

Draught Copy



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

Winter 2013

No. 173

FIRST MAIDSTONE BOROUGH PUB TO BE LISTED AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE



By acting together out of concern for the future of the Walnut Tree in Loose, a group of local residents has succeeded in placing the pub on Maidstone Borough Council's List of Assets of Community Value (ACV). As an ACV, the Walnut Tree is afforded a window of protection against it being sold other than as a pub and thus being lost to the community. Among those residents was local CAMRA member Richard Kemp, who took a leading role in filing the application to the Council.

Other groups who fear the loss of their pub should follow this example. The process requires support from at least 21 local people and takes about three months.

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.

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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 10 December 2013 for publication in February 2014.

Visit our website at www.mmkamra.co.uk



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

CAMRA www.camra.org.uk

20TH WOKING BEER FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 8—9

Woking Leisure Centre

Woking Park, GU22 9BA

70+ real ales, plus ciders

www.wokingbeerfestival.co.uk

34TH ROCHFORD BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 19—23

Freight House

Rochford SS4 1BU

220+ real ales and ciders

www.seecamra.org.uk

PIG'S EAR BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 3—7

The Round Chapel

Powerscroft Road

Hackney E5 0PU

www.pigsear.org.uk/festivals.htm

12TH HARWICH & DOVERCOURT BAY WINTER ALE FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 4—7

Kingsway Hall

Dovercourt CO12 3JT

50+ real ales

www.tendringcamra.or.uk

Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

November 1—3

Bull, West Malling

12 beers + 7 on the pumps

November 7—9

Medway Beer Festival

The Stanley Ballroom

Gundulph Road

Chatham ME4 4ED

www.medwaybeerfestival.com

November 15—17

Lobster Pot, West Malling

See ad on page 10

November 28—December 1

Kings Arms, Offham

Many Kentish ales to choose from

See ad on page 23

December 6—8

The Vigo, A226, Fairseat

FOLK AND BEER FESTIVAL

10 beers, all from breweries in Kent.

December 6

Dartford Working Men's Club

Dartford

25+ real ales and cider



HARVEYS

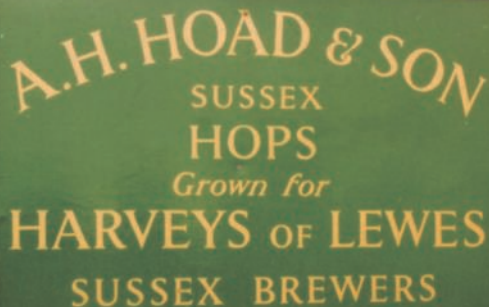
The Sussex Brewers

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

KENT BREWERIES

Black Cat Brewery	07948 387718	<i>www.blackcat-brewery.com</i>
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	<i>www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	<i>www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/canterbury-brewers</i>
Caveman Brewery	07769 710665	<i>www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</i>
Goacher's	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
Goody Ales	07790 443810	<i>www.goodyales.co.uk</i>
HopDaemon	01795 892078	<i>www.hopdaemon.com</i>
Hop Fuzz	07850 441267	<i>www.hopfuzz.co.uk</i>
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	<i>www.kentbrewery.com</i>
Larkins	01892 870328	<i>www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk</i>
Mad Cat Brewery	07960 263615	<i>www.madcatbrewery.co.uk</i>
Millis Brewing Co.	01322 866233	<i>www.millisbrewing.com</i>
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	<i>www.musketbrewery.co.uk</i>
Nelson Brewing Co.	01634 832828	<i>www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</i>
Old Dairy Brewing Co.	01580 243185	<i>www.olddairybrewery.com</i>
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	<i>www.thefarriersarms.com</i>
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	<i>www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</i>
Ripple Steam Brewery	07917 037611	<i>www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</i>
Rockin' Robin Brewery	07779 986087	
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	<i>www.shepherd-neame.co.uk</i>
Spencer's Brewery	01233 610215	<i>www.spencersbrewery.co.uk</i>
Swan, West Peckham	01622 812271	<i>www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</i>
Tír Dhá Ghlas	01304 211666	<i>www.cullinsyard.co.uk</i>
Tonbridge Brewery	01732 366770	<i>www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</i>
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	<i>www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</i>
Westerham Brewery	01959 565837	<i>www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</i>
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	<i>www.whitstablebrewery.info</i>

Two New Brews for Kent

There are two new brews available in Kent, as the *Musket Brewery* began production brewing real ale in the Borough of Maidstone. *Musket Brewery* has now launched with **Fife & Drum**, a golden ale at 3.8%, and **Flintlock**, the brewery's best bitter at 4.2%.

Both proud CAMRA members, the *Musket Brewery* team of Mark Stroud and Tony Williams have been feverishly working on converting a redundant mushroom shed at Loddington Farm, Linton, into a 5 barrel brewery. The brewing kit itself has been hand made by Elite Fabrications of Swindon and was delivered to Loddington in September, where it has been caringly installed in readiness for producing fine ales derived from bespoke recipes.

"It really has been a labour of love which has thrown up several challenges to overcome, but Mark and I are proud of what we have achieved and have nurtured our two maiden brews as they slowly matured, ready to be presented to the drinking public." said Tony.

A number of launch events, including a special occasion for CAMRA colleagues, saw invited guests being presented with samples of **Fife & Drum** and **Flintlock** for the very first tastes of the brews.

Musket Brewery now plan to add a winter brew to their real ale family, in readiness for the busy festive season. For more information, contact the *Musket Brewery* on 07967 127278 or info@musketbrewery.co.uk, or visit www.musketbrewery.co.uk.



Recent issues of *Draught Copy* online can be found at www.mmkcampa.co.uk/#!__draught-copy

THE BLACK HORSE INN

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

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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

THE DRAUGHT COPY CAMRA DISCOUNT LIST

We are starting a new feature in these pages, a list of pubs and clubs that offer discounted pints to any card-carrying CAMRA member. If you are a licensee who is already extending this welcome privilege, then please let us know—email dc@braymead.com. Equally, if you would like to start such a scheme and have your pub or club listed here, please send us an email with details of what you're proposing. It need only be a nominal discount, a minimum of 10p off a pint, to qualify.

We look forward to welcoming you here as you welcome us.

