



SAVE OUR PUBS

With the most recent Beer & Pub Association report highlighting that 39 pubs are closing every week, CAMRA has to do more than ever to support local pubs through these difficult times.

CAMRA's own research shows that 84% of people believe a pub is as essential to village life as a shop or post office. Despite their popularity, pubs are still under threat and need our help.

CAMRA is calling on everyone to join the *Save Our Pubs* campaign to put a stop to the closure of British pubs. Download a leaflet on how you can help from here: www.camra.org.uk/download.aspx?o=181996

As the poet Hilaire Belloc put it:

*When you have lost your inns,
drown your empty selves,
for you will have lost the last of England.*

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DRAUGHT COPY

Draught Copy is the newsletter of the Maidstone, Bexley and Gravesend & Darent Valley branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. It is issued quarterly, in February, May, August and November and has a circulation of 2500 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials. All articles are by the editor unless otherwise attributed.

Our advertising rates:

£55 / £30 / £20 for a full / half / quarter page respectively.

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If you find a pub selling short measure, missing price lists, allowing smoking in the premises, or other illegal things in pubs, please have a quiet word with the landlord in the first instance. If you do not receive satisfaction, however, please ring the Council's Trading Standards on 08457 585497 for the K.C.C. area, or 0208 303 7777 for Bexley Borough. We should demand the very highest standards of service in our pubs.

The copy date for the next issue is 31 March 2009 for publication in May 2009.

Beer Festivals

www.camra.org.uk (and click on the **Beer Festivals** button)

February *CAMRA Festivals*

6 – 7 **WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES**
Maison Dieu (Town Hall), Dover. 75 ales, all at 5% ABV
www.camra-dds.org.uk/festival2009.htm

March

12 – 14 **SUSSEX BEER FESTIVAL**
Hove Town Hall, Hove, BN3 4AH
www.sussexbeerfestival.co.uk

18 – 20 **LONDON DRINKER BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**
Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, WC1H 9AU
Over 70 real ales *www.northlondoncamra.org.uk/*

April

10 – 11 **PLANET THANET BEER FESTIVAL**
Margate Winter Gardens, Fort Crescent, Margate, CT9 1HX

16 – 18 **BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL** (*see ad on page 5*)
Sidcup Sports Club, Sydney Road, Sidcup

February *Non-CAMRA Festivals*

13 **DARTFORD WORKING MEN'S CLUB**, Essex Road, Dartford
from Real Ale Lovers Festival in Function Room. 25+ real ales.
7:30pm Tickets available at main Club bar.

April

3 – 5 **WHEATSHEAF MINI-FESTIVAL**, Loose Road, Maidstone

If any local pubs would like us to mention their beer festival on these pages, just let the editor know well in advance.

KENT BREWERIES

Goacher's	01622 682112	www.goachers.com
HopDaemon	01795 892078	www.hopdaemon.com
Larkins	01892 870328	
Millis Brewing Co.	01322 866233	
Nelson Brewing Co.	01634 832828	www.nelsonbrewingcompany.co.uk
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	www.shepherd-neame.co.uk
Swan, West Peckham	01622 812271	www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk
Westerham Brewery	01959 565837	www.westerhambrewery.co.uk
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	www.whitstablebrewery.info



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Fourth BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL



16th – 18th April 2009

Sidcup Sports Club
Crescent Farm, Sydney Road,
Sidcup DA14 6RA

60+ Beers & Ciders

**Souvenir glasses, snacks,
entertainment**

Updates available nearer the date on www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

Admission: (Provisional)

Thursday 16 April	Midday - 5pm	£2, CAMRA members Free
	5pm-11pm	£2, CAMRA members £1
Friday 17 April	11am-5pm	£2, CAMRA members £1
	5pm-11pm	£2, CAMRA members £1
Saturday 18 April	11am-11pm	£2, CAMRA members £1



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THE WITCHES' CURSE – a pub crawl of Lancaster by Peter Stevens

I first visited Lancaster in 1995 when I started looking for a suitable University to drink away three years of my life (oh, and get a degree at the same time...!) and I have been going back once or twice a year ever since graduating and moving back to Kent.

Lancaster, the county town of Lancashire, is handily placed between the Lake District to the north and the major centres of Liverpool and Manchester to the south. It is close to the now faded seaside resorts of Blackpool and Morecambe and benefits from good transport links, being on the West Coast main line between London and Glasgow and just off the M6. Founded by the Romans, Lancaster grew in prosperity during the Georgian period when its position on the west coast enabled it to benefit from the West Indies trade in sugar and slaves. Now a bustling University city, it plays host to a wide range of traditional pubs and modern student bars. Many of the older pubs are of historical significance.

Sadly, none of the old breweries still survive, Yates & Jackson and Mitchells of Lancaster having ceased brewing in 1984 and 1999 respectively. However two new breweries are now based close to the city centre, Brysons, formed in 2001 and Lancaster, formed in 2005. Mitchells is now a 'pubco', and most of the city centre brewery site is empty and awaiting redevelopment into a shopping centre by the same firm that built Fremlin Walk in Maidstone.

The city centre is quite compact and all of the pubs are within easy walking distance of each other, the main car parks and the railway station, although it must be noted that there are some steep hills. A new leaflet by the local branch lists some 12 real ale pubs, of which six appear in the *Good Beer Guide*. On top of this, there are two Wetherspoons pubs.

My tour started at the **Borough**, close to the Town Hall on the east side of the city centre. In my student days, this was a popular venue on the Saturday night pub crawl, but following refurbishment it is an upmarket venue with chandeliers, leather armchairs and pastel coloured paintwork more in keeping with its Gentlemen's Club past. There is normally a good range of beers available, as well as a real cider (a surprising feature of many of the pubs in the city centre). On my visit there were two from *Bank Top* of Bolton, two from *Thwaites* as well as *Lancaster Amber* and *Brysons John McGuinness Bitter* (named after the Morecambe-based TT rider). CAMRA members also get a discount on their beer.

Leaving the Borough, a short walk up the hill behind the Town Hall brings you to the **White Cross**. There were eight beers on offer the evening I visited, including *Hawkshead Brodies's Prime* at 4.9% and *Coniston Bluebird Bitter* as well as beers from the *Tirril Brewery* in Appleby, Cumbria. The pub is situated in an old warehouse on the Lancaster Canal and serves good value food daily.

