

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Newsletter
for the

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

Autumn 2014

No. 176

MAIDSTONE AND MID
KENT CAMRA PRESENTS

CAMRA'S EAST MALLING BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

East Malling Research ME19 6BJ

Saturday September 6th 2014

11 AM to 7 PM



75+ Real Ales And Ciders



Live Music



Admission £2.00 for card-carrying CAMRA
members; £4.00 for non-members

FREE Festival Shuttle bus service running
every 30 minutes from
10.29 (Aylesford Station) and
10.35 (West Malling Station)



Follow us on @EMbeerfestival



Maidstone and Mid Kent CAMRA
East Malling Beer Festival 2014



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 3000 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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Postal Address:	135 Lavenders Road West Malling Kent ME19 6HR
Advertising:	Colin Mann
Email:	ads@braymead.com

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 September 2014 for publication in November 2014.

Visit our website at www.mmkamra.co.uk



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

CAMRA www.camra.org.uk

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

AUGUST 12—16

London Olympia

www.gbbf.org.uk

EAST MALLING BEER & CIDER FEST.

SEPTEMBER 6

East Malling Research, ME19 6BJ

75+ real ales + wide selection of ciders

www.mmkamra.co.uk/#!/__beer-festivals

Volunteers are always welcome to help out with serving the beer. Please email mmkfestivalstaffing@gmail.com

1ST EDEN PARK BEER & CIDER FEST.

SEPTEMBER 18—20

Club Langley, 2 Hawksbrook Ln

Beckenham, Kent BR3 3SR

60 beers + ciders and perries

www.bromleycamra.org.uk

Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

August 2 (from midday)

Chequers, Laddingford

Transportation & Train Social Day

August 16

Amazon & Tiger

Harvel Street, Harvel DA13 0DE

10 real ales + cider

August 15—17

Rising Sun

Twitton Lane, Otford

16 beers + cider, perry & food

August 19—25

Wilmington Cricket Club

Oakfield Park, Wilmington

10th Cricket Week Mini Festival

20+ real ales + cider & perry

August 22—23

Orpington Liberal Club

7 Station Road, Orpington BR6 0RZ

29 locally brewed beers

August 22—25

Bull, High Street, West Malling

Six Yorkshire beers in the garden

August 23

Old Dartfordians Sports Club

Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1LW

August 28—30

Flower Pot

Sandling Road, Maidstone

25+ real ales and cider

August 29—31

George and Dragon, 1 London Rd

Swanscombe DA10 0LQ

25+ real ales and cider

September 27—29

Green Hop Festival

Dane John Gardens

by Canterbury East rail station

October 4—6

Swan on the Green

West Peckham ME18 5JW

Green Hop beer—Octoberfest

October 9—13

Crown, 10 High Street

Otford TN14 5PQ

20 beers + cider, live music

October 17—19

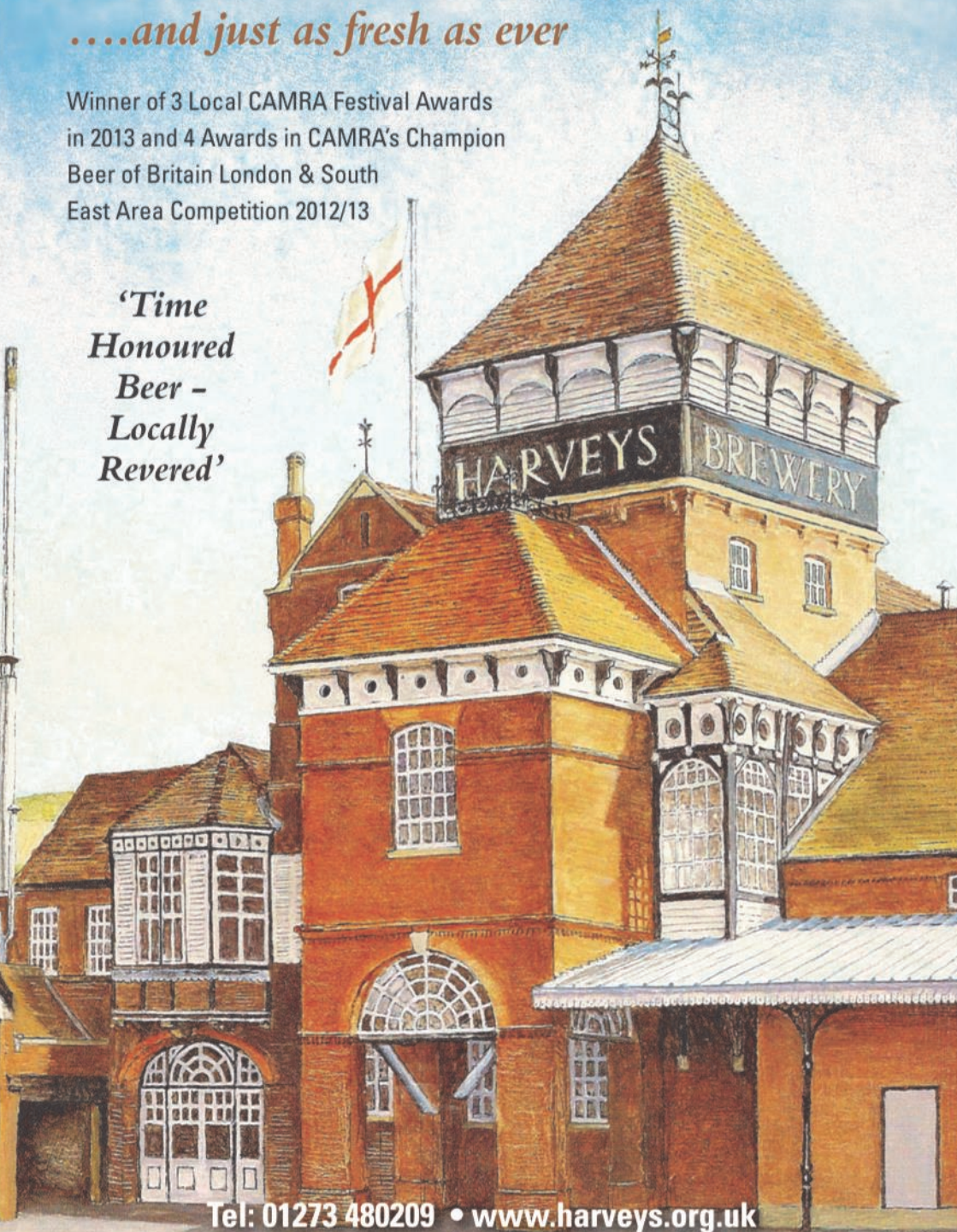
Padwell Arms, Stone St. TN15 0LQ

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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	
Mad Cat Brewery	07960 263615	<i>www.madcatbrewery.co.uk</i>
Maidstone Brewing Co.	01622 757705	
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	07787 416110	<i>www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk</i>
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>

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FREEHOUSE

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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

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Open all day every day with food served all day!

