

# Draught Copy



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

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

Summer 2013      No. 171

## WE DID IT!

With the Chancellor's Budget announcement that he was scrapping the beer duty escalator, CAMRA's major campaign has come to a very satisfying conclusion. The reduction of beer duty by 1p was a welcome scrap of icing on an already tasty cake.

In a recent meeting at Marstons Brewery in Burton on Trent, George Osborne also declared his support for the brewing and pub industries, saying that these changes were just a start.

According to the *Publican's Morning Advertiser*, Mr Osborne said: "The duty cut in the Budget is just the beginning of helping this industry. Of course it's important in its own right – it's not just the penny off, we also cancelled the beer escalator."

"But what I want to talk to the industry about now, and to Andrew Griffiths [*the Pubs Minister*], is what we can do to help young people get employed in the industry, what we can do to support British agriculture, which is where it all starts [and] what we can do with the pub industry, which is where it ends, where the product is sold."

"I see it as an important step forward, what was announced in the Budget, but not the last word."

Those of us in CAMRA welcome these stated intentions but will be keeping a close eye on how the Government fares with their realisation.

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# 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.

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

The copy date for the next issue is 30 June 2013 for publication in August 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](http://www.camra.org.uk/page.php?id=4)

### **14TH KINGSTON BEER & CIDER FEST MAY 17—18**

Kingston Workmens Club  
Old London Road  
Kingston

50 real ales & 12 ciders & perries  
[www.camrasurrey.org.uk/festivals](http://www.camrasurrey.org.uk/festivals)

### **YAPTON BEEREx**

#### **MAY 17—19**

Yapton and Ford Village Hall  
Yapton BN18 0ET

65 real ales from small brewers only,  
plus cider and food  
[www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk](http://www.westernsussexcamra.org.uk)

### **K&ESR BEER FESTIVAL**

#### **JUNE 14—15**

KESR Tenterden Station  
Tenterden TN30 6HE

75+ real ales & ciders & perries  
[www.camra-afirm.org.uk](http://www.camra-afirm.org.uk)

### **17TH SOUTH DOWNS FESTIVAL**

#### **JUNE 21—22**

Lewes Town Hall  
Old Corn & Hop Exchange  
Fisher Street BN7 2QS

75+ real ales & ciders & perries  
[www.brightoncamra.org.uk](http://www.brightoncamra.org.uk)

### **39th KENT BEER FESTIVAL**

#### **JULY 18—20**

Barn at Merton Farm, Merton Lane  
Canterbury CT4 7BA

75+ real ales & ciders & perries  
[www.kentbeerfestival.com](http://www.kentbeerfestival.com)

## **Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs**

### **May 3—6**

#### **Rising Sun**

Twitton, near Otford  
16 beers plus cider and perry

### **May 4—6**

**Queen**, New Road, South Darenth  
14 beers plus hog roast

### **May 9—11**

#### **Flower Pot**, Maidstone

25 ales, 6 ciders, food & live music

### **May 24—27**

#### **Bridgestock at the Stile Bridge**

Staplehurst Rd, Marden TN12 9BH  
Much music and ale aplenty

### **May 25—26**

#### **Ship Inn**, Red Street, Southfleet

10 beers plus cider and live music.

### **June 7—9**

#### **Jolly Drayman**

Wellington Street, Gravesend  
16 beers plus cider

### **July 5—7**

#### **Bexley Ex-Servicemen's Club**

Bexley High St DA5 1AA  
12 real ales and local cider

### **July 13**

#### **Medway Rotary Club at the**

#### **Star Meadow Sports Club**

Gillingham ME7 3AN  
40+ real ales and ciders

### **July 26—28**

#### **Crown**, High Street, Otford

20 beers & cider, live music & food

# HARVEYS

The Sussex Brewers

Harveys, the Sussex Brewers, are quintessentially local. Distribution is restricted to within sixty miles of Lewes and their beers have evolved over the past two centuries to accommodate the preference of beer drinkers within its native and adjoining counties.

Fundamental to this is the procurement of local hops to produce a well balanced beer with a bitterness derived from traditional aroma varieties. It is the brewery's proud boast that it brews from 40% Sussex, 40% Kent and 20% Surrey hops, a balance which approximates the volume of their beers sold within these counties. Supply is guaranteed by means of long term contracts, affording security for brewer and grower alike.

When you are drinking Harvey's beer you are seldom far from a hop garden that has helped craft this time honoured brew. Moreover, it is Harvey's belief that the wide range of new domestic hop varieties present every opportunity for enhancement and innovation. Central to this wealth of heritage, the brewery continues to perpetuate the age old interaction between local rural and urban economies to the benefit of all.

*Local Beer brewed with  
Local Hops*

A.H. HOAD & SON  
SUSSEX  
HOPS  
*Grown for*  
HARVEYS OF LEWES  
SUSSEX BREWERS

Hops growing at Parsonage Farm,  
Salehurst, Sussex.

*"The parish of Salehurst is supposed to have the best plantation of hops in the county, the land being kindly for them, especially about the church, where it is rich."*

- Arthur Young's 'Agriculture of Sussex' (1813)

**'TIME HONOURED BEER - LOCALLY REVERED'**

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

# KENT BREWERIES

<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>Caveman Brewery</b>	07769 710665	<i>www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Goacher's</b>	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
<b>Goody Ales</b>	07790 443810	<i>www.goodyales.co.uk</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>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 037611	<i>www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Rockin' Robin Brewery</b>	07787 416110	
<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>

# BEER FESTIVAL COMPETITION

Here's another chance to win one of two prizes, each of two complimentary entrance tickets to the East Malling Beer & Cider Festival on Saturday 7th September at East Malling Research. Please note that this competition is not available to people under 18 years of age.

What you have to do is solve the 21 cryptic clues below. The first letter and length of each answer are given. The second letters of each answer make up two pub names, of which there is at least one of each in the *Draught Copy* area. Each pub name is two words long. One pub name is animal-related, the other is to do with transport.

Send your answers (or as many as you can do) plus the two pub names, either by photocopying/scanning this completed page or on a plain sheet of paper, to DC Comp, 13 Lakeside, Snodland ME6 5LD or by email to [jeff.tucker@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jeff.tucker@blueyonder.co.uk). The closing date for entries is 30th June 2013.

Two winners will receive the prize, so please supply contact details. In the event of a tie, in the number of clues answered correctly, the winners will be picked at random by the landlord of one of the pubs where we meet in July.

T					Colour a semi-solid substance in Cornwall
P					Case is one in shiny leather
H					School for arable farmers?
S					White stuff is small at the moment
D					Sid returns to the girl - shame!
D					A shortage of mixed thread
U					In your bank, in the town
L					Old instrument tells porkies, we hear!
B					Minor thoroughfare is wide
O					Smell in the wood, ourselves
E					The Spanish fore-end joint
S					Exchange small sorceress
E					Flattening before bedtime
O					Takes exception to things
C					More cuts confused the punter
E					Man, late in, is ecstatic
A					White man gets bin round
S					A lot of water (about half a pint), and it's brown
U					Implement would maybe suit Len
A					Satisfy primate that has swallowed green vegetables
P					Not a ruddy soft drink!

**Pub #1:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Pub #2:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Details:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## RESULTS OF THE BREWERY SEARCH FROM ISSUE No. 170

The winners, picked at random by the landlord of the Plough, Trottscliffe were Ian Symes of Chatham, and Miss A.M. Joy of Harrietsham. Their tickets will be sent shortly.

