

# London's historic gay pub The Black Cap in Camden closed by owners a week after being awarded 'asset of community value' status

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/londons-historic-gay-pub-the-black-cap-in-camden-closed-by-owners-a-week-after-being-awarded-asset-10176344.html>

The future of the venue is not clear, but owners have tried to gain permission to have the building redeveloped three times since 2011

- [Loulla-Mae Eleftheriou-Smith](#)
- Tuesday 14 April 2015 15:55 BST
- [0 comments](#)



The Black Cap *Google Images*

The Black Cap, one of London's best known LGBTQ pubs and drag venues, has been closed by its owners just one week after Camden Council awarded it the "[asset of community value](#)"(ACV) status.

The pub, which has been open as a gay venue since the 1960s, was closed for the last time by owners Faucett Inn on Sunday night, the latest in a string of alternative and LGBTQ venues that have been closed down across the capital, from Madame Jojo's in Soho to The Joiner's Arms in Hackney.

The self-declared “Home of RuPaul’s Drag Race in the UK,” The Black Cap’s ACV status was awarded in recognition of it “furthering [of] the social well-being or cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community,” according to Camden Council.

The owners have reportedly tried and failed to gain permission from the council to redevelop the area above the venue three times since 2011.

The latest of these attempts was made in February, when requests to have the first, second and third floor above the venue turned into flats, which was refused, the *Camden New Journal* [reports](#).

The future of the venue has yet to be revealed, Faucett Inn said it closed the historic pub as the sale of the venue’s freehold “will complete imminently”.

The ACV status is meant to give venues an added layer of protection from becoming sold and redeveloped.

If the landowner wishes to sell a property with this status, the council must be informed, and if a group wants to buy the asset, they can trigger a six month buffer period to attempt to raise the money for the site, though the owner is still within their rights to sell the property at the market rate.

[HTTP://WWW.ITV.COM/NEWS/LONDON/2015-04-18/DRAG-QUEENS-TAKE-TO-THE-STREETS-TO-PROTEST-AGAINST-PUB](http://www.itv.com/news/london/2015-04-18/drag-queens-take-to-the-streets-to-protest-against-pub)

[CLOSURE-OF-GAY-PUB/](#)

ITV REPORT

1. 18 April 2015 at 5:06pm

# Drag queens take to the streets to protest against closure of gay pub



Scores of people took to the streets of Camden today in protest *Credit: @Paul\_Dillane*

London's drag community donned their most flamboyant outfits today to protest against the closure of one of the city's most iconic gay venues.

The Black Cap in Camden was closed down by the owners despite being awarded an 'asset of community value' status by the council earlier this month.

Planning permission has previously been sought to turn the drag club into flats.



Scores of people turned up today to protest against the closure *Credit: @monoprixx*

Sorry, this content isn't available on your device.

[View image on Twitter](#)



[Mono Prixx](#)@monoprixx

Best of luck! [@weareblackcap](#) London will be less colourful without you! -x-  
[2:53 PM - Apr 18, 2015](#)

See Mono Prixx's other Tweets

Sorry, this content isn't available on your device.

[View image on Twitter](#)



[The Pink Singers](#) @pinksingers

A passionate argument against the destruction of our community and our culture.  
[#SaveQueerLondon](#) [#WeAreTheBlackCap](#)  
[3:21 PM - Apr 18, 2015](#)

- 

9

- 

See The Pink Singers's other Tweets

Sorry, this content isn't available on your device.









[Ant Babajee](#) @t4rdis



#WeAreTheBlackCap

1:51 PM - Apr 18, 2015 · Camden Town, London

10



See

Ant Babajee's other Tweets

Sorry, this content isn't available on your device.

[View image on Twitter](#)





[Red Routemaster](#) @redroutemaster

[#WeAreTheBlackCap](#) supporting the protest following the sudden closure of historically significant [#LGBT](#) [#camden](#) bar.  
[2:36 PM - Apr 18, 2015](#)

- 

22

- 

22 people are talking about this

Last updated Sat 18 Apr 2015

<https://now-here-this.timeout.com/2015/04/13/ionic-camden-pub-the-black-cap-has-suddenly-closed-down/>

# Iconic Camden pub The Black Cap has suddenly closed down

Posted at 4:15 pm, April 13, 2015 in [News](#)