From the White Cross you can walk ten minutes along the canal towpath to the **Water Witch**, a former GBG entry and recently taken over and refurbished by *Mitchells*, but I dropped back down into the city centre to the **Penny Bank**. Run by the same tenant as the White Cross (along with a third pub, **Merchants**) it has close links with the *Tirril Brewery*, and I tried a pint of *Old Faithful*, which didn't inspire. The range was fairly standard with only *Moorhouse's Pendle Witches Brew* standing out.

A short walk down through the main shopping streets of Penny Street and Market Street took me to the **Robert Gillow**. Almost next door to **Merchants**, they are the closest pubs to the railway station and Lancaster Castle – still a working prison! Once a French restaurant, it is named after the famous Lancaster furniture maker and converted by Hydes of Manchester. A tied house, it was serving *Owd Bill*, *Jekyll's Gold* and *Original* on my visit.

My penultimate port of call was a short walk round the corner to the **Sun Hotel**. Owned by the same people as the *Lancaster Brewery* it is a modern refurbishment of an old building – all dark wood panelling and exposed brickwork. Three *Lancaster* beers were available, *Blonde*, *Black* and *Red*, along with *Abbey Bellringer*, *Thwaites Nutty Black* and *Jennings Bitter*.

A steep downhill walk took me onto the road to St George's Quay and the **Three Mariners**, one of the oldest and most historic pubs in Lancaster. Set on a cobbled street, it is unusual for having the cellar on the first floor! As well as beers from *Greene King* and *Black Sheep* there were *Bowland Hen Harrier* and *Moorhouse's Broomstick Bitter*.

This is only a brief taster of the pubs and beers in Lancaster – I haven't mentioned the **Yorkshire House** or the **Golden Lion** (both GBG pubs). Nearly all of the beers I tried were in good condition, and were reasonably priced (although Lancaster is closer to South East prices than elsewhere in the North West). And what of the Witches' Curse? When the Pendle Witches were taken to Lancaster to be tried they allegedly put a curse on anyone who visited the town that they would either stay forever or be forced to return... I'm already planning my next visit!

THE KING & QUEEN

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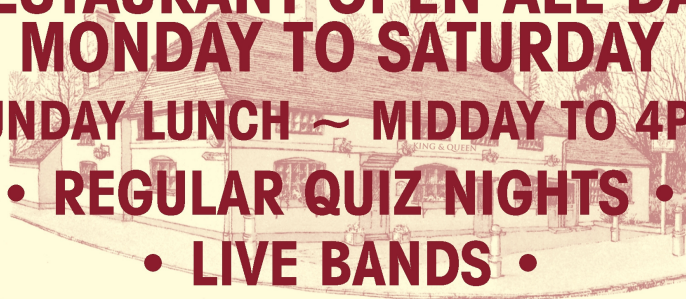
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King & Queen "What's On" 2009

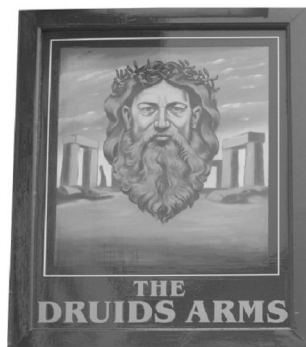
No reservations for live music (these are free events) - arrive early!!

The King & Queen, 1 New Rd, East Malling, Kent ME19 6DD Tel: 01732 842752

Thursday 8 th January	Monthly Quiz Night	Quiz starts 8.30pm
Sunday 11 th January	Review of the Year Quiz	Quiz starts 7.30pm
Sunday 25 th January	Legends of the 60's	"Billy Shears" 8.00pm
*****	*****	*****
Sunday 8 th February	"Stand Up" Comedy Night	Bookings Essential
Thursday 12 th February	Monthly Quiz Night	Quiz starts 8.30pm
Friday 13 th February	Valentines Weekend Menu	Bookings Recommended
Saturday 14 th February	Valentines Weekend Menu	Bookings Recommended
Sunday 22 nd February	"Wok & Wolf" Entertaining Covers	"Chan" 8.00pm
*****	*****	*****
Thursday 12 th March	Monthly Quiz Night	Quiz starts 8.30pm
Sunday 15 th March	Wine & Cheese Evening	Advance Notification Please
Sunday 22 nd March	Mothers Day	Bookings Essential
Sunday 29 th March	Tribute to the Kings of Swing	"Chris Rose" 8.00pm
*****	*****	*****
Thursday 2 nd April	Monthly Quiz Night	Quiz starts 8.30pm
Thursday 9 th to Mon 13 th April	Bank holiday Beer Festival	Large Selection of Cask Ale
Sunday 12 th April	Easter Sunday Lunch Karaoke & Beer Festival	Bookings Recommended starts 8.00pm
Sunday 26 th April	"Mega Movie Quiz"	Quiz starts 7.30pm
*****	*****	*****
Sunday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday Music Classic Rock Covers	"Usual Suspects" 8.00pm
Thursday 14 th May	Monthly Quiz Night	Quiz starts 8.30pm
Sunday 24 th May	Bank Holiday BBQ PLUS "Blues & Reggae"	BBQ Bookings Essential "Tim Haine" from 8.00pm
*****	*****	*****
Saturday 6 th June	Day at the Races Lunch & Coach Included	Advance Tickets Phone for Details
Thursday 11 th June	Monthly Quiz Night	Quiz starts 8.30pm

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Monday - Saturday 11:30am till 11pm

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Inglenooks Restaurant opening hours;

Monday - Thursday 12 noon - 9:30pm

Monday - Thursday 2:30pm - 6:30pm LIMITED MENU

Friday - Saturday 12 noon - 10pm

Sunday 12 noon - 9pm

We look forward to welcoming you
from all at The Rising Sun Inn & Inglenooks Restaurant, Fawkham Green

A Serbian Sojourn

by Jeff Tucker

My latest adventure took me to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. British Airways fly there from Heathrow. Regular readers will know that I don't give my money to the licensed bandits who run airport car parks! Following the previous fiasco when I caught a bus as usual to Heathrow Central Bus Station, but then had to catch a train (albeit free) to get to Terminal 5, I decided to catch a bus which actually goes to the new terminal. Bus 482 seemed to fit the bill, and I located a likely place to park in Heston using Google maps. 90p each way, using an Oyster card, instead of £9 a day or whatever it is now to park at Heathrow.

The flight was on time, and, having got some cash at the airport (£1.00 = about 105 Dinar), I caught a coach to the city centre, and soon found my hotel. After settling in, I set off in search of refreshments. There didn't seem to be too many bars in the centre, but the **Gaston Restaurant** had beers on the menu, so in I went.

