

# Draught Copy



**Free Newsletter**  
for the  
Maidstone & Mid-Kent,  
Gravesend & Darent Valley  
and Bexley areas of Kent

Winter 2012

No. 169

## PUB CLOSURES AND THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

The trend of pubs closing year on year has been with us for the past thirty years or more. The reasons for this trend are several, not least the scandalous beer duty escalator of inflation plus two percent that has been with us since 2008, and which we are fighting hard to have Parliament repeal. The rapacity of certain pub companies is also an undoubted contributor to licensees' woes. However, there is another factor at play here that it is seemingly politically incorrect to make any kind of mention of these days. Dare we say the smoking ban of 2007?

A table of pub closures since 1981, made available by the *Guardian* newspaper's datablog online\*, shows losses of eight pubs a week for 2004, 5 and 6. From 2007, this figure jumps to 27 and then 38, 26 and 28 for the three succeeding years to 2010, the last year for which the table had details. Back then, this newsletter among others, welcomed the ban, saying that pubs could now welcome millions of new pub-goers who had been put off by the smell of tobacco smoke in pubs. Well, we were wrong, they never turned up and publicans almost everywhere found their business was down.

\*[www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/apr/12/general-election-labour-manifesto-pub-closures](http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/apr/12/general-election-labour-manifesto-pub-closures)

### Inside this issue:

Beer Tax E-petition Exceeds 100,000 Signatures	6
Local News	17
The Pubs of Sutton Valence	39

## 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 published 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>	<i>Contact the Editor</i>
<b>Email:</b>	<i>as above</i>

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 20 December 2012 for publication in February 2013.

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*

### **33RD ROCHFORD BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL**

**NOVEMBER 20—24**

Freight House, Rochford  
Essex SS4 1BU

210+ firkins of ale plus 60 barrels of  
cider/perry, as well as a foreign and  
English bottled beer bar

*www.seecamra.org.uk*

### **PIG'S EAR BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**

**DECEMBER 4—8**

Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road  
Hackney, London E5 0PU

200-plus beers including unique  
Festival Brews. E. London Bar  
celebrating 9 excitingly new local  
Micros. Renowned cider, bottled +  
foreign beer bars

*www.pigsear.org.uk*

## **Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs**

**November 8—10**

### **Medway Beer Festival**

The Stanley Ballroom, Gundulph  
Road, Chatham, Kent. ME4 6BB  
50+ beers and various ciders  
*www.medwaybeerfestival.com*

**November 9—11**

### **Jolly Drayman**

Wellington Street, Gravesend  
20+ beers and various ciders  
*www.jollydrayman.com*

**November 17—18**

### **Kings Arms**

Teston Road, Offham  
Beer festival  
10+ real ales and some ciders

**November 30—December 2**

### **Wheatsheaf**

Loose Road, Maidstone  
Rockin' Robin Festival with  
*Hoppin' Robin, Mildly Rockin',  
Reliant Robin* and *Ding Dong*

**December 7**

### **Dartford Working Men's Club**

Essex Road, Dartford  
30 real ales of various styles

To view our

# Christmas Party Menu

and other upcoming events, visit

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



Operating under the same ownership for 12 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 "Pub Favourite" meal, dining from our "A la Carte Menu" or indeed from our "Christmas Party Menu" or simply just in for a drink with friends, family or work colleagues, we'll make sure your experience with us in this festive period 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

(Closed Sunday Evenings)

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

# KENT BREWERIES

<b>Abigale</b>	07734 342278	<a href="http://www.abigalebrewing.co.uk">www.abigalebrewing.co.uk</a>
<b>Black Cat Brewery</b>	07948 387718	<a href="http://www.blackcat-brewery.com">www.blackcat-brewery.com</a>
<b>Canterbury Ales</b>	01227 732541	<a href="http://www.canterbury-ales.co.uk">www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</a>
<b>Canterbury Brewers</b>	01227 455899	<a href="http://www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/canterbury-brewers">www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/canterbury-brewers</a>
<b>Caveman Brewery</b>	07769 710665	<a href="http://www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk">www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Goacher's</b>	01622 682112	<a href="http://www.goachers.com">www.goachers.com</a>
<b>Goody Ales</b>	07790 443810	<a href="http://www.goodyales.co.uk">www.goodyales.co.uk</a>
<b>HopDaemon</b>	01795 892078	<a href="http://www.hopdaemon.com">www.hopdaemon.com</a>
<b>Hop Fuzz</b>	07850 441267	<a href="http://www.hopfuzz.co.uk">www.hopfuzz.co.uk</a>
<b>Kent Brewery</b>	01634 780037	<a href="http://www.kentbrewery.com">www.kentbrewery.com</a>
<b>Larkins</b>	01892 870328	
<b>Millis Brewing Co.</b>	01322 866233	<a href="http://www.millisbrewing.com">www.millisbrewing.com</a>
<b>Nelson Brewing Co.</b>	01634 832828	<a href="http://www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk">www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Old Dairy Brewing Co.</b>	01580 243185	<a href="http://www.olddairybrewery.com">www.olddairybrewery.com</a>
<b>Old Forge Brewery</b>	01233 720444	<a href="http://www.thefarriersarms.com">www.thefarriersarms.com</a>
<b>Ramsgate Brewery</b>	01843 868453	<a href="http://www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk">www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Ripple Steam Brewery</b>	07917 037611	<a href="http://www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk">www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Rockin' Robin Brewery</b>	07787 416110	
<b>Royal Tunbridge Wells Brewing Company</b>	01892 618140	<a href="http://www.royaltunbridgewellsbrewing.co.uk">www.royaltunbridgewellsbrewing.co.uk</a>
<b>Shepherd Neame</b>	01795 532206	<a href="http://www.shepherd-neame.co.uk">www.shepherd-neame.co.uk</a>
<b>Swan, West Peckham</b>	01622 812271	<a href="http://www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk">www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</a>
<b>Tír Dhá Ghlas</b>	01304 211666	<a href="http://www.cullinsyard.co.uk">www.cullinsyard.co.uk</a>
<b>Tonbridge Brewery</b>	01732 366770	<a href="http://www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk">www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Wantsum Brewery</b>	0845 0405980	<a href="http://www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk">www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Westerham Brewery</b>	01959 565837	<a href="http://www.westerhambrewery.co.uk">www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Whitstable Brewery</b>	01622 851007	<a href="http://www.whitstablebrewery.info">www.whitstablebrewery.info</a>



# CAMPAIGN: BEER TAX E-PETITION EXCEEDS 100,000 SIGNATURES

*Mass Parliamentary Lobby announced for December 12<sup>th</sup> – over 1,000 people expected to participate as consumers demand an end to above inflation rises in beer tax. [www.saveyourpintlobby.org.uk](http://www.saveyourpintlobby.org.uk)*

CAMRA is delighted to celebrate with other members of the beer and pub industry as the Government e-petition calling on the abandonment of the beer duty escalator has exceeded the 100,000 signatures needed to trigger a Parliamentary debate. The petition is only the 12<sup>th</sup> Government e-petition—out of over 16,000 submitted—to have ever reached the 100,000 landmark.

The beer duty escalator, introduced by the last Government in 2008, and continued by the coalition, has successively penalised Britain's beer drinkers by automatically increasing duty levels by 2% above inflation every year. As a result, tax on beer has increased by over 40% since 2008, with a third of every pub pint now being swallowed in tax. Over 4,500 pubs have also closed over this same period.

CAMRA has invested significant resources into campaigning against the beer duty escalator, and major breakthroughs in the lead up to the petition securing 100,000 signatures included over 15,000 beer drinkers adding their names to it over the course of the Great British Beer Festival at London's Olympia in August (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>).

With a Parliamentary debate now in prospect, **CAMRA is ramping up the pressure on Government by announcing it is to hold a Mass Parliamentary Lobby in Westminster on Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>**, with over 1,000 people expected to attend from all corners of the UK to voice their discontent at punitive tax increases on Britain's National Drink. They will be asking to speak to their local MPs, and seeking their support to protect the nation's historic beer and pub industry.

