



CAMRA VISITED 10 DOWNING STREET IN MID-OCTOBER to hand in a 23,361 name petition calling for an end to short beer measures in pubs and other licensed premises. CAMRA launched the full pint petition last year in response to research showing that:

- One in four pints is short measure by over 5%
- Short beer measures cost consumers a staggering £481 million a year
- 81% of all adults support new legislation to ensure pub goers are served a full pint every time

Speaking at the Downing Street petition handover, Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive said: *We urge the Prime Minister to take notice of the 23,361 people who have signed this petition calling for an end to short beer measures. It is unlawful for consumers to be short measured when buying petrol and it should be unlawful for consumers to be short measured when buying a pint of beer. The Prime Minister has a responsibility to stick to his party's promise that under Labour, drinkers will get what they pay for.*

The Government takes over 80 pence in tax for every pint sold in a pub. It is about time that instead of simply taking money from the pockets of the pub-going public the Government gives something back by ensuring that consumers are served with a full pint and not 90% or 95% of a pint.

During the last 18 months petition signatures were collected at CAMRA beer festivals and through an online campaign site.

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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.

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

**Editor and
Correspondence:** Draught Copy
135 Lavenders Road
West Malling
Kent ME19 6HR

**Typesetting &
Advertising:** Tim Mathews
Email: dc@braymead.com

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 24 December 2009 for publication in February 2010.

Fancy going to a Beer Festival? Try one of these:

CAMRA

www.camra.org.uk/page.aspx?o=events

PIG'S EAR BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

December 1–5

Ocean, (opp. Town Hall)
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Superb modern venue with ample seating. 100-plus beers. Choice of food stalls.

www.pigsear.org.uk

NATIONAL WINTER ALES FESTIVAL

January 20 – 28

Sheridan Suite, Oldham Road,
Manchester

The biggest winter ales festival yet with more than 200 beers, ciders and parries.

www.alefestival.org.uk/winterales/

Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

November 13 – 15

Jolly Drayman

Wellington Street, Gravesend

BEER FESTIVAL

20 real ales plus, hog roast on Saturday, jazz trio on Sunday
Daddlums (Kentish table skittles) played each day

November 20 – 22

Dartford Working Men's Club

Essex Road, Dartford

and The Bull

Lombard Street, Horton Kirby

JOINT 2 KENTS REAL ALE FESTIVAL

(see page 20)

Sixty real ales, free bus between venues on Saturday 21st

December 23 – 28

Bell & Jorrock's, Frittenden

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Maidstone CAMRA Pub Of The Year, 2005



The Good Beer Guide 2010 – Out Now!



CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, last month launched the 37th edition of its annual *Good Beer Guide* which features the best 4,500 real ale pubs in Britain.

Despite many pubs struggling in today's current economic climate, with research showing that 52 pubs close permanently every week across the UK, this year's *Good Beer Guide* highlights that the real ale scene is thriving.

The Guide, sponsored by industry accreditation body Cask Marque, features over 4,500 urban and rural pubs, giving details of the real ales, food, opening hours, beer gardens, accommodation, transport links, pub history, disabled access and facilities for families.

CAMRA's 100,000 strong membership fully update and revise the Guide every year, thereby guaranteeing to supply the reader with the most up to date publication in helping to locate the best pint of real ale. There is a total of 1297 new entries in this year's Guide.

Roger Protz, *Good Beer Guide* editor, said: *CAMRA's Good Beer Guide remains the number-one, independent guide to good beer and pubs. It is wonderful to see there are now over 700 breweries in Britain brewing far in excess of 2,500 different varieties of real ale, and so many fantastic pubs in which to drink this beer.*

CAMRA members continue to work relentlessly throughout the year to ensure the reader gets the most up to date guide to the best pubs in Britain. Their tireless work is the reason why the Good Beer Guide remains Britain's best-selling pub guide, and I'd like to thank them personally for their hard work and support.

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 |
| Wantsum Brewery | 0845 0405980 | |
| Westerham Brewery | 01959 565837 | www.westerhambrewery.co.uk |
| Whitstable Brewery | 01622 851007 | www.whitstablebrewery.info |



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Bexley Branch Lives!

EGM elects new committee

Martyn Nichols addressed the meeting of 22 members – possibly our biggest attendance of the last 10 years - and explained that this EGM had been called, as the July AGM had failed to elect a committee.

Martyn said that if the branch ceased to exist, local membership might become a sub-branch of either SE London or GDV, or could be totally absorbed by either. Consequences would include the loss of control over Bexley and Sidcup GBG pub allocations, and certainly there would be no more Bexley Beer Festivals. Members would have to travel much further to SE London or GDV meetings and would lose the easy bus access to branch pubs that they currently enjoy.

Martyn called for a vote for keeping Bexley branch independent, which was carried unanimously, and he thanked the assembly for their confidence. But, in order to continue, five named officers had to be elected, plus three ordinary committee members - nomination slips were passed around.

Kae Mendham (CAMRA's Kent Regional Director) spoke of the importance of these posts and said that "being on the committee should not be only about boring tasks" is actually written into the job descriptions.

Martyn then stepped down, handing the procedures over to Kae.

The following committee members were elected:

Martyn Nichols – Chairman

Pete Ravenscroft – Secretary

Andy Wheeler – Treasurer

Helen Rogers – Membership Secretary

Ian Wright – Pubs Officer

Pat Ward – Clubs Officer

Graham Austin – Committee member and Branch Contact

Steve Lambern volunteered at that point to look after the Website.

Peter Trout and Alan Knight - Auditors

With no other nominations these were carried unanimously.

Peter Ravenscroft—peteravenscroft@yahoo.co.uk

Intrepid Explorer....(or just plain mad?!)

by Jeff Tucker

I often buy an Explorer Ticket, which, at £6.50, offers a day's almost unlimited bus travel around Kent, East Sussex and beyond. I picked up the latest leaflet from the Arriva travel office, and noticed that the area covered by the ticket stretches as far as Andover and Southampton. Travel is permitted on the buses of a number of operators, not just Arriva, and about 95% of services are covered.

