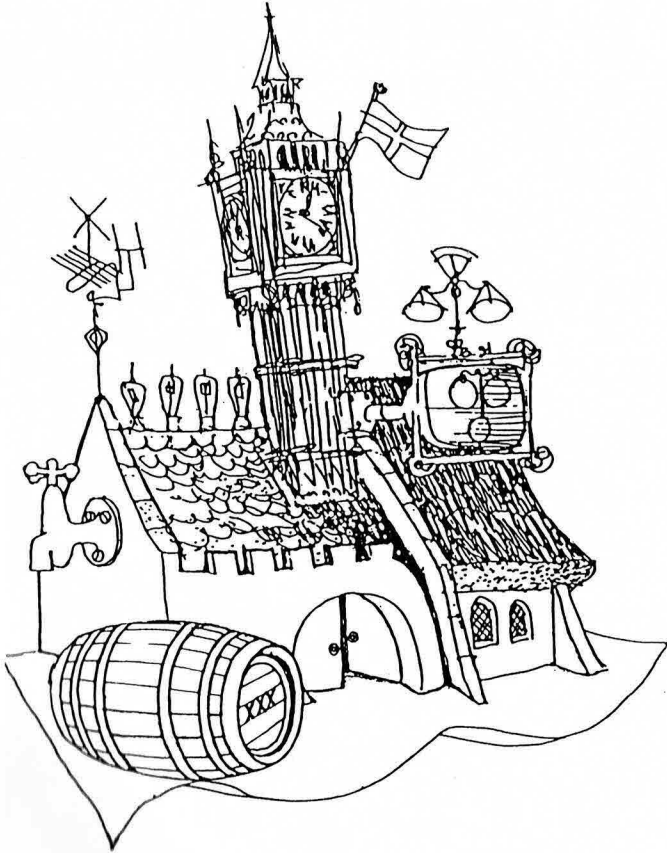


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12p

LONDON DRINKER

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



DRAWING BY ROGER TOMLINSON

BRANCH DIARY

If your branch is not mentioned below please ring the branch contact. Events for June of which we have been notified are as follows. Branches please send details to Andy Pirson.

EAST LONDON & CITY: Mon 6 (8.00) Branch Meeting OLD NUN'S HEAD, Nunhead Green, SE15 (beer 50p/pint on production of CAMRA membership card) — Fri/Sat 10/11 5th Greenwich Beer Festival, See advert for details

ENFIELD & BARNET: Wed 8 (8.00) Annual General Meeting & Breweriana Action, KINGS HEAD, Market Place, Enfield Town — Wed. (8.30) Pub Games Evening COCK TAVERN (Public Bar) Hertford Road, Lower Edmonton, N9 — Thurs. 2 (8.30) Social RAILWAY TAVERN, Hale Lane, Edgware — Tue 14 (8.30) Social THREE HAMMERS, Ridgway, Mill Hill, NW7 — Wed 22 (8.30) Social JESTER, Mount Pleasant, Barnet/Cockfosters — Thur 30 (8.30) Social DICK TURPIN, Long Lane, Finchley, N2.

NORTH LONDON: Tue 7 (8.00) Social KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, Queens Terrace, NW 8 (2nd Charles Wells outlet in London) — Tue 14 (8.00) Social MARQUESS TAVERN 32 Canonbury Street, N1 — Tue 21 (8.00) Two Pub Social N22 THREE JOLLY BUTCHERS then NAGS HEAD both near Wood Green Tube — Tue 28 (8.00) Two Pub Social NW3 WHITE HORSE, Fleet Road then RAILWAY, South End Green — Sun lunchtime in June Socials ROSETTI, Queens Grove, NW8.

RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW: Thur 9 (8.30) Committee Meeting ABERCORN ARMS, Church Road, Teddington — Mon 13 (8.30) Branch Meeting RED COW, Sheen Rd., Richmond — Fri 24 Midsummer Pub Crawl, Brentford (8.00) STAR & GARTER, (8.30) EXPRESS, Phone contact for more details.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Tue 7 (8.30 pm) GBG Inspection Crawl social, start Russell Hotel SW9, then Railway and Trinity Arms. — Thurs 16 (8.00), Branch Meeting, Fox & Hounds SW15, by Putney Stn.

WEST LONDON: Tue 7 (8.00) Pub of the Month Social KINGS ARMS, 190 Fulham Road, SW10 — Thur 16 (8.00) Branch Meeting DENMARK, 102 Old Brompton Road, SW7.