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



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**12.5% off your food bill *main menu only.
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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.



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

Lenham Heath Road, Maidstone ME17 2HY 01622 859511

whitehorsesandway.co.uk

ORPINGTON LIBERAL CLUB

August Bank Holiday Beer, Cider, Folk & Blues Festival

Friday, 22 August - Saturday 23 August. 11am to 11pm



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CAMRA Greater London Regional Club of the Year 2013

CAMRA Bromley Club of the Year 2014, 2013

29 great micro brewery real ales from Locale, regional brewers and further afield; plus ciders and perries. All at £2.70 a pint. Live music and barbecue. Booking at least 48 hours in advance is essential. Entry tickets are prepayment for first two pints or equivalent food/soft drinks, there is no entry charge. £3 deposit for festival glass on arrival. Tickets can be purchased in advance over the bar (£5.40) or from www.orpingtonliberalclub.co.uk (£5.80)



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www.kentbrewery.com



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OUTSIDE BAR SERVICE PROVIDED FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

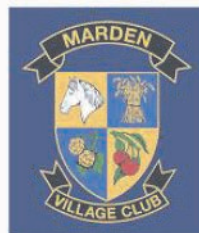
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www.mardenvillageclub.co.uk



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)*

Kent Cider Makers



Badgers Hill Farm	01227 730573	
Beardspoon Cider Works		<i>www.beardspoon.com</i>
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	
Chafford Cider Co.	01892 740437	
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>
Hush Heath Estate	01622 832794	<i>shop.hushheath.com</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	01227 709387	<i>www.kingswoodcider.co.uk</i>
Little Stour Orchard	07771 711252	<i>www.littlestourorchard.co.uk</i>
Longtail Cider		<i>markwwarnett@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Magic Bus Cider	07887 747569	<i>chris8mel@ntlworld.com</i>
Merry Moon	07707 309041	<i>jo-anna.bottomley@btinternet.com</i>
Pawley Farm Cider	01795 532043	<i>pawleyfarmcider@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Rough Old Wife Cider	01227 700757	<i>www.rougholdwife.com</i>
St Dunstan's Cider		<i>r.f.lancaster@sky.com</i>
Stiles Cider	01795 830615	<i>MikeBispham@aol.com</i>
Turners Cider	07825 394164	<i>www.turnerscider.co.uk</i>

Map available at *www.camra-dds.org.uk/pubscidermakers.htm*

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

We would be particularly grateful to licensees if they could inform us of any changes or events at their pubs that they would like to be communicated. Emails should be sent to *Draught Copy* (see page 2), taking account of our copy dates or via *WhatPub.com* for changes to opening hours or beer line-up etc.

Bush, Aylesford – Close to the recreation field and hence handy for post-match drinks. Kim provides unpretentious food dishes at very reasonable prices. There is a function room upstairs and a large TV screen for sports fans in the bar. *Fuller's London Pride* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* are kept as regulars and *Fuller's ESB* puts in an occasional appearance.

Chequers, Aylesford – Grade II listed 16th-century timber framed building on several levels and with an outside area overlooking the river at the rear. Food is available except on Mondays. Close to the village church. *Wells Bombardier* is a regular and guest ales change frequently.

Little Gem, Aylesford – This Grade II Listed former contender for the smallest pub in Kent was closed in 2010 but has been neglected and a bay window has dilapidated badly. The council are to investigate.

Bull, Barming – Paul Bates has left the Plough, Langley and now taken over here. Beer line-up seems much as previously with *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*. There are 2 or 3 guest ales, including some from Tonbridge brewery.

Kitty Fisher, Benenden – This was previously the *Shepherd Neame*-owned **King William IV** but is now owned by Mark Reid who also has the **Bull** across the other side of the Green. It is now mostly run as a restaurant with a more refined menu than at the Bull and specialising in seafood and vegetarian dishes. *Shepherd Neame Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* is kept as a regular and *Old Dairy Gold Top* was also on when the branch visited. www.thekittyfisher.co.uk



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THE BEST:

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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



King and Queen, East Malling—Your editor met landlord David Drury at a concert in East Malling church. It seems that the exodus from last year's East Malling beer festival completely swamped the pub. This year, so as to manage the post-festival traffic better, he's installing a rack of six casks for outside service, probably three *Kent* beers and three *Musket*.

Rising Sun, East Malling – Paul and Tina have *Goachers Fine Light* and *Fullers London Pride* as regular ales and beers from anywhere may be found on the guest pump. Good value food is available at lunchtimes.

Peacock, Iden Green – On a branch visit the *Shepherd Neame Bishops Finger* was found to be in very good condition here and almost matched by the *Kent's Best. Master Brew* is a regular but as the others were so good nobody actually had any on that occasion.

Chequers, Laddingford – This year the CAMRA Members Weekend coincided with the annual Beer Festival held here in April which was unfortunate, as we normally like to attend. Charles and Tracey have now been keeping this community pub for 20 years. *Adnams Southwold Bitter* is the regular ale and the other three pumps change frequently. www.chequersladdingford.co.uk



Crown & Horseshoes, Langley – Unfortunately, this Admiral Taverns owned pub is still closed.

Wheatsheaf, Leybourne – *Fuller's London Pride* has now become regular, joining the *Sharp's Doom Bar*. During the period of the football World Cup, *Wychwood Full Brazilian* was found as a guest.

Bull, Linton – The car park and terrace at the rear provide a panoramic view across the Weald and if full there is a car park to the rear of the church. Food is served from 12-9 daily and there is a Sunday carvery. Weddings and corporate events may be held here. Music with tribute bands is played here on Sundays during the summer period. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire* are regulars and a Sheps seasonal beer will usually be on as well. www.thebullatlinton.co.uk

Chequers, Loose – To quench the thirst of the many attendees at the annual Loose Duck Races on the stream next to the pub on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, Shaw supplied 7 real ales, including 3 from 2 very local breweries in Boughton Monchelsea. *Rockin' Robin Reliant Robin*

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 Fawkhams 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.

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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

New table game has arrived, "Bar Billiards"

was on the guest hand pump in the bar, and both *Rockin' Robin Hoppin' Robin* and *Musket Flintlock* were available on gravity in the garden.

