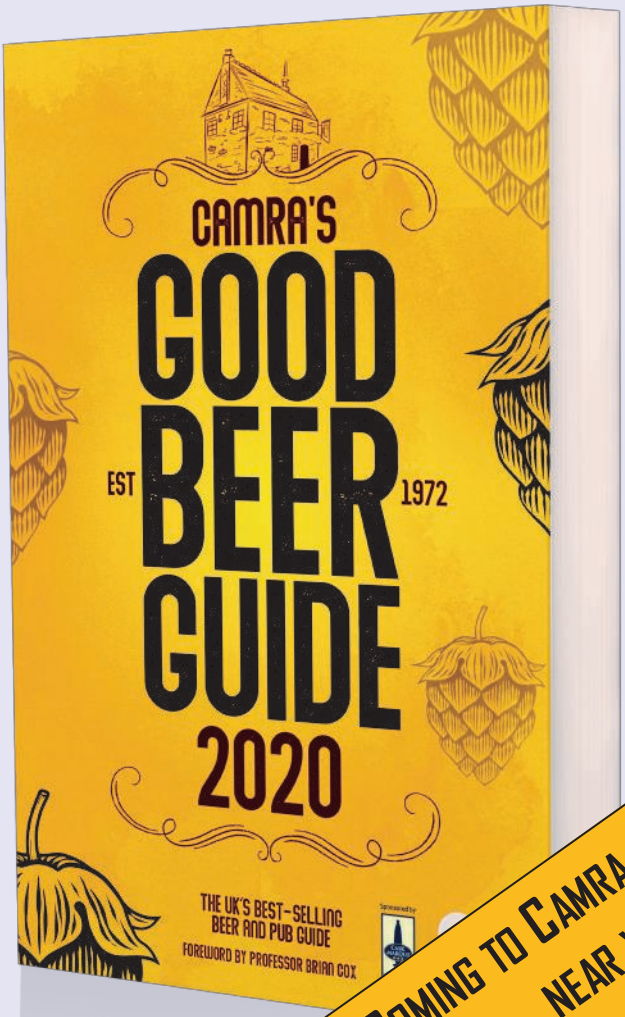
Draught Copy

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Free Magazine
By Maidstone & Mid-Kent CAMRA incorporating Gravesend & Darent Valley and Bexley Branches

Autumn 2019 No. 196



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DRAUGHT COPY

Draught Copy is the magazine of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, also incorporating news from Bexley, and Gravesend & Darent Valley branches of CAMRA. It is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December and has a circulation of 3,200 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials.

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Website: *www.mmk.camra.org.uk*

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For further information about all pubs mentioned in this publication (or indeed anywhere in the UK), please refer to CAMRA's national pub database: *www.whatpub.com*

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CAMRA Branch Diaries

If you would like more information, please ring the local branch contact—see **Local News** sections. **Meetings start at 20:30 unless otherwise stated.**

BEX: Bexley, **GDV: Gravesend and Darent Valley**, **MMK: Maidstone & Mid-Kent**

August	MMK	29	Rising Sun, East Malling, then King & Queen
	MMK	31	**11:00, East Malling Beer & Cider Festival**
September	GDV	5	20:00, Green Man (Hodsoll Street), Cricketers (Meopham)
	MMK	5	Aylesford Walkabout, start Chequers
	BEX	11	Bird and Barrel, 100 Barnehurst Rd, Bexleyheath DA7 6HG
	GDV	11	20:00, Jolly Drayman (Gravesend), Open business meeting
	MMK	12	Bull, West Malling, Open business meeting
	MMK	14	Noon, Antic Pubs E/N London, meet Leyton Technical (E10 5QN)
	MMK	19	Plough, Langley, then Cock, Boughton Monchelsea
	GDV	26	20:00, Fighting Cocks, Bull (Horton Kirby)
	MMK	26	Beer Festival Wash-up, Red Lion, Lenham
	MMK	28	10:20, Bus/train trip to Canterbury – Green Hop Festival
October	MMK	3	Cellars, Maidstone
	MMK	8	10:38, Bus & Walk Stansted to Wrotham
	BEX	9	Volunteer, 46 Church Rd, Bexleyheath DA7 4DQ
	GDV	9	20:00, Vault, Badger, Royal Oak (New Ash Green)
	MMK	10	Society Rooms, Maidstone, then Flower Pot
	MMK	17	20:00, Chequers, Laddingford – Beer & Bangers Week
	MMK	19	10:00, Vintage coach trip
	GDV	24	20:00, Prince of Orange, Echo, Windmill (Gravesend)
	MMK	24	Walnut Tree, Loose, then Chequers
	MMK	31	White Horse, Headcorn, then George & Dragon
November	MMK	4	11:38, Bus & Walk Chiddingstone to Bough Beech
	GDV	6	20:00, Royal Victoria & Bull (Dartford), Open business meeting
	MMK	7	Queens Head, Sutton Valence, then Hawkenbury
	MMK	14	Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone, Open business meeting
	GDV	21	20:00, Rose (Wood Street), Coach & Horses (Northfleet)
	MMK	21	Unicorn, Marden, then Village Club
	MMK	28	Pilot, Maidstone, then Fisherman's Arms

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FLINTLOCK
4.2% Best Bitter
(Award winning beer!)

FIFE & DRUM
3.8% Golden Ale

TRIGGER
3.6% Pale Ale

POWDER BURN
5.0% Kentish Porter
(Autumn/Winter brew!)

MATCHLOCK
3.8% Kentish Mild
(Spring/Summer brew!)

FLASH in the PAN
4% Green Hop Ale
(Only available in September!)

BALL PULLER
4% Premier Bitter
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Local Beer & Cider Festivals

CAMRA Festivals:

August 31

10th East Malling Beer and Cider Festival
East Malling Research, New Road, East Malling, Kent. ME19 6BJ.
Twitter: @embeerfestival, Website: mmk.camra.org.uk
70+ Real Ales, 30+ Real Kent Ciders & Perries.
Open: 11am to 7pm (or until the beer runs out).
Entry: Free Admission for valid CAMRA card carrying members; £5.00 for non members. Families Welcome. Hot & Cold food available. Live Music (KickBacks & Lew Lewis and His Allstar Trio) sessions throughout the day. Free festival shuttle bus every 30 minutes from West Malling Station (10.50) and Aylesford Station (11am).

August/ September 31-1(Sept)

Faversham Hop Festival
CAMRA street bar, East St, Faversham, ME13 8AS.
Website: www.favershamhopfestival.org
Selection from 7 local breweries & 3 local cider producers.
Open: approximately 10:00-17:30 on both days. Entry: Free Admission
See website for details stalls, bands, camping and more at this event held in the streets of Faversham.

September 18 - 20

Spa Valley Railway
Tunbridge Well West Station, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5QY.
Twitter: @WKCamraSVRFest, Website: www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk
200+ Beers and Ciders.
A different beer festival at each station
Tunbridge Wells West, Groombridge & Eridge.

Other Events:

August 31

Spitfire Rotary Beer Festival,
1 Liberty Square, Kings Hill, West Malling. ME19 4AU

September 27 - 29

Compass Alehouse Fifth Anniversary Beer Festival,
7 Manor Road, Gravesend DA12 1AA
www.facebook.com/thecompassalehouse

October 25 - 27

Marden Village Club Beer Festival ,
Albion Road, Marden, TONBRIDGE. TN12 9DT
A range of Real Ales + Cider.
Food served all weekend, Live Music

Members' Snippets

Jeff reports;
"The Waterworks micro pub in Rye is a favourite of mine, being rather quirky, with all the furniture being for sale! I took this picture in the gents' toilet, which has a novel way of flushing the loo. I couldn't possibly comment further!
No, they don't sell Doom Bar. Probably just as well!"