Colin Valentine, CAMRA National Chairman, said: *'Joining a very small minority of e-petitions to have ever reached the 100,000 landmark is a mammoth achievement, and it's been fantastic to witness the beer and pub industry uniting to fight back against this issue. Over the last 6 months, CAMRA has been collecting signatures at beer festivals, organising local campaigning events, as well as supplying pubs with petition material. We have devoted a great amount of resources to this campaign, so we are delighted this has all paid off.'*

*'CAMRA's next step is not to rest on our laurels but to maintain the impetus with our Mass Parliamentary Lobby, which will reinforce to MPs the groundswell of support for this campaign. With all the battering it has taken, the beer and pub sector still manages to contribute over £21 billion a year to the UK's GDP, and supports one million jobs, so it's about time the Government honoured its pledge to be "pub friendly".'*



**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 fabulous GRANDADS**

## **Classic Rock** from the 70's, 80's and 90's

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



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

*'The awesome fabulous Grandads have put together a varied set list of great music that everyone likes. The best sound I've ever heard in a pub - Fantastic.'*  
The Windmill, Willesborough.

*'The fabulous Grandads are doing Pub-rock the right way. A great crack.'*

Chris Price, Kent Messenger Music Editor

**Tel: Neil on 07767 891609**

WWW.CAVEMANBREWERY.CO.UK

Craft brewed, heavily hopped cask ales. Brewed in Kent



NEW Citra 4.1% pale  
NOW AVAILABLE

EST. 2012

## 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**—Abigale is brewing and selling all it can produce as a one man band and James could do with enrolling another brewer to make full use of the capacity at the brewery. There is no change to the range of regular brews: *Samphire*, *Ridgeway*, *Nailbourne*, and *Hoymans Porter*.

**Black Cat**—Steady production going at the moment. Marcus has been too busy at Monarch airlines to increase output at the moment, but hopes to do a winter beer later on in the season.

**Canterbury Ales**—New brews are: *2012* (4.2ABV—East Kent Goldings and Challenger hops); *Loco IPA* (3.9ABV—an American style IPA but at session strength using Chinook, Citra and Cascade hops); *Stout Engenios* (4.1ABV brewed with Goldings).

In the pipeline are: *Raspberry Ale* (5.1ABV, made with 25% local raspberries); *Diamond Jim* (4.9ABV, a hoppy rye pale made with Australian Stella hops). There are also plans for a one-off special made with Nelson Sauvignon hops and using a Belgian yeast.

**Goody Ales**—Currently being brewed: *Genesis* (3.5ABV, a ruby-coloured hoppy ale with a lasting bitter finish made from Challenger hops from Kent, still very popular); *Good Health* (3.6ABV, a honey-coloured, golden ale with a fresh hoppy finish and an undertone of zesty orange); *Good Heavens* (4.1ABV, an amber, hoppy bitter made with Kentish Pilgrim and Goldings hops);.

To come soon: *Extra Sensory Beerception* - an ESB to be launched during Halloween; *Good Lord*, a spicy porter to be brewed in the winter months.

Goody ales are available at a growing number of pubs in Kent, particularly the Canterbury area, and a significant number in the London area and further afield. They are also looking to supply the Beer Brothers of Herne Bay.

**Hop Fuzz**—Currently brewing: *The English*, *The American*, *The Goldsmiths*, *The Hawaiian*, *The Chocolatier* and *The Veteran*. A green-hopped ale was produced for the Canterbury Food & Drink Festival.

**Kent Brewery**—Sales increased in July to hit the 400 casks per month mark for the first time; this is over half of the Brewery's total capacity and a target that it did not expect to hit for a couple more years. SouthDowns Brewery, which had been cuckoo brewing with Kent Brewery for a while, is now brewing in its own premises, and has taken on a position of distributing for Kent Brewery throughout the Brighton,

Worthing and South Sussex area. At the same time, Kent Brewery distributes direct to the Craft Beer Co in Brighton and a few other nearby locations. Craft Beer Co. will shortly have more pubs in London, and Kent Brewery's *Craft Pale* will continue to be provided as its house beer throughout all pubs.

A new Kentish brewery, Caveman, has started using Kent Brewery's premises before it is ready to brew at its own site, which will be in the cellar of the **George and Dragon** in Swanscombe.

**Moodleys**—Have ceased brewing and now run an online home-brew ingredients shop.

**Nelson**—*Colossus* 4.3% ABV continued to be offered throughout August as the beer from the Trafalgar Battleships range. The Pirate Ale for the month is *Jammin' Jack* 4.3% ABV, whilst the 4.1% ABV *Jack Knife* was the monthly special.

The brewery attended *en masse* the Trade Day at this year's GBBF, a rare day off for Piers and the staff. However, since then it has been nose to the grindstone, as, being listed on the Wetherspoon's National beer listings for 3 months (September, October & November) has led to extra brews being done on *Dragons Revenge* 4.3% ABV. Nelson must be amongst the smallest micros that supply direct to Wetherspoon on this scale and this meant having to rent a large number of casks.

In September, the brewery had a stall at the Faversham Hop Festival weekend and an event in the Dockyard, a Salute to the Forties.

**Shepherd Neame**—The main plant brewed *Queen Court Harvest Ale*, 4.5ABV, for the Faversham Hop Festival. Some green hops picked on the day of brewing and used in the copper were noticeable, giving the beer a smooth taste. *Red Sails*, 3.9ABV, is a new beer using 100% Pale Malt and is due to debut at the Wetherspoons Autumn Beer Festival.

The pilot plant has created *Double Stout*, 5.2ABV, for general distribution and is likely to be on sale now. It is made with Pale, Crystal, Black and Brown malts along with First Gold hops. *India Pale Ale*, 6.1ABV, is a strong beer just brewed that will probably be classified as a true IPA. Made with Pale and Crystal malts and First Gold hops.

Stuart Main has some additional interesting brews due in the coming months.

**Tonbridge**—Excellent sales throughout the summer with several new customers and now about 10 pubs / clubs taking one or two beers permanently. The newest beer, *Golden Braun*, is selling well, with a lot of good comments about depth of flavour despite being only 3.2%. Would brew more often but *Coppernob* and *Rustic* take priority as they have the permanent placings. Both these beers will be at the re-arranged SIBA South East competition.

Expansion options are still being considered

**Wantsum**—Beer sales have been going extremely well recently, particularly the bottle conditioned ales. To meet the demand, a conical fermenter has been ordered from China and will be installed shortly, thus doubling the fermenting capacity. An order has also being placed for a 12-barrel copper mash tun to double the total brewing capacity.

*Red Raddle* (5.0 ABV), the ruby red premium bitter has proved to be popular and is now being brewed on a regular basis. It is also available in bottle-conditioned form. *One Hop* (4.5 ABV) has now been brewed with Cluster and Willamette hops, and both brews are available in bottle-conditioned form. There are plans to brew a *One Hop* with Super Alpha Pacific Gem hops. *Turbulent Priest* (4.4 ABV) was brewed recently for the first time since February to a slightly modified recipe. The *Ravening Wolf* exported recently to Italy was popular and Wantsum have had a request from the Italian market to brew an 8% beer, which will be put on hold until the new brewing equipment is installed. *The More's Head* was well received at GBBF and James was complemented on the quality.

**Whitstable**—The brewery has been really busy and had a Beer Stall at the Faversham Hop Festival. It is the 3rd year running that they have done so. The **Who'd A Thought It** in Grafty Green is now taking the *Pearl of Kent* on a regular basis.

# Apple Press

## Cider snippets...

**Biddenden Vineyards;** Kent's oldest commercial vineyard, has been awarded 2 Gold Stars for its Special Reserve Cider in this year's Great Taste Awards 2012. The awards, which are judged by 350 judges over 45 days and run by the Guild of Fine Food, are very highly regarded in the food and drink industry. Nearly 9000 products were entered into this year's awards, with only 30% being awarded a Gold. The Special Reserve cider is the vineyard's strongest cider at 13% and is ideally enjoyed as an aperitif style drink served in the way that a port would be. The cider is matured in oak whisky casks for 18 months, which give it its dark appearance and smoky oaked taste.

**Dudda's Tun;** Entered their cider at the Brogdale Cider Festival, which was sponsored and judged by the NACM (National Association of Cider Makers). It was a competition for all Kent cider producers and Dudda's Tun won 1st prize for their new lightly sparkling cider, Dizzy Dudda, and 2nd prize for their pear cider, Pear 'o' Duddas.

