

Vol.4 No.9
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12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



“Made of Ale — See inside”

BRANCH DIARY

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

BEXLEY: Wed 20 (8.30). *Branch. Volunteer*, Church Rd., Bexleybeath – Thu 28 (7.30). *Old Bexley Crawl*. Meet at Rising Sun.

CROYDON & SUTTON: Tue 5 (8.00). *Wallington Green Crawl*. Meet Duke's Head. – Tue 19 (2.00). *Trip to Ringwood Brewery*. Ring Branch Contact. – Wed 13 (8.00). *Branch. Fox & Hounds*, Carshalton. – Thu 28 (8.00). *Pub of the month. Albert Tavern*, South Norwood.

ENFIELD & BARNET: Mon 4 (8.30). *Joint Social. King & Tinker*, Whitewebbs Lane, Enfield – Tue 19 (8.30). *Social. Railway Hotel*, Edgware – Wed 13 (8.00). *Branch. Ye Olde Mitre*, High Barnet – Thu 28 (8.30). *Social. Orange Tree*, Highfield Rd., N21.

KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD: Thu 7 (8.00). *Branch. Earl Beatty*, Motspur Park.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 5 (8.00). *Social. Prince Albert*, Acton St., WCI – Tue 12 (8.00). *N22 Crawl*. Start Lordship, Lordship Lane. – Tue 26 (8.00). *Branch. Ring Branch Contact*. – Every Sunday (12.00). *Social. Lord Walseley*, White Lion St., N1.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thu 7 (8.00). *Open committee. Anglers*, Broom Rd., Teddington – Thu 14 (8.30). *Social. Plough*, Kew Bridge Rd., Brentford – Mon 18 (8.00). *Branch. Red Cow*, Sheen Rd., Richmond (Guest: Peter Lerner) – Fri 29 (8.00). *Richmond Crawl*. Meet Red Cow; the Bull & Bush etc.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON: Monday 11 (8.00). *Branch. Princess of Wales*, 18 Wilmount Road., SE18 – Wed 20 (8.00). *Social. Fox & Hounds*, Royal Hill SE10.

WEST LONDON: Thu 7 (8.00). *Pub of the Month. Swan*, 119 Acton Lane, W4 – Thu 21 (8.00). *Branch. Denmark*, 102 Old Brompton Rd., SW7 – Sun 31 (12.00). *Sunday Social. Spreaeagle*, Grosvenor Rd., SW1.

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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ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440-2186 (H)	283 1000 x 2944 (W)
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD	JOHN NORMAN	546 3476 (H)	Weybridge 47282 x 2659 (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

DOWN AND UP

BEER CONSUMPTION down by 10 pints per person over the previous year. Nearly 30,000 jobs lost. This is the story of 1981 as revealed in statistics put out by the Brewers Society. The best that can be said about 1982 is that the fall might be less dramatic.

Can we expect stable prices until the recession lifts a little, if it ever does? Whitbread, whose prices have remained steady for some time so that they have been caught up by another brewers, look like widening the gap again. The result will be about 4p on a pint. The managed part of Truman, actually a Chef & Brewer company called Heritage Inns, have also put on 4p.

One can justify these increases by referring to increases in rates, raw materials and anything else. The fact remains that a sizeable part of the people of Britain, even in London, are not able to take the same steps to maintain their own profitability. This is why we continue to stress that brewers and publicans should do all they can to absorb costs at least until the next Budget. If the Government slaps another duty increase on beer at that point, then the people will know exactly who is to blame.

One cheerful piece of news from the Brewers Society is that we still prefer as a nation to drink in pubs. Nearly four out of every five pints of beer sold was draught, though presumably a few of these were carted home and not drunk on the premises.

WATNEY WIN AGAIN

THERE IS NO holding those terrors from Mortlake these days. Watney have won four medals, two gold and two silver, at the international 21st Monde Selection, organised by the Belgian Institut pour les Selections de la Qualite and held this year in London. One of the gold medals went to Stag bitter, the stronger of the two draught beers brewed at Mortlake.

Gold does not necessarily mean first prize, it appears, as the rating is done on a percentage basis with gold equalling 90% of the points and silver 80%. Sounds confusing and we should have been in a position to clear this up when Watney invited us to a press-plus-drink celebration. Unfortunately, we got the dates mixed up (happens all the time these days — must be eating too much). Anyway, congratulations.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

YOU MAY HAVE seen a piece in the *Observer* some weeks ago about CAMRA. It was someone called Andrew Martin and was vaguely nasty about us, though the trained eye could see that he was casting around pretty desperately for material.

One story concerned the “landlord at my village local” who told him that a dozen or so CAMRA members “took over” his Saloon Bar one evening and drank only a half-pint of mild each during that time. This is not merely material for the *Guinness Book of Records*. This is impossible. Either someone has got their wires crossed or someone is having someone on.

We can offer a six-month subscription to *London Drinker* to the first person who can give us proof that any group of CAMRA members ever spent over 1½ hours, say, in a pub without averaging considerably more than a half of mild each. We would be pleased to think it can happen, but we doubt it.

EAST END FESTIVAL

A REAL ALE festival with live entertainment will take place in Bethnal Green this month. Organised by CAMRA's East London & City branch, it will be held in the York Hall, Old Ford Road E2 from Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 October.

It will be open each evening from 5-11, and on Friday and Saturday from 11-2.30 as well. A nominal charge will be made for admission and commemorative glasses will be available “at a small cost”. The event will be known as the ‘Pig’s Ear Real Ale Festival’, after the name of the branch newsletter, and a live *Pig’s Ear* is expected to turn up from time to time.

LOOKING AFTER IT

A NEWLY-OPENED free house near me, writes *John Conen*, is displaying the following notice:

Traditional Beer: *Occasionally, due to reasons completely beyond our control the beer we serve you may not be up to standard. If you are in any doubt about the quality of your beer please do not hesitate to bring it to our attention.*

I think it should be pointed out to the owner that the quality of traditional beer is never completely beyond his control. Consistent beer is achieved by good cellar management, good stock control and adequate training of bar staff.

If the beers on sale are regularly checked for

