

# Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

## Free Magazine

By Maidstone & Mid-Kent  
CAMRA

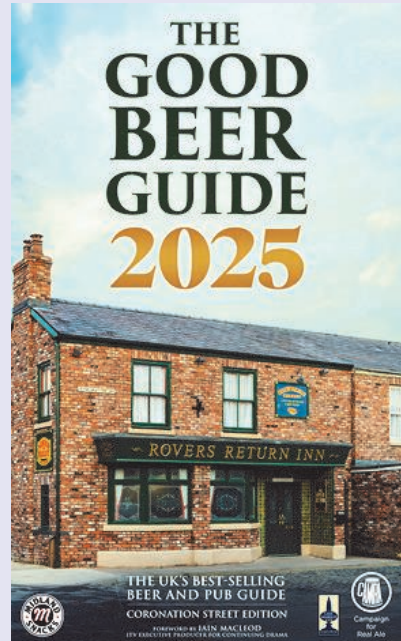
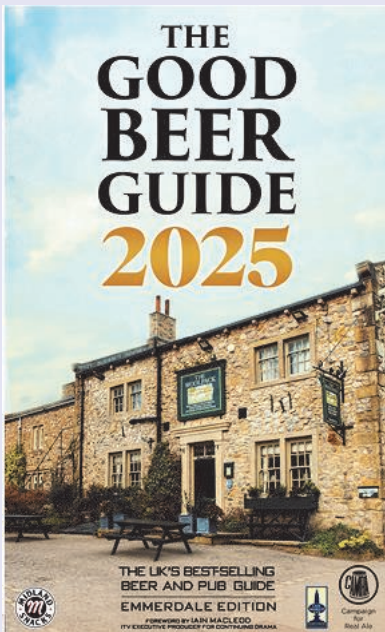
incorporating Ashford,  
Folkestone and Romney Marsh,  
Gravesend & Darent Valley,  
Bexley, Medway & West Kent  
Branches  
Winter 2024/2025 No. 210

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## Good Beer Guide 2025

The Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) *Good Beer Guide* – the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide – is celebrating its 52nd edition with not one but two covers featuring two of the UK's favourite locals: *Coronation Street's* Rovers Return Inn, and *Emmerdale's* Woolpack. *The Guide*, which surveys 4,500 of the best pubs across the UK, is the definitive beer drinker's guide for those seeking the best pints in the nation's pubs. *The Good Beer Guide 2025* is available for order now.



# 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 Ashford, Folkestone and Romney Marsh, Bexley, Gravesend & Darent Valley, Medway 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. 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 highest standards of service in our pubs.

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The copy date for the next issue is 21st January 2025.

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](http://www.whatpub.com)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our social diary changes faster than we can print it, so to keep up-to-date we suggest you use the below QR codes to access the branch meetings on our websites.



Ashford,  
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# CAMRA MEMBERS WEEKEND, DUNDEE — APRIL 2024

Each year a group of us attend the CAMRA AGM and Conference, partly to attend the conference and help to form new policies and vote on the motions, for the other part we like to visit the various pubs and breweries across the UK. This is the second half of an article, started in edition 209

Images from CAMRA's online pub database *whatpub.com*

## Day 3

After another full breakfast, with additional Haggis, we had a short train journey back into Dundee for the AGM and Conference. I often find myself agreeing with both sides of a motion, I will like the idea or sentiment of a motion but maybe disagree with the suggested implementation. You always have to beware of the law of unintended consequences. A particular motion this year was that due to the reduction in the number of pubs, there are now too many pubs being put in to the current GBG (Good Beer Guide), and not all them up to standard. Little did we know we would have personal experience of this over the weekend.

We had arranged to meet up in the evening for the 25 min train journey to visit pubs in Perth. After a 10 min walk from Perth station we found the **Silvery Tay** was located at historic South Street Port. This was a high-ceilinged, single-room establishment with dark wood paneling and a fine staircase up to the closed first floor. There are a number of alcoved seating areas. Real ale had been reintroduced in summer 2019, but on this night's showing it didn't appear to be very prized with just the one beer available, certainly not at its best, and with nothing to exchange it for. I think, I speak for most, and felt it not quite bad enough to return but drank it with resentment and left after finishing. Our most curmudgeonly member made sure they were aware of our dissatisfaction.

We needed a bus to reach the **Cherrybank Inn**, this 250-year-old former drovers' inn is a popular watering hole for locals. Ales from *Inveralmond* and other Scottish independents are available from the public bar or in the larger L-shaped lounge with views up to a woodland walk. It had a large sunny elevated wooden decking to the rear.

The bus timetable would have some say in how long we stayed and but we decided to sneak an extra cheeky half in before we left. This was a *Citra Blonde* from the *Stewart brewery* and was probably my favourite beer of the night.

Back in town, we walked to the river and called in to the **Capital Asset**, a Wetherspoons pub that was once a savings bank. The high ceilings and ornate cornices had been retained and pictures of old Perth adorn the walls of the open-plan lounge which overlooks the River Tay. The



large Chubb safe from its banking days could be found in the family area. With food available all day, most of us decided to eat here.



A short walk took us to what would be the final stop in Perth and promised to be the best. The **Old Ship Inn** is said to be the oldest pub and was an oasis for real ale in the 1980s. I noticed it had been the 2023 CAMRA City Pub of the Year.

It was so popular and busy on this Saturday evening that unfortunately we were not all able to find a suitable place to sit or stand. The option to sit outside, as we had the previous evening, was not available due to local licensing laws forbidding taking glasses outside after 9 at night. This pub with its nautical name is some way from the sea now but it was once much closer and within staggering range for those worse for wear. A taxi was requested to take two of our own 'drunken sailors' back to the station.

