

CAMRA'S CAMPAIGNING SUCCESSES

CAMRA is the most successful single issue consumer campaign group in Britain. If CAMRA had not been formed to save real ale then this classic, great-tasting British drink would have become extinct. Founded in 1971, CAMRA has achieved the following:

- ✓ In the 1970's, CAMRA successfully fought the efforts of the big brewers to replace traditional ales with tasteless keg beers
- ✓ In the 1980's, CAMRA lobbied against the lack of choice in Britain's pubs. In 1989 the Government responded with wide-reaching reforms called the Beer Orders. The Beer Orders forced the big six brewers to sell or free from the tie over 11,000 pubs, as well as introducing the Guest Beer provision
- ✓ In the 1990's, CAMRA actively encouraged and supported real ale resurgence. During the decade CAMRA thwarted efforts by the EU Commission to abolish Britain's Guest Beer provision
- ✓ Since 2000, CAMRA has succeeded in campaigning for the:
 - Extension of mandatory rate relief to public houses
 - Reform of the outdated licensing laws in England and Wales leading to a more flexible licensing system
 - Introduction of reduced excise duty for small brewers which means that small brewers are able to compete on a more level playing field with the large brewers

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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 30 June 2009 for publication in August 2009.

Beer Festivals

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

June *CAMRA Festivals*

- 2 – 6 **THURROCK BEER FESTIVAL**
140+ ales, plus cider country wines and mead
www.essex-camra.org.uk/swessex/index_files/index.html
- 27 **KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAIL BEER FESTIVAL**
K & ES Railway, Tenterden Town Station—11 to 10.30
www.camra.org.uk/page.aspx?o=301898

July

- 8 – 11 **EALING BEER FESTIVAL**
Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, Ealing, London W5
www.ealingbeerfestival.org.uk

May *Non-CAMRA Festivals*

- 1 **DARTFORD WORKING MEN'S CLUB,**
Essex Road, Dartford.
May Day Festival in function room
25 real ales and ciders. Tickets at club bar, includes food

June

- 4–7 **BULL,** Lombard Street, Horton Kirby
40 real ales and ciders (see ad on p25)

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
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Q. How do you avoid getting breathalysed and banned after having a few pints in the pub?

A. Don't drive there!

Not many of us live more than 20 minutes' walk away from a station or a bus route, even on a Sunday, so why not leave the car at home and use a mixture of public transport and Shanks's pony to discover some of the fantastic country pubs in our area?

Ordnance Survey's Explorer maps (with the orange cover) show footpaths in sufficient detail for most people to be able to follow them. Number 148 covers much of the *Draught Copy* area. 136 and 147 are also useful for the areas to the south and west.

For example, from where I live, in Snodland, I can walk across the fields to Birling in 25 minutes, where the **Nevill Bull** offers three real ales and fantastic Sunday lunches. From there, the **Duke of Wellington** (four ales) at Ryarsh is a further 15 minutes along the lane, then West Malling can be reached in another 30 minutes. There, the **Bull** sells around five ales and also a very nice Sunday roast, and the **Lobster Pot** has six beers on. Bus 151 will get me home again from there.

Don't have a timetable? If you are unsure of the public transport options in your area, visit www.kent.gov.uk/publications/transport-and-streets/public-transport-maps.htm for a map of all bus and train routes in Kent. Then, for details of timetables for any bus route, go to www.traveline.org.uk/index.htm and click on *South-East*. Train information is at www.southeasternrailway.co.uk.

I am also 18 minutes' walk from Snodland station, from where I can easily get to the likes of East Farleigh, Wateringbury, Yalding and Beltring. From these stations, there are lots of interesting pubs within walking distance. Details of these and others are given below.

Starting with the Maidstone East line, an easy 2-mile walk involves getting off at East Malling, visiting the **King & Queen**, and the **Rising Sun**, then on to West Malling, where there is a good choice of pubs. The train can be rejoined at West Malling.

From Borough Green & Wrotham, it is a 2.5-mile walk to the splendid **Old House at Home** at Ightham Common. Check the opening hours first at this pub, which doesn't sell food, and resembles somebody's front room! If you fancy a shorter walk back to the station, buses 222 and 308 stop within half a mile of the pub.

Further up the line at Shoreham, a hilly but rewarding 2-mile walk will take you to the **Fox & Hounds** at Romney Street, as remote a pub as you will find in the area.

Turning to the line from the Medway Towns through Meopham, a 0.75-mile stroll from Sole Street station will bring you to the **Cock** at Henley Street, a CAMRA *Good Beer Guide* regular for many years, and rightly so. A further walk of similar distance will take you to the **Golden Lion** at Luddesdown, surrounded by magnificent scenery.

From Farningham Road station, it is about a mile to the **Bull** at Horton Kirby, where a very enterprising landlord can usually offer an astonishing range of beers from microbrewers.

The southern part of the Medway Valley line from Maidstone West to Paddock Wood offers lots of possibilities for walks of varying distances. From East Farleigh, the **Horseshoes** and the **Walnut Tree** at Dean Street are each about a mile-and-a-half away. For the more adventurous, the **White House** at West Farleigh is about 2.5 miles, with a possible stop at the **Good Intent** on the way. On returning to the station, the **Bull** at the top of the hill, and the **Victory** just next to the station offer refreshment before catching the next train.

From Wateringbury, the **North Pole** is a 1.5-mile uphill walk, with the **Railway** handy for a pint on the way back. Yalding station is about 1.5 miles from the village, where the **George** and **Walnut Tree** are worth a visit. From Beltring, the **Chequers** at Laddingford is an easy one-mile stroll, but beware of the traffic on the first section along the lane. In the opposite direction, the **Man of Kent** at Little Mill is two miles away. Tall people might come away from this pub with a headache!

Several good pubs are nowhere near a station, but can be reached from a bus route. For example, the **Swan on the Green** at West Peckham is a one-mile walk along the lane from Mereworth School, which is served by routes 7 and 77 from Maidstone, Kings Hill and Tonbridge.