It's been a particularly sad time for pubs of late. First developers bulldozed the [Carlton Tavern in Kilburn](#) without telling the landlady and now [The Black Cap](#) on Camden High Street has suddenly closed down. The long-standing LGBTQ pub has been open since the mid 1960s with the motto 'Just Be Fabulous', but sadly neither its long history or sassy motto was enough to save the bar from closing. Faucet Inn, the company that owns the pub, decided to shut down the bar last night without giving anyone much warning. But the beginning of the end started in January

when Camden Council proposed to turn the first, second and third floors of the pub's building into flats. A mass of the pub's supporters sent letters of objection and the proposal was overturned in February. The venue was also awarded Asset of Community Value status from Camden Council last month, which you'd think would count against closing it down, but apparently not. Since the pub's closure last night, the venue's website and Twitter page have been shut down, and The Black Cap has been removed from Faucet Inn's listing pages.

With the recent closures of other prominent LGBTQ London venues, [the Joiners Arms](#) and the Nelson's Head, and the Royal Vauxhall Tavern under threat, this is starting to become a worrying trend and we don't like it one bit.

***Find out how you can help [save London's venues](#).***

<http://www.daviscofferlyons.co.uk/news/detail/sale-of-iconic-black-cap-in-camden-to-imbiba-partnership-s-ruth--robinson/1168#.Wxh69e4vzIU>

15 March 2016

# Sale of Iconic Black Cap in Camden to Imbiba Partnership's Ruth & Robinson

Acting for Faucet Inn, leisure property specialists, Davis Coffey Lyons, has secured the sale of The Black Cap in Camden to Ruth & Robinson, the Imbiba-backed project inspired by the bars of Brooklyn.

The rent for the property is £300,000 per annum, held on the remainder of a 25 year lease. The iconic public house is located on a prime commercial pitch on Camden High Street near the intersection with Parkway, and incorporates a substantial trade space with a 3am licence on Friday and Saturday. Dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the premises are set over four storeys with a rear roof terrace. The total floor area constitutes over 7,500 sq ft of space.

Since the closure of the well-known LGBT venue last year, Ruth & Robinson has since submitted a planning proposal to the local council to “create a unique, distinctive and vibrant drinking establishment which is welcoming to the whole community”. The new set-up would see bar areas on the ground and first floors, with function rooms on the second floor. A kitchen would be in the basement.





<http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/calls-to-reopen-iconic-black-cap-pub-as-links-to-russian-billionaires-offshore-cash-revealed-1-4923200>

# Calls to reopen iconic Black Cap pub as links to Russian billionaires' offshore cash revealed

PUBLISHED: 07:00 09 March 2017

[Emma Youle](#)



*Campaigners hold a 'We Are The Black Cap' vigil outside the Camden Town pub.  
Picture: Polly Hancock*

An offshore company ultimately owned by two Russian billionaire steel magnates invested in one of London's most iconic gay pubs – that is facing an uncertain future.





Supporters at a Save

*The Black Cap demonstration in April last year. Picture: Polly Hancock*

Documents reveal the company owned by industrial titans Alexander Abramov and Alexander Frolov - joint heads of Russia's largest steel producer Evraz - lent money to The Black Cap pub in Camden Town in 2013.

The pub was bought by an offshore Jersey-based company in 2010. Its doors closed in 2015.

The offshore financing deal was made public by campaign group Transparency International (TI) this week.

It has led loyal regulars to renew their calls for The Black Cap to be re-opened as a dedicated lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) venue.

Ben Walters, of campaign group the Black Cap Foundation, said: “Knowing the details of deals like this exposes the colossal gulf between the people who love and use our historic community spaces and the wealthy people who decide their fate.

“That’s why we desperately need more protection for pubs, queer venues and all spaces that care about people, community and culture.”

Last year a *Ham&High* investigation revealed six of seven local pubs bought by offshore companies between 2010 and 2014 have since been closed down. The Black Cap was one.

Black Cap campaigner Nigel Harris said at the time that communication over the future of threatened pubs was almost impossible because of the anonymity surrounding offshore ownership.

TI were first alerted to the case of The Black Cap by the *Ham&High’s* reports and delved deeper into its financing after the Black Cap Foundation provided further information and documents.

Land Registry deeds show a British Virgin Islands (BVI) company called Vollin Holdings Limited took a mortgage in The Black Cap in October 2013.