#### Day 4

There were no trains in time for our trip back to conference so we all piled onto a bus with bags in tow, as after the close of business, we were moving on.

At the close we went to the members bar inside another part of the Caird Hall complex. Probably upwards of 100 ales which were steadily running out, I would to thank the local branch of Tayside for putting on a good selection. We had a journey of 90 minutes to Edinburgh, and checking in to a Premier Inn at St James Quarter. I had paid for a slightly upgraded room and was very pleased with the size and extra options of a capsule coffee machine with mini chocolate bars to name a few. We all met up again for a tram ride down Leith Walk. Getting off at the furthest point of Newhaven, we had a longer walk than expected due to a footpath closure but arrived at the **Dreadnought** pub soon enough.



A welcoming pub that opened in October 2016 on the old Halfway House site it consists of just one room with big picture windows, a high ceiling with plaster cornicing and an attractive old-fashioned bar gantry. A large photograph of HMS Dreadnought, with her 12" guns facing you, hangs on the wall, along with other nautical items. The *Brass Castle* beers are all vegan. No food is prepared on site but pizza and burgers can be ordered from local establishments. The TVs are only used for major sports events. It was the CAMRA Edinburgh and SE Scotland Pub of the Year 2022. I went for a *Hazelnut mild* as my first of the evening session. It was very pleasant and tasted exactly as expected.



A short walk and bus ride took us to the **Foot of the Walk**, a Wetherspoons pub which seems to attract a large cross-section of Leith's citizens. Originally the historic listed Palace Cinema, the original balcony, high ceiling and original decor is now hidden by a low ceiling. Its corner location affords two main entrances

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and a third allowing disabled access. I ordered a Katsu curry to go with my first beer, *Orkney Brewery's Dark Island*. It's not that we don't like eating in other places, but the sheer difficulty of knowing how many of us will turn up at what time, being able to find food on a Sunday night, and offering a wide choice, makes Wetherspoons an easy option on trips like this.

The **Malt and Hops** followed and was a short tram ride away. It is a single roomed pub, with an old fashioned bar by the Water of Leith dating from 1747. It has a real fire and the walls are bedecked with mirrors, prints and beer-related artefacts. A large selection of pump-clips, many from long lost breweries, hang from the ceiling. There is a focus on the smaller breweries so the prices were higher than we had been enjoying but the quality was very good.

**Henry Hall's Carriers Quarters** was close-by. Said to be popular with the locals, this small cosy bar is believed to be the oldest pub in the area. The front room contains the bar area with a small alcove displaying a series of historical prints depicting life in Leith. The rear room has exposed stone walls and a large fireplace with a welcoming stove in Winter. The real ales are from Scottish breweries and there were a good selection of Malt whiskies. I was amazed that we all managed to find a couple of tables for the eight of us, as a band was just finishing its performance in the back room. Some of our party decided to make their way back to the hotel - it had been a long day.

**Teuchters Landing** is a popular watering hole and consists of the former waiting room for the Leith to Aberdeen Ferry, along with outside seating on a pontoon on the Water of Leith, protected by awnings and heaters. There are two further rooms and a conservatory. Cask ale is only available from the main bar. To finish, two of us decided to have a whisky from the excellent selection as a night cap but it took longer than expected, such was the enormous choice.

I wish to thank the organisers of the various "Pub Walks" and other useful info and the Good Beer Guide for information on them.



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# TRYANUARY IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

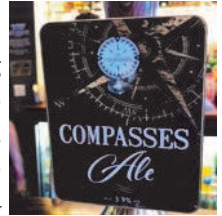
by Nick Goodwin

A pub is for life, not just for Christmas, so I decided to give some Tryanuary support to a handful of pubs based in and around the Pantiles area of Tunbridge Wells on a cold and dark Sunday afternoon a week into January.



First up, and up a steep hill to boot, was The **Grove Tavern**, long term Good Beer Guide entrant situated in a lovely conservation area away from the hustle and bustle nearby. There was, what I would call, a classic Sunday afternoon vibe - enough punters to make it feel lively but everybody had a seat and their own space. Lots of pleasant chit chat with the locals at the bar, with dogs galore enjoying the roaring log fire. On the bar were four of the big names in the cask world: *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, *Harvey's Best*, *Marston's 61 Deep*, and *Dark Star Hophead*. I plumped for the latter which was served in great condition.

Just a stone's throw away was the **Compasses**. I wasn't expecting much beer-wise but it was a good opportunity to do some pub research. They claim to be the oldest pub in town and it's certainly a lovely building, with the inside separated into three or four distinct areas for drinking and dining. This is a *Greene King* pub so the usual suspects were on the bar alongside the house bitter that you see from time to time. It was another pleasant atmosphere; not even soured when the barman accidentally knocked an entire pint over a customer sat at the bar which they both laughed off.



Research complete it was back down the hill into the Pantiles proper and a visit to the standout venue of the day, The **Sussex Arms**. Tucked so far away from passing trade, it's amazing that a place so hidden can keep going; but as soon as you enter you can see why. This is what I would call a no-nonsense pub - not too polished, but not shabby either. The pub is part of a small group of venues



in town one of which is the tremendous music venue The Forum, an offshoot of which can be found in the basement of this pub. A cracking line up on the bar put a spring in my step with five or six cask handpulls all from independent and interesting breweries. Given it is such a rare sight on cask, I jumped for the *Cloudwater It's a Mild*, and they made a pretty

good job of it too. Also on the bar was *Brew York Jarsa*, a fresh citrus pale, alongside the others. Three keg are also on offer, one of which was a *Deya*, again always a delight when found on the bar.

Just round the corner is the **Pantiles Tap**, which is in the basement of a large

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days the peaceful rear garden is an attractive haven in which to relax. Stepping outside in good time to catch the 2.14pm return bus we were mindful that had we missed it, we'd have had a further three hours of hospitality until the next and final bus back to Tonbridge arrives.

