

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

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

Summer 2014 No. 175

KENT IS BEST

A recent branch visit to the Kent Brewery in Birling allowed us to make a presentation that was long overdue. The 2013 **East Malling Beer and Cider Festival** had voted Kent's **Black Gold** as Beer of the Festival, and Maidstone chairman, Jeff Tucker, went along with the framed certificate that marks the award. Paul Herbert and Toby Simmonds greeted us and quickly ensured that we had glasses in hand ready to quench our thirst with Pale and Black Gold.



During the informal ceremony, Toby and Paul were also celebrating the fact that **Twelfth Night**, their 7.4 percent barley wine, had won Gold at the Champion Beer of Britain regional final for London and the South East, and would therefore be available at this year's Great British Beer Festival in August.

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 2800 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 15 June 2014 for publication in August 2014.

Visit our website at www.mmkamra.co.uk



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

CAMRA www.camra.org.uk

BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL

MAY 15—17

Old Dartfordians Sports Club,
Bourne Road, Bexley, DA5 1LW

KENT & E. SUSSEX BEER FESTIVAL

JUNE 13—14

K&ESR, Town Station,
Tenterden TN30 6HE
www.camra-afirm.org.uk

CHELMSFORD CITY SUMMER BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

JULY 16—19

Admirals Park, Rainsford Road
Chelmsford CM1 2PL
350+ ales and 120 ciders and perries
www.chelmsfordbeerandciderfestivals.org.uk

40TH KENT BEER FESTIVAL

July 17—19

Barn at Merton Farm, Merton Lane
Canterbury CT4 7BA
Over 120 real ales & ciders
www.kentbeerfestival.com

Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

May 2—5

Rising Sun

Twitton Lane, Otford
16 beers plus cider and perry

May 3—5

Nevill Bull

1 Ryarsh Road, Birling

May 8—10

Flower Pot

Sandling Road, Maidstone
30 beers + cider + food

May 9—11

Jolly Drayman,

Wellington Street, Gravesend

May 23—26

George & Dragon

London Road, Swanscombe
25+ real ales and ciders

May 24—25

Ship Inn

Red Street, Southfleet
10 beers + cider + live music

June 6 (D-day 70th anniversary)

Dartford Working Men's Club

Essex Road, Dartford
25+ real ales and ciders

June 6—8

Windmill Tavern

45 Shrubbery Road, Gravesend
Garden Beer Festival

June 13—15

Cricketers Inn

Wrotham Road, Meopham
New beer festival venue

June 21

Northiam Mid-Summer Festival

Playing fields, Main Street,
Northiam TN31 6LP
10 beers from local breweries
www.northiambonfiresociety.co.uk

June 27—29

Padwell Arms

Stone Street TN15 0LQ
18 Kentish beers

July 4—6

White Horse

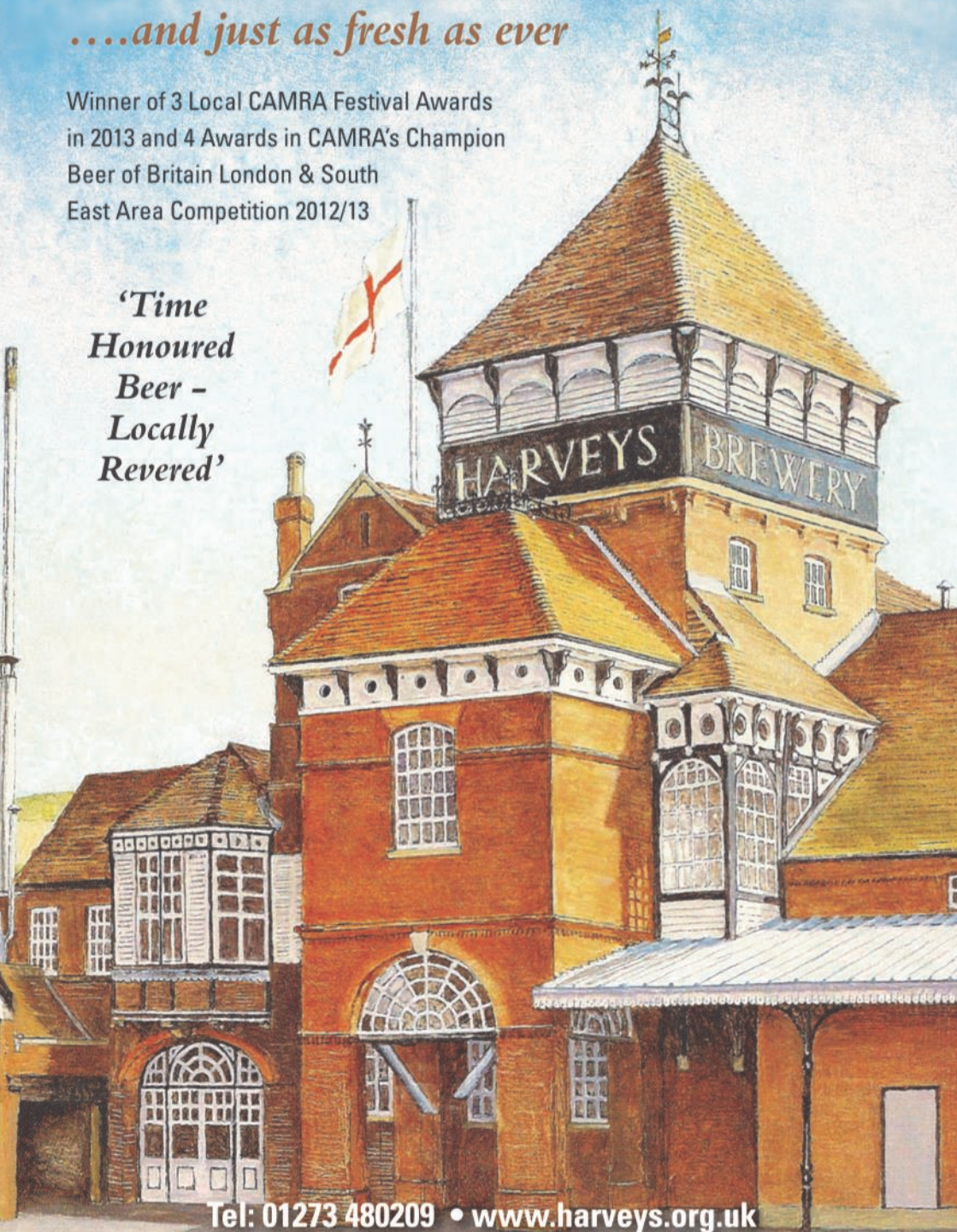
Lenham Heath Road, Sandway
16+ ales

ONE OF THE GREAT SURVIVORS

....and just as fresh as ever

Winner of 3 Local CAMRA Festival Awards
in 2013 and 4 Awards in CAMRA's Champion
Beer of Britain London & South
East Area Competition 2012/13