Route 308 (Bluewater - Gravesend - Borough Green - Sevenoaks) is a useful route. The **Green Man** at Hodsohl Street is about a mile from Culverstone Green, and the **Padwell Arms** at Stone Street the same distance from Seal Chart, near the **Crown Point**. The **Black Horse** at Stansted is a two-mile, fairly hilly walk from the former Vigo pub, or a slightly shorter distance from the new 408 (Swanley - West Kingsdown - Borough Green) from the (now closed) Horse and Groom at the top of Wrotham Hill. This route starts from 9th May.

Arriva's route 5 (Maidstone to Sandhurst) can be used to reach the **Lord Raglan** at Chart Sutton, just over half a mile north from the stop at Cross-at-Hand. From Staplehurst, the **Wild Duck** at Marden Thorn is about two miles away. Just south of Staplehurst, at Knox Bridge, it is a rewarding 2.5-mile walk to the **Bell & Jorrocks** at Frittenden.

It's a good idea to check opening times before setting off on a walk, to avoid disappointment. There's nothing like a vigorous walk to build up a thirst (and an appetite)! Some pubs are most easily reached by walking along roads, which often don't have the luxury of a pavement to segregate you from the traffic, so be careful, especially coming back.

So, in one day, you can improve your fitness, get some fresh air, save the planet, and support some of our lovely country pubs!

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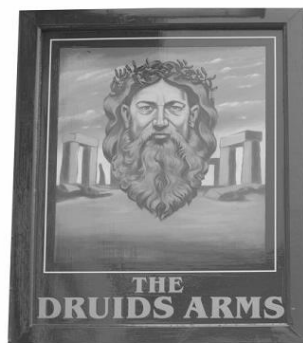
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Sunday 12 noon - 9pm

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

FIVE DAYS OR WAS IT A WEEK IN KAUNAS?

By Danny O'Sullivan & Lynne Backler

We arrived in Kaunas, Lithuania, on a cold Valentine's Day, taking a bus from the airport late at night to the Kaunas apartments in the centre of downtown. It was a lovely room, overlooking a derelict mess. We went for a pizza at Vis Italia, known as **Pas Paolo**, on the main shopping strip. Our first beer here was *Kalnapilis* (5.3%) at 6 *Litas*, which is the local currency. At an exchange rate of just under 4Lts/£ the beers were a little over £1.40 per half litre. The beer was light and sweet, but we found it to be delicious after waiting two hours in the snow at Kaunas airport for the local bus. We also tried *Švyturyi*, a little drier and slightly gassy; the font clip stated that the brewery dated from 1784. This proved to go well with the free tart that the waitress brought after the pizza. There were two draught ciders, *Baltas Cider Extrim* and *Cider Kiss*.

The next day we went in search of the only brew-pub in town but found it to be shut. We found a small bar on the edge of town, the **Senas Pažistamas** (Old Friends), featuring pictures of Laurel and Hardy. Usually two beers were served but these were not available, so we settled for *Švyturyi Ekstra*, 5.2%, which was sweet but gassy. Nearby was a sports bar called **Baras Kauno**, which had five draught beers and a draught perry at 4.5%. The beers included *Horn Premium*, a light refreshing beer at 5.2% with a large head. We enjoyed the macaroni bacon bake at 6Lts and accompanied it with *Kalnapilis Grand* at 5Lts. Lynne tried a half litre of the local drink, *Gyra* for 2Lts, a non-alcoholic mix of bread, sugar and water which is difficult to describe. We struggled to get out of the bar at 7pm, not due to insobriety, but because 12 inches of snow had fallen whilst we were inside.

Nearby, on the edge of the old town, we found **Antrė Nomae**, which translates as the No Name bar. Five beers were featured and heavy metal music played. Here we drank *Švyturyi Dark*, a 6% beer that at 4.5Lts was good value. Lynne tried the *Light* version at 4.2%. The bar was full of heavy metal fans all in leathers and boots. We didn't quite look the part, but joined in with the Guns and Roses and Metallica music playing in the background

Next we visited another pizza restaurant, **Paolo**, opposite the one we visited the previous night. Here they had seven draught beers, including *Guinness* and *Budvar Dark*. *Horn Premium* was offered at 9Lts for 3 half

litre glasses. Bargain! One of the cheapest beers in town. We left well satisfied after 6 of them.

The third day, we woke up about 2pm, slightly the worse for wear. We walked through the snow to find the **Avilys** home-brew pub which was in the basement of a hotel/restaurant. *Avilys Sviesusis* was a 4.7%, sweet, light-coloured beer with a honey taste. The other brew was *Medam Pussvoiesis*, described as a 5% semi-light dark beer at 8Lts, which was amongst the most expensive beer we found – almost £2/half litre. The bar was in a lovely setting but was a bit of a tourist trap. On show was the incredibly clean brewery itself. For 10Lts there was a hot beer with lemon and pig flavouring known as a *Grog*. The menu included mushrooms in beer and honey at 8Lts and beer ice cream at 9Lts.

The following day we decided on the long walk to the old town where we found another small bar just opposite the No Name bar. Here I tried a half litre of *Gubernijos Ledo Akus*, a light, sweetish beer at only 3Lts. The brewery dates from 1786. There was also *Imperial* at 2.9Lts, which was the cheapest beer we found. The bar closed at 7pm so you would need to get there early.

Next we went for a couple at the Bowling Alley bar and then on to **Eleda Kavina** bar, which was decorated with dried flowers. We enjoyed the *Horn* there but the service was very slow.

On our final day, after a few beers in our favourite bars, we thought we were off. However Michael O'Leary's Ryanair had something else waiting for us. The plane didn't show up and left us deserted in Kaunas at midnight, for another two days. Fog was cited as the reason they were unable to collect us. They denied all responsibility and we spent the next two days revisiting our favourite pubs, fully expecting Ryanair to pick up the bill. Some hope!

We found a new bar that was worth visiting in the old town. The **Boomerang** had *Horn*, and both *Krucovice Dark* and *Light*. I enjoyed the *Dark* which was a lovely Czech beer, full of flavour and sweet but Lynne thought it was too syrupy. The bar featured lots of boomerangs but no Australians and, thankfully, no Fosters. We managed to escape back home two days late, but compensation from Ryanair was refused.