Correct answers were also received from G. Meaton, John Ashe and Rob Archer. Well done to all of them!

The two brewery names hidden in the second column of letters are *Goachers* and *Wantsum*, although *Swan* would have been accepted as well.

G	O	E	S						
R	A	N	C	I	D				
H	O	R	S	E	S	H	O	E	
O	U	G	H	T					
A	G	A	I	N					
S	C	O	O	P					
A	M	A	S	S					
S	M	I	T	T	E	N			
R	A	V	E						
S	W	A	Y						
C	H	O	S	E					
I	R	O	N						
T	E	A	M						
A	S	T	U	T	E				
S	N	U	G						
S	T	E	E	P					
U	S	H	E	R					
A	B	O	A	R	D				



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## Brewery snippets...

**Black Cat**—After attending the CAMRA Mass Lobby of Parliament in December, brewer Marcus Howes continued to lobby his MP, Charles Hendry, about the beer duty escalator. He invited Mr. Hendry to the brewery on 22/2/13 with a reporter and photographer from the Kent & Sussex Courier local newspaper in attendance. The BLO also attended, as did Mr Hendry's secretary.

Mr Hendry and his secretary seemed sympathetic to the campaign to remove the beer duty escalator and the meeting was very convivial over a drop of Black Cat Original to warm against the freezing cold weather. He was able to see for himself how a small brewery operates and hear about the potentially devastating effect of pub closures on the industry. Mr Hendry wrote to the Chancellor in support of Marcus's lobbying and received a reply from the Treasury.

**Caveman**—will be listed in 2014 GBG. Current production off-site includes *Citra*, a 4.1% hoppy pale ale, and *Chinook*, a 4.3% malty pale ale. The move into the new site at the **George and Dragon** is now set for the middle of April. The new beers from there will include a 5.6% porter (*Troglodyte*), a 4.6% best bitter (*Neanderthal*) and a 5.2% brown ale (*Clovis Point*). The brew kit will produce 4.5 barrels at a time (18 firkins) and the intention initially is to brew twice a week, although there is capacity for four brews a week. Bottle-conditioned beer is also being planned.

**Hop Fuzz**—Six regular beers now: *English*, *Goldsmiths*, *APA* (formerly *American*), *Martello* (replaced *Hawaiian*), *Veteran* and *Steam* (4.4%, new). *Roasted Chestnut* was the Christmas seasonal and *Hoppy New Year* a one-off brew.

**Kent Brewery**—The New Year started well and has continued steadily throughout January and February. *Brewers Reserve 2012* was produced at the end of the year with the intention of having just one brew available. Its popularity, however, led to tearful pleadings on a couple of occasions not to stop brewing it, which meant that Kent is now on to its fourth brew. Paul and Toby are presently assessing whether it should become part of the permanent range.

At the end of February Kent produced *Altered States*, an American brown ale, which has also proved very popular. This beer will appeal to brown ale and bitter drinkers who also like more hop flavour than normal. Deliveries to the Sussex Coast have now increased to fortnightly and a

large quantity of beer was recently sent to Shrewsbury for delivery along the Welsh Borders.

**Mad Cat**—Peter Meaney has reported that he had commenced brewing and that the first brew, *Golden IPA* (4.6% abv), was now available at a number of local pubs, including the **Red Lion**, Sheerness, the **Shipwrights Arms**, Oare and the **Elephant**, Faversham.

**Tonbridge**—is moving to larger premises, and brewing to full capacity.

**Wantsum Brewery**—The latest *One Hop* beer (ABV 4.5%) was brewed in early February and uses Bramling Cross hops. *Yellow Tail* (ABV 4.5%) and *Black Prince* mild at 3.9% are seasonal beers which are now coming on stream. James has also run a couple of very small test brews of a 5.2% Black Lager. This uses Carafa malt from Germany and a mixture of hops from England and Germany.

*Turbulent Priest* is now in bottles; *Yellow Tail* and *Black Prince* will follow shortly and *1381* later in the year. All are bottle conditioned.

**Whitstable**—is working on a new 4.9% cask beer, a black lager which will simply be named *Black Lager*.

## MENCAP Summer Fayre 2013

Maidstone CAMRA is again delighted to have the opportunity to assist this worthwhile charity at its Summer Fayre in Mote Park, Maidstone, on Saturday, June 8th. We will be running our usual real ale bar with at least six firkins of fine beer for your pleasure, with all proceeds being donated to MENCAP.

We hope to see you there from 11am onwards.

## EAST MALLING BEER FESTIVAL 2013

Maidstone CAMRA is pleased to announce that the 2013 East Malling Beer & Cider Festival has been arranged for Saturday 7th September at East Malling Research. There will be some 70 beers and ciders, food, entertainment and a free shuttle bus every 30 minutes from West Malling and Aylesford stations.

More details in the next issue.

# BRITAIN'S BEST REAL HERITAGE PUBS

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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*

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

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News is rather short this quarter as few reports have been received due to unfavourable weather.

**Angel, Addington** – Here the branch found *Old Dairy Red Top* and *Westerham Angel Bitter* that were both in very good form. *Harveys Sussex Best* was also on but not tried. Live music sessions are held on Friday evenings, see [www.theangelinnaddington.co.uk](http://www.theangelinnaddington.co.uk) for details.

**Bull, Barming** – Unfortunately Matt & Elizabeth have had to leave this pub which they had rejuvenated and improved.

**Redstart, Barming** – Doing a good trade when I visited – *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* were on the bar. Takeaway fish and chips available daily between 5 and 7 for £5.50 and Sunday lunch from 12 till 8.

**King William VI, Benenden** – Found closed late February. Any news from members in that area concerning this *Shepherd Neame* pub would be appreciated.

**Woolpack, Benover** – A mid-March visit here found decent quality beer in the form of *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*. *Master Brew* and the seasonal *Early Bird* were also available.

**Albion, Boughton Monchelsea** – Rob McCourt seems to be getting the customers back here and regularly has *Youngs Bitter* and when the branch visited the guest was *Fullers London Pride*.

**Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea** – The beers here always score well and Dave kept up his usual quality when the branch visited at the end of February. The seasonal at that time was *Amber*, supported by the regular *Shepherd Neame* beers *Kent's Best*, *Master Brew* and *Spitfire*.

**Bird In Hand, Coxheath** – Closed for some months while it and its owner's adjacent Londis shop are re-developed. This is the last pub in the village so hopefully people will use it when it re-opens towards the year end.

**Cock Horse, Detling** – A branch visit here in February found *Greene King IPA*, *Old Speckled Hen* and the seasonal *Fireside* on offer.

**Kentish Quarryman, Ditton** – I have been informed that Gary & Ellie Maitland are the new hosts at this *Shepherd Neame* pub. See Facebook Kentish Quarryman for details of what's happening there.

# 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**

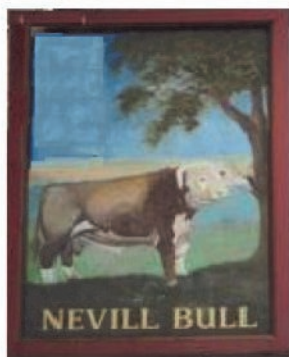
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Sunday lunch served from 12 to 3.30pm

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**Horseshoes, East Farleigh** – Given a Pride award by owners **Mitchells & Butlers** for being a good community pub. Usual ale is *Harveys Sussex Bitter* with two guests, *Adnams Lighthouse* having been recently available.

**Red Bull, Eccles** – At the end of January, Dave had *Butcombe Gold* and *Taylor Landlord* as well as the ubiquitous guest *Sharps Doom Bar*.