The **Kent Cider Company** won over the judges at the recent East Malling Beer and Cider Festival with their Granny Smith cider, which was voted the Cider of the Festival. Our cider correspondent, Wendy Lanng, is pictured here with Kent Cider Co's Mark Henderson as he received his award.



Kent Cider Company has an interesting website, [kentcider.co.uk](http://kentcider.co.uk), where I was fascinated to read the following: *On our orchard we grow seventeen different varieties of apple, many of them heritage varieties, such as Grenadier, Scarlet Pimpernel, Laxtons Superb to name a few. The strength and quality of these rare varieties enables us to make a number of single apple ciders as well as blends. We choose not to use sprays and by maintaining habitat that works with the natural cycles of the orchard we happily achieve a thriving sustainable yield, year in and year out.*



## Kent Cider Makers

Badgers Hill Farm	01227 730573	
Biddenden Cider	01580 291726	<i>www.biddendenvineyards.com</i>
Big Tree Cider	01474 705221	<i>www.bigtreecider.co.uk</i>
Broomfield Orchard	01227 362279	
Castle Cider Co	01732 455977	
Core Fruit Products	01227 730589	
Double Vision Cider	01622 746633	
Dudda's Tun Cider	01795 886266	<i>www.duddastuncider.com</i>
East Stour Cider Co	07880923398	<i>danbaldwin@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Green Oak Farm	01304 821630	<i>info@greenoakfarm.co.uk</i>
Johnson's Farmhouse Cider	01795 665203	
Kent Cider Company	07738 573818	<i>kentcider.co.uk</i>
Kentish Pip Cider	01227 830525	<i>www.kentishpip.co.uk</i>
Kings Wood Cider		<i>danbaldwin@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Magic Bus Cider	07887 747569	
Merry Moon	07707 309041	
North Downs Cider	07747343892	
Pawley Farm Cider	01795 532043	<i>pawleyfarmcider@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Rough Old Wife Cider	01227 700757	<i>www.rougholdwife.com</i>

For a useful map of Kent cider makers,  
mostly clustered around Canterbury and East Kent,  
please take a look at the website of  
CAMRA branch DDS (Deal, Dover, Sandwich & District)  
*www.camra-dds.org.uk/pubscidermakers.htm*



Recent issues of *Draught Copy* online can be found  
at *www.mmcamra.co.uk/Pages/DraughtCopy.aspx*

“Come along to East Malling” suggested CAMRA's Maidstone & Mid-Kent Branch in the last issue of *Draught Copy*, prior to the East Malling Beer and Cider Festival at the beginning of September, and you did, in record numbers.

What's more, you drank us dry for the third year in a row, the last drops of the wide range of real ales and ciders being served as the stragglers wended their way home from East Malling Research, our splendid venue.



Councillor Dave Davis, Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, who formally opened the Festival, joined BBC Radio Kent presenter Roger Day and three local licensees on a judging panel to select the 'Beer of the Festival'. In first place was *Fuggle-De-Dum* from Goddards Brewery in Ryde, Isle of Wight; runner-up was *Beyond the Pale*, from Kent Brewery

in Birling, Kent, a handful of miles from the festival venue. A separate panel selected *Granny Smith*, produced by Kent Cider Co of Faversham, Kent as Cider of the Festival, with *East Stour Dry*, from East Stour Cider Co, Mersham, Kent as runner-up.

Live music from Dr Jazz and Bitten By Monkeys kept visitors entertained on what turned out to be a glorious afternoon, with popular food concessions satisfying their hunger, while volunteer staff kept glasses topped up.

Councillor Davis, together with his wife, Mrs Mary Davis, rounded off their visit by taking up CAMRA membership.

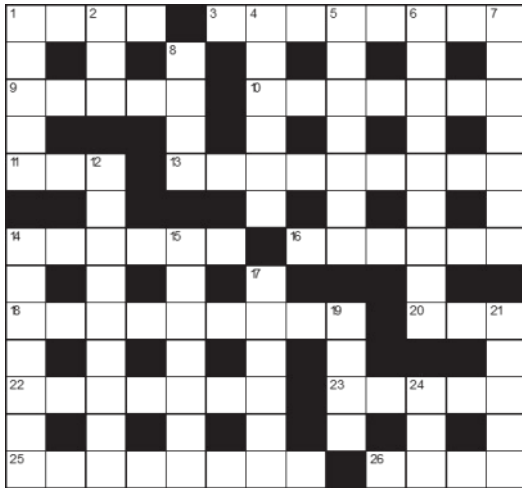


Festival organisers were gratified by the many favourable comments passed on the event and venue, with scores of festival-goers promising to return in 2013. That's what we intend too, so keep tuned for updates!

# The Draught Copy Crossword No. 9

compiled by MICK NORMAN

*Solution in next issue*



*Solution to Crossword No. 8  
in issue No. 168*



**Across**

- 1 Stage for backward dogs, perhaps (4)
- 3,25,18 Curse, cheat, beastly predator. Desperate CAMRA's petition with over 100,000 signatures (5,3,4,4,9)
- 9 Astor cooked dinner (5)
- 10 Fragile punnets, not yet exhausted (7)
- 11 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) initially not meeting with Scrooge's approval (3)
- 13 Jane's lover on the Medway (9)
- 14 Drinkers stop 'ER' disaster! (6)
- 16 Dean's Christianity initially questionable? Arise. (6)
- 18 See 3
- 20 Hogs Back brew to accompany 23? (3)
- 22 There's a sin in everyone, to some extent foolish (7)
- 23 Salute to a saint (5)
- 25 See 3
- 26 Rode foaming German river (4)

**Down**

- 1 Quiet massage for plant (5)
- 2 Greek letter from Basque separatists (3)
- 4 Hold on to car component (6)
- 5 Rawness spoilt responses (7)
- 6 Rotten meat in river - care required (9)
- 7 Noted journalist takes the stage (7)
- 8 Wake up in prison (4)
- 12 Untrustworthy Cypriot, he doesn't practice what he preaches (9)
- 14 ...but customers are not fleeced at this Swanley Village pub (3,4)
- 15 Lil Read collapsed, but recovered (7)
- 17 Wise to follow this road? (6)
- 19 Schedule crap article (4)
- 21 Change focal point of church, we hear (5)
- 24 Also behead worker (3)

*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 December 15th.*

*A photocopy is acceptable, as is a scanned copy emailed to:  
mlr\_norman@yahoo.com*

*Congratulations to Alan Greer from South Ruislip, Middlesex, who won the prize in the Autumn issue.*

# 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 - BILLIARDS - ENTERTAINMENT**

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



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



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

---

**Albion, Boughton Monchelsea** – Licensee Rob McCourt and Tracey are bringing customers back in again. The interior has been redecorated, the pool table moved to the other room and Rob has now erected a smoking shelter in the garden. The regular beer is *Youngs Bitter* and the guest beer for a few weeks has been *Exmoor Fox*.

**Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea** – The *Shepherd Neame* beers here are always in good condition. On a branch visit we found *Master Brew*, *Spitfire*, *Cobtree Old Ale*, *Whitstable Bay* and *Late Red*. CAMRA members can obtain a 20p a pint discount on proof of membership. Two new members have just joined CAMRA as a result of this deal!

**White Hart, Claygate** – I am informed that trade is doing well at this *Shepherd Neame* pub, particularly regarding food. The *Sheps* beers available include *Master Brew*, *Spitfire* and *Late Red*.

**Walnut, Tree, East Farleigh** – Richard, the new licensee at this *Shepherd Neame* pub, was previously at Snodland WMC.

**Red Bull, Eccles** - Website is now [www.theredbull.moonfruit.com](http://www.theredbull.moonfruit.com). Beers are usually from *Shepherd Neame* and there is a guest beer.

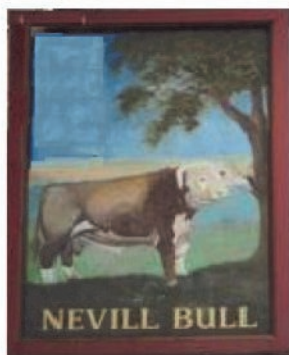
**Who'd A Thought It, Grafty Green** – *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* is still a regular but *Whitstable Pearl of Kent* is now on the bar replacing *Fullers London Pride*.