Local Beweries

Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	*www.bexleybrewery.co.uk*
Boutilliers	07715 698441	*www.boutilliers.com*
Brew Buddies Ltd	07962 369717	*brew-buddies.co.uk*
Brumaison	07831 704089	*www.brumaison.beer*
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	*www.canterbury-ales.co.uk*
Cellar Head	01580 879523	*www.cellarheadbrewing.com*
Dartford Wobbler	01322 866233	*www.dartfordwobbler.com*
Goachers	01622 682112	*www.goachers.com*
Iron Pier Brewing	01474 569460	*www.ironpier.beer*
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	*www.kentbrewery.com*
Larkins Brewery	01892 870328	*www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk*
Mad Cat Brewery Ltd	07960 263615	*www.madcatbrewery.co.uk*
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	*www.musketbrewery.co.uk*
Nelson Brewery	01634 832828	*www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk*
No Frills Jo	07516 725577	*www.nofrillsjoe.co.uk*
Old Dairy Brewery	01580 763867	*www.olddairybrewery.com*
Pig & Porter	01892 615071	*www.pigandporter.co.uk*
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	*www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk*
Rockin' Robin Brewery	01622 747106	*www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk*
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	*www.shepherdneame.co.uk*
Swan on the Green	01622 812271	*www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk*
Tonbridge Brewery	07962 016286	*www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk*
Wantsum Brewery	01227 910135	*www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk*
Westerham Brewery Co.	01732 864427	*www.westerhambrewery.co.uk*
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	*whitstablebrewery.co.uk*

Map available at www.kentcamra.org.uk/kent/breweries

Local Cider Makers

Beardspoon Cider Works		*www.beardspoon.com*
Biddenden Cider	01580 291726	*www.biddendenvineyards.com*
Cider Works	01304 821630	*www.greenoakfarm.co.uk*
Double Vision Cider	01622 746633	*doublevisioncider@outlook.com*
Dudda's Tun Cider	01795 886266	*www.duddastuncider.com*
East Stour Cider Co	07880 923398	
Johnson's Farmhouse Cider	01795 665203	
Kent Cider Company	01795 521317	*www.kentcider.co.uk*
Kentish Pip Cider	01227 250151	*www.kentishpip.co.uk*
Little Stour Orchard	07771 711252	*www.littlestourorchard.co.uk*
Merry Moon	07707 309041	
Nightingale Cider Company	01580 763938	*www.nightingalecider.com*
Pippins Cider Company	01892 824544	*www.pippinsfarm.co.uk*
Rough Old Wife Cider	01227 700757	*www.rougholdwife.com*
Tiddly Pomme's Woolly Pig	01795 529100	*www.tiddlypommeshop.co.uk*
Turners Cider	07825 394164	*www.turnerscider.co.uk*
Wise Owl Cider	01233 850664	*wiseowlcider@gmail.com*

Map available at www.kentcamra.org.uk/kent/cider

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Beer in Iceland

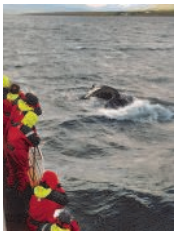
by Mick Allen

Let me start off this article with a brief history of beer in Iceland. All alcohol was banned from 1915 until the early 1920's, when the Government relaxed the rule, allowing the purchase of wine, spirits, and beer under 2.25%, due to a tit-for-tat dispute with Spain, who refused to buy Icelandic fish if the Icelander's didn't reciprocate the agreement by importing Spanish wine. On March 1st 1989 - now known as 'Beer Day', the ban on higher strength beers was lifted, and they could be bought for take away from State owned shops. Hence, any beer over 2.25% can only be purchased from a branch of 'Vínbúðin', the State-run alcohol store. Note that these shops are not open on a Sunday, so you'll either need to remember that, or visit a bar!

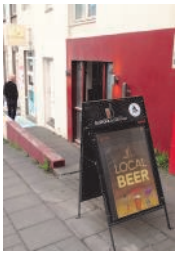
Iceland is not an easy place to start a brewery, as each new beer that is produced for bottling or canning needs to be approved by a Government agency, with regards to the design of the can/bottle, and lettering upon it. This takes a minimum of three weeks. Also the tax situation is archaic, with each beer taxed according to abv. The tax that you pay is currently calculated using the formula [(abv-2.25) x 122.6] per litre. Hence on a 5% beer you would be paying 337 ISK per litre tax. Of course, the '122.6' increases yearly!

Beer prices tend to be in the range 1100 to 2200 ISK per pint, but this varies over the day, as many bars in Iceland have a 'Happy Hour' (which can stretch to several hours) with two-for-one or half price offers, and paying by credit card is the norm.

Around 60% of Iceland's population live in the capital, Reykjavik; hence around half of Iceland's 20+ breweries are located in that area. An up-to-date map can be downloaded from https://goo.gl/GtVtRm. To fit in with our itinerary for our round trip of Iceland, we stayed in some remote places, so only visited some bars in Akureyri and Reykjavik. Also, I have left out any opening times, as these vary with the day of the week.

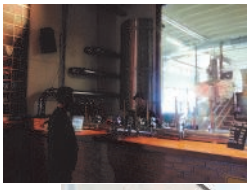


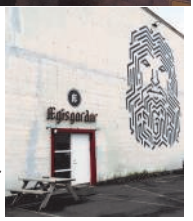
Akureyri - a small fishing port and base for various whale watching trips, this town lies at the end of Eyjafjörður. As we only visited 3 bars here, all within 5 minutes walk of each other; it would be superfluous to create a map! The first of these bars was the **Backpackers Hostel** at Hafnarstræti 98, serving a selection of beers from the *Ölgerðin Brewery* (which brews beers under the *Borg* and *Gull* names in Reykjavik) and *Backpackers Special 4.8%* (sampled!) from the *Segul 67 Brewery* in Siglufjörður. This bar offers cheapish accommodation (if you're willing to share!) and reasonably priced food. Second on the list was **Ölstofa Akureyrar** at Kaupvangsstræti 23. I suppose this could be considered the brewery tap for the nearby *Viking Brewery* (supplying over 30% of the beer drunk in Iceland),



which also produces beers under the name of *Einstök*. Unsurprisingly, these products dominate the bar, and *Einstök Toasted Porter 6.0%* was the choice, although the axe shaped taster tray was tempting! The final pub was **Bar R5**, located at Ráðhústorg 5. Beers in here from *Ölgerðin* (*Borg* and *Gull*), an unfined *Borg Lazer Kettir T21 5.2%* was the nightcap (although at 11.30pm it was still daylight, so could be a daycap?).

