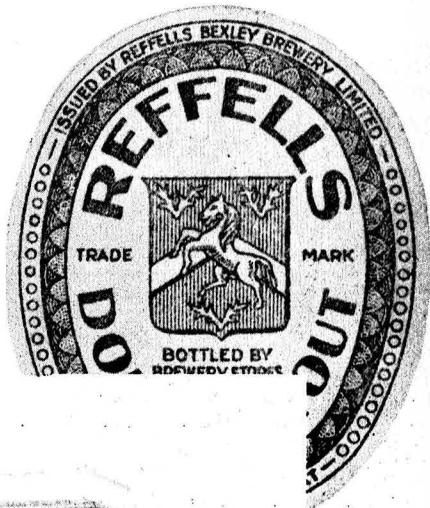


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LONDON DRINKER

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



BRANCH DIARY

The following events will be held by CAMRA branches during September. For branches not mentioned, please ring Branch Contact.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Tue 21 (8.00). *Branch.* Crown Hotel, Old Ford Rd., E3.

NORTH LONDON: Thu 2 (8.00) *Social.* Shires and Stirrup Cup bars, St. Pancras Station, NW1 - Tue 7 Sep (8.00). *Two-pub social.* Dagmar and Prince of Wales, both in Cornwall Rd. N15 - Sun 19 (noon). *Social.* Malt & Hops, Caledonian Rd., N1. Thu 23 (8.00). *WCI Crawl.* Start Harrison, Harrison St. - Tue 28 (8.00). *Social.* Alma Tavern, 59 Newington Green Rd., N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 9 (8.00). *Social.* Bell, Staines Rd., Hounslow - Mon 13 (8.00). *Open committee.* White Cross, Richmond - Mon 20 (8.00). *Branch.* Five Oaks, Staines Rd., Twickenham - Sat 25 (5.30). *Trip to Oxfordshire.* Ring for details.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON: Mon 13 (8.00). *Branch.* Sultan, 238 St. James's Rd., SE1 - Wed 22 (8.00). *Social.* Bugle Horn, 6 The village, SE7.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON: Thu 16 (8.00). *Branch.* Alma, York Rd., SW18 - Fri 24 (8.00). *Three-pub social.* Start Red Lion, Castlenau, SW13.

WEST LONDON: Sun 5 (noon). *Social.* Earl of Lonsdale, 281 Westbourne Grove, W11 - Thu 23 (8.00). *Branch.* Brook Green Hotel, 170 Shepherd's Bush Rd., W6 - Thu 30 (8.00). *Pub of the month.* Warwick Arms, 160 Warwick Rd., W14.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Wed 1 (8.30). *Social.* Old Wheatsheaf, Windmill Hill, Enfield Chase - Wed 15 (8.00). *Branch.* William IV, Fore St., N9 - Thu 23 (8.30). *Joint social.* King and Tinker, Whitewebbs Lane, Enfield.



CAMRA BRANCH CONTACTS

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| BEXLEY | DES WARD | Erith 45716(H) | Erith 33020 x 4 (W) |
| BROMLEY | ROGER MASON | 464 2909 (H) | 407 4466 x 294 (W) |
| CROYDON & SUTTON | DAVE HAMER | 647 0992 (H) Epsom | 41511 x 66 (W) |
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The Views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily the view of either the London Branches of CAMRA or the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

News & Views

● PRICES - THE CRUCIAL PHASE

AT THE RISK of repeating ourselves, we state that the future trend of beer prices in London pubs should be decided in the next few weeks. We made a similar claim some months ago, since when little has happened. Some free houses have put prices up; others have actively promoted cheaper beer.

The crucial decisions will have to be taken by the major brewers, who own the vast number of our pubs. Omens are mixed. Several price increases have been announced in other parts of the country, even though the recession struck there before it started to take root in London. Against this, one of the Big Six subsidiaries has announced a price standstill until "well into 1983". And the index of retail prices for June showed that overall prices for alcoholic drink were down slightly from the previous month.

Pub-goers in the West Midlands have been hit particularly hard which is why the freeze announced by Ansell's is important. A spokesman for the Midland arm of Allied-Lyons told the *Morning Advertiser*: "We are holding our prices because we are aware of the depressed state of the trading area . . . we hope it will give our licencees and Free Trade customers an opportunity at least of keeping volume sales at their present levels and, perhaps a better chance of increasing them." He said that it would enable landlords to plan for the future with more confidence and he hoped that customers would benefit and perhaps be encouraged to drink an extra pint "because it won't cost them any more".

What is good for Ansell should, we trust, be good for Ind Coope, Friary Meux, Taylor Walker, Uncle Tom Benskin and any other branches of Allied's London empire. Not to mention Watney, Charrington, Whitbread, Courage and S&N. As our analysis of price increases last month revealed, brewers in London have had over the past 2½ years put over 3p on a pint over and above the cost of living increase. They now have the perfect excuse to give some of it back.

● WELL DONE, WATNEY

THESE ARE early days, but it appears that the launch of Webster's Yorkshire bitter in

London has gone exceedingly well. Watney now intend to put it into 1,000 of their pubs, about two-thirds of the total, and claim that pubs on average have been selling 90 gallons a week. From observation and experience, we confirm that people are drinking it and that it is generally kept in a condition that is at least acceptable.

We were invited to a presentation-cum-pub-crawl by Watney, who answered questions about Webster's and other things before taking the party on a tour of Covent Garden. Apparently, there is no chance of the supply of Webster drying up as the brewery in Halifax has a capacity sufficient to cope with London's needs. All the beer is brought down by tanker to London and then transferred to 'converted' kegs. All pubs should be serving it through handpumps and without any pressure.

With such a blanket coverage, one naturally wonders what effect this will have on Watney's other beers, 'real' and otherwise. They say that they now have the right mix for London, and we shall have to wait and see if they are right.



Our picture shows Jacky Dudley-Fletcher, head barmaid at the Marquis of Granby off Cambridge Circus, pulling a pint of Webster's no doubt for the benefit of one of the CAMRA people present.

