

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Magazine

By Maidstone & Mid-Kent
CAMRA

incorporating Gravesend &
Darent Valley, Bexley &
West Kent Branches

Spring 2020 No. 198

Maidstone and Mid Kent Cider Pub of the Year Regional and National awards



(See page 15 for details)

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, Gravesend & Darent Valley and West Kent branches of CAMRA. It is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December and has a circulation of 3,500 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials.

If you find a pub selling short measure, allowing smoking in the premises, or other illegal things in pubs, please have a quiet word with the landlord in the first instance. However, if you need to complain about a licensed premises in your area, report the problem to Trading Standards by contacting Citizens Advice, who will pass the details to your local Trading Standards service: Call the Citizens Advice consumer service helpline on 03454 04 05 06 (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm). We should demand the very highest standards of service in our pubs.

Advertising rates:

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

Twitter: *www.twitter.com/mmkcamra*



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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Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinup, or call 01727 798440.* All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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The data you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

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, **WK:** West Kent

- February **MMK** 20 20:30, Bell & Jorrock, Frittenden, then Knoxbridge
WK 20 19:30, Southborough/TW crawl, starting at the Imperial
WK 21 A group of drinkers from the Engine Room, East Grinstead are visiting Tunbridge Wells and invited us to join them on a pub crawl, details tbc
BEX 26 20:00, GBG entries final selection Mtg, Furze Wren, 6 Market Pl, Bexleyheath DA6 7DY
GDV 26 20:00, Biz Mtg. & GBG selection, Glentworth Club (Dartford)
MMK 27 20:30, Yew Tree, Sandling, then Red Bull, Eccles
- March **MMK** 5 20:30, Moody Mare, Mereworth, then Swan on the Green, West Peckham
BEX 7 12:00 noon, Social with Bromley branch, starting at Hackney Carriage, 165 Station Rd, Sidcup DA15 7AA then other branch Micros
WK 9 20:00, Branch Business Meeting in Sevenoaks, details tbc
BEX 11 20:30, Brch Mtg, 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7EZ
GDV 12 20:00, Mole Hole, Goose, Invicta Bar (Gravesend)
MMK 12 20:30, Biz. Mtg., Red Lion, Lenham
MMK 16 11:20, Bus & Walk, Rodmersham to Bredgar
MMK 19 20:30, Bell, Bearsted, then Black Horse, Thurnham
WK 19 Tonbridge Crawl
MMK 21 19:00, MMK Annual Dinner – Knoxbridge, Frittenden
GDV 25 20:00, Black Horse (Stansted), Villager (Vigo)
MMK 27 20:30, Brickmakers, Maidstone, then Flower Pot
- April **BEX** 1 19:00, Social, start at the Malt Shovel, 3 Darent Rd, Dartford DA1 1LP
MMK 2 20:30, Eight Bells, Hawkhurst, then Queens Inn
BEX 8 20:30, Brch Mtg, Bexley CC/Burnt Ash Hockey Club, Manor Way, Bexley DA5 3QG
GDV 9 20:00, Dart, Bird in Hand, Ship (Dartford)
MMK 9 20:30, Bell & Jorrock (beer festival)
WK 10 Planet Thanet Beer Festival (Good Friday) Trip
MMK 16 20:30, Nevill Bull, Birling, then Duke of Wellington, Ryarsh
MMK 18 10:25, Bus Trip to Staplecross and Ewhurst Green
WK 18 14:00 Branch AGM, Royal Oak, Prospect Road, Tunbridge Wells, followed by buffet. All members invited to attend
GDV 22 20:00, Open business meeting, Three Daws (Gravesend)
MMK 23 20:30, Knoxbridge, Frittenden (beer festival)
WK 23 Social - details tbc
MMK 25 11:40, Bus/Train trip to Chequers, Laddingford beer festival
MMK 30 20:30, Rockin' Robin on the Green, Barming, then Bull
- May **MMK** 5 12:18, Bus & Walk, Stansted to Wrotham
GDV 7 20:00, Bexley Beer Festival
MMK 7 20:30, Branch AGM/Biz Mtg, Style & Winch, Maidstone
MMK 14 20:30, Star & Eagle, Goudhurst, then Vine
GDV 20 20:00, Rising Sun (Twitton), Woodman (Otford)
MMK 22 20:30, Mild Social – Rifle, Flower Pot, Society Rooms
MMK 28 20:30, Bull, Linton, then Cock, Boughton Monchelsea

MUSKET

BREWERY



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



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BALL PULLER
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LOCAL BEER & CIDER FESTIVALS

CAMRA Festivals:

March 6 - 7 North Sussex Equinox Beer & Cider Festival

Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham town centre, RH12 1JF.

Website: www.northsussex.camra.org.uk/equinox. Email: camra.equinox@gmail.com

50+ beers, plus real cider & perry and Sussex sparkling wine.

£6 Fri, £8 Sat afternoon, £4 Sat eve, incl souvenir glass

& free pint for CAMRA membs. No music.

Fri 6-10pm then Sat 1130am-430pm & 630-10pm.

April 10 - 11 15th Thanet Easter Beer & Cider Festival

Margate Winter Gardens

Website: www.easterbeerfestival.org.uk

Over 200 real ales, ciders and perries, Speciality & foreign bottled beers

Hot & Cold food in the quiet hall (only food purchased on site may be consumed at the festival) Live entertainment on both days

Due to increased venue security please be prepared for bag searches.

Fri: 12:00 - 22:00, Sat: 12:00 - 19:00 Saturday

Children accompanied by well-behaved adults welcome until 19.00

Admission per person Friday £6.00/Saturday £3.00

(Free to card Carrying CAMRA members both days)



May 7 - 9 15th Bexley Beer Festival

Dartfordians Community Sports Club, Bourne Rd, Bexley DA5 1LW

Website: www.bexley.camra.org.uk

90+ beers, ciders & perries. Refundable souvenir glass £3.

Hot/cold food. Snacks + soft drinks avail at Club Bar.