Reykjavik - the capital of Iceland, whose population increases substantially due to tourism in the summer months, is home to some 100 bars, mostly centred around Laugavegur. As we only had 12 hours here, there was no time for sightseeing, so it was straight off to the bars. First port of call was ***Ægir* Brugghús** (1). This brewery opened in 2017, and is to be found at the northern end of the harbour arm at Eyjarslóð 5. Had a good chat with brewer Ólafur Þorvaldz, who brews some great tasting beers, despite only having been brewing for a couple of years. We split a tray of *Sound of Crowberries 4.0%*, *Black as my Soul 6.8%*, *Heavy Knife 7.0%* and *Rogue 7.1%*, all brewed on the premises. The next bar, ***Bryggjan Brugghús*** *(2)*, closer to town, was at Grandagarður 8. This brewery opened in 2015, laying claim to being the first independent microbrewery in Iceland. The building itself was a fish processing factory up until it closed in 1985. Brewery tours are offered and the beers selected in here were a tray of *Nice Aft 6.2%*, *Dock of the Bay 3.9%* and *Sailor 4.2%*, all produced on site. After this, it was a 15 minute walk over Reykjavik to the **Bastarður Brew Pub** (3) at Vegamótastígur 4. Advertised as a Brew Pub, the brewing equipment appears to be in a mothballed state upstairs. Here we drank a *Brio* and a *Gull*, both standard 4.5% lagers. The house beers are brewed off site at *Ægir*. *Next door is* **Ölstofa** (4) (I believe it just translates as 'Tavern'), where the barman *Hákon* was only too pleased to chat about beer (of course). In here the order was *Úlfur (Wolf) 5.9%* and *Sumargull 5.0%*, both from *Borg Brewery*. With time pressing on we then ventured to the next bar in





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error, **Sæta Svínið** (5), the **Sweet Pig**, where the choice was *Borg Viking Stout 5.8%*. Of course the place we intended to visit was **MicroBar**, hidden around the side of the building, but we decided to leave this for the final stop. Just around the corner is ***Skúli Craft*** *(6) at* Aðalstræti 9. We wondered why the place was so crowded, and, as luck would have it, found out it was a meet the brewer night. A new beer, *Úlfey 7.5%*, from *Borg Brewery* was being launched, and as an added bonus, free hot dogs were on offer. After a chat with brewer Árni Theodor Long, and swift samples of *Malbygg Sopi 4.7%* and *Lady Brewing First Lady 6.1%*, it was off to the seventh pub on our list, **Kaldi**, (7) at Laugavegur 20b. This offers beers from *Bruggsmiðjan* near Akureyri, but I chose a *Borg Sólveig*. Incidentally, this brewery offers a 'beer spa' if you are ever visiting north Iceland. Unusually, **Kaldi** bar also does not have a beer list displayed - the staff are persuaded to chat to customers and ask the type of beer they prefer. The penultimate bar on the list (recommended via Facebook by Jim from the Ivy Leaf Dartford whilst we were on our way round), was **Session Craft Bar** (8) at Bankastræti 14. The first thing that hit us about this bar was that the clientele was mostly local, with very few tourists here. The second thing was that there was a quiz taking place and that it was the culmination of a podcast on local radio about fly fishing. We'd have enough trouble answering any questions on that subject, let alone in Icelandic! Anyway, no questions about the beer here as *Malbygg Raspberry Sour 5.0%* and *RVK Is this It? 7.5%* both went down nicely. The last bar of the trip was **MicroBar** at Vesturgata 2, a classic no frills cellar bar run by *Gæðingur Öl Brugghús* on the outskirts of Reykjavik.

The brewery itself used to be based up near Sauðárkrókur, four hours away, but moved closer to the capital recently. Mine host at the bar was Snorri Guðmundsson, and he was kind enough to give me small tasters of all of the five *Gæðingur* beers that were on draught. Must admit, at this point in the day, I don't remember which ones - you'll have to track them down yourselves.

So, this was the final stop of the day, and it was close to midnight, although only semi-dusk outside. As this was just a whistle stop tour, there are still plenty of drinking establishments left to try, a few of the others being Frederiksen Ale House, Mikkeller & Friends, The English Pub, Brewdog, Íslenski Barinn, RVK Brewing Company, Bjórgarðurinn and Icelandic Craft Bar. **SKÁL!**

Contact: *John Mills 01732 840603* or email *pubs.officer@mmk.camra.org.uk*
For more information on these pubs, see CAMRA's online pub database *whatpub.com*

Angel, Addington – A good place for the summer to sit either at tables in the open or inside the covered area of the large garden. Good food and ale will be found here. The *Westerham Addington Angel* is permanent but several other Kent breweries have also been seen. The guest ales *Dartford Wobbler Peddler's Best, Mad Cat Golden IPA* and *Old Dairy Uber Brew* all made an appearance in June. *http://theangelinnaddington.co.uk*

Bush, Aylesford – A local's pub keen on sport with good value food. As well as the permanent *Fuller's London Pride,* beers from *Wantsum* have been available.

White House, Hunton – Jan Morris, our longest serving licensee, has been providing Goody Ales as well as Goacher's recently, both proving popular with the local customers.

Chequers, Laddingford – In July Charles & Tracey celebrated 25 years at this popular 15th century community pub. The very large rear garden has some animals and play equipment for children. At the front is the award winning flower display and some picnic style seating. Good food served including the weekly Sausage Thursdays and annual events Pints, Pies & Puddings, the Ale and Cheese festival and Transport & Trains. The permanent *Adnams Southwold Bitter* is always in good order along with up to three guests as well. *https://www.chequersladdingford.co.uk* and events may be found on Facebook: *chequersladdingford*

Armoury, Linton - The Musket brewery tap usually has four of their own beers on gravity dispense and may be visited on weekends only.

Open 4-9 Fri; 11-9 Sat; 12-5 Sun

Dog & Gun, Maidstone – Shepherd Neame have sold this community pub to a developer and we hear there will be 2 houses and 9 apartments put there. Councils are often unable or unwilling to protect such pubs, not having a protection policy

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in place. Where will the locals go for their music and other events now?

Druids Arms, Maidstone – Refurbished inside and out. Large lamps and flower baskets adorn the frontage now. Inside carpets have been replaced by hard flooring and the toilets have been given a make-over. More tables at the rear with some removed from the front area. Bands play in the covered yard on Friday and Saturday evenings. The usual beers are *Greene King Abbot Ale* and *IPA* but I also found the *Timothy Taylor Landlord* and the malty *Belhaven 1719 Pale Ale.* Keeps fruit flavoured ciders for those who like those additions to the main product.

Eagle, Maidstone - Closed and undergoing a refit but may well be open when this is read. I believe a new licensee is expected.

Flower Pot, Maidstone – Pizzas and other dishes now available 12-10:30pm Tue -Sat. Exotic toppings include Sweet Potato, Blue Cheese & Walnuts and Moroccan Lamb, Mint and Pine nuts.

Society Rooms, Maidstone – A well run JDW pub where both the beer and service are good, which explains why it has been in the Camra Good Beer Guide regularly. Quite often unfamiliar beers and breweries, not normally found in Kent, may be seen here. Amongst those found in recent times *B&T Black Dragon Mild* and *Naylor's Velvet* with *Salopian Darwin's Origin* and *Wickwar BOB*.

Stag, Maidstone – Now run by Rockin' Robin with three handpumps stocking Rockin' Robin, Kent and Old Dairy beers.

Bull, Penenden Heath – A pub that has undergone a much needed refurbishment. There are lots of tables in the garden and a playground for children. Usual Greene King beer range applies here.

Milk House, Sissinghurst – Customers were enjoying the sunshine in the garden on our last visit. The pizza oven and the garden bar were busy. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* remains the permanent beer with backup from *Tonbridge Coppernob* whilst *Holler*, *Purity* and *Romney Marsh* breweries have also appeared.

Lord Raglan, Staplehurst – Long owned by the same family, this unspoilt country pub remains popular. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Goacher's Fine Light Ale* continue to satisfy the local thirsts.

Railway, Wateringbury - Tina is the new lessee here having had several pubs in London previously. Opening times were 12-11 all week when I visited but is

likely to be subject to change. *Sharp's Doom Bar* was on the bar and suggestions for additional ales may be considered.

Good Intent, West Farleigh – Plenty of space for families at tables on the patio or on the green outside which has play equipment. Inside is a games room with a pool table and a dining area. *Larkins Traditional* is often on the bar with guests coming mostly from *Tonbridge* but we recently had *Whitstable Citra* which was particularly appreciated.