Our first listing of discounts (whole pints only) includes:

Bell , Smarden	10p per pint
Bell & Jorrocks , Frittenden	20p per pint
Cock Inn , Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Flower Pot , Maidstone	10p per pint

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



FESTIVAL-GOERS SAY 'CHEERS' TO CAMRA

by Colin Mann



Organisers of CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, held on Saturday 7 September at East Malling Research, the world-famous horticultural research station, have declared the event a resounding success, with some 1,800 visitors ensuring that the last drops of the 66 real ales and 30 ciders were served as the Festival drew to a close.

Jeff Tucker, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA, said: "Despite the unfavourable weather forecast, people turned up in their droves, attracted by the prospect of a wide range of beers and ciders, largely from local breweries and producers, as well as great live music in wonderful surroundings. In four short years, we've become a 'must-visit' event."

Ian Clennett, organiser of CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, said: "The popularity of the Festival is such that one local real ale fan held his 60th birthday party there, bringing along a couple of dozen friends and family, while another young man kicked off his stag week festivities at the venue with his mates. We'll be back in 2014 with an even bigger and better event."

'Beer of the Festival' as selected by an independent judging panel comprising local licensees, was *Black Gold*, from Kent Brewery in Birling, Kent, with *Stronghold*, from Arundel in West Sussex as runner-up. A separate panel selected *Graet Eastern*, produced by Stiles of Kingston as 'Cider of the Festival', with the same producer's *Russet* as runner-up.

We now have a provisional date for our next festival in 2014—our fifth year already—Saturday, September 6, 2014. Make a note of it now! - Ed.

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

Wyatt Street, Maidstone - Phone 01622 758891

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Good Beer Guide Listed This Century

Maidstone CAMRA Pub Of The Year, 2005



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Beer Festival

15th, 16th and 17th

November



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Kent
ME19 6JU



Telephone: 01732 843 775



lobster pot west malling



@TheLobsterPotWM

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Traditional pub in the beautiful town of
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- LIVE MUSIC EVERY SATURDAY
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*Selection of wines, prosecco and
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Some pub news just in...

I'm sad to relate that the application for Asset of Community Value status for the **Old Plantation** has been turned down by Maidstone Borough Council. A spokesman for the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale said: *"We are disappointed that the application for Asset of Community Value for The Old Plantation has been turned down by Maidstone Borough Council, apparently on the basis that there were already enough similar places in the area and if one was lost, it would be no big deal."*

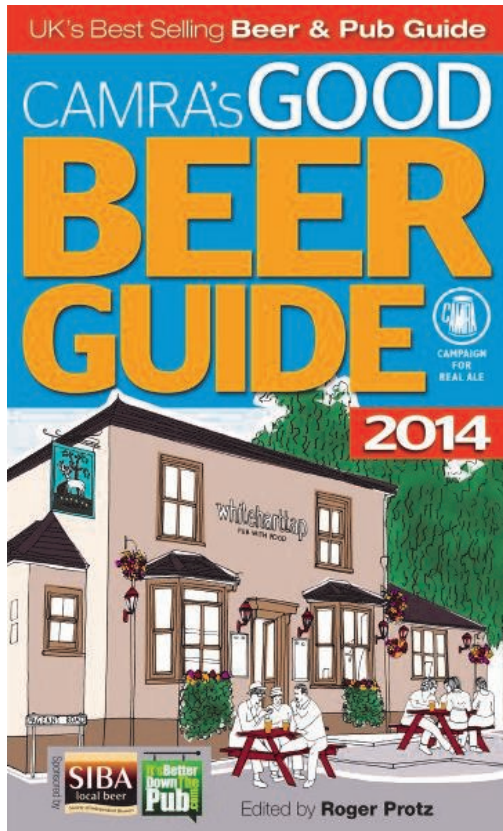
"We feel this sends out the wrong message to community and Real Ale campaigners. We believe that a well-run community pub is as important to community life as a post office, local shop or community centre, particularly as the Government has recognised this and empowered communities to protect their pubs via the Localism Act 2011."

"We thank those Old Plantation campaigners for their hard work and would recommend other local communities whose pub is under threat in the future to contact CAMRA and discuss how they can participate in the 'List Your Local' initiative. In the meanwhile, we understand that the pub will re-open under the previous licensee for a year and we strongly encourage people to visit it and other local pubs to help prevent the loss of these facilities."

Kevin, the bar manager at **Beeches** on Seven Mile Lane, Mereworth, called to say that the former restaurant is now a pub/restaurant, and people can pop in for a pint. There is no cellar as such, so beers have to be served on gravity. The only beer on to start with is *Doom Bar*, but he is having a launch day on 3rd November, where other beers, including *Tonbridge*, will be available.

Kevin used to work for the group which includes the **Farm House**, **Great House** among others, so he knows about real ale. The pub is currently not open on Mondays and Tuesdays, but is open all day on other days.

Find yourself a decent pint at a great pub, wherever you are...



Now on sale online from CAMRA at shop.camra.org.uk

Priced at £10 for members and £12.99 for non-members.

The *Good Beer Guide* is also available as an app on your Apple or Android mobile device. See

www.camra.org.uk/gbgmobile

And for your sat-nav device, the 2014 POI files are obtainable from the CAMRA shop as well.

Garmin, Navman and Tom-Tom are all supported.



In September this year, *WhatPub.com* was launched to the general public. It is CAMRA's searchable pub finder with over 35,000 pubs listed, and counting.

Simply enter the name of a town or place to get a list of the pubs there along with explanatory symbols. You can set filters for such attributes as *Real Ale* and *Quiet Pub*, click on a result and see (and print) the full fact sheet for it, complete with map and nearby bus routes and train stations. Very useful!

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



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

Lion of Kent, Bearsted – Robbie Tallon & Richard Monks have taken on this large pub. A branch visit found the dining area to be reasonably busy. On the bar were *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* as the regular ales and *Greene King IPA* the current guest.

Old Plantation, Bearsted – This popular 15th century Grade II listed community pub was closed by Enterprise Inns in September and is intended for use as housing. Despite efforts by local pub-goers the sale has gone through, though apparently there is talk that it be re-opened again for a while. Any planning application for building on the land will face objections.



King William IV, Benenden – Now being run by Mark Jordan and open daily from 12 till 11. The inglenook fireplace affords plenty of warmth for the coming winter evenings. The branch visited here when playing *Bat & Trap*. We found the guest *Shepherd Neame Canterbury Jack* and regular *Master Brew* both in good form.