Thurs: 14:00 - 23:00 Fri: 11:00 - 23:00 Sat: 11am-8pm,

CAMRA membs + under-26s – free admission with ID (proof of age), non CAMRA £3.



Sept 5 11th East Malling Beer and Cider Festival

East Malling Research, New Road, East Malling, Kent. ME19 6BJ.

Twitter: [@embeerfestival](https://twitter.com/embeerfestival). Website: muk.camra.org.uk

70+ Real Ales, 30+ Real Kent Ciders & Perries.

Open: 11am to 7pm (or until the beer runs out).

Families Welcome. Hot & Cold food available. Live Music sessions throughout the day.

Free festival shuttle bus every 30 minutes from West Malling Station (10.50) and Aylesford Station (11am).

Other Events:

April 10 - 12 Bell & Jorrocks Beer Festival,

Biddenden Road, Frittenden, Kent TN17 2EJ.

23 - 26 Knoxbridge Beer Festival,

Cranbrook Road (A229), Frittenden, Kent TN17 2BT.

Website www.theknoxbridge.co.uk

Selection of 16 real ales & ciders.

25 - 26 Chequers Beer Festival,

The Street, Laddingford, Kent TN18 6BP.

Website www.chequersladdingford.co.uk

May 22 - 25 Compass Alehouse Spring Beer Festival

7 Manor Road, Gravesend DA12 1AA.

LOCAL BEWERIES

Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	www.bexleybrewery.co.uk
Boutilliers	07715 698441	www.boutilliers.com
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 Joe	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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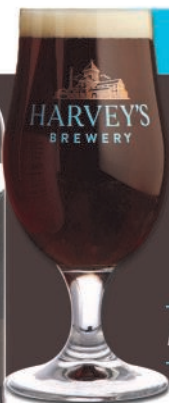




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BEER BODS VOTED

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'BEER OF THE FESTIVAL'

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AN UPDATE FROM TONBRIDGE AND KENT WEALD *by Paul Tuohy*

Having moved from Dartford to near Hildenborough in Kent just a year ago I was keen to try out the local pubs, having left Dartford behind after 32 years. One of my favourites out here, is the **Windmill** in the Weald of Kent. It was formally run by the brilliant Matt and Emma Rudd, but shortly after we arrived in December 2018 I learnt he was selling up and moving to the **Nelson Arms** in Tonbridge. New owner Richard arrived shortly after. New beers were introduced, including the excellent range from Margate in the form of Northdown Brewery. *Pale Mary* is excellent in the low 4's abv with *He Bru the big boy* at around 5%.

Meanwhile Matt's Midas touch was taken to the run down **Nelson Arms** in a quiet residential street in Tonbridge. The atmosphere is very 'Windmill' with candles, hops, soft lighting and a snug with leather backed chairs. The other side houses a more sports orientated area and space for popular acoustic and folk music. There are themed days like Pie Tuesday, which my wife Wendy and I tried, with the stunning *Prohibition* from the brilliant Kent Brewery to accompany excellent grub. Arbor 'Rocker Man' was also on along with award winning *Shere Drop* (4.2%) from Surrey-Hills Brewery. Now it is super busy being so well run.

Back down on the High Street, Tonbridge has two fairly new ale houses. The **Beer Sellar** is 'cask city'! Pig and Porter 'Skylarking' *Pale* and *Blackbird stout* are superb. Also Cellar Head *Session Pale* and the brilliantly titled *Janet Street Porter* at 5% from the Ice Cream Factory brewing company. All ales are delivered from gravity.



Onwards up the street and you'll find the **Fuggles Beer Café**. A superb range of both cask and keg with one of the best toasties I've ever had, served by the excellent Owen. Burning Sky featured on my last visit with

Plateau kicking things off at 3.5% followed by *Aurora* at 5.6%. I can highly recommend a half 'n' half with these two brews.



Back in Tonbridge you can start at the **Nelson**, then walk down to the high street for the **Beer Sellar** on the left then up a little further on the right for **Fuggles**, while the **Windmill** is 4 miles from Tonbridge. I have, whilst cycling, started to find some great country pubs, like the **Greyhound** near Chiddingstone Causeway, run by Fran and Richard, and what a job they've been doing! Well kept ales from Larkin's *Traditional* and *Porter*, through to guest pales and bitters. In summer Richard fronted a mini beer fest and despite the heat, he made sure all ales were cool. Food here is excellent with meat from Richards family farm. A few miles climbing and I came across the **Rock Inn** situated a mile from Larkin's brewery. This pub is about as country as you'll find in the county. Friendly service and three ales on. The *House Ale* of course is Larkin's but also *Darkstar Hophead* and a *Porter*.

Any finally... most of the pubs mentioned above do good discounts for 'off sales' if you have a beer growler or similar. I went the whole hog two years ago, investing in a Ukeg from Growlerwerks in the USA. Its not cheap, but boy does it keep your beer well! They come in a 64oz (3 pt) and 128oz (6pt) and you use a co2 cartridge to keep your ale under pressure. They claim it will keep it fresh for up to two weeks, and whilst I've never got that far, I have after a week, and it was excellent. **Fuggles Beer Café** and **Beer Sellar** promote the plastic growler and fills cost between 20% to 25% less than the pub price.



Richard at the **Windmill** and Matt at the **Nelson** offer similar discounts so when I know there's a favourite on I make sure the Ukeg is fully charged and ready to rumble!

