

# east london newsletter



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## Real Ale and real games

TWO recent conversions to real ale both have thriving traditional public bars, and one of them has a traditional pub game not usually found in London.

The game is a form of table skittles more commonly found in the North Midlands, and the East London pub where it can be played is the Rose and Crown in Mill Lane, Woodford Green, which is now selling handpumped Wethereds Bitter.

The Duke of Edinburgh in Nightingale Lane, Wanstead, not only has a lively public bar, it also has a comfortable lounge with a log fire and restaurant-type meals, not to mention handpumped Ind Coope Burton Ale.

Handpumped Charringtons IPA is now on sale in the King's Head, 128 Commercial Road, Steney.

## Tusker for City

TWO BEERS from the Whitbread-owned Fremlins brewery in Faversham, Kent, are now to be found in Whitbread pubs in the City.

Fremlins Bitter and Tusker, a strong bitter, have been on sale in the Railway Tavern in Liverpool Street, and there is speculation that they

## Brewery vandalizes 350-year-old pub

A big brewer and a property company are about to vandalize a unique 17th Century City pub, according to a local preservation group.

The Spitalfields Society point out that plans submitted by Charringtons and Hazlemere Estates entail the destruction of the priceless wooden interior of the Hoop and

Grapes at Aldgate.

The Hoop and Grapes is a timber-framed building, a rarity in central London, which Charringtons closed in 1977, and is a Grade II listed building. According to the plans the partitioned ground floor is to be knocked through into one room and the first-floor dining rooms, unchanged for 350 years, converted into offices.

## Preserve our pubs

MUCH has been done by CAMRA in the last few years to save an important part of Britain's heritage, its traditional beer. Now CAMRA is becoming increasingly involved in preserving another part of our heritage, the English pub.

Fortunately pub closures are now not as common as they once were in London, but some of the breweries' methods of maximizing profits are proving almost as damaging to the traditional pub.

The conversion of a pub into one large lounge bar often attracts new custo-

mers, but the disappearance of the public bar can lead to the breakdown of the comradeship which its users have formed over many years.

Traditional pub games are also threatened by expensive newcomers like pool and various electronic games - witness the loss last year of the bar billiards and darts at the King Edward VII in Stratford and the ring board at the Rising Sun in Romford Road.

CAMRA has now set up a Pub Preservation Group to fight these threats to our heritage and is anxious that anyone who has reason to believe that their local is under threat of closure or drastic alteration should contact their local CAMRA branch.

may replace Whitbread's other real beer, Wethereds Bitter, in City pubs.

## East London & City Branch

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**FREE**

# Bottle & Jug

ALONGSIDE the growth in the availability of traditional draught beer in pubs during the last five or six years there has also been a revival in the consumption of real ale at home.

Twenty years ago it was commonplace for people to take jugs or empty quart flagons to their local to be filled with handpumped beer to drink at home - in fact, many pubs had a "Bottle & Jug Department". But the growing availability of canned beer led to this practice all but dying out in London.

Now, however, people are becoming more concerned about the quality of the beer they drink at home and at parties, and many publicans who take a pride in their traditional beer are filling customers' bottles or gallon plastic containers with draught beer.

A new type of off licence has emerged too, where containers are filled from casks of real ale from all over the country. Customers can

# BAN THE CAN!

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, is joining forces with conservation bodies in a new campaign against the sale of beer in cans and non-returnable bottles.

For many years the Friends of the Earth and other conservation bodies have been pointing out that the manufacture of cans depletes the world's limited mineral resources

also buy polypins, 36-pint plastic containers of traditional beer which are easy to look after and keep for several weeks after tapping.

There are already three such off licences in East London - the Two Brewers in Pitfield Street, Hoxton, the Bootlegger at the Bakers Arms, Leyton, and Barrels in Hermon Hill, South Woodford. They are shortly to be joined by a former Ind Coope off licence, the Ashenden Arms in Glyn Road, Homerton.

and uses enormous amounts of precious energy; the litter and pollution problems caused by cans are plain to see. But there are also much more immediate effects on the beer drinker's palate and pocket.

Not only do tin cans spoil the flavour of beer, they also push up the price of beer sold in other ways.

At 1979 prices a half-pint can cost 5p, almost a third of the total price of a can of light ale. But the big brewers are so determined to outdo one another in the supermarket and off-licence trade that they often sell canned beer at a loss.

The big breweries continue to make profits, however, so it would seem that these losses on canned beer are not paid for by the breweries but by the correspondingly higher prices which pub drinkers pay.

## Truscott's 21st

BEER connoisseurs will have a rare chance to sample seven different historic brews from the Truscott Brewery when a special party is held on February 29th at the Bricklayers Arms in Charlotte Road, Shoreditch.

The party is to celebrate octogenerian and

master brewer Archibald Truscott's 21st birthday. Archy, born on February 29th 1896, has been in brewing since he was a lad and with his customary roguish humour has placed money at Ladbroke's that the Big Six brewers will be dead before he is.

## DIARY

TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY Branch Meeting at Birkbeck Tavern Langthorne Rd, E11 (near Leyton Station) 7.30 pm.

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY Social at Approach Tavern, Approach Rd, Victoria Pk, (Bethnal Green tube) 8.30.

TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY City Social at the Black Friar, adjacent Blackfriars Sta. 5.30 pm.

TUESDAY 18 MARCH Branch Meeting at Colegrave Arms, Cann Hall Rd, Leytonstone, (58 bus) 7.30 pm.

TUESDAY 15 APRIL Branch Meeting in Hackney area - contact Secretary for details.

TUESDAY 22 APRIL City Social at City of London Yeoman, adjacent Fenchurch St Station, 5.30 pm.

Visitors are welcome at all meetings.

## PROTECT YOUR PINT

### Join Now!

#### Application for membership

I/We wish to become a member(s) of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the campaign.

I enclose £4 (£6 Overseas) for full membership

We enclose £5 for husband and wife membership

(Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation).

#### Application for Associateship

I wish to become an Associate of CAMRA Ltd.

I agree to abide by the aims of the organisation and enclose my fee of £1

FULL NAME (Block capitals) .....

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals) .....

SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Applications should be sent to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.