**Star & Eagle, Goudhurst** – Has now been taken over by Brakspears.

**George & Dragon, Headcorn** – On my visit I found *Hop Fuzz The Goldsmith* in a cask on the bar whilst the pumps had *Moorhouse Pride of Pendle* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*. Headcorn is easily reached using the number 12 bus route from Maidstone which also passes several other pubs on the way.

**Dirty Habit, Hollingbourne** – Very busy with diners here when the branch visited. *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Taylor Landlord* and *Tonbridge Blonde Ambition* were the beers on. The *Tonbridge* being a guest.

# 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

**Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne** – Rather quiet here on a branch visit with *Greene King IPA* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* to imbibe but several people arrived as we were leaving. I believe the licensees should have changed by publication date.

**Windmill, Hollingbourne** - A party of ladies dining formed the majority of customers here on a branch visit and the selection of beers surprised us at this pub/restaurant. On the bar were *Hook Norton Old Hooky*, *Hop Back Summer Lightning* and *Theakston Old Peculier*.

**Crown & Horseshoes, Langley** – This pub has a very large garden and a fair size restaurant. A party of 40 from Maidstone Active Retirement Association were happily dining here when I called in. Only *Fullers London Pride* was available then but there are normally two beers on.

**Plough, Langley** – This weather-boarded Grade II listed pub has up to six beers available and the kitchen provides good food. At the bar were the regular 'house beer', *Tonbridge Plough Bitter*, *Cottage Golden Arrow*, *Titanic Steerage*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, *Late Red* and *Queen Court Harvest Ale*.



**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)**

**George, Leeds** – A change of licensee is expected at this *Shepherd Neame* pub.

**Chequers, Loose** – On Boxing Day, the pub will be, as usual, hosting 2 or 3 sets of Morris Dancers who will be performing (weather permitting) in the road outside from around midday. This event is always very popular and is supported by many of the local villagers. At least 5 ales are planned: *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, *Fullers London Pride*, *Harvey's Sussex Best*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, plus at least one guest (currently *St Austell Tribute*)

**Cherry Tree, Maidstone** – A spacious pub with a pool table, mainly frequented by younger people but still keeps *Harveys Best* on the bar.

**Fox, Maidstone** – Lessee Lee Gaul is re-furbishing this pub. The beer lines have been renewed, the seating replaced and the toilets updated. The garden is also to be tidied up in readiness for the summer next year. The bar has the regular *Shepherd Neame Kent's Best* and *Sharps Doom Bar* with *Courage Best* as a guest when I called in.

## 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**





**Hare & Hounds, Maidstone** – Sadly Zoe and Wayne have now left after re-vitalising the pub and temporary managers are in as I write this. *Canterbury Reeves Tale* was a new beer appearing on the pumps to join the *St Austell Tribute* and *Youngs Bitter*.

**Paper Makers, Maidstone** – There has been a change here with Graham & Julie, ex-Coopers Cask, now in charge. Two handpumps have been installed and *Shepherd Neame Summer Sizzler* was the first beer reported.

**Spitfire Lounge, Maidstone** – A new outlet here at the Gallacher Stadium, Maidstone United's home ground near the new library. Opening times seem to vary. Serves *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire*.

**Wheatsheaf, Maidstone** – held a mini beer festival at the end of September to coincide with Cask Ale Week. Eight beers were featured, including *Hoppin Robin* from the *Robin* brewery in Loose, *St. Austell Trelawny* and *Caledonian Autumn Red*.

**White Rabbit, Maidstone** – A busy dining pub with *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and a guest ale. A recent visit found *Caledonian Flying Dutchman*, which on running out was replaced by *Hop Back Summer Lightning*.

**Kings Arms, Offham** – This has had an external repaint and Alex has had a fifth pump fitted. *Biddenden Bushels* cider is also on the bar. *Timothy Taylor Golden Best*, a delicious light mild, *Goddards Fuggle-de-Dum* (Beer of the festival at East Malling) and *Kent Beyond the Pale* have appeared on the pumps recently and there is a growing collection of pump clips on the wall.

**Yew Tree, Sandling** – No real ale has been available since July and *Shepherd Neame* have put it up for sale.

**White Horse, Sandway** – This pub restaurant was closed for over a year and has now re-opened following re-decoration and has a good selection of dishes. Three handpumps on the bar have offered *Hook Norton Cotswold Lion*, *Adnams Broadside*, *Taylor Landlord* and brews from *Whitstable Brewery*, which is close-by. Closed Mondays, open Tuesday to Friday 12-3, 5 -1, Saturday & Sunday open all day. See their Facebook page for more information.

**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)

**Clothworkers, Sutton Valence** – Rob McCann took over at this *Shepherd Neame* pub in April and on a cellar audit gained 20/20 for *Master Brew*. I am informed that *Late Red* and *Whitstable Bay* have also been on the pumps. The phone number is now 01622 842589.

**Plough, Trottiscliffe** – I am informed that *Taylor Landlord* will replace *Adnams Bitter* soon, however I cannot confirm this.

**North Pole, Watlington** – New managers here, Nick Watson and Vicky Byrne have settled in well. Zoe and Lee are still keeping overall charge but have relinquished some of the day-to-day duties and now have a bit more time to themselves after two years without a break. There is also a new chef and changes to the menu. Happily, the beers from excellent *Tonbridge* brewery are now back on and selling well. *Tonbridge Rustic* was available on my last visit, also serving *Greene King IPA*, *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Taylor Landlord*.

**Good Intent, West Farleigh** – Steve and Pauline held a small beer festival here over the August Bank Holiday with a good selection of ales including *Taylor Landlord*, *Hop Back Summer Lightning*, *Ringwood Fortyniner* and the locally brewed *Rocking Robin Mildly Rockin'*. The regular ale is *Larkins Traditional* and there is also a guest.

**Bull, West Malling** – Here the toilets have been re-fitted and the Gents is now the Ladies. There has also been some painting carried out in the bar. Trevor keeps *Youngs Bitter* as a regular and has guest ales from local Kent brewers as well as specials from the nationals.

**Live Music Act Introduced.** The introduction of the Live Music Act has not been widely publicised but it is a welcome piece of news for pubs. It came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

The Act lifts restrictions on pubs, allowing venues with a capacity that does not exceed 200 to play live unamplified music between 8am and 11pm. Venues no longer have to apply for a licence if an event falls within these hours.

This will allow pubs to hold events without having to dedicate money and resources to apply for a licence to host an event, removing a hurdle which may have prevented events from being staged in the past.

Contact: *Bob Belton* on 07583 233615 (M) / 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)

Looking back on the special events of 2012, the Diamond Jubilee, Euro 2012, the London Olympics and Paralympics, I'm surprised to say that I felt proud to be British and even tolerated travelling to and from work in London which became a much friendlier city during the weeks of the Games. It was glorious to revel in British organisational ability, to disprove cynics such as myself [*and me—Ed*], and enjoy success in most sporting disciplines except, of course, football.

Now let's move on to the subjects of beer, brewing and pubs. It's amazing, to use an overused Olympian superlative, to count the number of breweries in Kent, 26 listed on page 3 of *Draught Copy*. We believe that there is a similar number in Greater London, and the national total of operating breweries now exceeds one thousand, albeit most of them very small in scale, yet producing some "amazing" (OK think of your own Olympian superlative) beers. Of the 150 or so breweries listed in the inaugural *CAMRA Good Beer Guide* in 1974, less than 40 are still operational, including only one in Kent, *Shepherd Neame*, and only one in London - *Fuller Smith & Turner*. So the Olympics restored some pride in London, but thanks to *Fuller's*, *London Pride* has been with us for decades. Now that is amazing!