THE KNOXBRIDGE

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& MILITARY VEHICLE SHOW

25TH & 26TH APRIL

16 REAL ALES & CIDERS

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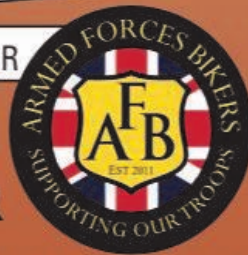
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DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Marden Village Club



CAMRA Maidstone & Mid-Kent Club of the Year 2019
CAMRA Kent Club of the Year 2019



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- Six real ales supporting Kent breweries
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Email: office@mardenvillageclub.co.uk
www.mardenvillageclub.co.uk

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

Larkins' Ale House recognised as National Finalist — Following on from our



announcement in the Summer, which saw **Larkins' Ale House** win branch Cider Pub of the Year (CPOTY); we can now reveal that, not only did the pub go on to win the Kent Regional Cider Pub of the Year (*The best cider pub in the county*), but then

attained the dizzy heights of National finalist. This means it can say it is one of the top four cider pubs in Great Britain. January saw our branch Chairman present both certificates to a packed pub while customers sampled 12 different ciders and 6 different ales. Our congratulations to Mark, Wendy, Kevin and Julie and all involved with the pub.



Angel, Addington – A quiet trip to here when a few members visited on a wet evening when not many others were about either. On the bar were the permanent ale *Westerham Angel Bitter* with guests *Tonbridge Traditional*, *Old Dairy Blue Top* and *Dartford Wobbler Pedlar's Best*.

Nevill Bull, Birling – New operating hours of 9am-3 Mon; 9am-11 Tue-Sat; 9am-7 Sun with food available 9am-3 Mon-Wed; 9am-3, 6-9 Thu-Sat; 9am-4 Sun. Breakfasts may now be taken here from 9am to 11.30am. <https://www.nevillbullbirling.com/> FB: [birlinginkent](https://www.facebook.com/birlinginkent)



Oak & Ivy, Hawkhurst - The licensee had left and pub was found to be closed in January.

Royal Oak, Hawkhurst – The licensee is now Lawrence Smith.



Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne – I am informed the restaurant is now on the left and the bar on the right. *Greene King IPA*, *Marston's 61 Deep* and *Wadworth 6X* were available when last visited.

Windmill, Hollingbourne – No longer run by Richard Phillips, as Hush Heath Hospitality Limited will now be operating this pub/restaurant. The staff will continue as before. It is too early for any changes at present.



Chequers, Loose - On Bank Holiday Monday (May 25th), the pub will be supporting the Loose Village Duck Races. This event is always very popular, especially with children, and is supported by many of the local villagers. At least 4 beers will be available, *Rockin' Robin Reliant Robin*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Sharps Doom Bar*, and one LocAle from Canterbury Ales. There will be an outside bar serving cask ale on gravity.

Brickmakers Arms, Maidstone – Steve Dempster is now the manager here. Glasses have been replaced and the pub has had a good clean. *Fullers London Pride* currently remains as a permanent and there will be two pumps dedicated to ales from Kent Brewery and a fourth which will be for a guest. The operating hours are now 3-11 Mon-Thu, 12-11 Fri & Sat and 12-10.30 Sun.



Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone – The manager, Paul Franklin, has passed away after a period of ill health. Our condolences go to his family and those who worked with him. He will be missed by our branch members.

Swan (Loose Road), Maidstone - In addition to the usual beers, *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*; *Bedlam Benchmark* has appeared here and was found to be excellent.

Pilot, Maidstone - The manager here has changed again.

Rifle Volunteers, Maidstone - The customary *Goachers Old 1066* evening was held on the first Friday in January with a very large attendance. Two pins of the strong winter brew were available in addition to the usual selection of four ales from the Goachers brewery in Tovil. As it was Alex's birthday the customers wished him well with a chorus of Happy Birthday. Polly kindly provided grateful drinkers with some free sustenance with bowls of Coq au Vin and Chilli.



Kings Arms, Offham – Lee March, who also has the Angel in Addington, has taken on the lease here and the manager is Saffi Streames.

Rockin' Robin Smokery, Staplehurst – Robin has decided not to continue with this, as he now has two other pubs. A new business owner will soon be in place.



Queens Head, Sutton Valence – Licensee Rob Simmonds tells me that the footfall is now increasing again since he has taken over. Whilst the popular *Goacher's Fine Light Ale* and *Young's*

Quiz Night on Monday

Open 12 – 2.30 and 5 – 11 Monday – Thursday
12 – 11 Friday and Saturday
12 – 10.30 Sunday

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West Malling**



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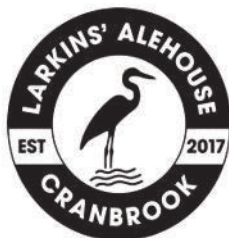
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LARKINS' ALEHOUSE

Larkins' Alehouse is Cranbrook's micropub.

It's a place to meet up with friends, chat and enjoy a pint of real ale straight from the cask. Local ciders and wines are also available, as are soft drinks.

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Saturday	12.00 - 10.30pm
Sunday	12.00 - 6.00pm

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e 07786 707476 Wendy
f info@larkins-alehouse.co.uk
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a larkins-alehouse.co.uk
7 High Street, Cranbrook. Kent TN17 3EB

Proprietors: Mark, Wendy, Kevin & Julie

Registered Co: Larkins' Alehouse Limited

Registered Co Number: 10820282

Trading as Larkins' Alehouse



Bitter remain they have been joined by *Black Sheep Bitter* and a guest beer – recently *Eagle Bombardier*. <https://www.thequeenshead-pub.co.uk> Facebook: TheQueensHeadSV

Good Intent, West Farleigh - A recent visit to this pleasant pub with views over the Medway Valley, yielded *Tonbridge Traditional* (3.6%) and *Cellar Head Red Rye IPA* (4.5%), both in good/very good condition at £4 a pint. Reasonably priced traditional 'pub grub' also available. Your hosts are Steve and Pauline.



Swan on the Green, West Peckham - Paul, the brewer here, is using a new hop named Mozart (experimental number CF169) in making a new ale called *Wolfgang Amadeus* (4.0%). This is an English hop but has a more of an American style. He also intends experimenting with another new hop, *Harlequin*, and with some dry hopping over the next couple of months. The regular ales are *Fuggles Pale*, *Trumpeter Best* and *Cygnnet*.



