

# Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

Free Newsletter  
for the

Maidstone & Mid-Kent,  
Gravesend & Darent Valley  
and Bexley areas of Kent

Summer 2012 No. 167

## WHITHER CIDER?

The CAMRA AGM in Torquay is now over. There were two motions concerning ingredients for real cider. The first, from the APPLE committee was rejected by the membership, while the second, from Kent Region, was remitted to the National Executive to consider. We publish on page 37 a powerful opinion piece from a leading Kent cider maker which should serve as a wake-up call to CAMRA to be more proactive in encouraging pubs to put on draught real cider and to highlight new methods of dispense that minimise waste. One such is attaching a handpump via a non-return valve to a *bag-in-box* that can continue to serve cider in fresh condition for up to a month. Such innovation would be a real spur to pubs that might otherwise feel deterred from committing to a plastic tub where the contents gradually deteriorate on exposure to the ingress of air.

Kent is a home to cider and we should champion it better!

### Inside this issue:

Apple Press	7
Local News	15
Jeff's Perfect Pub	40

## DRAUGHT COPY

Draught Copy is the newsletter of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent, 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 2700 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:**

£69 / £40 / £24 for a full / half / quarter page respectively.

<b>Editor and</b>	Tim Mathews
<b>Correspondence:</b>	dc@braymead.com
<b>Postal Address:</b>	135 Lavenders Road West Malling Kent ME19 6HR
<b>Advertising:</b>	Colin Mann
<b>Email:</b>	colinmann@cix.co.uk

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.

Please note that in view of other commitments, the copy date for the next issue is **15 June 2012** for publication in **mid-July 2012**.

Visit our website at [www.mmkamra.co.uk](http://www.mmkamra.co.uk)

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

## **CAMRA**

[www.camra.org.uk/page.php?id=4](http://www.camra.org.uk/page.php?id=4)

### **THURROCK BEER FESTIVAL**

**MAY 22—26**

Thurrock Civic Hall

Blackshots Lane

Grays RM16 2JU

140+ different beers, 15+ different ciders/perries plus English country wines and mead

### **13TH KINGSTON BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL**

**May 11—12**

Kingston Workmens Club & Institute

Old London Road

Kingston

50 real ales + 12 ciders and perries

### **YAPTON BEEREX**

**May 18—20**

Yapton Village Hall

Main Road

Yapton

West Sussex

65 real ales from small brewers only, plus cider and food

[www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk](http://www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk)

### **16TH SOUTH DOWNS BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL**

**June 15—16**

Lewes Town Hall

Old Corn & Hop Exchange

Fisher Street

Lewes, East Sussex

[www.camra.org.uk/event\\_detail.php?id=4&CODE=BF-SDN](http://www.camra.org.uk/event_detail.php?id=4&CODE=BF-SDN)

## **Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs**

**May 3—7**

### **Flower Pot**

Sandling Road, Maidstone

### **7th Beer Festival**

Over 25 ales, 6 ciders & perries,

Live music and home cooked food

[flowerpotpub.com](http://flowerpotpub.com)

**May 4—7**

### **Rising Sun**

Twitton, near Otford

16 beers plus cider & perry

**May 11—13**

### **Jolly Drayman**

Wellington Street, Gravesend

There will be the usual 20 plus beers and various ciders.

**May 18—20**

### **Teston Social Club**

Church Street, Teston ME18 5AG

8 real ales and cider plus food.

Open to all Club and

card-carrying CAMRA members

[www.testonclub.co.uk](http://www.testonclub.co.uk)

**June 1—4**

### **Swan**

Sutton Valence

At least 20 real ales available

**June 2—4**

### **Chequers**

Cray Road, Crockenhill

10 real ales & 1 cider available



**THE WHEATSHEAF**  
LOOSE ROAD MAIDSTONE

**01622 752624**

**REAL ALES      REAL FOOD**  
**REALISTIC PRICES**

**YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF DRINKS**

**TO ACCOMPANY GOOD FOOD, ALL AT REASONABLE PRICES**

**A SUNDAY ROAST EVERY SUNDAY**

**COME AND ENJOY A FRESH, HOME COOKED ROAST DINNER  
FROM 12PM TILL 5PM FOR ONLY £7.95. CHILDREN £4.95**

**OUTSIDE BAR SERVICE PROVIDED FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

**Showing all sporting events on ESPN and Sky Sports**

---

The **Kings Arms** in Offham recently wrote to tell us of exciting things happening there. *We have been in the Kings Arms now since October although only signed a long term tenancy agreement with the pubco at the beginning of February. Our ales were one of the many things we had to change straight away. We are now keeping good beer and seem to be getting a good reputation very quickly. People are travelling from as far as Bexley to Chatham on a regular basis to enjoy our ales with us. We are currently turning over 8 to 9 firkins a week on 3 hand pulls. I am getting a fourth pump installed next week. All the lines were replaced around 5 weeks ago.*

*Some of the more popular guest beers we have had over the last couple months include, Hobgoblin, Proper Job, Sussex, Doom Bar, ESB, Landlord, 6X and Young's. We keep Bombardier and Master Brew on all of the time. We signed up with SIBA last week and can now start to include some of the local breweries as well.*

*As far as the pub is concerned, we are due for a major renovation in the summer. We have a few major events this year, a steam rally being one on October 21st, at which there will be plenty of cask ales, straight from the tap on offer. Last year over 2500 people turned up for the rally and it seems to be getting bigger every year. Many cask ale drinkers turn up for the event.*

# KENT BREWERIES

<b>Abigale</b>	07734 342278	<i>www.abigalebrewing.co.uk</i>
<b>Black Cat Brewery</b>	07948 387718	<i>www.blackcat-brewery.com</i>
<b>Canterbury Ales</b>	01227 732541	<i>www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</i>
<b>Canterbury Brewers</b>	01227 455899	<i>www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/canterbury-brewers</i>
<b>Goacher's</b>	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
<b>HopDaemon</b>	01795 892078	<i>www.hopdaemon.com</i>
<b>Hop Fuzz</b>	07850 441267	<i>www.hopfuzz.co.uk</i>
<b>Kent Brewery</b>	01634 780037	<i>www.kentbrewery.com</i>
<b>Larkins</b>	01892 870328	
<b>Millis Brewing Co.</b>	01322 866233	<i>www.millisbrewing.com</i>
<b>Moodleys Brewery</b>	01892 889877	<i>www.moodleys.co.uk</i>
<b>Nelson Brewing Co.</b>	01634 832828	<i>www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Old Dairy Brewing Co.</b>	01580 243185	<i>www.olddairybrewery.com</i>
<b>Old Forge Brewery</b>	01233 720444	<i>www.thefarriersarms.com</i>
<b>Ramsgate Brewery</b>	01843 868453	<i>www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Ripple Steam Brewery</b>	07917 037 611	<i>www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Royal Tunbridge Wells Brewing Company</b>	01892 618140	<i>www.royaltunbridgewellsbrewing.co.uk</i>
<b>Shepherd Neame</b>	01795 532206	<i>www.shepherd-neame.co.uk</i>
<b>Swan, West Peckham</b>	01622 812271	<i>www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</i>
<b>Tír Dhá Ghlas</b>	01304 211666	<i>www.cullinsyard.co.uk</i>
<b>Tonbridge Brewery</b>	01732 366770	<i>www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Wantsum Brewery</b>	0845 0405980	<i>www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Westerham Brewery</b>	01959 565837	<i>www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Whitstable Brewery</b>	01622 851007	<i>www.whitstablebrewery.info</i>

To view our current menus and upcoming events, please visit our website  
**[www.kingandqueeneastmalling.co.uk](http://www.kingandqueeneastmalling.co.uk)**

or follow us on twitter  
**@kingandqueenem**



Operating under the same ownership for 10 years and with our key team members being with us for many of those years, these really are the reasons we are able to ensure the very best standards in all that we do at the King and Queen, in well kept, relaxed surroundings that are open all day, every day!

Whether you are enjoying a traditional bar meal, dining from our a la carte menu in one of our restaurant areas or indeed dining outside in our beautiful garden or even just relaxing with a bottle of wine or a pint with friends, we'll make sure your experience with us is really enjoyable..

It's not just the high standard and consistency of our food offering that's priced with value in mind or our sensibly priced bar and wine tariffs, but also the very high standard of personal and friendly service that keep our customers coming back for more. (bookings strongly recommended to avoid disappointment)

## • **Open all day every day**

(Open Sunday evenings during Summer)

- Full Restaurant A la Carte Menu
  - Traditional Pub Favourites
  - Lighter Lunch Snack Menu
  - Traditional Sunday Lunch Menu
  - Christmas Party Menu 2012
  - Function & Party Menus for all types of Family & Corporate Events
  - Champagne and Drinks Receptions
  - Office Lunches and Walking Groups
  - Bed and Breakfast Accommodation
- **Live Music Nights**
  - **Quiz Nights**
  - **Comedy Nights**



**THE KING & QUEEN**  
Restaurant, Bar & Accommodation  
TEVITA TAVERNS LIMITED



1 New Road, East Malling, Kent ME19 6DD

Tel: 01732 842752 E: [kingandqueen@tevitataverns.co.uk](mailto:kingandqueen@tevitataverns.co.uk)

[www.kingandqueeneastmalling.co.uk](http://www.kingandqueeneastmalling.co.uk) - [Twitter@kingandqueenem](https://twitter.com/kingandqueenem)

# Apple Press

## KENT CIDER PRODUCERS

Please contact the editor with any additions, or other amendments to this list

<b>Biddenden Vineyard</b>	01580 291726	<a href="http://www.biddendenvineyards.com">www.biddendenvineyards.com</a>
<b>Big Tree</b>	01474 705221	<a href="http://www.bigtreecider.co.uk">www.bigtreecider.co.uk</a>
<b>Double Vision</b>	01622 746633	
<b>Dudda's Tun</b>	01795 886266	<a href="http://www.duddastuncider.com">www.duddastuncider.com</a>
<b>East Stour Cider Co</b>	07880 923398	
<b>Johnsons</b>	01795 665203	
<b>Kent Cider Company</b>	07738 573818	
<b>North Downs Cider</b>	01795 591285	
<b>Rough Old Wife</b>	01227 700757	<a href="http://www.rougholdwife.com">www.rougholdwife.com</a>

**Dudda's Tun Cider** — recently finished in the top 3 for the *Best Kent Cider or Perry* in the 2012 Taste of Kent Awards. Dudda's Tun is back into full swing of supply after selling out last year.