### From Tunbridge Wells

Recently voted the West Kent branch Country Pub of the Year, the family-run **Halfway House** just outside of Brenchley village was a very attractive proposition for a bus outing to thirsty CAMRA members. Hams Travel run the 297 bus service



every day except Sundays along the scenic Tunbridge Wells to Tenterden route via Pembury Hospital. Being a weekday, we caught the 12.15 bus from Tunbridge Wells rail station and shortly after passing Brenchley church, rang the bell in time for the bus to drop us right outside the pub at the bottom of the hill at 12.50. Initially we chose to sit in the rambling and rustic interior to enjoy our substantial dishes before later retiring into the spacious rural gardens to take advantage of a fine and sunny day. With a selection of anything up to 10 gravity-served beers to choose from including two different house beers from *Kent* and *Tonbridge* breweries and a range of Kentish ciders, the **Halfway House** has justifiably proved a firm favourite for more than 20 years. In such a timeless setting it would be easy to forget about bus timetables but we made sure we were back in front of the pub early enough to look out for our return bus and flag it down as this is a 'request stop'.

### From Sevenoaks or Tonbridge

Go-Coach run a service Tuesday to Saturday between Sevenoaks and Tonbridge calling at the village of Sevenoaks Weald. The number 5 bus stops at the Forge and from there it is a short three-minute walk along Windmill Road for a lunchtime visit to the **Windmill** pub, adjacent to the village green. *Larkins Traditional* and *St Austell Proper Job* are the regular



beers and are supplemented by three guest beers from the likes of *Lister's*, *Ramsgate* and *Titsey* breweries. *Chiddingstone* cider is also served. The **Windmill** has established a reputation for its food (not served Tuesday lunchtime) and there is a paved and flower-adorned garden to the side. Buses do not run in the evening so study the timetable, as arrival and departure times will depend on whether you travel from Tonbridge or Sevenoaks.



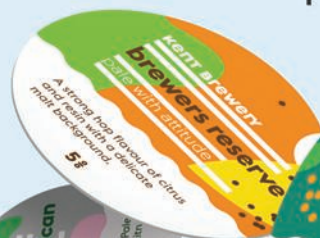
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The **Rusty Bucket** situated at 3 Mill Row, Bexley High Street DA5 1LA (formerly Next Door, OMG, Café Trax), opened its doors on the 17th October and is a sister pub to one in Eltham (SE9 5PR). This is a railway arch conversion, tastefully done, with impeccably kept toilets. It has three hand pumps with two in constant use, fifteen key keg taps (including Guinness), plus a selection of bottles, cans, spirits, wines and keg cider (Umbrella London Cider). Cheeseboards, sausage rolls, crisps & nuts, with cheese toasties on Sunday from 12pm-5.30pm (VE & GF options available)..

The **Star** (Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, DA14 6BF), which became a restaurant (could not use the bar unless dining) and stopped selling real ale, is under new ownership and now selling Bexley brewery ales.



Images from CAMRA's online pub database [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com)

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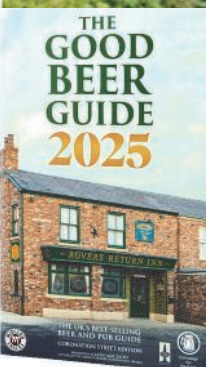
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In early October it became clear that another local pub was under threat. The owners of the **Black Horse** at Stansted declared their intention to convert it into flats and build two houses on the land. This is a sizeable free house with a large garden, the only pub in the parish, where at one time there were four. Locals are keen to preserve the pub and a community meeting was planned for early November to discuss buying it. Something similar has already been done in the village when they bought the local school from the Church of England, and we wish them luck. One advantage they have is that the pub is already listed as an Asset of Community Value so a planning application for redevelopment should not succeed without a prior attempt to sell it as a pub.

A recent report mentioned the **Lion Hotel** in Farningham, which had previously been found selling *Sharp's Doom Bar*. It also had *St Austell Tribute* and guest beers from Cornwall might be found too. A recent example was *Sharp's Sea Fury*. It's not a hotel these days but it does attract diners. The four beers at the **Rising Sun** in Twitton were regulars *Dark Star Hophead* and *Fuller's London Pride* and guests *Musket Ball Puller* and *Lakedown Kicking Donkey*. The latter refers to a now closed pub of that name in Burwash, East Sussex, formerly owned by Roger Daltrey of The Who.



The fate of the **Papermakers** at Hawley has become clear. Rather than housing as usual, the new owners intend to convert the site to a luxury car showroom.

The **Ivy Leaf** in Dartford has new tenants, following the retirement of James Clarke. Paul (pictured) and Tiffany arrived from the **Meridian Club** in Charlton at the end of August. Daily food offerings compliment the three ales on tap, which include *Timothy Taylor Landlord*. The Cask Marque scheme will continue, and, for entertainment there are live bands on Saturdays, and a monthly music quiz on the last Thursday of the month hosted by local quizmaster Travis. The **Bird in Hand** had also changed hands by early October. On a recent visit the **Ship Inn** was selling *Sharp's Doom Bar* instead of *Courage Best Bitter*, alongside *St Austell Tribute*. The **Wat Tyler** is closed after a car crashed into the bar. The extent of the damage to the building was such that it is likely to remain closed for several months, though as a listed building it should be repaired eventually.



The **Robert Pocock** in Gravesend had a partial refurbishment without actually closing. The work mainly involved renewing the kitchen but additionally an area of small individual booths was opened up to give a combined but still secluded space. The **Jolly Drayman** had had two guest beers for a time but *Kent Prohibition* proved so popular it was added to the list of regulars. The side room at the **Three Pillars**, which had been damaged by a water leak, is now restored and repainted, and back in full use with a new carpet.