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email: gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk www.gdv.camra.org.uk



There have been several developments regarding the **Chequers** at Farningham since the last edition. First, the planning application to convert the bar temporarily to a flat was turned down by Sevenoaks Council and at the time of writing the pub is still open, complete with its life-size mannequin of an ancient waiter with a bow tie, its suit of armour and its American cowboy fruit machine. However we hear that John Knight, the landlord, died just before Christmas.

A planning application has been submitted to convert the **George & Dragon** at Swanscombe into a Domino's Pizza franchise. The applicant alleges that the pub wasn't viable but this must be arguable on the basis that Brexit uncertainty was a factor in its slow sale. The pub falls under the influence of Ebbsfleet Development Corporation whose planning officers have recommended acceptance of the application, presumably to supply deliveries to the large housing developments in the area which are singularly lacking in facilities. Unfortunately it will leave Swanscombe's pubs badly depleted as the nearby **Alma** has now been demolished for replacement by a multi-occupation house.



On the other hand it must be all right to have new pubs in the housing estates as we've just heard that **Marston's Spring River** is to be joined by a *Shepherd Neame* pub at Castle Hill, to be called the **Chalk Yard**.

The **Ascot Arms** in Gravesend has closed again, probably permanently this time. There is a planning application to convert the **Miller's Cottage** to a house. However down in the town improvements continue. The second room at the **Mole Hole** has been finished, effectively doubling the size of the pub. This finishes the renovation of the cellar under that particular



High Street building, though it is thought there may still be an air-raid shelter there as well as a tunnel from under the court house to the river. Some nice pictures have been hung in the bar at **TJ's**. Several feature Tara, the red and white Irish setter who runs the pub. One shows the pub as it would have looked in 1823 and one is an impression of the view of the garden at the back from East Crescent Road without the boundary fence.



50 WAKEFIELD ROAD | GREENHITH. KENT | DA9 9JE

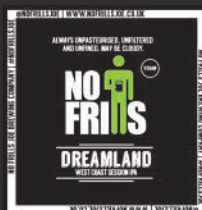
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At the bottom of Meopham, *Gales Seafarers Ale* has replaced *Sharp's Doom Bar* at the **Railway**, while at the top, the **King's Arms** has work in progress but is thought likely to reopen as a pub / restaurant. A recent branch visit to the area found

Canterbury Ales The Reeve's Ale and the relatively new *Iron Pier Long Ferry* (a 3.9% ABV amber ale) as guest beers with the regular *Dark Star Hophead* and *Greene King IPA* at the **Darnley Arms** in Cobham. The

Golden Lion at Luddesdown now has *Fuller's London Pride*, *Gales Seafarers Ale* and *Gadd's No 5* as regulars and the guest beer alternates between *Timothy Taylor Boltmaker* and *Landlord*. Down the road at the **Cock**, *Adnams Lighthouse*, *Southwold Bitter* and



Broadside, *Goacher's Real Mild*, *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter*, *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *St Austell Trelawny* are all regular beers. We wonder if seven regulars without a guest beer is some kind of record.

The **Villager** at Vigo reopened before Christmas and seems to have got off to a good start with its increased food offering, being busy on the weekend before. *Old Dairy Red Top*, *Skinnners Betty Stogs*, *St Austell Proper Job* and *Timothy Taylor Landlord* were all available and the plan is for a rotating selection of real ales.



Under its new ownership, the **Rising Sun** at Twitton has acquired a décor based around the Battle of Britain with lots of memorabilia, including signed drawings by some of the pilots, replica Spitfires and a model of a pilot in his flying helmet. Even the inn sign now features a Spitfire. This pub seems secure now but unfortunately the same cannot be said

of the **Rising Sun** at Cotman's Ash near Kemsing, which will close on January 31 on the retirement of Michelle, the landlady since the mid 1980's. This isolated former hunting lodge was once a favourite haunt of local CAMRA members and has continued to offer an unusual real ale for the area, such as *Cotleigh Seahawk* in December.

News from Swanley Village is that the **Brew Buddies Taproom** is closed. Apparently the landlord had issues with the impact of the visitors every weekend. Further, by the time this edition of *Draught Copy* appears, the brewery is likely to be closed, to be shipped to France. It seems the eventual plan is to import beer from there, to Britain.





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The Nelson Arms



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CAMRA 2020

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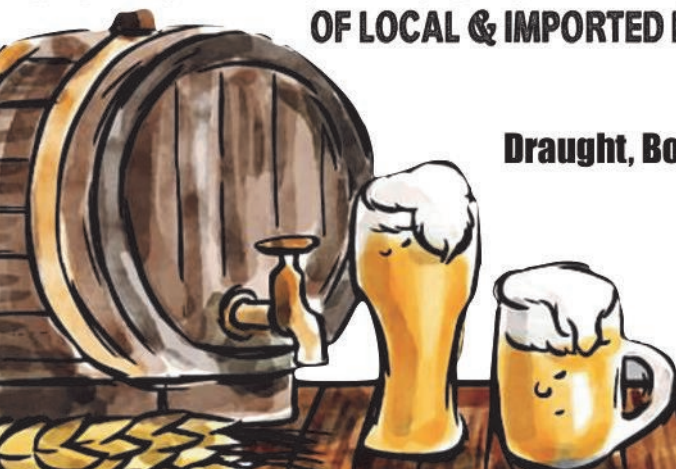
7 Cask Ales

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The **Chequers** at Crockenhill had three seasonal beers on, simultaneously, before Christmas, *Banks's Brewdolph*, *Hook Norton Greedy Goose* and *Titanic Atlantic Red*. Beers in the cellar to follow were *Ossett Nervous Turkey*, *Butcombe Chrismoose* and *Robinsons Mr Scrooge*.

The **Ship** at Sutton at Hone had two real ales after Christmas, *Morland Old Golden Hen* and *Wye Valley HPA*. The **Queen** in South Darenth had *Kent Brewery Bounty Hunter* coconut porter on over Christmas but is going to stop selling their *Brewers Reserve* and replace it with a craft keg *Beavertown* beer.