Ashes, Maidstone – This has had an internal refit and a new manager, Craig Reade. They now serve breakfasts and other food during the day. There is no real ale but it has TV screens for sporting events and two pool tables.

Dragoon, Maidstone – Korinne has now signed the tenancy here and will manage the pub with John. For games enthusiasts a bar billiards table has been installed joining the existing pool table and dartboard. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* is the single beer

Drakes, Maidstone – The post-flooding refurbishment continues here with scaffolding still in place at time of writing.

Hare & Hounds, Maidstone – Sam Clarke is now the licensee having previously worked here in recent times. The beer lines have been replaced, and the first beers to appear were *Fuller's London Pride*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and the mysterious *Big Ben*, which displays no brewer on the clip. The pub now displays the Maidstone United colours with gold walls and black ceiling. There is a pool table, dart board and TV.

Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone – The owner of this architecturally interesting Grade II Listed pub, Spencer Nichol, has now made *Musket Flintlock* a regular beer. Three guest beers are also available together with various bottled beers including some foreign ones. New opening hours are 12 (4 Mon)-12:30am; 12-1:30am Fri; 12-2:30am Sat. There is now a discount of 50p/pint for pensioners before 5pm. Cider is represented by the producers of *Biddenden*, *Bushells* and *Double Vision*. www.yeoldethirstypig.com



R Bar, Maidstone – Previously named York's where real ale was sold but latterly operated as a music bar. Following its sale this has now been converted into apartments.

Sun, Maidstone – Enterprise pub found closed in May and lease for sale.

Swan (Loose Road), Maidstone – A third pump has been installed and the plan is to serve beers from Kent. The regulars are *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharps Doom Bar*.

THE KINGS ARMS

A TRADITIONAL 17th CENTURY COUNTRY PUB

REAL ALES

SELECTION OF WINES

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LIVE MUSIC

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CAR PARK



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MONDAYS**

**Kentish Ales
£2.95 a pint**

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

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

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every Friday night

SUNDAY ROASTS
12:00pm - 4:00pm

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

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West Malling, Kent, ME19 5NR

www.kingsarmsoffham.co.uk



THE FLOWER POT

BEER FESTIVAL

28TH TO 30TH AUGUST 2014

OVER 30 ALES AND CIDER

LIVE MUSIC

HOT & COLD FOOD

**FEATURING MAIDSTONE
BREWING CO**

**MAIDSTONE
BREWING CO**

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West End Tavern, Marden – Run by Sean & Bridget Harvey, this pub serves a lunch menu for seniors on Tuesdays & Thursdays, but you need to book in advance. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharps Doom Bar* are regular with *Black Sheep Bitter* being also found by our reporter. www.westendtavern.co.uk

Monk's Head, Snodland – Our reporter found *Fuller's London Pride* here, replacing the previously regular *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*.

Queens Head, Sutton Valence – Dave & Steph Ewen report that the pub was sold to Hawthorn Leisure in June as part of a tranche of 275 Greene King disposals, but their tenancy continues. They have a gazebo and barn approved for civil marriages, a safe play area for children with Hobbit house, swings, slide, sandpit and 4 chickens. The current beer line-up is *Goachers Fine Light Ale*, *Fullers London Pride*, *Young's Bitter*, *Greene King IPA* and *Abbot Ale*. While there is now a wider choice of ales from Hawthorne, stock prices have risen. See website for further details: www.queens-head.net.

Teston Club, Teston – A small beer festival was held here over the Late Spring Bank holiday with beers from *Kent*, *Musket*, *Swan* and *Tonbridge*.

Railway, Wateringbury – Flooded in December but now refitted, the pub re-opened in May after the copy date for the last issue of *Draught Copy* but as we were unaware that it was being re-fitted we were unable to let you know. *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Larkins Traditional* are regulars here.

George, Yalding – This has been re-fitted following the floods when the water level almost reached the top of the bar. It re-opened at end of April but we found out too late to be noted in *Draught Copy*.

Updates from a few more of our over 600 members providing pub information via *WhatPub.com* and also beer scores will be appreciated particularly for areas outside Maidstone that are less frequently visited.

4th WELLING UNITED FC

BEER FESTIVAL

The Wings Bar, Park View Road, Welling, DA16 1SY

For Details Join Our Mailing List At
wingsbarwufc@hotmail.co.uk

Or See Our Facebook Page

WELLING UNITED BEER FESTIVAL

Late September / October ... Date to be confirmed in Mid July





Monty and Anna cordially welcome you to

The Bush, Blackbird and Thrush

Your local 15th Century Pub

We are pleased to offer you:

- Home cooked quality food, served lunchtime and evenings
- Food available Monday evenings.
- Large beer garden and ample parking
- Large Open Fireplace
- Real Ales straight from the barrel
- A fine selection of Lagers, Spirits and Wines
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Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. TN12 5LN.

Web: www.peckhambush.com

E-Mail: info@peckhambush.com

The Chequers Inn

Laddingford, nr Yalding

Kent ME18 6BP

Tel: 01622 871266

www.chequersladdingford.co.uk

Award winning traditional village inn
situated in the hopping countryside



Charles and Tracey welcome you to their 15th Century Inn

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

We are proud of our

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

CAMRA Good Beer Guide & Cask Marque award

Kent really is best! *Kent Brewery's Session Pale* was voted first and their *Cobnut* third at the 40th Kent Beer Festival in Canterbury.

It is impressive to note that Gill Keay has been the organiser of all forty of them!

COMPETITION ANSWERS – ISSUE 175

Firstly, apologies for the error in the grid – well done to those people who managed to fit 'Foolhardy' into eight squares!

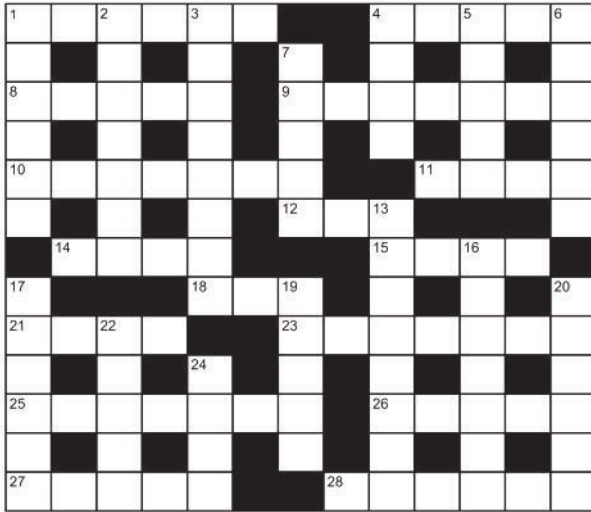
Congratulations to Ian Symes and Michael Dixon, who should now have received their beer festival tickets. The pubs were the **Early Bird** and the **Flower Pot**, and the answers to the clues are shown in the column on the right.