As I found throughout my stay, English is fairly widely spoken, and there was an English menu here. I decided against the Dalmatian Joint (!) and opted instead for Chicken, Gorgonzola and Walnuts, which was delicious. The beer was *Lav* (5.2%), owned by *Carlsberg*, at 110D for a 0.33L bottle, and wasn't very good. *Lav* means Lion, since you asked.

I later found a small bar near the zoo in Strahinjica Bana, called **Brat Fidel**, *Brat* meaning brother, and *Fidel* as in Castro! The first beer I tried was *Jelen Pivo* at 5%, which seemed to be the standard strength for most beers in Belgrade. It cost 90D for a half-litre, was pale and not too gassy, but had little flavour.

Also on offer was *Niksishko*, a dark beer from Montenegro, which was quite nice. The barman turned out to be a Liverpool supporter, and he gave me a *Niksishko* glass, which survived the journey home - more about this later! While there, I picked up a Belgrade listings magazine, which had an ad for a Scottish pub, **Veprovo Dah**, further along the same street. This I had to see!

A barmaid was wearing an abbreviated kilt over her leggings, but the barman's apparel looked more authentic. Beers were *Guinness* (och aye!), *Carlsberg*, *Tuborg* and *Lav*, at 135D per half-litre. The menu included Scottish Breakfast (460D), consisting of egg, sausage, bacon and feta cheese. *Kulen*, *Kajmak*, *Paradajz* were helpfully translated as *Kulen*,

Kajmak, Tomatoes - one out of three ain't bad! The whole place looked quite bizarre. The beer was poor and the service indifferent. The name translates as 'The Boar's Breath', by the way.

On the way back to the hotel, I sat outside at a pizza/Italian restaurant, where *Niksishko* light beer was 180D, but a large slice of pizza was only 85D.

My first impressions of the city were that it is very clean, with very little graffiti. The only coin in circulation seems to be 5D, which is not always given in change. They use both the Cyrillic alphabet and ours. Often two shops next door to each other will use both between them! Some words are similar to Czech, such as days of the week. Double parking seems to be compulsory. Everyone seems to smoke - fags are less than £1 for 20 time for bed.

The next day, at an outdoor cafe near my hotel, I tried *Weifert*, at 130D for a half-litre. It was a light beer, and quite gassy. I then had a bottle of the same, which was even gassier. I wasn't given the bottle, so I don't know where it comes from.

Later I caught tram number 9 to Blok 45, which went past some architecturally interesting blocks of flats which were ten storeys high at the back, reducing in steps to four storeys nearest the road. At the terminus was **The Old English Pub**. no less! It featured lots of brick, including the floor, and wood, including the ceiling. There was a proper bar, air conditioning, and *Niksishko Light* and *Dark* were 90D per half-litre. What it was doing in the outer suburbs was anyone's guess!

After something similar to Kentucky Fried Chicken, except they cook it to order - no fast food, I tried the bar in my hotel. *Niksishko* was 85D, and examination of the bottle showed it to be brewed in Apatin, as was *Jelen*.

On day three, I found a restaurant in the suburbs, where *Lav* was 160D. At a small bar across the road, *Jelen* was 80D - the cheapest beer yet. I returned to **Brat Fidel**, which I noticed had strange opening hours - from 09.03 to 01.47. The barman changes at 17.25. Odd!

So, an interesting trip. Beers were not outstanding, but everyone was very friendly, and there were some surprises. As a postscript, I decided to carry my much-prized *Niksishko* glass in my hand luggage. As it went through the X-ray scanner at Belgrade airport, the security man asked me "Is that a glass in your bag?". "Yes", I replied. "Is it empty?" was his next question. "Yes", I replied. I wanted to give another answer, but thought better of it!

LOCAL NEWS

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT

Contact: *John Mills 01732 840603*
or email *jandj@larkfield98.freeserve.co.uk*

Angel, Addington – Now has a new licensee following a brief period of closure. Otherwise, much the same.

Chequers, Aylesford – Peter & Gina Collins run this old beamed riverside pub which also serves food. Regular live music is played. Use the village car park and walk through the village, past the traffic signals towards Eccles. *Greene King IPA & Old Speckled Hen* were available at time of visit but other guest ales may appear.

White Horse, Bearsted – This is a large, quality eating house beside the Green, operated by Mitchells & Butler. *Taylor Landlord* and *Fullers London Pride* are the regulars.

Bull, Benenden – On a bus trip here we found the *Dark Star Hophead* in excellent condition as were the *Westerham IPA* and *Larkins Traditional*.

King William IV, Benenden – Was closed for a while but now this *Shepherd Neame* pub is being run by Ray Norris who was previously at the Bull, Sissinghurst.

Cock, Boughton Monchelsea – David and Jo are celebrating seven years as licensees in this GBG regular and have been faithful advertisers in *Draught Copy*. The current line-up is *Youngs PA* and *Winter Warmer*, *Wells Bombardier* and *Marstons Pedigree*.

White Hart, Claygate – Sarah and Carl Thompson had 5 beers on at our last visit. The regular *Shepherd Neame Masterbrew*, *Kent's Best* and *Spitfire* were supplemented by *Canterbury Jack* and the *Porter*.

Kentish Quarryman, Ditton – Jayne and Graham are now serving food at lunch time. There is a large car park to rear so no parking problems. Brewers, *Shepherd Neame* provide the 3 well kept beers.

King & Queen, East Malling – The accommodation is now in operation with 3 double rooms. There is regular musical entertainment on Sunday evenings. *Harveys Best* and *Sharps Doom Bar* are now regulars, with guests often including beers from *Gadd's* and *Whitstable Brewery*.



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 - ❖ Beer served – Monday to Saturday 11 – 11
and Sunday 12 – 10.30
-

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LOCAL NEWS

Rising Sun, East Malling – *Goachers Fine Light* and one or more guest ales are always available. Our Boxing Day walk found ample reward as we also supped several pints of *Cottage Whippet Claus* and *Robinsons Mr Scrooge*. Thursday evenings now offer a pint and a meal for £6-50, but please contact the pub and order in advance to ensure that sufficient is available.

Peacock, Goudhurst – *Shepherd Neame* beers are kept in top form at this old pub between Goudhurst and Cranbrook. Usually available are *Bishop's Finger*, *Kent's Best* and *Masterbrew* but *St Austell Black Prince* was also found during the beer festival.

Vine, Goudhurst – situated in the heart of the village, *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Fullers London Pride* are served to wash down the Thai meal available in the restaurant.