I've managed to get as far as Petworth in West Sussex and back in one day, but going beyond into the wilds of Hampshire sounded interesting. Obviously, it would involve an overnight stay, using a second ticket to return the next day. I then scoured the Hampshire section of the *CAMRA Good Beer Guide (GBG)* for pubs which offer bed and breakfast and are on a bus route.

The **White Hart** in Whitchurch sounded interesting, being a tied house belonging to the family brewer *Arkells* of Swindon. The *GBG* showed that it was served by bus routes 76 and 86. A quick look at the Traveline website (www.traveline.org.uk) showed that these routes link Whitchurch with Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover, and are operated by Stagecoach, who accept Explorer tickets.

The next job was to look at an atlas to work out possible routes to Whitchurch, and a different route to return by, to give a change of scenery. Given a list of towns to pass through, it was back to the Traveline website to plan the whole journey, which was a lot easier than it sounds. I found that I could comfortably get to Whitchurch by 6 or 7pm, with a couple of stops on the way, and at least 20 minutes between buses in each town, avoiding hairy connections! Next stage was to sort out some dates when I could do it, then ring the pub to book a room.

Before the day loomed, I decided that it might be better to use the pre-paid Explorer tickets which can be bought from Arriva travel offices, where you scratch off the date you wish to travel, as these might be more readily acceptable by other operators, although I have rarely had a problem in Sussex with a ticket issued by the bus driver.

The appointed day dawned, and I set off at about 7am on route 77 to Tunbridge Wells, where I had time for an excellent bacon baguette from Rook's before catching the 29 to Brighton, arriving at 10.30. From here, bus 700 runs every 10 minutes to Worthing, a 40-minute journey.

Stagecoach route 1 runs hourly from Worthing all the way to Midhurst. Consulting the GBG, I found that the **White Hart** at Stopham Bridge near Pulborough was on the bus route, and sold Sussex beers, so I had an hour here, sampling *Arundel Gold* and a *W.J.King* beer, before resuming my journey to Midhurst, arriving at about 3.30.

From here, Countryliner route 91 took a meandering route through some delightful villages across the county border into Hampshire, ending up at Petersfield, a town which I don't remember visiting before. After a short wait, Stagecoach route 67 took me to Winchester, by which time it was still only about 5pm. I could have visited a pub here, but decided to catch an earlier bus to Whitchurch, which I reached just after 6.

The White Hart is an imposing pub in the centre of the town, with several rooms and informal drinking areas to choose from. Three *Arkells* beers were on offer in the bar. I was a bit disappointed to discover that my room was in an annexe across the car park, rather than in the pub itself. I tried two of the beers and perused the menu, deciding to eat later.

Another GBG pub in Whitchurch is the **Bell Inn**, which I noticed across the road as I got off the bus, so I decided to pay a visit. What a lovely pub! Two bars, a true locals' pub, where I felt very welcome. They also sell *Goddards* beer from the Isle of Wight, quite a rarity on the mainland. Very nice it was, too. After a couple of pints, it was back to the **White Hart** to try the third beer and have something to eat.

Eventually it was time for bed, so it was back to my room, which looked a bit like a Butlins chalet! At about 2am I was awoken by a deafening noise as the fire alarm went off. After what seemed like several minutes, it stopped, only to go off again twice more in the next few minutes. A member of staff knocked on my door to ask if I was smoking, as the fire alarm panel showed that the 'fire' was in my room!

I wasn't due to leave Whitchurch until about 9.30 the next morning, so I thought I would be able to sleep until about 8am. The brewery dray turning up at 7am prevented this, however. Breakfast was pretty good, with locally-sourced produce being featured.

My first bus of the day took me through the undulating Hampshire countryside to Basingstoke, a town which has expanded out of all recognition in recent decades. From here, route 28, which runs every two hours, took me to Alton station, home of the Watercress Line steam railway. After a short wait, the X65 turned up to take me to Guildford,

the first double-decker I had been on since leaving Brighton the day before, and I was able to appreciate the views from the top deck as we travelled along the Hog's Back.

The next bus was Arriva route 63 through Cranleigh to Horsham, where I had an hour between buses, so I tried the Wetherspoons in the town, convenient for the bus station. From here, Metrobus route 23 covered the short distance to Crawley, then their 291 took me back to Tunbridge Wells. I had time for a pint of *Harveys Mild* in the **Two Brewers** in Hadlow before catching the 77 home, arriving at 8pm.

I calculated that paying single fares on each bus would have cost about £30 - 40 each way, instead of the £6.50 which I spent on the Explorer tickets. Good value indeed!

Would I do it again? Well, I notice that the **Clarence Tavern** in Gosport is the brewery tap of the *Oakleaf Brewery*, and offers B&B. A nearby hotel in Alverstoke, overlooking Stokes Bay, has made it into the 2010 *GBG*, so that area could be my next destination.....



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Brewery Snippets

*Our branches extend a warm welcome to the **Wantsum Brewery**, a 6-bbl plant which has recently started brewing in Hersden near Canterbury. Founder and head brewer, James Sandy, launched his first beers on 14 September and they were quickly sold out to local pubs in Canterbury, Sandwich, Deal and Dover. The first four beers in the Wantsum range are:*

- *1381, a 3.8%ABV golden bitter*
- *Turbulent Priest, a 4.4% full-bodied bitter,*
- *Black Pig, a 4.6% adaptation of a Russian imperial porter.*
- *Fortitude, the Wantsum flagship beer, a 4.2% best bitter*

The editor very much looks forward to an early opportunity to try them!

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HEREFORDSHIRE CIDER MENTOR HONOURED FOR SERVICES TO INDUSTRY

A selfless devotee to the world of real cider and perry, and a mentor to many of the UK's successful producers, has been named by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, as the winner of its Pomona Award for 2009.

Mike Johnson, owner of the Ross-on-Wye Cider and Perry Company at Broome Farm, Peterstow, Herefordshire, is this year's winner of CAMRA's prestigious award after a series of glowing nominations from CAMRA members and people within the cider and perry industry. Johnson was singled out particularly for his work in nurturing new talent in the cider world.

The Pomona Award is named after the Roman Goddess of apples and is presented by CAMRA to the person, place or thing who has done the most to promote real cider or perry primarily over the previous twelve months and secondarily, where there is no outstanding contender in the last twelve months, for ongoing work.