Following its purchase by *Shepherd Neame*, the **Horse & Groom** at Leyton Cross, Wilmington was only selling their beers in December but the range did include their Christmas beer *Rudolph's Reward*. The nearby **Plough** had four ales available at the time including *Fuller's Santa By Surf Aussie Golden Ale*.



The **Dartford Jug** in Dartford had a change of management a few months ago, with the link with *Kent Brewery* becoming looser. The number of beers on offer at one time has been slightly reduced, with *Kent Session Pale* remaining as a regular. Local reports speak of improved beer quality as a result. A set of three third pint glasses is available in a wooden "bat" or "paddle" at £4.20 a bat, and

these devices are also available for six and amazingly nine glasses, which seems not to have been come across before. Also in Dartford, the council have approved the application to convert the **Woodman** to six flats.

The **Ship** at Green Street Green near Longfield remains closed at the time of writing. Information about this had been hard to come by but a response was eventually received from Wellington Pub Company, who were understood to have repossessed the pub in July. This was that they were waiting on the freeholder, who we believe to be EI Group (in the process of being taken over by Stonegate Inns at this time), to decide if the pub was to reopen. All very strange and we shall keep an eye on developments.



Iron Pier are now two years old and have just added two new conical fermenters to the brewery to take the current capacity up to 12,500l. They were running at full capacity at the end of last year and decided to reduce the range of beers for a time, to keep up with demand for *Perry Street Pale*, *Bitter* and *Joined at the Hop*. Plans for 2020 include new beers, a revival of the programme of barrel-aged specials and maybe the resurrection of some of *Russell's Shrimp Brand* beers. They will also continue some bottling of special beers and are looking at canning.

Rifle Volunteers



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

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OPENING TIMES

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Friday & Saturday: 12pm - 11pm

Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

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Social Responsibility 1: Picking up from a recent What's Brewing back page article, we can take this occasion to highlight the socially responsible side of pub life. The **Prince of Wales** (13a Woolwich Rd on the corner with Albert Rd, Upper Belvedere) actively furthers the presence and comfort of dementia sufferers in the community. This work does some credit to the proprietor (EI) and the tenant, Helen Jones, and so it is a challenge to pubs in other areas, in their capacity as community hubs, to match it. Let these pages know of the efforts of any you can name. Wouldn't it be nice to give CAMRA the headache of considering adding in a "dementia-friendly" icon as part of GBG and Whatpub selection criteria?



Social Responsibility 2: It's the fate of many events to show up in our diaries too late for these periodicals, but we can at least indicate them to show their value. On the 18th January, the denizens of the **Penny Farthing** (3 Waterside, Crayford) held a Charity event in support of Canine Partners, raising an as yet uncalculated sum. Games, raffles and good beer. Your author was not present, alas, but it would have cost him a beard, as it did one or two others who took up the Yard of Ale and whom I shall now not recognise on next meeting. Canine Partners is a Guildford based group and, as the name suggests, pairs a dog with a person, in this case usually one with a physical disability.



Local Events: following on (sort of) with another "in between" item - the **Kentish Belle** (8 Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath) scheduled a Winter Ales Festival for February 23 to 26, with 12 cask beers on from brewers both local and national (think *Saltaire*, *New Bristol*, *Northern Whisper* and you won't be too far off). The pub is developing a history of such



presentations, so if you read this and think "missed it", then something else will at least be in the offing later in the year. And if you didn't miss it, you will have beaten the locals to the drop... you have to be quick.

Prince Albert: We hear from Shepherd Neame's Tenant Operations manager, Greg Wallis, that a new tenant is expected for this pub at, or after, the end of January. A fine building with a key location in Bexleyheath (2 Broadway) opposite the Council offices and within 100 yds of a very large development of flats on the old Council Offices site. Known in the past as the Pots and Pans due to the volume of copper implements hung up in the interior, there has been much speculation about this pub since the outgoing tenant took over the nearby **Lord Hill;** hopefully this will end it.



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Opening times

Times are -

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Wednesday 3-11

Thursday 3-11

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Saturday 12-12

Sunday 12-10

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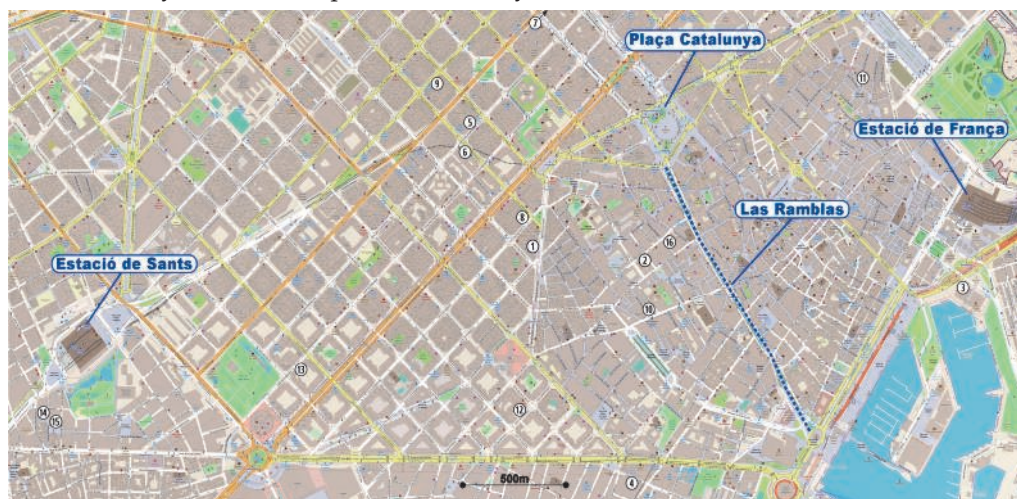
CAMRA DISCOUNT



THE OLD BREWERY, BUCKLAND ROAD, MAIDSTONE ME16 0SL

The main reason for a trip to Spain, last September, was a visit to Port Aventura theme park (no decent beer), but we did manage to tag on a couple of days in Barcelona...