*'Time
Honoured
Beer -
Locally
Revered'*



Tel: 01273 480209 • www.harveys.org.uk

KENT BREWERIES

Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	<i>www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	<i>www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/</i>
Caveman Brewery	07769 710665	<i>www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</i>
Farriers Arms Brewery	01233 720444	<i>www.thefarriersarms.com</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>
Pig and Porter	01424 893519	<i>pigandporter.co.uk</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>
Time and Tide	07840 327265	<i>timeandtidebrewing.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>



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Brewed using the finest hops & Maris Otter malt in the heart of the Kent countryside



CASKS • BOTTLES • POLYTAINERS (5,10 & 20 litre)

Tel: 01580 243185 Email: fineale@olddairybrewery.com

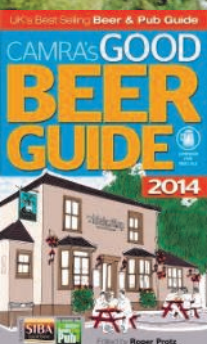
www.olddairybrewery.com



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



THE BLACK HORSE INN

FREEHOUSE

Pilgrims Way
Thurnham
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 3LD

Tel 01622 737185

info@wellieboot.net

www.wellieboot.net



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

Dog friendly in the bar

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

Open all day every day with food served all day!

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

THE DRAUGHT COPY CAMRA DISCOUNT LIST

Here are the pubs and clubs we know of that offer discounted pints to any card-carrying CAMRA member. The discount applies to whole pints only. Please email the editor (dc@braymead.com) to let us know of any other hostelries offering similar discounts.

All Chef & Brewer pubs	10 percent
Anchor, Bexley	10p per pint
Anchor in Hope, Welling	10 percent
Bell, Smarden	10p per pint
Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden	20p per pint
Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Earl Haig, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot, Maidstone	10p per pint
George Staples, Blackfen	20 percent (<i>also buy 6, 7th free</i>)
Jolly Fenman, Blackfen	10 percent
Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone	10p per pint
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent

CAMRA Approves Cider Duty Freeze

CAMRA has welcomed the Government's decision in the Budget to freeze cider duty. Making the announcement, the Chancellor highlighted that some cider producers in the West Country had been hit hard by recent weather conditions so needed additional support. The freeze in duty will apply to cider with a juice content of 35% or higher, and will not apply to sparkling cider between 5.5% and 8.5% abv.

CAMRA has cautioned that small cider producers (making below 70 hectolitres each year) already pay no duty, so the benefit of this duty freeze will primarily be felt by slightly larger producers. CAMRA is continuing to campaign for a new cider duty system to support real cider with a considerably higher juice content. For more information on real cider and perry, visit www.camra.org.uk/cider

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

Wyatt Street, Maidstone - Phone 01622 758891

A REAL TRADITIONAL MAIDSTONE PUB

SERVING GOACHER'S FINEST ALES AND STOUT

Good Beer Guide Listed This Century

Maidstone CAMRA Pub Of The Year, 2005





THE WHITE HORSE

**12.5% off your food bill *main menu only.
Not valid on Sundays or for Special Offers. Valid only on
presentation of this original advert - no photocopies accepted.**

The White Horse at Sandway, just outside the village of Lenham in Kent, is a traditional country pub, located between Lenham, Boughton Malherbe, Platts Heath and the village of Harrietsham. Family friendly with a play area for children.



We have our own function room and separate restaurant, able to cater for a dinner for two to a function for 100 plus. The restaurant is popular with people for private dining parties of up to 35 people and for

60 plus our function room is perfect. We are happy to cater for all occasions such as Christenings, Birthdays and Weddings.



Part of our garden is fenced off for riders to tether their horses and a large car park for them to park horse boxes in (by prior appointment only) and go for a ride.

Live music is on the first Friday of the month and a Beer Festival is to be held on July, 4th, 5th and 6th with a hog roast, face painting, morris dancers, military vehicles and live music lined up.

Our food is all homemade and locally sourced as much as we can.

Lenham Heath Road, Maidstone ME17 2HY 01622 859511

whitehorsesandway.co.uk

MUSKET

BREWERY



KENT BEERS!!

Musket Brewery Limited is a new, independent, Maidstone-based Micro Brewery located at Loddington Farm, Linton, specialising in brewing premium REAL ALE at realistic prices.

The brewers are CAMRA members Mark Stroud and Tony Williams, who are able to offer carefully brewed ales direct from the brewery for pubs, clubs and events.

Real Ales include:-

- * **FIFE & DRUM – a 3.8% Golden Ale**
- * **FLINTLOCK – a 4.2% Best Bitter**
- * **MUZZLELOADER – a 5% Strong Ale**

To assist in repeat “Guest s**A**LEability” and increase turnover for the licensed trade, Musket Brewery offers a significant promotion campaign on initial orders.

Contact Musket Brewery to find out more!!

079671 27 27 8

info@musketbrewery.co.uk



“There’s more in the barrel” at

www.musketbrewery.co.uk

DDS Scheme

THE LOBSTER POT

Traditional pub in the beautiful town of
West Malling in Kent, England.

- OPEN MIC EVERY OTHER SUNDAY 3-CLOSE
- £2.99 REAL ALES EVERY WEDNESDAY
- LIVE MUSIC EVERY SATURDAY
- LOCAL AND NATIONAL REAL ALES
- POKER MONDAY NIGHTS
- HALF PRICE COCKTAILS EVERY TUESDAYS

Selection of wines, prosecco and champagnes, and premium spirits.

FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE



47 Swan Street
West Malling
Kent
ME19 6JU



Telephone: 01732 843 775



lobster pot west malling



@TheLobsterPotWM

MARDEN WINS — TWICE!

John Mills

We congratulate Maidstone branch's new Pub of the Year, the **Stile Bridge** in Marden, who just beat last year's winner, the **Flower Pot** in Maidstone, into second place. The standard was very high, with both pubs scoring well and maintaining a good selection of beers in excellent condition. Facilities in the two pubs have been improved and both charge very reasonable prices. Certificates will be awarded in due course. The **Stile Bridge** will now go forward to compete with branch winners from the east of Kent.

In the Club of the Year competition, **Marden Village Club** defeated previous winner **Teston Club**, and will now be up against other branch winners in West Kent. Both clubs have very comfortable facilities and good beer. Membership enquiries will be considered by both.