Kaunas is a great place to visit and very reasonably priced. If you only visited one place apart from a bar, we would recommend the Devil Museum. Scary!

LOCAL NEWS

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT

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

Angel, Addington – Former manager, Lee March has taken over the lease and nothing much changed. Now 3 bedrooms are being provided and the gardens are being landscaped. Some internal re-decoration will shortly follow. *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* will remain as a regular and a beer from the *Westerham* brewery will become regular replacing the *Courage Best*. The third pump will be for an ever changing guest ale.

Bush, Aylesford – Kim Valentine offers excellent value home cooked meals at this pub which is at the heart of village life. There is also an upstairs Function Room available and Sky TV shows major sports events. On the bar are *John Smith's Cask*, *Fullers London Pride* and *ESB*.

Bull, Barming – We were pleasantly surprised to find a very good selection of beers on the bar here. *Black Sheep Best*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Hopdaemon Incubus*, *Nelson Pieces of Eight* and *Westerham British Bulldog* have all been seen in recent times.

Oak on the Green, Bearsted – There has been a change in the beers here, as *Goachers* beers were not on at a recent visit. However, the *1648 Signature* and *Ringwood Old Thumper* proved to be good. *Greene King IPA* and *Fullers London Pride* have also been available.

Lower Bell, Blue Bell Hill – Indian cuisine will be offered here in the evenings from April in the refurbished rear dining area. The latest guest ales found were *Bath Gem* and *Hydes Jekyll's Gold* with regulars *Green King* *Abbot & IPA*.

Nevill Bull, Birling – Joe has had *Exmoor Hound Dog* and *Elgoods Golden Newt* whilst *Adnams Bitter* and *Shepherd Neame Masterbrew* remain as the regulars.

Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea – Dave & Jo Whitehurst have had *Charles Wells Bombardier* and *Marstons Pedigree* but latterly put *St Austell Tribute* back on as the guest, along with regulars, *Youngs Bitter* and *Special*. There is now a new summer menu as well.



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LOCAL NEWS

White Hart, Claygate – New licensees Mr & Mrs Dove have taken over at this *Shepherd Neame* pub. No reports yet received.

Horseshoes, East Farleigh – There is now an additional Fixed Price menu available all day Mon-Thu and till 6 Fri-Sat. The offer is from 11 dishes with £6.50 for one course, two for £8.50 and three for just £10.50. *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Taylor Landlord* are on the bar. Cask Marque has again been awarded following the annual inspection.

Walnut Tree, East Farleigh – Thursday night is live music night here. Most branch members opted for the guest beer, the splendid *Elgoods Black Dog*. This had also been available during the *Shep's 'Beer Festival'*. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire* are the regulars and brews from *Shep's* micro-plant are occasionally to be found.

Rising Sun, East Malling – *Theakstons XB* has been a regular for a little while, being offered for only £2.30. *Goachers Fine Light* continues as the regular mainstay and together with the guest beer is still only £2.40.

Chequers, Goudhurst – Reported as closed.

Kent Cricketer, Hawkhurst – Has re-opened.

Crown & Horseshoes, Langley – This pub restaurant has undergone a major refurbishment and Gabriel Ferreira now offers a European/Mexican menu with all food freshly cooked and Sunday lunches served until 5pm. *Banks's Original*, *Fullers London Pride* and *Greene King IPA* have been seen on the bar. See the Website www.crownandhorseshoes.com.

Dog & Gun, Maidstone – Lesley Lewis, who was previously at The Alexandria, Chatham took over here at end of January. The large garden has a smoking area and the Public Bar has a pool table and a juke box. Live music is played on Sundays. *Shepherd Neame Kent's Best*, *Master Brew* and *Spitfire* are regulars. Seasonal ales will also be provided.

Flower Pot, Maidstone – David has had an additional three pumps installed in order to provide more flexibility and ensure there is always a wide selection of ales available. All six pumps were occupied for the first week or so following the installation but this state will depend on the throughput. *Youngs Bitter* is regular and there should always be 3 or 4 guest beers available.

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LOCAL NEWS

Greyhound, Maidstone – Closed to be converted to housing.

Hare & Hounds, Maidstone – Now repainted and re-opened by SR Leisure (Sanjay Ravel). Last reported as selling *St Austell Proper Job* and *Everards Sly Fox* .

Old Thirsty Pig, Maidstone - Peter Hoffman has now put real ale on in this old beamed pub where previously there were only bottled beers. The first ales found were *Greene King Flanker's Tackle*, *Nelson Powder Monkey* with *Fullers London Pride* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* as regulars.

Pilot, Maidstone – Sue Dunderdale, previously at the Rose, Bearsted, is currently in charge until a new licensee can be found.

Stile Bridge, Marden – . Matthew Rudd and his team provided us with an excellent meal and an exceedingly good choice of beers for our branch post-Christmas meal this year. *Westerham* beers appear regularly with *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Black Sheep Best* being noted as well. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* is the regular. www.stile.co.uk.

Hop Pole, Nettlestead – Byron has had a refurbishment here giving a much lighter feel to the walls of the bar. The daily carvery meals continue to bring in the customers. There has been a change on the bar with *Nelson Powder Monkey* and *Trafalgar* being sampled and alternating with two beers from *Hepworth*.

Bricklayers, New Hythe - John tried *Banks's Bitter* and found it was quite popular. *Courage Best* is still the regular brew.

Victory Pub & Kitchen, Sandling – Part of the Village Hotel. *Adnams Broadside* seems to have been sidelined as our reporter found *Greene King IPA* accompanying the *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*.

Pride Of Kent, Staplehurst – Real ale is now on sale again in this sports oriented pub in the form of *Tetley Bitter*.

Black Horse, Thurnham – A new extension has been added to the restaurant. *Westerham Grasshopper*, *Greene King Old Speckled Hen* and *Ringwood Best* are amongst the guest ales seen. www.wellieboot.net.

Plough, Trottiscliffe – Superb *Adnams Bitter*, *Adnams Broadside* and *Harveys Sussex Best* (pump in restaurant) are available. Good value offers on meals with 2 courses for pensioners on Mondays.