**Bell & Jorrockes, Frittenden** – Sean and Rosie have the regulars *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Woodfordes Wherry* with one guest normally; *Dark Star The Art of Darkness* was such. Sean's beer festival was from 12-14 April, but we managed to get a preview on Thursday evening, as our scheduled meeting was nearby. Rather chilly in the old stables, but the beers were all excellent.

**Kings Heads, Grafty Green** – A comfortable, white weather-boarded village pub that keeps *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*. Also has *Biddenden Bushells* cider on the bar.

**Who'd A Thought It, Grafty Green** – A Valentines day visit here found the car park packed but most people were in the restaurant so we did find space in the bar. Joe had *Adnams Bitter* and *Harveys Sussex Bitter* on.



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**Early Bird, Grove Green** – This *Shepherd Neame* pub is apparently seeking new tenants. Normally keep *Master Brew* and the current seasonal beer.

**Hawkenbury, Hawkenbury** – On our branch visit we found *Rother Valley Hoppers Ale*, *Level Best* and the house beer, *Colonel Ulricsons Staplehurst Ale*.

**Queens, Hawkhurst** – Closed in February pending arrival of a new owner. Most of the customers appear to have moved to the **Royal Oak**.

**George & Dragon, Headcorn** – Keeps *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* as a regular, and on the branch visit had two guests from *Milestone*, *Rich Ruby* and *Shine On*. It has also had some beers from *Whitstable* brewery *East India Pale Ale*, *Native* and *Galaxy*.

**Park Gate. Hollingbourne** – A reporter found *Itchen Valley Sticklebract* as a guest here, a welcome change from *Harveys Best*, *London Pride* and *Spitfire*.

## 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**



**Hook & Hatchet, Hucking** – Yet another *Shepherd Neame* pub where the tenancy is available.

**Spitfire, Kings Hill** – New licensee John Jennings arrived at end of January. Beers from the *Shepherd Neame* pilot plant may be found and also guest ales from other breweries when permitted. An additional seasonal from the main plant, *Shepherd Neame Frosty Glow* appeared briefly and *Ossett Elizabeth Rose*, not a brewery seen often in Kent, was one of those offered in January for the mini beer festival. See Facebook for events – The Spitfire Kings Hill.

**Red Lion, Lenham** – The Kent CAMRA regional meeting and Maidstone branch business meetings were both held here in March. The regulars are *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Sheps Master Brew* and *Taylor Landlord*. The guest then was *Sharps Doom Bar* but we were told that *Whitstable Oyster Stout* was to succeed it.

**Wheatsheaf, Leybourne** – The regular *Sharps* beers being unavailable I settled for *Youngs Bitter*, not one of my favourites, but I found it was in excellent form and I might go back to this beer again.

**Chequers, Loose** – The pub, as usual, will be supporting the Loose Village Duck Races on Bank Holiday Monday May 27th. At least 5 ales will be available, *Taylor Landlord*, *Fullers London Pride*, *Harvey's Sussex Best*, Locale brew *Sheps Master Brew*, plus at least one guest (currently *St Austell Tribute*). There could be a *Rockin' Robin* ale on gravity as well.

**Cherry Tree, Maidstone** – A report from quiz team members found the *Harveys Sussex Best* to be very good here.

**Dragoon, Maidstone** – New tenants are being sought for this *Shepherd Neame* pub.

**Flower Pot, Maidstone** – Congratulations to David and Julie on being voted the branch's Pub of the Year, 2013.

**Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone** – Always something different on here to try in this intriguing building, although *Hopdaemon Incubus* is quite often to be found. Beers from *Brentwood*, *Gadd's*, *Nelson* and *Tring* are a few that have been seen in recent times.

**Society Rooms, Maidstone** – Keeping up its usual good standards the unfamiliar *Oxfordshire Ales Hibernation Ale* was particularly notable recently.

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**Spitfire Lounge, Maidstone** – Several football supporting members have reported that the *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire* are well kept here.

**Swan (Loose Road), Maidstone** – Landladies Wendy & Michelle took over at the beginning of the year and were offering *Harveys Sussex Best* as a regular when I visited with one guest ale, *Sharps Doom Bar* at that time, both were in good condition. A third pump will be added as trade increases. Customers also seemed to be enjoying the meals.

**Kings Arms, Offham** – A small beer festival for St Patricks Day was quite well attended despite the foul weather conditions. Alex will soon have a website in operation: [www.kingsarmsoffham.co.uk](http://www.kingsarmsoffham.co.uk).

**Bell, Smarden** – Licensee, Joel Hill, informs us that Camra members now receive a 10p discount on pints of beer. The *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire* were both in good form when we attended recently. Beers from the pilot plant are often available as well as the mainstream and seasonal brews.

**Pride of Kent, Staplehurst** – This former pub has now been granted permission to become a coffee shop.

**Black Horse, Thurnham** – A branch visit here found *St Austell Tribute*, *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Skinners Cornish Trawler* and *Westerham Grasshopper*. Details on [www.wellieboot.net](http://www.wellieboot.net) and Facebook Black Horse Thurnham.

**Tickled Trout, West Farleigh** - I am informed there are new lessees since January at this pub/restaurant.

**Bull, West Malling** – Trevor is now serving evening meals from Thursday to Saturday and expects to install a seventh beer pump in the coming weeks.

**Lobster Pot, West Malling** – Now with SIBA and Cask Marque accreditation, Nick is keeping *Taylor Landlord*, *Kent Pale* and *Kent Black Gold* as regulars, with the fourth pump being for guest beers.

**Mackenzies, West Malling** – This business has closed down, as Costa next door seemed to have taken a lot of the trade. There used to be real ale upstairs originally, but sadly this was discontinued some years ago.

**Walnut Tree, Yalding** – A late call in here meant that only three pumps were available but they all drank well, namely *Black Sheep Best Bitter*, *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Skinners Betty Stogs*.

Contact: *Bob Belton* on 07583 233615 (M) / 020-7235-5213 (W) or  
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One year ago, in the summer 2012 issue, I reported on “a recently re-opened pub in Swanscombe for which we held high hopes.” Now we are very pleased to report that all the hard work by the owners has paid off and the **George & Dragon** has won the Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch Pub of the Year Award for 2013, and the presentation will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. The pub now sports 15 handpumps, with several ever changing real ales and up to 3 ciders on sale at any one time, along with an extensive range of bottled beers in the cool cabinets. We can thoroughly recommend the keenly priced good quality home cooked meals and the restaurant should be booked in advance, especially on Sundays for the “gutbuster” Sunday roast. Please check website [www.georgedragonswanscombe.co.uk](http://www.georgedragonswanscombe.co.uk), and twitter @dragonandgeorge for up to date pub information or, better still, call in for a pint or two and a meal.