The Sagrada Família may have been in the making for almost 140 years (and it's still being built), but the Spanish beer industry has seen a revolution over the past decade. Five years ago, I wouldn't be writing this article at all! The only beers around then were mostly mainstream lagers from San Miguel or Estrella Damm. Now there are over 30 microbreweries within 10km of the centre, and 16 bars on my list to visit, spread over 2 days.



For the purposes of navigation, I have just included a basic city map; the Tourist Information Centres all provide free, more detailed maps of the maze of small narrow and cobbled streets. I have also omitted hours of business, as these vary with season. Beers come out at around €5-€7 a pint, and, generally, unless you need to walk more than 15 minutes to the next pub, don't take the Metro. By the time you have entered the station, waited for a train, and got lost taking a myriad of exits, it's not worth it!

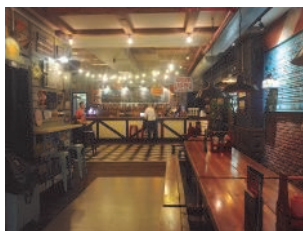
The first bar on the day's itinerary (after the obligatory photos outside the Nou Camp stadium) was the **Blacklab Brewhouse** (3), located in an old quayside warehouse at Plaça de Pau Vila 1. If you're hungry, food here is of the Asian-American variety; if you're feeling flush, there are





some nice yachts for sale in the harbour! I just chose the beer *Tropicalius*, from a selection of 11 beers brewed on the premises. The next place, **CocoVail Beer Hall** (7) was a fair distance away that did need a trip on the Metro. Opened in 2016 in an old textile factory at C/

d'Aragó 284, 24 pumps dispense beers from local and further afield, in an American Style bar, showing sports from America to match. *DouGalls Session Stout* from *Cerveza DouGalls* in Liérganes, Northern Spain was the choice. From here, the next few bars were a short walk away. Closest was **Mikkeler Bar** (9) at C/de



València, where I chose *Peninsula Brewery Hop On*, from Madrid. Mikkeler now have over 40 bars around the world, including one in Hackney. A couple of streets away at C/Consell De Cent 261 is **Garage Beer** (5), a bar/brewery that



started production in 2014, and I selected a rather nice *Neipa* (Unfiltered) *Soup* and had a good chat with the barman Diego, originally from Argentina. This brewery also supplies some of the beer to the **Chivuo's** chain of bars in the city.

The next bar was **BierCaB** (6), just round the corner at C/de Mutiner 55. A tapas snack in here was washed down with a very sour beer, *Growing Death*, from the *La Cavalera Brewery* in Ripoll, Catalunya. To avoid a long walk later on, I missed

out the **Barcelona Beer Co** further down the street and instead, set off by Metro for the well-established **Abirradarro** bar/brewery (4) at C/de Vila i Vilà 77. A *CitraMango Juice IPA* was chosen here - not quite brewed round the back, but close enough as the premises is 20m away. You will also find that the stouts and porters in here are served closer to 'proper' UK temperatures than other bars.



From here, just the other side of Parallel you can find **Barna Brew** (12) bar/brewery at C/Parlament 45 that also started production in 2014. This is owned by Alex, originally from Bromley, who discovered his love of beer from time spent in Belgium. Oh, and he also used to drink in the Rambler's Rest in Chislehurst! Beer of choice was from the microbrewery at the rear, *Moreneta Bruna*, and



Alex also offered up a few tasters. A long walk ensued next, with a break on the way at **Ølgod Craft** (10) located at C/de l'Hospital 74, a Danish themed bar that opened in 2016. Out of the 30 beers on tap, I chose the *Edge Padrino Porter* from Barcelona. Continuing the long walk I arrived at **Ale and Hop**

(11) at Basses de Sant Pierre 10. This is a tiny bar, away from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding streets. I found myself drinking a *Cyclic Beer Farm Porter*, a sour dark beer, almost like a Lambic, brewed in the north of the city.

Next, it worked out better to take the Metro to Universitat for the **Barcelona Beer Company** (8) at Muntaner 7. *Cerdos Voladores* was drunk here - I found out later that means 'Flying Pigs' in Spanish and the beers are brewed in Sant Andreu close by.

Now it was getting towards the time of the last train back to our accommodation, 30 miles out of the city, and there were still three bars left. After another Metro journey alighting at Rocafort, I found the first of these, the tiny



gad |gad|
verb (**gadded, gadding**)

[intrans.] informal
go around from one place to another, in
the pursuit of pleasure or entertainment...

possibly in the search of **fresh local beer**:
'help out around the house and not be **gadding**
about the town in the search of fresh kentish ale'



GADD'S
The Ramsgate Brewery



GADD'S
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At a LOCAL near you

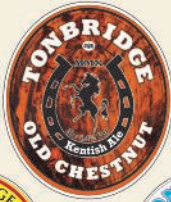
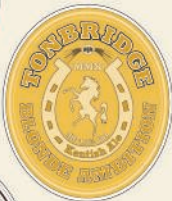
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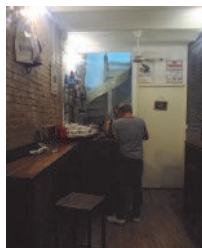
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La Més Petita (13), at C/Diputacio 30. This is the original Spanish Micropub, - at a pinch you may fit 15 people inside. Normally there are 8 beers on in here, and another *Edge Padrino Porter* was the selection. From here it was back on the Metro to Barcelona Sants, where the two



remaining bars were to be found close by. The first of these was **Homo Sibaritis** (15), at Plaça d'Osca 4. It was unusual to find *Straight Up IPA* all the way from the *DOT Brewery* in Dublin here. The last port of call for the day was **LaGorda Beer Factory** (14), closer to Sants Station at C/Riego 29, finishing the day off with a 7.9% *Lervig Liquid Sex Robot IPA* from Stavanger, Norway. I noted down (would never have remembered otherwise!) that this was €7.40 a pint, probably around 3 times cheaper than had I drank it in Norway! That was the end of a busy day, with three bars left to visit the following day before the flight home.