**Double Vision** — have started to produce an elderflower perry to add to their range.

**Big Tree Cider**— won the 2012 Taste of Kent Award for *Best Kent Cider or Perry* with their *Appley Ever After* cider. Ray Claridge, the cider maker there, wrote to inform us of this latest accolade for their very popular cider. In the final with *Big Tree Cider* were *Biddendens*, who are a comparative giant, so Ray found the win even more satisfying for that.

Congratulations, Ray, from all at *Draught Copy*.

Congratulations, too, to the **Lifeboat** in Margate as the Kent Region's 2012 Cider Pub of the Year.

# The fabulous GRANDADS

Classic Rock  
from the 70's, 80's and 90's  
[www.thegrandads.co.uk](http://www.thegrandads.co.uk)



live videos  
on the  
website

*'The fabulous Grandads are absolutely fantastic. Superb music, great lights and great entertainment.'* Keith, Landlord, The Clothworkers, Sutton Valence.

*'What an amazing sound - incredible'* Dave, Landlord, The Crown, Cranbrook.

*'The fabulous Grandads are doing Pub-rock the right way. A great crack.'* Chris Price,  
Kent Messenger Music Editor

For a special introductory price  
Tel: Neil on 07767 891609

## The Chequers Inn

Laddingford, nr Yalding  
Kent ME18 6BP  
Tel: 01622 871266

[www.chequersladdingford.co.uk](http://www.chequersladdingford.co.uk)

Award winning traditional village inn  
situated in the hopping countryside

### Charles and Tracey welcome you to their 15th Century Inn

- Cask conditioned real ales
- Traditional value-for-money menus, daily specials, Sunday roasts and children's menu
- Very large garden with children's play area & animal corner
- 4 diamond bed & breakfast accommodation

We are proud of our

- Real Ales, Real Food, Real Staff & No Gimmicks



## Brewery snippets...

**Abigale**—*Leas Lift Bitter* (3.8%), and *Leas Lift Porter* (4.7%) were brewed for the Leas Lift Beer Festival. The porter is now available more widely. The bitter was the same recipe as the beer brewed for last year's festival whilst the porter is a new brew combining six different malts, and using Fuggles and Northdown hops. This beer was very well received, and is still available in bottles or 5 litre mini kegs. The full range of regular cask beers are also now available in bottle conditioned form and can be purchased from the brewery. However the labels are not expected to be delivered for another week and it will be soon after that that the beers will become available in shops.

**Black Cat** – The website has been revised and has a new look about it: [www.blackcat-brewery.com](http://www.blackcat-brewery.com).

**Kent Brewery** – Despite strong sales in December, as expected, the brewery actually sold more in January, and this trend continues. This is partly down to increased numbers of outlets, plus wholesaling with Flying Firkin and Crouch Vale, but the expected downturn in these months failed to materialise in most of the pubs supplied. *Enigma*, a black IPA at 5.5%, was recently added to its range. This was originally introduced as a seasonal beer, but may become part of the core range because of its popularity. Around 80 pubs are being supplied, with a strong following on the south coast of Sussex. In addition to its own deliveries, wholesalers have taken its beer as far away as Glasgow and Jersey (and many other places that the brewery never hears about), so it is steadily building up a national coverage of sorts. At the same time, Kent Brewery is concentrating on reaching the broadest local coverage possible, and this will include deliveries to tied pubs in the near future. Accordingly, Kent Brewery hopes that it won't be long before local CAMRA members will always be able to find one of its pints in their area.

**Moodleys** – They are now selling hops (particularly whole hop cones) for home-brewers direct from the brewery. They will also mail worldwide! Other homebrew paraphernalia too; dried yeast, vegetarian finings, malted barley and crown caps. They are also selling mulled cider/wine spices in sachets. They are also starting doing brewing courses (e.g. for Oxford Gastronomica). Recent cold weather postponed brewing (minus 9.5°C in brewery!). Lastly they are currently doing trial runs of a summer beer using honey from a local source. Current beers available: *Autumn Leaf*, *Mr Toad's Tonic*, *Winter Solstice* and *Green Goldings*.

**Nelson** – The January seasonal ale, *Thunderer* (4.2%), has been such an outstanding success that it has resulted in it being re-brewed twice since. This has meant that the planned February seasonal has been postponed until March. *Shiver 'm' Timbers* (4.3%), has been available this month and has an additional flavouring of ginger. Nelson has become the sole distributor of *Duddas Tun Kentish Cider* and also for the Heritage Selection Juices from Brogdale. The website is also having a total make-over, very much a “work in progress” but visit the website [www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk](http://www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk) to see the changes.

**Old Dairy** – In addition to the established regular ales shown in the GBG, *Czech Mate Pilsner* is planned to be a regular. This is 5% and uses Saaz hops. A part-time brewer has been employed to brew at weekends. *Tsar Top* (Imperial Russian Stout) occasional, but things may change. Their website is usually fairly up to date

**Old Forge** (Farriers Arms, Mersham) – Have brewed a “Spring Ale” – which they expect to be on the bar in during March, so far unnamed. The ingredients include Crystal & Dark Crystal Malts with Bramling Cross Hops being used for aroma. Normally, Richard, the brewer, tends to favour Fuggles & East Kent Goldings, so maybe a new style!

**Ramsgate** – Eddie is looking into the feasibility of installing an energy recovery system within the brewery to capture the waste heat and steam generated in the copper and use this latent energy to help heat the wort in the following brew. Seasonal Brews are: *Common Conspiracy* - 4.8%. A Californian style ‘common’ ale that is crisp, refreshing and full of flavour it is made with German hops and U.S. West Coast yeast. *Dragon's Blood ESB* - 5.2%. Classic, full-bodied, mahogany ale with spicy, grassy, fresh hop aroma with hints of malt and toffee.

**Ripple Steam** – *Ripple Steam IPA* (4.5%), has just been brewed and should be ready for distribution by early next week. This is 60% Goldings, 40% First Gold and dry hopped with American Cascade. The *Best Bitter* (4.1%) is 60% Styrian Goldings with 40% East Kent Goldings. All the beers use traditional malts and whole hops. The brewery is still in the experimental stage and is testing the market with different beers.

**Royal Tunbridge Wells** – Two significant changes at the Brewery, Simon Lewis is leaving, but retaining an interest in the brewery. Brewer Jamie has left and Paul has stepped up. There are no anticipated changes to the current beer line up or marketing.

**Shepherd Neame** – *Amber Ale* has now been replaced by the seasonal *Early Bird* 4.3%. In the pilot plant *Heartwarmer* 4.2% was brewed for Valentine's Day. It was very light in colour and apart from Pale and Amber malts, also contained the petals of a dozen red roses and three passion fruits. *Old Faversham Dark* 3.6% has returned. A dark mild based on the recipe for *Burtonwood Mild* of about fifteen years ago with some minor alterations. Also, *Mothers Pride* 3.7% a very pale beer with a light straw colour.

**Swan, West Peckham** – There will be a "Mild for May" and a sweet Milk Stout.

**Tír Dhá Ghlas** – The fourth brew has been produced, and is 4.7% ABV. This beer was on sale at the recent Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club annual beer festival, where it was badged as *Dover Patrol*. This was a slightly darker beer, owing to the inclusion of crystal malt. There is a greater emphasis towards malt, rather than hops, than in the previous brew. However there is still sufficient hop character to give a reasonable balance. The brewery is still in the experimental stage and has yet to decide on any final recipes.

**Tonbridge** – Paul is now in full production. He is brewing 6 or 7 times per month with a target of 1000 firkins this year. Supplies are made to about 30 pubs and clubs, mainly in the Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks areas. Eight pubs and clubs have one beer on at all times. A range of five beers is now brewed (*Blonde Ambition*, *Coppernob*, *Rustic*, *Ebony Moon*, *Auburn Myth*) and house beer supplied to 2 pubs (Crown, Otford and Plough, Langley). A new German-style Bock beer at 3.3% has been produced for the summer market.

**Whitstable** – Rafik has brewed a few batches of *Cockle Warmer* at 4.7% ABV. It's deep golden in colour, nice and hoppy, and it has gone really well so far. There have been a few enquiries regarding *Faversham Creek* at 3.8% which will be available imminently.

Did you know that you can find recent issues of *Draught Copy* online at [www.mmcamra.co.uk/Pages/DraughtCopy.aspx](http://www.mmcamra.co.uk/Pages/DraughtCopy.aspx)

## “SAME AGAIN PLEASE,” SAYS CAMRA POPULAR BEER FESTIVAL BACK AT EAST MALLING RESEARCH

Following its successful reintroduction in 2010, our popular Beer and Cider Festival is to return for a third year on Saturday September 1. CAMRA's **East Malling Beer and Cider Festival** is once again to take place in the grounds of East Malling Research, the world-famous horticultural research station.

The one-day event is being organised and staffed by volunteer members of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, and follows in the footsteps of similar events organised by the Branch locally since the 1970s.