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)
E.LONDON & CITY	CHRISTIAN MUTEAU		636 2169 (W)
ENFIELD & BARNET	TONY MORGAN	440 2186 (H)	283 1000 x 2944 (W)
KINGSTON & LEATHERHEAD	JOHN NORMAN	546 3476 (H)	Weybridge 47282 x 2659 (W)
NORTH LONDON	LAURIE GORDON	448 1692 (H)	359 1340 (W)
RICHMOND & HOUNSLOW	ANDY PIRSON	977 1633 (H)	
SOUTH-WEST ESSEX	CHRIS CASHMORE	Brentwood 211703(H)	283 1030 x 356 (W)
SOUTH-EAST LONDON	DAVE FOORD	690 5104 (H)	632 5886 (W)
SOUTH-WEST LONDON	JOHN DAVIS	670 0734	
WEST LONDON	RODNEY HOLLOWES	723 2798 (H)	
WEST MIDDLESEX	KEITH WILDEY	423 1243 (H)	



Peter and Linda Swanson of the Victoria, North Hill, Highgate, with their "Pub of the Month" award from CAMRA'S North London branch. On the right is Dave Peiken of the Covent Garden Orchestra, one of many musicians who are regulars at the Victoria.



● THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

After two successful years in Leeds, CAMRA is bringing the Great British Beer Festival closer to London. This year the Festival is being held at the Bingley Hall, Birmingham, from September 7th to 10th. Why not get a party together from your local pub or club and venture north of Watford? You will be pleasantly surprised. The locals are just as civilized and beer prices are a treat after London. At the Festival you will sample beers from a hundred different brewers. As an added incentive (as if you needed one), parties of 20 or more will be admitted free if pre-booked before 20th August, with Ken Mathews, 74 Raleigh Road, Hornsey, London N8 0JA.

Make a note in your diary: September 7 - 10, Bingley Hall, Birmingham.

Ken Mathews.

GETTING THE FACTS RIGHT

- It's well known that local papers will print anything. As a rule they're short of copy, and don't check information given to them before printing. Recently an item came to light which suggests that things have gone a stage further. It seems that news is being invented around some small factual basis.

To be precise, the 1983 Good Beer Guide lists a Balham public house, the Prince of Wales - serving an excellent pint of Courage Directors' - and adds the comment "Cosy local-landlord vocal". The Balham & Tooting News picked up the story, about three months after the Guide publication, and printed the following statement: *Brian Ellis, landlord of the Prince of Wales pub - is one of the more vocal sort - according to the 1983 Good Beer Guide. In the pub's description, the pub was given a personalized footnote of "Pub cosy, landlord vocal."*

Later on it continues: *John Davies, S. London Branch Secretary of CAMRA which helps compile the Guide, and a good friend of Brian's said he thought it added to the whole thing. He said: "We thought it would be a nice touch to describe him as vocal. He's a great guy and puts the world to rights every night."*

At the time that was written, JOHN DAVIS, Deputy Chairman of South-West London Branch (note correct details and spelling) had never met Brian, or made any such comments.

One of the few facts reported correctly in the offending article is that Brian has been at the Prince for 8 years. But it continued with: *(Brian) said he does anything. "I sing, I laugh - well, you've got to keep your customers happy, haven't you?" said Brian. "I think all landlords have a degree in psychology - there are plenty of characters in this pub, especially when they've got a bit to drink inside them. I should think I've got a double first!" He added.*

Brian informs our reporter that he never made any such statements. Apparently someone phoned one lunchtime - the worst time for a landlord - and his first reaction was to ask what vocal means. Nothing was said by the caller (from the paper) about an article, and the conversation was somewhat one-sided, of the "Would you say this, that and the other" type.

"I knew nothing about this" Brian told us, and went on to say that he thought the article gave a totally distorted view of the situation. Details had been "fed" to him - in what this publication considers an unacceptable way. It did nothing for the image of a highly respectable pub and licensee. Having taken so long to pick up the story, the paper might at least have taken the trouble to get its facts right instead of publishing a load of rubbish. If it can't do better than that, maybe it would do well to say nothing - then at least readers would be able to believe what they see in print.

Martin Smith

P.S. The date of the General Election was announced a few hours before we went to press and too late for a reasonable comment to be written. Our cover had been prepared in advance for just such an eventuality by Roger Tomlinson, and was substituted at the last minute. Whoever gets in, we hope its message is loud and clear - parliamentary support, please, for Real Ale and its adherents. Give us a better deal - especially in London!

M.S.

