

# east london newsletter



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## Double threat to Bass Charrington beers

THOUSANDS of drinkers who rely on Charringtons pubs for traditional draught beer face a double threat to their favourite beers.

Charringtons' parent company, Bass, is planning to close the historic Union Rooms in Burton-on-Trent which are used to ferment their celebrated Draught Bass and Worthington White Shield.

### DISTINCTIVE FLAVOUR

In the Union Rooms the beer is fermented in huge interlinked oak casks called Unions, through which the yeast circulates continuously. The result is a distinctive flavour shared only by Marstons Pedigree, also brewed in Burton Unions. But whereas Marstons are about to renew their old Unions, Bass, where accountants hold more sway than brewers, have decided that they cannot afford to renew their Unions and will in future use conventional fermenting vessels.

### HUGE PROFITS

Bass assure the public that there will be no

alteration to the flavour of their beer, but beer drinkers have heard enough unfulfilled assurances of this nature to have good reason to be sceptical. In any case, Bass make huge profits and do not mind spending vast sums of money on advertizing lager and keg beers.

### THREAT TO IPA

Meanwhile, further South in Birmingham the world's largest real-ale brewery, Bass-subsi-dary Mitchells and Butlers, is busy converting its pubs, which previously all sold cask beer, to keg and tank beers and curtailing production of real ale at their Cape Hill brewery.

The significance for London of this is that since the closure of the Charringtons brewery in Mile End the two Charringtons cask bitters, IPA and Crown, have been brewed by M&B at Cape Hill, so that the trend towards processed beer in Birmingham poses a grave threat to hundreds of Charringtons pubs in the South East.

## GOOD BEER GUIDE

THE most eagerly awaited publication in the drinking year is once again on the shelves of bookshops and selected pubs. The 1980 Good Beer Guide, published by CAMRA on the basis of painstaking research by its local branches, lists some 6,000 of the finest pubs throughout the country which serve real draught beer.

The Guide costs £2.60 and is available by post from GBG Orders, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW (cheques/postal orders to CAMRA Ltd.)

## Bootlegger brings in Jennings

JENNINGS bitter and mild from Cocker-mouth in Cum-bria are now being distributed in London by the Bootlegger off-licence at the Baker's Arms, Leyton.

So far they are only on sale in one pub, the Bricklayers Arms in Charlotte Road, Shoreditch. Casks and polypins for home consumption are on sale at the Bootlegger's shop in Lea Bridge Road.



## East London & City Branch

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**FREE**

# Watneys try real handpumps...

THERE are now definite signs that Watneys London are rethinking their policy on the dispense systems for their traditional draught beers.

The Blind Beggar in Whitechapel Road is one of a handful of pubs which now serve the Mortlake-brewed London Bitter and the Norwich-brewed Stag Bitter.

Previously London Bitter has always been served through the "County" handpump, which has the outward appearance of a traditional beer engine but which works on the opposite principle, pushing the beer out of its container by forcing air into it, rather than drawing it up by creating a vacuum.

The County pump has disadvantages for both drinker and publican. Carbon dioxide produced

as the beer ferments in the cellar cannot escape and dissolves in the beer, making it fizzy and acidic and disguising the beer's true flavour.

Furthermore, the pump is clumsy and slow in operation when compared with traditional pumps, so that the bar staff's time is wasted.

Watneys have stated that the installation of handpumps in a few of their pubs does not signify the abandonment of the County pump, merely a more flexible attitude towards beer dispense, with the decision to install traditional pumps being made on an individual basis. However, it is a hopeful sign for the many drinkers who are only deterred from drinking Watneys by the County system.

# ...and demolish brewery

WATNEYS are at present demolishing the greater part of the Albion Brewery in Whitechapel, formerly the property of Mann, Crossman and Paulin, who merged with Watneys in 1958 and were submerged by the "Red Revolution".

The brewery was built in 1875 on the site of a smaller brewery and was once famous for its huge vats, used for maturing

porter, a type of beer very popular in the last century.

Most of the site is to be rebuilt to provide keggling and transport facilities for beer brewed elsewhere, but the offices and attractive arch at the front are to remain intact, as is the small pilot brewery, which only brews a few barrels a week.

## 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 £5 (£7 Overseas) for full membership

We enclose £6 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

# Trumans try handpumps too

WATNEY'S sister company Trumans have also been installing more traditional pumps. Their cask-conditioned beer, Tap Bitter, is now on sale from handpumps in two of their City pubs, the Talbot in London Wall and the Grapes in Lime Street Street, Leadenhall, as well as several Youngers pubs.

## 'Pig's Ear'

THIS is the last edition of East London Newsletter in its present form. From August it will be replaced by a bi-monthly free magazine called "Pig's Ear", available from the same outlets.

## DIARY

TUESDAY 27 MAY Mild night at Windmill, Tabernacle St. EC2.

TUESDAY 17 JUNE Branch Meeting at Town of Ramsgate, Wapping, 8pm.

TUESDAY 24 JUNE City Social at Walrus & Carpenter, Lower Thames St, 5.30 pm.

THURSDAY 26 JUNE Mild social at Rose & Crown, Mare St, Hackney (buses 6, 35, 55, 235 or Bethnal Green tube) 8 pm.

TUESDAY 15 JULY Branch Meeting at Lord Nelson, 230 Commercial Rd, E1, (buses 5, 15, 23, 40 or Whitechapel tube) 8 pm.

SATURDAY 26 JULY Social at Town of Ramsgate, Wapping High St (bus 22a or Wapping tube) 8 pm.