Hawkenbury, Hawkenbury – Twixt Staplehurst and Sutton Valence this large pub provides food all day. To pass the time there are Pool and Bar Billiards tables whilst Skittles may be played in the garden. Beers tried were *Fullers London Pride* and *Wells Bombardier* with alternating guests including *Badger K & B Sussex*, *Harveys Best* and *Green King IPA*.

Royal Oak, Hawkhurst – Following the sudden departure of the licensee, Janelle Tresidder, this wine-bar style pub is now under new management.

George & Dragon, Headcorn – Has a small restaurant area and a shop to the rear. Beers are *Shepherd Neame Masterbrew & Spitfire*.

Kings Arms, Headcorn – A large corner pub and restaurant with Bed & Breakfast facilities. There is also a games area. *Black Sheep Bitter* and *Shepherd Neame Masterbrew* are available.

White Horse, Headcorn – Large screen TVs show regular sports events. *Fullers London Pride* and *Courage Best* are the regulars.

Walnut Tree, Loose – Phil & Debbie Glover have had a refurbishment here including the removal of a wall. This has given a much more open atmosphere. There is a separate snug bar to the rear with large screen TV. A fireplace has been revealed and is fed with logs. *Shepherd Neame Masterbrew*, *Spitfire* and the seasonal ale are to be found.

YEW TREE



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EMAIL: YEWTREESANDLING@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

WWW.YEWTREESANDLING.CO.UK

LOCAL NEWS

Knoxbridge Inn, Knoxbridge – Appears to have closed again.

Cricketers, Maidstone – Comfortable seating is provided here, plus a juke box, pool table and darts boards. *Harveys Best* is the regular brew.

Earls, Maidstone – A newish beer *Press Gang 4.3%* was recently found in this regular outlet for *Nelson Brewery*. Another seasonal brew to watch for is *Friggin' In The Riggin'*. *John Smith's Cask* is a regular.

Muggleton, Maidstone – A new management team are now in place here. Improvements in the level of service, beer availability and quality have been noted and appreciated.

Rising Sun, Maidstone – Has re-opened, but no real ale kept at time of visit.

Saxon Chief, Maidstone – A long overdue visit here found *Wells Bombardier* still to be the regular beer.

Swan, Maidstone – The first ever sight of guest beers from *Shepherd Neame* meant that in addition to the regular *Masterbrew* and *Kent's Best* visitors were able to sample the gorgeous *St Austell Black Prince*, as well as *Butcombe Gold* and *Princetown Dartmoor IPA*. Look out for guest beers again soon as the experiment proved a hit and could well increase the number of customers in *Sheps* pubs.

Walnut Tree, Maidstone – held its official re-opening on the evening of November 11, 2008. The interior of the pub and the garden have been updated and the pub now has a more open and modern feel. Peter Goldsmith, who has been a regular drinker at the pub since December 1964, was asked to pull a pint to officially mark the re-opening - and this he did with great style!

White Rabbit, Maidstone – Licensee Richard Grant has obtained Cask Marque accreditation. *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Best* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* are usually on the bar.

Wild Duck, Marden Thorn – Has had some sympathetic refurbishment and is now open all day. Good food available in the restaurant. Regular beers are *Adnams Bitter*, *Shepherd Neame Masterbrew* and *Youngs Bitter*.

Bull, Sissinghurst - Richard Symes & Liz Felstead have taken over here.

LOCAL NEWS

Greene King IPA, Harveys Best and *Shepherd Neame Masterbrew* are the regular beers.

Bell Inn, Staplehurst - Paul and Karen should have passed the 100th guest beer mark by the end of the year. In addition to one of the *Westerham* beers as a regular, recent guests include *Sharps Doombar* and *Black Sheep*.

North Pole, Wateringbury – This was one of our *Good Beer Guide* pubs but is now under new management following the sudden departure of the previous lessees John, Christine and Neil Bishop, who had provided an excellent service to the community. Jackie Clark is the new licensee and recent reports found the beer to be well kept. The Monday Quiz continues at £2 including buffet and on Wednesdays, Bangers and Mash plus a pint is offered for just £6. The beers currently on the bar are *Green King IPA, Fullers London Pride, Taylor Landlord* and *Wells Bombardier*, however there are now no micro-brewery beers allowed by Enterprise.

Good Intent, West Farleigh – Sam & Lesley Needham have *Harveys Best* regularly on the pumps.

White House, West Farleigh – *Goachers Crown Imperial Stout* and *Fine Light* are served straight from the cask at this welcoming pub.

Walnut Tree, Yalding – Barry keeps four good ales here. The regulars *Harveys Best, Taylor Landlord* and *Youngs Bitter* were augmented with *Westerham God's Wallop* when we visited prior to Christmas.

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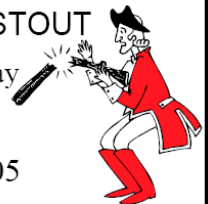
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LOCAL NEWS

BEXLEY www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

Email contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk

Welcome to 2009 and another New Year (hopefully happy) of beer festivals. Local to us are Dover and Battersea in February, London Drinker in March, then in April you can visit Planet Thanet over Easter and the following week (16-18 April) come down to earth and visit Bexley's Fourth (see advertisement on page 5). As before this festival will be held at **Sidcup Sports Club**, Sydney Road, and this year will open at noon on the Thursday and should be selling some beers from overseas.

This year the festival will be organised by Alan Boakes, who had the arduous task of sorting out the first two and made them successful with added input from Peter Trout and Paul Simons. Unfortunately, Paul was unable to take over the role he so successfully fulfilled last year due to personal family problems. This has meant that he has been unable to work at innumerable beer festivals and other beer related events; his value and dedication to CAMRA cannot be underestimated and will be a great loss, particularly his enthusiasm and knowledge which he was always willing to share. Being a great believer (like myself and many others, thankfully) that beer festivals are the best way to publicise cask-conditioned beers, which, after all, is what CAMRA is about. Having got the public to the festival it is then easier for them to appreciate real ale and discuss and understand the problems associated with the licensed trade, primarily the closure of pubs and the high rate of duty on beer.

One of the advantages of working at a beer festival is the staff outing, so thanks to Alan Boakes, Paul Simons and Pete Ravenscroft for arranging them. (NB This bonus is only available to CAMRA members and staffing forms will be sent out in January along with voting slips for Bexley branch Pub of the Year). The outing in 2008 took place on a Saturday in October when about thirty staff enjoyed a mystery coach trip anticlockwise around the M25, intending to visit a number of *Good Beer Guide* listed pubs just off the motorway. Our first stop just after midday was the **Land of Liberty Peace and Plenty** at Herongate near Chorleywood, just up the hill from a motorway junction. This is a wonderful little free house with a large garden which has been a recent regional CAMRA Pub of the Year Winner. *Red Squirrel Brewery* beers



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TASTE THE HISTORY !