CONTENT
CLOBBER
FETCHING
TRAY
GEAR
STRUCK
ABANDON
BITTERN
BARGAIN
BROTHER
FOOLHARDY
LYRICS
ALIGHT
AFFORD
SPRINT
TWIG
ADMIRER
TRIFLE

The Draught Copy Crossword No. 15

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



11, 26, 1 down and 4 down are characters in 12, 3 down

Across

- 1 1812 overture composer's unassuming brother (6)
- 4 Worry about second grade, getting cross (5)
- 8 Prepare horse for bride (5)
- 9 Compiler's conquerors (7)
- 10 Forces Moe and sips bubbly (7)
- 11 Sister is in US city (4)
- 12, 3 down In a frenzy, Miss T phones the TV Family (3,8)
- 14 Yemen port given fresh start in garden (4)
- 15 Tidy cow (4)
- 18 Thus vomit, shortly (3)
- 21 Bounder on the hoof? (4)
- 23 Tax Dion, perhaps, for chemical agent (7)
- 25 Rubbish! A 1950s fashionista turned round (7)
- 26 Father is a big hit in the US (5)
- 27 Winch's partner has home on the farm with French article, showing panache (5)
- 28 Loony Hitchcock film? (6)

Down

- 1 Sister was a wicked witch, some say (6)
- 2 Sagged - crazy, or doped? (7)
- 3 See 12
- 4 Brother has model pub? Quite the reverse (4)
- 5 Look a pig in the eye and find a giraffe! (5)
- 6 Mild as adulterated? Lamentable (6)
- 7 Gnat's dreadful anxiety (5)
- 13 Ernie's church makes you wealthier! (8)
- 16 A cinema showing variety is rather feeble (7)
- 17 See 22
- 19 Jeans in harmony, we hear (5)
- 20 May precede type of hi-fi (6)
- 22,17 "The most arsy" - possibly 4 down's catch phrase! (3,2,6)
- 24 Infection goes straight to your eye at first (4)

Solution to Crossword No. 14

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

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At the close of the summer issue it had just been announced that **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe had been voted the Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch Pub of the Year 2014 for the second consecutive year. Les Broad, branch chairman, presented the certificate to Bob & Bron during the **George & Dragon** beer festival on Saturday 24th May. This was a very well attended four day event over the Bank Holiday with eight (rotating) real ales on the bar and a further nine on stillage in the patio garden area, along with a hog roast and BBQ. The branch held an all day social on the Saturday and we were pleased to welcome many CAMRA members from other branches in Kent and South London, alongside local members and other drinkers.

The *Caveman* beers, brewed in the pub cellar, were very popular with *Citra* selling out very quickly. Other Kent breweries, *Gadds*, *Mad Cat* and *Canterbury Brewers (Foundry)* were represented along with real ales from some of my favourite breweries from around the UK, including *Fyne Ales*, *Magic Rock*, *Marble*, *Summer Wine* and *Thornbridge*. The **George & Dragon** has now joined the CAMRA *discount scheme* and is offering 20 pence a pint reduction on presentation of a valid CAMRA membership card. The next beer festival at the pub is planned for the weekend of 29th to 31st August.

The West Kent area CAMRA Pub of the Year 2014 is the **Windmill** at Sevenoaks Weald, which regularly offers at least five real ales from local breweries in Kent and Sussex. This revitalised Victorian pub with its enterprising landlord, is now going head to head against the East Kent area winner, the **Berry** in Walmer, for the title of CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year, an accolade achieved by the **Berry** in 2013.

We've promoted socials at various pub beer festivals during the spring and summer and now I must make an apology. Owing to an oversight on my part the Whitsun beer festival at the **Fox & Hounds** at Romney Street, near Shoreham did not appear on page 3 of the summer issue. Two pub festivals which are scheduled for the middle of August are the regular event at the **Rising Sun** at Twitton, near Otford, with the usual steak night on Friday the 15th, hog roast on the Saturday and ploughmans lunch on the Sunday, along with an excellent choice of beers and ciders

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in the garden bar. We're pleased to report that Mick & Ange at the **Amazon & Tiger** at Harvel, near Meopham are hosting their second one-day festival on Saturday the 16th in a marquee in the pleasant garden, which overlooks the village cricket green. The inaugural event in August 2013 was very successful, despite adverse weather, and there will be at least 12 real ales, some from Kent, and ciders available this year with a BBQ, hog roast and live music.

One new beer festival took place in early June at the **Windmill**, Shrubbery Road, Gravesend, hosted by new licensees Paul & Natalie. Unfortunately, I was on holiday and missed it, but I've heard glowing reports about the beer quality and I've seen the list of eighteen excellent ales and two "scrumpy" ciders, with a good selection from Kent. The beer ran out and the event was considered a success so here's hoping there'll be another. The branch will be holding an open business meeting at the **Windmill** on Wednesday 17th September.

Wilmington Cricket Club will be hosting its tenth annual Cricket Week Beer Festival. The pavilion bar will be open from Tuesday 19th August to Bank Holiday Monday 25th August from 12 noon to 10pm each day (10.30pm Friday and Saturday) serving 20+ real ales, plus cider and perry. Food, bar games and tombola are featured as usual. Weather permitting, cricket matches will be played each afternoon from 1pm or 2pm with a "T20" match at 4.30 on the Friday. The branch will be holding an all day social on Thursday 21st August. In the past the weather at our gatherings has not usually been clement for the cricket but the range and quality of the beer have always been good. Yet again we thank Colin Wright for his hard work at this event, each year for a decade, sourcing interesting and different real ales of varying styles; particularly the dark ales: mild, stout and porter.

Let's move away from the beer festival theme for a moment and turn our attention to outlets which have an excellent reputation for beer range and quality all year round. Andrew and Denise Turner have been the owners and licensees of the **Cock** at Luddesdown for nearly 30 years. Andrew was the first licensee to introduce *Adnams* beers regularly in Kent and still keeps *Southwold Bitter*, *Broadside* and *Lighthouse* in tiptop condition and remains



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the strongest account for *Adnams* in the South East. I believe that Andrew was also one of the first licensees to bring *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* into the free trade and still has devout support for that beer amongst his loyal customers. Other regular beers at the **Cock** are *Goachers Real Mild Ale* and *St.Austell Trelawny* and ales from the new *Truman's* brewery in Hackney Wick have appeared recently. Andrew is still in poor health and his son Adnam has taken on more responsibilities, including quizmaster, so we trust that this traditional family pub will continue to thrive and prosper for many years to come.