LOCAL NEWS

Harrow Hill Hotel, Warren Street – It's well worth investigating this comfortable country hotel on the downs above Lenham. Following a change of management here the cuisine is now Sicilian/Italian. Local ales available on the bar are *Goachers Gold Star*, *Shepherd Neame Early Bird* and *Master Brew*. See www.harrowhillhotel.com.

Lobster Pot, West Malling – The long-awaited investment programme has started with new carpet being laid in the main bar and what used to be the restaurant, The kitchen should be open by the end of the month, and it was good to see the new owner in on Friday evening explaining his plans to the drinkers. Sophie Clark, the new manager, seems to have a deep knowledge of real ale keeping.

REPORT JUST IN

Druids Arms, Maidstone— Jodi Dixon continues to put on live music on Thurs & Saturday evenings at this town centre pub that is also handily placed for a lunchtime meal and swift pint . A Beer & Music Festival in aid of MAGIC, a children's charity, will take place June 26-28. There are normally 3 guest beers on offer: *Bath Gem*, *Hydes Jekyll's Gold Premium Ale* and *Everards Pitch Black* have recently appeared whilst the regulars are *Greene King IPA* and *Old Speckled Hen*

Please email the editor with any news you wish to publicise about your own pub.

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Maidstone CAMRA Pub Of The Year, 2005



LOCAL NEWS

BEXLEY www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

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As you read this, Bexley's Fourth Beer Festival will have been and gone, hopefully successfully. Thanks to all who helped from all CAMRA branches far and wide, without whom it would not take place – thanks for giving up your free time. This year Bexley's Festival clashed with CAMRA's Member Weekend (AGM) at Eastbourne, so the logo depicted our White Kentish Horse (Invicta) knowing the best place to be was at our Beer Festival; he certainly wouldn't have galloped off to Sussex!

Spring seems to have well and truly sprung and winter is but a distant memory, perhaps the lighter evenings and warmer weather will encourage more people to go out and visit a pub, whilst they still have one to visit!

And so to the Bexley CAMRA Pub of the Year winner for 2009; well it's done it, the **Robin Hood & Little John**, Lion Road, Bexleyheath has won for the tenth consecutive time, a decade of wins from 2000-2009. During that time it has won the London CAMRA Pub of the Year award three times and has always been in the top five. Heartiest congratulations to the Johnson family, Ray, Caterina and son Tony, who have managed this wonderful, friendly welcoming pub since May 1980. Eight well-kept real ales are on offer, normally including two guests which have included recently beers from *Sharps*, *Brentwood*, *Westerham* and a *Shepherd Neame* seasonal. Good lunchtime food is available, although not on Sundays. Why not come along to the presentation on 13th May when two milds will also be available as part of CAMRA's "Make May a Mild Month".

Once again the runner-up was the **Black Horse** in Albert Road, Bexley, another excellent back street pub, with good lunchtime food and offering *Wells & Young's Courage Best* plus two guests, which for our meeting in March were both from *Westerham* – *British Bulldog* and *Grasshopper*. Well done, Julian.

In third place was the most improved pub in the Branch area, the **Crayford Arms** in Crayford High Street, a *Shepherd Neame* tied house that only a few years ago was only selling one real ale. Now there are five



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handpumps with a varied selection of the regular and seasonal brands and occasional beers from the *Shepherd Neame* microbrewery plant, plus the added bonus of being allowed guest ales; those in February were *Elgood's Black Dog Mild*, *Oakham JHB* and *Woodforde's Nelsons Revenge*. Thanks to John and Paul for improving the drinkers' choice.

At our meeting in the **Charlotte**, Station Road, Crayford, *Sheps Spitfire*, *Ringwood Fortyniner* and *Jennings Cumberland Ale* (served in a *Jennings* glass) were enjoyed by one and all; thanks for providing the food. At the other end of Crayford the **One Bell** in Old Road is available for let but is still trading.

In Sidcup High Street, after the closure of the Hogshead when owners Laurel went into receivership, the site was acquired by J.D.Wetherspoons and should have opened to the public as the **Tailor's Chalk** on 24th April.

The **Royal Standard** in Upper Belvedere has changed its range and is now selling *Wells & Young's Courage Best* and *Directors* plus a guest. When we held our non-meeting there the guest was *Caledonian Over the Bar*, with *Moorhouse's Pendle Witches Brew* waiting in the cellar.

The **Pheasant** in Northumberland Heath is for sale with freehold, meaning we now have eight pubs closed with uncertain future in the borough (out of a total of about 100 pubs).

All Wetherspoons pubs were selling *Greene King IPA* at 99p per pint which was then replaced by *Greene King Ruddles Best*, but it was a shock to be informed by Sabrina, barmaid extraordinaire, at the **Furze Wren** in Bexleyheath that, as these had run out along with regulars *Pedigree* and *Spitfire*. Guest ales were now only 99p, so *Davenports Irish Whiskey*, *Weltons Ruck It*, *York Constantine*, *Woods Shropshire Lad* and *White Horse Sarson Stone* were enjoyed over several visits at 99p.

The **Jolly Fenman Steak and Ale House** in Blackfen now have a Cask Marque and are selling *Wells & Young's Courage Best*; from 1984 to 1988 this was a brewpub, when Blackfen Bitter, Fenman Dynamite, Fenman Fortune and Heath Special were available.

Licenses in Bexley and Bexleyheath are now in a Pub Safe Scheme operating a "bar one - bar all" policy, banning troublemakers from all licensed premises if they cause trouble at any of them.

BEER TAX RISE MEANS MORE MISERY FOR PUB GOERS

It is disappointing that the Chancellor has ignored widespread public concern about the plight of Britain's pubs and decided to press ahead with an increase which will result in yet more valued community pubs closing down. Well-run community pubs are already struggling as a result of last year's 18% increase in beer duty and the recession. This further beer duty increase will push more valued pubs over the edge resulting in job losses, reduced Government tax revenue and many more deprived of their favourite local pub..

Well-run pubs provide an enjoyable and affordable night out in a safe and supervised environment, and this duty increase will simply fuel irresponsible drinking of cheap discount alcohol in people's homes, public parks and on the streets.

May – The Month to Celebrate Mild Ale

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, and Britain's pubs and brewers, will once again be championing the Mild beer style with a variety of events throughout May to promote this traditional drink.