The most exciting development for real ale enthusiasts at the **George & Dragon** is the setting up of the *Caveman Brewery*, which should be brewing on site by the time you are reading this. The first *Caveman* beer, *Citra* 4.1%, was brewed in August 2012 at *Kent Brewery* followed by *Chinook* 4.3% and *Devilman* 5% brewed at *Devilfish Brewery*. *Chinook* and *Citra* should be regular beers at Swanscombe and James plans to brew a variety of styles of beer with “prehistorically” themed names to reflect the ancient archaeological discoveries in Swanscombe. Watch this space and visit the pub to find out more. *Caveman* beers have also been available at several free houses in Kent and prestigious real ale venues in London such as the **Craft Beer Co** pubs in Clerkenwell and Brixton, the **Holborn Whippet** and the **Red Lion** in Leytonstone. They have also been spotted at beer festivals including the **Bricklayers Arms** in Putney and the **Orpington Liberal Club**. [*as well as at the King & Queen’s Easter festival in East Malling– Ed.*]

The Branch Pub of Year for 2013 runner-up is the **Cock** at Luddesdown, which has won the award on three previous occasions. Andrew and Denise Turner are amongst the longest serving, hard working licensees in our area and have owned and run the **Cock** for nearly thirty years. Andrew is a very convivial and knowledgeable landlord, who has suffered some ill health this year, and we wish him and Denise improving health as they continue to run this excellent pub on traditional

lines, selling *Adnams Southwold Bitter*, *Broadside* and *Lighthouse*, *St.Austell Proper Job* and *Trelawney*, and *Goachers Dark Mild* regularly with various other beers making guest appearances. The runner-up presentation will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

As in 2012, third place, voted by our branch members, goes to the remotely located **Old House** at Ightham Common, a longstanding *Good Beer Guide* entry. It is the only pub in the branch area selling ales directly from the cask by gravity. Up to five real ales are served, including a dark beer (often a mild), a golden ale and at least one bitter and from a wide variety of breweries. Other pubs deservedly well represented in the voting are the **Chequers** at Farningham, the **Rum Puncheon** in Gravesend and the **Ivy Leaf** in Dartford.

The 2013 Branch Club of the Year is, unsurprisingly once again, the iconic **Dartford Working Men's Club**, which continues to offer beers from very new microbreweries, amongst other more and less well known breweries on its 15 handpumps. The Club continues to host many events in the function room and we recently enjoyed performances of traditional Irish music and dancing on St.Patrick's Day evening. Not partaking in the special *Guinness* offer at £2 a pint, I sampled *Bristol Beer Factory Acer* and *Californian*, *Tring Moongazer*, *Arbor Yakima Valley* and a 10% ABV *Mikeller Stout*. I nearly did the River Dance myself on the way home! **Dartford Working Men's Club** hosts the CAMRA Kent Region meeting on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July. It narrowly missed out on the National Club of the Year which in 2013 was awarded to the **Cheltenham Motor Club**, which I intend to visit when Kent play the County Championship Cricket match against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham Festival Week in July.

It was also in last Summer's issue that Bob Marsh reported on the pubs in South Darent. The branch held a very enjoyable social here in March and almost all beers on offer in the three pubs differed from last year. The **Bridges** had the local *Millis Kentish Best* and *Dartford Wobbler*, both in good form, plus the ubiquitous *Molson Coors Sharps Doom Bar*. The **Jolly Millers** had *Brains SA* and *Wadworth 6X*, both in good condition.

However the most interesting pub for real ale in South Darent now is the **Queen**, tucked away among the terraced houses in New Road, backing onto the railway. John & Cat have been licensees here for 15 years and have experimented with various real ales in the past, but now sell *Dark Star* and *Kent Brewery* beers regularly plus guests and have recently added a fourth handpump, such is the demand for real ale. The *Dark Star Hophead* and *American Pale Ale* and the *Kent Altered States* were

excellent during our visit. The **Queen** has two distinct bars, one recently modernised with Sky TV, and the other more traditional, with a pool table, and a garden. It does not have a weekday lunchtime trade, so the pub is open from 2pm to 11pm but does open all day at the weekends. John is hosting a beer festival during the early May Bank Holiday, with four beers on handpump plus ten on gravity. A hog roast will be available.

Another pub holding a beer festival at the beginning of May is the **Rising Sun** at Twitton, Twitton Lane, between Otford and Shoreham. Sue and Colin have been hosting beer festivals in the large pub garden for six years in August, and this will be the third one in May, proving that such an event can be successful in out of the way places. The format works with four ales in the bar and twelve beers plus cider and perry on stillage in the garden. There will be a steak night on the Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> May), a hog roast on Saturday and ploughman's lunches on Sunday. *Dark Star Hophead* has replaced *Fuller's London Pride* as a regular fixture alongside *Greene King IPA* with guest ales, including *Pride*, appearing at weekends.

In Otford village, the **Crown** held a Spring Beer Festival from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April and will be having a Summer Beer Festival from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July. The **Crown** supports LocAle by offering house beers *Otford Crown Ale*, brewed by *Westerham Brewery*, and *Three in a Bed* from *Tonbridge Brewery*. It also sells *Westons* real cider and guest beers, and serves excellent home-cooked meals. Also in Otford, on a recent visit, the **Woodman** offered *Fuller's London Pride* and *St.Austell Tribute*; and the **Bull** had *Doom Bar*, *Thwaites Wainwright* and *Stonehenge Luck of the Irish* 4.6% ABV, a green coloured beer for St. Patrick's Day, which I guess was *Sign of Spring* rebadged.

Bob Marsh has been visiting West Dartford and reports on the pubs in the direction of Dartford on the main road. The most westerly pub in our branch area is the **Bird in Hand**, which now offers two real ales, up from one at the turn of the year, being *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* and *Wells Bombardier* at the time, both in very good nick. There is a large lounge bar leading onto a spacious grassed beer garden and there is also a small public bar where darts and pool are played. Parking is very restricted but buses 96 and 428 (towards Dartford) stop outside. I've visited the pub on a league quiz night subsequent to Bob's report and *Young's London Gold* was on offer, also in very good nick, at a competitive price of £2.90 a pint, which is good news for a pub which has previously struggled with quality and availability of real ale.

Next is the **Ship**, opposite the junction with Havelock Road. This is very much your traditional local, being a small, one-bar pub with no TV or flashing gaming machines and only unobtrusive background music. There is a small smoking area at the back and a private garden. Pam is the longest serving licensee in Dartford, of 35 years standing, and the one real ale is *Courage Best* which is always in good condition and very reasonably priced. Once again, parking on the main road is very restricted but handy for the bus stop.

Ignoring the **Rising Sun**, which is a *Harvester Restaurant* not selling real ale, the next pubs are located opposite one another at the top of West Hill. The **Rose & Crown** is a moderately sized late Victorian building housing a U-shaped bar and selling *Sharps Doom Bar* regularly, plus a rotating guest ale, being *Wychwood Hobgoblin* on my visit; both beers were perfectly drinkable. I can back up Bob's comment here as I called in later the same week to catch the second half of a football match and the quality of the *Hobgoblin*, not one of my favourite beers, was so good that I stayed for another one.



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Bob commented in his report: “*Opposite is the Oddfellows which does not sell real ale.*” It certainly doesn’t – it closed shortly after his inspection. The pub changed name from **The Oddfellows Arms** to **Oddfellows** several years ago, converting an average corner pub into a rather odd cafe style bar with many TVs showing sporting events. *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* was originally available as part of the renovation (I tried it – awful). The single handpump was removed shortly afterwards so I never ventured in again. The landlord posted a notice in the door window in mid-March 2013 claiming that after 8 years tenancy and his best efforts he could not make a living, blaming *Enterprise Inns* for all the evils under the sun, especially their avaricious rent increases and unfairly high stock prices, during times of economic difficulty. This is a familiar story with pub closures throughout the country.