Red Lion, Biddenden – Bob Hewitt, the landlord here, is one of our longer serving incumbents having been here for almost 25 years. The emphasis is on food but the beer is certainly not neglected. On a branch visit we found both the regular *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and guest *Harveys Sussex Best* to be in good order.

Three Chimneys, Biddenden – This 15th century building was the furthest point that Napoleonic prisoners of war were allowed to venture when taking exercise from their prison camp at Sissinghurst Castle. Wooden floors and varying levels provide interesting features. The beer is drawn directly from the casks on stillage behind the bar. *Adnams Bitter* has been regular for some time and two guest ales are usually available.



Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea – Always excellent beer here with *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire*. Seasonal ales and guests often

SHEP'S ALE AT ITS BEST!



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FRIENDLY. WE CAN'T COMPETE WITH MAIDSTONE'S FOOD OUTLETS
BUT CAN MAKE YOU A SWELL SANDWICH TO SOAK UP THE BEER!

NEXT TIME YOU VISIT MAIDSTONE WHY NOT WANDER AWAY FROM
THE CROWDS AND DISCOVER US . . .

STILL NOT TEMPTED - VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.theswaninmaidstone.co.uk



appear, *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale*, *Goldings* and *Kent's Best* being recent offerings. The *Late Red* should now be available.

White Hart, Claygate – New tenants Lisa and Natasha are now running this *Shepherd Neame* pub. Opening hours are 12-11 (10.30 Sun) with food available 12-9.30 (6 Sun). I spent a pleasant time in the gazebo keeping out of the sun whilst eating a sandwich and enjoying a pint. The regular beers are *Master Brew* and *Spitfire*.



Vine, Goudhurst - When I last passed by work was progressing towards restoring and eventually re-opening this Grade II listed building but October may also pass by before this happens.

Queens, Hawkhurst – This has been sold and work is progressing in restoration.

Chequers, Loose – Licensee, Shaw Cavill, now opens all day; currently 12-11 (11.30 Fri), 9-11.30 Sat and 12-10.30 Sun. This is an old coaching inn and has a Grade II listing, situated at the bottom of Old Loose Hill and adjacent to the Loose River, affording excellent walks along the bank. There should be something to suit everyone's taste here, as the range is *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Taylor Landlord* as regulars and there is also one guest ale. On Boxing Day, the pub will as usual be hosting 2 or 3 sides 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.

Hook & Hatchet, Hucking – This isolated pub on the North Downs was noted as closed in Aug-2013. *Shepherd Neame* is looking for a new tenant.

Wealden Hall, Larkfield – Closed for extensive refurbishment but should be re-opened early November.

Walnut Tree, Loose – New licensee, Carol Chapman, has taken over here. Operating hours are 12 -11 (midnight Fri-Sat), 12-10.30 Sun. Snacks only 12-2 daily but a more extensive menu should be available soon. As noted on the front page, this pub has now become the first pub on Maidstone Borough Council's List of Assets of Community Value.

Coopers Cask, Maidstone – Once known as the Ropemakers Arms, this has now been closed and is due to be auctioned for housing.

The Rising Sun Inn & Inglenooks Restaurant

A 17th century Traditional Public House with a large Inglenook fireplace, old wooden beams, & a large wholesome menu to choose from.

A very friendly inn situated in the heart of Fawkham Green, The Rising Sun Inn & Inglenooks Restaurant is an excellent choice for food and drink. With a 40 seater restaurant an extensive menu to tempt any palette & a fully stocked bar there are plenty of refreshments to choose from including a variety of six real cask ales, a varied wine list & large choice of fine brandies & single malt whiskeys. Accommodation is also available with two amazing 4 poster rooms & three twin bedded rooms all with ensuite, flat screen TVs & tea & coffee making facilities.

Fawkham Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8NL
T: 01474 872291 www.risingsun-fawkham.co.uk



The Bell & Jorrocks

Biddenden Road, Frittenden TN17 2EJ

01580 852415 [facebook](#) www.thebellandjorrocks.co.uk

Sean & Rosie welcome you to their 18th 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 2014.

We offer Harveys Sussex Best, Woodfordes Wherry and 2 Guest Ales.

Show your CAMRA membership and receive 20p off a pint

Kitchen Open Hours

Wed – Sun 12 - 3pm

Wed – Sat 7 - 9:30pm

Monthly Farmers Market

23rd Nov and 21st Dec

9:30 till noon

Beer Festival 11, 12 and 13 April 2014

Dragoon, Maidstone – Sharon Wardell has taken this on in addition to the **Royal Albion**. There are several TVs in here so that various matches may be viewed. It also has two darts boards and a pool table. All four pumps have had *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* clips for some time but hopefully something in addition may appear soon, as it is close to the Maidstone United ground.



A new build Pub, Maidstone – Having lost a couple of pubs recently, it is good to hear that work has begun building a new pub for *Marstons* at the entrance to the 20/20 trading estate on the A20. This is proposed as both an eating house and drinks venue and should be on a similar theme to others that they have opened elsewhere in Kent in the last few years.

Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone – Licensee Spencer Nichol has now extended the operating hours to cover lunchtimes at the end of the week. Currently open 5-midnight Mon-Thu; 12-2am Fri; 12-3am Sat; Sun 12-midnight. Last orders 30mins before closing time.

Pippin, Maidstone – I was pleasantly surprised to see a *Dark Star American Pale* pump clip on the bar here. I found out that a series of non-*Greene King* beers were being featured over a period of time. Presumably this is an attempt to attract more customers at this mainly eating venue. Other notable beers on the list were *Landlord*, *Tribute*, *Trawler Boys*, *Golden Sheep*, *Yorkshire Blonde* and *Tiger*. I also tried the *Festival* which was good, but as with the rest of the list, curiously no breweries were mentioned. The regular beers are *GK Pippin Ale* (a 'house' beer), *IPA* and a *GK* guest.



West End Tavern, Marden – Chef, Sean Harvey and his wife Brigitte, are now the new lessees of this Enterprise Inns pub. Current operating hours are 11 (12 Mon)-3, 6 (7 Sat)-11; 12-3, 7-10.30 Sun with food being served 12-2, 7-9.30 (Not Sun eve). It seemed to be kept quite busy with dining customers when I called in. The regular beer remains as *Harveys Sussex Best* and a guest is offered, which at the time of my visit was *Sharps Doom Bar*.