George, Yalding – This riverside pub mainly used by locals was saved from the developers by the Chalker family four years ago but is now up for sale with Christie & Co.

MENCAP Fayre 2019

by Brian Johnson

Once again the Maidstone and Mid-Kent (MMK) branch of CAMRA supported MENCAP by organising and running a beer bar at their annual summer fayre which was held in Mote Park on Saturday, June 8th. This was the twentieth year that MMK CAMRA had supported MENCAP in this way. Five local breweries generously donated firkins of real ale for this worthy cause.

Thanks to them, I was pleased to be able to present the following beers:
Larkin's Traditional - donated by **Larkin's brewery, Chiddingstone**
Fife & Drum - donated by **Musket brewery, Linton**
Kent Pale - donated by **Kent brewery, Birling**
Jester - donated by **Rockin' Robin brewery, Boughton Monchelsea**
Goacher's Mild - donated by **Goachers brewery, Tovil**

Several of my fellow MMK branch members helped with the collection of beer, setup of the bar and serving on the day. All beers were priced at £3 a pint in order to persuade the visitors that they could afford to enjoy a glass of real ale and support a charity at the same time. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't too kind and it was an afternoon of several heavy showers, which meant that we were not able to sell all of the beer. We did, however, have several satisfied customers and raised the sum of £729, for which the charity were very grateful.

This was a satisfying result, so thank you to the above breweries and to everyone who helped, and to those who supported us on the day.

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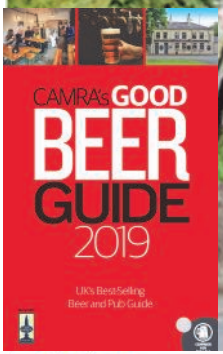

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2019 dates:

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Contact: Adrian Moss (01474 363102) / Peter Cook (01322 270589 / 07913 500414)
email: *gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk* *www.gdv.camra.org.uk*

The branch duly presented certificates for the branch Pub of the Year, the **Old House** at Ightham Common, and runners-up to the **Compass** at Gravesend and the **Dartford Jug** at Dartford. At the **Old House** the pub's wooden casks are still in regular use and on the night *Larkins Traditional, Goacher's Best Dark* and *House Special* were being served from three of them, with *Hopdaemon Incubus, Goacher's Fine Light* and *Larkins Best* imminent.

At the **Compass,** real ales were on sale at the reduced price of £3 per pint for the occasion and of the four beers available, two ran out and were promptly replaced. The **Dartford Jug** had seven beers available, some served from polypins. Included were *Kent Brewery Breakfast Stout* and *Gun Brewery Scaramanga Extra Pale*. The pub features an electronic beer menu and price list including a "PT" number for each beer which shows its place in a "periodic table" chart of beer styles.

The summer beer festival season will be well underway by the time this appears. In Gravesend it kicked off with the event at the **Windmill Tavern** in June, which was very well-attended all through and apparently not affected by another at the **Gravesend Rugby Club** the same weekend. The established August festivals at the **Three Daws** and **Jolly Drayman** will follow, with the fifth anniversary celebration at the **Compass** in September.

In the previous issue we reported that the **Railway** at Longfield was closed and boarded. We are now pleased to report the pub reopened at the beginning of June. The new licensee is Mary Doherty, with 20 years experience in the pub trade, who is leasing the pub from Star Taverns. The regular real ales are *Robinsons Trooper, Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Theakston Old Peculier.* The kitchen is being refurbished and pub meals are a planned to be available every day from 12noon to 9pm. There will be a DJ and disco on Friday evenings and live music on Saturday evenings. Quiz nights, race nights and a darts team are also planned. The **Railway** at Meopham also reopened in June after some redecoration. Our reporter, Roy, found *Fuller's London Pride* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* on sale soon after and they will look into a guest ale in the

weeks to come. The kitchen is still being renovated as I write but they hope to offer food when it is complete.

Ben McConnachie, who has been the landlord at the **Plough** in Basted for five and a half years, has been awarded a Five Star food hygiene rating by Tonbridge & Malling. This 300 year old pub, originally three cottages, sells excellent quality home-cooked meals, including speciality fish and steak evenings and Sunday roasts with three different meats from a local butcher with plentiful vegetables also locally sourced. The regular real ales are *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, Larkins Traditional Bitter* and *St.Austell Tribute*. In late June the fourth handpump offered *Tonbridge Connor's Pale,* where 50p per pint sold was donated to a charity chasing a cure for Connor, a seven year old local boy suffering from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. *Tonbridge* have produced special beers with charity donations in the past. The **Plough** now offers a 20p per pint and 10p per half discount to card carrying CAMRA members.

Keith reported that the long-standing licensee of the **Rising Sun** at Twitton would be leaving in October. There must be a doubt over the long-term future of this isolated pub. He also noted that the **Chequers** at Heaverham had scaffolding up externally and the larger (dining) bar and kitchen were closed for refurbishment.

The **Ship** at Sutton-at-Hone has now had its fourth hand pump installed and on a recent visit by our reporter, Roger, was selling *Watneys Pale, Thwaites Wainwright, Timothy Taylor Golden Best* and *Courage Directors.* The **Bull** in Horton Kirby appears to have replaced one beer handpump with a cider handpump for the summer.

The **Ship** at Green Street Green appears to have been closed for some time. A notice in the window in early July stated that the Wellington Pub Co was repossessing the building on the 13th. The bar fittings were still there but the tables and chairs had gone and it didn't look as though the pub was being refurbished. On the other hand, the **Vault** in New Ash Green opened in June. It was formerly a bank and the original bank vaults are visible behind the bar. The decor is plain but pleasant and the tables are converted cable drums. There is a function room at the front

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available for meetings. There is always a *Shepherd Neame* real ale on one of the four handpumps and other ales were from *Iron Pier* and *Caveman* at the time of an early visit but rotating guest beers are planned.

A recent branch visit to the reopened and redecorated **Plough** at Wilmington found regular beers *Courage Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*. *Skinner's Betty Stogs* and *Adnams Ghost Ship* had run out but were replaced by *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* and *Courage Directors*, so the future looks brighter for this pub. Down the road the **Cressy Arms** had *Bexley Session Ruby Ale* (a *Bexley* beer is normally on here) and *Iron Pier Perry Street Pale*.

While on the subject, the **Iron Pier Brewery Tap** has added a third real ale for the summer and there was even a report of a guest beer from *Bexley* as one of the three.

In Gravesend, the **Darnley Arms** is due for an internal refurbishment. On a recent visit *Dark Star Hophead* and *St Austell Cornish Best Bitter* were on sale and there is occasional entertainment on Sunday afternoons. The **Somerset Arms**, after a change of licensee, now has a real ale; *Sharp's Doom Bar*. However, the nearby **Railway Bell** has closed and it is thought the new owner wants to turn it into an Indian restaurant.

Down by the river the **Rum Puncheon** has had an exterior repaint. Since June, the pub has been serving meals as well as pizzas, with an emphasis on seafood. It is intended to open on Mondays soon. When checking on this, I had a choice of *Flying Monk Elmers, Wadworth Summer Ale* and *Brains Rev James*. The pub had been operating under a temporary agreement since reopening, but landlady Jacqui Morgan has now signed a 20-year lease.

The power supply for the kitchen at the **Grapes** was finally sorted out and, also since June, the pub has been offering lunchtime snacks, burgers and pies six days a week. Along the road, **TJ's** has a summer menu with a range of light bites and a barbecue menu on Saturdays and Sundays. Also in the same area, the lunchtime menu at the **Jolly Drayman** has, since June, included a tapas section, which is proving very popular.