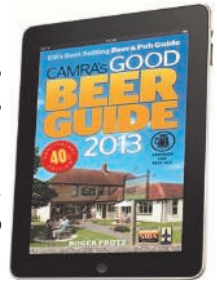
Bob then walked down the hill towards the town centre, calling in at the **Royal Oak** in Spital Street, a *Shepherd Neame* tied house, having a very indifferent *Spitfire* at a not very indifferent price of £3.55 a pint. Onwards to the **Court House** a *Young’s* pub which had just changed hands. Sally the new licence holder had only *Young’s Bitter* on this visit (6<sup>th</sup> March) but intends to take an extended range of *Wells & Young’s* beers. Finally, the **Royal Victoria & Bull Hotel**, a former coaching inn, provided a pleasant surprise with *Adnams Broadside* and *Ghost Ship*, both in good condition at a very reasonable £2.75 a pint.

Hopefully the **Court House** will be able to offer an interesting range of beers from other breweries as well. Neil at the GBG-listed **Malt Shovel**, the other *Young’s* pub in town, has been striving to obtain guest beers from the *Wells & Young* approved list, currently *Purity Pure Gold*. From mid-April to June the **Malt Shovel** will be offering *Bath Summer Hare*, *Dark Star Hophead*, *Woodfordes Wherry* and *York Brewery Yorkshire Terrier* in addition to the regular range of *Young’s* beers and *St.Austell Tribute*.

Without moving house my local pub geographically has changed three times in the last five years. The **Walnut Tree** closed in 2008 and now the **Oddfellows** in 2013 leaving the **Rose & Crown** as my nearest pub. Luckily for me, **Dartford Working Men’s Club** is only six minutes walk away.

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By the time you read this, the 8<sup>th</sup> Bexley Beer Festival will be but a fading memory. Hopefully things will all have gone to plan and we will have sold out of beer and cider sometime on the Saturday evening, our new venue will have proven to be a big hit with all the staff and visitors alike and a good time generally had by all who attended.

Our new micro-pub finally opened its doors on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March and is called the **Door Hinge**. Situated on Welling High Street it is open every day except Mondays and only opens for three hours Sunday lunchtime. Ray is keeping up to six ales on at any one time and is hoping that the tried and tested formula he has copied from the Butchers Arms at Herne will see him make a success of the business. One good point to come from the opening of the pub is that the **Rose & Crown** just a few doors along has now also started selling real ale. The *Bombardier* was in good nick when tested just before going to the opening day festivities at the **Door Hinge**.

The **Seven Stars** at Footscray has had the planning application removed and is continuing to trade. We are going to see whether possibly there is enough interest in the local community to raise funds to consider a Community Purchase, based on the number of letters objecting to the plans from local residents. There is movement in the **Cross Keys** in Erith, although it seems that there may be moves to change it into a private dwelling. The previous landlord lost his licence after a group of people rode horses through the pub and generally caused havoc. The **Royal Standard** in Bexleyheath has re-opened after a short closure with new tenants, although, sadly, they sell no real ale.

Our Pub of the Year voting has taken place and the results were as follows: **Winner – Robin Hood & Little John** (3<sup>rd</sup> year running – they must stand down next year), **2<sup>nd</sup> – New Cross Turnpike**, **3<sup>rd</sup> – Prince of Wales**. In total 12 pubs received votes. The **Old Dartfordians Social Club** was pronounced our Club of the Year on a unanimous vote. Our congratulations go to all the people involved in these establishments.

Our Winter meetings have been held at the **Railway Tavern** (Bexley) – December, **Crayford Arms** (Crayford) – January, **Old Dartfordians**

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(Bexley) – February and **Prince of Wales** (Upper Belvedere) – March. We take this opportunity to thank the licensees for their hospitality.

Our winter social diary started with our annual Twixmas crawl. This year 14 hardy souls arrived at the **Robin Hood & Little John** to partake of food and a selection of the 8 real ales on offer; one member decided he was not going to join us on the crawl. We then proceeded to the **Wrong 'Un** a Wetherspoons where we lost another member. Some of us then diverted round to the **Volunteer** and also the **Rose**, then we all met up again at the next Wetherspoons pub the **Furze Wren**. Here we lost two more, plus one who said he was going to get some shopping and disappeared not to be seen again that day. Onward then to the **Jolly Millers** a very up and coming pub in our branch area. After a stay we moved on to the **Coach House**, at which point three more members left the party before we struggled on to the **One Bell** where we found the remains of what must have been a huge buffet, as there was still plenty left. Finally we strolled down the hill of Crayford High Street to our final stop, the **Crayford Arms**.

In January, we toured some of the back street pubs of Welling and East Wickham. We met in the **Green Man**, which was serving *Doom Bar* and *Courage Best*, and were joined by a new member – welcome to Ann. We then tackled the long walk between there and the **Fanny on the Hill**. Sadly, when we arrived, we discovered that they no longer sell real ale and so we were faced with another long trek before reaching our other pub for the evening, the **Foresters** where we were greeted with *Doom Bar* and *London Pride*, and by another new member – welcome to Stavros.

February's crawl was in Blackfen, with only two pubs on offer we had plenty of time to enjoy both. The **Jolly Fenman** was our first port of call; sadly, it only had the ubiquitous *Doom Bar* although in good condition. Here we were joined by Ray the aforementioned (at that time to be) licensee of the **Door Hinge**. After a while we strolled down the road to the **George Staples**, another up and coming pub. Here we were faced with the choice of *Adnams Ghostship* or *Greene King Speckled Hen*. Both beers were in fine fettle and were enjoyed by all.

Finally into March and a walkabout in Crayford. We met in the **Dukes Head** and found yet another new member – welcome Derek. Here they serve only *Courage Best* but in good condition. Onwards to the **Wellington** to find *Harveys Sussex* in equally good nick. We then

sauntered steadily up the hill to the **Charlotte** where a live band, the Strum Bums, was playing. The ales were all very good if a little on the cold side; they were *Sambrooks Wandle*, *Youngs Bitter*, which unfortunately ran out before I got to try it, and *Wye Valley HPA*. As we still had a bit of time and the band was a bit loud (I think we're getting old!) we decided to finish off in the **Crayford Arms**. Here they have *Shepherd Neame Kent's Best* and *MasterBrew*.

Our Summer programme of socials sees us taking trips outside the branch area. If you feel so inclined, please come and join us. See our diary on the inside back page for more details.

**A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY:** This year's Great British Beer Festival will take place between **13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August** at London Olympia. With over 800 real ales, ciders, perries and foreign beers to choose from, we are sure there will be plenty of choice to suit everybody's taste buds! It is not all about the beer though. There is also plenty of food, live music and pub games to enjoy. Tickets can be bought by calling 0844 412 4640 or visiting [www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets](http://www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets).

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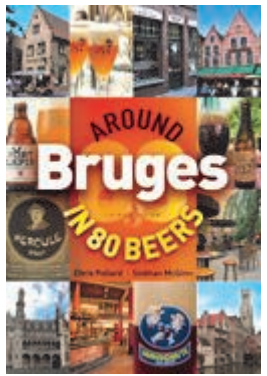
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*Around Bruges in 80 Beers*, Chris Pollard & Siobhan McGinn  
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Can there really be 80 outlets for good beer in this tiny town? “Podge” Pollard and Siobhan McGinn have found them in the third edition of their seminal guide. They have pounded the pavements, careened over the cobblestones and left no glass un-emptied in their quest for outlets that serve the finest that Belgian brewers can offer.

It’s a guide that wears its heart on its sleeve: “If it is lager and chips you are after, put us down and move on, as we will be of no use to you,” the duo state firmly in the introduction. In short, it’s a stellar book but not for Stella drinkers.