Mild beers tend to be of a low alcohol by volume, and are usually dark in colour, due to the use of well-roasted malts or barley, and are conventionally less hopped than bitters. Past CAMRA Champion Milds include *Beckstones Black Dog Freddy*, *Hobson's Mild* and *Oscar Wilde Mild* by *Mighty Oak*.

Pubs known to selling Mild in May are:

Maidstone: **Pilot, Rifle Volunteers, Flower Pot, Society Rooms**

Bexleyheath: **Robin Hood and Little John**

Luddesdown: **Cock**

Horton Kirby: **Bull**

And, of course, all Wetherspoons outlets should be selling various brands of Mild during May: **Muggleton** and **Society Rooms**, Maidstone; **Paper Moon**, Dartford; **Robert Pocock**, Gravesend; **New Cross Turnpike**, Welling; **Wrong 'Un**, Bexleyheath; **Furze Wren**, Bexleyheath and **Tailor's Chalk**, Sidcup

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GRAVESEND & DARENT VALLEY

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We are very pleased to announce that the CAMRA Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch Pub of the Year 2009 is, once again, the **Bull** at Horton Kirby, retaining its title from 2008. This pub goes from strength to strength, and congratulations to Garrett and Lynne for their enterprise and innovation. The ever increasing range of excellent real ales will expand shortly to six handpumps, all offering beers from microbreweries with *Dark Star* beers regularly available. In the last issue we mentioned the novel "brewery showcase" idea, whereby a particular brewery is selected and several of their beers are available on stillage during the first weekend of each month, starting on a Thursday, on which day a quiz is held and plentiful home-prepared food is available. Contrary to my previous report the selected breweries in March and April respectively were *Dark Star* from Sussex and *Brewdog* from Frazerburgh in Aberdeenshire. *Pictish*, *Atomic* and *Oakham* breweries are likely to be represented in the coming months. The sequence will be broken in June when Garrett and Lynne will be hosting a beer festival, with 40 ales and ciders, most of which will be on stillage in a marquee in the spacious garden.

The **Bull** was a clear winner in the eyes of branch members, and once again the **Cock** at Luddesdown was runner-up, clearly ahead of three pubs with equal votes, namely the **Crown & Thistle** in Gravesend, the **Old House** at Ightham Common and the **Moat** at Wrotham Heath. The **Chequers** at Farningham, which has a sign outside inviting customers to "strictly come drinking" and the **Crown** at Otford finished narrowly behind the joint bronze medallists. The **Bull** now qualifies for the West Kent area voting (against three other CAMRA branch winners). The **Cock** has previously won the West Kent round but our branch has not had a Kent county winner since 2003, when the aforementioned **Crown & Thistle** became CAMRA National Pub of the Year.

My gloom regarding pub closures has partly been lifted by the news of two ships come sailing in. The **Ship** at Cobham has re-opened and is selling *Wells & Young Courage Best Bitter*, and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*. *Adnams Broadside* and *Fuller's London Pride* were recent guest beers.

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The **Ship** at Green Street Green, near Longfield, has been re-opened, we are informed, by the former licensees of the **Chequers** at Darent, which is currently closed for refurbishment. My friend called in and sampled *Everards Pitch Black* guesting at £2.00 per pint, the other handpumps dispensing *Young's Bitter* and *Courage Best*. On my recent visit, the *Young's Bitter* was very well-kept and the other beers were *Wells Bombardier* and *Greene King Morland's Old Speckled Hen*. The menu looked enticing especially the ten varieties of sausages handmade by a local butcher. Now there is yet another pub on my list to sample the food.

I said something similar about the **Crown Point** at Seal Chart in the previous issue and was very disheartened to hear that the "Eat Your Heart Out" company, which owned the establishment, went into liquidation in March. As it happened, the branch held a social there shortly after the news; we have been informed that **Crown Point** is still trading as usual and is now run by a company called Flagstone Inns. The *Adnams Oyster Stout* was in particularly good condition and I have been recommended by another member to sample the liver and bacon. The "Classic British and Commonwealth Cooking" theme has been retained.

The saddest pub news, however, is the loss of the **Black Lion** in Southfleet, which was burnt down in suspicious circumstances in January. For once I agree with the owners Scottish and Newcastle spokesman who said "*The Black Lion was a beautiful old partly-thatched pub in an attractive village setting and its destruction by fire a great loss to us and to the local community. It had recently been taken over by a new landlord who had been welcomed by villagers and customers. The pub has been extensively damaged by fire, fortunately no-one was hurt*". Luckily for the drinkers of Southfleet, there are two other pubs within walking distance: the **Ship**, selling *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, amongst others, and the modern **Manor Farm Barn**, owned by Shepherd Neame. But the loss of any village pub is tragic under any circumstances.

From the ashes of one Black Lion rises the Phoenix of another Black Lion, if you will excuse the awful pun and mixed metaphor. One helpful reader and CAMRA member sent us an e-mail quoting an advertisement for the **Black Lion** in Hartley: "*...a traditional pub, specialising in real ales and light lunches, with ten handpumps. Bitter of the week £2, all bitter takeaways £1.50.*"

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This just seemed too good to be true so I checked it out at the end of March. The **Black Lion** at Hartley is a part brick, part weatherboard building on the Ash Road between Longfield and New Ash Green. I parked behind the adjoining Thai Restaurant and was greeted with a signboard outside the front door displaying a number of real ales. Inside I was confronted by a total of eleven (not ten) handpumps, and eleven beers were on sale. Apparently the range was extended about eight to nine weeks prior. The £2.00 beer of the week was *Wadworth's Henry's IPA*, takeaways are available at £1.50 per pint in two- or four-pint containers. My choice was an old favourite, *Woodfordes Wherry*. Microbreweries from Norfolk were represented by *Tipples Longshore* (3.6%), *Grain Oak* (3.8%) and *Beeston On the Huh* (5%), which had just replaced *Buffy's Bitter* (4%). The other beers were standard real ales from *Adnams*, *Fullers*, *Greene King* and *Wells & Young*.