Other documents released in the US show Vollin is wholly owned by another BVI company, Whiteclif Enterprises Ltd, whose ultimate owners are the Russian billionaires Mr Abramov and Mr Frolov.

The super-rich industrialists feature on the Forbes’ list of World Billionaires with combined fortunes of \$6.1billion, and Mr Abramov is a close business associate of Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich.

A letter from Vollin Holdings’ lawyers, Norton Rose Fulbright, reveals Vollin’s mortgage in The Black Cap was released in January 2016, meaning the Russians no longer have an interest in the property.

The Black Cap and two other pubs were bought by Jersey-based company Kicking Horse Ltd in 2010 in a £13.3million deal.

In March 2013 and March 2015 planning applications by Steve Cox, of the pub company Faucet Inn Ltd, to turn the upstairs floors of The Black Cap into flats were refused following heated opposition.

The pub was shut down in April 2015 and has remained closed ever since.

The decision has caused high levels of stress to the local LGBT community who hold vigils at The Black Cap regularly on Saturdays and have demanded it is re-opened as a dedicated LGBT venue.

Mr Cox, of Faucet Inn Ltd, did not comment when contacted by the *Ham&High*.



<https://www.timeout.com/london/blog/there-are-plans-to-re-open-legendary-lgbt-pub-the-black-cap-011917>

## There are plans to re-open iconic LGBT pub The Black Cap



By [Josh M](#) Posted: Thursday January 19 2017, 6:20pm



It's one of Camden's most famous pubs, but [iconic boozier The Black Cap has been closed for two years](#). After pub group Faucet Inn had plans to turn its upper floors into flats rejected by Camden council in 2015, the pub closed its doors.

But according to the [Camden New Journal](#), an unnamed theatre company is believed to be planning a tenancy deal to re-open the boozier and keep it as an LGBT venue.

When the pub closed in 2015, locals set up the [We Are Black Cap](#) campaign to lobby the owners. Eastenders actress Michelle Collins is a member of the group. She said: 'It would be a terrible shame if it wasn't to reopen. It is a truly iconic place, part of the very fabric of the area, a crucial venue.'

The Black Cap owner Steve Cox, of Faucet Inn, said he is waiting for the council to determine what type of use the building has. He added: 'We are still waiting for determination on this. We are trying to work with the council and We Are Black Cap. We want the business to open again in a form that works for all parties. As long as it remains closed it is a stain on the high street for everyone. We'd look at all and any proposals.'

There were plans to turn the building into another outlet of The Breakfast Club, as well as a bar called Hollenbeck's, but both proposals came to nothing. Let's hope The Black Cap can live up to its motto and 'Just be Fabulous' again soon.

*Photo: Ben Rowe*

<http://camdennewjournal.com/article/protest-to-mark-three-year-anniversary-of-black-cap-pub-closure>

# CamdenNewJournal

The independent London newspaper

Thursday, June 7th 2018

Islington Tribune West End Extra Classifieds Jobs letters@camdennewjournal.com

## BUSINESS



## Protest to mark three year anniversary of Black Cap pub closure

Campaigners vow to see famous gay pub re-opened, as owner says firm is waiting for right deal

12 April, 2018 — By [Dan Carrier](#)

### *How the Black Cap looks after being unused since 2015*

WE will never surrender!

This is the defiant cry by campaigners who this weekend will mark the third anniversary of the closure of Camden Town's world-famous gay pub, The Black Cap.

The Black Cap Foundation want owners Kicking Horse to re-open the venue as it was and will protest outside the pub on Saturday. They say the investment firm has had long enough to find new operators, but are asking for an unrealistic price. The campaigners say at least 25 potential operators have looked at the building, which remains unused.

Kicking Horse director Steve Cox said it was still on the market and they were waiting for the right offer. The firm bought the pub from Faucet Inn.

Foundation spokesman Alex Green told the New Journal: "Its continued closure is nothing but a massive insult to the area, and the LGBT community in particular. This is a disgrace that such a wonderful, historic building is being left to decay."

He added: "We say we are winning. The pub may not be open yet, but it is still there, it isn't a coffee shop or restaurant, they have not built flats. It may be closed but it is still the Black Cap, and we are not going to go away." The protests, pickets and petitions have garnered the support of the Greater London Authority, Camden Council, the Campaign for Real Ale and civic groups. Mr Cox met the Foundation for talks in January 2017.