And finally, the long-awaited **Mole Hole** in Gravesend High Street opened on July 27th. The bar and beer store are in the cool vaulted cellar of the building, accessed by a spiral staircase from the ground floor entrance and there is scope for a second, even cooler, room behind and deeper into the cellar.

Contact: *Rob Archer* at *camr@rcher.org.uk* or Roland Amos on *07881 316125*
www.bexley.camra.org.uk

Branch AGM

BEXLEY Branch's AGM was held at the **Montrose Club, Sidcup** in June and will enable the Branch to continue into next year with a committee pretty much unchanged.

We do however, need a replacement for our Membership Secretary, Pam Moger, who did a great job in her year of tenure - thanks Pam!

Any member can take up this role, it is not as onerous as it appears. Find us at one of the contact addresses at the head of this page.

Any Club members or reps out there in Bexley who read this can also approach us to see how we can assist in improving the profile and reach of their clubs. The Branch Committee is keen to help you take this up, and we hope to extend and maintain our relationship with the Montrose Club, amongst others, in the course of the year. Don't miss checking our diary on the website at *http://bexley.camra.org.uk/events.html*. CAMRA branch diaries are a 'fluid' proposition and ours is no different.

Pub News

BEXLEY: The **Anchor** reopened at the end of June with a plush looking interior, an exterior repaint and improvements to the garden (Summer Of Pub...). Reports about the beer quality have varied; nonetheless two from *Bexley Brewery* have been on the bar.

BEXLEYHEATH: The **Coach House** is still closed despite apparently continuing as a pub. At the **King's Arms**, work is in progress to improve the rooftop 'canopy' space, a raised wall surround has been completed and painted, and the opening of this section is billed for this summer. The **Jolly Millers** has had another recent change of licensee and *Bombardier Amber* has appeared on the bar. A micropub addition in the defunct Tanuki Tattoo parlour in Long lane is mooted, with an application apparently submitted but awaiting a reference.

Rifle Volunteers

Alex and Polly welcome customers old and new to the Rifle Volunteers.

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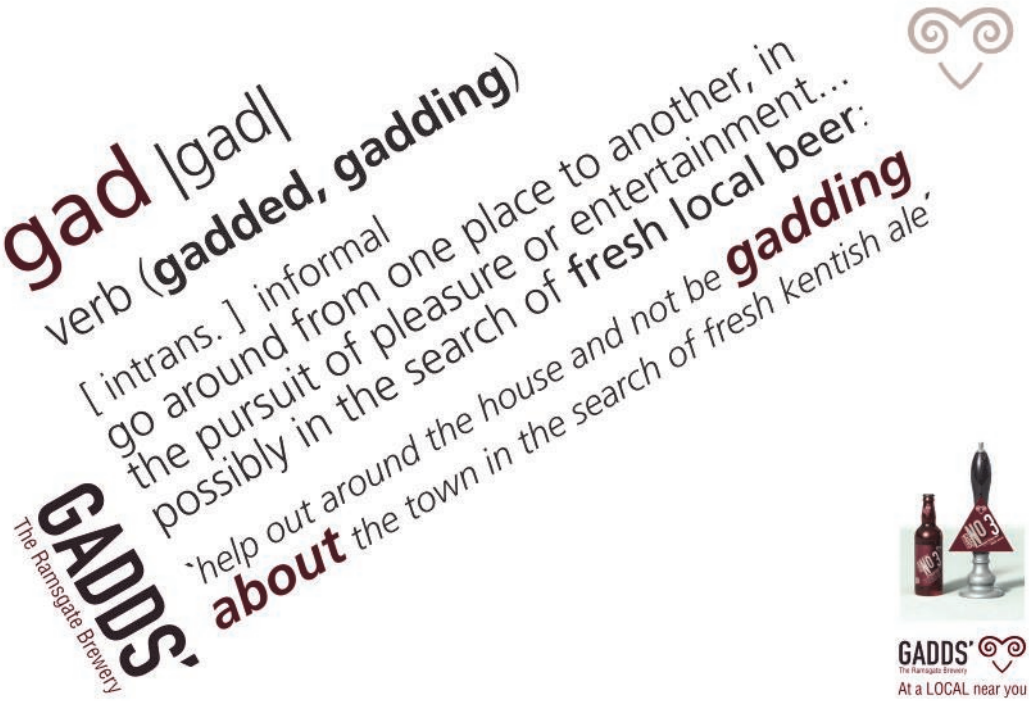
CRAYFORD: At the **Crayford Arms**, the landlady left on Friday 12th July and Shepherd Neame were to install a new manager, the following week.

FALCONWOOD: An application has been made for a micropub at 12 Falconwood Parade, under the name the '**Bolt Hole**', ref 19/01257/FUL. Also see *https://www.fromthemurkydepths.co.uk/2019/06/24/another-micropub-for-bexley-borough-this-time-in-falconwood/*

SIDCUP: We were advised that the micropub project in the old Central Corn Stores on Wellington Parade had change of use permission (ref 19/00143/FUL) as far back as January, but it is not clear if this is going to go ahead.

WELLING: The **Lord Kitchener is** closed, but has been made subject to a Local Listing application. The **Rose and Crown** has reopened, but despite initial suggestions this might have a real ale aspect, there are no hand-pumps. Also, no firm news yet about the movements at the **Door Hinge**.



Board Game: DRAUGHTS (Rules according to the 1991 EDA Handbook.)

This follows the article on the history of Draughts in Draught Copy edition 195

DRAUGHTS BOARD AND MEN

1 The draughts board is square in shape and is divided into 64 squares of equal size, alternately light and dark in colour (technically called black and white).

2 The game is played only on the black squares, which for the purpose of reference are assigned 1 to 32.

3 Each player starts with 12 discs, or "men", all of equal size. One player has dark coloured men (called black) and the other has light coloured men (called white).

4 At the start of play the black men occupy squares 1 to 12 and the white men occupy squares 21 to 32.

ORDER OF PLAY:

5 To start the first game the players decide, by the toss of a coin, which colour they will play. In subsequent games the players alternate colours. The first move in each game is made by the player with the black men; thereafter the moves are made in turn.

ORDINARY MOVE OF A MAN

6 An ordinary move of a man is the transfer diagonally forward left or right from one square to an immediately neighbouring vacant square.

7 When a man reaches the farthest row forward (the king-row or crown head) it becomes a king, and this completes the turn of play. The man is crowned by the opponent, who must place a man of the same colour on top of it before making thier own move. (It may be necessary to borrow from another set if no captured man is available for the purpose).

ORDINARY MOVE OF A KING

8 An ordinary move of a king (crowned man) is from one square diagonally forward **or backward**, left or right, to an immediately neighbouring vacant square.

CAPTURING MOVE OF A MAN

9 A capturing move of a man is the transfer from one square over a diagonally adjacent and forward square occupied by an opponent`s piece (man or king) and on to a vacant square immediately beyond it. (A capturing move is called a 'jump'). On completion of the jump the captured piece is removed from the board.

CAPTURING MOVE OF A KING

10 A capturing move of a king is similar to that of a man, but may be in a forward **or backward** direction.

CAPTURING IN GENERAL

11 If a jump creates a further capturing opportunity, then the capturing move of the piece (man or king) is continued until all the jumps are completed. The only exception is that if a man reaches the king-row by means of a capturing move it then becomes a king but may not make any further jumps in the same turn. At the end of the capturing sequence, all captured pieces are removed from the board, in the order in which they were jumped.

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12 All capturing moves are compulsory. If there are two or more ways to jump, a player may select any one they wish, not necessarily that which gains most pieces. Once started, a multiple jump must be carried through to completion.