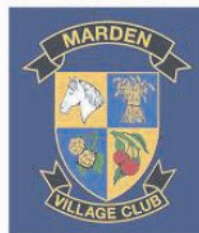
Recent issues of *Draught Copy* online can be found at www.mmkamra.co.uk/#!/__draught-copy

Marden Village Club

Albion Road, Marden, Kent TN12 0PD

Phone: 01622 831427

www.mardenvillageclub.co.uk



Winner Maidstone CAMRA Club of the Year 2014 award

*We invite new members to join our club and
enjoy the Real Ales offered at club prices*

*The club has regular entertainment,
snooker, pool and darts*

*We are affiliated to the Kent Association of
Working Mens Clubs & Institutes (1996)*

Congratulations to John and Moira

Williams on their recent wedding. John and Moira are both long-standing members of CAMRA. We at MMK branch and *Draught Copy* wish them every happiness for the future.

This picture of them, taken at their reception at the **Stile Bridge** in Marden, is by courtesy of Brian Johnson.



Roll up, roll up, to Britain's Biggest Pub

THE GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL,
Olympia, London, 12-16 August 2014

www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets

CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival will be bringing a carnival atmosphere to London's Olympia exhibition centre this summer with an extravagant circus theme complete with live-action circus performers.

But fantastic beer will of course remain the star of the show, with over 350 different breweries offering 900 different real ales, ciders, perries and international beers to over 50,000 thirsty beer lovers throughout the week-long event.

The festival will feature 29 bars, including 11 brewery bars run by the Nation's biggest and best brewers of real ale, plus food and merchandise stalls as well as a full schedule of entertainment on the GBBF music stage.

The event is set to be one of the biggest and best Great British Beer Festivals ever, so don't miss out on your place at the festival and buy a ticket now via www.gbbf.org.uk/tickets

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>
Turners Cider	07825 394164	<i>www.turnerscider.co.uk</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

Nevill Bull, Birling – Meet the Brewer events have been taking place here allowing the drinkers to express their appreciation (or otherwise) of the brews available. Paul Bournazian of *Tonbridge Brewery* (now based in East Peckham) and his business partner Mark set us a task of identifying five different hops used in his brews. Most of us fared badly



but the winner got three from five correct and was duly rewarded with an eight pint minicask of *Coppernob*. The beers on that evening were *Alsace Gold*, *Coppernob* and *Rustic*. www.nevillbull.co.uk

Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea – Jo & Dave Whitehurst were our hosts for this year's post-Christmas meal. We were well looked after with good meals, prompt service and excellent beer as always. Everyone departed well fed and supplied with a plentiful selection of beer. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*, *Spitfire*, *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* and *India Pale Ale* were available all evening with the seasonal *Amber* coming on at the end to replace the *Whitstable Bay* which we had exhausted. cockinnmaidstone.co.uk

Walnut Tree, East Farleigh – This excellent *Shepherd Neame* tied pub provided us with *Master Brew*, *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* and the seasonal *Amber Ale*. On Saturday evenings live music is played. There is a large car park and garden at the rear. A quiz is held on Wednesday evenings. Food is available daily except on Wednesdays.

Roebuck, Harrietsham – Just off the A20 is this spacious pub with accommodation. A new brasserie style menu is now available. A reporter found two *Goacher's* ales here, *Best Dark* and *Special* (badged as *Roebuck*); guest ales at the time were *Robinsons Hannibal's Nectar* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*. www.theroebuckinnharry.co.uk

Hawkenbury, Hawkenbury – Situated on the road between Staplehurst and Sutton Valence, this pub has a good sized restaurant with facilities for darts, pool and table football. It is licensed for marriages and caters for weddings. It also has an accommodation block at the rear. We found *Goody Ales Good Heavens* and *Good Life with Millis Dartford Wobbler* all as guests. www.thehawkenbury.com

Eight Bells, Hawkhurst – New licensees took over here in December. *Dark Star Hophead* and *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* are continuing as regular ales and *Skinnners Betty Stogs* has been found as a guest.

Dirty Habit, Hollingbourne – Very busy serving diners on our visit, so rather than propping up the bar, we lingered only for the one drink. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Tim Taylor Landlord* are the regulars and the guest was *Musket Flintlock*.
www.elitepubs.com/the_dirtyhabit

Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne – Our scheduled visit here failed when it was found closed with no explanation on the door, although it was occupied.

Windmill, Hollingbourne – Some diners still remaining but no problem with seating was found here. *Musket Flintlock* (in good order and very popular) and *Sharp's Doom Bar* (not sampled) are regulars with *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Westerham Grasshopper Kentish Bitter* as a guest.
www.thewindmillbyrichardphillips.co.uk



Hook & Hatchet, Hucking – Good news here, in that David & Charlotte Bacon have now taken this on. It had been closed for around a year but is now due to re-open on 22 March following considerable renovation.

Drakes, Maidstone – Work is now currently under way here with scaffolding in use, so may open late May.

Flower Pot, Maidstone – There are several shove ha'penny players here who would like to find a team from another pub to play against. So any pub that would be interested please contact David at the pub or send someone there to discuss holding a match. flowerpotpub@hotmail.co.uk

Poppy Fields, Maidstone – Duly opened on 10 March and was very busy. The offer of free beer may have helped. Reasonably close to bus stops and there is a large car park. It seems to be generally designed for young families as it has play areas. There is a strong emphasis on rotisserie chickens. Initial reports are fairly favourable. Regular beers are *Banks Mild* and *Banks Sunbeam*, *Marston's Pedigree* and *Ringwood Old Thumper*. All beers are served via tight sparklers which is a somewhat alien northern style in this area. www.poppyfieldspubmaidstone.co.uk

The Flower



Pot

BEER FESTIVAL
8TH TO 10TH MAY 2014
OVER 30 ALES AND CIDER
LIVE MUSIC
HOT & COLD FOOD

BEER FESTIVAL
8TH TO 10TH MAY 2014
OVER 30 ALES AND CIDER
LIVE MUSIC
HOT & COLD FOOD

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

Up to 9 ales and 4 ciders

Home cooked food 12-3pm

Monday to Friday

Open mic night every Tuesday

Discount for card carrying CAMRA members

96 Sandling Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2RJ

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

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

Beer Festival

11, 12 and 13 April 2014

New table game has arrived, "Bar Billiards"