LOCAL NEWS

from Hertford are always available alongside an ever changing selection which included *Tring Brewery Mansion Mild* and *Liberty Ale* along with straw coloured beers from *York (MM)* and *Downton (Quad Hop)* The landlord provided an excellent buffet so we stayed for a few pints. The second stop took us to the **Royal Standard** at Wooburn Common, near Marlow which offered six different real ales including both *Gladiator* and *Centurion* from *Hadrian & Border*. Unfortunately there had been an accident ahead of us on the M25, delaying us for three hours, so we were too late for our last stop at the beer festival at the **Bull** in Horton Kirby, the Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch Pub of the Year 2008.

Having mentioned the Pub of the Year, the ever popular **Robin Hood & Little John**, Lion Road, Bexleyheath has won the Bexley award for the last nine consecutive years. Will it be a decade of wins – or are we in for a surprise? Your vote counts – see next issue for the result.

On the local pub scene two additional outlets are now selling real ale. The **Golden Lion** in Bexleyheath Broadway, just along from the **Wrong 'Un**, now has three handpumps dispensing *Young's Bitter* and *Wells Bombardier*; it has been many long years since this pub sold real ale when it was a Whitbread tied house. However the greatest shock is **R.S.V.P.** (formerly Yates's), opposite the **Furze Wren**, near Bexleyheath Clock Tower, which sells the same beers as the **Golden Lion** (both establishments being owned by the same company). Also in Bexleyheath, the other pub in Lion Road has reverted to its former name – the **Royal Standard**, having spent several years as **Morgans**. There are still two handpumps on the bar counter but no sign of real ale. Morgans sold *Young's Bitter* for a while so there is hope of a resurgence.

Praise must go to our three J.D.Wetherspoon outlets; the aforementioned **Furze Wren** and the **Wrong 'Un** (Bexleyheath) and the **New Cross Turnpike** (Welling) for the selection and quality of beers during their beer festival in November. These pubs also sell an enterprising range of real ales at competitive prices throughout the year.

In Upper Belvedere the **Royal Standard** also held a successful beer festival by selling several guests alongside its regular *Fuller's London Pride*, all at £2.35 per pint. Normally two guest beers can be found from the independent brewers.

LOCAL NEWS

The non real ale **Nordenfeldt Tavern** in Erith Road, a long distance from the nearest pub, has been closed for a couple of months displaying a "To Let" sign.

The **Jolly Millers** in Mayplace Road, Bexleyheath is a pleasant corner pub with an interesting collection of old 78 records and other bric-a-brac attached to the ceiling. The pub is now trading under the *Brakspears* name, a company that owns pubs but not the brewery, although the pub sells *Brakspears* beers, which are owned by *Marstons*. On our visit in December, *London Pride*, *Young's Bitter* and *Harveys Best* were on sale, with the *Harveys* much enjoyed.

In Crayford, the **Crayford Arms** now has five handpumps dispensing reasonably priced and good quality *Shepherd Neame* beers. It also took the guest beers offered by *Shepherd Neame* in November and December, being *Butcombe Gold*, *St.Austell Black Prince* and *Dartmoor IPA*. The **Old Wick** in Bexley village, also tied to *Shepherd Neame*, had both the *Porter* and *Canterbury Jack* available. The **George Staples** in Blackfen is selling *Sheps Spitfire* and *Greene King IPA*.

Nice to see our local MP for Erith and Thamesmead, Mr. John Austin supporting the *Axe the beer tax, save the pub* campaign, sponsored by CAMRA and the beer industry to "save the Great British pub" aimed the decision to increase duty on beer following a 9% increase at the last budget with a promise of 2% above inflation rise for the next four years. Mr.Austin said: "Pubs face real and unfair competition from supermarkets, through their cut-price tactics and loss leaders which not only damage the pub trade but also encourage irresponsible drinking. I would favour a differential level of tax between pubs and supermarkets". Visit www.axethebeertax.com to sign up to the campaign.

Over Christmas it was great to see amongst all the lit-up decorations on houses someone who had put up a lighted sign saying BAH HUMBUG.

And the beer-related Christmas Carol winner 2008 was "the Twelve Days of Christmas.....And a bottle of Fuller's ESB".

LOCAL NEWS

GRAVESEND & DARENT VALLEY

Contact *Bob Belton* 01322-224683 (H): 020-7235-5213 (W)

Ian Wright 01322 550275 / 07779 319196 or email *gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk*

At the time of writing at the back end of 2008 the economic recession is biting hard with news of several High Street casualties and the traditional seasonal greeting for a prosperous New Year sounds rather hollow for 2009 as forecasts for the coming months are somewhat bleak. Inevitably more pubs are doomed for closure and the prospect would be even more worrying if a large pub owning company were to go bankrupt. The fifth largest pub retailer in the UK, the Orchid Group, was rescued from administration in the middle of December when about 240 pubs were sold back to their private equity backer, who formed Orchid in 2006 by purchasing around 280 pubs from Punch Taverns. The remaining 40 or so pubs, including the **Ship** at Cobham in our branch area, were taken back by Punch and temporarily closed, pending disposal of leases. Punch intends to re-open the majority of these pubs itself and sell the remainder of the lease. There are only two other Orchid pubs in the Draught Copy distribution area, being the **George** at Singlewell near Gravesend and the **Blue Anchor** in Bexley, both of which were open over the Christmas period.

Further to my “starter for ten” request in the previous issue, readers have directed me to the year 2000 publication by Eric R. Green, *Gazetteer of Gravesend and Milton Inns and Public Houses*, which informs us that the **New Falcon** in West Street was originally known as the Rhum Butt (1789-1812), the Rum Puncheon (1813-1848), the Talbot (1849-1850) and the New Falcon from 1851. The **New Falcon** re-opened in October 2008, reverting to the name **Rum Puncheon** and owned by the Proper Little Pub Co.Ltd, run by co-directors Mel & Sue Wilkie. The other directors are Steve & Linda Harris who run the company’s first acquisition, the **Park Tavern** in Passey Place, Eltham. Several local CAMRA members visited the **Rum Puncheon** at the beginning of November to find six well kept beers on handpump, including the excellent *Triple fff Alton’s Pride* (CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain 2008), *Palmers Copper Ale*, *Moorhouse’s Blonde Witch*, and *Loddon Gravesend Shrimpers*, as the pub is supplied by AVS beer agency of Gravesend. This venture deserves to be successful



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LOCAL NEWS

and is a welcome addition to the circuit of historic free houses in Central Gravesend offering interesting real ales from smaller breweries.