As someone who finds it difficult to leave Daisy’s bar, I must make a greater effort on my next trip to follow in Podge’s and Siobhan’s footsteps and take out some of the outlets they have discovered. I use the term “outlets” deliberately, for this is more than just a pub guide. It covers restaurants, De Halve Maan’s brewery and museum, beer shops, hotels, a boat and even a bookshop that sells beer – Waterstone’s take note.

As well as the listings, the guide is helpfully broken down into the different categories of outlets. This means that when your stomach rumbles you will know where you can eat as well as drink. On my recent visit, I passed Bron in Katelijnestraat and had no idea it was a vegetarian restaurant that sells the sublime beers from Dupont, including the impeccable Saison. I shall not make the mistake again.

Helpfully, the guide lists the main types of dishes you will find in Bruges restaurants – I discover that sea bass is called *zeewolf*, which is rather alarming, while monkfish is sea devil: I’ll stick to *pannekoeken* or filled pancakes. For the first-time visitor, Podge and Siobhan also run down the main Belgian beer styles, so you can sort your Dubbel from your Tripel and will never mistake an abbey beer for a true Trappist.

As with all Cogan & Mater guides (proprietor Tim Webb of *Good Beer Guide Belgium* fame), the book is also shot through with a dry and acerbic wit – or witte, if you prefer. It’s excellent value for money and handsomely designed by Dale Tomlinson, who enjoys a glass or two himself.

Don’t catch Eurostar without it.

Roger Protz - Molson Coors Best Beer Writer in National Publications  
British Guild of Beer Writers Awards 2012 – [www.protzonbeer.co.uk](http://www.protzonbeer.co.uk)





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# King & Queen

## Free Live Music Events 2013

### MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Classic Rock Covers From 'The Usual Suspects'	BBQ 6.30pm Onwards
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### SPRING BANK HOLIDAY ACCOUSTIC WEEKEND

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Gez Gold	9.00pm Onwards
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Fred Clark	3.00pm - 4.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Kirsty Mcleod	8.30pm Onwards
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>EAST MALLING</b> <b>'PICNIC IN THE PARK'</b> <b>'Live Music Extravaganza'</b>	12.00pm to 8.00pm
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Richard de Soussa Silva	8.30pm Onwards

### SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY

Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	Music from 5pm 'til late From 'Gez and the Gold Band'	BBQ 6.00pm Onwards
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For more information on any of the above / details of our regular monthly events / to sign up for our E-Newsletter, please visit our website:

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

# SAVE YOUR PINT

*Sharing a platform with Greg Mullholland MP at Orpington Liberal Club on March 13, CAMRA Greater London Regional Director John Cryne called on local and national politicians and local people to act together to save their pubs, their clubs and their pints. Here follows a transcript of his speech... [reprinted by kind permission from John Cryne—Ed.]*



I have been trying to save our pints since I joined CAMRA in 1975. It was a simple message – we campaigned to save traditional British beer which we called real ale. It was disappearing from our glasses and we thought it was worth fighting for. It seemed the drinker agreed but it has been a long battle.

Let me take this summary of where we were 40 years ago. The Local Beer Report from the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) 2013 states that some facts are worth repeating: *“When the historic brewing sector entered the 1970s as a rationalised and cannibalised shadow of its former self, CAMRA was founded by dismayed consumers determined to make a stand against the seemingly unstoppable tide of takeovers, mergers and closures that were creating a supposedly fitter business model for an altogether super-efficient future that looked to be dominated by big brand ‘commodity beers’.”*

Frank Baillie’s seminal publication, *The Beer Drinker’s Companion* stated that by mid-1972 there were just 7 national brewers, 88 independents and 5 brew pubs. And where are we now? This is just a snapshot from SIBA of 2012 – 100 new SIBA breweries with 651 members in production; 30 million more pints confirmed; SIBA members record 9% volume increase; 6.8% like-for-like growth predicted.

The brewing industry has been rejuvenated by a passion for offering quality, choice, variety and genuine local provenance, generated by the success of CAMRA’s consumer revolt and by brewers who just knew that British brewing could do more.

So no problem – we have saved our pints!

But production is only a part of the story. Real ale is particularly unique in that the vast bulk of production is made to be drunk in pubs and clubs. And it is pubs and clubs that are under the severest pressure – all

over the country we are losing our cherished local amenities, our cherished local drinking holes. And if the 650 members of SIBA have nowhere to sell their beer, then we and they are lost.

In both urban and rural areas pubs and clubs are under some of the most severe threats they have faced for their future. On the one hand, supermarkets, through both their purchasing power and their ability to cross-subsidise, offer slabs of cheap beer for drinking at home.

While I was never a smoker and have shed no tears for no longer having to throw that evening's shirt in the wash bin because it stunk of smoke, nonetheless, the smoking ban could probably have been handled better and has undoubtedly had an impact on some establishments.

And then there is the spectre of alternative use – here again supermarkets rear their ugly head, buying up pubs for conversion into their metro stores. A conversion that very often requires no planning permission or, just as important, no chance for the local community to have their say.

But it is not just supermarkets. Rich individuals and property developers are always casting their eyes over pubs – large buildings often in areas with high property values ripe for conversion into flats or grand residences for the rich. These people have very deep pockets and long-term plans and patience. They will fight all the way with expensive lawyers faced on the other side by committed local people but who are part-time volunteers.

We need both planning laws and a planning framework which protects these vital local amenities. We need a system whereby consultation with local people is not just a milk sop but an essential and properly defined part of the process. Local people must have a say in what goes on in their local area. Does your local authority have a planning policy that recognises the amenity value of pubs? If you don't know, then you need to know because local people must lobby their local politicians to get such policies into place.

And then yes, there's the recession, people have less money in their pocket – recent research by CAMRA (yet to be published) shows that people are going out less. And with the cost of beer going up by inflation + every year, they are using pubs and clubs less.

And then there is the pub company tenanted system which obliges tenants not only to pay a market rent for their pub but an above market price for their beer, making them less competitive.

And clubs themselves face a further threat. Their unique membership system is seen by some as an off-putting factor, their USP of cheap beer has been challenged by pub companies such as Wetherspoons; in North London many CIU clubs have closed citing such competition and the demographic changes in their local area. People now are less inclined to become members.

But there are pubs and clubs doing well, bucking the trend – why? Often because they offer what an increasingly discerning customer wants – choice, especially in the cask beers and ciders on sale, and a good value food offering. The research CAMRA has done says this does not mean it has to be a cheap offer – people will pay £10 to £15 for a main course if they feel that the quality and service are on a par with the price being paid, if it is value for money.

And service – still too many premises are totally lacking in what it means to provide good service – bar staff poorly trained, having no knowledge of the beers on sale, dis-inclined to even serve you, and when eventually they can be shifted from chatting to their mates at the end of the bar, what you get is a sloppily poured pint. The industry has to get its act in order and raise the overall levels of training and service. There are too many competing offerings for them to get this wrong.

Four people formed the Campaign for Real Ale in 1971 and with now 150,000 members showed what could be done by the consumer, by local people coming together to save their pint. Many of the problems I have outlined can similarly be confronted by local people – lobby your local councillors, lobby your local MP, lobby your London Assembly members (if you're in London), we are not powerless, get involved with local groups, see if and how the Sustainable Community Act is being implemented where you live.

The good news is local councils do have powers to be the last line of defence in protecting pubs [and can] use these powers by supporting communities to list pubs as Assets of Community Value, remove development rights to help prevent valued pubs being converted into supermarkets, betting shops and other uses and to ensure Local Plans contain pro-pub policies.