CAMRA's Cider and Perry Committee also noted that while Johnson's extensive charity work - which has seen him donate significant sums to development charities around the world - was not a factor behind his success in the Pomona Awards 2009, his willingness to help others is nevertheless a key reason why he has contributed so much to the cider and perry industry.

[12.10.2009]

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Angel, Addington – Lee now has the Bed & Breakfast facility in use with 2 doubles and 1 single room. The regular beers are *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and a beer selected from the *Westerham Brewery* portfolio with one guest ale. Website: www.theangelinnaddington.co.uk.

Redstart, Barming – Should have re-opened with a new licensee by the time you read this issue, probably on October 16th.

Bull, Benenden – Congratulations to Mark and Lucy who have recently married. The pub has gained several awards from the Morning Advertiser at the Great British Pub Awards, including Best Entertainment Pub in the South East, South East Regional champion and subsequently Best Freehouse. New chef Stuart Burton has now joined the team. Website: www.thebullatbenenden.co.uk.

Woolpack, Benover – Food features strongly here at this busy *Shepherd Neame* house but the beer is also well kept. *Master Brew* and *Spitfire* are the regulars with the seasonal brew, *Late Red*, when we visited, adding some variety.

Kentish Quarryman, Ditton – Debbie, the new licensee, had *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire* on when the branch called in here.

Chequers, Goudhurst – This stylish restaurant/bar on the eastern outskirts of Goudhurst re-opened in July. Manager Neil Philips has three ales available with *Adnams Bitter* and *Harveys Sussex Best* as regulars and a guest.

Oak & Ivy, Hawkhurst – Some branch members made the long trip here on Arriva bus 5 route for the Beer & Music Festival. The selection and condition of the beers were excellent. The meals we purchased were good and the weather was sunny. The regular beer is *Harveys Sussex Best* and 2 guest beers are available. Website: www.theoakandivy.co.uk.

Crown & Horseshoes, Langley – The restaurant offers Mediterranean food and traditional Sunday roasts. Spanish nights are held on Wednesday evenings. Regular Music and Quiz nights are also held. Regular beers are *Banks's Original*, *Green King IPA* and a guest ale that was *McMullen Cask Ale* on the night that the branch visited. Website: www.crownandhorseshoes.co.uk.

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

Friday - Saturday 12 noon - 10pm

Sunday 12 noon - 9pm

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Wheatsheaf, Leybourne – The beers on offer have recently been from Cornish brewer *Sharps* with *Doombar* being the regular and another selection from the same source as a guest. Sheila provides very good value meals all week except Tuesday when only sandwiches are available.

Chequers, Loose – Paul Grigg continues to provide good food and ale here in the Loose Valley. This is an ideal place to commence and finish a walk in this picturesque area. Refresh yourself with a beer of your choice from *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*.

Druids Arms, Maidstone – Almost £300k has been spent here on a re-fit during September for the benefit of the mixed clientele. There are now several upholstered benches which allow additional seating for larger groups and some partitions have been installed which help separate the areas. The kitchen has also been updated. Jodie usually has regulars *Greene King Abbott*, *IPA* and *Old Speckled Hen*. There are also three seasonal or guest beers.

Pilot, Maidstone – David Till is now running this *Harveys* pub which is a little out of the town centre but well worth the brief walk. Regular music sessions are being continued. The beers are *Armada*, *Mild*, *Best* and the seasonal offerings.

Players, Maidstone – Closed but had no real ale.

Royal George, Maidstone – Closed

The Green Room, Maidstone – Closed but had no real ale.

Stile Bridge Inn, Marden – Branch members attended the Beer & Music festival with two assisting with judging Beer of the Festival. Good beer, good food, good music and good weather made it a good weekend. Regular beers are *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and a brew from *Westerham* with one guest ale. Website: www.stile.co.uk.

Bricklayers Arms, New Hythe – Closed following the departure of John & Rosemary Gill on 20 Aug as no new tenant has been found.

White Horse, Otham – A comfortable pub in a village on the outskirts of Maidstone. *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Sharps Doom Bar* were available when the branch visited.



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North Pole, Wateringbury – Has now been put up for sale – possibly as a restaurant. A Sold sign has been noticed recently, so we'll wait and see what planning applications are forthcoming.

Lobster Pot, West Malling – In a recent shake-up, the former lessees were unable to renew their lease from Punch, who have now granted it to Andy Welch, the new licensee. It is our hope that this will herald a period of stability for the Pot, which has seen a number of managers come and go in recent years. So, welcome, Andy!

George, Yalding – Congratulations to Joe Morris who has now been licensee here for 40 years. *Adnams Best Bitter* is the regular and a guest beer is also available.

No Room At The Inn

by Jeff Tucker

A recent pub visit by some 15 Maidstone branch members one Thursday evening wasn't enjoyed by all. As is usually the case, we went to two pubs during the course of the evening. The first was a pleasant surprise, not having been there before, either myself personally, or the branch.

On moving on to the second pub, however, we found a quiz in progress. About six or seven teams were taking part, and nobody else was in the pub until we arrived. The teams were spread throughout all areas of the pub, so that the quizmaster had to position himself where he couldn't see some of the teams, but they could presumably all hear him.

The first group of us occupied one of the empty tables near the bar, but were constantly being asked to keep quiet by the quizmaster. I politely suggested that he might like to ask the two teams in the back area of the bar to move to the empty tables in the main part of the bar, so that we could use the back room, and we wouldn't disturb the quiz teams, but this suggestion was rejected.

As a result, we felt very unwelcome, with some people saying that they wouldn't return to the pub. It seems strange that a pub would want to exclude fifteen drinkers, who just want to have a quiet conversation over a couple of pints, but there you are. I can only assume that the pub wasn't expecting anyone else to come in after the quiz started. How odd!

However, wouldn't it have been nice if the landlord, or quizmaster, had made an effort to keep everyone happy? It wouldn't have taken much, and it would have generated some repeat custom instead of alienation.