*“Following the outstanding success of the inaugural event, which was surpassed by last year's Festival, we're delighted to confirm our return to East Malling Research for 2012,”* commented Jeff Tucker, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA. *“The free shuttle bus service we introduced for 2011 proved particularly popular and will be repeated this year. We'll also continue to ensure the day remains a comfortable and enjoyable experience for the whole family.”*

Ian Clennett, organiser of CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, said: *“We ordered more of everything last year and are looking to grow the Festival again for 2012. It promises to be the perfect end to the Jubilee and Olympics summer. Having welcomed a wedding party last year, we know how popular the event can be.”*

Further details of admission costs, transport and catering arrangements and opening hours will be announced in due course.

A not wonderful Easter weekend weather forecast led me to believe that the MMK Good Friday Ramble from West Malling to the **Nevill Bull** in Birling would be dry, but that would be about all. But when we arrived at the pub, the sun was beaming strongly down and we all thoroughly enjoyed sitting outside. With the pub's Easter beer festival in full swing, it was great to soak up the sunshine, drink fantastic beer, all while listening to Dr Jazz live.

Paul & Kate are to be congratulated for putting on such a great event and also for making the best pub chips I have ever eaten. *Kent Brewery* was well represented: four brews were available, including *Cobnut*, *Spring Wheat* and *Enigma*, my new favourite beer!

# PODGE'S BELGIAN BEER TOURS

**Beer & Heritage, 24 Aug – 27 Aug 2012**

**Abbey Beer Pilgrimage, 20 Sept – 24 Sept 2012**

**Christmas in Bruges, 22 Dec – 26 Dec 2012**

**[www.podgebeer.co.uk](http://www.podgebeer.co.uk)**

**Ring 01245 354677 for details**

*Driving people to drink since 1994*



**Craft Brewed · Progressive · Quality Beer**

**Available at key CAMRA recognized pubs throughout Kent and London**

**House Beer at Flower Pot, Maidstone - CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year**

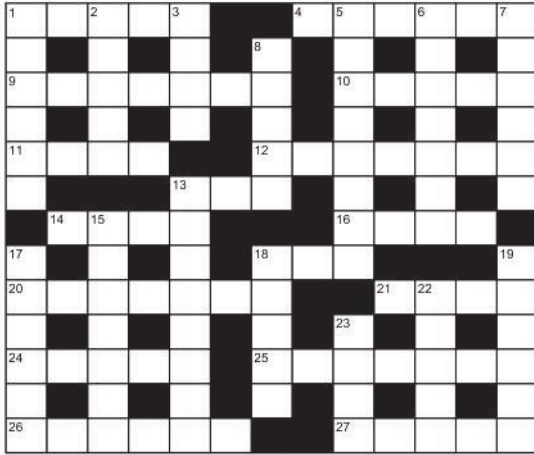
**Exclusive House Beer at The Craft Beer Co. in Clerkenwell**

**[www.kentbrewery.com](http://www.kentbrewery.com)**

# The Draught Copy Crossword No. 7

compiled by MICK NORMAN

*Solution in next issue*



*Solution to Crossword No. 6  
in issue No. 166*



4, 10 & 19, and 1 down, 20 & 26, are famous partnerships,  
the latter sadly no more

**Across**

- 1 Destroy rubbish (5)
- 4,10,19 'The Slur' (film) returns - pointless and ridiculous (6,5,6)
- 9 Reveal crafty five-ouncer (7)
- 10 See 4
- 11 Creative type is smelly, lacking head (4)
- 12 Awl? (7)
- 13 Trendy northern boozier (3)
- 14 Kalin Twins' No 1 hit. \_\_\_\_? In 1958. (4)
- 16 Stares at organs (4)
- 18 Fish requiring prompt payment (3)
- 20 See 1 down
- 21 German woman's endless dishonesty (4)
- 24 Repeated TV series about old railway union going west (5)
- 25 Abraham's city (7)
- 26 See 1 down
- 27 Question for artist's model (5)

**Down**

- 1,20,26 North Bunbury taxman goes round the bend (6,7,6)
- 2 A fine Berkshire town (5)
- 3 South coast town - home of virtual entertainment, initially (4)
- 5 Use land tractor first and work for peanuts, maybe (8)
- 6 Relaxation needed - is ancient city surrounded by river? (7)
- 7 Revise - rash, eh? (6)
- 8 Royal headgear found in Otford (5)
- 13 On in nude, collapses - nudge nudge, wink wink! (8)
- 15 Snooker superstar mostly wants nine for guitar hero (7)
- 17 Young animal has eaten that girl - angel, perhaps (6)
- 18 Bike chain (5)
- 19 See 4
- 22 Origin of hair? (5)
- 23 Not an operation for children! (4)

*For a chance to win a crisp £10  
drinking voucher please send  
your completed grid to our  
compiler:*

*Mick Norman  
Nursery Cottage  
Norwood Lane  
Meopham  
DA13 0YE*

*no later than June 15th.  
A photocopy is acceptable.*

*Congratulations to Ian Symes  
from Chatham, who won the  
prize in the Spring issue.*

Contact: John Mills 01732 840603 or email [jandj@larkfield98.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:jandj@larkfield98.freeserve.co.uk)  
[www.mmkcama.co.uk](http://www.mmkcama.co.uk)

---

**Bull, Barming** – Matt & Elizabeth Bryant, after leaving the **Yew Tree**, have now taken over the running, which should provide more scope, as it is on the main Tonbridge road and has a good variety of beers.

**Oak on the Green, Bearsted** – Whilst putting this piece together I heard news that there has been a fire in the kitchen, which will have caused a closure for food for a while at this very popular pub/restaurant.

**Old Plantation, Bearsted** – The licensees have left, having refused to pay the excessive rent demanded by Enterprise Inns. It is now being run by temporary licensees on a *Tenancy At Will* to see if they like the pub.

**Cobdown Sports & Social Club, Ditton** – Scores received via the NBSS system from a member not known by the branch, indicate that the beer is well kept here. If CAMRA members are unable to catch up with us at any of our regular meetings, scores are welcomed via NBSS but please state the name of the beer to which the score applies. *Wychwood Hobgoblin* and *Greene King Old Speckled Hen* were the most recent beers found. The club currently has vacancies for more members.

**Walnut Tree, Eccles** – This large pub has been closed for 18 months and has now been demolished to make way for more housing.

**Oak & Ivy, Hawkhurst** – Always busy on Thursday when the quiz takes place but we found space and enjoyed the *Old Dairy Red Top*. The regulars are *Harveys Best*, *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Wells Bombardier*.

**Royal Oak, Hawkhurst** – Normally only has *Harveys Best* but our reporter found *Moorhouse Pride of Pendle* on the bar as well in February.

**Dirty Habit, Hollingbourne** – There are now four handpumps and recent offerings were *Harveys Best*, *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Taylor Landlord* and *Whitstable Pearl of Kent*.

**Hook & Hatchet, Hucking** – A change of management here and it is now being run by Simon Neall.

**Hamlets Hotel, Larkfield** – The new owners here have re-modelled the bar giving it a smart look and it is now taking up the full width of the room. The two regular beers are *Everards Tiger* and *Sheps Spitfire*.

**Wealden Hall, Larkfield** – This is now open all day from 12-11 (11.30 Sat) and serving *Harveys Best* and *Doom Bar* as regulars with a guest ale.

**Chequers, Loose** - is planning to add a 5th hand pump, which will be serving *Timothy Taylor Landlord*. It is anticipated that it will be ready in time for the annual Loose village Duck Race on the mill stream running alongside the pub. This will be on Spring Bank Holiday Monday (4th June), starting at 2pm. Regulars *London Pride*, *Spitfire* and *Harveys Sussex* together with a guest beer, replacing the current *Doom Bar*, will also be available throughout the afternoon.

See [www.thechequersinnatloose.co.uk](http://www.thechequersinnatloose.co.uk) for Duck Race photos.

**Kings Arms, Offham** – Jo with assistance from sons Alex and Ross seem to be making a fine job running this village pub. Alex has qualified for a personal licence and hence it is now open daily from 12-11.30 and serves food 12-2.30. Food is also available Thursday and Saturday evenings. The beer lines have been renewed and there should be a fourth handpump soon. Two pumps are kept for the regulars *Master Brew* and *Bombardier*. The other pumps have featured *Hobgoblin*, *Proper Job*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Doom Bar*, *ESB*, *Landlord*, *Wadworth 6X* and *Young's Bitter*. On recent visits *Brains Bread of Heaven* was consumed within a day. Now having access to SIBA beers, I found the excellent *Old Dairy Red Top* and soon the offerings may be even more diverse.

**Brickmakers Arms, Maidstone** – Here may be found *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* plus a seasonal from the same source and a guest ale from the *Nelson* brewery (*Thunderer* when we called in) all at very reasonable prices. I am informed a fourth pump will soon be in place.

**Fox, Maidstone** – This has now re-opened and the initial beers seen were *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and the inevitable *Sharps Doom Bar*.

**Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone** – Peter Hoffman continues to put on some interesting brews here. *Hopdaemon Incubus* is usually available and there are three more to choose from, at least one being from a Kent microbrewer plus two from further afield.

**Paper Makers Arms, Maidstone** – It seems reports that real ale would be sold here now seem unfounded at present.

**Swan, Sandhurst** – Previously called the New Swan this has been updated and is now run by Juliet Porter who used to have the Mill at Northiam some time ago. Just *Harveys Best* on when we visited but additions may be made as trade grows. Opening times are daily 12 (5 Mon)-11 and 12-10.30 Sunday.