Mr Green said: "We had six meetings and put a case forward. We felt it was productive, but then it did not go anywhere. He [Mr Cox] says no one wants it, but we say, for how much?" Mr Green added: "We had groups who expressed serious interest and asked for information regarding surveys and leases, but got nowhere. Kicking Horse asked for £300,000 a year on the lease. It means they are simply not listening to what the market is saying. We say it could be opened by now by its owners, without the need for it to be sold, or it should be offered at a realistic price."

Mr Cox said yesterday (Wednesday) he is continuing to seek a resolution. He added: "It is frustrating for all parties. We would dearly like to have it open. We have conducted a marketing exercise to find the right tenant. That is still ongoing but we still have not found someone to satisfy both parties."

He said the Black Cap was being marketed as a pub with a cabaret venue, "as it was in its heyday." Mr Cox added that the economic weather was not in their favour.

He said: "This time five years ago, we had a lot more pubs. There have been so many headwinds in this industry against us. It is a tough climate. We would love to see some kind of conclusion, but it's got to be right for all parties."





## GET ON THE LIST!

Hey – sign up for the newsletter and be amongst the first to hear about special offers, exclusive content and premium events... you are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Name

Email

## VIEW OUT IN THE CITY



### The June- July issue 2014

Read the June-July 2014 issue of Out In The City, with a front cover interview with Laverne Cox. [Cll More...](#)



### The April- May 2014 issue

Read the April-May 2014 issue of Out In The City, with a front cover interview with Nick Grimshaw. [C More...](#)



### The February- March 2014

Home | About Us | Uncategorized | Bars & Clubs: North London

## BARS & CLUBS: NORTH LONDON

### • The Black Cap

171 Camden High Street, NW1.  
020 7428 2721.

Camden Town tube.

Shufflewick Bar: Mon-Thu Noon-1am, Fri-Sat 12noon-2am, Sun Noon-10.30pm.

Club: Mon-Thu 10pm-2am, Fri-Sat 10pm-3am, Sun 10pm-1am.

Long-running, famed gay pub – probably the most famous cabaret pub in London, with nightly DJs and entertainment.

[www.theblackcap.com](http://www.theblackcap.com).

### • Central Station

37 Wharfedale Road, N1.  
020 7278 3294.

Kings Cross tube.

Mon-Wed 5pm-2am, Thur 5pm-3am, Fri 5pm-4am, Sat 1pm-4am, Sun 1pm-12am.

Big, late-opening gay bar on three floors, with ground floor cabaret and infamously cruisy cruise nights in basement. Upstairs restaurant offering gastropub menu.

### • Club Kali

The Dome, 1 Dartmouth Park Hill, Tufnell Park, N19.

The world's biggest lesbian and gay Southern Asian music night, running every third Friday of the month. Always busy and rather unique.

[www.clubkali.com](http://www.clubkali.com)

## MOST POPULAR

## COMMENTS LATEST

Website: [http://www.outmag.co.uk/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15:bars-a-clubs-north-london&catid=58&Itemid=145](http://www.outmag.co.uk/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15:bars-a-clubs-north-london&catid=58&Itemid=145)

## THE BLACK CAP PUB



**Address:** The Black Cap,  
171 Camden High Street,  
Primrose Hill, London  
NW1 7JY

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 20 7485 0538

**Opening hours:** SUNDAY 12 noon–10.30 PM  
MONDAY 11 AM–11 PM TUESDAY 11 AM–11 PM  
WEDNESDAY 11 AM–11 PM THURSDAY 11 AM–11  
PM FRIDAY 11 AM–11 PM SATURDAY 11 AM–11  
PM

**ADD TO PLANNER**  
**Bookmark this place**

**VIEW PLANNER**

## MORE PUBS NEARBY

There are lots of other pubs and bars nearby:

[The Underworld](#) is in Camden High Street, Camden. It is less than ¼ mile from The Black Cap



[The World's End](#) is at 174a Camden High Street in Camden, London. The Black Cap is less than ¼ mile away



[The Crown & Goose](#) is in Arlington Road, Primrose Hill. It is less than ¼ mile from The Black Cap, and offers food, vegetarian dishes, outside seating, TV for sporting events, real ale



[The Black Heart](#) is in Camden, London. The Black Cap is less than ¼ mile away. It offers comedy night, live music