Contact: *Bob Belton* on 01322-224683 (H) / 020-7235-5213 (W) or
Ian Wright on 01322 550275 / 07779 319196

Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch is very proud to announce that 2009 is now the year in which both outright winners of the CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year and the Kent Club of the Year are located within our area. The opening paragraph in the last issue recorded the triumph of the **Bull** at Horton Kirby at branch level. Since then the Bull has won the West Kent award, ahead of three other branch winners, and finally won the “head to head” vote in September against the East Kent winner, the **Butchers Arms** in Herne (Canterbury Branch) which was the 2008 Kent Pub of the Year. The **Dartford Working Men’s Club** has become the Kent Club of the Year, beating competition from worthy clubs in Gillingham, Tunbridge Wells, West Malling and Whitstable. This is the sixth Kent title in the last eight years for DWMC which became the CAMRA National Club of the Year in 2006.

What are the criteria CAMRA judges look for when selecting these pubs and clubs? Obviously, consistently excellent quality real ale is of paramount importance but there are several other important factors. All pubs are visited by judges without being forewarned so the initial welcome and service from behind the bar are fundamental. Customers should always be treated as human beings and not just a source of revenue. The atmosphere and decor, in keeping with the style of the building, are considered so local corner pubs, estate pubs and town centre bars with a friendly atmosphere, sense of community and comfortable surroundings compete alongside picturesque rural gems and pubs specialising in selling gourmet food. Indeed the **Butchers Arms** does not sell food at all. The **Bull** at Horton Kirby is not an inspiring building from the outside but Garrett and Lynne have transformed the pub from an average village local into a vibrant establishment, supporting various community activities, and concentrating on selling good beer and tasty home-cooked food, as well as providing pleasant surroundings in which people feel comfortable and wish to return.

The clubs are a little more difficult to judge as, by definition, they have membership restrictions and the judges usually need to announce themselves in advance in order to gain admission. The clientele mix in a club can never be as diverse as in a pub, so standards of service and quality of beer become more important factors. It is a great testament to

Nick Byram and his team at the **DWMC** that up to fifteen real ales from a vast range of breweries are kept in such good condition and have attracted so many loyal followers. The club has recently re-introduced serving food; meals and snacks are available Tuesday to Saturday, 12-3pm; Sunday 1-4pm and Sunday evening 7-9pm.

The CAMRA presentation of the Kent certificates took place at each venue separately in early October. Garrett and Nick have taken it upon themselves to organise a joint celebration in November when about sixty different ales will be available over the weekend of the 20th/22nd November at the two locations. It is being billed as the “2 Kents Real Ale Festival” and on Saturday 21st

a courtesy bus will be providing free transport between the two venues. On that day, in a role reversal, Garrett intends be serving behind the bar at the club whilst Nick will be welcoming customers at the **Bull**.

Staying with the theme of beer festivals, Colin and Sue at the **Rising Sun**, Twitton reported their most successful year so far and were obliged to order two additional casks of beer and two more tubs of cider to satisfy demand. The **Rising Sun** is a very pleasant little pub with a large garden, tucked away in Twitton Lane, twixt Shoreham and Otford, frequented by locals, and sought out by walkers, cyclists (both pedal and motor power) and other beer festival hunters. I don't have reports on all the other pub festivals mentioned in the previous issue but we are encouraged that several different licensees have been asking us about the viability of running pub festivals so the popularity and success of this type of event seems to be on the increase, despite the general trend of pub closures.

The **Jolly Drayman** in Gravesend held their inaugural beer festival over a weekend in late July and several branch members attended on the Saturday. I thought that they were being very ambitious in serving as

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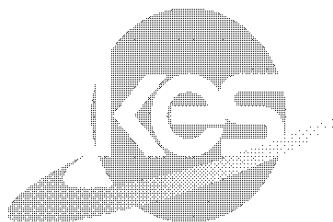
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many as 20 beers in the separate room, in addition to the four on handpump in the bar; however I managed to sample twelve different beers, including *Rudgate Ruby Mild*, which subsequently won the Champion Beer of Britain award at the Great British Beer Festival in August. All the beers at the **Jolly Drayman** were in good condition and I particularly enjoyed the *Kelburn Red Smiddy*, *Goachers Gold Star* and *Grainstore Rutland Panther*. The festival must have been successful as the **Jolly Drayman** is hosting a second one from Friday 13th (lucky for some) to Sunday 15th November. Once again over 20 beers will be available, there will be a hog roast on the Saturday, a jazz trio on the Sunday, and daddlums, Kentish table skittles, can be played every day.

Another excellent *Good Beer Guide* listed pub in our area is the **Crown** in Otford which has been transformed by the present licensees, Mark and Fiona Fenge, into the local community focal point, by hosting and supporting a large array of events and functions and, of course, supplying consistently good real ale and cider and serving excellent home-cooked meals. The **Crown** was the welcoming home venue for the *CAMRA Gateway to Kent Pub Guide* committee and the pub hosts regular beer festivals. Unfortunately the recent October event missed the previous publication date but we intend to keep readers informed of future beer festival and please visit the pub website, www.crownpubandrestaurant.co.uk.

The branch takes part in the CAMRA LocAle scheme which promotes pubs selling local real ales (from breweries less than 20/30 miles away) on a regular basis in good condition. Look out for the orange/yellow and black pump labels (on the relevant handles), window stickers, beer mats and posters. Qualifying outlets and breweries in our area include the **Cock** at Luddesdown, always offering *Goachers Real Mild* and usually *Whitstable East India Pale Ale* (brewed near Maidstone); the **Black Horse** in Stansted with *Larkins Traditional Ale*; the **Crown** at Otford rotating *Westerham* beers and the **Rum Puncheon** in West Street, Gravesend, which now sells beers regularly from *Millis Brewing* in South Darent, including a good drop of *Kentish Dark* at a recent meeting. Mel and Sue are very keen to promote real beer at the **Rum Puncheon** and up to six diverse ales are usually on sale.

I've also enjoyed other *Millis* beers, *Kentish Red* and *Dartford Wobbler* recently at the **Malt Shovel** in Eynsford and the **Four Lymes** in Hawley and several other pubs also sell local real ales from time to time, usually

on a rotational guest beer basis. Please let us know of any pubs selling beers from *Goachers, Larkins, Millis, Nelson* or *Westerham* that could be worthy contenders for LocAle promotional material. *Shepherd Neame, Fuller's, Harvey's* and *Dark Star* are well represented locally but these breweries are probably just a little too far away to qualify as "LocAle" to our branch.

