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London Drinker is published by Mike Hammersley on behalf of the London Branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and edited by Geoff Strawbridge.

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Changes to pubs or beers should be reported to Capital Pubcheck, 2 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR or by e-mail to capitalpubcheck@hotmail.com.

For publication in October 2003, please send electronic documents to the Editor no later than Wednesday 10 September.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £3.00 for mailing of 6 editions should be sent to Stan Tompkins, 122 Manor Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB9 2BH (cheques payable to CAMRA London).

ADVERTISING: Peter Tonge; Tel: 020-8300 7693.

Printed by Cliffe Enterprise, Lewes, East Sussex.

EDITORIAL

THE PERFECT PUB

In 1947 George Orwell, in an article written for the *Evening Standard*, describes his epitome of the perfect pub. For this pub of perfection he came up with the amazing name of 'The Moon Under Water'. Strangely enough, fifty-six years later I have to say the same, my perfect pub is also called 'The Moon Under Water' and it is in Hounslow.

Orwell's conception of a perfect pub is somewhat different from mine. I am looking for 'Real Ale' served in the best possible way with the best variety of ales as is possible. Another major criterion for me is the price.

Most Wetherspoons' outlets in Greater London are charging £1.59 per pint for guest ales; the Hounslow and Feltham outlets charge £1.55. These two pubs are unique in the fact that 'Monday Club' refers only to guest ales which are served at £1.39 a pint on that day. On a Monday night one can look forward to six guest ales as opposed to the customary three or four served through the week.

There is a list of forthcoming ales available each quarter and all fifty or so of these beers will be available during that period. At the 'Moon' in Hounslow we are fortunate, for in addition to that wide selection we also have beers from Arundel, Cottage and Itchen breweries interspersed amongst them. For those unsure of guest ales the pub offers Abbot, Courage Best and Directors as well as Hop Back Summer Lightning.

During the week the pub is open for the consumption of alcohol from 10.00am, the other two days normal times. Next time you are in the Hounslow area, do come and try the pub's selection of guest ales. You can be assured of a great welcome from licensee Peter Johnson and his staff. It is my epitome of the perfect pub; maybe it could be yours.

Denys Vernall

CALL TIME ON PUB CLOSURES

The closure of local pubs is reaching crisis point. In my own area of East Finchley we have just lost our 5th pub in six years. Shouldn't the Government and Councils now call 'time' on the further closures of small local pubs? To many people their local is like a club and its loss leaves a big void. The problems of the disappearing village pub are well known. The 2001 report by the Countryside Agency stated that 'more than half of England's villages are without a reliable source of cheap drink for the first time since the Norman Conquest'. However, London local pubs are now also disappearing at a very fast rate.

The closure of locals is similar to the situation with local shops and has many of the same reasons - encroachment by big business and their favourable treatment in government policy, weak planning controls and

Views expressed in this publication are those of their individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Campaign for Real Ale Limited.

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