THE KINGS ARMS

A TRADITIONAL 17th CENTURY COUNTRY PUB

REAL ALES

SELECTION OF WINES

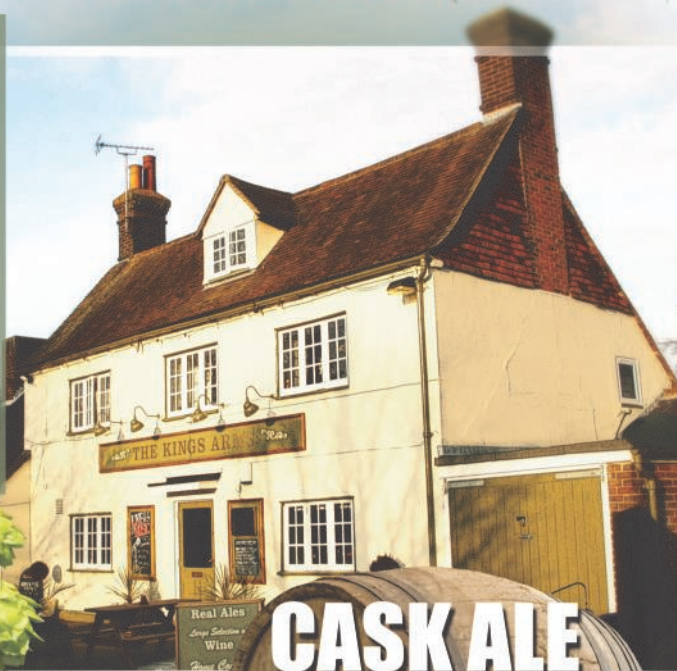
BEER GARDEN

HOME COOKED FOOD

LIVE MUSIC

OPEN FIREPLACE

CAR PARK



01732 845208

**CASK ALE
MONDAYS**

**Kentish Ales
£2.95 a pint**

Value for Money Food @
THE KINGS ARMS

Lunch served everyday
12:00pm - 2:30pm

Homemade pies and ale
every evening from 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Thai Food - EAT IN or TAKE AWAY
every Friday night

SUNDAY ROASTS
12:00pm - 4:00pm

EAST END PIE, MASH & LIQUOR
Last Thursday of the Month

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@kingsarmsoffham



Teston Road, Offham
West Malling, Kent, ME19 5NR

www.kingsarmsoffham.co.uk

SHEP'S ALE AT ITS BEST!



WE ARE A SMALL TRADITIONAL PUB
LOCATED NEXT TO COUNTY HALL AND A COUPLE OF MINUTES
WALK FROM MAIDSTONE EAST STATION AND BUS STOPS -
IN COUNTY ROAD - BY THE PRISON GATES.

IN THE GOOD BEER GUIDE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND CASK
MARQUE ACCREDITED. TO TICKLE YOUR TASTE BUDS WE OFFER
THE BEST:

- REGULAR CASK ALES
- SEASONAL ALES / NEW CLASSIC COLLECTION RANGE
- SPECIAL ALES FROM THE PILOT BREWERY
- REGIONAL BEER FESTIVALS

TO KEEP OUR PATRONS AMUSED WE HOST REGULAR QUIZ &
DARTS MATCHES. HOLD CHARITABLE EVENTS. OFFER A VARIETY OF
ENTERTAINMENT & ARRANGE EXCURSIONS. CLUBS ARE WELCOME
& SUPPORTED. WE ALSO HAVE A BEER GARDEN & ARE DOG
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



Swan, Maidstone – This continues to provide excellent quality *Shepherd Neame* beers with *Master Brew*, *Kent's Best* and *Spitfire* as regulars. A seasonal beer is also often to be found, *India Pale Ale* recently. Mini beer festivals occasionally happen and customers can vote for whichever of the list on offer they would like to be stocked. A simple selection of hot food should soon be obtainable here. www.theswaninnmaidstone.co.uk



Marden Village Club, Marden – Now has a more liberal choice of guest beers with *Dark Star Partridge* and *Musket Flintlock* having been found joining the regular *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew Bitter*. Maidstone branch Club of the Year 2014.

Yew Tree, Sandling – Re-opened fully in mid-February following an 18-month period of closure. Now repainted internally and fitted with new double glazed windows and smart toilets. The front of house is run by Tracey with Jim and Tom in the kitchen. Tapas dishes can satisfy those not requiring the full works but the main menu has something for everyone and dishes can be adapted for children. On the bar were *Young's Bitter* and *Dark Star Hophead*, supplemented by *Nelson Friggin in the Rigg* as a guest. A fourth pump is expected to be fitted that will supply another guest ale from one of the local breweries. www.theyewtreesandling.co.uk

Queens Head, Sutton Valence – The beer quality here seems to have improved and as well as *Greene King IPA*, *Abbot*, *Morland Original* and *Hardys & Hansons Bitter* they also keep *Goacher's Fine Light Ale* as a regular. With the loss of the **Swan** some local drinkers may well have moved here and contributed to the throughput on the pumps. www.queens-head.net



Black Horse, Thurnham – On our visit we found it well supported with drinkers. *Adnams Southwold Bitter*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Wychwood Hobgoblin* were on as guests but these change frequently from a list of regulars. *Westerham Grasshopper* is the regular ale. www.wellieboot.net

Bell, Ware Street – Branch members paid a long overdue visit here and found it to be quite vibrant with a darts match in progress and some diners still in the restaurant. Although a *Greene King* pub, apart from IPA there were *Belhaven Robert Burns* and *Thwaites Crafty Devil* that we were pleased to see and enjoy.

Railway, Wateringbury – Hit by the floods and closed; may be sold.

White House, West Farleigh – A welcome outlet for the local *Goacher's* ales. There is a fire in here winter and comfortable seating is provided. Facilities include a pool table, dart board and eight floodlit pétanque pitches. There are usually three *Goacher's* ales available straight from the cask.

George, Yalding – Closed due to flooding.

Walnut Tree, Yalding – Some shuffling of furniture here provides a few more seats in the lower bar area. Prices seemed to have gone up here but as long as beer is in good condition people will pay up. No doubt other establishments will soon be following with price rises subsequent to supplier increases but hopefully the budget will not provide even more. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter Tonbridge* and *Coppernob* are regulars with *Exmoor Ale* as the single guest when the branch visited. A second guest will appear when demand increases.

Many thanks to those members who have begun scoring beers and offering feedback via *WhatPub.com*. It is of particular assistance to us in keeping up with those pubs that are away from the main population areas and hence less easy to get to. A good overview of all the branch pubs is welcome rather than lots of reports for the same pubs.

I happened to be enjoying a few beers in the **Flower Pot** when licensee David Davenport was being interviewed for StonesLive internet radio. StonesLive provides commentary and information about our home football team for those unable to attend matches. Well-known radio personality and Stones supporter, Roger Day, arrived during the afternoon as well. That was an unexpected plus for the interviewer as Roger was happy to participate. So to keep up with the Stones and various music genres, tune in via your PC, phone or tablet. www.stoneslive.co.uk

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There have been a number of changes of licensee in the Dartford area of late. The **Fox & Hounds** in Lowfield Street closed on 27th February and a skip appeared outside on the forecourt so we feared the worst, as this was the sole remaining pub in Lowfield Street following the closure of the **Plough**, the **Windmill** and the **Two Brewers** in the last 15 years. Thankfully the pub re-opened the following week with a new landlord, Grant, previously of the **Bird in Hand** in Dartford Road. My colleague Bob Marsh called in to the **Fox & Hounds** on 10th March, which had *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Morland Old Speckled Hen* on sale, and a beer from a micro brewery would soon follow. Early days as yet, so we'll keep a weather eye on the pub, which has bar hours 12-11 Monday to Thursday, 12-12 Friday and Saturday and 12-10.30 on Sunday.