Local members have informed us that the **Paper Moon** in Dartford High Street has been showcasing some local (and near local) microbreweries in recent months, including a mini beer festival over the August Bank Holiday which featured ten *Nelson* beers at £1.69 a pint and raised nearly £500 for charity. This enterprising pub, once again, will be at the forefront locally during the Wetherspoons beer festival from 28th October to 15th November. Hopefully *Hog's Back* brewery will be showcased later in November with a possible "Meet the Brewer" event. The manager and staff at the **Paper Moon** are making laudable efforts to develop a "community local" feel to this Wetherspoons town centre corner pub. Weekly quiz nights and charity events are held and there is a community notice board promoting local events. There has been a brewery trip for customers to *Westerham*, and one is planned to *Nelson Brewing* in Chatham Dockyard in November.

In this previous issue we reported that Wetherspoons had opened the **Flying Boat** in June and the novelty of a new "Spoons" has initially affected sales, particularly of food, at the **Paper Moon**. The **Flying Boat** is much more spacious, proving popular for diners, and has a large patio garden area convenient for smokers. The **Paper Moon** has set out its stall to encourage more traditional pubgoers and has made significant strides to provide a wider variety and range of very well kept real ales regularly, recently including the legendary award winning *Thornbridge Jaipur*, and this enterprise should be appreciated.

That said we would like to believe that other Dartford pubs nearby can retain their share of the market and thrive, especially in these difficult times. The **Wat Tyler** opposite has a loyal regular clientele and sells good dark ales. Neil at the **Malt Shovel**, Darenth Lane, is building a steady trade by providing good food – I enjoy the Friday speciality fish night – and good beers, supplied by *Wells and Young* - the guest ale, *Titanic Iceberg*, went down well with me. Quiz nights can be a good crowd puller and the Monday night open event is good fun. A few hundred yards along Darenth Lane is the **Ivy Leaf** where Jim serves a good pint of

Fuller's London Pride and beers from *Adnams* and *Youngs*, and runs a quiz night on Sundays. The **Foresters** in Great Queen Street continues to host various charitable events and is yet another good example of a community pub.

Thanks again to John Harris for providing the following local information. In September a new licensee, Carol, has taken over the **Phoenix**, Hythe Street, Dartford, when bottled beers, including *Brakspear Triple* and *Wychwood Fiddlers Elbow* and *Hobgoblin* were the order of the day. Hopefully this pub will return to selling real ale after a long absence, starting with a pin of *Wychwood Hobgoblin*, sponsored by John, at the end of October .

Dartford Cricket Club, in Hesketh Park, is holding an event on the 30th October with eleven real ales and three ciders. This will probably have taken place by the time you read this but is encouraging to report that another cricket club has followed the lead of Colin Wright at Wilmington CC in promoting real ale to a wider audience.

The **Brent School Old Boys Social Club** in London Road, Stone has opened facilities to card carrying CAMRA members. *Batemens XXXB* and *Camerons Strongarm* were on sale, both in excellent condition, to be expected as the bar is run by Steve Phillips, formerly the licensee of the much lamented **Bricklayers Arms** in Stone and for many years the chief cellarman at the Dartford Real Ale Festival in Central Park, also much lamented.

Once again I shall end on a sad note, informing readers of the death of Paul Homer, a friend and longstanding CAMRA member, who passed away in July after a three and a half year battle against cancer. Paul was a leading figure in the Dartford Folk Club, based at the **Dartford Working Men's Club**, and we are all indebted in no small measure to Paul, who was prominent in the early days in encouraging the club to expand their real ale portfolio from two or three standard beers ten years ago to become the award winning establishment it is today. Paul was an unsung hero in CAMRA circles who was always willing to help at beer festivals with the thankless heavy duties of moving casks and equipment, setting up the bar stillage and dismantling the paraphernalia after the event.

Thank you and rest in peace.



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Alan Spurge (1945 – 2009)

Alan joined CAMRA in the late 1970's and joined the Bexley Branch Committee in 1981, first as Clubs Officer, then Membership Secretary becoming Treasurer in 1987. In 1990 he was elected Chairman, a post he held for seven years whilst also being Treasurer, until 2000 when he reverted to a committee member.

Alan represented Bexley at both Kent Liaison Meetings and Kent Regional Meetings over the years holding the post of Treasurer for the Kent region for several years. He also worked on some of the committees that produced the CAMRA Real Ale Guides to Kent, being Treasurer for the last one in 1999.

He worked at the Kent Festival in Canterbury from 1988 to 2005 as Stage Manager, accompanied by his caravan which seemed to take longer to position than setting up the stage! As a qualified electrician working in a music college he was in his element, and certainly a wide range of music featured at Kent. At Gravesend Beer Festivals he was Site Manager whilst also working on the Tombola. Alan also helped out at numerous other CAMRA festivals.

Alan's health sadly deteriorated after a fall in July 2005 and then suffered a stroke in April 2006, just before the First Bexley Beer Festival which he had helped get off the ground, and tragically just before the end of the school term when he intended to retire. After a stay in Queen Mary's Hospital he was moved to a care home in South Darenth and following a further stroke died there in early August 2009.

Alan was a keen supporter of CAMRA, having developed a taste for the real stuff at his uncle's Chesham & Brackley brewery pub during holidays with his brother Patrick. He was very easily distinguishable with his long beard and ponytail and was always keen to volunteer for various jobs, often forgetting that he had done so, but he did have a good sense of humour. His choice of beer was always the darker ones; milds, porters, stouts and old ales; his favourite being *Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild*.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Rest in Peace.

Bexley CAMRA

Contact: *Martyn Nicholls* on 01322 527857 (H)
or *Graham Austin* on 07939 145429 (M)
or email *contacts@camrabexleybranch.org.uk*

BEXLEY BRANCH CONTINUES: After an EGM held upstairs in the **Crayford Arms** on 9th September, a full committee has been elected. Thanks to all those who attended and those that offered their support by e-mail, telephone or letter. It would have been a great shame if the Branch had folded since being formed in July 1975. The greatest thanks must go to those who volunteered to join chairman Martyn Nicholls in keeping the Branch afloat, so well done to Peter R, Andy W, Helen R, Ian W, Graham A, Pat W, Paul W and Steve, our new Webmaster.