**The Red Lion - Lenham**  
*incorporating*  
**Nicole's Outside Bars & Catering**

**All Functions Catered For**

Weddings – Anniversaries  
Birthdays - Corporate Events

Hot & Cold Buffets - BBQ's - Hog Roast  
A La Carte - Canapés

Fully Licensed Professional Bar

Catering Tailored To  
Your Requirements & Budget

For More Information or Quotation  
Please Contact Nicole

01622 858531 or 07766 057621

[nicolemillsrl@aol.com](mailto:nicolemillsrl@aol.com)

[www.redlionlenham.co.uk](http://www.redlionlenham.co.uk)

**Yew Tree, Sandling** – Previously run by Matt & Elizabeth Bryant, now in the hands of Ms S Carter, according to the *Shepherd Neame* website.

**Lord Raglan, Staplehurst** – Easy to visit here with under 15 minutes' walk along Chart Hill Road from the number 5 bus stop at Rabbits Cross. Watch out for vehicles as they seem to travel rather faster than wisely on the bends. Andrew Hutchinson keeps the both *Goachers Fine Light* and *Harveys Best* here very well and there is usually a guest ale. It has been in the *Good Beer Guide* since 1995. A good selection of food is also available. Opening times are 12-3, 6.30-11 (closed Sunday).

**Clothworkers, Sutton Valence** – A *Shepherd Neame* tied house where the rear gives views overlooking the Weald of Kent and keeps a decent pint of *Master Brew*.

**Kings Head, Sutton Valence** – It was a busy night for the poker players here when we visited in February. The beers available then were *Sheps Master Brew*, *Courage Best* and *Caledonian Flying Scotsman*.

**Queens Head, Sutton Valence** – Tied to *Greene King* here we found *IPA*, *Morland Original* and as the 6 Nations Rugby was taking place at that time the seasonal was *Belhaven Grand Slam*.

**Swan, Sutton Valence** – A brief visit here during a walkabout found *Rother Valley Level Best*, *Harveys Best* and *Youngs Bitter*.

**Teston Club, Teston** – A recent high price rise (£22) for *Flowers Original* caused a change to *Sharps Doom Bar* as the regular. When visited by our reporters they also found guest ale, *Camerons Hurley's Irish Ale*, both of which were in good form. There has been an increase in membership and there are plans for a beer festival for May.

**Lobster Pot, West Malling** – Having turned this into more of a wine-bar and losing the goodwill of many former customers in the process, the licensees have suddenly departed, apparently back to Spain.

## TERRY OSBORNE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

**WE SPECIALISE IN PUBS!  
COMPETITIVE PUBLICAN PACKAGES AVAILABLE NOW!**

- ✓ Easy payment options
- ✓ Free quotation
- ✓ No obligation
- ✓ Instant cover

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

**CALL TODAY ON 01622 745297 ■ HELPING LICENSEES GET INSURED!**

# The Bell & Jorrocks

Biddenden Road, Frittenden 01580 852415  
www.thebellandjorrocks.co.uk

Sean & Rosie welcome you to their 18<sup>th</sup> century pub  
in the heart of Frittenden, famous for its Treacle mines.

The B&J is renowned for its well conditioned cask ales  
and is in the Good Beer Guide 2012.

We offer Harveys Sussex Best, Adnams Best,  
Woodforde's Wherry and a guest ale.

Quality assured by Cask Marque.



**Kitchen Open Hours**  
Wed & Sun 12 - 3pm

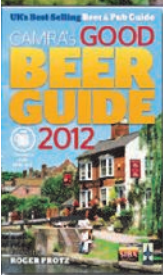
Mon-Thurs 6:30 - 9pm  
Fri & Sat 7:30 - 9:30pm

**Live Music Monthly – Check Website for Details**

## Quiz Night on Monday

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

**The Bull  
High Street  
West Malling**



# BLACK HORSE & HOODENS

MAIDSTONE RD - BOROUGH GREEN - TN15 8HF



TELEPHONE 01732 885 332

Regular LocAle beers from Westerham's and The Old Dairy plus a variety of guest ales and seasonal specials on tap.

**DARTS - BAR BILLIARDS - BAT & TRAP**

See our website for full 2012 events listings and up-to-date guest ale information.



[www.blackhorseandhoodens.com](http://www.blackhorseandhoodens.com)

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

*Ian Wright* on 01322 550275 / 07779 319196

or email [gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.gdvcamra.org.uk](http://www.gdvcamra.org.uk)

I must begin with an apology. In the last issue I stated that “....in Crockenhill, the **Chequers**, underwent refurbishment recently and, on passing, I couldn't spot any handpumps, only tall fonts dispensing *Sharps Doom Bar and Wells Bombardier...*” However it has been pointed out to us by the landlord that the pub does indeed sell real ale. I called in recently and discovered four wooden handpumps, located behind the tall chrome fonts, dispensing *Courage Best, Sharps Doom Bar, Wychwood Hobgoblin* and a guest beer, which at the time was *Wychwood Dirty Tackle*, a very palatable clean tasting straw coloured beer at 4.4% ABV. The **Chequers** will also be hosting a beer festival from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June, with four beers on handpump, six ales on stillage and draught cider.

On the same trip I checked the **Fruiterers Arms** in Crockenhill, which was selling the now regular *Courage Best* and I sampled the guest beer *Old Bear Honeypot*. I also ventured into the **Olympic**, Beechenlea Lane, Swanley and was pleasantly surprised to encounter *Millis Dartford Wobbler* alongside *Fullers London Pride* in the upstairs bar, which is open to the general public, not just sports enthusiasts. I briefly mentioned the **Five Bells** in Eynsford last issue and am pleased to report that the pub is back to its former glory, selling *Woodforde's Wherry* and *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter*, in very good condition.

In the previous issue I mentioned, from second-hand reports, a recently re-opened pub in Swanscombe for which we held “high hopes”. I've now visited the **George & Dragon** several times myself and, on behalf of the local CAMRA branch, I'm very pleased to report that the new owners Bob and Bron and son James are in the process of converting this corner pub into a veritable jewel in the crown for dedicated real ale drinkers and all sensible pub goers. Initially they started with four handpumps when the pub opened in December and real ale sales have been so good that the number of pumps has grown in stages to nine at the end of March. *Wells Bombardier*, following the English flag of St. George and Dragon theme, is the only regular beer and the other real ales come from a wide range of highly recommended English breweries such as *Crouch Vale, Dark Star, Marble, Mighty Oak, Oakham, Roosters, and Thornbridge*. Scottish breweries *Cairngorm, Fyne* and *Orkney*, and even the Welsh *Conwy Brewery* were seen.

The new wave of microbreweries in London is also well represented with excellent offerings from *Brodies*, *By the Horns*, *Kernel* and *Redemption*. Last but not least our own beautiful county has been well supported by *Kent Brewery* and *Old Dairy*.

I've tried ales at the **George & Dragon** from all the breweries mentioned above and virtually all have been in tip-top condition, as one would expect, as Nick Byram from **Dartford Working Men's Club** strongly influences the range and choice. James tells me that he is inaugurating "Meet the Brewer" evenings commencing with *Kent Brewery* on 24th April. Watch the space and check out various social networks for updates for forthcoming attractions. The major work on the proposed restaurant is nearing completion and in the meanwhile we can thoroughly recommend the home prepared gammon rolls and homemade giant scotch eggs at the bar. Also available soon should be five newly furnished rooms for bed and breakfast accommodation. A piano has also been installed to give an even more traditional pub atmosphere – roll out the barrel. All in all the **George & Dragon** is becoming a must visit for the discerning public.

The Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch Pub of Year for 2012, voted by branch members, is the **Jolly Drayman** in Gravesend, the runner-up in 2011. Please come along to the beer festival there in May, when the award should be presented to Kate and Charlie on the evening of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May. This year's runner-up is the **Rum Puncheon**, also in Gravesend and third place goes to the **Old House** at Ightham Common. All three pubs are *Good Beer Guide* regulars and sell enterprising ranges of real ales, mostly from smaller breweries, in pleasant surroundings so please give them a try - you'll not regret your visits. The 2012 Branch Club of the Year is, once again, the admirable **Dartford Working Men's Club**, which has recently been offering beers from many new microbreweries, several of which were previously unknown even to me, including *Barney's* from Falkirk, *Geeve's* from Barnsley and *Little Valley* from Hebden Bridge.

Three more pubs in our area have recently been awarded CAMRA LocAle accreditation for selling consistently good quality beers, on a regular basis, from local brewers. The **Ivy Leaf**, Darenth Road, Dartford, has one pump dedicated to a local Kent beer and all six beers are well worth sampling. The **Rising Sun** at Fawkham Green serves a house beer named *Fawkham Guzzler* (blended by *Westerham*) and also stocks other beers from *Westerham* and *Millis* breweries, alongside the regular *Harvey's Best Bitter* and *Courage Best* and *Directors*. The third accreditation was intended for Suzanne, the landlady at the **Bull** at Horton Kirby, who we

were informed, at the time of writing, would be moving to take over another pub somewhere in Kent. The **Bull** reportedly still sells good beers from various sources, including the local *Kent Brewery*, and we'll be keeping an eye on developments at this pub.

One of our established "LocAle" outlets, the **Paper Moon** in Dartford, which has hosted a number of local "Meet the Brewer" events has organised a midweek day out to the *Kent Brewery* on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, with beers and bacon rolls at the pub and beers and buffet at the brewery. We continue to applaud Kelly and Chris and their staff for their enthusiasm in organising such events and running such a good town centre *Wetherspoons* "local" pub.

The **Golden Lion** at Luddesdown has re-opened (yet again) and we are informed that the present incumbent is a builder, has repaired the leaky roof and is making other improvements to the building. The real ales on offer at the outset were *Fuller's London Pride* and *Sharps Doom Bar* and we hope that this venture will be successful, particularly if the pub can sell good meals and attract families. As I've said before the **Golden Lion** faces stiff, nay impossible, competition on the traditional real ale front from the excellent **Cock** at Luddesdown, a few hundred yards up the hill in Henley Street, which has a loyal well-established adult clientele, but does not cater for children.