The Flower Pot

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2010 & 2011**

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96 Sandling Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2RJ

Tel. 01622 757705 Email. flowerpotpub@hotmail.co.uk Web. www.flowerpotpub.com

Railway Tavern, Staplehurst – A change here again as local people, Den & Caroline Horgan are now running the pub. They had been at the **Royal Oak** (later to become the **Pride of Kent**) some time ago. *Wells & Youngs Bitter* and *Brains Organ Morgan* were on at the re-opening.

The Milk House, Sissinghurst – Formerly known as the **Bull**, this had been closed for two years but has now been completely revamped and re-opened on 20 September with Richard Shaw managing the bar. Awaiting reports. Open 9-11 (midnight Fri-Sat). themilkhouse.co.uk

Swan, Sutton Valence – This has been sold and work is progressing turning it into a restaurant and bar.

Early Bird, Weaving – This pub, close to Tesco at Grove Green, had a new tenant, David Lewis, a while ago and has been given a bit of a new look inside. Serving *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* as a regular and two guests, usually an SN seasonal plus another from their portfolio. Operating hours are 10-midnight (1am Fri-Sat); 12-10.30 Sun with food available 10-9; 12-9 Sun.

Fox & Goose, Weaving – This is a somewhat hidden pub in a no-through road. Just go past Tesco and turn right at the roundabout into Weaving Street. Ken Williams and his team put on a beer festival with music at the end of August but unfortunately had rather wet weather for it. The marquee in the garden provided plenty of shelter and both the beer and food proved enjoyable. Regular beers are *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Best* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* with one guest.



Swan, West Peckham - Adam Freeman is now the manager following the untimely death of the previous manager, Clive Selbie. A series of Green Hopped beers will be featured here in the autumn.

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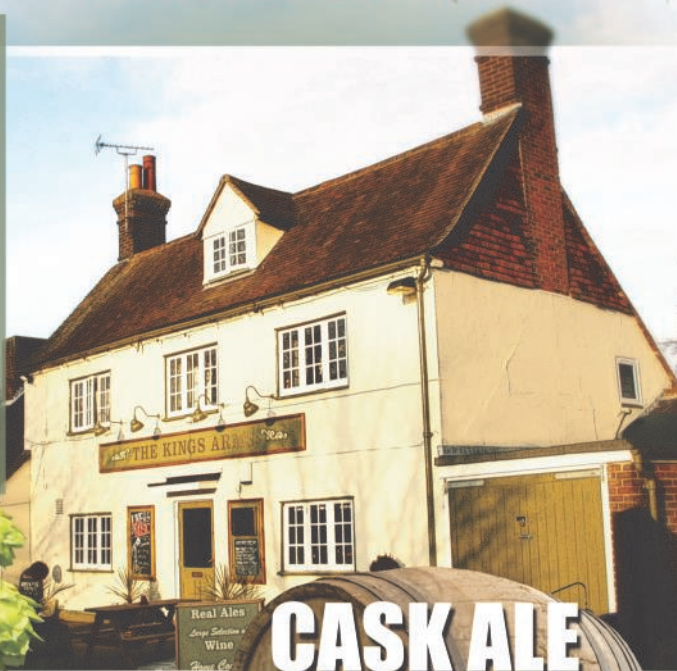
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In a closely fought competition the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe has finished runner-up to the **Berry** in Walmer, which has been voted the CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year for 2013. The **Berry** is a very friendly side street pub, not far from the sea front, with an excellent choice of real ales and ciders. This pub has deservedly been the Deal, Dover and Sandwich CAMRA branch Pub of the Year for the last five years or so and has become a worthy winner of the Kent Pub of the Year title for the first time. The **George & Dragon** was a very mediocre pub when Bob & Bron took over in December 2010 so they have done remarkably well to transform this pub into the “second best” CAMRA approved pub in Kent in such a short time. The pub now serves very good value food, excellent beer on draught and in bottles, and has newly furnished accommodation. Occasional beer festivals are held, most recently from 30th August to 1st September, and a new patio area to the rear provides a very comfortable outdoor drinking and smoking area.

The **George & Dragon** is home to *Caveman Brewery* in the “Cave”, the spacious pub cellar. The brewery beers have successfully been introduced into a number of leading local real ale pubs and clubs (see website www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk and follow @CavemanBrewery on Twitter for ongoing information). *Caveman* beers are delivered by *Firkin Ale* to outlets throughout Kent. An iconic real ale pub in London, the **White Horse** in Parson’s Green is also supplied. The brewery has recently produced *Hunter Gatherer*, a green hop seasonal beer, and *Mesolithic* has been re-brewed as a dry-hopped pale ale with a mix of American (USA) and Australian hops. In addition to the beers listed in the previous issue and on the website I have subsequently sampled *Caveman Chumash*, a very strong (I think 7.4% ABV) hoppy straw coloured ale and *Clovis Point Brown Ale* (5.2%) at the **Dartford Working Men’s Club**.

The **Dartford Working Men’s Club** finished runner-up in the CAMRA Kent Club of the Year competition for 2013. I’ve not yet visited the winner, the **Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club**, but for me the **DWMC**, many times previous winner of Kent Club of the Year, will always be the best club around to sample great real ales, but then I’m biased, as I live in Dartford. Then again, a change is as good as a rest, so

good luck to all the local clubs that are persevering with real ale. The **Glentworth Club** in Dartford and the **Orpington Liberal Club**, host of many real ale festivals, both stock *Caveman* beers, as does the **Albatross RAF Club**, further afield in Bexhill-on-Sea.

It's very encouraging to note that several pubs and clubs, mentioned in full in the previous issue, continue to organise regular successful beer festivals. There are now so many events that I've been unable to visit them all this year. One of my favourites, within walking distance from home, is the annual **Wilmington Cricket Club** cricket week event around August Bank Holiday. 2013 heralded the ninth mini-festival and Colin Wright once again presented 25 or so interesting and different real ales during the course of the week. Unfortunately the weather was fairly unkind once again for the cricketers but beer drinkers were happy to sample the wet stuff inside the clubhouse. Our CAMRA meeting on the Thursday attracted several local branch members, six from neighbouring Bexley branch and two from Bromley branch. As my preference is for light coloured beers, *Cullercoats Lovely Nelly* was my favourite, closely followed by *Reedley Hallows Filly Close Blonde*, but there was a good range of porter, stout and mild for the dark beer connoisseurs. I also enjoyed *Elland Black Eden* and *Mauldons Micawber's Mild*.