Locally there is a strong promise of a new brewery to be located in the Gravesend & Darent Valley branch area. The *Caveman Brewery* has been set up by Nick Byram from **Dartford Working Men's Club** and James Hayward from the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe. Their first brew of *Citra*, a light coloured session ale with a big hop character, flavoured with US *Citra* hops at 4.1%, was brewed at the *Kent Brewery* in Birling, and showcased at the **George & Dragon** from 14<sup>th</sup> August, and was also available locally at the **Dartford Working Men's Club**, the **Glentworth ex-Servicemen's Club** in Dartford, the **Rum Puncheon** in Gravesend, the **Bull** in Horton Kirby and in selected pubs and clubs further afield in Kent and London. A second brew of *Citra* was produced in September and hopefully, by the time you read this, the *Caveman Brewery* will be brewing in the newly equipped large cellar "the Cave" under the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe.

The name "Caveman" was inspired by the discovery, in Baker's Hole (cave?) in 1935, of "Swanscombe Man" when fragments of bones and



tools were dated at 400,000 years old, the earliest prehistoric evidence of human population in the UK at the time. Swanscombe Heritage Park, located in a former gravel pit near Craylands Lane, not far from the **Rising Sun (Top House)**, is a Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest which commemorates the site of the nearby prehistoric findings.

Bob & Bron Veal, licensees of the **George and Dragon** host various beer related functions, including "Meet the Brewer" evenings, with *Kent Brewery* in April, and *Everards* in July, the Diamond Jubilee beer festival in June and the Kent Green Hop mini-festival in October, when green hop beers were available from *Canterbury Brewers*, *Hop Fuzz*, *Kent Brewery* and *Ramsgate (Gadd's)*, amongst others. Please check the following websites, [www.georgedragonswansombe.co.uk](http://www.georgedragonswansombe.co.uk) for information about the pub and [www.caveman.co.uk](http://www.caveman.co.uk) for the brewery.

The only brewery currently operating in our branch area is *Millis Brewing*, which has been at St.Margarets Farm in South Darenth for nearly ten years now. The beers are reliable and the regular range is *Kentish Best*, *Kentish Red*, *Dartford Wobbler* and *Gravesend Guzzler*, which are available in several local pubs and clubs and directly from the brewery. John Millis also supplies some CAMRA beer festivals and pub festivals and *Millis* beers were available at the Dartford Show in Central Park and the Gravesend Riverside Festival in the summer.

We have received reports of a number of pubs which have re-opened recently. The **Dart** in Chastilian Road, Dartford, temporarily closed in the summer, is open again currently selling *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Fuller's London Pride*. The **Coyotte Ugly** in Milton Road Gravesend has been refurbished and reverted to the former name, the **New Inn**, with the *Ridgens* Brewery etched window in Queen Street back in evidence but, alas, no real ale. The **Clarence** in Windmill Street Gravesend has also re-opened but no real ale. The **Ship** at Sutton at Hone re-opened in mid August and is run by Nancy, who was the landlady at the **Welcome All** in Horns Cross at the turn of the Millennium. At present the **Ship** opens at a flexible 1.30pm weekdays and noon on Sundays and is offering *Courage Best* and *Sharps Doom Bar* and also had *Caveman Citra* recently. The beer garden needs some serious TLC and will not be open until 2013. Another pub which re-opened earlier in the year, the **Fruiterers Arms** in Crockenhill, has closed again with an unknown future.

The **Ascot Arms** in Central Avenue Gravesend has notices in the windows stating "closed until further notice", but we are hopeful that this good real ale pub will soon be back in action. Sadly, three pubs in our

area have gone for good. The **Prince Albert** in Shepherd Street Northfleet has been converted into a children's nursery. The **Blue Anchor** in Swanscombe will be demolished to make way for one detached house and several semis and terraced houses. The **Railway Hotel**, by Dartford railway station is closed, awaiting demolition as part of the rebuilding of Dartford railway station concourse and 'improvements' to the surrounding area. None of these three pubs sold real ale or had any particular architectural merit but the loss of a pub as an amenity to the community is always to be regretted.

Curiosity got the better of me in Gravesend when passing the **Pembroke** in King Street as I could see live cricket on the TV and a pump clip I did not recognise. The beer was *Ringwood Boondoggle* which was in very good condition at a very reasonable price and England won the cricket match. Further along the way, in Milton Road, is the **Grapes**, the sole surviving *Shepherd Neame* tied house in Gravesend, offering just *Master Brew* and *Spitfire* that day. Once there were four and, part of the answer to my puzzle in the previous issue: the **Westcourt** (standing vacant), the **Prince Albert** (free of tie) and the **Call Boy** (now a nightclub). Since leaving the *Shepherd Neame* stable, this latter pub has been revamped as the **Call Boy Sports Bar**, **Velvet** (nightclub), **Bar Liquorice**, **The End** (nightclub) and currently the **Angel Lounge & Club**. Which type of customer is it trying to attract? Certainly not me!

Thanks once again to Bob Marsh who has supplied some information on the pubs in the East Hill area of Dartford. Starting at the top of the hill, furthest away from the town centre, Bob mentions that the **Fulwich** in St.Vincent's Road now sells only bottled *London Pride* due to a lack of interest in real ale. On East Hill itself, on the right going downhill, is the **Woodman** which sells real ale, usually *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, on an *ad hoc* basis as there is no great call for real ale in this pub. Carry on downhill and turn right into St.Albans Road to find the **Tiger**, a pleasant corner pub with small garden but no off-street parking. This locals' pub serves *Courage Best* regularly plus a guest ale which is usually *Greene King London Glory*, *Sharps Doom Bar* or *Young's Bitter*.

At the other end of the side street, Little Queen Street, is the **Foresters**, which has single U-shaped bar and sells *Courage Best*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and a guest beer from a number of different breweries. The pub has a large paved garden and its own car park, unusual for this area. For those of you with an historical bent, opposite is St.Edmund's Pleasance Burial Ground, wherein lies the unmarked pauper's grave of mining

engineer and steam locomotion pioneer Richard Trevithick (1771-1833). There is a plaque on the north wall in commemoration. Trevithick developed the first high pressure steam engine, an invention widely attributed to James Watt.

On the other (south) side of East Hill are two pubs, two hundred yards apart in Darenth Road, which very definitely show an interest in real ale. The **Ivy Leaf** is a fairly large imposing single bar pub which has a car park in front and a raised beer garden, with a covered smoking area at the base of the steps. Jim Clarke is the very enterprising landlord of a deservedly popular community local, which has been awarded a place for the first time in the *CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2013*. The **Ivy Leaf** sports six handpumps serving *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Wells Bombardier* plus four guest beers sourced from across the UK, always including a LocAle beer, being *Caveman Citra* on a recent visit. The pub is within sight of the Fastrack B bus stops and is the closest pub to Dartford Football Club, welcoming well-behaved home and away supporters alike.

The second pub, the **Malt Shovel**, has once again retained its place in the GBG for 2013 and is one of the most attractive buildings in Dartford, architecturally exuding a country pub feeling. There is a separate traditional basic public bar to the right and the main bar to the left has a conservatory at the rear leading on to a pleasant garden overlooking the town, Although tied to *Young's* and selling a wide range of *Wells & Young's* beers, *St.Austell Tribute* is always stocked, and the enthusiastic landlord, Neil Browne, takes guest beers from various breweries, with *Jersey Liberation Ale* available on recent visits. Good meals are available lunchtimes and evenings except Monday, when Neil hosts an ever popular weekly quiz night.

Another enthusiastic landlord is Andy Forrest at the **Vigo**, Fairseat, located on the main Gravesend to Wrotham road. Andy and Val took over the pub nearly two years ago, after it had been closed for four years, and the **Vigo** has regained its place in the GBG for 2013, selling various local beers, with *Goachers* as a regular supplier. The pub is holding an "All Hallows Weekend" from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2012 with live music and the Friday and Saturday of styles from folk to rock and a Fancy Dress Party on Saturday evening. All weekend the pub will be selling three local ciders and eight beers from local breweries including *Goacher's*, *Old Dairy* and probably the new *Goody's* from Herne. A new car park has been opened to the side/rear of the pub and there is a bus stop directly outside.

# 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



It'll soon be time for Christmas and we'd like to mention two events in December. Firstly the branch Annual General Meeting will be held at **Dartford Working Men's Club** on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 for card-carrying CAMRA members only and secondly, the Christmas social will be held at the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe, which will be open to CAMRA members and friends on the evening of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Enjoy the festive season and best wishes for 2013.