Another traditional pub which has been owned and run by the same family for more than 40 years is the timeless **Old House** at Ightham Common, the only remaining pub in our branch area to serve real ale all year round, by gravity direct from casks kept in a chilled room behind the bar. Nick Boulter offers up to six beers of varying styles and strengths from carefully selected breweries. On my most recent visit the *Oakleaf Quercus Folium* and *Bespoke Money for Old Rope* were most refreshing on a hot Sunday lunchtime. There was an immaculate 1960's Sunbeam Alpine sports car parked on the forecourt, reminding me of hot summer days when even I was not old enough to drive a car, let alone drink beer.

My third outlet with an excellent reputation for beer range and quality is, of course, the **Dartford Working Men's Club**. The main bar has 15 handpumps which Nick Byram keeps well stocked with an astonishing range of beers of all styles and strengths, still generously priced across the board at £2.50 a pint. A handful of well known real ales such as *Courage Best*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* are on sale to boost turnover, and *Caveman* beers are regularly available. However Nick supports numerous respected small breweries to satisfy the real ale connoisseurs and brings in an astonishing number of beers from very new breweries from all over Britain to satisfy the "beer tickers". At **DWMC** in 2014 I've sampled beers from *Anarchy*, *Axholme*, *Burning Sky*, *Five Points*, *Lincoln Green*, *Melwood*, *Stancill*, *Toolmakers*, *Wild Weather* and *Windswept*, all of which started brewing in 2012, 2013 or 2014. Call me a "beer ticker" at your peril. All right – fair cop guv!

Following on from the notes in the previous issue regarding changes of licensees, the kitchen at **Papermakers Arms** in Hawley is now operational and food is served Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes, Wednesday to Saturday lunch and evenings, with a roast on Sundays. As

yet *Sharps Doom Bar* is the only real ale available. Of the Dartford pubs mentioned the **Fox & Hounds** only sells *Doom Bar* now as there seems to be no great call for real ale, and the **Bird in Hand** was selling *Doom Bar* (yet again!) and *Greene King IPA* on a recent visit. Another Dartford pub, the **Court House** in Spital Street changed hands in June and sells *Young's Bitter* and *Courage Directors*.

Round the corner in Hythe Street the **Stage Door** is a quiet *Shepherd Neame* pub in the centre of town offering *Master Brew*, *Spitfire* and a rotating guest from the SN portfolio, being their tasty *India Pale Ale* on a recent visit. It has an "L" shaped bar, with alcove style seating on the longer leg, leading to a spacious grassed/paved beer garden with covered/heated area, overlooked by the Orchard Theatre. The pub has live acoustic music on the last Thursday of each month.

We are pleased to report that **Ye Olde Coach & Horses**, The Hill, Northfleet re-opened in April. Sharon, the new landlady, had previously worked at a former *Good Beer Guide* listed *Shepherd Neame* pub, the **Crayford Arms** in Crayford, and the first beers on offer at the new venue were from *Shepherd Neame* on our impromptu visit, although Sharon was intending to vary the range, starting with *Black Sheep Best Bitter*. Subsequently we've heard that the two ever changing beers are on sale plus *Westons Old Rosie* cider on handpump. The latest real ales were *Thwaites Wainwright* and *Theakstons Old Peculier*. The kitchen has been renovated so food is now being served including Sunday lunches. The **Coach & Horses** is now a quiet pub with no television or gaming machines so call in for a pint and a friendly chat.

Other pubs changing hands very recently include the **Orange Tree** in Wilmington and the **Four Lymes** in nearby Hawley. The **Railway Tavern** in Wrotham Road, Meopham, which closed briefly after a dispute, has re-opened and we've heard that the **Horse & Groom** in Leyton Cross, Wilmington is expected to re-open as a "family friendly dining pub". We shall keep our usual "weather eye" open looking out for real ale in these pubs and report later.

I've received some snippets of information from readers. The **Sun** in Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe has recommenced selling real ale, being *Courage Best Bitter* when I called in to check. Having requested information about pubs selling mild we were pleased to hear that *Cotswold Spring Old Sodbury Mild* was a guest beer at the **Blue Anchor** in

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St.Mary's Platt, and very pleasant it was too. *Timothy Taylor Dark Mild* was sampled and enjoyed as a guest beer recently at the **Three Daws** in Gravesend. This pub now deserves recognition on the real ale circuit in Gravesend.

The **Echo**, Echo Square, Old Road East, Gravesend has new licensees and has been completely refurbished inside, and garden improved, since our recent social and now sells *Doom Bar* (inevitably) and a rotating guest ale, being *Otter Wotta Shot* prior to the World Cup. Let's not mention any other "football themed" beers on sale in June/July. Regulars at the **Ship & Lobster**, Mark Lane, Denton, Gravesend, have been given the opportunity to vote for their preferred next beer on the guest list, with *Hop Fuzz Triumph* a recent guest option.

Staying in Gravesend we are expecting our first branch micropub to open in the near future, subject to the granting of planning permission. The site is in Manor Road, near the station, and the pub will be named the **Compass** and will be run by two local CAMRA members. For those who don't already know, micropubs are small premises, usually converted from defunct retail units, which specialise in providing real ale, wine and cider, mostly from local producers, in music and gadget free surroundings, inviting conversation and bonhomie amongst customers. Kent is the forerunner and has more than twenty such pubs, mostly around the coast from Whitstable round to Folkestone. Currently the nearest micropub is the **Door Hinge** in Welling which became the Bexley branch Pub of the Year 2014 after just one year of trading. High hopes for the **Compass**? Watch this space!

Finally we have a progress report on Mick Allen, our website manager, who was seriously injured in a skiing accident on 27th March. Mick broke his femur, pelvis and four ribs and spent six days in Intensive Care, two floors above Michael Schumacher, in hospital in Grenoble. Several delicate operations and three and half weeks later he was transferred by road ambulance to Darent Valley Hospital to recuperate and enjoy visits from family and suffer visits from well meaning CAMRA friends!. The beer had been pining for him and Mick was discharged early from hospital on the 30th May, making his way by Fastrack, wheelchair and crutches to the business meeting at the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe on 2nd June, to the quiz at **DWMC** on 4th June, the beer festival there on 6th June, again at the Club watching England lose to Italy on the 14/15th June, the quiz at the **Malt Shovel** on 16th June and is now a

prominent figure, in cycling shorts, racing around Dartford on crutches. Now that's what I call progress! Seriously though, best wishes to Mick for a full recovery in due course, and thanks to his son William for updating the website dates whilst Mick was in hospital.