Grant said that the new people at **Bird in Hand** intend to maintain it as a family-oriented pub, which is good news, as we'd heard an unfounded rumour that it might have become a wine bar. Further along Dartford Road towards town, the **Ship** is now selling *Doom Bar* along with the longstanding *Courage Best*. This traditional cosy little locals' pub on the main road boasts the longest standing landlady in the area, so some good things remain the same.

Bob has also done some research on the 414 bus route along the Hawley Road. The **Papermakers Arms** in Hawley is another pub with new licensees, George & Lisa, who were in the process of moving in at the beginning of March. Only *Sharps Doom Bar* was available, but they are interested in real ale, and we've heard a rumour, this time from a reliable



source, that an expanded range of beers should include some exciting real ales. At the moment they do not serve food, as the kitchen needs a complete refit, but they hope to have it up and running for the summer. Currently the pub is open from 11-11 with 11.30 closing on Friday and Saturday. There is ample parking at the front and a large grassed beer garden to the rear.

We mentioned last time the *Millis* beers were no longer regularly available in pubs in its home village of South Darenth when, at one time, all three pubs stocked *Millis* beers from time to time. However *Millis* has found its way into the higher (or should that be lower?) echelons of society. *Millis Kentish Best* made its debut as a guest beer at the **Strangers Bar** in the Houses of Parliament on 28th January 2014, according to the local News Shopper, which carried a photograph of John Millis, his son Darren, and Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, supping the ale. John described *Kentish Best* as “a clean, malty ale, with a dry and fresh taste as well as a hoppy flavour”. His other regular beers with local names are *Dartford Wobbler* and *Gravesend Guzzler*.

For the record, the **Jolly Millers** in South Darenth offers *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and two guest beers, which were *Wadworth St. George & the Dragon* “coming soon” and *Canterbury Ales The Miller’s Ale*, of which only the latter was available at the time. The **Bridges** offers *Doom Bar* and/or *Courage Best*, together with one or two guest beers, being *Wadworth Bumble Beer* at the time.

Another pub on the 414 bus route is the **Orange Tree** in Hawley Road, Wilmington, a *Shepherd Neame* tied house, just outside the Dartford town border. This pleasant pub, which will change hands in the near future, was refurbished recently, introducing a restaurant featuring a carvery, but we understand that the current licensees are struggling to make a financial success and have given notice to leave. Part of the problem could be the high rents and high stock prices charged by *Shepherd Neame* to their tenants resulting in higher than market average prices to the customer at the bar - or am I just being cynical?

We would like to commend one *Shepherd Neame* landlord, Mark Waters, who travelled back early from a day at the Cheltenham races to welcome our members at a social at the **Chequers** at Heaverham, where we enjoyed the regular *Shepherd Neame Kent’s Best* and the seasonal beer *Early Bird*. Mark and Alexandra are coping in the current economic climate, but another downside is the limited access to real ales from other breweries, so their large attractive garden is unlikely to become an attractive beer festival venue for real ale enthusiasts.



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That was perhaps a tenuous link to the approaching season for summer beer festivals, most of which are listed on page 3. In our branch area there are the long established events at the **Rising Sun** at Twitton, the **Jolly Drayman** in Gravesend and the **Dartford Working Men's Club**, recent additions of the **George & Dragon** at Swanscombe and the **Ship** in Southfleet, and new events at the **Windmill** in Gravesend and the **Cricketers** in Meopham. We may have omitted some so please always let us know in good time if your pub or club is hosting an event, which we will also promote on our website.

All of the "beer festival" pubs above have at least three handpumps dispensing good real ales throughout the year and most have been mentioned in previous dispatches. The **Ship** in Southfleet was visited recently and sells *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Adnams Broadside* and a guest beer, being *Timothy Taylor Landlord* at the time. Their Whitsun beer festival should include beers from various breweries in Kent including the local *Millis*.

In the previous issue I said that I'd "misaid my notes" after visiting the **Plough** at Basted. Our "imperative" branch social took place in March and I can report that the pub sports five handpumps and Ben, the enthusiastic new landlord, regularly stocks *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter*, *St.Austell Trelawny* and *Tribute* and two guest beers, which were the rugby themed



Caledonian Over the Bar and the tasty *Thwaites Original Bitter*. I'm looking forward to sampling the "good home cooked food" in the restaurant area which is open from 11.30-3pm; 6.30-9pm Monday to Saturday and from 12-5pm on Sundays.

On the same evening we paid a long overdue visit to the **Blue Anchor** at St.Mary's Platt, also near Borough Green. This is a *Greene King* tied pub, selling ales from across their range and subsidiary breweries. I enjoyed the rugby themed *Belhaven Grand Slam*. John, the landlord, runs a good guest beer policy, selling three real ales during the winter and monthly guests from other breweries, with *Black Sheep Best* and *Skinners Betty Stogs* on order, and four real ales in summer. *Weston's Old Rosie* cider is also available. Meal times are 12-2.30pm; 6-9.30pm Monday to Saturday and 12-4pm on Sundays.

I've added the **Plough** and **Blue Anchor** to my *Draught Copy* delivery run, and I shall also call again at the **Padwell Arms** at Stone Street, near Seal, which is just outside our branch boundary. I was pleasantly surprised here by the extensive range of real ales from small breweries in Kent. Only being allowed a half (driving – third pub) and being spoilt for choice, I thought of Felicity Kendal and went for the *Good Life*, brewed by *Goody's* from East Kent. I've been advised by friends that the restaurant meals are recommended, especially for those with a hearty appetite, as the portions are large to complement the large selection of beers.

Returning to my opening theme of changes of licensees in the Dartford area, it has been confirmed that Kelly and Chris Smith, from the **Paper Moon** in Dartford High Street, have become managers at the new Wetherspoons outlet in Sheerness, due to open later in the summer. Kelly has been working at the **Paper Moon** for about ten years and she has been the manager for six years, along



with husband Chris, and the pub has appeared in the *Good Beer Guide* for many of those years. Their last day will be Friday 16th May and the branch is holding a farewell social on Wednesday the 14th. Chris is still organising a trip to *Hogs Back* brewery Saturday 17th May and we hope that the new manager will continue the theme of brewery showcases and brewery visits. We wish Chris & Kelly every success in their new venture. Incidentally the new Wetherspoons in Sheerness will be called the **Belle & Lion**, apparently in memory of the first coaching inn in Sheerness, dating from 1843.

Finally the 2014 branch Pub of the Year award winner, announced on the 15th March, deservedly goes to the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe, home of the *Caveman* Brewery. Congratulations again to Bob & Bron Veal for keeping up the standard for the second year running. The runner-up is the **Queen** in South Darenth, and third place goes to the **Robert Pocock** in Gravesend.