**GBBF TO STAY AT OLYMPIA.** The Great British Beer Festival 2013 will take place at Olympia once more from Tuesday August 13 to Saturday August 17. It was such a success this year back at its old but revamped home that CAMRA has decided to use the same venue again.

Personally speaking, I enjoyed the light and spaciousness of Olympia this year, preferring it to the dingy dungeons of Earls Court.

See you there next year!



# 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



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)

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

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.**

# THE BLACK HORSE INN

## FREEHOUSE

Pilgrims Way  
Thurnham  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 3LD

Tel 01622 737185

[info@wellieboot.net](mailto:info@wellieboot.net)

[www.wellieboot.net](http://www.wellieboot.net)



A family-run business with pub, restaurant and lovely bed and breakfast rooms at the foot of the North Downs in the Kent countryside

Dog friendly in the bar

Cask Conditioned Ales – Westerham Grasshopper and 4 Guest Ales, which could include Old Dairy Spring Top, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Sharps Doom Bar, Black Sheep Best, Skinners Betty Stogs, Adnams Ghost Ship - the list is endless but all well kept!

Open all day every day with food served all day!

Traditional pub favourites along with A La Carte and blackboard daily specials



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)

---

With the Olympics but a distant memory, and Christmas eagerly awaited by many, the beer scene in Bexley has been pretty stagnant, but, with more breweries opening up around us both in London and Kent, perhaps soon a wider choice may be available to us. In the *Top Ten of London* by Alexander Nash, where he lists the most iconic London images as chosen by tourists, Draught Beer comes in joint sixth; top was the double decker red bus.

Our July meeting at the **Alma**, Sidcup, was quickly changed on the night due to the poor quality of the beer. We adjourned to the **Tailors Chalk** to drink *Daleside Premium Gold*, *Hogs Back TEA* and *Oakham JHB*.

A warm evening for our August meeting in the **Royal Standard**, Upper Belvedere, was spent drinking *Wychwood Gingerbeard*, *Ringwood Fortyniner*, and *Youngs Bitter*, before our Treasurer suggested visiting a couple of other pubs. The **Victoria**, was selling *Sheps Spitfire*, *Wadworth 6X* and the light golden ale from *Thwaites*, *Wainwright*, (named after Alfred, known for his walking guides). Our final port of call, the **Prince of Wales**, was selling *St Austell Proper Job*, *Young's London Gold* and *Bitter* plus *Thatchers Heritage Cider*; so ended our tour of Upper Belvedere.

On to the **Yacht** in Long Lane for our September meeting, and a Flaming Grill pub. On the bar were *Bombardier*, *Spitfire* and *London Pride* all very drinkable. Thank you very much for the snacks of chicken wings, onion rings, garlic bread, potato skins and ribs, which were much appreciated.

Our award-winning *Shepherd Neame* pub, the **Crayford Arms**, has lost John and Paul with Sharon taking over the role as manager. By the time you read this, the pub will have undergone an internal refurbishment and will be open with eight handpumps; great news. There will also be special nights when beer will be cheaper for CAMRA members; why not join us on Wednesday 9 January for our meeting. We all offer our good wishes to Sharon and Graham.

As mentioned in the last report, the **Duchess of Edinburgh** in Upper Wickham Lane had closed and we now know that the ground floor will become a Tesco Express after Bexley Council's Planning Committee granted it permission to install air conditioning, condensers and signage. Another Tesco's in Welling: that makes three!



The **Anchor** in Blendon offers 20p off a pint on production of a valid CAMRA card. The pubco that runs both the **Railway Tavern**, in Old Bexley and the **Royal Oak**, Northumberland Heath, has gone bust, but administrators are allowing both pubs to continue trading.

It had to happen, I suppose, the beer cocktail. Perhaps the best known is Black Velvet, a mixture of Guinness and champagne, which sounds stylish; others like lager and lime or blackcurrant or indeed peppermint (yes I've tried the latter, not recommended) certainly don't. *BrewDog* brewery serves "cocktAles" in its bars across the UK, *Hardcore Zombie*, a mixture of *Hardcore IPA*, rum, ginger beer and fresh lime, and *Posh Punk*, *Punk IPA* with gin and lemonade.

Writer Raymond Chandler (the Big Sleep) once wrote: "*I'm an occasional drinker, the kind of guy who goes out for a beer and wakes up in Singapore with a full beard*".

Our socials this quarter have seen us out and about all around the borough and also into the mighty Capital. Firstly we ventured along the south bank of the river Thames from the **Hole in the Wall** at Waterloo Station, where we were joined by a member from South East London Branch (7 beers). We then proceeded to the **Kings Arms**, Roupell Street (9), **Mulberry Bush**, Upper Ground (4) **Stamford Arms** (now the **Thirsty Bear**) only 1 beer here, **Doggetts Coat & Badge** by Blackfriars Bridge (10), **Founders Arms**, Hopton Street (5), **Anchor**, Park Street (4) **Old Thameside Inn**, Clink Street (5), **Rake**, Winchester Walk (3), **Mudlark**, Montague Close (5). We finally ended up in the **Mughouse**, where beer is served in pewter tankards, sadly all they had to offer was *Sheps Whitstable Bay* but it was in excellent condition.

Next up was a crawl of Belvedere. We started at the top of the hill at the **Prince of Wales** where we found *Dark Star Hophead*, *Youngs Bitter*, *Brains Reverend James* and unusually, *McMullens Country Ale*. Walking down the hill, we entered the **Leather Bottle** which, sadly, only had *Tetley Cask* on but in fine fettle. We finally moved on to the bottom of the hill to the **Belvedere Hotel** where we sampled more *Youngs Bitter*.

In July, Welling was our destination, starting at the **Anchor in Hope**, with *Fullers London Pride* and *Sharps Doombur* available, then moving on to the **Plough & Harrow**, where we found *Courage Best* (sadly on its last legs) and *Caledonian Flying Scotsman*, before finishing off at the **New Cross Turnpike** (Wetherspoons) with the usual array of beers and several guests.

# 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

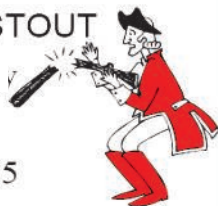
Mon-Thurs 6:30 - 9pm  
Fri & Sat 7:30 - 9:30pm

Live Music Monthly – Check Website for Details

## 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

## 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!**

August saw a reprise of an earlier Bexleyheath crawl to give a pub a second chance. We started in the **Wrong 'Un** (Wetherspoons) with the usual JDW offerings plus *Westerham British Bulldog* and *Grainstore Triple B*. The **Rose** gave us a choice of *Harveys Best*, *Brakspear Bitter*, *Sharps Doombar*, *Wadworth 6X* and *Ringwood Bitter* all just a bit below par. Then onward to the **Kings Arms**, the pub we failed to get in last time at just after 10pm. This time, the door was open and quite a crowd of people were inside. Only *Bombardier* was available, but it was quite drinkable, and apart from the noise, our visit was an enjoyable one. Finally on to the **Furze Wren** (Wetherspoons) where alongside the usual beers were four interesting guests to round off an enjoyable evening.

We had two socials in September. Firstly, we went to the **Earl Haig** for their quiz night and finished third; sadly, this pub normally has up to five beers on with at least one being an unusual guest, that night there was only *Fullers London Pride* and *Harveys Sussex Best*. The other social saw us wander away to North London, where we met in the **Southampton Arms** (Gospel Oak). This pub deservedly won London Regional Pub of the Year in 2011. It stocks some 10 real ales, mostly locally brewed, and 8 ciders, a true drinker's paradise. From here we meandered to the **Junction Tavern**, which had three beers on, and then on to the current North London Pub of the Year the **Pineapple** with four beers. We caught a bus down to the **Tapping the Admiral**, which stocked some 7 beers, before moseying across a couple of roads to the home of *Camden Town Brewery* with 6 beers available (beers on Top Pressure and at £4 per pint, although it is made very clear before you buy).