STOP PRESS....AGAIN. Mick has suffered complications with the metal plate in his leg and was taken back to Darent Valley Hospital for an operation on Friday 27th June (the day I finished writing these notes). Mick - make it a short stay in hospital this time and best wishes again for a successful recovery.

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.

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Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Earl Haig, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot, Maidstone	10p per pint
George & Dragon, Swanscombe	20p per pint
George Staples, Blackfen	20 percent (<i>also buy 6, 7th free</i>)
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By the time you read this, the Bexley Beer Festival will be just a distant memory, but you can read all about it in the separate article following this report.

In pub news, we have both good and bad news to report. Firstly the good news, our second micropub, the **Penny Farthing**, to be located in Crayford, has received planning permission and is hoping to open in the very near future. We wish Bob & Bev the very best of luck with their new venture – watch this space for future developments. Our treasurer Andy Wheeler has also found premises in Blackfen for a similar venture, to be named the **Broken Drum**, although he advises us that this project is still some way off. The **Seven Stars** at Foots Cray has finally re-opened after a major refurbishment and has two draught beers on tap, albeit at a whopping £4.40. Sadly, in the bad news section, both the **Woodman**, Bexleyheath, and the **Wellington** in Crayford have had their planning applications for flats approved and will sadly cease to exist. (The **Woodman** has been closed for a while). The **Fanny on the Hill** is also closed, having had its licence revoked.

In other news, we have a new brewery starting up in our branch area. The *Bexley Brewery* will be based in Slade Green come September when Cliff commences brewing commercially.

Our monthly meetings have been held in the **New Cross Turnpike** (Welling) in April, **Robin Hood & Little John** (Bexleyheath) in May, mild being provided at £1.50 a pint that evening, and **Wrong 'Un** (Bexleyheath) in June, where we presented the Pub of the Year Runner-up Certificate. As always, we would like to thank the licensees for their hospitality at all three venues.

Our monthly socials have seen us move around the branch area and again a Saturday social outside it.

In April, we started at the very edge of our branch area at the **Anchor in Hope**, situated at the foot of Shooters Hill; it is literally just yards inside the Bexley Borough boundary which defines our branch area. Here, we caught the tail end of their Easter beer festival and were treated to four beers from *Cottage Brewery* – *Dragon Slayer*, *Duchess*, *Golden Arrow* and

Junga. We then caught a bus to the **Plough & Harrow**, which is a friendly locals' pub that sells *Caledonian Flying Scotsman* and was one of the many pubs considered for possible inclusion in the 2015 *Good Beer Guide*. On to our final stop, an old favourite, **New Cross Turnpike**. This vast Wetherspoon pub sells a good selection of ales, too many to list, and the staff are friendly and helpful. Our Pubs Officer Ian Wright presented the Duty Manager with the Certificate for the Pub of the Year second Runner-up at a suitable lull in proceedings. Also with us on this social was the aforementioned Cliff of *Bexley Brewery* and he had brought along some samples of his work. With the kind permission of the Duty Manager, we tasted these at the Turnpike and gave our pronouncements; two were good, whereas we found the third to be a little bland.

In May, we congregated and filled our first micropub, the **Door Hinge**, where Martyn Nicholls, our Chairman, presented proprietor Ray Hurley with the certificate for winning the branch Pub of the Year. The beers were and are all in excellent condition as one would expect from such a high quality establishment. They were *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, which ran out and was replaced by *Bridestones Mosaic*, *Dark Star Hop Head*, *Mighty Oak 9%* and *Orkney Corncrake*, which also ran out. We eventually left the pub at 10.25. The **Door Hinge** is now pitted against the winners of the other 12 London branches in the regional pub of the year contest and we all wish Ray the best of luck. From here it was across the road to the **Guy, Earl of Warwick** which sells *Courage Best* and *Directors*. Sadly, the *Directors* was unavailable and the *Best* was virtually undrinkable. Due to the time, we were unable to visit the **Crook Log**, a Toby Carvery with real ale, which has now been rescheduled for a visit in the future.

In June, we held our second out of branch social Saturday crawl. A few hardy characters met in the **Old Loyal Britons** in Greenwich, from here we went on a meandering route via the **Gate Clock** (Wetherspoons), **Admiral Hardy** (corner of Greenwich Market), **Plume of Feathers** (back street local), **Crown** (newly refurbished on main road) before finishing up in the **Pelton Arms** (Nags Head in Rock & Chips on TV). In all the pubs we found some interesting beers and were well satisfied. We were joined by three more members in the **Pelton** to swell our numbers and one of the three accompanied us when we left to return to our own branch area and finish the evening in the **Door Hinge**. We also had a branch social starting at the **Red Barn** in Barnehurst near the station (*London Pride*, *Doom Bar* and *Speckled Hen* – not available), before a steady

stroll up to the **Travellers Home** (*Spitfire & Greene King IPA*), and finally on to the **Yacht** where we enjoyed *Bombardier*, *Doom Bar* and *Lancaster Bomber*.

June also saw us hold our AGM at the **Crayford Arms**, where the committee were re-elected *en masse*, as virtually no-one apart from committee members turned up at the meeting. We are happy to continue but would really like to see some new faces at our meetings and socials, so if you have nothing to do on a Wednesday evening, why not get out and about with your local CAMRA crowd.

Bexley Beer Festival Report

by Peter Trout

Bexley's Ninth Festival took place again at the Old Dartfordians Sports Club, Bourne Road, Bexley in May this year, the first time we had not followed Easter. With the chance of good weather (last year it snowed!) and having a better, more accessible venue with the beer and cider now in a marquee, we were hopeful of a good crowd. We had the good weather, but not the customers. I'm certain it had nothing to do with the staff looking resplendent in their pink t-shirts. See our branch website for more photos: www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk



Beer of the festival, by customer vote, was *Caveman Megalithic* (5.9%), brewed in the vaults of the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe, and described as being "Big on malt. Big on hops" — can't argue with that! Second was *Sonnet 43 Bourbon Milk Stout* (4.3%) from Co. Durham, brewed with Bourbon, cocoa and oats ; followed by our own *Bexley Brewery's Redhouse Pale Ale* (4.2%). In all, 53 out of our 80 beers received votes. Cider / Perry of the festival was *Severn Perry*, followed by *Magic Bus Dreamee Bus* (peach).

