E on handpump. One night, two young gentlemen, ‘something in the City’ types, were arguing the toss between these two beers. The landlord beckoned me and a couple of other regulars down to the far end of the bar, and told us that both pumps were connected to the same cask.

Historical note: at that time, cask conditioned (‘real’) Bass and ‘E’ were the selfsame beer; keg Bass and ‘E’ were also identical; but of course, keg was not ‘real’. CAMRA lobbied Charrington for years over the potential for confusion and, eventually, they agreed that the ‘real’ product would only be sold as Bass, and the keg only as ‘E’. Scarcely surprisingly, not all licensees obeyed this policy.

19. Royal Oak, Frank: lager
There used to be a sign in The Royal Oak, London SE1: ‘Lager only served to those accompanied by a responsible adult.’

20. Ted, Norwich
When I was a regular of the Three Pigeons in Norwich, the landlord had two farewells: on some nights it would be “It’s alright, we’ve got your money, you can go home now!” and on others: “It’s been nice seeing you, it’ll be nice to see the back of you!” They were always said with a charming smile, but we knew that he meant them!

21. Peter’s out of date ESB
When I was a regular at a certain Fuller’s pub in W14, the licensee returned from a holiday, and took over from the relief manager who had been in residence for a week or two. He waved off the outgoer, and then went down to the cellar to check how things were. He discovered that he had an unbroached cask of ESB which was already past its ‘sell by’ date. Nothing daunted, he put it on service, and his regulars told him that it was the best ESB he had ever served them! (I have long held that some beers need a ‘best after’ date.)

22. “Stand a little closer…”
I never went there myself, but my father told me this one. In the late 1950s or very early 1960s, a pub in the Lincolnshire/Rutland borderland had the small urinals: the type made famous by Duchamp. As these were otherwise unknown in the area, the licensee had affixed a small, engraved plastic notice above each one. They all read: “Stand a little closer, gentlemen; it’s smaller than you think.”

23. Leics/Rutland borders and closing hours
In the nineteen fifties, there was a pub on the Leicester/Rutland border. He county boundary ran through the bar. n those good old days, Rutland pubs closed at 2300; those in Leicester and Lincolnshire at 2230. If you had entered this pub from the Rutland door, you would be served until the later hour. However, if the licensee realised that you had used the Leicestershire door, you would be thrown out at 2230: no drinking up time in those days! If you wanted another drink, you had to come back in, through the Rutland door: into the selfsame bar! And we think our present licensing hours are silly!

24. Cafe Golem: antaal 173
Back in the 1980s, cafe Gollem was the beer specialist bar in Amsterdam. All the beers were listed, with their prices, on blackboards above picture-rail height, along with a statement of the number of varieties in stock. I was present when that announcement was: “Antaal 173”. Two English strangers entered and, thinking they were in for a bargain beer, tried to order ‘antaal 173’. Their mistake was tactfully explained to them.

NOTE for historians: Gollem was the origin of the famous beer team which subsequently started cafe het Laatste Ordeel (the last judgment), since defunct, and café In de Wildeman.

25. Pint of Waveney Clarion
In the early 1980s, the Golden Star pub in Norwich had an ever-changing selection of guest beers. It also sold the local ‘head’ (or ‘alternative’) newspaper, the Waveney Clarion. All were listed on blackboards. More than once, I have heard a stranger order a pint of Waveney Clarion, only to have a grinning licensee present him with a rolled up newspaper, in a pint glass. (This explains why you will still hear me request ‘a pint of London Drinker’, on occasion.)

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It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

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As promised, here are the solutions to the puzzles set in December's Idle Moments column.

**NUMBER PUZZLES:**
1. 14 Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar
2. 5 Nickels in a Quarter
3. 100 Members of the United States Senate
4. 49 Balls in the National Lottery Draw
5. 6 is the Atomic Number of Carbon
6. 220 Miles is the Length of the River Severn
7. 36 Million Miles from the Sun to Mercury
8. 9 Derby Wins by Lester Piggott
9. 104 Symphonies by Joseph Haydn
10. 66 Feet in a Chain

**BREWERY ANAGRAMS:**
1. RAMBLE - MARBLE
2. TRAMP HOME - HAMMERPOT
3. PERT STAINES - SAINT PETERS
4. MARS BRAT - BARTRAMS
5. SILLY RUSHER - SURREY HILLS
6. MEL RUES POOP - PURPLE MOOSE
7. JERRY BELLOW - JOLLY BREWER
8. BAN CRATERS - BRANCASTER
9. STEAL AIR - SALTAIRE
10. BE HANDIER - HEBRIDEAN

**5BY4 (More county brewers):**
1. Humpty Dumpty - Norfolk
2. Dolphin - Shropshire
3. Milestone - Nottinghamshire
4. Barefoot - Northumberland
5. Fallen Angel - East Sussex
6. Old Bog - Oxfordshire
7. Frog Island - Northamptonshire
8. Green Dragon - Suffolk
9. Milk Street - Somerset
10. Titanic - Staffordshire