On the down side we have been informed about of three more pubs in the area which have closed recently and have uncertain futures, namely the **Dart** in Chastilian Road, Dartford, the **Prince Albert** in Wrotham Road, Gravesend, and the **Prince Albert** in Shepherd Street, Northfleet and welcome information regarding these and other pubs under threat.

I'm indebted to my colleague Bob Marsh, who has been busy on public transport, mostly buses, visiting some of the pubs in the villages around Dartford and has reported some useful information. During the day and early evening the 414 bus route serves the villages of Darenth, Hawley, Sutton at Hone, South Darenth and Horton Kirby and Bob visited most of the pubs in these villages (not all on the same day!)

The **Bridges**, in the parish of Horton Kirby, located by the railway viaduct in South Darenth, was serving good quality *Harvey's Best*, *Millis Kentish Best* and *Tolly's English Ale*, which at 2.8% is popular with drivers. The pub serves meals Wednesday to Sunday lunchtimes and Friday evenings and a popular Steak Night once a month on Thursdays. The pub has a pleasant beer garden overlooking the river Darent.

The **Jolly Miller**, corner of East Hill and Holmesdale Road, in South Darenth, serves *Wells Bombardier* plus a rotating guest beer which was *St.Austell Tribute* in good condition. The pub has a large public bar with an adjacent raised lounge area, and a separate small pool room with a bar. There is a large beer garden with a children's play area and a covered and heated smoking area. The **Queen**, New Road, South Darenth, which does not open weekday lunchtimes, had three handpumps with *Courage Best* and *Ruddles County* on sale. The **Chequers**, Darenth Road South, Darenth, sported five handpumps but only one in use, offering *Sharps Doom Bar* of very indifferent quality.

Bob also tried to visit the **Ship**, Main Street, Sutton at Hone only to find this was another pub which does not open on weekday lunchtimes. The other pub in the village is the **Greyhound**, along the road towards Dartford, which re-opened in early November 2011 under new management. The pub is open from noon to 11.30pm seven days a week and regularly sells *Wells Bombardier* plus a guest beer which was a good pint of *Sharps Doom Bar*. It has a spacious garden with a lowered paved area but no specific covered and heated area for smokers.

About fifteen minutes walk along the main road towards Dartford is the **Papermakers Arms** in Hawley, which sells *Courage Best* plus two guest beers, one of which was *St. Austell Tribute* in very good condition. The opening hours are 11am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and noon to 10.30pm on Sunday. There is a plenty of parking space at the front of the pub and a large beer garden to the rear, which has two grassed areas, a paved covered/heated area and a children's play area. There are also hens in a netted area, which provide fresh eggs for the restaurant. Meals are served every lunchtime and Wednesday to Saturday evenings from an extensive menu. The other pub in Hawley, the **Four Lymes**, was due to change hands in March, but for the record was selling *Fullers London Pride*, *Millis Dartford Wobbler* and a guest beer.

Many thanks again to Bob for this information and appreciably some of the pubs need to be checked again soon. Bob has also visited several pubs to the east of Dartford towards Swanscombe and a report will feature in the next issue as more pubs deserve to be checked out. We would appreciate real ale news from pubs which do not appear very often in these pages, particularly in the Gravesend and Northfleet areas. One reader recently sent us an e-mail wondering why the **Ship** at Southfleet has not been mentioned, informing us that "This pub sells three cask ales,



# The George and Dragon

www.georgedragonswanscombe.co.uk



Under new ownership and recently refurbished

9 Cask Ales constantly changing and including some of the country's leading craft breweries

3 fridges stocked with UK and US craft beer including Odell's, The Kernel Brewery, Brooklyn and Thornbridge

Friendly, welcoming atmosphere and a range of board games

Restaurant and bed and breakfast accommodation coming soon



Follow us on Twitter:  
@dragonandgeorge

1 London Road  
Swanscombe, Kent  
DA10 0LQ

Open Mon - Thurs 4pm - 11pm  
Friday - Saturday 12pm - 11pm  
Sundays 12pm - 10.30pm

Car parking available

*Adnams Broadside, London Pride and Courage Best*, all in excellent condition. The **Ship** is now the only pub in the village and certainly deserves a mention and a visit". Point taken. Sadly the **Black Lion** (arson attack) and the **Wheatsheaf** (structural damage) are currently closed and seem unlikely to re-open as public houses. However there is the new build *Shepherd Neame Manor Farm Barn* on the edge of Southfleet, but the **Ship** remains the only established traditional village pub.

As summer is on its way we would like to mention three pub festivals in the area. As previously noted the **Chequers** in Crockenhill will be holding a festival at the beginning of June and the local Pub of Year, the **Jolly Drayman** in Gravesend will host a regular semi-annual festival in the middle of May (the other one being in mid-November). Another pub regularly holding successful semi-annual beer festivals is the **Rising Sun** at Twitton taking place at the first weekend in May and the weekend before August Bank Holiday.

Let's finish this quarter at the **Black Lion** in Ash Road, Hartley, which should be fully open and dispensing up to twenty beers by the time you read this. The pub has been undergoing renovation during the last four months and access has been via the rear car park into the back bar, with limited real ales available until now. A specially designed stillage behind the bar counter has been built to hold twenty pins, in the form of 36 pint self-venting collapsible bags, known as Fresh Ale Bags (FAB) which can keep real ale with a longer shelf life than stainless steel and aluminium casks. The beer can be dispensed directly from the FAB, similar to a polypin, or through a conventional handpump. The FAB system is already in use in pubs in Norfolk, notably the **Shed** in Wroxham, which has a capacity to store and dispense up to 3,500 pints of all styles of beers and ciders. The **Black Lion** is again offering beers from most of the twenty or so breweries in Norfolk and will expand its range to include several other small breweries around the county. Currently, the house beer, *Black Lion Grumpy Bitter*, brewed by *Panther* of Reepham is on sale at just £1.50 a pint, and 2 and 4 pint takeaway containers of all beers are available at encouraging prices. This pub deserves your visit and there's no need to drive as the buses 423, 433 and 489 from Bluewater, Dartford and Gravesend stop right outside until quite late in the evening. However, if you do arrive by car, don't forget your takeaway beers!

# Jubilee Cider and Beer Festival

Crown and Thistle, Gravesend,

Post code: DA122BJ Tel: 01474 332387

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012



Music and free bar snacks on Saturday,  
Sunday and Monday afternoon/evening!

TELEPHONE  
01622 842159

# THE PLOUGH

at Langley

SUTTON ROAD  
LANGLEY ME17 3LX

[INFO@THEPLOUGHATLANGLEY.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@THEPLOUGHATLANGLEY.CO.UK)



*Jam/Open Mic Night*  
*Singers/Musicians &*  
*Audience welcome!*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays each*  
*month*

- ❖ Tonbridge Plough Bitter
- ❖ 6 Real ales
- ❖ Extensive wine list
- ❖ Open 11am to 11pm  
(Sun: 12pm to 11pm)
- ❖ Food served noon to 9pm
- ❖ Extensive bar menu
- ❖ 60 seat restaurant
- ❖ Seniors 2 course lunch £7.90  
(Mon-Fri: 12- 4)

**The Plough at Langley is a traditional pub and restaurant.  
Built as a farmhouse in 1683, it was granted an Ale licence in 1801  
and a spirit and wine licence in 1851.**

**A warm welcome awaits you at The Plough for all the family.  
Dogs welcome.**

[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEPLOUGHATLANGLEY](http://www.facebook.com/theploughatlangley)

# Kent Pubs Serving Real Cider

**Bake & Alehouse**, Westgate-on-Sea

**Bell**, High Street, Staplehurst

**Bell Inn**, Ivychurch

**Berry**, Walmer

**Black Horse**, Monks Horton,

**Black Lion**, Appledore

**Blakes of Dover**, Dover

**British Lion**, Folkestone

**Chambers**, Folkestone

**City Arms**, Canterbury

**Conqueror Alehouse**, Ramsgate

**Crown**, Dymchurch Road, Hythe

**East Cliff Tavern**, Folkestone

**Elephant**, Faversham

**Farriers Arms**, Mersham

**Five Bells Inn**, East Brabourne

**Flower Pot**, Maidstone

**Golding Hop**, Plaxtol

**Great Tree**, Ramsgate

**Halfway House**, Brenchley

**Hoodeners Horse**, Great Chart,

**Kings Head**, Grafty Green,

**Lady Luck**, Canterbury

**Lifeboat**, Margate

**Lord Raglan**, Staplehurst

**Montefiore Arms**, Ramsgate

**New Inn**, Canterbury

**Old Wine Vaults**, Faversham

**Pilot**, Maidstone

**Red Lion**, Snargate

**Rose & Crown**, Old Romney

**Shepherd & Crook**, Burmarsh

**Ship Inn**, Sandgate

**Spotted Dog**, Penshurst

**Stile Bridge**, Marden

**Swan Inn**, Wittersham

**Three Hats**, Milton Regis

**Three Mariners**, Hythe

**Unicorn**, Bekesbourne

**White Swan**, Broadstairs



## MENCAP SUMMER FAYRE

On Saturday June 16th, your local CAMRA branch will be running its regular real ale bar at

this year's **MENCAP SUMMER FAYRE** at Cobtree Hall, Willington Street in Mote Park, Maidstone. Up to 8 real ales from local micro and regional brewers will be available.

The bar will open at 11 am. See you there!