Starting at the **Rum Puncheon**, which is now the only (open) pub in West Street (there were ten hostelryes in 1908), turn left to the **Three Daws**, by the Town Pier, which sells beers from the local *Millis* and *Nelson* breweries, carry on along the main road to the *Good Beer Guide* 2009 listed **Crown & Thistle** in the Terrace (CAMRA National Pub of the Year 2003) also supplied by AVS, walk up Harmer Street to **TJ's** (formerly the British Tar) by the clock tower, across the road to the GBG-listed **Jolly Drayman** (known as the Coke Oven) in Wellington Street, then saunter through the town centre to the **Somerset Arms** by the railway station. This pub is also GBG listed and offers up to six real ales. On a good day I reckon 25 different real ales could be sampled in these six pubs alone, not to mention the **Robert Pocock** (Wetherspoons) and other pubs en route offering more standard beers pushing the total to nearer 35 beers. I'm not advocating binge drinking, just pointing out Gravesend as the town in West Kent selling the greatest variety of beer in its town centre. Any challengers? Dartford has a "starter for twelve" (handpumps) at the ever recommended **Dartford Working Men's Club**, but I'm only counting pubs for this challenge.

Draught Copy is regularly delivered to over fifty pubs and clubs in the Gravesend & Darent Valley and it is always pleasing to find new outlets. For example the branch visited the **Crown Point Inn** on the A25 between Ightham and Seal last summer and was pleasantly surprised. I remember going to the grandly titled Sir Jeffrey Amherst Crown Point Inn back in the 1980's, when the pub brewed its own beer. After that it became a large branded food house catering predominantly for young families, as evidenced by a large children's play area.

About a year ago the **Crown Point** was acquired by a company called Eat Your Heart Out which owns eight large, food-oriented houses across East and South England. The venue has been refurbished: gone are the bouncy castles, instead an impressive Italian walled garden. The beer is good too, mainly *Adnams* and *Harveys*, and we recently enjoyed *Adnams Old*. EYHO specialise in "Classic British and Commonwealth Cooking" which I've yet to sample – the menus appear very enticing.



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LOCAL NEWS

In the last issue I made a prediction about some pubs expected to close for good. I'm delighted to say that I was wrong about the picturesque **Black Lion** in Red Street, Southfleet, which re-opened in October, with three real ales reported to be *Wells Bombardier*, *Greene King Abbot* and *Deuchars IPA*. The **Railway Inn** at Sole Street is reportedly selling *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* (and guests?) but the pub had already closed when I tried to check it late one Sunday evening. Fortunately, Andrew at the **Cock** at Luddesdown was still welcoming weary travellers and I never pass an opportunity to visit this superb, quintessentially English, free house to sample my favourite mild, brewed by *Goachers* of Maidstone. (*The Black Lion has now been burnt down in very suspicious circumstances—Ed.*)

All is not well in the pub trade, however, and we have another batch of suffering pubs to report. The **Ship** at Green Street Green, near Longfield is closed at present, as is the **Horse & Groom** at Wrotham Hill near West Kingsdown. Both these pubs have been struggling to find long term tenants and my prediction is that they will close permanently in 2009, but hopefully I'll be wrong again. The **Welcome All** at Horns Cross near Greenhithe, which closed and re-opened earlier in 2008, is now the subject of a planning application to convert the building into an Asian restaurant. We understand that both pubs in Kemsing village, the **Bell** and the **Wheatsheaf**, have temporary managers at present and face uncertain futures, as does the **Woodman** in nearby Otford. The lacklustre **Litten Tree** in Dartford town centre closed in November but we are informed that Wetherspoons are interested in this building, probably for conversion into a Lloyds No.1 Bar.

There are at least ten other former pubs in the branch area, mostly mentioned in earlier issues, that have been shut for more than twelve months, awaiting planning permission, or just decaying. The saddest of them all is the **Vigo** at Fairseat, a former standard bearer for the traditional local and a regular *Good Beer Guide* entry. The pub was closed to the public early in 2007 and the building has been neglected ever since. An application to Tonbridge & Malling Council was made by the owners in the latter part of 2008 to convert the premises into a private house and many objections have been submitted by organisations and individuals. (*The application has now been withdrawn, but may be re-submitted in revised form—Ed.*) I doubt whether the **Vigo** will ever re-open as a public house.

LOCAL NEWS

It is my firm belief that, amongst all the depressing news, the good pubs will always survive, and positive commitment, dedication and enterprise of the landlords and staff are the most important factors in running a successful public house. The proudest hosts will provide good food, good drink and a homely, friendly atmosphere to all comers, and in turn, the customers should return the favour with their continued regular patronage. CAMRA branches organise annual Pub of the Year awards which recognise the various qualities of the best pubs, which often emphasise attractions that ordinary pubs are lacking.

For instance Andrew and Denise at the **Cock** at Luddesdown, the only pub to win the local POTY (Pub of the Year) three times in a row, host a free-to-enter friendly but dastardly quiz every Tuesday evening, which is always very well attended. They also let function rooms free of charge to various clubs and societies, and have constructed an imaginative shelter in the garden for smokers. Yes I know that other pubs do these things but the **Cock** does them better, if you'll pardon the expression.

The 2008 POTY winner the Bull at Horton Kirby is another case in point. Garrett and Lynne took over a fairly average village pub about three years ago and have transformed it into a vibrant hostelry where the main attraction is the ever increasing range of excellent real ales and good quality home-cooked food. The latest enterprise is to "showcase" a particular brewery by setting a number of their beers on stillage, at the first weekend of each month (except January 2009), starting on a Thursday. We thoroughly enjoyed our Thursday evening in December sampling six beers from *Marble Brewery* in Manchester and joining in the inventive bingo style quiz. We are looking forward to the *Thornbridge Brewery*, located in a stately home in Derbyshire, showcase in February (see branch diary). The *Pictish Brewery* of Rochdale and the *Atomic Brewery* of Rugby will follow in March and April, so please contact Garrett at the Bull on 01322-862274 to confirm future dates, or look up www.thebullpub.co.uk for information.

Similarly Mark and Fiona have improved the fortunes of the **Crown** at Otford by selling a range of good quality beers and providing excellent home-cooked meals, including traditional Sunday roasts, for which booking is required. The Murder Mystery evening mentioned last issue was so successful that it has been fully booked again for November 2009.