STOP PRESS: Mick Allen, our website manager was seriously injured in a skiing accident in Italy in March. By the time you read this, Mick should be recovering at Darent Valley Hospital and our website should also be updated. Best wishes to Mick from all his CAMRA friends.

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Gravesend pubs.....a 'river-side' walk

by David Clear

When the days are longer and evening sunshine creates a thirst, what better than to follow the line of the Thames, stopping now and then to watch the growing shadows and reflections of lights twinkling on the water, and salute the passing boats with a pint of *Betty Stogs*?

Well, such a walk is possible in Gravesend, thanks to the well-positioned collection of pubs that keep you close to the river and stretch from the top of town as far as the pub that many believe features in the dramatic final stages of 'Great Expectations' at the eastern end of town.

If you start at the **Somerset Arms** near the railway station, go on £2 Tuesday, a great price for a wide selection of ales. Crossing the road towards the river, and moving down to West Street, you can only wonder at the enormous number of pubs that once filled this area. However, the **Rum Puncheon** is there, a fine old building and much-appreciated purveyor of ales, with up to eight interesting cask ales, usually including the above-mentioned *Skinners Betty Stogs*. Here, at the pub's first floor terrace, is the first chance to sit outside and watch the river. Tempting as it is to stay put, one does not have far to go for similar pleasures, as the **Three Daws** is 2 minutes away. This establishment is rightly famous for its traditional character, history and higgledy-piggledy collection of rooms. It now offers a vastly improved range of ales, including fine local beer from breweries in Kent. Once again, you have the option of sitting outside to admire the views of the old piers, as well as the passing traffic of enormous ships or humble tugs.



At this point, you can pop in to the **Clarendon** hotel / block of flats, which, to its credit, has set up a street-level / river-view bar and does offer a cask beer. However, if a more dedicated 'real ale' pub is your next stop, then a few minutes later you will be happy to arrive at the **Crown and Thistle**. You have moved a little more inland, but are in the heart of some lovely old buildings, which more than suggest the importance once

attached to this river-side town....a pier in front, a fort to the right and the once grand Georgian terraced Harmer Street to the left.

Admittedly, you will now struggle to both follow the river and drink well: best to move 'inland' for a short while and enjoy a drink at the **Jolly Drayman**, where one never seems to be served a bad pint. If tempted, break the walk at **TJ's**, a great town pub, with photographs of local river-side scenes, such as the old outdoor swimming pool. It usually offers a couple of good cask ales and a busy, friendly atmosphere.

Such would, for most, be sufficient for one evening, but one could walk it all off by heading out towards the famous **Ship and Lobster**, right by the river and providing one last chance to lean over the sea wall and watch the sun setting over the river up Dartford way, cranes and turbines towering in stark silhouette. And you can try to picture Pip and Magwitch creeping out from here to take that fateful boat trip..... For us, a taxi home is the best option.

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We are all geared up for the 9th Bexley Beer Festival which will be held between the 15th and 17th May at the Old Dartfordians Club in Bourne Road, Bexley. We hope to have a massive turnout to drink all the extra beer that has been ordered in light of the sell-out last year.

In pub news, we have had no further information on the application to build on the **Wellington** in Crayford, and we have lost another pub with the closure of the **Jolly Farmers**, also in Crayford. In Sidcup, the **Metro Bar** has changed its name back to the original **Iron Horse** and has started selling *Doom Bar*. This is a real ale gain for the area. In Foots Cray, the **Seven Stars** looks as though it is ready to re-open. The bar has been remodelled and is equipped with two handpumps. Hopefully they will be in use when the time comes.

Our Pub of the Year voting has taken place and the results were as follows: **Winner – Door Hinge**, followed by the **Wrong 'Un** and the **New Cross Turnpike**. In total, 9 pubs received votes from the 20 members who took the time and trouble to vote. The **Old Dartfordians Social Club** was pronounced our Club of the Year on a unanimous vote. Our congratulations go to the respective licensees and steward involved.

Our winter meetings have been held at the **Charlotte** (Crayford) – January, **Earl Haig** (Bexleyheath) – February, and **George Staples** (Blackfen) – March. We'd like to thank the licensees for their hospitality.

Our social diary for the first quarter was thus: In January, we attended the opening of the London Brewers Festival at the **Wrong 'Un**, where we were able to sample beers from a range of London Breweries. There was also a meet-the-brewer session with James from *Hop Stuff*, a relatively new brewery based in Woolwich. We were treated to samples of both *Pale* and *Fusilier* together with sausage and mash. After that there was a quiz, in which we entered two teams with mixed fortunes, one team winning the competition whilst the other finished a lowly fourth of the six teams entered.

Our other social was to have been a cross-border social with South East London Branch starting at the **Black Boy**, which despite having a DA postcode is outside the Bexley Borough boundary and therefore not in our branch area. Our Secretary, Peter, discovered a couple of days

beforehand that they did not sell real ale, and so we decided to change the meeting point to **Sidcup Place**. Upon the arrival of Pubs Officer Ian, he discovered the pump clip turned round and upon enquiry learned that they were temporarily out of real ale. Further texts, e-mails and phone calls re-arranged the meeting point to the **Portrait** where we were met with the usual Wetherspoon range plus 6 guest ales and a couple of ciders. After a reasonable stay, we moved on to our original second destination the **Olde Black Horse**, where the choice was *Adnams Spiced* and *Broadside*, *Deuchars IPA*, *Courage Directors*, *Greene King Abbot* and *St Austell Tribute*, all at a 10% CAMRA discount, which is available at John Barras pubs.

There was no crawl in February, so instead we held our *Good Beer Guide* selection meeting at the **Furze Wren** in Bexleyheath. This was a fairly short meeting where the 16 pubs nominated for survey were briefly discussed before a vote was taken and the number whittled down to the required 7 entries, which will be declared once the guide is published.

In March, we tried to get our younger members actively involved by holding an age-specific social for those members under 30. It was held at the **Tailors Chalk** in Sidcup but sadly was attended by only one member, although three others did e-mail apologies to our social secretary for being unable to attend. We may try and hold another one at a later date. We also had a crawl around Upper Belvedere calling at the **Prince of Wales**, where we found *Youngs Bitter*, *Spitfire* and *Weltons Horsham Pale* available, whilst it appeared that the draught cider had run out. At the **Fox** we were greeted with *Bombardier*, *Youngs Bitter* and *Special*, *Doom Bar* and *Wadworth 6X*, and finally to the **Royal Standard**, where the beers were *Bass*, *Youngs Bitter* and *Ringwood 49er*. All the beers were found to be in good condition, and I must say that Upper Belvedere is certainly a good place to go for an evening's drinking because, apart from these three pubs, you also have the **Eardley Arms** and the **Victoria**.