The **Compass Alehouse** celebrated its tenth anniversary in style with events including a beer festival with ten beers previously featured at the pub and a quiz night with questions relating to ten or the pub. There is a new sign hand-painted to reproduce the original.

Autumn found an increase in the range of real ales in some pubs around Gravesend.



**T J's** in the town had added *Greene King Bonkers Conkers* and *Watch Room* to the regular *IPA*. The **Rose & Crown** at Shorne also had three real ales on a recent visit with regular *Fuller's London Pride*, *Greene King IPA* and a beer from *Canterbury Ales*. Unfortunately the *Dark Star Hophead* at the **Rum Puncheon** in town has been replaced by a couple of handpumped brewery-conditioned beers from *Marstons* so no real ale is available there now.

*Sharp's Doom Bar* is becoming rather hard to find around Gravesend. At the **Goose Timothy Taylor Landlord** appeared instead while at the **Somerset Arms** it was replaced by *Greene King Old Speckled Hen*, followed by *Wychwood Hobgoblin Gold*. The **Windmill Tavern** had removed it and sold *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* and *St Austell Proper Job* and while it was an option at the **Echo** it was likely to alternate with *Sharp's Atlantic* or *Gale's Seafarers*. The only regular central outlets are now the **George** in Queen Street, where it's the only real ale, and the **Robert Pocock**.

As this was being written the **Earl Grey** in Northfleet was about to accept CAMRA vouchers giving a discount on its *Shepherd Neame* real ales. There would be no restriction on the number used per visit but a CAMRA membership card would be required as well.



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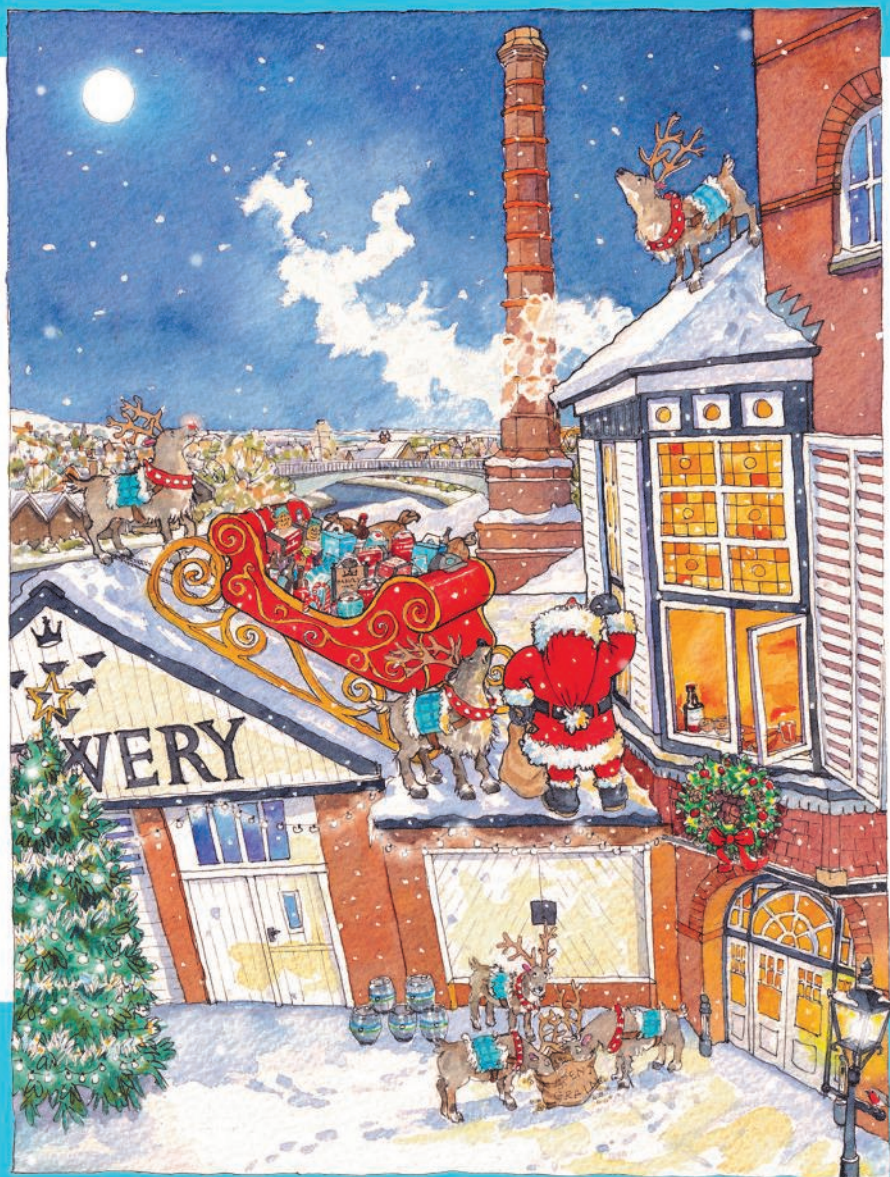
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**Fields, Allington** - Licensee changed to Elizabeth Giddings.

**King and Queen, East Malling** – I found locally produced *Musket* beers are back on the bar rather than the distant *St Austell Cornish Best*.



**Chequers, Laddingford** – The annual beer and sausage week had over 20 different sausages and 10 beers. However it proved so popular that several beers were finished over the weekend so that the number available was reduced when we arrived on Monday. Some exceedingly good sausages

were consumed. Every Thursday is the usual day for a sausage selection at this venue. Our thanks go to Charles and Tracey and the staff for putting on this event.

