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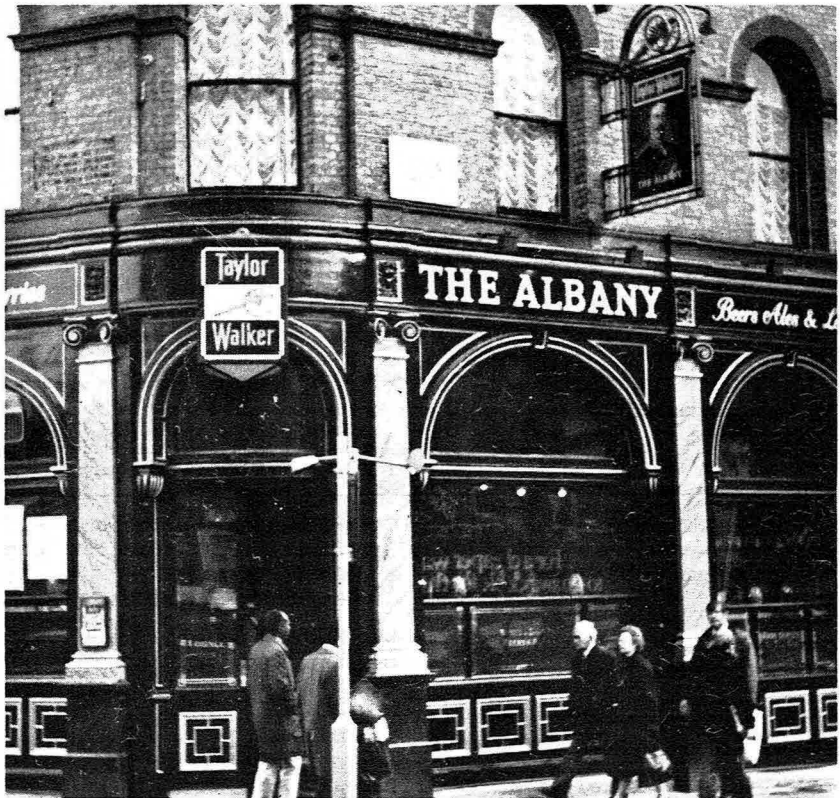
DEC/JAN 1980/1

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LONDON DRINKER

Produced by the London branches of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd



THE ALBANY, W1, IN NEW TAYLOR WALKER STYLE see page 3

~SPECIAL PULL OUT SUPPLEMENT
For Lager Drinkers

Joe Goodwin

THE CAMPAIGN for Real Ale was shocked last month by the sudden death of its Chairman, Joe Goodwin. We understand the cause was a severe attack of asthma.

'Chairman Joe' was a very popular figure in CAMRA and one who made a point of meeting and of getting to know the views of rank-and-file members in all parts of the

country. While he was Chairman, several important initiatives (pub preservation, campaigning in clubs, a revised internal structure and others) were formally launched. At the same time, there was a welcome absence of doctrinal disputes.

We shall all miss him and extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

► COURAGE TURN-OFF

COURAGE DON'T like us any more. Following an article in CAMRA's "What's Brewing" magazine which criticised the latest moves by the company, such as the proposed closure of Horselydown brewery, they have done the equivalent of breaking off diplomatic relations with CAMRA.

In an attempt to stop their decline, Courage are gambling heavily on their Best Bitter. A vast promotional campaign has started, and this includes presumably the underwriting of the half-price pints which were on offer in London pubs for part of November.

On the face of it, this was a noble gesture, even though born at least in part out of desperation.

We did hear stories of the beer running out within a day, of the landlord who bumped his prices up to normal before the end of the period and about the landlord whose interpretation of the term "half price" put the fear of God into his regulars because it suggested that yet another increase was on the way.

A petition protesting about Horselydown is being organised. Please put your mark on it if it comes your way.

'LONDON DRINKER'

IN COMMON with other magazines produced by dipsomaniacs, 'Lon-

don Drinker' will not be published in January. Normal monthly issues will resume in February.

LONDON DRINKER

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Our next issue will be out at the beginning of February.
Closing date for copy: 16 January.

LONDON DRINKER is published by the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of either the London Branches of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

NEWS+VIEWS

IT'S OFFICIAL

THE INCREASE in beer prices has taken off in the past year. Based on the General Index of Retail Prices, beer shows an increase of 22.7% over 1979 (September to September). The figure for the previous year was 16.9% and for 1977-78, a mere 6.7%.

These details were given in a written Parliamentary answer by the Ministry of Agriculture.

THE BEER THAT WARMS

NOW I KNOW that winter is approaching writes LAURIE BISHOP, because Young's have started brewing Winter Warmer again. Never mind putting the clocks back or turning on the central heating, it's when the posters go up in the Young's pubs proclaiming the return of WW that I know the nights are drawing in. What a pity it is that no other local or near local brewer produces a satisfying winter ale! Harvey's and King and Barnes do but you can only normally get their beer in free houses at extortionate prices. Shepherd Neame Stock Ale is not really strong enough and none of the Essex and Suffolk brewers seems to bother to let London try its equivalents.

Naturally the bigger brewers are not going to bother to brew that sort of thing for the London market (although I suppose Wethered's Winter Royal almost counts) and so it is really left to Young's. Although it might be sacrilege, I often mix it with mild ale, which has the added advantage of helping to boost Young's mild sales. I recommend it to you.

TAYLOR WALKER BACK

A DRAUGHT BITTER under the name of Taylor Walker was due to go into several pubs at the end of November. This is the latest move in the Ind Coope disengagement programme which has already seen Benskin's beers make

a comeback to the north of London and Friary Meux beers to the south.

All these are brewed at Romford. Benskin's, in particular, has been judged a great success.

REAL ALE AND FRESH AIR

NOT BEER IN a draughty field - just a decent pint in a smoke-free atmosphere. Since Sir George Younger, Under Secretary of State for Health, opened the Medbury Bar of the OLD PARK HEIGHTS HOTEL in Enfield on October 3rd, business has boomed.

The Medbury Bar, writes DEREK SMITH, is reserved for customers who choose not to smoke, and non-smoking beer drinkers have been appearing from all over North London to enjoy the Rayment's and Greene King Ales on sale without the compulsory pollution prevalent in other pubs.

Landlord Malcolm Green was warned by fellow-publicans that he was committing financial suicide but so far it has proved to be the opposite. As the Old Park Heights has two bars it also caters for customers intent on trying to kill themselves by smoking.

As this is the only pub known in London with a "no-smoking" bar surely landlords of multi-bar pubs should also give the idea serious consideration. The numerous advantages include:-

- attracting customers who like to relax and enjoy a drink in a pollution free atmosphere whilst still catering for smokers in other bars;
- fixtures and fittings including expensive carpets are not ruined by having cigarette ends stubbed out or ground into them;
- paintwork stays the colour it was intended and curtains do not require so frequent washing or cleaning;
- no ashtrays to empty and clean out or replace if stolen.