We also held our first Saturday social of the year, a walkabout around Soho. Six members met at Charing Cross station at midday and proceeded to follow the walk as described in the *CAMRA London Walks* book (available from HQ). Our first port of call was the **Crown** on the corner of Brewer Street and St James Street. Here we were joined by the Social Secretary of CAMRA's West London Branch. Our steady afternoon of walking and drinking then took us around the area visiting

the following pubs: **Ship, Dog & Duck, Three Greyhounds, Angel** and ending in the **Tottenham** on the corner of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street.

Our summer programme of socials sees us taking trips both inside and 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.

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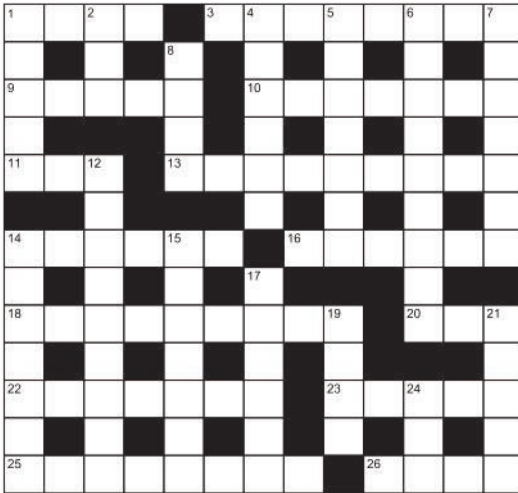


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The Draught Copy Crossword No. 14

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



Solution to Crossword No. 13



Solvers puzzled by brewery-related clues may find it helpful to refer to the list towards the front of this magazine

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Congratulations to Ian Symes from Chatham who won the tenner last time. Mr Symes is a serious competitor who's turned up a winner in these pages on a few occasions now.

Well done, Ian!

Across

- 1 Blimey! The end of the apple (4)
- 3 Felt gay endlessly, ie sort yourself out! (3,1,4)
- 9 On stage, leaders of Audit Commission talk obnoxious rubbish (5)
- 10 Atmosphere secure, but may interfere with central heating (7)
- 11 Droopy Indian dish? (3)
- 13 Football club imprisons Her Majesty in brewery! (9)
- 14 Cheshire could be big (6)
- 16 Reads Ovid initially, collapses, thus venerates (6)
- 18 Fruity civil servants? (9)
- 20 Small portion of jellied eels for South African golfer (3)
- 22 Use Dora badly and become excited (7)
- 23 Sharp's beer? Right, but only briefly (5)
- 25 Brewery is ancient and could be the site of 14 production (3,5)
- 26 Bill's partner, we hear - a much missed politician (4)

Down

- 1 To get behind with credit is very foolish! (5)
- 2 Roland, perhaps, a sailor heading north (3)
- 4 Pass out, please (6)
- 5 The Wing Commander is an idiot (7)
- 6 Does this railway engine run to Epsom? (4,5)
- 7 Some ski work for Nell's people (7)
- 8 Late trade union leader's boast about noise made by bird after scare (4)
- 12 Ex-England manager lacking in experience prior to deal (9)
- 14 Harpsichord and 'cello left off entertaining business degree (7)
- 15 Welsh city has 19 by the coast (7)
- 17 Rind he chopped to impede progress (6)
- 19 Direction to a new brewery (4)
- 21 Nasty stain on fine material (5)
- 24 Look in Suffolk (3)

Yalding and beyond on Route 23

by Jeff Tucker

In this issue, we look at the pubs along route 23 from Maidstone. All of the pubs featured are within a short walk of a bus stop.

The 23 is run by Nu-Venture hourly for most of the day Monday – Saturday, but with no evening or Sunday service. The route runs from Maidstone in the north, through the Farleighs and Yalding.

The pubs in Yalding and Laddingford are also served by route 26, which runs two-hourly during the day. The combined service from Maidstone to Tovil is generally half-hourly. Please note that the last bus back to Maidstone leaves Laddingford at 16.51.

Explorer tickets are accepted on routes 23 and 26, but they cannot be purchased on Nu-Venture buses.

The timetable for route 23 can be found at www.traveline.info. Click on South East, then 'Find A Timetable', and, under 'location', put in the town or village of your choice along the route.

Full details of all the pubs mentioned, including last-known opening times, can be found on CAMRA's handy Whatpub – www.whatpub.com. It's best to check with the pubs beforehand, just in case you have to wait an hour for the next bus outside a closed pub!

The first pub reached outside Maidstone centre is the **Royal Paper Mill** at Tovil. Get off at the first stop after the bus turns off right downhill, walk back to the junction, turn right, then the pub is just across the road.



The **Royal Paper Mill** is one of two pubs owned by and tied to the excellent *Goacher's Brewery*, also in Tovil. Three or four beers from the range are usually available in this typical traditional locals' pub.

Walk back to the same stop to catch the next bus. A five-minute journey brings you to the **Bull** at East Farleigh, with the stop a few yards beyond. This imposing Victorian pub normally sells *Harveys Best* and the ubiquitous *Sharp's Doom Bar*, and food is available.

The next pub along the route is the **Good Intent** at West Farleigh. Steve and Pauline will be pleased to sell you a pint of *Larkins Traditional* or the

guest beer, which could be anything, but often something out of the ordinary. A nice cosy pub, set back from the road. Food is available at lunchtimes, apart from Monday.

Leaving the **Good Intent**, the bus turns right and heads downhill. At the next junction it turns left for Yalding. Get off here to visit the **Tickled Trout**, a few yards to the right of the junction. This pub is mainly a restaurant, specialising in seafood, but three nationally available real ales are normally sold.



After winding through country lanes and a long descent of Yalding Hill, the bus passes the **Walnut Tree**, with a stop just beyond. This attractive 15th-century pub has a good reputation for food, and three or four real ales, which often includes one from a Kent micro such as *Westerham*.

A short walk through the village and across the bridge leads to the **George** on the left at the T-junction. This pub was up for sale late last year, and was badly affected by flooding in the winter, so it's worth checking the situation beforehand at this pleasant village local.

The bus route from this point becomes a clockwise loop through Benover and Laddingford back to Yalding and Maidstone. Benover has the **Woolpack**, a picturesque *Shepherd Neame* pub which is closed on Mondays. Three or four *Sheps* beers are usually available, plus food.

The bus waits for a few minutes at the next pub, the **Chequers** at Laddingford. This excellent pub is the hub of the community, and sells four real ales, with *Adnams* being a regular.

Food includes various 'themed' days each week, such as sausages on Thursdays. Charles and Tracey run a popular beer festival at the end of April.

The pub closes between 3 and 5 in the week, but an alternative route home after the last bus has gone is to walk along the footpath next to the Chequers, turn left on the lane (mind the traffic!), then Beltring Station is a short distance away, with hourly trains back to Maidstone.