[See all places to drink in Primrose Hill](#)

## RESTAURANTS CLOSE TO THE PUB

Here are some restaurants close to the pub:

[Bento Cafe](#) is a restaurant in Parkway, Primrose Hill. It is less than ¼ mile from The Black Cap pub, and offers air conditioning, takeaway, vegetarian dishes. Its menu serves Japanese food. Bento Cafe serves traditional Japan... more



[Masala Zone](#) is an expensive place to eat at 25 Parkway in Primrose Hill, London. The Black Cap pub is less than ¼ mile away. The restaurant serves a Indian menu



[See all restaurants in Primrose Hill](#)

Website: <http://www.londondrum.com/pubs/?r=10014236>

# Youtube Videos of Performances at The Black Cap

- **Performance of 1992 (Published 2008)**

Title: Regina Fong - Finale - Tell Me What He Said - Black Cap

Description: Regina Fong performing the finale with friends including Adrella at the Black Cap, camden, London December 1992

Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWjJpRpB-kM>

Published: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008



Regina Fong - Finale - Tell Me What He Said - Black Cap

17,157 views

78 3 SHARE



sjmlondon  
Published on 30 Jul 2008

SUBSCRIBE 100

Regina Fong performing the finale with friends including Adrella at the Black Cap, camden, London December 1992

SHOW MORE

- **May 2007**

Title: Sandra at The Black Cap - 06/05/07

Description: Sandra does her best to entertain with the help of an oompa-lumpa. Filmed live at THE BLACK CAP in Camden, London, UK on Sunday 6th May 2007. For more info visit [www.sandrasweb.com](http://www.sandrasweb.com).

Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LujCShhNzW8>

Published: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007



Sandra at The Black Cap - 06/05/07

17,037 views

24 likes 0 comments SHARE



Flynn Burge

Published on 7 May 2007

SUBSCRIBE 104

Sandra does her best to entertain with the help of an oompa-lumpa. Filmed live at THE BLACK CAP in Camden, London, UK on Sunday 6th May 2007. For more info visit [www.sandrasweb.com](http://www.sandrasweb.com).

Category [Entertainment](#)

Licence [Standard YouTube Licence](#)

- **January 2011**

Title: Sandra at The Black Cap Camden Town London 15 Jan 2011 Film 2.mp4

Description: Sandra At The Black Cap Camden Town London 15 Jan 2011 Film 2.

THIS VIDEO IS COPYRIGHT UNDER

CAMEYE.NET © 2010-2011 & MYBENIDORM.NET © 2010-2011

& Design & Created by Colin Morris © 2010-2011

Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYzVAH-JA8>

Published: 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011



Sandra at The Black Cap Camden Town London 15 Jan 2011 Film 2.mp4

3,214 views

11 1 SHARE



Colin Morris

Published on 25 Jan 2011

SUBSCRIBE 135

Sandra

At

The Black Cap

Camden Town London

15 Jan 2011

Film ?

- **2015**

Title: Virgin Resurrection Xtravaganzah at The Black Cap

Description: One of the regular variety shows at The Black Cap hosted and curated by The Virgin Xtravaganzah! Starring: Aurora Galore, Maxi More, Fagulous, Tete Bang, Natalie Geografic

Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZNH0L6TKv4>

Published: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015



### Virgin Resurrection Xtravaganzah at The Black Cap

1,168 views

👍 5    🗨️ 1    ➦ SHARE    ☰    ⋮



**Virgin Mary and Friends**  
Published on 6 Apr 2015

**SUBSCRIBE 397**

One of the regular variety shows at The Black Cap hosted and curated by The Virgin Xtravaganzah!

Starring:  
Aurora Galore  
Maxi More  
Fagulous

- **2014**

Title: Black Cap Burlesque Cabaret

Description: A Night At Black Cap Camden, cabaret on stage, splits, lady

Link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eP-64yXNp8>

Published: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014



## Black Cap Burlesque Cabaret

320 views

0 0 SHARE



**The Tebbster**

Published on 5 Jul 2014

**SUBSCRIBE 82**

A Night At Black Cap Camden, cabaret on stage, splits, lady

Category [People & Blogs](#)

Licence [Standard YouTube Licence](#)

Music ["Ooh La La" by Goldfrapp \(Google Play · iTunes\)](#)