## A LOCAL AWARD FOR THE STILE BRIDGE

Maidstone & Mid-Kent CAMRA members have selected their Pub of the Year (POTY) for 2012. The winner is the **Stile Bridge**, a lovely pub on the main A229 between Linton and Staplehurst, just by the turning for Marden. At least five real ales are usually available, plus proper ciders, lovingly cared for by Marc. The food is good, and can be eaten in the bar or the separate beamed restaurant.

You can spend ages just looking at the memorabilia and general 'stuff' which festoon the entire bar area! There is a patio to the side and rear, with two petanque pistes alongside. Arriva bus number 5, hourly from Maidstone to Hawkhurst/Sandhurst, stops outside the door. Very well done to all at the Stile Bridge.

Runner-up was the **Rifle Volunteers** in Wyatt St, Maidstone. The Rifle is an oasis from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding area, and conversation provides the atmosphere. Long-serving landlord Alan keeps excellent *Goacher's Mild, Fine Light* and (usually) *Imperial Stout*, sold at very reasonable prices. You may enter as a stranger, but you'll feel like one of the locals when you leave, as the regulars are a friendly lot.

[A previous winner, the excellent **Flower Pot** in Sandling Road, Maidstone, was not eligible to enter the competition this year, owing to Maidstone branch rules, as they won the previous three years in a row. They'll be back in the race next year, though. — Ed.]

### RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

Wyatt Street, Maidstone - Phone 01622 758891

A REAL TRADITIONAL MAIDSTONE PUB

SERVING GOACHER'S FINEST ALES AND STOUT

Good Beer Guide Listed This Century

Maidstone CAMRA Pub Of The Year, 2005



The  
Robin Hood  
Festival  
2012

from

22<sup>nd</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July

Live  
Music  
each night

Whole Hog.org.uk



Spit Roast & Cask Ale Co



for full details see our website

[www.therobinhood-pub.co.uk](http://www.therobinhood-pub.co.uk)

364 Common Road, Blue Bell Hill Village, Kent ME5 9RJ. (J3 M2)

Contact: *Rob Archer* at [camr@rcher.org.uk](mailto:camr@rcher.org.uk)  
or *Martyn Nicholls* on 01322 527857 (H)  
[www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk](http://www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk)

---

Another Budget where the poor old responsible drinker is hit again. Although Teresa May is planning to charge a unit price of 40p and prohibit special promotions in supermarkets, it's the pub drinker and its associated workers that suffer most.

We started the year with a January meeting in the **Charlotte**, Crayford which had the trilogy of *Spitfire*, *Youngs* and *Thwaites Wainwright* on offer at £3.10 (now £3.25 a pint and **NOTE £1.95 a half!!!**). A big thank you for the sausages and chips provided by landlord Pete.

Celebrating Burns night has become something of a tradition with Bexley CAMRA. Alas the **Wrong 'Un** had no Scottish Ales available, so it was on to the **Robin Hood & Little John** who provided us with *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* at £2.95 a pint. That was followed by Caterina's haggis, neeps and tatties to wind up another enjoyable evening.

Our February evening saw us in the **Prince of Wales** in Upper Belvedere. Four good beers were available, *Dark Star Hophead*, *Brains SA*, *Youngs Bitter* and *Westerham British Bulldog*. It is another pub which has a well-established couple, as Helen & Alan have been there for 23 years! Thank you for the sandwiches.

In March we visited the **New Cross Turnpike** for our monthly meeting which happened to coincide with the first day of the Wetherspoons Beer Festival. On the bar (although not part of the festival) was *Adnams Mild*. This was accompanied by festival beers *Elgoods Snake Slayer*, *Wolf Whistle*, *Greene King Libertine* and *Wharfesbank Wispa*. Thanks for the samples and also the curry tasters. We had a very high turnout to this meeting with no fewer than 17 attendees.

In pub news, a new couple have taken over at the **Jolly Millers** (Bexleyheath). Gone are the 78rpm records from the ceiling. It has been re-painted and there are now lots of porcelain and copperware above the bar and brass around the fireplace. It sells *Brakspears*, *London Pride* and *Doombar*. The **Lord Kitchener** (Welling) has been selling *Adnams East Coast Pale Ale* and *Marstons EPA* at £2 a pint. The former **Station Hotel** (Welling) has been turned into a Tesco Express with five flats above.



Opened in 1897 after the railway line was laid in 1895, it became a disco pub in the 1970's, it began a steady decline in the 1990s, finally closing as *Infernos*. **Café Trax** (Bexley) has changed its name to **OMG** (possibly a far more apt title), sadly still not selling real ale.

At the March meeting we revealed our 2012 Pub of the Year. 34 members voted for a total of 19 different pubs. The result was: Winner – **Robin Hood & Little John**. 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Railway Tavern**. 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Crayford Arms**. Congratulations to all concerned and thank you to all members who took the trouble to send in their votes. We also voted for our branch Club of the Year. The result was: Winner – **Old Dartfordians Rugby Club**. 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Sidcup Sports Club**. Again congratulations to both clubs.

Our Treasurer, Andy Wheeler, suffered a heart attack a few months ago and is taking part in the London to Brighton cycle ride on May 26<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. This will be the fifth time he has taken part in the event and we all wish him well. Also, we would mention Vic Beale and John Brooker, who are also recovering from setbacks in their personal lives.

Our branch socials this quarter have taken in:

January - **Great Harry** (Belvedere) – *Courage Best, Courage Directors* (not ready on our visit) and *Greene King Abbot*. **Earl Haig** (Bexleyheath) – *Fullers London Pride, Harveys Sussex, Itchen Valley Treacle Stout, Worthington Red Shield* and *Youngs Bitter*.

February – **Portrait** (Sidcup) – *Courage Best, Marstons Pale Ale* (2.8%), *Morland – Original* and *Wells Bombardier* as well as *Old Rosie Cider*. **Tailors Chalk** (Sidcup) – *Adnams Lighthouse, Batemans Veto, Greene King Ruddles* and *Abbot, Harviestoun Bitter & Twisted, Morland Speckled Hen, Ringwood 49er, Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and *Wychwood Hobgoblin*. **Alma** (Sidcup) – *Courage Best* and *Youngs Bitter*. Welcome to newcomers Brian & Debbie.

March – **Golden Lion** (Bexleyheath) - *Wells Bombardier* (very poor condition). **Volunteer** (Bexleyheath) – *Millis Kentish Best* and *Dartford Wobbler*. **Kings Arms** (Bexleyheath) – we arrived at 10.05 to find the pub being closed as they had no customers and were not prepared to re-open for the seven of us, so we continued to the **Furze Wren** (Bexleyheath).

Finally a reminder to all Bexley readers that our Branch AGM takes place at the **Crayford Arms** on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 8.30pm.

# EAST MALLING BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2012

## Call for Volunteers

This year marks our third showing at East Malling Research for the Maidstone & Mid-Kent branch's own one-day Beer and Cider Festival. Building on the growth we experienced last year, it is likely we will see even more people turn up this time. That means more beer and cider, and more people to serve it.

With our track record re-established, we can bring back the time-honoured festival staff T-shirt for those who pre-register their willingness to serve on September 1st.

Please contact the editor or email [mmkfestivalstaffing@gmail.com](mailto:mmkfestivalstaffing@gmail.com) (before August 1st, please) to volunteer your services, quoting:

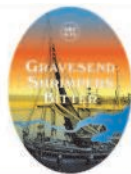
- Your name and CAMRA membership number
- Your T-shirt size (S-M-L-XL-2XL-3XL)
- Contact details (email and mobile)
- Any work preferences you may have



## AVS CASK BEERS

QUALITY ♦ VARIETY ♦ VALUE

*'The Discerning Publican's Choice'*



*We can hold over 1000 firkins under temperature control, ensuring our customers are receiving them in optimum condition!*

- ♦ Family-run business
  - ♦ Established in 1990
  - ♦ Deliveries into London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex
  - ♦ Ever-changing monthly promotions
  - ♦ Permanent stock holding of over 60 different brands of cask ale
  - ♦ Supplying licensed trade; public houses, working mens' clubs, sports clubs and hotels
  - ♦ We also supply beers for beer festivals - from the CAMRA Great British Beer Festival to pub festivals
  - ♦ Helping our customers wherever we can
  - ♦ Distribution service for breweries through the SIBA scheme
  - ♦ Stocking the full range of Westons Ciders
- New website: [avscaskbeers.co.uk](http://avscaskbeers.co.uk)



For more information, to receive our stock lists or to place an order..

**AVS CASK BEERS, GRAVESEND, KENT**

Call us now on 01474 537767 Fax: 01474 363569 Email: [sales\\_avscaskbeers@btconnect.com](mailto:sales_avscaskbeers@btconnect.com)



Monty and Anna cordially welcome you to

## The Bush, Blackbird and Thrush

Your local 15th Century Pub

We are pleased to offer you:

- Home cooked quality food, served lunchtime and evenings
- Food available Monday evenings.
- Large beer garden and ample parking
- Large Open Fireplace
- Real Ales straight from the barrel
- A fine selection of Lagers, Spirits and Wines
- Quiz Nights on Tuesday Evenings
- Warm and friendly atmosphere.
- Disabled facilities
- Functions and Events can be catered for.

**Telephone: 01622 871349**

Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. TN12 5LN.