This is a great route to reach several welcoming rural pubs but, given the limited number of bus journeys during opening hours, you will need to be a bit selective, or do it over two days!

THE QUEENS HEAD



15th Century Inn

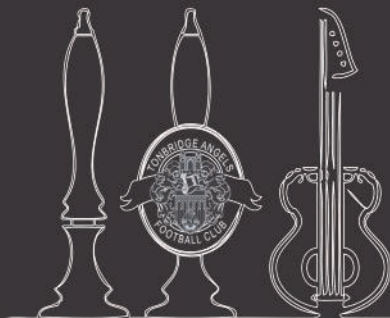
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01/06

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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)

MAY

- 1 **MMK** **Rising Sun**, then **King & Queen**, East Malling
- 3 **GDV** 12:30 Beer festival social—**Rising Sun**, Twitton
- 7 **BEX** **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath
- 8 **MMK** Maidstone Mild in May—**Society Rooms**, then **Flower Pot**
- 9 **GDV** 5pm Beer festival social—**Jolly Drayman**, Gravesend
- 14 **GDV** 7:30 Farewell social—**Paper Moon**, Dartford.
- 15 **MMK** **Bush**, Aylesford [*OBM and AGM*]
- 22 **MMK** Maidstone Mild in May—**Pilot**, then **Rifle Volunteers**
- 24 **GDV** 12:30 Beer Festival Social—**George & Dragon**, Swanscombe
- 28 **BEX** 8pm **Door Hinge**, then **Guy Earl of Warwick**, Welling
- 29 **MMK** **Peacock**, Iden Green, then **Vine**, Goudhurst

JUNE

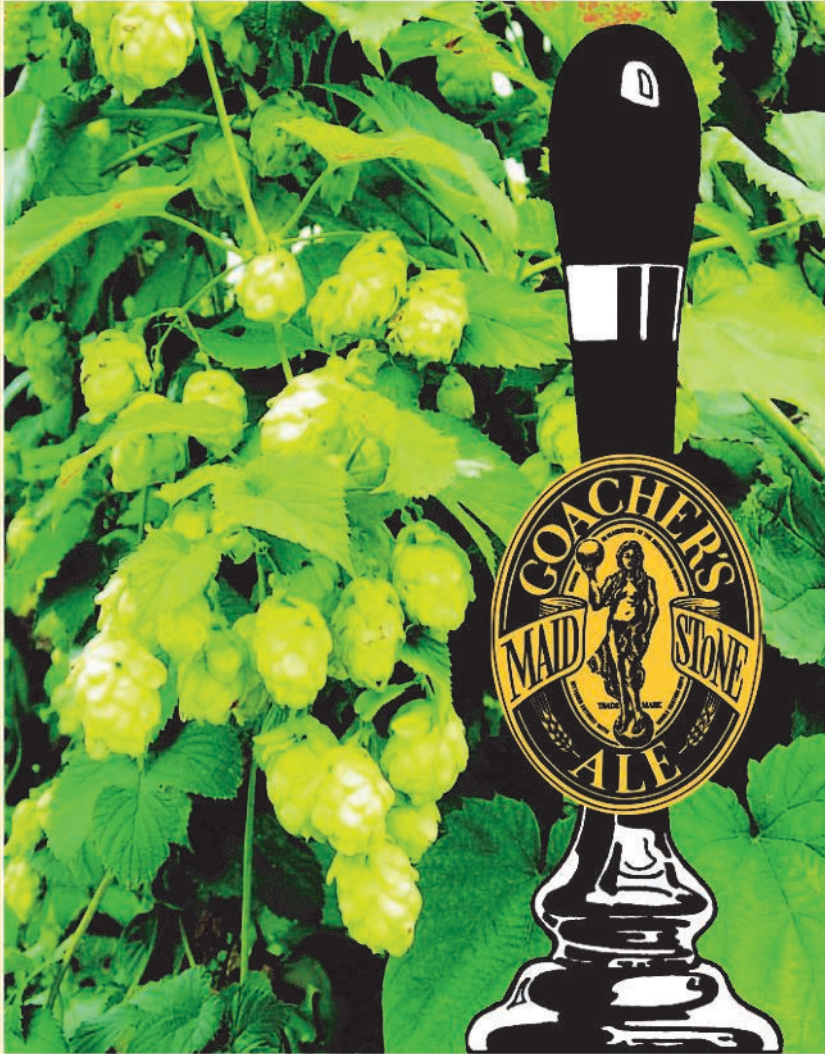
- 2 **GDV** **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe [*OBM & PotY presentation*]
- 5 **MMK** 7:30 Bat & Trap, Benenden, then **King William IV and Bull**
- 6 **GDV** 7pm Beer Festival Social—**Dartford Working Men's Club**
- 11 **BEX** **Wrong 'Un**, Bexleyheath
- 12 **MMK** **White Horse**, then **Orchard Spot**, Otham
- 14 **MMK** MENCAP Summer Fayre at Mote Park, Maidstone
- 18 **BEX** **Crayford Arms**, Crayford [*OBM and AGM*]
- 19 **MMK** 7:30 Evening ramble—Wateringbury Station to **North Pole**
- 21 **BEX** 12 noon start at **Old Loyal Britons**, Greenwich
- 21 **GDV** 11am Visit to **Tonbridge Brewery**
- 21 **MMK** Bus Trip & Ramble—Ightham Common, Plaxtol, Dunks Green
- 25 **BEX** 8pm **Red Barn**, Barnehurst, **Travellers Home & Yacht**, Bex'heath
- 26 **GDV** **Black Lion**, Hartley, then **Railway**, Longfield
- 26 **MMK** **Fishermans Arms**, Maidstone, then **Olde Thirsty Pig**
- 29 **MMK** 11:50—Sunday Ramble—Meet East Farleigh Station

JULY

- 3 **MMK** 7:30 Bat & Trap, Aylesford Rec, then **Bush** and **Chequers**
- 9 **BEX** **New Cross Turnpike**, Welling
- 9 **GDV** **Queen**, South Darenth [*PotY runner-up presentation*]
- 10 **MMK** **Spitfire**, Kings Hill, then **Kings Arms**, Offham
- 17 **GDV** **Harrow**, then **Old House**, Ightham Common
- 17 **MMK** **Park Gate**, Hollingbourne, then **Pepper Box**, Ulcombe
- 23 **BEX** 8pm **Bankers Draft**, **Old Post Office & Park Tavern**, Eltham
- 24 **MMK** **Style & Winch**, Maidstone [*OBM*]
- 30 **GDV** **Dartford Working Men's Club** [*OBM*]
- 31 **MMK** **Red Bull**, Eccles, then **Yew Tree**, Sandling

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



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

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