In the next quarter we look forward to our Xmas and Twixmas socials among others.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Bexley CAMRA



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**

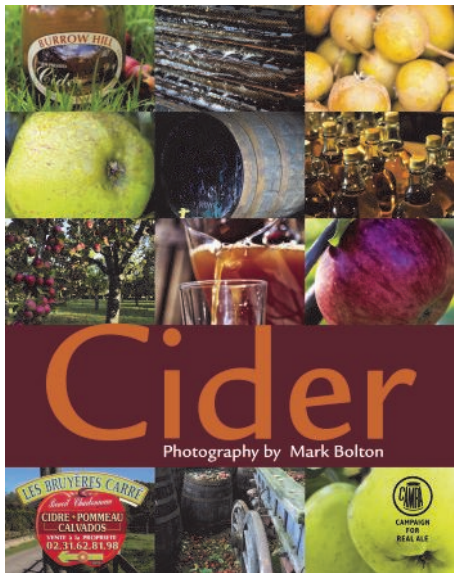
Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. TN12 5LN.

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

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



# Cider



This new publication showcases the best of the British craft cider revolution, with features on some of the characters involved in cider and perry-making, articles about noteworthy cider pubs, as well as tips on making your own cider and how to cook with it.

You will also read about cider's place in British folklore and get some interesting pointers about foreign ciders.

With contributions from a range of writers with a connection to cider and perry, this book has something to interest everyone. In a chapter on

Cider at Home, there are recommendations of food to match with cider, and moving further afield, readers will discover more about cider abroad.

Cider is a lavishly illustrated exploration and celebration of real cider and its close cousin perry, for both new converts to cider and more traditional cider-drinkers – a must for any cider lover!

Available now for £8 (members' price) or £10 (non-members' price) from CAMRA Books online at [shop.camra.org.uk/product.php?id\\_product=28](http://shop.camra.org.uk/product.php?id_product=28).

## Daily Express Review

*"Cider, a multi-author book is a beautifully illustrated, friendly guide to cider and perry. Cider used to be woefully unfashionable but the likes of Magners have made it trendy again and this is an ideal introduction to the subject."*

# CAMRA Pop-Up Pub at Party Conferences

*Published on 16th October 2012 by Claire Cain*

CAMRA's Public Affairs team have just returned from the party conference season where MPs and Councillors became punters of our very own pop-up pub offering real ale and pushing forward our campaigns.

For the first time CAMRA hosted an exhibition stand at all three party conferences. It provided a great opportunity to lobby MPs on scrapping the beer duty escalator and ask councillors what they are doing to protect their local pubs.



We had a great response and proved to be a very popular hub at the conference—as people gathered around the tables and chatted about their day it morphed into an actual community pub while providing an introduction for some to real ale.

We offered tasters of *Ridgeway Organic* (4.3%) and *Ridgeway Bitter* (4%) – two great bottle-conditioned beers, which were extremely popular. We served them alongside the classic *Hop Back Summer Lightning* (5%) and *Purity Pure Gold* (3.8%), a brewery local to the Conservative conference in Birmingham.

The main objective was to gain support and raise the profile of our key campaigns. There was a lot of backing of our campaign to scrap the beer duty escalator, with the conference also providing a useful platform to promote our mass lobby on 12th December.

We also spoke to many Councillors about the recent pro-pub policies within the NPPF (more information on this here: [www.camra.org.uk/nppf.html](http://www.camra.org.uk/nppf.html)) and what else they can do to stop local pubs closing.

Finally the conferences allowed us the time to speak to so many people from different communities – who are aware of licensees struggling under the giant pub companies – a business model we would like to see reformed.

## Focus on.....**Sutton Valence** by Jeff Tucker

Sutton Valence is a charming hillside village on the A274 between Maidstone and Headcorn, served by Arriva bus route 12, which runs basically hourly in the week and on Sundays, with some two-hour gaps on Saturdays. There is also a limited evening service.

The village has four pubs and, unlike many villages, has not lost any pubs in the last few decades. I decided to pay a visit one Saturday afternoon in September, just as summer was having a final fling. Among the four there were 10 different beers available.

My first port of call was the **Clothworkers Arms**, a very traditional *Shepherd Neame* pub. Beers on offer were *Master Brew*, *Whitstable Bay Organic* and *Late Red*. I opted for the *Late Red*, which was £3.50 and in good condition. I sat on the veranda at the back of the pub, which must have one of the best views of any pub in the area, with the Weald stretching out into the distance.



The next pub was the **Swan**, which I believe has recently changed hands. Two beers were *Harveys Best*, which was £3.20 and very nice, and *Young's Bitter*. This 14th-century inn looks equally picturesque inside and out. If the new licensees do well, perhaps the beer range will increase in time back to the four that it used to have a few years back.



Heading back towards the main road, I next visited the **Queens Head**, a spacious *Greene King* pub with an impressive interior featuring an inglenook fireplace. In

addition to the usual *IPA* and *Abbot*, it was good to come across some *Greene King* beers not often seen in the area, namely *Morland Original* and *Old Golden Hen*, not to be confused with *Old Speckled Hen*. The *Golden Hen* was excellent at £3.20, with much more flavour than other GK beers.



Almost next door to the **Queens Head**, and with the bus stop outside the door, is the **Kings Head**. This pub also used to be owned by *Greene King*,

but was sold three or four years ago and completely refurbished. The beers on offer were *Master Brew*, *Courage Best*, neither of which interest me much, as well as *Caledonian Flying Scotsman*, which was £3.20 and in fine fettle. The pub has some interesting furniture, with chairs made out of whisky barrels.



Then it was time to catch the number 12 back into Maidstone. As luck would have it, Sutton Valence is the limit of Arriva's Maidstone Plus day ticket, so it can easily be reached from most areas around Maidstone by bus. I had an enjoyable afternoon in the four pubs, which are well worth the trip to sample village pubs as they should be.



# The Flower Pot

**CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year  
2010 & 2011**

---

**Up to 9 ales and 4 ciders**

**Home cooked food 12-3pm**

**Monday to Friday**

**Open mic night every Tuesday**

**Discount for card carrying CAMRA members**

---

**96 Sandling Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2RJ**

Tel. 01622 757705 Email. [flowerpotpub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:flowerpotpub@hotmail.co.uk) Web. [www.flowerpotpub.com](http://www.flowerpotpub.com)

Maidstone and Mid Kent CAMRA was saddened to learn of the death of **Malcolm Robertson**, a long-standing Campaign member and good friend of the branch. Known to many in the Maidstone area as a hard-working Councillor for over 30 years, Malcolm kindly agreed to open the Maidstone Beer Festival during his deserved tenure as Mayor in 1996-7, and was guest of honour, together with his devoted wife Cynthia, at MMK's traditional post-Christmas meal that year.



It was always a pleasure to bump into Malcolm in one of his favoured Maidstone hostelrys and enjoy his company and conversation, as well as sharing his appreciation of a well-kept and served pint.

A well-attended service in All Saints Church, Maidstone bore witness to his popularity in the community, after which a number of friends and former colleagues raised a glass or two in his memory in his preferred locals. We were touched that Cynthia – also a Maidstone councillor – visited the Branch's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival a matter of days later.

*Colin Mann*

DARTS

CRIBBAGE

POOL



The  
**Crayford Arms**



Friendly  
Local Pub

Deano's  
Pop Quiz  
Last Wed of  
Every Month

Sunday Quiz &  
Lunch Time Bar Food

Function room available  
for meetings/clubs

Live Entertainment  
Theme Nights

5 Shepherd  
Neame  
Real Ales &  
Seasonal Ales  
Secluded  
Family Garden

Covered Smoking Area

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

37 High Street Crayford • Kent • DA1 4HH

# the **Somerset** arms

**6 Real Ales** *from* **£1.99**

**£2 Quid Tuesday**

*on selected food and drink all day*

**Live Music Sundays**

**Poker School**  
**Wednesday Nights**



**10 DARNLEY ROAD**  
**GRAVESEND**  
**KENT**

**01474 533837**

*Home cooked  
food daily*



# A Campaign of Two Halves

Fair deal on beer tax now!

Save Britain's Pubs!



## Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form below 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	£23 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>
(UK & EU)		
Joint Membership	£28 <input type="checkbox"/>	£30 <input type="checkbox"/>
(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

01/06

**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.

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

To the Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank or Building Society \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

9 2 6 1 2 9

### FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

### Name(s) of Account Holder

\_\_\_\_\_

### Branch Sort Code

\_\_\_\_\_

### Bank or Building Society Account Number

\_\_\_\_\_

### Reference

\_\_\_\_\_

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 attach 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.