**Old Rectory, Leybourne** – Licensee changed to Sydney Larcombe.

**Aussie Ale House, Maidstone** – This is a new venue taking over the former Blu Butterfly premises in Earl Street. Ales from brands *Salamander* and *Stubbee* both brewed in Bradford and not normally to be found in Kent. Three beers are presented on each of two banks at either end of the bar. Some have some interesting fruit flavours. Various coffees and spirits also available to order. Opens midday Wed-Sat. <https://aussiealehouse.com>



**Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone** – We enjoyed 16 green



hopped beers from all around Kent and neighbouring counties and 12 more after the first batch. Thanks to the management for seeking these out and providing such a good list. Normally 6 casks with gravity served beers and eight taps and 12 ciders available here.

**Craft Brewed, Maidstone** – Now have several live beers in membrane kegs which are noted on their taps. Some very interesting beers presented that vary in strength. Also have coffee, tea, cakes and other eatables. Various events held with more seating upstairs. FB: [craftbrewedltd](https://craftbrewedltd.co.uk) <https://craftbrewedltd.co.uk>



**Walnut Tree, Maidstone** – A visit here found the usual *Goacher's Fine Light* and *Harvey's Best* and this time joined by the Oct/Nov seasonal *Wychwood Hobgoblin IPA*.

**Marden Village Club, Marden** – Well attended for the annual beer festival this club always has a good selection of ales. Thanks to Simon, his staff and members who provide an excellent service and are well appreciated.



**West End Tavern, Marden** – Found closed, the tenants having left.



**Bull Inn, West Malling** – *Titsey* and *Tonbridge* beers have been on the bar as a change from the usual *Goacher's*, *Musket* and *Young's*.

**Malling Jug, West Malling** – Here I found the weekday offer of pints at the bargain price of only £3. I particularly found the *Oakham Hopwalk*, *New Bristol Brewery Coffee Biscotti* stout and *Tonbridge Globe Hopper* to my liking.



**Swan on the Green, West Peckham** – A large sum as now been raised by the sale of shares in order to purchase the pub and prevent it being taken over by less sympathetic owners. Whilst there is no on site brewery now brews from *Larkins* and *Tonbridge* are provided.

# YE OLDE THIRSTY PIG

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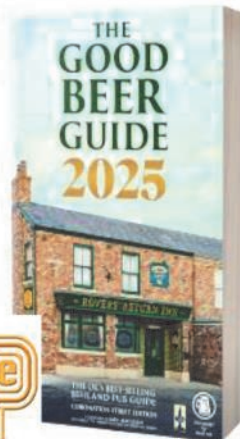


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
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**Bishops Finger returns on draught this winter - while stocks last!**



  @shepherdneame

Contact: Kae Mendham

email: kmendham@aol.com

On the 21st July, on a sunny and breezy afternoon, **Rainham Cricket Club** held a beer festival which was attended by a vast army of eager drinkers, decked out at tables and chairs on the cricket pitch, listening to the various bands on the stage. 42 beers and 8 ciders were provided to sup, whilst listening to the music drifting across the cricket pitch. Although previous days had been very hot, all the beers that I drank were in very good condition. The only snag was the long queues of thirsty drinkers waiting to get served by an army of helpful volunteers in the beer tent. Although nearly a quarter of the listed beers came from one brewery, *Mad Squirrel* of Hemel Hempstead, the ones I most enjoyed were *Milestone Newark Castle Brown*, *Magic Dragon Old Magic Mild*, *Mad Squirrel Sumo* and *Hedgehog Clockwork Amber*. At £4 a pint, less than what some local pubs charge, the beer was very good value. As well as plenty of beer and cider for the thirsty drinkers, various food outlets were provided around the perimeter of the field for drinkers to soak up the beer. Certainly, from the perspective of an enjoyable afternoon drinking whilst listening to the music, I for one would recommend it for another year, weather permitting.

Although the 2024 Euros are almost forgotten about, the new football season has well and truly started. The good news for beer loving Gillingham F.C. supporters, is that they can now drink Kent brewer *Shephard Neame* ales in the club bar, as the brewery has been appointed official beer supplier to the club.

Saturday, the 10th of August, saw the **Past and Present Ale House**, Gillingham celebrate its 10th anniversary. Since opening, the pub has won nine local Medway CAMRA cider pub of the year awards, one Kent cider pub of the year award and three Medway CAMRA local pub of the year awards.



As reported in issue 209 of this magazine, regarding the news that The **Monarch** in Gillingham was up for sale, sadly the pub has now closed.



Also following on from the previous issue regarding the **Flying Saucer** in Hempstead and the pub closing in June 2024 after the freeholder and Greene King were unable to agree a new lease, The local community want to get the pub reopened and have successfully had it listed as an

Asset of Community Value (ACV) by Medway Council. The future of the Flying Saucer is guaranteed for the immediate future and a change of use for the premises cannot be undertaken. Greene King have since requested an amount of £1.2 million from the local community trying to buy it. The community have organised a local group to raise the funds to purchase the pub and to reopen it as a community run pub by selling shares and obtaining grants. You can find out more by visiting their website [www.fofs.org.uk](http://www.fofs.org.uk)

Contact: Keith Ennis / Dave Moore

email: [campaign@westkent.camra.org.uk](mailto:campaign@westkent.camra.org.uk)

Bidborough:- The **Kentish Hare** is a food orientated pub but they do have two bar areas where you can have bar meals and partake in the two *Tonbridge Beers* on offer. *Traditional (Kentish Hare)* and the guest ale was recently *Easy Street Pale*.

Charcott:- The **Greyhound** continues to offer a few interesting ales, including green hop brews from *Kent Brewery* and *Larkin's*. An collaboration brew between *Lakedown* and *Thornbridge* breweries made a appearance during September.