Interesting and unusual beers are not the norm in the pubs in Wilmington any longer, as the nearest pubs to the cricket ground stock standard beers, but at least they all serve real ale. On a recent check by my colleague Bob Marsh, the **Foresters** was selling only *Doom Bar*; the **Plough**, *Courage Best* and *Sheps Spitfire*; the **Cressy Arms**, *Courage Best* and *Sheps Bishops Finger*; and the *Shepherd Neame* tied **Orange Tree** offered *Master Brew* and *Spitfire*. All of these pubs have sold a broader range of guest and seasonal beers in the not too distant past.

Oddfellows at the top of West Hill in Dartford reopened in August proclaiming itself to be "Dartford's Premier Sports Bar" but still does not sell real ale. The only other "pubs" in Dartford not to stock real beer are the **Fulwich Hotel** in St. Vincents Road and the two *Harvester* restaurant pubs, one in Dartford Road (towards Crayford) and the other in Princes Road (near Darent Valley Hospital).

All the recognisable pubs in Dartford offer real ale and there are enough good ones serving a differing range of beers to challenge the **Dartford Working Men's Club**. My favourite pubs are in East Dartford, which can constitute an enjoyable mini crawl starting at the **Foresters** in Great

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Queen Street, which always offers an interesting guest, being *Dartmoor Jail Ale* recently. Both pubs in Darenth Road are deservedly listed in the 2014 *Good Beer Guide*. The **Ivy Leaf** is a fairly large and thriving pub, offering two regular real ales and four guest beers. The *Wantsum Green Hop* was excellent, and *Wantsum Millers Mirth*, *Box Steam Tunnel Vision* and *East London Brewery Jamboree* went down well on recent visits. The **Malt Shovel** is an attractive historic building owned by *Wells and Young*. Seasonal beers are available, alongside the standard *W&Y* range. *Charles Wells New World IPA* at 4.5% ABV is a very tasty US-style beer and *Young's Winter Warmer* comes on stream in mid-November. A number of guest beers from other breweries will be on sale in the autumn, including *Dartmoor IPA*, *Caledonian Poltergeist Porter*, *Harvey's Sussex Wild Hop* and *Otter Amber Ale*.

Down East Hill and into the town centre one finds the third Dartford pub appearing in the 2014 *GBG*, the **Paper Moon** (*Wetherspoons*) which always carries a good range of real ales at competitive prices. This pub still holds "Meet the Brewer" evenings and, in September, *Deverell's*, a tiny brewery from Grays in Essex was showcasing its beers, *Tall Hot Blonde*, *Dark Side*, *Rockin' Roller* and *Best Bitter*, which can be found at the *GBG*-listed **Traitor's Gate** pub in Little Thurrock, just over the Dartford Crossing in Essex.

One pub worth seeking out is the **Bull** in Horton Kirby, a previous Kent Pub of the Year. This pub is slowly returning to its former glory with new licensees who are enthusiastic about running a traditional village local with good beer, good food and pleasant atmosphere. On the real ale front we have recently sampled *Dark Star Hophead* and *Hylde Blonde*, *Oakham Citra*, *Rudgate Ruby Mild* and *Kent Brewery Beyond the Pale*, all of which were in excellent condition, with prices mostly £3.20 a pint and £3.40 for beers over 5% ABV. The **Bull** has been awarded an "Oakademy" status by *Oakham* Brewery which only bestows this award to pubs that regularly sell their beers and only after their representative has checked that *Oakham* beer is being kept and served in tip top condition. Oakademy pubs are also promised at least two exclusive beers from the brewery each year.

The **Crown** in Otford is back in the *GBG* for 2014, and Mark has already set three dates for beer and music festivals in April, July and October 2014. Watch this space! The October 2013 event, which had not taken place at the time of writing in September, had a "fowl" theme, with all



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the beers containing a “bird” in the name. Proposed birds included Barn Owl, Bustard, Cuckoo, Duck, Green Tit, Macaw, Peacock, Pheasant, Snipe and Swallow. Your starter for ten is to name all the beers and breweries appreciating these feathered friends. The **Crown** regularly sells *LocAle* beers from *Tonbridge* and *Westerham* breweries and has recently introduced Thai food evenings in addition to the excellent home cooked meals.

A number of temporarily closed pubs in the area have re-opened during the summer. The **Welsh Tavern** in Stone, near Dartford, does not sell real ale but does stock a fair selection of bottled (but not bottle-conditioned) beers. The **Railway Inn** at Sole Street near Meopham has re-opened, under new management, offering two *Millis Brewing* beers, *Kentish Red* and *Dartford Wobbler*. The **Pier** pub, next to the Town Pier has re-opened yet again, now as a music venue now called the Middle Eight [*that, indeed, is how it is spelt. Ed.*] reportedly selling *Young’s Bitter* although no real ale was on offer on a branch social visit. The **King’s Arms** on Meopham Green (formerly a pub, now principally a restaurant) is now open to drinkers who are not dining and sells an indifferent pint of *Doom Bar*.

On the down side, three pubs in the branch area have been demolished during 2013, namely the **Railway** in Dartford, the **Birchwood** (formerly the **Alma**) in Swanley and the **Fruiterers Arms**, known locally as the **Mud Hole**, in Crockenhill. The first two pubs did not sell real ale but the **Mud Hole** is a great loss to the local community, leaving only one pub, the **Chequers**, in the village.

I’ve previously asked for information regarding pubs in Gravesend, and Les Broad has provided me with the following notes. The **Ship & Lobster**, Mark Lane, Denton (GBG 2014) is a welcoming riverside pub on the eastern outskirts of town which serves beers from independent Kent breweries, being *Millis Gravesend Guzzler* and *Canterbury Brewers Foundryman’s Gold* at the time. A fourth handpump has been installed. *Theakston Black Bull Bitter* was the third beer and *Westons Cider* was also on offer. The **Rum Puncheon**, West Street (GBG 2014), also on the river front but near the town centre, continues to sell eight real ales in good condition from a vast range of breweries with *Skinners Betty Stogs* and *Rudgate Ruby Mild* often represented.

The **Crown & Thistle**, The Terrace, a former Pub of the Year, has five handpumps. *Wharfebank Campfell Flame*, *Orkney Red Macgregor* and *Kent*

Altered States were served in good condition and real cider is usually available. The **Jolly Drayman** in Wellington Street (GBG 2014) is still a very reliable real ale outlet with four handpumps serving *St.Austell Tribute* as the regular beer; *Lancaster Amber*, *Medieval Dark Knight* and *Medieval Knight Hood* were the rotated guest beers.