## CAMPAIGNING

CAMRA has grown substantially in recent years and now offers beer and pub lovers a variety of different reasons to join the organisation.

CAMRA is a 'Campaign of Two Halves'. Some of our valued members are happy to support CAMRA by paying their subscription, reading their monthly copy of *What's Brewing* and visiting their local beer festivals. But for many others it is about actively campaigning.

CAMRA is very lucky to have thousands of volunteers who give up their own time in many different ways to help campaign for beer drinker and pub-goers rights. Taking part in local pub surveys, distributing membership leaflets to pubs, writing to your local MP, managing the local CAMRA website or pouring a few pints at a local beer festival are just a few ways our members like to get active within the campaign. The work is varied, challenging, but most of all, enjoyable.

### Why bother?

Well, without more individuals getting involved actively, CAMRA will struggle to continue to grow and help make a difference. Local branches are always looking for new faces to join in at meetings or social events and would be very happy to hear from you. Being active within a branch is rewarding, fun and will no doubt at some point involve having a few pints. What could be better?



CAMRA Membership Rates

Full CAMRA Membership from as little as £16 per year.

more...



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

### CAMRA Membership Benefits

£20 of JDW Vouchers  
10% off cottages4you  
10% off Toprooms.com  
What's Brewing monthly paper  
and lots more...

To find out more about what is happening in your local CAMRA branch please join us at one of our socials or meetings as listed on page 47. Or use the form on the opposite page to become a member straightaway.

**SITS. VACANT:** *Draught Copy* is looking for a volunteer advertisement manager to relieve the editor of some of the burden of getting the newsletter out on time every quarter. Full details are available by email if you feel you would like to help out. Please contact [dc@braymead.com](mailto:dc@braymead.com).

*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

**Book now for Christmas**

**Three course Christmas Menu + coffee £20.95**

**(Available Monday – Saturday)**

**Christmas Day £65 per adult, £45 per child**

**Boxing Day Traditional Fayre + Live Music – £25 per head**

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 – Turn on of Christmas Lights  
and Carol Singing around the tree with Watringbury Choir  
Roast Chestnuts, Mulled Wine and Hot Jacket Potatoes**

Selection of four Real Ales with two from local breweries  
Continental lagers including Stella Black

# 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.

Meetings are at 8.30pm unless otherwise noted.

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

## NOVEMBER

- 1 **MMK** **King William IV**, Benenden, then **Bull**
- 1 **GDV** **Dart, Dartford**, then **Bird In Hand and Ship**
- 8 **MMK** **Fox**, Maidstone, then **First & Last**
- 10 **MMK** Bus Trip to Borough Green, Vigo & Swanscombe
- 10 **GDV** 1pm **Jolly Drayman**, Gravesend – Beer Festival
- 14 **BEX** **George Staples**, Blackfen (*OBM*)
- 15 **MMK** **Bull**, West Malling (*OBM*)
- 21 **GDV** **Waterloo**, Gravesend, then **Grapes and Pembroke**
- 21 **BEX** 8pm **Sidcup Place**, Sidcup, then **Portrait and Tailors Chalk**
- 22 **MMK** **Railway**, Wateringbury, then **Teston Club**
- 24 **MMK** 7pm **Rifle Volunteers**, Maidstone, then curry at **Hilltown**
- 29 **MMK** **White House**, West Farleigh, then **Good Intent**

## DECEMBER

- 5 **GDV** **Dartford Working Men's Club**—Branch AGM  
*Admission only with membership card*
- 6 **MMK** **Black Pig**, Hawkhurst, then **Eight Bells**
- 7 **BEX** **Crayford Arms**, Bexleyheath (*Xmas Social*)
- 12 **BEX** **Railway Tavern**, Bexley (*OBM*)
- 13 **MMK** **Walnut Tree**, East Farleigh, then **Horseshoes**
- 14 **GDV** 8pm **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe (*Xmas Social*)
- 15 **MMK** Bus Trip to Sheerness, Milton Regis, Lower Halstow
- 20 **MMK** **Fox & Goose**, Weaving St., then **Orchard**, Otham
- 27 **MMK** **Old House at Home**, Maidstone, then **Sun, Muggleton**
- 28 **BEX** 12noon **Robin Hood** then onwards (*Twixmas Social*)
- 30 **MMK** W. Malling Sunday: **Bull, Farm House, Lobster Pot, Scared Crow**

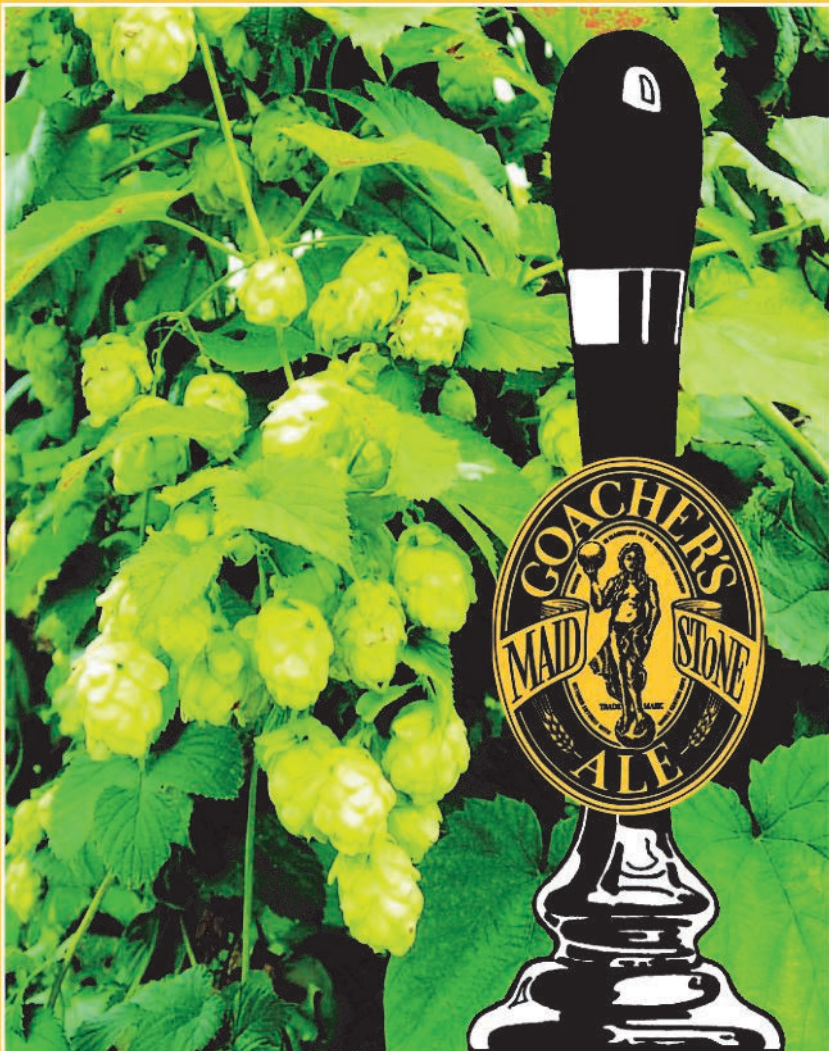
## JANUARY

- 3 **MMK** **Red Bull**, Eccles, then **Lower Bell**
- 4 **MMK** **Rifle Volunteers**, Maidstone—*Goachers Old* evening
- 9 **GDV** Business Meeting – venue to be confirmed (*OBM*)
- 9 **BEX** **Crayford Arms**, Crayford (*OBM*)
- 10 **MMK** **Royal Paper Mill**, Tovil, then **Wheatsheaf**, Loose Rd
- 17 **MMK** **Stile Bridge**, Marden (*OBM & GBG selection*)
- 19 **MMK** Bus Trip to Yalding, Marden, Goudhurst, Cranbrook
- 23 **BEX** 8pm **Green Man**, Welling, then **Fanny On The Hill** and **Foresters**
- 24 **MMK** **George & Dragon**, Headcorn, then **Hawkenbury**
- 31 **MMK** **Olde Thirsty Pig**, Maidstone, then **Pilot**



\* 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)