TOUCHING THE PIECES

13 If a player on their turn to move, touches a piece, they must play that piece, unless they have given an adjustment warning. If the piece is not legally playable, rule 15.2 applies.

14 If any part of a playable piece is played over a corner of the square on which it is stationed, the move must be completed in that direction.

FALSE, IMPROPER OR ILLEGAL MOVES

15 A player making a false, improper or illegal move shall be cautioned for the first offence, and the move recalled. They forfeit the game for any subsequent false, improper or illegal move made in that game. This applies, for example, if a player:

15.1 Omits to capture or to complete a multiple capture.

15.2 On their turn to play, touches an unplayable piece.

15.3 Moves a piece, either in an ordinary move or in a capturing move, on to a wrong square.

15.4 Moves an uncrowned man backwards.

15.5 When capturing, removes an opponent`s piece or pieces not in a position to be captured by that move.

15.6 When capturing, inadvertently removes one or more of their own pieces.

15.7 Continues a capturing move through the king-row with a man not already crowned.

15.8 Moves a piece when it is not their turn to play.

16 If any of the pieces are accidently displaced by the players or through any cause outside their control, the pieces are replaced without penalty and the game is continued.

17 A player who refuses to adhere to the rules shall immediately forfeit the game.

RESULT OF THE GAME

There are only two possible states to define: the win and the draw.

DEFINITION OF A WIN

18 The game is won by the player who can make the last move; that is, no move is available to the opponent on their turn to play, either because all their pieces have been captured or their remaining pieces are all blocked.

19 A player also wins if their opponent: (1) Resigns at any point; or (2) Forfeits the game by contravening the rules.

DEFINITION OF A DRAW

20 The game is drawn if at any stage both players agree on such a result. (This usually occurs when neither side can force a win).

21 50-move rule. The game shall be declared drawn if, at any stage of the game, a player can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the referee that both the following conditions hold:

21.1 Neither player has advanced an uncrowned man towards the king-row during the previous 50 moves;

21.2 No pieces have been removed from the board during the previous 50 moves.

Note...for the purposes of this rule, a move shall be said to consist of one black move and one white move.

Bexley Beer Festival

Another highly successful CAMRA festival held at Dartfordians Community Sports Club in Bexley, for the seventh year running (the previous seven being held at Sidcup Rugby Club). Our thanks go to Keith Holbrook, Club Steward, and his team at the club for allowing us to run the festival. Despite the rain, we had an excellent attendance of good natured drinkers who, when we closed at 9pm, left us with about 140 pints of beer and 150 pints of cider/perry. Thanks for all your kind comments as we do try to run a festival with a relaxed atmosphere. Attendance was slightly up on last year at 1733, which with the rain and an often indoor swimming pool in the Marquee, we think was a marvellous achievement; thanks to all who attended, glad you enjoyed it. Thank you for your support of the Bexley Mayor's charity from unused tokens and donations where a total of £393.37 was raised.

Marking the centenary of the first successful non-stop flight across the Atlantic by two RAF officers (Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant Arthur Whitten-Brown) in a modified Vickers Vimy bomber, originally designed and built in the Vickers factory in Crayford (about a mile away from the site of the beer festival). Our logo depicted the Vimy with the Kentish White Horse (Invicta) wing walking with the obligatory pint in his hoof, designed by Martyn Nicholls and final printed version created by Chris Woodhams. Hope you got to try Bexley Brewery's special beer to commemorate the event, and did you notice our model plane hanging above the Door/Glasses/Tokens area (now in the **Broken Drum**)? We are indebted to Alan Bartlett for the construction work and Marek for translating the Polish instructions.

We started with 101 different beers, 25 Cider's and 3 Perrys. Beer of the festival, by customer vote, was a tie between *Cullercoats Porthole Coffee Porter* and *Kent Brewery's Old Jamaica* with *Bexley Brewery's Howbury 21-Milk Stout* and *Flash House Forest Fruits Porter* joint second. Cider/Perry winner was *Turners Apple Pie Cider*, with *Turners Rhubarb*, *Wharf Coachbuilder Passion Fruit* and *Napton Single Tree Perry* sharing second place. Thank you to all who voted. The first cask to run out was *Bexley's Alcock and Brown Bitter*, followed by their *Black Prince Rum Porter*, then *Flash House Forest Fruit Porter*. The first Cider/Perry to run out was *Snails Bank Pineapple & Pink Grapefruit* followed by *Turners Apple Pie*. You may have noticed that this year we had a plethora of 'Transatlantic Ales' brewed with American hops in honour of the

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Ye Olde Thirsty Pig Kentish Ale & Cider House

CAMRA Discount – 20p Pint

Happy Hour Mondays – 50p Pint between 18:30 to 20:30!!

OAP (70+) Discount all times draught lagers, ales and cider -50p Pint

Bluelight discount for all active members of the emergency services, Police, Ambulance, Prison Officers, Fire Service Personnel and HM Armed Services – 0.20p Pint

Only one discount at a time discounts will not be combined together

Ye Olde Thirsty Pig was built in the 15th Century and is said to be the third oldest building in Maidstone. Originally it was a farmhouse within the estate of the Archbishop's Palace.

We welcome you to our quaint and quirky multi award winning Kentish Ale & Cider House with a Bar Area, downstairs Snug and corridor to the Courtyard Beer Garden, Upstairs to the Main Room leading to the Toilets and the fully refurbished Function Room.

Opening Hours

Sunday to Thurs	**12:00 noon to 01:00am**
Friday	**12:00 noon to 02:00am**
Saturday	**12:00 noon to 03:00am**

4 Local Ales from Award Winning Kent Breweries!!!

Lagers	**Curious Brew** Kentish lager
	Motorhead Roadcrew American style session pale ale
	Spitfire an easy-drinking lager
	San Miguel Pale Pilsen
	Paulaner Munchen German Lager
Ciders	**Biddenden Bushels** Kentish strong still cider
	Kentish Pip High Diver sparkling Kentish cider
	Section of boxed Kentish Cider

flight made by Alcock and Brown in the shape of Pales, IPAs, Goldens and Blondes. Our dark beer selection had 8 Milds, 8 Porters and 8 Stouts along with 1 Old Ale.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who supported and sponsored us: Westerham and Bexley Breweries for the glasses; The Door Hinge, Penny Farthing, Broken Drum, Hackney Carriage, Hanger, Bird & Barrel, Hopper's Hut and Half Way House for sponsoring the t-shirts, the staff t-shirts via Smart T's, Macaulay Scott of Welling for the card flyers and our printing needs and the six micros who sponsored our 'Strike Cards' (Broken Drum, Hackney Carriage, Penny Farthing, Hanger, Hopper's Hut and Half Way House).

This festival is organised and staffed by CAMRA volunteers from Bexley and beyond, who give up their free time to make it such an enjoyable event, without whom the festival would not exist. Good to see some more newcomers helping out. Thanks to everyone who helped during set-up, worked during opening hours or take down; whatever your role in making Bexley Festival a success, we appreciate and applaud you. Thanks must go to Andy Wheeler proprietor of the Broken Drum micro pub who is the organiser of the event and spends hours slaving away in front of a computer to complete the essential paperwork necessary to bring the festival to life. Glad you all enjoyed it despite the deluge of rain; do come again, shame about no cricket.

Next year, subject to confirmation, 7th - 9th May 2020, the toilets will be finished, it will probably rain, sadly again no cricket, still you can enjoy the beer and cider and perry.

The Flower Pot

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Real ale club 2-4pm Tuesday, 20% off all ale.