The **Three Daws**, West Street, an attractive old pub next to the Town Pier, has recently installed another handpump as demand for real beer has increased. Two beers from the local *Millis* brewery were on sale and *Wadworth 6X*, *Brakspear Bitter* and *Robinsons Old Tom* were also on offer. The **Darnley Arms** in Trafalgar Road is a back street pub which has just undergone interior and exterior redecoration and sells a consistently reliable pint of *Young's Bitter*. The **Waterloo Tavern** in Wellington Street is a cosy corner local with a friendly welcome serving *Wells Bombardier* in good form. The **Grapes Cafe Bar** in Milton Street (town centre) is the only remaining *Shepherd Neame* tied house in Gravesend, offering *Master Brew* and *Spitfire*. The **Robert Pocock** in Windmill Street is a much improved *Wetherspoons* pub offering a good range of reasonably priced beers and ciders.

Moving out of the town centre, the **Ascot Arms**, a large community pub, offers *Caledonian American Pale* in good condition. The **Echo** in Echo Square is a welcoming local which has undergone interior redecoration and serves *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Wells Bombardier*. The **Millers Cottage** in Shrubbery Road selling *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* always has something going on with regular music nights and quiz evenings.

Finally we would like to welcome all local CAMRA members to our branch *Annual General Meeting* to be held in the Riverside Bar of the **Three Daws** in West Street, next to the Town Pier in Gravesend on Wednesday 4th December at 8.30pm. Active members are becoming thin on the ground and we would appreciate some extra help especially with suggesting and surveying pubs for the 2015 *Good Beer Guide* which starts in earnest in January 2014.

So have a good Christmas and a prosperous New Year, one and all.



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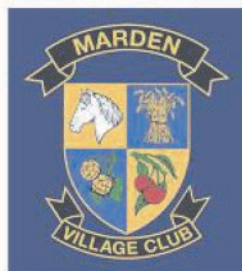
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Let us start this issue with some deserved praise. Peter at the **Charlotte** in Crayford has now managed to retain his real ale prices unchanged for a period of some 20 months. No mean feat in these times of inflation and rising costs from the breweries. Well done, Pete. Thanks also for putting on such a good evening for our Helen's 60th birthday party recently. If any of you know of any other pubs which can say the same, please let us know and we will name and acclaim them.

In pub news, our two remaining Shepherd Neame pubs are seemingly fated at the moment, the **Prince Albert** in Bexleyheath has only just reopened, future uncertain, whilst the other, the **Crayford Arms** has seen the licensee recently given 6 months notice to quit. By the time you read this, CAMRA's new online pub guide, *WhatPub* will have been launched to the general public at whatpub.com. In theory it lists every pub in the UK and it is our job to keep the details of the pubs in Bexley Borough up to date. You can help by letting our pubs officer (Ian Wright) know of any changes of pub hours, closures or openings and any changes to regular ales in any of our pubs. You can contact him either on 07779 319196 or at bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk. In the guide, some of our pubs are currently missing photos and descriptions, you can help by sending snapshots (.jpeg) or descriptions (not more than 80 words) (.doc) to the aforementioned e-mail address.

Our meetings this quarter have been held in the **New Cross Turnpike**, Welling (July), **Prince of Wales**, Belvedere, including the Pub of the Year 3rd place presentation (August) and **Tailors Chalk**, Sidcup (September). Our thanks go to all three pubs for allowing us to meet there and for the food laid on for us.

As always we have also held a wide range of social crawls. In July on a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon, some of us congregated at the **Cock Tavern** in Hackney to begin a crawl of four East End brew pubs. The first being *Howling Hops* (**Cock Tavern**), we then moved on to the *Crate Brewery* in Hackney Wick before going to *Brodies* in Leyton and ending up in Westfield shopping centre at Stratford to visit **Tap East**. A very good time was had by all those who attended. Later in July we crossed the branch boundary for a midweek social in Dartford where we

visited the **Ivy Leaf** (*Ripple Steam – Best, Triple fff – Moondance, Nelson – Powder Monkey, Doombar & Bombardier*), the **Malt Shovel** (we were generously provided with nibbles and a free beer; thanks, Neil) (*Youngs Bitter & Hummingbird* and *Courage Best*) and ended up in the famous **Dartford Working Men’s Club** (too many beers to list, plus ciders).

An early joint social with Gravesend branch to attend the West Kent sub-regional Pub of the Year presentation at the **George & Dragon** (Swanscombe) set the tone for a busy August where we had four socials in the space of a week spanning the bank holiday weekend. On the preceding Thursday, we attended the Wilmington Cricket Club Cricket week beer festival and despite the weather we were assured that some cricket had been played. Twenty-three beers were available and among the contingent most of them were sampled during the evening. On the Saturday we attended the Old Dartfordians Beer Festival where we also presented the Club of the Year certificate. This time we were not so fortunate with the weather and we experienced monsoon-like conditions, which made getting the beer (a choice of 10+5 on the club bar) from the outside bar a dampening experience. It also washed out any chance of some cricket. On the Monday a few of us joined Gravesend Branch on their annual seaside crawl, which this year took us to Broadstairs, home of three micropubs, although we found another small cafe/bar which could also possibly fit in that category. Finally on the Wednesday we had a local social starting at our own micropub the **Door Hinge**, where we were joined by members from South East London & Gravesend Branches, (*Box Steam – Chuffin Ale, Stonehenge – Five Rings, Kent – Session & Windsor & Eton – Knight of the Garter*). Ray also provided us with some nibbles and later followed us to the **New Cross Turnpike** where he bought us all a drink. (Cheers Ray!) We then visited the **Rose & Crown** (*Bombardier*) and ended up in the **New Cross Turnpike** (usual Wetherspoons range plus guests).

Our September social was a short walk around Crayford, visiting the **Wellington** (*Harveys*), **Bear & Ragged Staff** (*Greene King IPA & Festival, Osset Yorkshire Blonde* and *Dark Star American Pale*, which ran out) and ending in the **Crayford Arms** (*Shepherd Neame Whitstable Bay, Thwaites Original* and *Okells Autumn Dawn*).