A few words of praise for Alan Boakes who has stepped down as Membership Secretary, Pubs Officer, Webmaster and general dogsbody as he certainly devoted a great deal of time and effort to keep the Branch running since his return in 1998; his efforts are appreciated and he will be a great loss to the Committee although he intends to stay around as Beer Festival Organiser. Pete Ravenscroft has swapped numbers for words (Treasurer to Secretary) and when taking over as Treasurer had made an auditor's life easier by showing various updates on figures; he accounted for four beer festivals, arranged trips and kept the branch funds in order – harder than a lot of people think – pleasure to work with you and good luck as Secretary.

At our meeting in July at the **White Cross** in North Cray we were treated to two guest ales alongside *Courage Best* and *Directors*, being *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Otter Bright*, both very enjoyable. Various beers from the local *Millis Brewing Company* in South Darenth have also recently been on sale at this pub.

The August meeting/social at the **Crayford Arms**, 37 High Street, Crayford, included a presentation for second runner-up (Pub of the Year) and most improved pub in the Borough. Ian Wright, our new Pubs Officer, resplendent in his red *Shepherd Neame* T-shirt, made an excellent speech extolling the virtues of this splendid community hostelry and what a turnaround since John and Paul have taken over the pub. After thanking them for the contribution to real ale, indeed six beers were available, including *Whitstable Bay* and *Goldings Summer Hop Ale*, we

tucked in to an excellent spread, courtesy of Sharon, along with a barbecue in the garden. The **Crayford Arms** is now another worthy real ale outlet in the Borough where you can buy good beer with confidence.

The **Robin Hood and Little John**, our Pub of the Year, recently had *Shepherd Neame Late Red* (also excellent at the **Crayford Arms** in September) and *Stone Cutter* from *Lymestone Brewery* in Stone, Staffordshire. The London Pub of the Year was again the **Bricklayers Arms** in Waterman Street, Putney SW15 1DD.

Once again Bexley Branch members judged the final of the CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year. The East Kent winner being last year's overall winner, the **Butchers Arms** in Herne, but this year the winner being the West Kent entry the **Bull** at Horton Kirby. Congratulations to Garrett and Lynne. Well done also to Nick Byram and his team at the **Dartford Working Men's Club** for winning CAMRA Kent Club of the Year.

The **Crook Log** in Bexleyheath, a Mitchells and Butlers Toby Carvery, has re-instated real ale, now selling *Fullers London Pride* and *Greene King IPA*. In Mayplace Road West, Bexleyheath, the **Bricklayers Arms**, which kept opening and closing under new management, has finally closed and is being converted to flats. In Erith the **Harrow**, North End Road, is boarded up – reason unknown.

After a £60,000 revamp the **Portrait** (Smith & Jones, Barracuda Group) Elm Parade Sidcup has re-opened. With competition from the **Tailor's Chalk** (J.D.Wetherspoon) just along the road, the **Portrait** now serves breakfasts and is more family friendly with a children's licence. Beer available was *Wells Bombardier* and *Courage Best* both at £2.05 per pint. Perhaps a guest ale will be on sale when Bexley Beer Festival (8,9,10 April) comes to town.

Thanks to Phil Lilly (*realalerebel*) for the following. **Infernos** in Welling (previously known as the Station, Full Moon, Moon and Sixpence) remains closed and is one of too many empty retail units in the main street (Bellegrove Road/High Street). **RSVP** (ex Yates) near Bexleyheath Clock Tower is rumoured to have become a Nando's Restaurant, owned by Town and City. This firm also owns the **Golden Lion**, half a mile away on the Broadway, which sells *Wells Bombardier* and *Young's Bitter*. **Zero Bar** in Bexleyheath Broadway is now only open from 5pm to 1am Fridays and 2pm to 1am Saturdays, and sells four regular beers *Pale Ale* 4.6%, *Pilsner* 4.8%, *Black Lager* 4.8% and a *Wheat Beer* 4.2% which are superior to pressure beers offered elsewhere.

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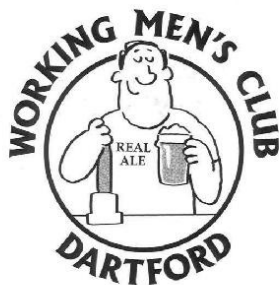
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Graham Courbould, local musician and singer songwriter, who plays at the Bexley Beer Festival, runs an Open Mic night most Thursdays at the **Glenmore Arms**, Edison Grove, Plumstead SE18 2DW.

ASDA Bexleyheath is now selling *Hopdaemon* bottle-conditioned beers at £1.80 for 500ml, *Skrimshander IPA*, *Leviathan* and *Green Daemon*, along with a selection from *Nelson Brewery* – *Dog Watch Stout*, *Pieces of Eight*, *Nelsons Blood*, *Trafalgar*, and *Friggin' in the Rigg'in'* and a trio of *Whitstable* beers, namely *Pilsner*, *Wheat Beer* and *Oyster Stout*.

Our festival glass sponsors, *Westerham Brewery*, have had to change the name of their *Black Eagle SPA* to *Westerham Special Pale Ale* after *Wells & Young's* filed an application for a Declaration of Invalidity of *Westerham's* Trade Mark, as (W&Y) *Eagle IPA*, which was registered in 2001, could create confusion. (*Really?* – Ed)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the continuing CAMRA Bexley Branch.

People are liking the new guide

Initial sales of the new *Gateway to Kent Pub Guide*, which gives details of nearly 500 pubs in Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Edenbridge, Hawkhurst and surrounding villages, have taken off very well. The book is stocked in many of the better pubs in the area, and is starting to appear in branches of WH Smith and Waterstone's in the west of the county. Arriva travel offices also have copies on sale, including Gravesend, Chatham and Maidstone.

The 176-page guide, which is in full colour throughout, gives details of real ales and ciders sold, opening hours, food and facilities, as well as descriptions of each pub, complemented by 100 photographs of the best pubs. In addition, there are comprehensive articles on real ale styles, by-gone and current Kent breweries, walking, cycling, and recommended pubs close to tourist attractions. Public Transport is heavily promoted, through sponsorship from bus operator Arriva. Maps of the main towns and the county are also included. All this for just £4.99!