Chiddingstone Hoath:- Situated in the Kentish High Weald, The **Rock** is not an easy pub to find. Take your OS map as reception is not good and Google maps might fail you. You will be impressed by the country pub you find when you get there, real ales, dogs a plenty and bar staff who talk to you. *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Larkins Traditional* (it is brewed just down the road) and *Lakedown Pale* were available on my visit. *Trad* and *Sussex* are permanent but the other pump changes, quite often a *Larkins* seasonal.

Cowden:- The **Fountain** always has three well-kept brews on offer. The bar manager, Toulah, is enthusiastic about them and is, amongst other things, a talented musician. On the last Sunday of each month, acoustic music will feature from 4pm. There's also quiz night on the first Thursday of the month. With Fern back in charge and running the kitchen, there's plenty of special food events, including oriental nights on the second Tuesday of the month. Pensioners can get a two course meal on Wednesday lunchtimes, although booking is advised. Things are definitely going in the right direction for this lovely country pub.

Edenbridge:- The **Old Eden** continues to perform well and a recent visit found both the *Harvey's Sussex Best* and *Tonbridge Blonde Ambition* to be in good form. Further up the road, pleased to see that the **Swan** reopened in August and after extensive refurbishment, the pub is run by Susan and Dave. Early days, but to begin with, *Harvey's Sussex Best* and *Taylor's Landlord* are available. The plan is to increase the ale selection in due course. The pub is open all day, seven days a week and food is available lunchtimes to begin with, the Sunday roast is popular. Pool and darts are available, there's occasional live music, a quiz night on the last Thursday of the month and very important, the pub is dog friendly.

Four Elms:- The **Four Elms Inn** was visited on a Monday evening, the beer range changes and on this occasion, *Brentwood Best Bitter* and *Wantsum 1381 Pale Ale* were available and both in good nick. Food is available. If it gets quiet in the evening, the pub will close earlier, but definitely worth visiting.

Goathurst Common:- The former Woodman pub has been transformed by Elite Inns and is now the **Pheasant Plucker**. There you will find the extensive food menu common to Elite Pubs. *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Sharp's Sea Fury* were on offer.



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wed	3 - 11pm
thurs	3 - 11pm
fri	12 - 11.30pm
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ROASTS & PUB QUIZ



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Leigh:- Tucked away in the lanes between Hilderborough and Leigh you will find the **Plough**. This is a popular pub for weddings and events so its always worth checking they will be open, before travelling. They are keen supporters of local breweries and *Tonbridge* and *Kent Brewery* ales were available. They also support *Pig & Porter* beers.

Markbeece:- The **Kentish Horse** is a very popular, traditional country pub and three ales are available. If visiting, you can visit the adjacent cemetery, to pay your respects at the grave of Elsie Maynard. On Monday 30 December, there will be a Christmas tractor run from the pub at 5pm, returning by 7pm, all vehicles will be suitably decorated.

Pembury:- Situated on the old A21 running out of the village the **King William IV** is a rare village pub that is wet led. There are six hand pumps with *Greene King IPA* and *St Austell Proper Job* as regulars. The remaining four pumps could be some national brands and some local. *Tonbridge*, *Lakedown*, *360°* and *Only with Love* have been spotted recently.

Southborough:- The **Hand & Sceptre** has recently been refurbished. A recent visit found *Sharp's Doom Bar* available. Down the road, The **Imperial** normally has one *Shepherd Neame* cask ale available. It varies but on my visit it was *Masterbrew*.

Speldhurst:- This village is close to both Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and the **George & Dragon** is an impressive pub dating back to 12<sup>th</sup> C. Whilst admiring the nooks and crannies of this building you can sample the *Larkins Traditional* and *Harveys Sussex Best*.

Tunbridge Wells:- Situated on the common, the **Mount Edgcombe** normally serves three cask ales. A recent visit found *Harveys Sussex Best* along with beers from *Dorking* and *Pig & Porter*. A bit further along the road, up a side street you can find the **Beau Nash**. *Harveys Sussex Best* was available there. In the Pantiles the Fullers pub, The **Duke of York** had the usual selection of *Fullers* ales on, complimented by two *Dark Star* offerings. Just off of Mount Pleasant you will find the **Barn**. A quiet haven so close to the centre of Tunbridge Wells. *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Class of 92* badged *Pig & Porter* beer were available.

Underriver:- This village is situated on the south side of Sevenoaks and is reached down a long lane from the Hildenborough to Sevenoaks main road. The **White Rock Inn** is situated in the small village, nestling below the greensand ridge. *Harveys Sisters Ale* and *Tonbridge Countryman* were available on my visit.

Westerham:- Just three pubs left in the town now, but two were visited recently. The **George & Dragon** had *Westerham Summer Perle* as a guest ale, the only Chiswick brew available was *Dark Star Hophead* at £6 a pint. The **Grasshopper On The Green** was also visited, this free house had three ales on. *Harvey's Sussex Best*, *Timothy Taylor's Knowle Spring* and finally, the local *Titsey Leveson Buck*. The latter was £5.60 for a pint.

On our first ever visit to Cambodia, it was inevitable that I would be searching out not only the sites, but also what was on offer in terms of craft beer. Note that moneywise you can use \$US or Cambodian Riel (which gives a better exchange rate). Your change will always be in Riel, though.