The first cask to run out, unsurprisingly, was the *Redhouse*, and our local brewer Cliff Murphy should be up and running in September. Second was *Bridestones Mosaic* followed by *Cullercoats Shaggy Blonde* and *Acorn Lightness*.

During proceedings, chairman Martyn Nichols presented Clive Burke, steward of the club, with the Club of the Year award.

Thanks to Nina and Adele at Flying Firkin, and to *Westerham Brewery* for sponsoring the glasses, JD Wetherspoon for the t-shirts and all the other wholesalers and micro-breweries for their wares. A special thanks to Clive Burke, steward of the Club, for all his help and advice.

Many thanks to all the unpaid CAMRA members, from far and wide, who gave up their free time to help make the festival an enjoyable event; without your help there would be no festival. Also to the committee: Innovative Vic (our excellent Bar Director) for the lights around the tills - a touch of genius; Alan on the door / glasses for using his initiative; Graham who sorted out the staffing problems with aplomb; Rob Harris at the **Wrong 'Un** for printing out missing pump clips; our other Rob for dealing with festival inquiries; Andy and Adrian for their work as stand-in cellarmen, who ensured the beer was fit to drink (not bad for amateurs); our H&S Site Manager Pat for keeping us safe, and Mr Ravenscroft for actually being there. And not forgetting Alan Boakes and his helper (that's me) for organizing the whole thing.

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Focus on West Malling and beyond

by Jeff Tucker

In this issue we concentrate on the pubs in and around West Malling. The town (or some would say village!) can be reached by bus 72 from Maidstone, or 151 from the Medway Towns. Alternatively, there is a train service from London Victoria to Ashford which runs up to twice an hour.

Perhaps with the advent of Kings Hill, West Malling is seen as an affluent area, and beers are generally in the range of £3.50 to £3.90 a pint. There are five real ale pubs in the centre, which can all be seen from one point, at the junction of High St and Swan St, and two which are a short walk away.

Also included in this article are three pubs in East Malling and Offham, all of which are in the 2014 and/or the forthcoming 2015 CAMRA *Good Beer Guide*.

Starting in West Malling, the **Lobster Pot** in Swan St opens at 3pm in the week and 11am at weekends. Landlord Nick offers two or three good real ales, usually including one from *Kent Brewery* in nearby Birling. *Timothy Taylor Landlord* is a regular beer also.

The décor is a mixture of wine bar and ale house, with an informal atmosphere and a welcoming fire in the winter months. Live music features at weekends.

Leaving the **Pot**, turn right past the **Swan** (no real ale here), then right at the junction. A couple of hundred yards away is the **Bull**, a long-standing GBG pub next to the railway line. Trevor and his team sell up to eight real ales, often including Kent's many microbreweries. There are two bars, with one set up for diners, and a garden area at the back. The pub closes between 2.30 and 4.00 during the week. The food is very popular, especially Sunday lunches.

Retrace your steps to the centre and the **Joiners Arms** is on the right. This two-bar *Shepherd Neame* tied house is open all day every day, and normally serves two *Sheps* beers. It also has luxury B&B accommodation, and offers food at lunchtimes.

Continuing south for a few yards, crossing West St, brings you to the **Five Pointed Star**, a *Greene King* tied pub, with several drinking areas.

There are usually four or five beers here, mostly from the *GK* range, but one is often not, such as *St Austell Tribute*. A wide range of food is available all day until 9pm in this historic pub.

Across the road is the **Farmhouse**, formerly the **Bear**, a gastro-pub with a bar area on the right, restaurant on the left, and a function room upstairs. There are usually two real ales, one of which is sometimes from a Kent micro, such as *Old Dairy*.

The rest of the pubs involve a bit of walking. The **Scared Crow** on Offham Road is about a five-minute walk from the **Five Pointed Star**, and is best reached through the churchyard at the southern end of the High St. This pub serves Mexican food to accompany the two real ales, one of which is usually *Adnams*. It closes between 3 and 5 except on Sunday.

A longer walk in the opposite direction brings you to the **Wheatsheaf**, which comes under Leybourne. Walk down Ryarsh Lane, almost opposite the **Bull**, which soon becomes a track. Cross the railway lines with care, then continue down a straight path to a lane. Turn right, and the pub is opposite on the main road. Do check the opening hours before setting off, as the pub closes in the afternoons except on Sunday. The food is good value, and the Sunday lunches popular. There are two or three ales on, usually *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Fullers London Pride*, plus a more interesting guest beer.

To the east, nearby East Malling has two excellent pubs which are quite different from each other. The village also has a station, served hourly, and it is a two-minute train ride from West Malling. As one of the pubs is a walk from the station in the West Malling direction, you might like to walk from West to East Malling, then catch a train back. It's about a 20-minute walk to the first pub.

If you're doing this, walk past the **Lobster Pot**, under the railway bridge, and just keep going. There is no pavement for some of the way, but traffic is usually light. If you have an O.S. Map, there is a parallel footpath that you can use. Where the houses start, the road bends right then left, and the **Rising Sun** is on the right. This free house, run by Paul and Tina, sells three real ales, including *Goachers Light* and *Fullers London Pride*. The guest beer can be anything, but is often unusual for the area. Food is only available on Mondays to Fridays from 12-2, but it, and the beers, offer very good value. This is a fine example of a community village pub, right down to the Sunday lunchtime meat raffle.

Continuing in the same direction, a 5-10 minute walk brings you to the **King and Queen**, a busy, large corner pub close to the station. The emphasis here is on good food, served in the restaurant or bar areas all day until 9, or 4 on Sundays, as the pub closes at 6 on that day. David and his attentive staff offer four real ales, usually including *Harveys* and one from the *Kent Brewery*. There is a garden area, and well-appointed B&B rooms are available.



In the other direction from West Malling is the picturesque village of Offham, with its large green and quintain (look it up!). When knights tire of jousting, they can seek refreshment in the **Kings Arms**. Getting to Offham is easier in the week, as bus route 70 runs every couple of hours between West Malling and Borough Green, passing the pub. However, at weekends, the only option other than driving is to walk.

You can catch bus 72 or 151 to the old Startled Saint pub (long closed) then it is just over a mile to Offham, with no pavement on the first half of the walk. Alternatively, there are footpaths from West Malling if you have a map. There aren't any hills to speak of. However you get there, you'll be glad you did, as this is a cracker of a village pub. Brothers Alex and Ross, both in their twenties, and mum Jo, have transformed the **Kings Arms** into a real ale mecca, and its popularity is testament to their hard work.