The next day started with a visit to **Fabrica Moritz** (1) at Ronda de Sant Antoni 39-43. This impressive brewery tap opened, along with the brewery vaults in the basement, in 2011. A flight of six of the brewery's beers were tried here. The beers are also available in supermarkets, but are bottled offsite in Zaragoza. **Caravelle** (2) was next on the list, a short walk away at C/Pintor Fortuny 31. In here I had a *Royal Milkshake*. The beers used to be brewed on the premises, but are now apparently made on the outskirts of Barcelona. Just up the street from here at no.15 was the last new pub that we visited, **Chivuos** (16), one of three branches of this small chain in Barca. A *Garage IPA* was the choice in here. As we still had some time before the flight home, **Garage**, **BierCab** and the **Barcelona Beer Company** were revisited.



So, in conclusion, Barcelona now has some excellent drinking to be done, just a pity it had to be crammed into two days!

RAY PHILLIPS



We are very sad to report the passing of Ray Phillips, who was a member of the MMK branch and a regular attendee at Thursday evening branch meetings. He also helped at the branch beer festivals for many years. Ray had been ill for some months and passed away on January 8th. We send our condolences to his widow.

PAUL FRANKLIN

Maidstone mourn the loss of the best manager an Ale House could ask for; Paul Franklin (age still a well kept secret!) of Ye Olde Thirsty Pig. Paul's funeral was packed to the rafters, which proved what a unique, empathetic, true gentleman he was. His pride in serving you the best pint in Maidstone, was always his mission, along with a caring ear and cheerful words for anyone who walked through the door. Not only a truly private, family man to his wife Kelly & their son, but also to his wider "Pig friends & family" who will agree, that once met, never forgotten.



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STACEY & THE FREELOADERS - THE SWEETCHUNKS BAND - MUTO
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THE WHITE HORSE
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Ramblin' Man

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MESSING ABOUT ON A RIVER

By Philip Walton

In years gone by the pub was not just the hub of drinking activities but also the meeting place for team sports. Many pubs located near a river would have a rowing team all of whom would compete with each other to win the regatta trophies.

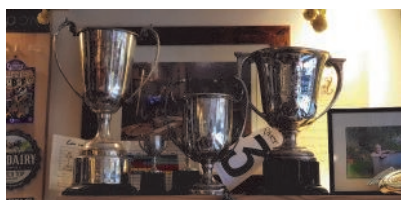
A lot of this activity has died out over the years.

This has started to change with the clean up of the Medway and the Thames. With the realisation that the waterways are not just for industry but for leisure and fitness, popularity is rising.

With the new season approaching you could find a new enjoyable pastime; fixed seat rowing. There are many clubs around with safe, sturdy skiffs that take crews of 4 and a cox.

It is a great activity to get involved with and many pubs are looking for teams so they can be represented in the races and regattas.

If you fancy spending some time on the rivers in Kent, getting a pub team together and finding a fun way to burn calories to make more room for that beer, contact the Gravesend Regatta Society and we will see if we can



put you and your pub in touch with a rowing group near you.

<https://www.gravesend-regatta.co.uk/>

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AUNT SALLY

This follows the article on Skittles in Draught Copy edition 197

Aunt Sally is played by players throwing batons at a wooden skittle known as a doll, and goes back at least as far as the 17th Century. It is one of those pub games which is played only in a very confined locale. In the case of Aunt Sally, the location is Oxfordshire and despite being restricted only to pubs in and around Oxford, it is a very popular game indeed, which is taken very seriously by regulars and for which there are a number of leagues of some longevity.

There are two 14th century manuscripts which show a game called club kayles (from the French 'quilles' or skittles) which depict a skittles game in which one skittle is bigger, differently shaped, and in most cases positioned so as to be the most difficult to knock over. The throwers launch a long club-like object at the skittles underarm. Aunt Sally appears to be a development of skittles whereby this "Kingpin" became the sole interest of the game and the other skittles were dispensed with.

An alternative theory ascribes Aunt Sally as a development of a game which was essentially a humane version of a barbaric blood sport called 'throwing at cocks'. In this horrible pastime a cock was tied by one leg to a stake in the ground and the participants would then pay for a turn at throwing a "cok-steles" (small club) at the bird. Whoever killed the bird got to take it home for dinner. If the bird's leg was broken, the sad creature would be supported on sticks until the bitter end. Joseph Strutt noted in 1801, that humane versions of this had been seen as fairground amusements wherein the cock was replaced by a wooden replica and people paid a small sum to attempt to hit it. He thought that this had died out but this theory believes it persisted and became Aunt Sally.

In Aunt Sally, the single white stubby skittle, about 6 inches high and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, is called 'dolly' and the round-ended projectiles, of which there are six, are 18 inches long, 2 inches in diameter and are called 'sticks'. The doll is positioned on top of a hollow rod (the 'iron') driven into the earth so that the top is two and a half feet above the ground and the players throw the sticks at it from behind a line known as the 'hockey' which is 10 yards from the iron. Each turn consists of six throws and a point is only counted as long as the stick hits the doll before the iron. Normal league play has two teams each consisting of eight players and three legs or 'horses' are played. Each horse consists of each member of each team having one turn so that each team makes 48 throws. It is believed that the record for a horse stands at 40 so it can be seen that hitting the doll is quite tricky.