As the next issue will not be available until early February 2014, all of us at Bexley CAMRA would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

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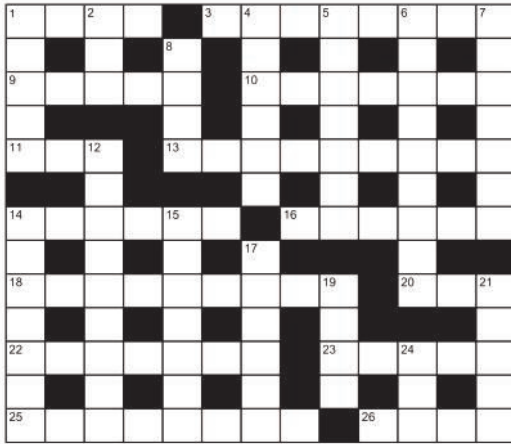
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The Draught Copy Crossword No. 12

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



Across

- 1 Former Labour leader, a legend? (4)
- 3 Kent town - way across the river in Devon? (8)
- 9 First woman conservator perhaps - quite an occasion (5)
- 10 Irene gesticulates to some extent, then breaks promise (7)
- 11 Hogs Back brew may be served at dance (3)
- 13 Leave restaurant in a hurry and prosecute Mo Farah? (2,1,6)
- 14 Scary clocks? (6)
- 16 Ed's XI in disarray, so it's wound up (6)
- 18 Mishaps? Cite dances, drug absent (mis)laid (9)
- 20 Dirty git? (3)
- 22 Some feel it is time for a person supporting the privileged minority (7)
- 23 Ex-retailer has a heavenly body! (5)
- 25 Wrongly arrested for dodgy tyres? (8)
- 26, 1 down Teletubbies fend off football team - Kent's best - although Gills fans (and those of 3) might disagree! (9,6)

Down

- 1 See 26
- 2 Shout of triumph from the Spaniard as animal is decapitated! (3)
- 4 An American woman on holiday? (6)
- 5 Not sure about monk's haircut (7)
- 6 Church musicians suffering roastings (9)
- 7 Wanted knight? Indeed (7)
- 8 Potent part of football boot? (4)
- 12 China star is out of order - he refuses to obey the law (9)
- 14 Unpaid and shambolic (7)
- 15 Film I'd edited initially in crisis, perhaps (3-4)
- 17 See 26
- 19 Fire container (4)
- 21 Fruity engagements? (5)
- 24 Crowd needing part of phone (3)

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A Surprise in Bristol

by Jeff Tucker

I took a short trip to Bristol recently, to check out the local pubs, and the plethora of breweries that have sprung up in the West Country recently. It was my first visit for over 20 years, and didn't really recognise much of the city.

I stayed in the Washington guesthouse, in Clifton, which was mainly very good, but in need of a bit of paint here and there. The GBG-listed **Victoria** is about two minutes' walk away, which is a bonus.

My first port of call, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, was the **Seven Stars** in Thomas Lane, just off Victoria St. There was live music on, which was best listened to from the benches out at the front. The pub sold about eight ales, most of which I didn't recognise, and my choice, *Downton New Forest Ale*, wasn't entirely to my liking, although the price, £2.70, was!

Sitting on the next bench to me was a gentleman with a beard and a turban, who was obviously drinking real ale, so I struck up a conversation with him. He recommended *Stroud Budding Ale*, so I tried that next – very nice. It was a bit bizarre talking to a Sikh with a really thick Bristolian accent, but he explained that he was born in Bristol and knew most of the pubs in the area.

He told me that one nearby, the **Cornubia**, was run by a landlord who used to have a pub in Gravesend. The pub doesn't open on Sundays, so I resolved to visit another day. After buying each other another pint, I was getting a bit peckish. I had noticed a Wetherspoons near where I was staying, so I caught the bus back to there.

The **Berkeley** in Clifton wouldn't win any prizes for attentive service, but the Sunday roast, once I found something that they actually had in stock, went down well with a pint of *Cotswold Spring Stunner*.

My last pub of the day was the aforementioned **Victoria** in Southleigh Rd. This is a really superb street-corner boozier, selling five ales, two of which come from *Dawkins Brewery*, owners of the pub. I tried *Dawkins Bristol Blonde*, which was excellent at £3.30. Bottled Belgian beers were also available, but at very high prices, I thought. I made a mental note that Tuesday night was quiz night.



On Monday, I had a ride round by bus to Bath, Frome, Trowbridge and Chippenham, but reserved most of my pub-going for Bristol in the evening. I managed to find the **Cornubia** in Temple St, which is tucked away between taller buildings, and settled down with a pint of *Milk Street The Usual* (£3.05). I noticed some CAMRA Pub of the Year certificates on the wall, and went over to have a look. They were from the **Crown & Thistle** in Gravesend, which is where the licensees obviously moved from. The landlord, Phil, wasn't around, but I met Jackie, who said that they left Kent in 2003. Anyone who remembers them might like to look them up.



Along with the certificates were a number of photographs, one of which featured people who I know. A picture of the presentation ceremony included such worthies as Adrian Moss and Bob Belton, no less! What a small world.

After a second pint, I wandered round the corner to the **Bridge Inn** on Passage St, where the beers are £2.50 on Mondays. I chose *Elland Goldrush*, which was very good, and from the brewers who won National Beer of the Year in the previous week with their *Porter*.

Ye Shakespeare, back on Victoria St, is a historic building, selling *Butcombe Bitter* at £3.00, and *Caledonian Fringe Benefit*. The landlord offered me a sample of the latter, but I decided to plump for the former.



Tuesday I took a bus trip to Portishead, Weston-super-Mare, Cheddar and Wells, but I ended up at the **Victoria** again, for the quiz. Starting with a pint of *Dawkins Bristol Best*, I attached myself to a team of three, but didn't contribute much to the proceedings, I'm afraid. Still, it was an enjoyable evening in a lovely little pub.

If you fancy a trip to Bristol, cheap advance fares are available up to 12 weeks beforehand from local stations via HS1 to St Pancras.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PUB

Long before the pub, as we now know it, there was the alehouse, the origins of which predate the Norman Conquest – though they seem not to have been numerous back then. Up until the late 14th century, plentiful records exist on brewing but little on where the beer was consumed so we can presume it mostly happened domestically.