As well as the six ales, which often include several from Kent micros, the food is excellent, featuring home-made pies, and Thai meals on Friday evenings. The boys organise up to four beer festivals a year, which heavily feature Kent beers. What a great pub!

For full details of these and more, visit whatpub.com.

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IT'S 'HIGH FIVE' FOR CAMRA

POPULAR BEER FESTIVAL RETURNS TO EAST MALLING RESEARCH

Organisers of a popular Beer and Cider Festival are forging ahead with plans for this year's event on Saturday September 6, the fifth since it returned to the local area. CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival is once again to take place in the grounds of East Malling Research, the world-famous horticultural research station.

The one-day event is being organised and staffed by volunteer members of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, and follows in the footsteps of similar events organised by the Branch since the 1970s. The Festival is renowned for showcasing local microbreweries and cider producers, as well as brews from around the UK.

Jeff Tucker, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA, said: *"It doesn't seem like five years since we revived the Festival at East Malling Research, which has proved to be a wonderful venue. We're delighted to be returning for 2014. Our organising team has been working hard all year to ensure this year's event continues to be an enjoyable experience for all the family."*

Ian Clennett, organiser of CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, said: *"Every year, visitors tell us how much they have enjoyed the Festival and how much they are looking forward to coming back. Each year, we've fine-tuned what has proved to be a winning formula and can promise them an even better event this year."*

Admission to the event (11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.) costs £4, £2 for card-carrying CAMRA members.

The venue is a ten-minute walk from East Malling railway station, and a free bus shuttle service will link the festival to West Malling and Aylesford stations.





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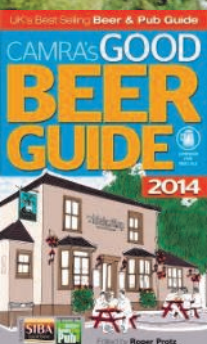
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Lunch Served: Monday to Saturday 12-2:30pm

Dinner Served: Wednesday to Saturday 6-9pm

THAI NIGHT ONCE A MONTH (SATURDAY)

Sunday 12:30-5pm Booking recommended - Takeaway available

****BEER FESTIVAL 9th-13th OCTOBER****

The MENCAP Fayre was once again held in Mote Park, Maidstone on the afternoon of June 14th, and the Maidstone and mid-Kent (MMK) branch of CAMRA again supported MENCAP by organising and running a beer 'tent' in order to raise some extra money for the charity. This involved contacting various breweries and asking them to help by providing beer for this worthy cause. We are very grateful to the several local breweries who supported the event in this way.

- *Larkins's Platinum Blonde*
- *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter*
- *Musket Fife & Drum*
- *Maidstone Brewing Company MBC-3*
- *Goacher's Real Mild*
- *Goacher's Fine Light*

All beers were priced at £3 a pint to persuade visitors that they could enjoy a glass of real ale and support a charity at the same time! Several of my fellow branch members helped with the collection of beer, setup of the bar and serving on the day. The weather was fairly kind, as it didn't rain (just a light shower early on), and so we were able to sell all of the beer and raise the sum of £1,070 for MENCAP.



This was a satisfying result, so thanks to everyone who helped and to those who supported us on the day. This is the 14th year that we have supported MENCAP in this way, and we hope that we will be able to do the same again next year.

Picture courtesy of John Mills



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

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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)

AUGUST

- 2 **BEX** 1pm **Merton Park Prep School Beer Festival**, Sidcup
- 7 **MMK** 7:30 **Bat & Trap**, Bearsted Green, **Oak Green**, **Old Plantation**
- 13 **BEX** **Prince of Wales**, **Upper Belvedere** [*OBM*]
- 13 **GDV** **Bull**, Wrotham, then **Rose & Crown**, **George & Dragon**
- 14 **MMK** **White Horse**, Headcorn, then **George & Dragon**
- 16 **GDV** 12:00 Beer Festival **Amazon & Tiger**, Harvel
- 16 **MMK** Bus Trip to Capel & Tudeley
- 21 **BEX** 1pm **Wilmington Cricket Club** Beer Festival
- 21 **GDV** 12:30 Beer Festival **Wilmington Cricket Club**
- 21 **MMK** **Royal Albion**, Maidstone, then **Druid's Arms**
- 23 **BEX** 1pm **Old Dartfordians Sports Club** Beer Festival, Bexley
- 27 **BEX** 8pm **White Cross**, Bexley, then **Coach & Horses**, **Kings Head**
- 28 **MMK** **Plough**, Langley, then **Cock**, Boughton Monchelsea
- 30 **GDV** 12:30 Beer Festival **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **MMK** **Rising Sun**, East Malling, then **King & Queen**
- 6 **MMK** **EAST MALLING BEER FESTIVAL**
- 10 **BEX** **Old Dartfordians Sports Club**, Bexley [*OBM*]
- 10 **GDV** **Rising Sun**, Kemsing, then **Fox & Hounds**, Romney Street
- 11 **MMK** **White Hart**, Claygate, then **Chequers**, Laddingford
- 13 **BEX** 12:00 London Bridge area walk (*meet on concourse by bus stops*)
- 17 **GDV** **Windmill**, Gravesend [*OBM*]
- 18 **MMK** **Bell & Jorrocks**, Frittenden [*OBM*]
- 24 **BEX** 8pm **Charlotte**, Crayford, **Penny Farthing**, **Crayford Arms**
- 25 **GDV** **Rose**, Dartford, then **Wat Tyler**, **Paper Moon**
- 25 **MMK** **Bull**, Linton, then **Stile Bridge**
- 27 **MMK** Bus/train trip to Canterbury – Green Hop Fortnight

OCTOBER

- 2 **GDV** Joint Social with WK branch; starting **Crown**, Shoreham
- 2 **MMK** **Duke of Wellington**, Ryarsh, then **Nevill Bull**, Birling
- 8 **BEX** **Tailors Chalk**, Sidcup [*OBM*]
- 9 **MMK** **Red Lion**, Lenham (Beer festival wash-up meeting)
- 10 **GDV** Beer Festival **Crown**, Otford
- 16 **MMK** **Tickled Trout**, West Farleigh, then **Teston Club**
- 18 **MMK** Bus Trip to Woodchurch
- 22 **BEX** 8pm **Prince Albert**, Bexleyheath, **Jolly Millers**, **Furze Wren**
- 23 **MMK** **Society Rooms**, Maidstone, then **Flower Pot**
- 24 **GDV** **Rum Punccheon**, Gravesend, **Clarendon**, **Crown & Thistle**
- 30 **MMK** **Ringlestone Inn**, Harrietsham, then **Roebuck**

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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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