LOCAL NEWS

The **Crown** is now the hub of the village, catering for a wide range of local events. Unfortunately, I missed their inaugural beer festival in October and will certainly attend in 2009.

Outdoor pub beer festivals have become very popular in recent years and are a successful method of attracting new people to the venue, who will hopefully become regulars indoors. The **Fox & Hounds** at Romney Street (near Otford), the **Rising Sun** at Twitton (also near Otford), the **Bull** at Horton Kirby and the **Five Bells** at Chelsfield (just outside our area) all run good real ale festivals at present, and long may they continue. Best wishes to all involved in the licensed trade for 2009 and beyond.

Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2009

Beer category winners

OLD ALES AND STRONG MILDS

Gold Sarah Hughes, Dark Ruby [CWBoB Bronze]
Silver Bryncelyn, Buddy Marvellous
Bronze Joint: Orkney, Dark Island and Theakston, Old Peculier

STOUTS

Gold Bristol Beer Factory, Milk Stout
Silver Beowulf, Dragon Smoke Stout
Bronze Spire, Sgt Pepper Stout

PORTERS

Gold Elland Brewery, 1872 Porter [CWBoB Silver]
Silver Joint: Fullers, London Porter and Townes, Pynot Porter

BARLEY WINES

Gold Oakham, Attila [CWBoB Gold]
Silver Hogs Back, A over T
Bronze Otley, O8

WANDERING THE WEALD

by *Andy Osborne*

I set off on a wonderfully bright but cool winter morning and boarded a bus into Maidstone. Once onboard, I bought the only travel ticket needed for today; an Explorer priced at a bargain £6.50. I was on an *Arriva* bus, but this ticket is in fact, available from most of the bus companies.

En route, I was joined by two other members, and once in Maidstone four more intrepid travellers joined us, so seven of us boarded a No.6 bus to Paddock Wood. On this leg of the journey another member increased the body-count to eight.

We had approximately twenty minutes to wait at Paddock Wood before the connecting bus turned up. But this gave us ample time to visit the local bakery for a warm snack. The bakery was filled with a mouth-watering array of cakes, baguettes with various fillings and of course, lots of pies. There was an advert on the counter for a 'Christmas Bake', so being close to Christmas, I opted for this. It was very tasty but unfortunately, (for me at least!) it was a heck of a lot smaller than I would have wished for... (In fact, thinking about it, it took considerably longer to queue for it for than to eat it, but hey! you can't win them all.)

A further member swelled the ranks to nine by the time the 296 bus arrived. I understand the 296 is bit of an infrequent service, in fact I believe it only runs twice a day on Saturdays, and I'm sure on some weekdays it doesn't run at all. But it did drop us off right outside our first stop of the day, The **Hopbine** in the hamlet of Petteridge, near Matfield.

This is a charming tiled and white weather-boarded pub and has a long standing entry in the *Good Beer Guide* of some twenty years. The interior did not disappoint either! The pub felt warm and cosy and there was a real fire in the centre of the bar. Three *Hall and Woodhouse* beers were on offer, *Badger*, *Sussex* and *Pickled Partridge*. *Pickled Partridge* however, didn't taste quite right. It turned out it was the barrel was almost empty but it was promptly changed when we made the landlord aware of this. The fresh, new beer was excellent. The other two beers were likewise good and enjoyed by various members.

The menu listed a nice selection of home cooked food - however we felt it was a little early for lunch as no-one felt hungry enough to sample any.

We left The **Hopbine** to head on off to the next pub on our schedule. It was a pleasant walk of about a mile or so along surfaced lanes, through rolling countryside. Although a very clear and bright day, the winter sun wasn't strong enough to lift the temperature significantly, so, seemingly from thin air, a myriad of varied and colourful hats simultaneously appeared. I have to admit to be responsible for one of them. A steady walk of some twenty five minutes brought us to our next port of call...

The **Halfway House** at Brenchley is an old coaching inn built in 1790. It has been latterly used as a morgue - and naturally for such an old inn, reputed to be haunted. It was the Kent Regional CAMRA Pub of the year in 2007 and runner-up in 2008. Beer festivals are hosted on Whitsun and August Bank Holiday Weekends in the bars and the large garden, and these festivals have, remarkably, featured up to 50 beers. Today was a good-beer-day as well, a veritable Aladdin's Cave of real ale gems. There were numerous excellent beers available, all poured directly from the barrel by gravity. These included *Goachers Fine Light*, *Rother Valley Mild* and *Halfway to Paradise* (which is a house beer) *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Harveys Sussex*, *Westerham 1965* and *Elgoods Cambridge Bitter*. Also available were two *W J King* beers, *Old Ale & Hopping Mad*. There was also a stout, *Nightmare*, from *Hambleton Brewery*. Every beer was in fine fettle, and that's quite a feat! There was also a medium-dry cider from *Chiddingstone*, with strength around the 7.5% mark.

This pub is quite an experience the first time you visit with its differing levels and timber-stud open partitions. Some of our group chose to eat here. As far as I'm aware the food was good and wholesome, and is available for lunch and evening meals.

When we left the pub, we just crossed the road and hailed a 297 bus. This leg of the journey was to take some 40 minutes; but we would disembark right opposite our next port of call. The **Bull** at Benenden is a 17th-century pub, right in the village centre. A lovely pub with notable interior features such as wooden floors, exposed beams and a large inglenook fireplace, and, needless to say, it was the local CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year (and indeed, runner up in previous years). Here we found four ales available, *Larkin's Traditional*, *Dark Star Hophead*, *Westerham 600th Brew IPA* and *Harvey's Sussex*. They were all in good condition and we had two hours scheduled to sample them. Meals are served at the bar or in the restaurant, but we were out of luck for food today, having arrived right *between* lunch and evening sessions, so the menu was unavailable.

Moving on, we caught the 297 bus again and continued to Tenterden where we had to change once more. We found we had time here for just one drink. I decided to forgo this and headed for the nearest supermarket to grab some much needed provisions, I had not eaten a bite since that minor snack at mid morning. We boarded the No.12 on our last leg as a group, and headed off towards to Maidstone.

We did have an option to stop off at Sutton Valance where three further pubs (at the time of writing) awaited our company and purses, but in the end we chose (as a group) to continue the journey and have a final drink in one of the many varied pubs that are scattered across Maidstone. Unfortunately for me, my visit had to be a short one. I had a further bus to catch.

I couldn't let this day pass without thanking the organiser, Jeff and, of course all the pubs here mentioned, for a very enjoyable and memorable day.