This is the second part of an article, started in edition 209

Five more bars remained on the list for our next and last day in Phnom Penh, and the first of these was hit at lunchtime,

**Himawari Hotel Microbrewery** (313 Preah Sisowath Quay).

The only hotel and microbrewery in Phnom Penh, this place serves seven of its own beers, and has a pleasant outside drinking area, overlooking the Mekong



Delta. The choice in here was a nice *Oat Stout*, 6.5%. A break from bars was taken in the afternoon with some sightseeing across the Mekong, crossed by ferry for the sum of 20 pence return. The first of four bars in the evening was **Sak Pub Craft Beer & Bites** (49 Street 51). From the selection of nine beers available, *Sak Special NZ Superdelic IPA* 5.8% was the choice. *Hops Craft* provided the other choices. From here, it was a short

walk to **Embargo** (36 Street 51 - Rue Pasteur). This was owned by the friends of **Embargo** in Siem Reap, who had allowed them to use the same name. Out of the seven beers on tap here, I selected *Cherry Sour* 3.5%. I found this beer not too sour for my taste, and it was from *Riel Brewing*, located just to the south of the city. Next it

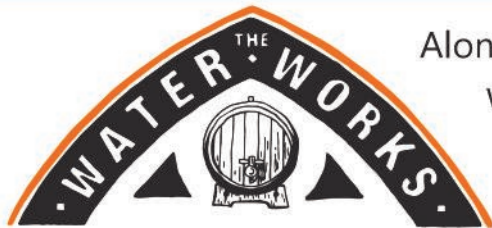


was a few minutes' walk to **Botanico** (9B Street 29), where a quiz was taking place. Unfortunately, the first round was on Cambodia, not one of my strong points. I actually went for a lager in here - but it was a dark one - *Sundown* 5.4%. It's listed as being brewed by *Cerevisia*, but

I'm not too sure if that means it is brewed at the brewery in **Botanico** or elsewhere. Still, it was good beer. As we had to get up the next day for a 7am train, the next bar was the last one. Located around 800m away, the **IB Taphouse** (24 Street 278) is a fairly new venue run by Ryoma, a Japanese national. The brewery here is all ready to go, but we were a couple of months early for production to have started. There were just two taps on, so the *Splash IPA* 6.4% from *Cerevisia* was the nightcap.



Continuing our trip, this involved a four hour train journey to Kampot. It is essential not to miss the train, as it only runs once a day! An old French colonial town, Kampot is famous for its many pepper farms dotted around the



Along with 10 ales and 18 ciders, we have a selection of wines, gins and soft drinks and award winning Scotch eggs and pork pies.

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surrounding countryside. Google was telling us that there were only three locations for craft beer here, the **Green Room**, **Monkey Republic**, and **Projekt Brews**. First on the list was the **Green Room** (Street 736). Basically a bottle shop that appears to cater for the ex-pat community, I found a *Pasteur Street Jasmine IPA 6.5%* from Vietnam in here that went down well in the heat. A few minutes' walk away was **Monkey Republic** (Street 730). A well sheltered garden leads to a large bar, where four taps are on offer. I had *A Different Kind Of Dream Pale Ale* by *Misfits Brewing 5.7%*. This bar also serves as a hotel and hostel. The next day was our last in Cambodia, and luckily, as it was a Thursday, our third bar was



open. **Projekt Brews** (Kampot Lane), run by a Scandinavian chap, is the brewery tap for their brewery located some way out of town that also makes a range of beers under different brewers names. I went through the range of beers in here, *Simcoe IPA 6.4%*, *Pinwheel Pale 5.0%*, *Chocolate Stout 6.2%* and *Raspbeary Sour 4.0%*.

And so ended a most enjoyable trip to Cambodia, and we were looking towards the next day, continuing our journey across the border into Vietnam's beer capital, Ho Chi Minh. *Continued in Draught Copy 211*



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'PUB OF THE YEAR'  
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# A STROLL TO THE PUB

by Jeff Tucker

When I retired ten years ago, I made a list of rural pubs in Kent and East Sussex (and parts of Surrey and West Sussex) that I had never been to. Many were easy to get to by bus, but some involved a bit of a walk.

One of the pubs on my list was the **Woolpack** at Warehorne, which is a mile or so from the nearest bus stop, unless you count the 11A bus, which runs within half a mile, but is very infrequent. I caught the 10X from Maidstone to Ashford, then the 11 to Ham Street, which runs roughly hourly. Ham Street also has a train station on the line from Ashford to Hastings.



From the crossroads in Ham Street, I walked westwards under the railway line and the road to Romney Marsh, the other side of which had a footpath sign

Climbing a few steps and going over a stile, the footpath led alongside a field. After a short while, another stile took the footpath into the field. From here, it is easy to follow the path across several fields, until some houses were seen. Keeping to the right of the houses, the village church soon came into view, and the Woolpack was directly opposite. The walk was just over a mile, and took about 25 minutes.

The pub is very pleasant with a bit of 'shabby chic' and some modern touches. Two real ales were on: *Romney Marsh American Pale Ale* and *Dark Star Hophead*.

It opens at noon daily, and food is available. See [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com) for full details. Well worth the stroll!

Images from CAMRA's online pub database [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com)

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Well done to those of you who successfully completed the competition in the last Draught Copy. Those who got all of the correct answers went into a draw, and the two lucky winners received their free admission tickets.