The hop arrived from Belgium at the end of the 14th century. Its preservative qualities made brewing in bulk more economical (and it made beer taste better) but it also turned brewing into a more specialist trade. Meanwhile, the Black Death created a labour shortage which drove up wages and, therefore, disposable income. Both factors led to an increase in alehouses, accompanied by greater regulation of their activities – many in authority regarded them as dens of idleness. Something like 24000 alehouses existed by 1577 when proper record keeping began. These establishments were simply houses which happened to sell beer or ale.

Taverns first surfaced in the 12th century. They were more wine-oriented, were generally much larger and catered for a “better class” of customer. Never common (only 339 were recorded in the 1577 survey), their golden age was the 17th century when they became the place for gentlemen to meet. By 1800 they had been largely usurped by the new-fangled Coffee House.

The Inn, as a house for accommodating travellers, also appeared in the 12th century and evolved from larger private houses. By the 16th century, two styles of inn had emerged – the block type comprising a major building facing the road and the courtyard type where buildings ranged round an inner courtyard. The George, Norton St Philip, Somerset is an early example of the former whilst the New Inn, Gloucester is the earliest surviving courtyard inn. By the late 17th century, inns had been boosted by the growing coaching network and the new turnpike roads.

Also around this time, the monopoly on distilling gin was swept away, coinciding with a rise in beer excise duty – leading to the “gin craze” and its attendant social problems. This culminated in the Beer Act of 1830 which effectively threw open the licensed trade and heralded an era in which the pub, majoring on beer, developed rapidly.

The term “public house” was first recorded in 1669 but was applied to taverns and inns as well as alehouses. In the years before 1830, many alehouses had increased in size, with specialisation in how rooms were used. Many now had a cellar and, by 1800, “bars” were becoming common. However, the public house was still usually a pretty primitive place. The 1830 Act saw an explosion in beerhouse numbers with on-licences growing from 82,000 in 1830 to over 112,000 by 1870. This in turn led inevitably to more and more regulation, e.g. around licensing hours, the good character of the licensee and minimum standards in public areas. The growth of the temperance movement also dates from this era.

By 1880 obtaining new licences had become increasingly difficult, hence a scramble by brewers to acquire pubs. This resulted in the “golden age of pub building” with many magnificent erections newly adorning our towns and cities.

The early 20th century featured more clampdowns by the authorities, including, from 1904, a mechanism for closing pubs deemed superfluous by the magistrates. Between then and 1920, some 12,500 licenses disappeared. The Great War brought further restrictions as consumption of alcohol was regulated in the interests of the war effort. The Defence of the Realm Act limited opening hours and its impact could still be felt until 1988 when the loosening of restrictions began.

In the period between the wars, many suburban estates were built to replace slums and new pubs arrived to serve them – though their owners usually had to surrender several old licences to get a new one. These “improved” public houses were typically large and based on a vision of pubs being more than just a place to drink. Different rooms catered for different types of customer, function rooms accommodated events and meetings and the serving of teas, snacks and more substantial meals became standard. Some places even provided waiter service.

After World War Two, times were hard and money short. Also, social habits began changing with the growth of television leading to more people staying at home. Pubs were still being built or refurbished but, typically, materials would be cheap and design utilitarian. Since the 1970s the tendency has been to open up pub interiors into single spaces, destroying much of their character. Many pub refurbishments sought



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short-term gain at the expense of tradition, hence the rash of theme pubs and other horrors. In 1991 these unwelcome developments led CAMRA to start compiling the National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. See www.heritagepubs.org.uk for more information.

As to the future, little suggests that the appetite for large, open-plan interiors will not continue amongst the bigger operators, driven by the needs for high throughputs and quick returns. On the other hand, the recent rise of the “micro-pub” suggests that for many of us, smaller is more beautiful. Our pub stock still contains an enormous range and variety of pubs and long may that remain the case.



Much of the foregoing was summarised from the excellent book *Licensed to Sell: The History and Heritage of the Public House* by CAMRA members Geoff Brandwood, Andrew Davison and Michael Slaughter, and published by English Heritage (ISBN 1 85074 906 X).

It is available from the CAMRA shop shop.camra.org.uk for £15.99 (member price) and £17.99 (non-members).

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01/06

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CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

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

- 4 **GDV** **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe [*OBM*]
- 7 **MMK** **White Horse**, Maidstone, then **First & Last**
- 13 **BEX** **Royal Oak, Northumberland Heath**
- 14 **MMK** **Bull**, West Malling [*OBM*]
- 16 **GDV** 11.30am **Old Dartfordians Club**, Bexley [*Kent Region Mtg*]
- 20 **GDV** **Foresters, Wat Tyler, Stage Door, Dartford**
- 21 **MMK** **Eight Bells**, Hawkhurst, then **Black Pig**
- 23 **MMK** Bus trip to Wye & Woodchurch
- 27 **BEX** 8pm **Eardley Arms, Leather Bottle & Belvedere**, Belvedere
- 28 **MMK** **Angel**, Addington, then **Duke of Wellington**, Ryarsh

DECEMBER

- 4 **GDV** **Three Daws**, Gravesend [*AGM*]
- 5 **MMK** **Good Intent**, West Farleigh, then **George**, Yalding
- 11 **BEX** **Railway Tavern, Bexley**
- 12 **BEX** 8pm Christmas social (venue to be confirmed)
- 12 **MMK** **Early Bird**, Grove Green, then **Fox & Goose**
- 13 **GDV** **Bull**, Horton Kirby [*Christmas social*]
- 19 **MMK** **Admiral Gordon**, Maidstone, then **Fox**
- 21 **MMK** Bus trip to Cranbrook, Brenchley, Benenden, Goudhurst
- 27 **BEX** 12noon **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath
- 29 **MMK** 1-5pm West Malling walkabout

JANUARY

- 2 **MMK** **Muggleton**, Maidstone, then **Swan**
- 4 **GDV** **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe [*OBM*]
- 8 **BEX** **Charlotte**, Crayford
- 9 **MMK** **Kings Arms**, Boxley, then **Cock Horse**, Detling
- 10 **MMK** **Rifle Volunteers**, Maidstone [*Goachers Old evening*]
- 16 **MMK** **Stile Bridge**, Marden [*OBM and GBG selection*]
- 22 **BEX** 8pm **Black Boy, Olde Black Horse, Sidcup**
- 23 **MMK** **Hawkenbury**, Hawkenbury, then **Kings Head**, Staplehurst
- 25 **MMK** Bus trip to Hastings & St Leonards
- 30 **MMK** **Bell**, Thurnham, then **Black Horse**

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