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:**
These, you will recall, were all Christmas or new year questions.
1. The king of England crowned on Christmas Day was William I (the Conqueror).
2. Maurice Cole, born on Christmas Day in 1944, is better known as Kenny Everett.
4. The now traditional Christmas Day swim in the Serpentine first took place in 1864.
5. Sir Isaac Newton - scientist, mathematician and all round clever clogs was born on Christmas Day in 1642. near Grantham, Lincolnshire (in Woolsthorpe if you want to be really clever).
6. King John was born on Christmas Eve in 1167. His parents were Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine.
7. The Stone of Scone (or Stone of Destiny) was taken from Westminster Abbey by Scottish Nationalist activists on Christmas Day in 1950.
8. The farthing ceased to be legal tender on New Year's Day in 1961.
9. And, strangely enough, the new (decimal) halfpenny also ceased to be legal tender on New Year's Day - that was in 1985.
10. And finally, the first motor vehicle registration in the UK (A 1, as you might have guessed) was issued to Earl Russell on New Year's Day 1904.
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Nothing wrong with nepotism so long as you keep it in the family (Maggie Gyllenhaal - from a recent Radio Times review).

May I wish you a rather belated happy new year. And now to make that less likely with a few well(?) chosen puzzles - like these number ones:

1. 9 B on a SHB
2. 3 DE
3. 7 YI
4. 5 L in a L
5. 2 P for a C in RU
6. 10 C in a NM
7. 8 L on a S
8. 4 D on BB
9. 12 P for F of a K in C
10. 6 D is Ha G

And so we proceed to the Brewery Anagrams; half of these are new breweries in the 2008 Good Beer Guide so if you haven’t bought yours yet you’d better go out and get a copy.

1. PROLE VIOL
2. BOND JOINS SACK BAND
3. RUM WISE MEN
4. TROTS FACILE ROBBERY
5. SEVER NAVAL
6. ALLEN FLANGE
7. I CHEW TERNs
8. HAD CRED
9. OIL GREEN FORD
10. RON GLINTED

This month I’ve subtitled 5BY4 “I’m running out of counties.” I’ll leave you to work out why. Then all you have to do is match the breweries in the first list with the appropriate counties in the second.

1. Bullmastiff A. West Sussex
2. Warcop B. Worcestershire
3. Slaughterhouse C. Gwent
4. Brandy Cask D. West Wales
5. Jacobi E. East Yorkshire
6. Big Lamp F. West Midlands
7. Whalebone G. Tyne & Wear
8. Moles H. Warwickshire
9. Welton’s I. Glamorgan
10. Batham’s J. Wiltshire

This month for the General Trivia bit I thought that as the Christmas and New Year ones in the last issue proved so popular (Well, nobody complained), I’d ask a few questions related to the months February and March:

1. Who was executed for high treason on Tower Green (in the Tower of London) on 12th February 1554?
2. And on 13th February but in 1542, who was executed (also on Tower Green), accused of adultery?
3. Yoko Ono (widow of John Lennon for those of you under ten) was born on 18th February, but in what year?
4. In what year did the first Football League match to be held under artificial lighting take place? It was held between Portsmouth and Newcastle United at Fratton Park on 22nd February.
5. On 26th February 1797, what denomination of bank note was first issued by the Bank of England?
6. As it is a leap year, we’ll have a February 29th question. Jimmy Dorsey, younger brother of band leader Tommy Dorsey was born on that day, but in what year?
7. On 1st March 1867 which state (known as the “Cornhusker” state) became the 37th of the USA?
8. Charlie Chaplin was knighted by the Queen on 4th March - in what year?
9. And mentioning the Queen, which of her children was born on 10th March (my birthday if anyone fancies buying me a beer)? No, I shan’t tell you the year that would be too big a clue.

10. And sticking with royalty, an attempt was made to kidnap Princess Anne (before she became Princess Royal) in the Mall on 20th March, but in what year?

Right. That’s yer lot then. I’ll be back in the April/May issue with the answers to this little lot and a few more puzzles to torment you with (Always end on a preposition; it’s bound to upset somebody).

Bye!

Andy Pirson
£20 PRIZE TO BE WON

ACROSS
1. People, after cornets melt, show dismay. [13]
8. Beyond the flower meadow. [7]
9. Small piece of land is rented out. [5]
10. Jetty that is in the outskirts of Penmaenmawr. [4]
11. Use Brunel's second steamer to set new record. [8]
14. It's mad to drop nutshell into dinner. [6]
17. Time for a few words. [8]
19. Mother on track to produce girl. [4]
21. Two rivers getting drier. [5]
22. Exposing son to pleasant journeys. [7]
24. They protect Parisian landlords. [6,7]

DOWN
1. After starting to climb alpine peak, reached the top. [3]
2. An upsetting odour is arising. [7]
5. Article I put together is lively. [8]
7. Turn and recover, after Brown's backing, of course. [9]
10. It's plain it has a point. [9]
12. Very fast came across man with nothing. [8]
15. Come down in support of learner. [7]
18. Viking and not Kentish. [5]
20. Test to destruction but don't change. [4]
23. Sibling will be brought up the same. [3]

Winner of the prize for the October Crossword: J.E. Green, St. Albans.

Other correct entries were received from:

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