For once I shall acknowledge the validity of an advertisement (unheard of with television beer adverts), and pay more attention to local freebies through the letterbox. Thanks for the information, Roger. The branch will arrange a meeting at the **Black Lion** and I hope not to be driving.

The pubs in nearby Longfield also sell real ale with the **Railway** offering *Courage Best* and *Old Speckled Hen*, and the **Green Man** at Longfield Hill selling *Harveys Best* and *Wells Bombardier*. Answering my own question from last time, the **Railway** at Sole Street had *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*, *Spitfire* and *Greene King Abbot*.

Another pub definitely worth visiting is the **Fruiterers Arms**, known locally as the Mud Hole, in Eynsford Road, Crockenhill, near Swanley. This friendly little pub is run by Flo, who was born in the village, and hosts local sports clubs (including bat and trap) and enterprising charity events, such as tug of war and scarecrow competitions. The regular real ales are *Courage Best* and an excellent pint of *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*. The Mud Hole is a classic example of a bygone country village hostelry. Why the "Fruiterers" or "Mud Hole"? Possibly a place where large puddles abounded and the local fruit farmers used to wash their muddy boots and a place for washing horses. Answers on a postcard please.

Various *Shepherd Neame* tied houses in our area have recently been selling guest beers from other breweries again, the listed beers being *Elgoods Black Dog*, *Oakham JHB* and *Woodfordes Nelsons Revenge*. Members have

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reported sampling them at the **George** in Meopham, the **Chequers** at Heaverham and the **Orange Tree** in Wilmington, and I'm sure they were on sale elsewhere amongst the nineteen *Shepherd Neame* pubs in the branch area (can you name them all?). This trend is very encouraging and, with occasional brews from their microbrewery, it makes visits to participating *Shepherd Neame* pubs even more worthwhile.

My friend and fellow member John Harris calls in at a lot of pubs in Dartford and I am grateful to him for the following local information. "The **Foresters**, Great Queen Street was taken over by Paul and Chris Baker a year ago and now has *Courage Best* and *Spitfire* as regular beers and at the time of writing had *Ringwood Fortyniner* as the guest beer, to be followed by *Timothy Taylor Landlord*. There will be a sponsored haircut on May 4th, with race nights and barbeques during the summer".

"The **Court House**, Spital Street was taken over by Shaun Warren on 30th January and is now selling *Youngs Special* as well as *Youngs Bitter* and *Wells Bombardier*. He came from the **Wrong 'Un** in Bexleyheath and would like to extend the range by stocking guest beers".

"The **Paper Moon**, High Street (Wetherspoons) celebrates its 15th birthday on Wednesday 27th May. Chris has arranged a trip to *Westerham Brewery* for the evening on 23 April, BBQ included. The Spring Beer Festival runs from 15 April to 4 May with a wine festival from 10 June to 28 June. Their latest promotion has reduced guest ales to £1.79 per pint. A refurbishment is due before the **Litten Tree** is scheduled to open in mid May. They will also be selling cask ale at the Dartford Show".

"A recent visit to the **Brent Old Boys Club** found *Everards Pitch Black* and *Hydes Laugh and Titter*, the latter brewed for Red Nose Day, with only fifteen firkins allocated to the South East. Both *Hydes Brewery* and the distributors donated 10 pence per pint to the charity. Let's hope those dispensing it matched their generosity".

"The **Wat Tyler** was selling *Theakstons Old Peculier*, *Nelson Dogwatch Stout* and *Fever Pitch* on my latest visit. Tracey will be offering milds in May if she can obtain them. On 17 May, a very good father and son vocal duo will be performing from 3pm to 7pm. Also regular charity events are held, and at their last charity evening on Friday 13 March, the **Wat Tyler** raised £500 on behalf of Downs Syndrome charities".

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“The **Cressy Arms**, Hawley Road, Wilmington is now open at 10am selling breakfast and beer Monday to Friday. They also have a very impressive menu at very reasonable prices, available all day. The guest ales at the time of my visit were *Hydes Spin Doctor* and *Batemans Hooker*, both in excellent condition. The patio has been refurbished and the exterior is to be repainted. Eric Bristow, the former World Darts Champion, will be making an appearance on the evening of Saturday 16 May”.

John also mentioned that the **Woodman** on East Hill has discontinued selling cask beer, which was also noticed at a branch social in March. Fortunately more pubs than not are introducing cask ale, although the both the **Windmill** and **Two Brewers** in Lowfield Street only sell it sporadically. We have just been informed that the **Bird in Hand** in Dartford Road is to close, yet again, in April.

The good news is that the **Dartford Working Men’s Cub** has won the local CAMRA Club of the Year for the umpteenth time in a row. Twelve handpumps dispensing a plethora of excellent ales from far and wide and still retailing below the £2 barrier – what more can one say? This permanent real ale bonanza is supplemented by regular beer festivals in the function room when 25 ales are the norm. The Real Ale Lovers Valentines Festival on Friday, 13th February (unlucky for those who missed it) was the best attended for a few months. Hopefully you didn’t miss the May Day Mayhem on 1st May,

Good luck to the **Bull** in future PotY rounds and **DWMC** in future CotY rounds. Whose round is it next? Probably mine, but you need to find me first. I’ll be in a pub or club! Make sure you keep the real ale tradition alive as well by visiting as many pubs as you can. They are an essential part of our heritage.

A PLEA TO LICENSEES *Opening times often seem to be missing on your websites and outside your pubs. It’s very annoying to arrive at a pub at midday to be told by a local resident that it does not now open till 4 for example. What does Open All Day mean? When does the day start? Also a Drinks List on a website that merely contains a list of wines is not helpful to us. Beers too, please. A sample price list, in a visible position, is also a legal requirement but not always found.*

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BEER FESTIVAL REPORT—The **Wheatsheaf** in Loose Road, Maidstone, having organised three mini-beer festivals in 2008, decided to hold another over the weekend of 3-5 April 2009. The pub has only four hand pumps and a limited amount of bar space for additional barrels, so only 8 beers can be made available. Rossa Kenny, the landlord, and his nephew and bar manager, Kevin, are keen to provide a good selection of real ales to their customers as they have shown by the varied range of beers that they have so far featured.