We Brits are very good at moaning into our pints but moaning into our pints will not save our pints. It is as much as anything in our hands. Let's show what we the local communities can do, let's join together, let's lobby and let's campaign to save our pints.

# CAMPAIGN

## HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD LIST YOUR LOCAL

*High property values and planning laws mean that more and more pubs are being targeted for conversion into supermarkets, betting shops, and housing developments. Housing aside, these conversions can happen without planning permission, leaving many communities powerless to keep their local pub.*

CAMRA is arguing for Government to close these loopholes, and live up to their promise to give communities power over their neighbourhood, including the opportunity to object to a new development and fight to retain their pub.

Until such a victory is achieved, the Localism Act has provided councils with new powers to list Assets of Community Value (ACV). Once a listed asset goes up for sale it gives the power to “stop the clock” and give time to communities to put in a bid to buy the asset, transfer it into community ownership and protect it from change of use.

CAMRA has launched a campaign to encourage communities to list their local pub as community assets. Our *List Your Local* campaign aims to get 300 pubs in England listed as ACVs in 2013. We support the growth in community-owned pubs and provide guidance for our members interested in pursuing this route.

However we also advocate that listing a pub as an ACV has value in itself and is a small step in helping with some of the problems attributed to the planning loopholes.

Firstly, we hope listing an asset will help deter developers looking for a hassle-free purchase. Secondly, its ACV status could be used as a material consideration against a planning application. We are awaiting a case study to set this as a precedent.

Most importantly it will put the sale and potential conversion of the pub in the public domain and present the opportunity for the community to have a say. Too often sales of pubs to supermarkets, for example, take place with no community consultation because planning permission is not required.

Listing a pub does not guarantee the conversion won't take place but it at least means the sale and loss of a community pub do not happen behind closed doors and gives the community or another publican the chance to put in a bid to buy it.

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A TRADITIONAL 17th CENTURY COUNTRY PUB

REAL ALES

SELECTION OF WINES

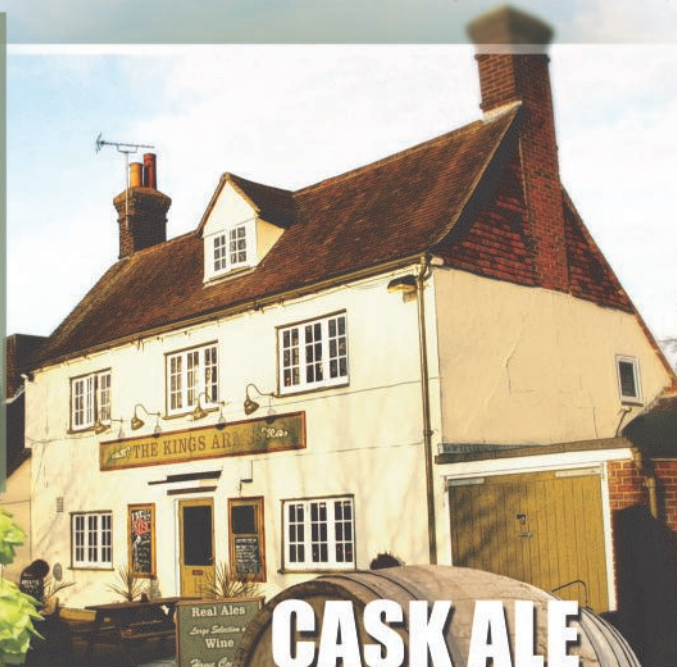
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So far around 50 pubs have been listed around the country. One of the most successful of these is the *Ivy House* in London which was the first pub to be listed as an ACV and has subsequently led to a successful buy-out from the community.

We look forward to the campaign developing over the next year and are working to increase awareness around the existence and benefits of these new powers, not just among our members and pub goers but also among local authorities. Despite the scheme coming into play last September, many councils are still not prepared to receive nominations.

There are a lot of people out there who are passionate about protecting their valued local pub. We expect to reach the 300 challenge with ease, so we urge councils to find out more about the campaign, and get ready to receive those nomination forms.

For information about the campaign and guidance notes please go to [camra.org.uk/listyourlocal](http://camra.org.uk/listyourlocal) or call the Government-funded Locality advice line on 0845 345 4564.

## The Bell & Jorrocks

Biddenden Road, Frittenden 01580 852415  
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Sean & Rosie welcome you to their 18<sup>th</sup> century pub in the heart of Frittenden, famous for its Treacle mines.

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# the somerset arms

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# What a Rip-off!

by Jeff Tucker

Well, it's happened. I've been charged £4.00 for a pint of real ale. Was it in a hotel bar? No. Was it in a Central London pub? No. Was it a 6% rare exotic beer from the other end of the country? No.

In fact, it was in a country pub, a bus ride from Maidstone. The beer was *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, and it was a Sheps tied pub.

*Spitfire* is now down to 4.2% ABV, having originally been 4.7% and then 4.5%, so it's hardly a premium product, you would think.

The day before, I was drinking in a village free house equidistant from Maidstone, and the 4.0% guest beer was £2.90, as are all their guest beers, irrespective of strength. Very nice it was, too.

Let us examine the logistics. The free house presumably makes a profit, having paid business rates, utility bills and staff wages. The beer comes from a wholesaler, who also makes a profit. The brewer who produced the beer is also unlikely to be running at a loss. Yet, despite all this, the pub can sell their beer for £2.90.

Over at the Sheps pub, the beer is brewed by Sheps and delivered to their own pub by their own draymen in their own lorry, so there's no wholesaler taking his cut. So, logically, you would think that they would be selling their beer for less than £2.90, wouldn't you?

I don't believe that the villain of this piece is the *Shepherd Neame* landlord. By all accounts, their rents are so astronomical that they have to charge silly prices to make a living. I'm also pretty sure that tenants pay more for their beer than other customers, such as pub companies. Perhaps a licensee can let us know, anonymously.

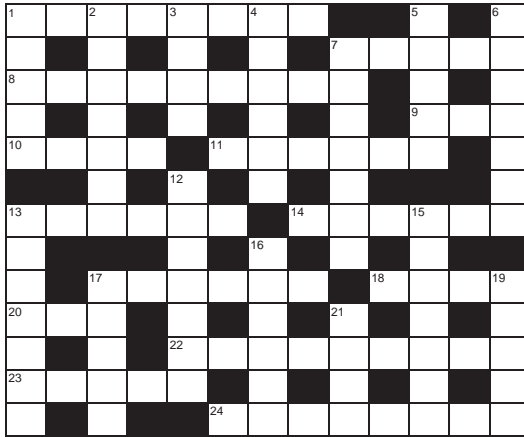
If you look at the *Shepherd Neame* website, you'll see that they have 322 tenanted pubs, of which 28 were 'to let' at the time of writing. That's nearly ten per cent, which might tell you something.

If anyone can enlighten us as to why our local regional brewer's beer is so expensive, I'd love to know.