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The 'LocAle' concept was created in 2007 by CAMRA's Nottingham branch. Following its success with around 80 Nottingham pubs signing up to the scheme, CAMRA decided to build upon the growing

consumer demand for local produce, and an awareness of 'green' issues, by converting 'LocAle' into a national campaign.

The idea of 'LocAle' is to encourage pubs to stock at least one locally-produced real ale, aiming to improve the local economy and knowledge of pub goers about which beers are brewed locally. It may also give businesses the edge over the sections of the off-trade that are selling beer way below cost price.

Tony Jerome, CAMRA's Senior Marketing Manager, heralded the achievement of all local branches, and said: 'Bearing in mind the publicity material was only made available to CAMRA branches at the end of July, the current success of the scheme is a true testament to our members who are committed to seeing locally-sourced produce in their community pub, and to pubs wanting to source locally brewed beers. Many branches have cited the benefit of localised spending in their area, and within the community there has been positive feedback from all quarters.'

Everyone benefits from local pubs stocking locally-brewed real ale...

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- **The environment** will benefit due to fewer 'beer miles', resulting in less road congestion and pollution.
- **Tourism** will benefit due to an increased sense of local identity and pride - let's celebrate what makes our locality different.

Each participating CAMRA branch can decide upon their exact definition of 'locally-produced' real ale but the Sustainable Communities Act, which CAMRA strongly supports, provides a definition of local as up to 30 miles. This measurement is usually based on the shortest driving distance between a pub and its nearest brewery. However, the CAMRA South Hertfordshire branch have sought to incorporate their county's best producers by classifying all Hertfordshire brewers as 'local', proof that LocAle can be interpreted as best seen by individual CAMRA branches.

Steve Westby, CAMRA Real Ale Campaigner of the Year 2008, and founder of the 'LocAle' scheme, said: 'It is great to see how what began as a protest against the domination of Nottingham pubs by global beer brands can so easily be transferred into a positive national scheme, especially at a time when communities are being threatened by economic turmoil. The majority of people in this country strive to retain their local identity, with 'LocAle' playing a perfect accompaniment to this fight.'

But as many branches have reported, the ability of some pubs in joining the scheme has been hindered by their relationship to a pub company. Both the Grantham and Newark branches of CAMRA noted how tied pubs in their areas, although enthusiastic about the scheme, could not sign up due to either a restricted beer portfolio or a simple inability to commit themselves because of external pressures. Nevertheless, there have been branches, which, in some cases, have signed up almost 20% of their local pubs.

In short, CAMRA LocAle is about consumer choice, local jobs, supporting a sustainable environment, creating local distinctiveness and promoting local pubs. It is to encourage locally brewed ale to be available in pubs local to that brewery. This may, in time, encourage more pubs to put more local beer on their pumps instead of just the same old Nationals, which ultimately will mean more selection for the customer. This is a very big issue when considering climate change and the distances that beer has to be transported, sometimes hundreds of miles, usually by road from big National depots situated around the country.

For more information on LocAle, please contact us using the normal correspondence details and we will pass your query on to your local representative.

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

Save money by paying by Direct Debit!

Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.



Your Details

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Address

..... Postcode

Email address

Tel No (s)

Please state which CAMRA newsletter you found this form in? Draught Copy, MMK

	Direct Debit	Non DD
Single Membership (UK & EU)	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£22 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint Membership (Partner at the same address)	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27 <input type="checkbox"/>

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Signed Date

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Mem Form 0108



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

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- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amount to be paid or the payment dates change CAMRA will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by CAMRA or your Bank or Building Society you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
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Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference Number

Originators Identification Number

9 2 6 1 2 9

FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

CAMRA BRANCH MEETINGS

CAMRA branches arrange socials and trips throughout the year. Non-members are welcome to come along to our meetings. If you would like more information, or would like a lift (if possible), please ring the local branch contact—see **Local News** sections.

BEX = Bexley, **GDV** = Gravesend and Darent Valley, and
MMK = Maidstone & Mid-Kent (*OBM* = Open Business Meeting)

February

- 5th GDV **Bull**, Horton Kirby (*Thornbridge Brewery* night)
5th MMK **Bull**, Barming, then **Redstart**
11th BEX **Royal Standard**, Upper Belvedere—*OBM*
12th MMK **King William IV**, Benenden, then **Bull**
12th GDV **Black Horse**, Stansted, **George**, Meopham, **Cock L'downe**
18th GDV **Chequers**, Heaverham, then **Bull & Crown**, Otford
19th MMK Maidstone Walkabout - **Drakes**, then **Druids Arms**
21st MMK Bus Trip to **Swan**, Wittersham Beer Festival
25th GDV **Dartford WMC**—*OBM* & *GBG* selection
25th BEX **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath - *GBG* selection
26th MMK **Albion**, Boughton Monchelsea, then **Cock**

March

- 4th GDV **Copperfields**, **See Ho**, **Rose & Crown**, all in Shorne
5th MMK **Hook and Hatchet**, Hucking, then **Black Horse**, Thurnham
11th BEX **Black Horse**, Bexley—*OBM*
12th GDV **Tiger**, **Woodman**, **Ivy Leaf**, all in Dartford, East Hill area
12th MMK **Bull**, West Malling—*OBM*
19th GDV **Black Lion**, **Ship**, **Wheatsheaf**, all in Southfleet
19th MMK **Walnut Tree**, East Farleigh, then **Horseshoes**
26th MMK Maidstone Walkabout - **Swan**, then **Flowerpot**
28th MMK Bus Trip to **Bull**, Horton Kirby & Gravesend

April

- 2nd MMK **Red Bull**, Eccles, then **Chequers** and **Little Gem**, Aylesford
8th BEX **Jolly Millers**, Bexleyheath—*OBM*
9th MMK **Mulberry Tree**, Boughton Monchelsea, then **Lord Raglan**
10th MMK Good Friday Ramble - Paddock Wood to **Halfway House**
16th MMK **King's Arms**. Boxley
23rd MMK **Peacock**, Iden Green, **Vine** and **Star & Eagle**, Goudhurst
23rd BEX **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath
25th GDV **Plough**, Basted, then **Old House** and **Crown Point Inn**
30th MMK **George**, Yalding, then **Walnut Tree**

■ OLD 1066 ALE ■ BEST DARK ALE ■

REAL MILD ALE ■ FINE LIGHT ALE ■ GOLD STAR



REAL MILD ALE ■ FINE LIGHT ALE ■ GOLD STAR

GOACHER'S MAIDSTONE ALES

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