The correct answers were:

Sid can out-manoeuvre the keeper	C	U	S	T	O	D	I	A	N	
...Or Sid can turn cynical	S	A	R	D	O	N	I	C		
Keep on about stripes	P	E	R	S	I	S	T			
Steal a Picasso?	A	B	S	T	R	A	C	T		
It's wet, like half a pound	L	I	Q	U	I	D				
Get stick from mad heretics	A	D	H	E	R	E				
Worried about losing right to be an oddball	W	E	I	R	D	O				
Depend on grabbing a coin not long ago	R	E	C	E	N	T	L	Y		
Be quiet, man, there is some beer in it	S	H	A	N	D	Y				
Let every town centre	A	L	L	O	W					
Say "Lamb is off", which is appalling	A	B	Y	S	M	A	L			
It's on fire – get off!	A	L	I	G	H	T				
Some began the morning with a song	A	N	T	H	E	M				
A musician roasting nuts	O	R	G	A	N	I	S	T		
It looks like Mel's beer's been spilt	R	E	S	E	M	B	L	E	S	
American boots; they are worn above the knee	T	R	U	N	K	S				
Believe a bird	S	W	A	L	L	O	W			
Supplies punishment for offenders in the past	S	T	O	C	K	S				
Concur, having the means to be pleasant	A	G	R	E	E	A	B	L	E	
Gave beer away to get a drink	B	E	V	E	R	A	G	E		
A bit rubbish	S	C	R	A	P					
The captain is a butterfly	S	K	I	P	P	E	R			

The five colours are: RED, BLACK, WHITE, BLUE & GREEN

# ANOTHER STROLL TO THE PUB

by Jeff Tucker

Another pub on my list of pubs I hadn't visited was the delightfully-named **Cat & Custard Pot** at Paddlesworth, which is a mile or so from the nearest bus stop in Hawkinge.

I caught the hourly X3 from Maidstone to Canterbury, then the 16 to Hawkinge Cemetery, which runs every 20 minutes. Bus 73 gets a bit closer, stopping at the Battle of Britain Museum, but it runs from Folkestone, so is less convenient for me. From the cemetery, walk past the museum and keep going on the lane until you reach Paddlesworth. The pub is in the centre of the hamlet. The walk was just under a mile, and took about 20 minutes.

The pub is a typical village pub and seems to be well used by locals, cyclists and walkers. The building had connections with the Battle of Britain, being used by pilots from Hawkinge, and much memorabilia adorns the pub. Only one real ale was on, *Ramsgate Gadd's Seaside*, which was very nice.

They don't do any food, are closed on Mondays & Tuesdays, open at 12.30 on other days, and close between lunchtime & evening sessions. See [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com) for full details. Well worth the walk, which can be done at any time of the year, as there are no muddy footpaths!



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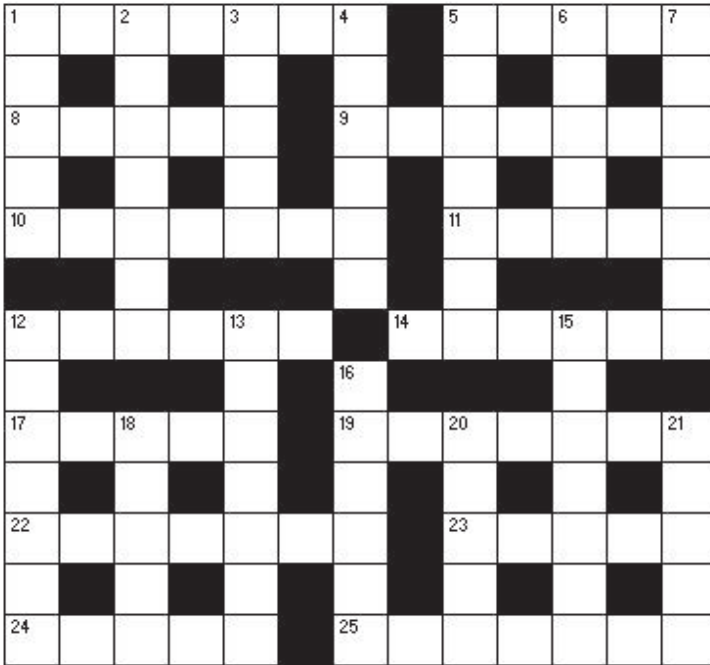
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# Crossword No. 45

compiled by MICK NORMAN



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No later than:

January 21st 2025

A photocopy/scanned copy can be emailed to:  
mlr\_norman@yahoo.com

## Down

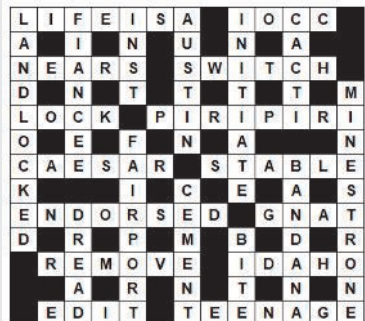
- 1 Calm bearing - kept in step (5)
- 2 Learned about Hellespont swimmer (7)
- 3 Australian academic and feminist finds onset of enmity between old king and queen (5)
- 4 Crabby child? (6)
- 5 Jockey heard to be the right-winger? (7)
- 6 In dire need of a woman! (5)
- 7 Set Tate to work with a will (7)
- 12 Gradually waste food (7)
- 13 Colonist, perhaps, s/he pays up (7)
- 15 Old map I reviewed, leading to a qualification (7)
- 16 Titillated? Queen Victoria wasn't! (6)
- 18 Leaders got rich, earning Ecuadorian dollars. Good, according to Gordon Gecko (5)
- 20 Races around a large area (5)
- 21 Rocket Man takes model to heart - another one! (5)

## Across

- 1 Shape of dead parrot reported (7)
- 5 Meander in the wood, possibly (5)
- 8 Conscious at a funeral party (5)
- 9 Trump, Carter etc at the wheel? (7)
- 10 Back last to finish at Aintree, said the cockney (7)
- 11 The last watch? (5)
- 12 Before Stafford - many trees found therein (6)
- 14 Jimmy's enigma! (6)
- 17 Gold bar in notebooks (5)
- 19 Stewed ape? Time for pub grub! (4,3)
- 22 Littler's aiming for the choirboys! (7)
- 23 Chicken removes queen to find perch (5)
- 24 Traveller to die horribly in luxury car (5)
- 25 Contempt for India's unrest at start of Diwali (7)

## Solution to Crossword No. 44

*Congratulations to  
D. Kelly, West Malling  
who won last time.*





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