The festival continued over the Saturday and Sunday. Those of us who decided to enjoy the selection on the Sunday, were not disappointed. The beers were still in good supply, apart from the *Doom Bar* which had proved extremely popular. We were not only rewarded with a tasty selection of beers but also with a beautiful sunny afternoon which allowed us to enjoy our beers on the patio area at the side of the pub.

But what of the beers? Well. Unlike some of my colleagues, I didn't manage to try every single one of the 8 beers, but my personal favourites were as follows:

Bitter & Twisted — This multi-award winner from Scotland is golden straw in colour and has what I consider to be both a very pleasant flavour and after taste. There is a citrus flavour to the beer with hints of grapefruit and lemon. As it is not a strong beer, it makes an excellent session ale and I am always pleased to see it on the bar.

THE BEERS:

Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted

Blackwater Libertine

Sharps Doom Bar

Throsk Ben Nevis 80/-

Robinsons Trouble & Strife

Wells Bombardier Burning Gold

Hydes Spin Doctor

Bushys Helmsman

Helmsman — At 4.5%, this was the strongest of the eight beers. It was the last of the beers that I tasted and maybe that is why it left such a favourable impression on me. But I like to think that the reason it did so was because of the full-bodied flavour. Also, with so many breweries at this time of year producing pale coloured beers, it made a nice change to have a slightly darker beer in the glass.

I look forward to having another chance to try all of the above beers and many others at future mini-festivals at the pubs in the Maidstone area; and, hopefully, at the next Maidstone CAMRA Beer Festival, wherever it may be held.

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An Escapade in East Sussex

by Andy Osborne

An early start was essential for this day trip; but at least it was a beautiful sunny morning, albeit very cold and crisp. I bought my usual versatile Explorer ticket on the Arriva bus into Maidstone. This ticket covered me on all the different routes for the day and is available from most of the bus companies. On route I was joined by three other gallant (if not foolhardy) members of the party.

The next step, on arriving at Maidstone, was to catch a No. 7 bus to Tunbridge Wells. A fifth and final member joined us on this bus. We were a smaller group than usual but this was not unexpected. The trip had been rescheduled and came at the end of the Xmas-New Year break.

We arrived on time with approximately 20 minutes before our connecting, onward bus. That was enough time to grab some breakfast or show our faces in the **Opera House***, a Wetherspoons pub only about a minute or so walk from the bus stop.

Somewhat reluctantly I opted for breakfast, as the early start meant I left home without having anything to eat. But a nice bacon baguette from Rook's the Butcher fitted the bill very nicely.

The next bus on our journey was a No. 29a to Lewes, though in fact it may have been 29. I understand both go there but with slight variations on route. This part of the trip was quite long, a journey of some one and half hours, however it did offer some great views of the countryside close to the Ashdown Forest and the South Downs, which were even better viewed from the top deck of the bus.

We arrived in the historic county town of Lewes, nestling in the South Downs, not far from Brighton. This town has a fantastic variety of cafes, pubs, restaurants and hotels; and perhaps I should also mention *Harveys Brewery*. We remained on the bus as it passed through the town because our first destination was not in the town centre itself. We arrived at the **Black Horse** to a very warm welcome, as Jo, the landlady, is an old friend. (She previously ran a very successful real ale pub in Maidstone.)

There were three beers available, *Tom Woods Bomber County*, *Hardy & Hanson's Olde Trip Ale*, and *Greene King IPA*. I tried the first two beers during my visit and found both to be very good, although I preferred the

*A grade 2 listed building which opened in 1902. Occasional performances can still be seen here. In the past it has also served as a cinema and bingo hall

style of the *Olde Trip*. We noticed a bar billiard table in the bar but had to forgo a game to take advantage of the very reasonably priced menu. I have to say, the food was excellent as well as good value and Jo tries to use local produce wherever possible, which showed in the quality.

After the nice lunch it was time to move on. A short bus trip took us back into the town centre where we had a few minutes wait for the next bus. This turned out to be a large minibus run by the Cuckmere Community. It seemed a very personal service; the driver's name was on display for example. A few miles later, we disembarked the bus for our second port of call, the **Trevor Arms**. This is a popular pub in Glynde Village, and has an entry in the *Good Beer Guide*. It is often frequented by walkers in this lovely location and has unspoilt views of the South Downs.

Harveys beers were available here and again there was reasonably priced food. The beers on offer were *Sussex Best Bitter*, *Hadlow Bitter* and *Old Ale*. We managed to try all of them between us and can first-hand testify to their quality. In the corner, a strange contraption caught my eye and I was told by one of the wiser members of our party it was a pub game called Toad in the Hole, which seems to have originated from right here in East Sussex, as far as England is concerned. It consists of a box on legs with a lead-lined top which slants towards you. In the centre of the table is a hole at which brass discs of about two inches round are aimed at from about eight feet away. The object of the game is to get the discs (called Toads hence the name of the game!) to fall through the hole and end up in a large drawer below in the interior of the table. It is then pulled out after each turn to collect the discs. Two points are scored for a toad in the hole, one point for a toad resting on the top of the table. Normally four toads are thrown per turn. It may sound rather simple at first but after a few drinks and a barrage of helpful abuse from onlookers, it proved to be quite amusing. Not one to gloat, but I managed to avenge a serious defeat of Shut the Box during a previous trip (against the organiser – who shall remain nameless). We then both took on and beat some hikers who were also in the pub, in a game of doubles.

On leaving the pub we hailed down the same minibus we had come in to take us back into Lewes. There we had a short walk to our next stop the **Gardeners Arms**. This pub is close to the town centre itself and just across the river from the Harvey's brewery souvenir shop. I have to say this pub makes the most of its location. I have been here before and I can

say it has always been busy, with a good range of beers. On this occasion *Harveys Sussex Bitter* and *Old Ale*, *Gadd's No3*, *Hog's Back Garden Gold*, *White's Dark Mild* and *Scattor Claus* by the *Scattor Rock Brewery* were on offer. A plus point for the pub was that we were warned one of the beers was a little hazy. I was grateful to be told that and so giving me the choice, but I along with two others, plumped for the *Garden Gold* instead, a very pleasing beer as it turned out. Two of the other beers were sampled and similarly enjoyed by the other members.