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Real Ale Tours and Services (RATAS) — Cambridge Tour

by Richard Clennett

On a mainly bright and sunny morning, five people met up for the train journey to Cambridge. Departing on the 0905 from West Malling, we arrived at Kings Cross in plenty of time for the 1045 fast service to Cambridge, arriving there just after 1130.

On arrival at Cambridge, we crossed the station forecourt to take a No. 3 bus to the City centre. Ten minutes later, we alighted in St Andrews Street to visit **The Regal** (Lloyds No.1) and next door to it, **The Castle**. **The Regal**, named after the cinema that it used to be, claimed at the time of its opening to be the largest pub in the UK, and is believed to still lay claim to that title. I have listed the beers we found available in each pub at the end of this article for anyone who is interested. Next door, **The Castle** is a Greene King pub, which has recently gone upmarket in terms of both prices and food, but the beer quality, as with all the pubs on this tour, was very good. It was established in 1934 on the site of the medieval Castle Hotel, which had burnt down a few years before.

We turned left out of The Castle and headed down to Mill Lane. At the end of this road, on the corner with Granta Place, and just across the road from the river, is **The Mill**. This used to be my Grandparents' local when I was small, but I had never actually been in it before. The interior, which I'm told has changed little over the years, has wooden furniture and a part wooden, part tiled floor. **The Mill** serves real cider, a wide selection of real ales and also fruit wines. The lunch menu includes light bites, hot main courses. and salads. With the sunny weather and the pub being rather warm inside, we decided to accept our drinks in plastic 'glasses' and take our beers outside to drink them sitting beside the River Cam.

Returning our empty 'plastics' to the bar (to claim our 20p per glass deposit), our journey to Bene't Street was via Laundress Lane (so named as the nearby 'Laundress Green' was used by college laundresses in the days when the river was the best source of water for washing). A short distance along on the left, opposite St Bene'ts Church, is an old coaching inn, **The Eagle**, that originally opened around 1600 as the Eagle and Child. It is a warren of passages, rooms and bars inside, leading to the RAF Bar at the rear, famous for having been previously frequented by US and Allied airmen. This large Greene King pub was reopened by the master of Corpus Christi College in 1992, and is where Watson and Crick announced the form of DNA in 1953, an occasion marked by a blue

plaque.

It was our intention to visit all three of the pubs in King Street which have been in recent editions of the *Good Beer Guide*, but as we made our way along, we found **The Bun Shop** was closed. However, we did visit both **The Champion of the Thames** and **The St Radegund**.

The Champion of the Thames has two wood-panelled bars with the lowest ceilings of any Cambridge pub, leather upholstered benches, sturdy tables and interesting nooks and crannies. The pub name commemorates a famous oarsman, depicted in action on the pub's etched windows. **The St Radegund** claims to be the smallest pub in Cambridge and I would certainly not dispute that claim. A small single bar pub, the range of beers on offer belied the pub's size. It is a regular outlet for beers from the local Milton Brewery, and has been a regular in the *Good Beer Guide* for the last 8 years. It is named after a 6th Century Frankish Queen and Nun, to whom the 12th Century Priory on the site of nearby Jesus College was dedicated, and rumour has it there is a holy well under the floor.

Turning left out of the pub brought us to the roundabout at the end of King Street, where we turned left into Jesus Lane. A short distance along, we waited for a No.2 bus towards Addenbrookes Hospital and alighted in Mill Rd, outside the old Maternity Hospital (where I was born!). We turned left into Kingston Street where we found **The Kingston Arms**. This pub at one time had a reputation as the worst pub in Cambridge, but has for some years been one of the best, and was awarded Area Pub of the Year by the local CAMRA branch in 2001. The beer range and quality here were so good that we all voted to stay for a second, which turned out to be a good move (as the last 2 pubs on our tour close on a Saturday afternoon). This pub is offering a range of 'recession busters' including some real ales at less than £2 per pint.

A short walk took us into Mawson Road for **The Live and Let Live**. Unfortunately this pub closes in the afternoons, including Saturdays, not re-opening until 1800, an hour and a half away. The same is true for **The Salisbury Arms**, so after a quick vote it, it was decided to make our way back to the station (only about 10 minutes away), and return to London, where we would make a couple of further pub visits before catching our train home at 2018. It made for quite a long day, but all participants agreed it had been a very enjoyable and worthwhile day out.

See next page for the list of beers found

Regal – Greene King Abbot & Ruddles Best, Marstons Pedigree, Caledonian Top Banana, Wentworth Small Copper, Batemans Middle Wicket, Nethergate Essex Beast, Warrior (Possibly Left Hand Brewing Co) + Westons Traditional Scrumpy.

Castle – Greene King St Edmunds Ale & University of Cambridge 1209 Ale. (and possibly the most expensive Leffe on the Planet !!)

Mill – Woodfordes Wherry, Adnams Explorer, Wychwood Hobgoblin, Caledonian Deuchars IPA + Westons Old Rosie Cider.

Eagle – Greene King IPA, St Edmunds Ale, University of Cambridge 1209 Ale & Old Speckled Hen, Hook Norton Haymaker. Greene King LBW in the RAF Bar.

Champion of the Thames – Greene King IPA, Abbot & St Edmunds Ale.

St Radegund – Thwaites Original, Fullers London Pride, Milton Icarus & Sackcloth (the latter is brewed specially for the pub).

Kingston Arms – Hopback Summer Lightning, Crouch Vale Brewers Gold, Oakham JHB, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Elgoods Black Dog, Shardlow Narrow Boat, Idle Brewery Idle Boggin, Milton Minotaur, Cottage Mini Cooper, Wooden Spoon Bankers Draught, Checkley Brook

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Ale of Oxney

by Andy Osborne

It was another beautiful summer's morning with just a scattering of cloud as I waited for the bus into Maidstone. Once aboard I purchased an Explorer ticket which covered all routes for the day. A second member joined me shortly afterwards.