Web: [www.peckhambush.com](http://www.peckhambush.com)

E-Mail: [info@peckhambush.com](mailto:info@peckhambush.com)

# BLACK HORSE

Stansted, Kent



*Open all day – every day*

*Wide selection of real ales  
and ciders*

*Traditional Lunch Menu*

*Sunday Roast Specials*

*Evenings Tues to Sat  
Authentic Thai Restaurant  
(Booking recommended)*

*B & B en suite accommodation*

*Large garden area*

*Traditional Irish Music every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday afternoon*

*Special Lunches and parties catered for*

**Phone 01732 822355**

DARTS

CRIBBAGE

POOL



## The Crayford Arms



Friendly  
Local Pub

Deano's  
Pop Quiz  
Last Wed of  
Every Month

Sunday Quiz &  
Lunch Time Bar Food



5 Shepherd  
Neame  
Real Ales &  
Seasonal Ales

Secluded  
Family Garden

Covered Smoking Area

Function room available  
for meetings/clubs

Live Entertainment  
Theme Nights

Tel: 07818 550254 • Web: [www.thecrayfordarms.com](http://www.thecrayfordarms.com)

37 High Street Crayford • Kent • DA1 4HH

As I write this, CAMRA at its AGM in Torquay is preparing to debate the issue of definitions of the contents of real cider and indeed the terminology and acceptance of real and craft ales. Whatever the outcome, these are welcome motions and reflect that times do not stand still and that we must always be mindful of the adage that tradition can only be appreciated if it has a place to exist in our modern world.

That philosophical note leads me into the topic that underpins all the current discussions namely that if we don't have good thriving pubs and retail establishments then we will not have outlets for the thousands of cider producers and breweries in our country alone. It is fair to say that with the growth of SIBA (with its training and distribution system support in particular) and the introduction of graded beer duties the last 15 years have been a boon for micro-breweries. This, together with an open ability to produce unusual flavours, diversity of production and new ingredients and recipes – not to mention the appearance of some major “craft” style beers inspired from the US – has seen a selection available to the public like at no other time over the past 50 years or more.

For many reasons real cider has been a poor cousin to this growth and has failed to make the sort of penetration into pubs that we have seen with real ale – although the last 3 years have seen doubling or trebling of cider volumes shown and drunk at beer festivals. It is estimated that fewer than a single digit percentage of pubs in this country actually serve a draft real cider. This is in direct contrast to the massive increase in sales over the past 5 years of industrial bottled and keg “cider” underpinned by the multi-million advertising campaigns. When a well stored real cider can last at least a month in bag-in-box with minimal or no waste (in sharp contrast to the 3-5 days for cask real ale once opened) why do we have such low representation?

The reasons are complex but, as a modern artisan real cider producer I will put forward my scenario for readers to debate...you be the judge! As mentioned tradition plays a big part in cider but does create an anchor to progress. The image of us all travelling with jug in hand to a rural Cidery to collect and be surprised by this year's taste (and strength!) works for some but isn't practical or desirable for 99% of us. Pubs and festivals who come and collect from us are welcomed with open arms but that doesn't provide a sustainable, regular or practical

logistical supply route on both sides. The poly-pin “traditional” plastic barrel requires return and pick up or an honour circulation system, very limited in its appeal particularly for attracting new pubs, not to mention the ingress of air to the barrel over time and the prospect of “slow death” or gradual vinegarisation of the fresh product. CAMRA’s internal committee are delighted to suggest production processes and campaign for the yearly October cider promotion (which by the way should be in June when we all have cider and have the greatest variety rather than in October when we are also at the busiest picking and pressing time!) but do little to champion new delivery and storage methods (such as non-returnable bag-in-box connection to existing and potentially unused draught pumps).

The Welsh cider makers (as an example) have taken certain steps to act together to help with both common distribution and campaigning and marketing direct to pubs and establishments – perhaps it is time for us in Kent (the home of the apple) to follow suit – I for one am standing up for this. Also to accept that we have to make our products fit to the pub and its way of working rather than the other way round. We have to show them the advantages of some fantastic local ciders not only in taste but the commercial aspects and provide consistent delivery, quality and taste – we can be a saviour in difficult times!

©Simon Reed, Rough Old Wife Cider. [rougholdwife@btinternet.com](mailto:rougholdwife@btinternet.com)

Alison Pilkington from the **Black Horse & Hoodens** pub in Borough Green informs me about changes she’s made that have taken away a whole load of stress she’s been under recently. She writes: *Busy with more changes here, need to let someone know from CAMRA because it’s pretty radical. We got let down by Enterprise re their plan to build on a dining extension. Then with the chef letting me down too I decided to make my life significantly more cheerful and simple and made the decision not to continue with food at the pub at all. I’m loving it!*

*I’ve gone down the ‘old school’ traditional pub route which seems to make the locals very happy and is much easier (and fun) to provide. Loads of entertainment, classic pub games and if anyone wants to order in a take-away while they’re here then I’m quite happy and just charge a quid for the washing up etc... everybody happy!*



*Zoe & Lee Wopling and the staff invite you to*

## **The North Pole**

Pub & Restaurant

434 Red Hill, Watringbury ME18 5BJ

Tel. 01622 812721

Pub Open daily 12 till 11 and Sundays 12–10.30

Meals available 12–3 and 6–9

Sunday carvery 12–6 Booking advisable

Traditional English food with a twist

Functions catered for

Exterior seating in garden with children's play area

Specializing in fresh fish

Pre-ordered Lobster meals on Thursday nights

Selection of four Real Ales with two from local breweries

Continental lagers including Stella Black

# My Perfect Pub

by Jeff Tucker

For this article, I thought it unfair to choose a pub within the *Draught Copy* area, although there are several that would be in the running. Instead, I have looked elsewhere, and my selection is not even in Kent (quite).

I was in the said pub recently, which I have been to a few times before. I was initially tempted to sample it by its description in the *CAMRA Good Beer Guide*. Looking on the OS map, the village consists of the church, the pub and a few houses.

There is no bus service to the village, and the train service stopped decades ago. The nearest bus, hourly route 304/305 direct from Tunbridge Wells (where it starts life as a 254) or Hawkhurst (bus 5 to and from Maidstone), takes you across the Kent border to the first stop in the East Sussex village of Robertsbridge, between Hawkhurst and Battle, from where it is an easy 15-minute walk across the A21 and a slightly uphill walk along the lane to Salehurst.



Waiting for you here is the most marvellous pub, called the **Salehurst Halt**, after the nearby halt on the Tenterden to Robertsbridge line, now severed by the A21. The pub was saved from redevelopment not that long ago by two local families, who now own and run the pub, and what a splendid pub it is.

The **Salehurst Halt** is a pub for everyone, and for all seasons. In the winter there is a roaring log fire, which is kept going by the farmers sitting at the bar. It's almost impossible to read a paper as there is too much of interest going on around you! There's a selection of books and board games to keep customers entertained. In the summer there is a terrace which leads to a garden below, with wonderful views across the Rother Valley.

The beers usually include one or more from each of the *Harveys* and *Dark Star* ranges, with *Biddenden* cider on handpump as well, and all are kept



in excellent condition. Food is served during most sessions, and much of the menu is locally-sourced, like the beers.

Families turn up to eat, but everyone in those parts seems to have well-behaved children. [*Bliss! – Ed*] There is mellow background music, and customers can request their favourite album, as it is all controlled from a laptop on the bar. On my last visit there was some rather heavy blues, which the farmers described as 'music to slash your wrists by!' It was soon changed.

**Salehurst Halt** is shut all day on Mondays, and between 3 and 6 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; it is open all day on the other four days.

I hope that I've whetted your appetite, and that you find it as perfect as I do. (*Picture courtesy of Colin Mann*)

## **CAMRA welcomes new pro-pub policies in Government National Planning Policy Framework**

CAMRA the Campaign for Real Ale, has welcomed the introduction of pro-pub policies in the new National Planning Policy Framework. These policies will introduce new responsibilities for local councils to promote the retention and development of local services such as pubs.

For the first time, councils will have a duty to “plan positively” for key local facilities like pubs – and this will apply to all pubs rather than just rural pubs or those in local centres. Councils will be obliged to treat leisure development and community facilities as strategic priorities, and safeguard existing community facilities including pubs.

Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive, said: ‘CAMRA is pleased that policies announced today will help give much needed additional support to valued community facilities such as pubs. This is essential at a time when 16 pubs a week are closing. CAMRA’s research has shown that well-run community pubs are as important to community life as a post office, local shop or community centre so it’s vital they are protected.’

The NPPF can be viewed online at:

[www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf)

‘Local communities will be able to refer to the NPPF in relation to local planning matters, which is a step towards providing the tools local communities need to influence development in their neighbourhoods and protect their valued local pubs.’

Mark & Fiona Fenge Welcome You to  
**The Crown @ Otford**

16<sup>th</sup> Century Inn, Built Circa. 1560

- We are a Family Run Pub with a friendly atmosphere.
- We serve Real Cask Ales, 2 of which are local.
- We are Cask Marque registered.
- Regular Live Entertainment, Darts Teams (Men's and Ladies).
- Monthly Folk Club (Second Thursday) & Open Mic (Third Wednesday).
- Beer Festivals (St George's weekend and second weekend October).
- Walkers & Dogs are welcome in the public bar & enclosed Beer Garden.
- We serve Traditional Pub Favourites 7 days a week and on Sundays we serve a Roast menu with a choice of 5 Meats and 2 Fish,
- Vegetarian, Specials Board & Children's menu.
- Bookings are taken for Large Parties. 32 cover restaurant & Garden.



Senior Citizen Special Monday-Saturday 12-2:30pm  
\*\*\*\*£6.95 for A 2 course meal\*\*\*\*

Tel:01959 522847 email:thecrown@otford.net  
NEW WEBSITE:www.crownpubotford.co.uk

Open 12-11 Mon-Thurs. 12-11:30 Fri. 12-11:30 Sat. 12-11 Sun.

