



Kieran & Margaret Madden receive their award from James Francis of CAMRA. Photo by Kevin Finn

Maddens snaps CAMRA award

By Kevin Finn

Maddens, the floral public house in East Finchley High Road, has received a prestigious award from the independent pub and beer pressure group, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

CAMRA's Barnet & Enfield branch (one of the largest of the organisation's branches) has reviewed public houses in the two London boroughs within their remit. Each year, the membership elect one pub from each borough that it believes deserves special recognition for the quality and range of its real ales.

Consistent high quality

Membership Secretary James Francis said that Maddens had been singled out for its wide range of ales, and noted that new *guest* beers were constantly being introduced. "The variety of beer on offer, and the consistent high quality of the product singled Maddens out," he said, and went on to say, "Maddens is also one of a very few independent pubs that

is making an effort to promote traditional ales, so we wanted to recognise such an unusual achievement."

Only seven pubs in the whole of Barnet were considered good enough to warrant an entry in CAMRA's 2005 edition of its *Good Beer Guide*. Significantly two of these (almost 30%) are in East Finchley: The Five Bells in East End Road, and Maddens.

Office award

As the hosts of *THE ARCHER's* regular Saturday morning meetings, we believe that Kieran and Margaret Madden deserve not only hearty congratulations for achieving 'Best Pub in Barnet' but also for creating the only newspaper office in the world to receive a CAMRA award. Well done!

Different appeal at the Five Bells?

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Five Bells in East End Road, which closed last month for a makeover, is due to re-open in December. Some regulars, though, are upset by a change of landlord and the loss of the children's playground.

Joanna Frawley told *THE ARCHER*, "This was the only family pub for miles around. My son Michael, who is five, loved going there and meeting other children. The playground brought in more customers too. None of my friends have children, but they came to the Five Bells because I could take Michael. Also, if children see a healthy way of drinking, they will be less likely to indulge in the binge culture later."

Spirit Breweries, though, maintain that the pub will still

be child-tolerant. A spokesperson told *THE ARCHER*, "We've never seen it as family-centred anyway. It never had children's menus, and our family pubs have Wacky Warehouses to entertain the children."

Swings and improvements

They plan to run it as "a John Barras pub - a heart of the community for 18s-80s", with opportunities to watch sport and to get involved in community projects.

Speaking last month, former landlord Pat O'Shaughnessy was unsure of his future plans.

The end of an era for the Windsor Castle

By Martin Earl

To the locals it was an end of an era when, this October, David and Carole Shephard left the Windsor Castle pub that they had managed with such care and attention for the last 12 and a half years. This small, quiet, no-TV, drinking oasis in The Walks off Church Lane had its own loyal regulars and its own regular events - darts Wednesdays, pub quiz Thursdays - with the dubious prize of setting the next week's quiz! Karaoke (Caroleoke, as they called it) or live music alternating each Saturday - with dancing, if you wanted.

It was run as a true community and family establishment with drinkers returning from far and wide for its atmosphere, entertainment and good beer.

I do have to declare an interest as one of its regular 'customers' and I count it as one of the jewels in East Finchley's crown. We all hope that the new tenants will retain it as such - to be "discovered" for a long time to come.

In summer the pub was always awash with colourful displays of flowers and it was winner of a number of competitions, including the first prize in Barnet in Bloom 2000, Best Bloomin' Pub floral display and, later, the all-London prize.

David and Carole were given a resounding send-off

Goodbye to the Torrington

The Torrington in Lodge Lane, North Finchley was not just any old pub. Its back room had been a music venue since 1967, starting as a jazz venue, evolving to psychedelia, and pub rock.

Punk came and went. Latterly a variety of rock, R&B, American tours, blues, and tribute bands have performed there. Famous names such as Paul Young, Steve Marriott, The Stranglers, Dr. Feelgood, Chris Farlowe, The Blues Band, Dr. John, The Average White Band, Georgie Fame, The Hamsters, The Mavericks and Ian Parker have all featured there. For East Finchley music

fans, The Torrington was just a bus ride away.

In an age of vast stadiums and grand theatres, the atmosphere was unique: intimate and highly charged, with the audience really close to their heroes.

Sadly, its last night was Sunday 3 October. The pub will no longer be there; a planning application has been made that involves building flats on the site.



Regulars say good-bye to David and Carole Photo by Martin Earl

on their last Saturday and we all wished them a rewarding retirement in France where

Carole's Karaoke skills should go down a treat with their new locals!

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