Next edition of Draught Copy – Table Top Skittles

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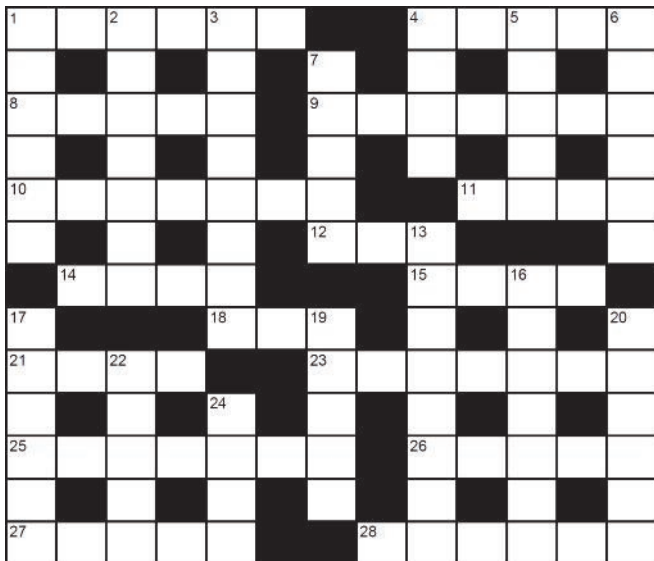
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Crossword No. 37

compiled by MICK NORMAN



Solution to Crossword No. 36



Congratulations to
L Glynn, Maidstone.
who won last time.

Across

- 1 A key to the toilets in northern homes (6)
- 4,22 No 1 and No 11 batsman, perhaps, shortly to become a religious leader (5,5)
- 8 Creep round some pubs? (5)
- 9 Fielding position for giant? (4,3)
- 10 Sounds like a girl's name (7)
- 11 Prison disturbance (4)
- 12 I listen to the organ (3)
- 14 Old PM in paradise (4)
- 15 That's the Dave Clark Five all over! (4)
- 18 Wilt appears in short story (3)
- 21 Great West Indian tomb raider (4)
- 23 Hai? (7)
- 25 Partial refunds are best redistributed (7)
- 26 Brass instrument not alien to spray-tan enthusiast (5)
- 27 Hindu god from South Africa is infected with nasty virus (5)
- 28 So cuts yonder tradesman: huge effort initially (6)

Down

- 1 Enter upside down to get salary (6)
- 2 End Lear production for the scholarly (7)
- 3 Poor Nik soils waterproofs (8)
- 4 Geometric figure falls from tree (4)
- 5 Tenanted sandbar, for example? (5)
- 6 Rossini character from whom a 23 was available (6)
- 7 Light Lear production following start of festival (5)
- 13 Is it Coe, beginning to gush? Horribly self-centred! (8)
- 16 1 may be brought to a l-lord (7)
- 17 Old PM's family sounds excessively noisy (6)
- 19 At midnight, landlord becomes a scary creature! (5)
- 20 Fastening pleats untidily (6)
- 22 See 4 across
- 24 Hot spot ups the ante (4)

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Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
Coach House, Maidstone	10 percent
Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Crayford Arms, Crayford	10p per pint
Drakes, Maidstone	20p per pint
Earl Haig, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot, Maidstone	10p per pint
George, Singewell	20p per pint, 10p per half
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Jolly Fenman, Blackfen	10 percent
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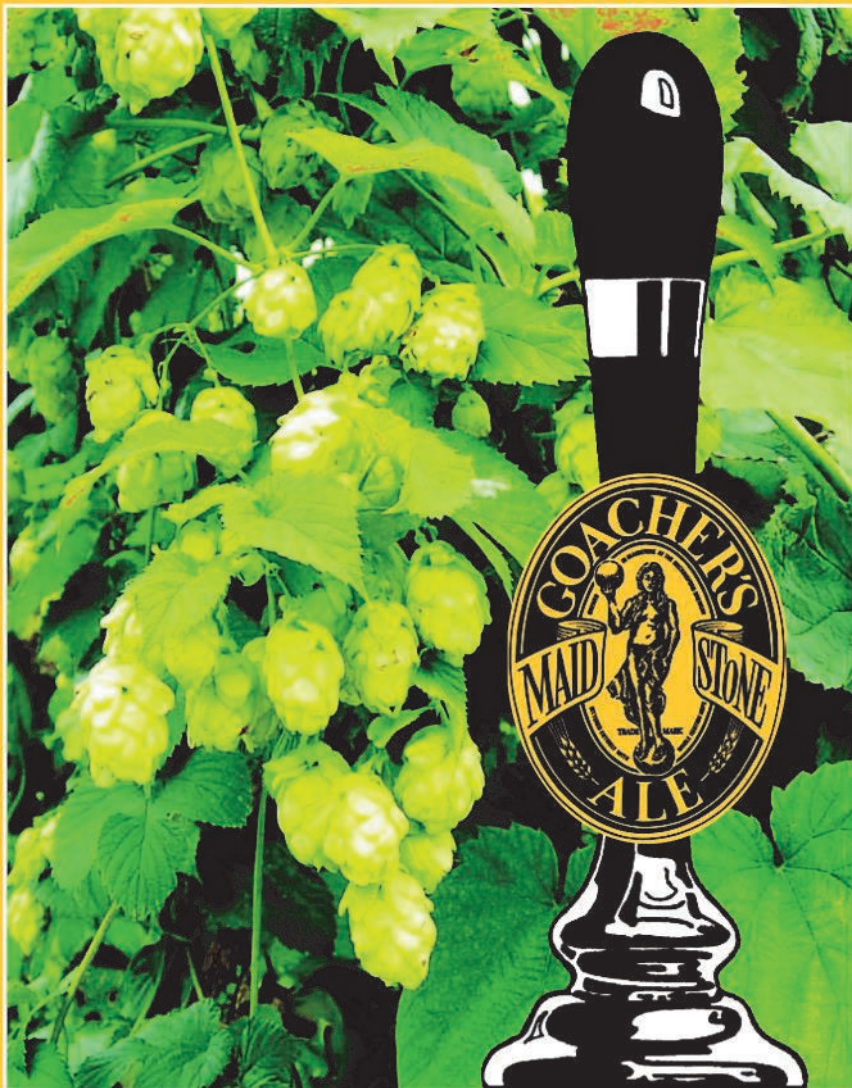
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