Reluctantly we left the pub earlier than we would have liked to, to start our return trip back to Tunbridge Wells. We had the option of breaking this leg of the journey with a short stop off at Five Ash Down. Collectively we decided to stop and poke our heads into the **Pig & Butcher** and known recently as the Fireman. Here we found three Harveys beers, *Sussex Bitter*, *Hadlow* and *Old Ale* on draught and a pin of *Xmas Ale* at a pretty hefty 8.1%! Though I went for the *Hadlow*, the *Old Ale* in fact seemed to be the more popular choice. Fortunately both were excellent. After just the one drink here we resumed our journey back to Tunbridge Wells where we split into two groups. I and one other took a more direct route back towards West Malling while the others returned to Maidstone.

The two of us returning via West Malling caught a No. 77 which passes through Hadlow so we decided on one final stop. The **Two Brewers** continued the theme of the day and stocked the *Harveys* beers, *Sussex Best*, *Hadlow Bitter* and a very good *Dark Mild*. We both opted for this one.

The final beer supped, we continued our homeward trek.

It had been a long, but enjoyable day, and my thanks go to all who organised and participated in it.

LOCAL ALE DRINKERS may be interested to know about **Stile Bridge Inn's Monday Club**. This Marden pub is now open on Mondays from 5-10pm and offers *Master Brew* at a pre-budget price of £1.69 per pint and 2 changing guest beers at a pre-budget price of £1.89. Recent guest beers have included *Milkwood Amarillo*, *Hepworth Pullman*, *Hook Norton Old Hooky* and *Loddon Shrimpers*, which have all been in very good or excellent condition. At all other times, *Master Brew* is sold at a pre-budget price of £2.

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Special Lunches and parties catered for

Phone 01732 822355

Gateway
to Kent
Pub Guide



NEW BEER GUIDE EXPECTED

A new beer guide to much of the west of the county is expected to be published in July. Called the *Gateway to Kent Pub Guide*, it will cover the main towns of Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, extending westwards to Edenbridge and south to Hawkhurst, and all the villages in between. All pubs will be listed, showing their opening times and their range of real ales, and other facilities, such as food and games.

This is the first comprehensive beer guide covering these areas since the last Kent guide published back in 1999! We are aiming at a cover price of £3.99, and it will be on sale at CAMRA beer festivals, and the better pubs and bookshops in the area and beyond. Copies will also be available by post.

Featuring country and
town pubs in and around
Edenbridge, Maidstone,
Sevenoaks, Tonbridge &
Tunbridge Wells

More details will be given in the next issue - watch this space!

The Crown, 10 High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5PQ



Senior Citizen Specials Monday-Thursday ~ Homemade food ~ Special Dinner Nights

Traditional Sunday lunches ~ Sky TV with Setanta ~ Roaring Log Fires

Real Cask Ales, Local brewery Ales & Weston's Cider ~ Fine Wines ~ Bar snacks

Open Mic Night last Sunday of each month ~ Regular Live Music

Phone: 01959 522847 Email: thecrown@otford.net

Website: crownpubandrestaurant.co.uk



The Bull Hotel - Wrotham Village

Pub • Restaurant • Accommodation • New owners from 2008

The new owners of **The Bull Hotel** in Wrotham with their professional team of French and English chefs are building an excellent reputation for providing good quality food all freshly prepared

The Bull Hotel offers cask ales from the award winning Dark Star Micro Brewery

Special Lunch Menu: 1 course £6.50 – 2 courses £9.50

We are looking forward to meeting you, your family and friends at **The Bull Hotel**.

The Bull Hotel • Bull Lane • Wrotham • TN15 7RF • tel 01732 789 800
www.thebullhotel.com • bullhotel@unicombox.co.uk

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

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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.



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Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Address

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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

Signed Date

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

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.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- 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.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

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To the Manager Bank or Building Society

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Postcode

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)

May

- 7th MMK Maidstone *Mild in May* Walkabout
Society Rooms, Flower Pot, Rifle Volunteers, Pilot
- 9th MMK Bus Trip to Hartfield / Withyham / Groombridge
- 13th BEX **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath,
OBM and Pub of the Year presentation
- 14th GDV **Bull**, Horton Kirby, presentation of Pub of the Year Winner
- 14th MMK **Royal Paper Mill**, Tovil, then Wheatsheaf, M/S
- 20th GDV **Rum Puncheon**, Gravesend (*OBM*)
- 21st MMK Branch AGM, **Bush**, Aylesford
- 28th MMK Bat & Trap, Bearsted, 7.30, then **Oak on the Green**

June

- 4th MMK Maidstone Walkabout - **Anchor & Hope, First and Last**
- 10th GDV **Black Lion**, Hartley
- 10th BEX **Black Horse**, Bexley,
OBM and Pub of the Year runner-up presentation
- 11th MMK Evening Ramble - 7.30 West Malling to **Bull**, Birling
- 13th MMK Bus Trip to Salehurst
- 17th BEX Branch AGM, **Old Wick**, Bexley
- 18th MMK **Yeoman**, Bearsted then **Rose and Plantation**
- 25th GDV **Ship & Lobster, Jolly Drayman, TJ's** Gravesend
- 25th MMK **Queen's Head**, Mereworth, then **Swan**, West Peckham

July

- 2nd MMK Bat & Trap, Benenden, 7.30, then **Bull**
- 5th MMK Sunday ramble to W/E Farleigh, meet East Farleigh Stn. 11.29
- 8th BEX **White Cross**, North Cray (*OBM*)
- 9th MMK Maidstone Walkabout - **Royal Albion, Druid's Arms**
- 16th MMK **Stile Bridge**, Marden (*OBM*)
- 18th MMK RATAS Train Trip to Cambridge; *organiser*: Richard Clennett
- 23th MMK **Rising Sun**, East Malling, then **King & Queen**
- 30th MMK Bat & Trap, Aylesford Rec., 7.30, then **Little Gem/Chequers**

■ 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

UNIT 8, TOVIL GREEN BUSINESS PARK

MAIDSTONE ME15 6TA

TEL: 01622 682112