Food Served: Monday & Tuesday 12-2:30pm, Wednesday-Friday 12-2:30 & 6-9pm.  
Saturday 12-2:30pm & 6-9pm. Sunday 12:30-5pm  
(Subject to live events, booking recommended)

## SNODLAND'S REAL ALE FESTIVAL

The annual real ale festival will be held in the cricket meadow at Snodland on June 30. Last year some members who visited the Kent Brewery at Birling for the branch meeting of Maidstone & Mid Kent CAMRA, called into Snodland on their way home.

Snodland All Stars are playing a Twenty20 cricket match against a mixture of students, parents and staff from Holmesdale Community College in the afternoon followed by a new band, Hobo Jones and the Junkyard Dogs playing their particular brand of music in the evening.

The bar is open from 12 noon until 9.30pm and will feature *British Bulldog*, *Jubilation Ale* and *Freedom Ale* from *Westerham Brewery*; *Pale*, *Cobnut* and *KGB* from *Kent Brewery*; *Nelson's Blood*, *Frigging in the Rigging* and *Powder Monkey* from *Nelson Brewery*; *Goachers Gold Star*; and *Rough Old Wife* and *Tasty Old Wife* from *Rough Old Wife Cider*.

CAMRA members should note that as from June membership fees will be going up by £3 a year. Now is the time to join if you are not already a member! See page 46.

# 6<sup>TH</sup> SIBA SOUTH EAST BEER FESTIVAL

TO BE HELD AT

**Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club,  
The Slade, Tonbridge, Kent  
TN9 1HR**

**Friday 13th July 2012 5.00pm to 11.00pm**  
**Saturday 14th July 2012 11.00am to 11.00pm**  
**Sunday 15th July 2012 11.00am to 5.00pm**  
**(or until the beer runs out!)**

## **30+ BREWERIES & 100+ REAL ALES + LOCAL CIDERS**

**Soft Drinks and food available  
at all sessions**



FREE ADMISSION  
£3.00 PER PINT

SOUVENIR GLASS £2.00; FREE TO CAMRA  
MEMBERS ON PRESENTATION OF VALID  
MEMBERSHIP CARD

[www.southeastbeerfest.org.uk](http://www.southeastbeerfest.org.uk)  
[www.tjrfe.co.uk](http://www.tjrfe.co.uk)



10 mins walk from Tonbridge Station; next to castle & swimming pool  
Organised by the Society of Independent Brewers and Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club

# The Flower Pot

**CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year 2011**

---

**Up to 9 real ales and 4 ciders**

**Home-cooked food served**

**Monday - Friday 12.00-3.00pm**

**Open-mic night every Tuesday**

---

**96 Sandling Road, Maidstone**

tel. 01622 757705 email. [flowerpotpub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:flowerpotpub@hotmail.co.uk) web. [www.flowerpotpub.com](http://www.flowerpotpub.com)

# The Nevill Bull



The Nevill Bull is a traditional country pub, serving great food, and a variety of real ales, fantastic wines and champagnes!

Open Monday to Saturday  
11 to 3.00 pm and 6 to 11 pm

Sunday lunch served from 12 to 3.30pm

The Nevill Bull, 1 Ryarsh Road Birling, West Malling, Kent ME19 5JW

Tel 01732 843193

# A Campaign of Two Halves

Fair deal on beer tax

Save Britain's Pubs!



## Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 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/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

### Your Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Debit Non DD

Single Membership £20  £22   
(UK & EU)

Joint Membership £25  £27   
(Partner at the same address)

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be processed within 21 days

### Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

MMK—Draught Copy

12/10

**Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers**

**Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs**

**Join CAMRA today – [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus)**



### Instruction to your Bank or

### Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen 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 accept instructions to pay by Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Service User Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

9 2 6 1 2 9

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Branch Sort Code

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Reference

### 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 Campaign For Real Ale Limited 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 Campaign For Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

# 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

- 3 **MMK** *Maidstone Mild in May* - **Society Rooms**, then **Flower Pot**
- 5 **GDV** 1pm **Rising Sun**, Twitton, Beer Festival
- 9 **BEX** **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath (*OBM*)
- 10 **MMK** **Plough**, Trottiscliffe, then **Wheatsheaf**, Leybourne
- 11 **GDV** 7.30 - **Jolly Drayman**, Gravesend, Beer Festival
- 17 **MMK** **Bush**, Aylesford (*AGM*; then *OBM*)
- 19 **BEX** 12.00 meet at Gravesend station then: **Ship & Lobster** onwards
- 19 **MMK** *Bus Trip to Newenden, Woodchurch and Teston*
- 23 **GDV** **Horse & Groom**, Leyton Cross, **Papermakers Arms**, Hawley
- 23 **BEX** 8pm **Lord Kitchener**, Welling, and **Foresters**
- 24 **MMK** *Maidstone Mild in May* - **Pilot**, then **Rifle Volunteers**
- 31 **MMK** 7.30 - **Bat & Trap**, Benenden, then **King William IV** and **Bull**

## JUNE

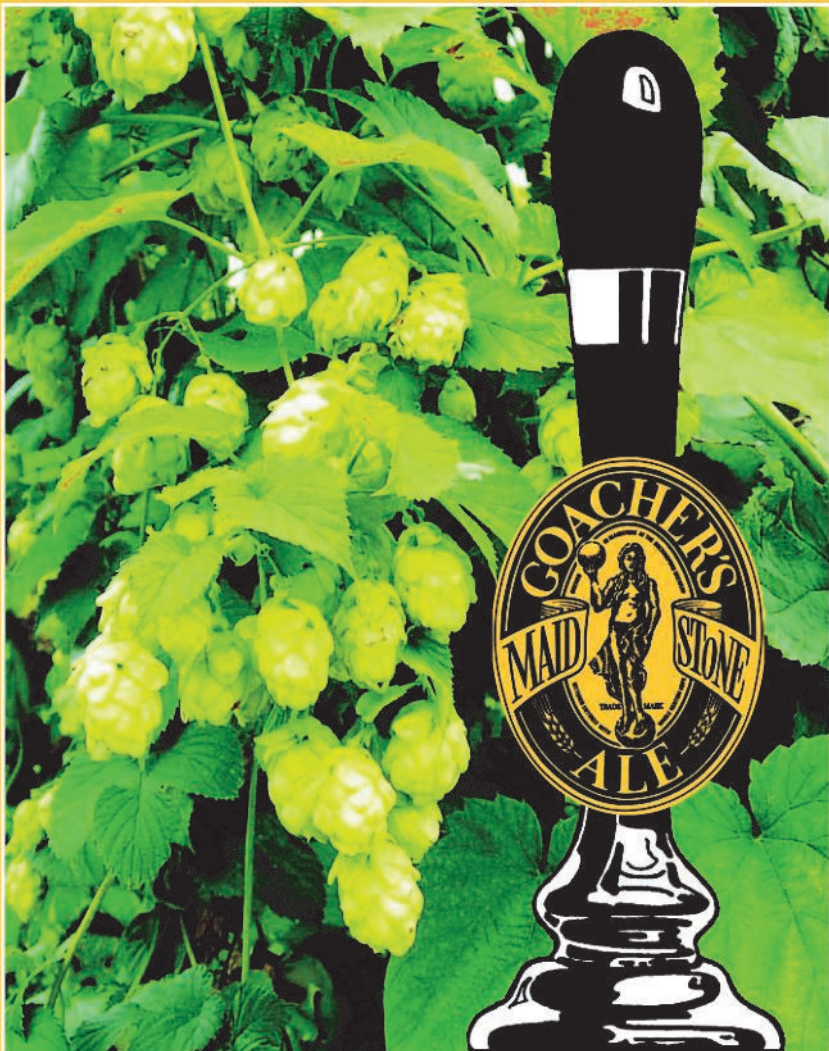
- 7 **MMK** **George**, Yalding, then **Chequers**, Laddingford
- 13 **BEX** **Railway Tavern**, Bexley (*OBM*)
- 14 **MMK** **Hook & Hatchet**, Hucking, then **Black Horse**, Thurnham
- 16 **MMK** **MENCAP Summer Fayre**, Mote Park, Maidstone (*see page 29*)
- 20 **BEX** **Crayford Arms**, Crayford (*AGM*)
- 21 **MMK** 7.30 - *Evening Ramble* - **Swan**, Sutton Valence to **Plough**, Langley
- 27 **BEX** **Prince of Wales**, Belvedere, then **Leather Bottle**, **Belvedere**
- 28 **MMK** **Dog & Gun**, Maidstone, then **Hare & Hounds**
- 30 **MMK** *Bus Trip to Haywards Heath area*

## JULY

- 5 **MMK** 7.30 - *Bat & Trap*, Aylesford Rec, then **Bush** and **Chequers**
- 7 **BEX** 12.30 **Hole in the Wall**, Waterloo, then pubs to **Market Tavern**
- 11 **BEX** **Alma**, Sidcup (*OBM*)
- 12 **MMK** **Dirty Habit**, Hollingbourne, then **Sugar Loaves**
- 15 **MMK** *Sunday Ramble – East and West Farleigh*
- 18 **BEX** 8pm **We Anchor In Hope**, Welling, **Plough**, **New Cross Turnpike**
- 19 **MMK** **Flower Pot** (*OBM*)
- 26 **MMK** **Bull**, Barming, then **North Pole**
- 28 **MMK** 1-5pm *Petanque* at the **Stile Bridge**

\* REAL MILD ALE \* CROWN IMPERIAL STOUT \*

\* FINE LIGHT ALE \* GOLD STAR \* OLD 1066 ALE \* BEST DARK ALE



\* SILVER STAR \* FINE LIGHT ALE \* GOLD STAR \* OLD 1066 ALE

# GOACHER'S MAIDSTONE ALES

P&DJ Goacher, Unit 8, Tovil Green Business Park, Maidstone ME15 6TA. Tel: 01622 682112

[www.goachers.com](http://www.goachers.com)