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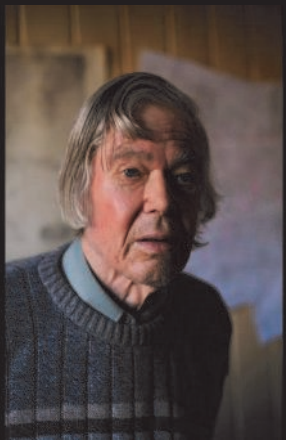
ALAN MARLOW



Members of MMK CAMRA and the wider Kent real ale community, were saddened to learn of the passing, in June, of Alan Marlow, landlord of the Rifle Volunteers in Wyatt Street, Maidstone, for some 37 years until his retirement in 2015.

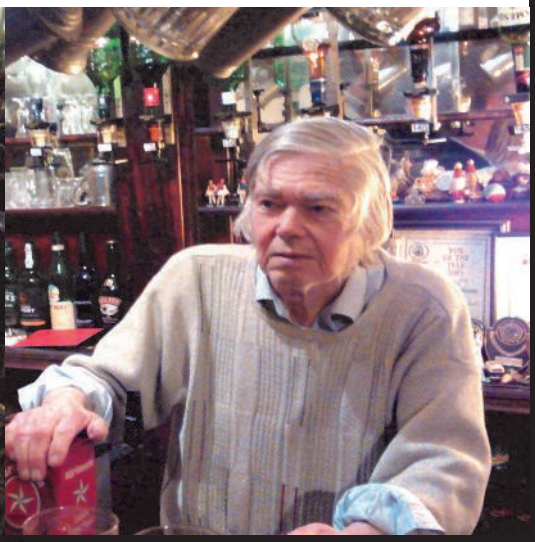
Alan and beloved wife Wendy took over the pub when it was part of the Shepherd Neame estate, and carried on when it was acquired by Goacher's; cementing the pub's reputation for serving the best beer in the County Town, twice winning the local branch's Pub of the Year award.

A man of few words, Alan expected certain levels of conduct from his customers, often reminding those straying over the line with a warning of "Standards!".

A sign of the respect and affection felt by many towards Alan was the fine turnout for a brief memorial service at the end of July and subsequent reception in the Rifle Volunteers, where friends, neighbours, colleagues and customers were able to share memories of a remarkable character.

Alan is survived by Wendy, to whom he became a devoted carer after his retirement.

COLIN MANN



Helen Wright

We have sadly to report the passing of Helen Wright (formerly Rogers) on the 1st July, at the age of 65. GBBF volunteers will perhaps have seen this announced on the Staff Facebook page in advance of the event this year. Quickly taken after having received a pessimistic diagnosis from returning cancer, no one suspected how quickly that would be, least of all her spouse of just a year or so, Ian. This author and numerous people had the fortune to attend their wedding reception, and at both that and the recent memorial, it was evident that Helen was well-loved within her surrounding family and beyond. As a couple, they had relocated towards the end of 2018 to Nottingham and could have expected good times together. Some of the recollections herein are due to CAMRA members in and around Gravesend Branch from early times.

Helen was a long-time volunteer of CAMRA in various capacities, including Finance Committee, and thus a regular attendee at CAMRA AGMs and at the GBBF, along with Ian. Latterly, she had been Membership Secretary to Bexley Branch and London Drinker editor Tony Hedger recounts that it was through her agency that he was recruited to the Finance Team in 1995 after encountering her at the one-off "Euro" food and drink festival in Rochester, sometime around 1994. Think how many others there must be who would want to add a word here after having met her at one or another festival event and found the experience life-changing!

A local girl to the Rochester/Medway area, and from, as it sounds, a family of impeccable real-ale drinking credentials, Helen had joined Gravesend and Darent Valley Branch and is remembered at meetings as early as 1992 at the erstwhile General Gordon in Gravesend.

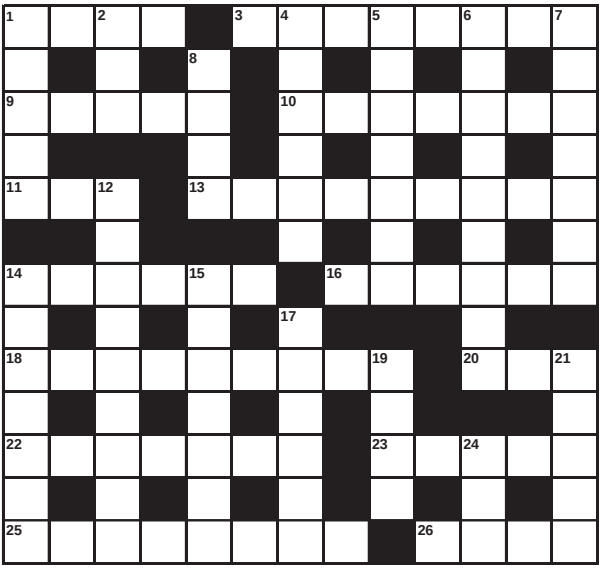
Combining a life-long commitment to socialism, and a Christian faith with a self-deprecating sense of humour, she was firmly against gambling, and would not even purchase a raffle ticket; and if you voiced a bad idea within earshot, you had better be ready for the reply. Nonetheless, as Mick Norman recalls, she would "expound the not unreasonable view that life was meant to be enjoyed to the full, and that this would not necessarily mean turning up at the pearly gates with a perfectly preserved body! ", adding himself that most of us would concur.

She was also a keen singer and member of Gravesend Operatic Society for some years, in such productions of theirs as "Showboat" in 1998, in a production of "Calamity Jane" at the Woodville Halls and also with seasonal Choir performances at Southwark Cathedral; and an organist and guitar-player to boot.

Without Helen, the world won't be quite the same any more. We are all with Ian, who will continue in his capacities on the Finance Security team and at festivals and will surely be more warmly received for this misfortune. He is now attached to Nottingham Branch and can be assured he will receive visits there from his many friends and associates.

Crossword No. 35

compiled by Mick Norman



Solution to Crossword No. 34

T	R	U	M	P			E	S	C	O	R	T
A		N		A		A		P		R		R
S	O	Z	Z	L	E	D		I	N	D	I	A
T		I		E		D		T		E		D
E	S	P	Y			E	N	F	O	R	C	E
D				T	A	R		I		E		D
	E	T	N	A				R	U	D	E	
E		W		K		E	Y	E				M
C	H	I	N	E	S	E			A	B	L	E
H		S		A		R		M		L		N
O	N	T	O	W		I	R	E	L	A	N	D
E		E		A		E		A		C		E
R	E	D	E	Y	E			N	A	K	E	D

Congratulations to Mr J Howarth from Erith who won last time.

Across

1 Eccentric aunt online? (4)
3 Manly queen, unknown in the High Street (8)
9 Goat loses its head, so to speak (5)
10 For example, Farmer first spreads manure around (7)
11 Regularly police business concern (1,1,1)
13 Former West Ham and England manager under Hardy's tree (9)
14 See water at room temperature? (6)
16 Some changes, to reduce funds held in reserve (6)
18 I, Sean Penn, dismembered in Italy (9)
20 Note Homer Simpson's ejaculation (3)
22 Beforehand, more noble perhaps? (7)
23 Second fruit is true (5)
25 Mate let extra bit display on TV (8)
26 Inter football club (4)

Down

1 Powerful card played by head of state (5)
2 Dozy egg? (3)
4 Result over in Ireland (6)
5 Love brass instrument surrounding royal headgear (7)
6 Much taken with wild demeanour (9)
7 Dodgy Eddy lied endlessly and gave in (7)
8 Strong liquor produced in valley heading north, mostly (4)
12 The card Al dealt in Rochester and Canterbury (9)
14 Closest to Eastern storm (7)
15 Half of Queen found at party, so declare guilty (7)
17 No beer for Alexander! Upsetting, so tissue required (6)
19 Takes drink slowly - a wee mistake, possibly! (4)
21 Phillumenism, for example, like a cooker? (5)
24 African beheaded with Eskimo's knife (3)

For a chance to win a crisp £10 drinking voucher please send your completed grid to our compiler:

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No later than October 14th 2019.