Once in Maidstone we met up with four more explorers as we boarded a number 12 bus to Tenterden. A short while into the journey we were joined by a seventh eager drinker. The bus connection to our main destination only had about a two minute overlap, so we were rather nervous passengers, as our bus was stuck in roadworks as we approached Tenterden. The 312 that we needed only runs every 2-3 hours on Saturdays. There was one thing in our favour, which was that two other members who had travelled down earlier would be catching the same bus. We called to warn them to think of some stalling tactics, (a medical emergency or similar I wouldn't be surprised!).

In the event we arrived just in time. We met with the other two and after eleven minutes on this infrequent bus we arrived at the main event of the day in the **Isle of Oxney** which was once a real island.

The **Swan Inn** at Wittersham was holding its annual Summer Beer Festival & Hog Roast. This was my third visit and I can only say that this festival appears to get bigger and better every time I visit, with an advertised 28 real ales and seven ciders and perries, which to my knowledge were all available, and with entertainment over the weekend. This pub is a regular in the CAMRA *Good Beer Guide*, is often winner of Pub of the Year in the local branch area, and is also Kent's Cider Pub of the Year.

Our group picked a couple of tables outside on the patio (not too far from the beer tent) and started to sample some of the vast choice, and working out how many we were hoping to try in our visit. All the beers appeared in excellent condition and we were joined here by another two enthusiasts who live more locally. Most of the party decided to eat here from an extensive menu; I preferred to try the hog roast which at £5 was as good value as it was tasty, especially with the pork crackling! We were now joined by a twelfth member who had rather bravely cycled down from Headcorn from where he had got off a train from Maidstone with his bike. After about two-and-a-half hours enjoying the fine food, ales and atmosphere it was, alas, time to leave.

The **Bull** at Benenden has recently won Pub of the Year twice in the local branch area, and is another regular in the *Good Beer Guide*. This 17th Century village pub with wooden floors and exposed beams. Four ales were on offer here being *Dark Star Hophead*, *Larkins Traditional*, *Goacher's Gold Star* and *Harveys Sussex*, and all of them were in excellent form. An hour or so here and then we once again got back on the 297, heading for Goudhurst and the stunning countryside along the route. There was a choice of pubs here but we decided to call in at the **Star & Eagle**, a hotel bar dating back to the 14th century. Part of its fascinating history is that it was once the headquarters of the notorious Hawkhurst Gang who used to rob and terrorise the area and planned smuggling raids. The bar is comfortable with an inglenook fireplace and beams, and had three beers on offer, namely *Adnams Bitter*, *Harveys Sussex* and *Westerham Grasshopper*. Refreshment in hand, we made our way out to the back garden, which has wonderful views over the valley, where we sat and enjoyed the good quality beer. The pub is very close to a church that had a wedding on, and the bells were being rung loud and long. I left the pub a little before the others to go and see the reputedly even better views from the church tower, only to be defeated by the bell ringers on the first floor who refused to let me continue, muttering something about health and safety. My mistake, I realise, had been waiting for them to finish before attempting the climb; crestfallen I made my way back to the join the others.

A short while later we were aboard the number 27 heading back to Maidstone discussing the options for a last stop-off. The **Wheatsheaf**, near Loose, is a large, friendly, out-of-town pub and a recent entry to the *Good Beer Guide*. We decided to stop there, as they had a mini beer festival on that weekend. Unfortunately for us, it had been busy the previous two days and there were only four ales left; two of which we were told were not at their best and were discounted to reflect this. This meant we didn't have to make too many choices having one of each of the remaining two before it was time to conclude the journey.

Thanks must go to Jeff Tucker for organising the trip and timetable and to all the pubs that made us welcome on this memorable summer's day.

One last thought for the day: drinking and riding don't mix. Our intrepid cyclist got lost on his way back to the train station, arrived too late for his train, and ended up cycling all the way back to his home near Maidstone!

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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)

NOVEMBER

- 5 **GDV** **Dartford Working Men's Club (DWMC)** *OBM*
- 5 **MMK** **Pepperbox**, Ulcombe, then **Park Gate**, Hollingbourne
- 11 **BEX** **Furze Wren**, Bexleyheath, *OBM* and (JDW Beer Festival).
- 12 **MMK** **Society Rooms**, Maidstone, New members' evening
- 14 **GDV** **Jolly Drayman** (Gravesend) Social 1pm Beer Festival
- 14 **MMK** Bus Trip – Herne and Canterbury
- 18 **GDV** **Three Daws**, Gravesend, **Rum Puncheon & Somerset Arms**
- 19 **MMK** **Bull**, West Malling, *OBM*
- 20 **GDV** **DWMC & Bull**, Horton Kirby, Beer Festivals – 1pm (see p20)
- 26 **MMK** **Hop Pole**, Nettlestead, then **Railway**

DECEMBER

- 2 **GDV** **Dartford Working Men's Club**, Branch AGM *OBM*
- 3 **MMK** **Hawkenbury**, Hawkenbury, then **Swan**, Sutton Valence
- 9 **BEX** **Black Horse**, Bexley, *OBM*, then Xmas meal at **Greek Taverna**.
- 10 **MMK** **Kent Cricketer**, Hawkhurst, then **Eight Bells**
- 11 **GDV** PROVISIONAL - **Black Lion** (Hartley) Christmas Social
- 12 **MMK** Bus Trip - Lindfield
- 17 **MMK** **Kings Arms**, Offham, then **Wheatsheaf**, Leybourne
- 28 **MMK** **Hare & Hounds**, Maidstone, then **Flower Pot** – 12 noon

JANUARY

- 6 **GDV** **Millers Cottage**, Gravesend *OBM*
- 7 **MMK** **Good Intent**, West Farleigh, then **White House**
- 8 **MMK** Goacher's Old evening, **Rifle Volunteers**
- 13 **BEX** **Charlotte**, Crayford, *OBM*.
- 14 **MMK** **King & Queen**, East Malling *OBM* (TBC)
- 16 **BEX** **Charlotte** Beer Festival , Crayford
- 21 **GDV** **Wat Tyler**, Dartford, then **Paper Moon**, **Malt Shovel & Ivy Leaf**
- 21 **MMK** **Dog & Bear** and **Red Lion**, Lenham, then **Harrow**, Warren St
- 25 **BEX** Burns Night Social, **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath
- 28 **MMK** **Yew Tree**, Sandling, then **Lower Bell**

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