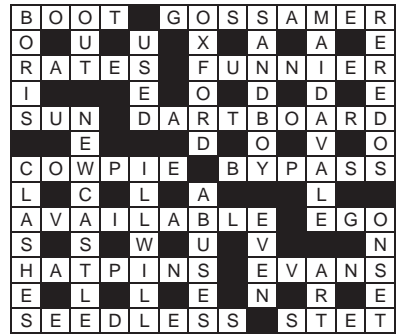
# The Draught Copy Crossword No. 11

compiled by MICK NORMAN

*Solution in next issue*



*Solution to Crossword No. 10  
in issue No. 170*



## Across

- 1 See 10
- 7 Topless vegetable used as weapon (5)
- 8 Raced a bird in the forefront of the attack (9)
- 9 20 arranged with skill (3)
- 10,1 Many request break - controversial subject for CAMRA (4,8)
- 11 Be there - a race to the finish (6)
- 13 Cretan moving at a steady pace (6)
- 14 8 Golden 7 across, for example, results in stress (6)
- 17 8 legends heard 80s rock band (6)
- 18 Container of light beer, you say? (4)
- 20 Desert animal? (3)
- 22 A pup - a star working in the gym (9)
- 23 Bill for admission (5)
- 24 Create space for sex (8)

## Down

- 1 Degree as written is fundamental (5)
- 2 Motor racing's Fittipaldi leads prog rock band (7)
- 3 Wrong shortcake? (4)
- 4 Steven's strange happenings (6)
- 5 Fear of monarch surrounded by the deceased (5)
- 6 8 inside for Saint with influence over the weather? (7)
- 7 Sad Trev put out by unwelcome breaks in TV broadcasts (7)
- 12 14 disorientated after swallowing drug - may become detached (7)
- 13 Senior officer takes offence - Doctor is lost in brewery (7)
- 15 Dead tap reconditioned and altered (7)
- 16 Composer for part-exchange (6)
- 17 8 at the pictures, say? (4)
- 19 8 role confused, misses out (5)
- 21 Gilbert Rees's ash, possibly (4)

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*no later than June 15th.*

*A photocopy is acceptable, as is  
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mlr\_norman@yahoo.com*

*Congratulations to Steve Finch  
from Kings Hill, West Malling,  
who won the prize in the  
Spring issue.*

# A Campaign of Two Halves

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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.

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 Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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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

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MMK—Draught Copy

01/06

**Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers**

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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.

Meetings are at 8.30pm unless otherwise noted.

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

## MAY

- 2 **MMK** **New Swan, Sandhurst, then Woodcock**, Iden Green
- 4 **GDV** 1.00: Beer festival social – **Rising Sun**, Twitton.
- 6 **GDV** 2.00: Beer festival social – **Queen**, South Darenth.
- 8 **BEX** **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath [*OBM*]
- 9 **MMK** Maidstone Mild in May - **Society Rooms**, then **Flower Pot**
- 11 **MMK** Bus trip to Lewes
- 16 **GDV** **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe [*GDV PotY*]
- 16 **MMK** Branch AGM and OBM - **Bush**, Aylesford
- 22 **BEX** 8pm, **Greenwich Crawl**, from **Plume of Feathers**, Greenwich
- 23 **MMK** Maidstone Mild in May - **Pilot**, then **Rifle Volunteers**
- 24 **GDV** **Cock**, Luddesdown [*PotY – runner-up*]
- 30 **MMK** **West End Tavern**, Marden, then **Unicorn**

## JUNE

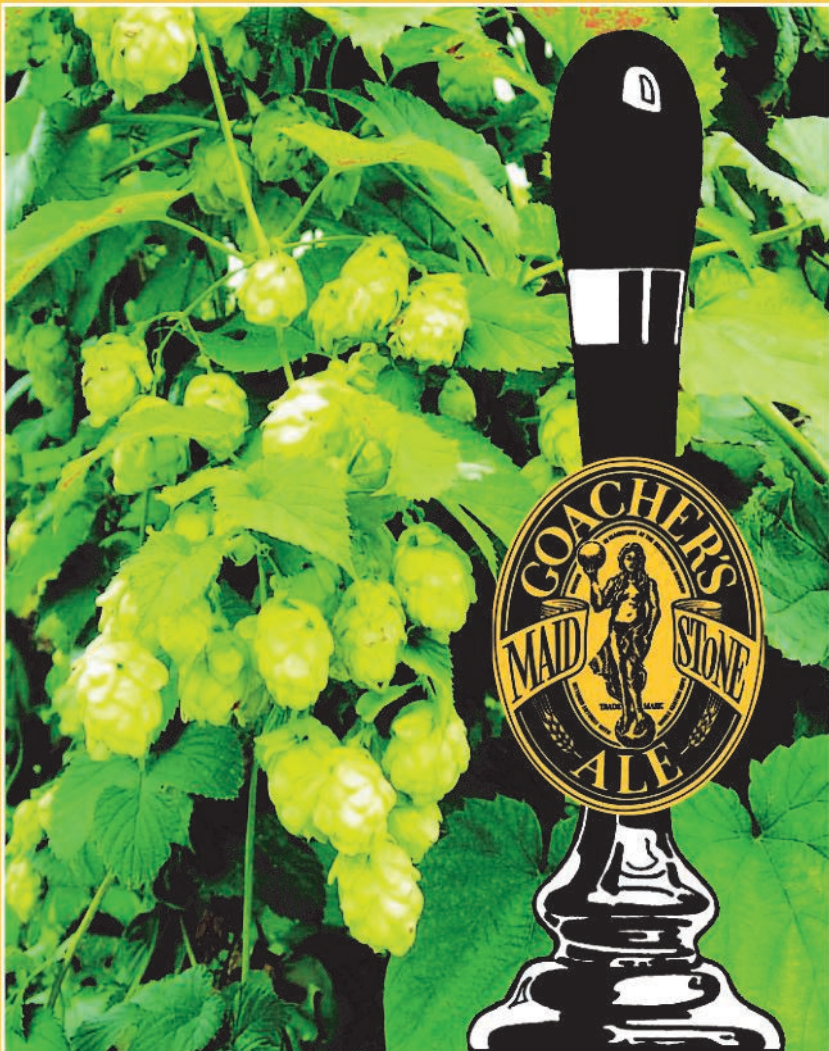
- 6 **MMK** **Redstart**, Barming, then **Bull**
- 6 **GDV** **Malt Shovel**, Dartford [*OBM*].
- 8 **MMK** MENCAP fete at Mote Park, Maidstone
- 12 **BEX** **White Cross**, North Cray Road, Sidcup [*OBM*]
- 13 **MMK** **Kings Head**, Staplehurst, then **Bell & Jorrocks**, Frittenden
- 15 **MMK** Bus Trip to Herne, Faversham and Teynham
- 15 **BEX** 12.00: Croydon tram crawl, start **Jolly Woodman**, Beckenham
- 19 **GDV** **Black Horse**, Stansted; **Green Man**, Hodsoil Street; **Vigo**, Fairseat
- 20 **MMK** 7.30 Evening ramble, Aylesford High St to **Lower Bell**
- 26 **BEX** 8.00, Bromley crawl, start **Partridge**
- 27 **MMK** **Crown & Horseshoes**, Langley, then **Plough**

## JULY

- 4 **MMK** 7.30 Bat & Trap, Aylesford Rec, then **Bush** and **Chequers**
- 6 **GDV** 11.30: Kent Region Meeting – **Dartford Working Men's Club**
- 10 **BEX** **New Cross Turnpike**, Welling [*OBM*]
- 11 **MMK** **Royal Oak**, Hawkhurst, then **Great House**
- 13 **BEX** 12:00: East London crawl, start **Cock Tavern**, Hackney
- 14 **MMK** Sunday Ramble – East & West Farleigh
- 18 **MMK** **Town Malling Club**, West Malling [*OBM*]
- 24 **BEX** 8.00, Dartford crawl, start **Ivy Leaf**
- 25 **MMK** **Goudhurst Inn**, Goudhurst, then **Peacock**, Iden Green
- 27 **MMK** 1-5: Petanque at the **Stile Bridge**
- 27 **GDV** 1.00: Beer festival social – **Crown**, Otford

\* 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

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