A photocopy/scanned copy can be emailed to: mlr_norman@yahoo.com

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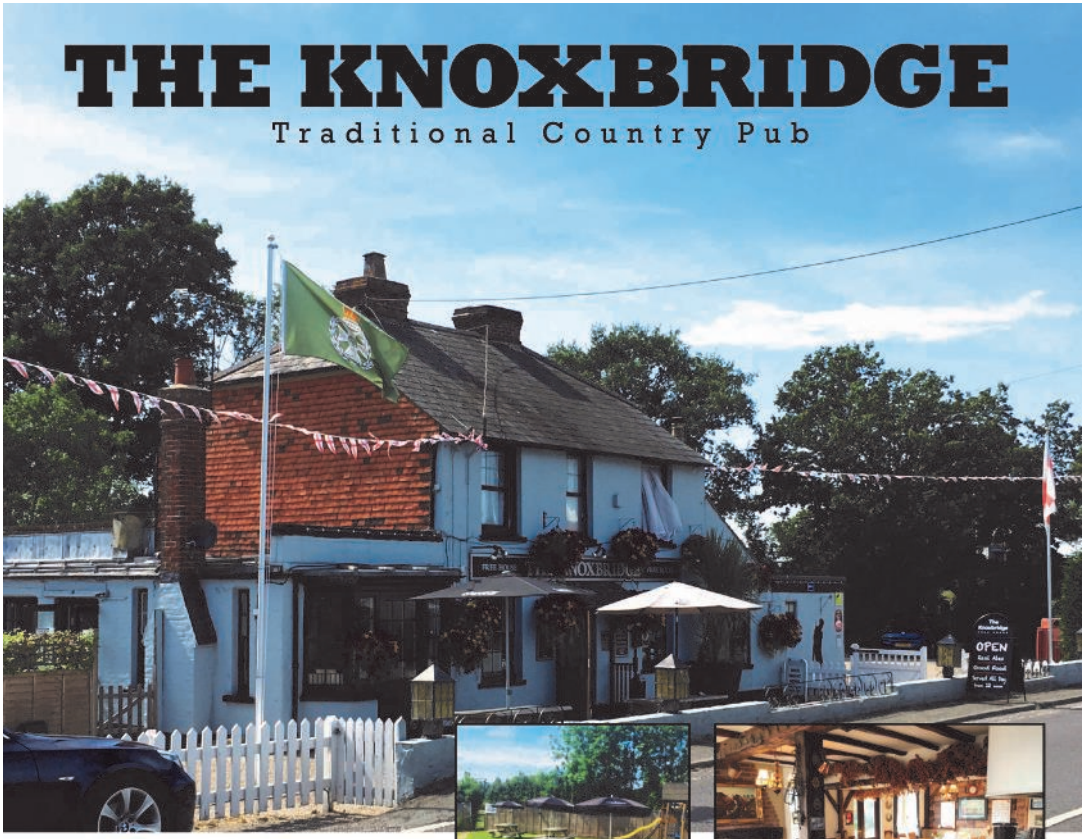

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Campbell Arms, Northfleet	20p per pint
Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
Chequers, Aylesford	10 percent
Coach House, Maidstone	10 percent
Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Cotton Mill, Swanley	10 percent
Crayford Arms, Crayford	10p per pint
Drakes, Maidstone	20p per pint
Earl Haig, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot, Maidstone	10p per pint
George, Singlewell	20p per pint, 10p per half
George Staples, Blackfen	20 percent (*also buy 5, 6th free*)
Golden Lion, Bexleyheath	10 percent
Hill Top Tap, Sidcup	10 percent
Jolly Drayman, Gravesend	10p per pint
Jolly Fenman, Blackfen	10 percent
Moody Mare, Mereworth	Discounted to £3.00p per pint
Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone	20p per pint
Old Prince of Orange, Gravesend	20p per pint
Pippin, Maidstone	10 percent
Pilot, Maidstone	20p per pint
Rose & Crown, Shorne	10% discount
Ship, Cobham	10% discount
Swan, Loose Road, Maidstone	20p per pint, 10p per half
Walnut Tree, Tonbridge Rd, Maidstone	20p per pint
We Anchor in Hope, Welling	10 percent
Yacht, Bexleyheath	10 percent
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent

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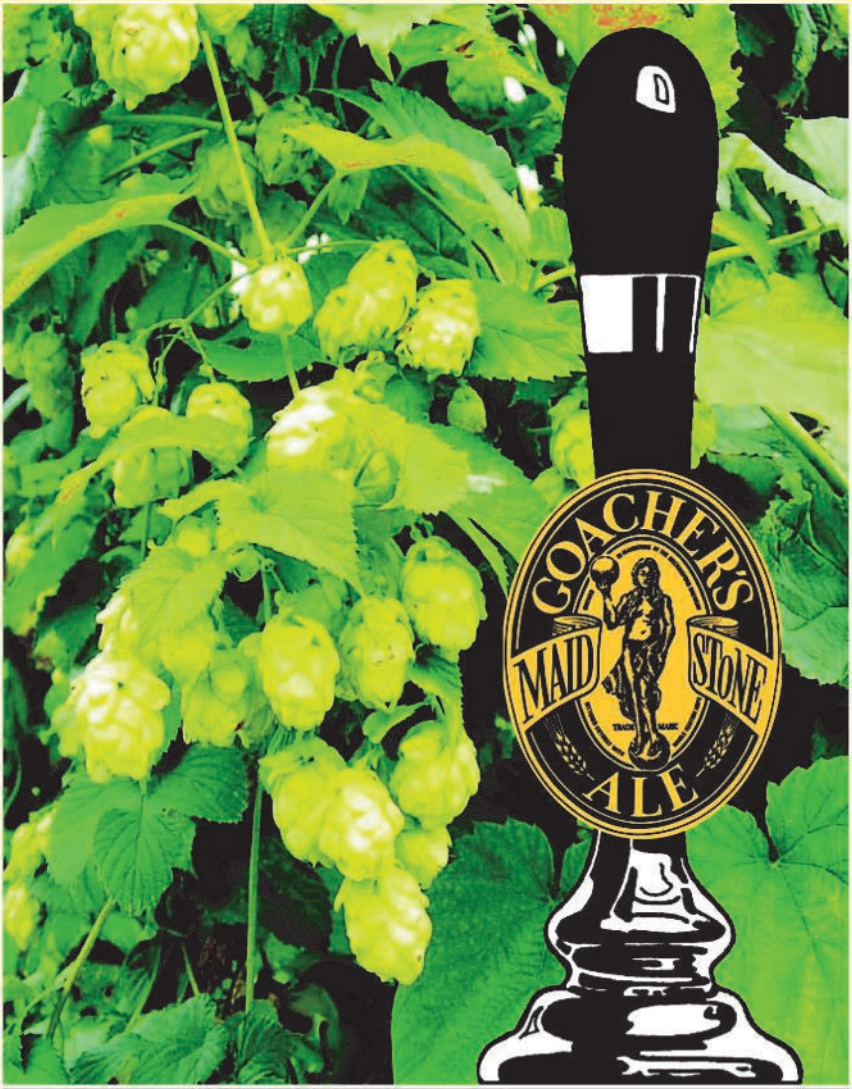

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