

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

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

Spring 2015

No. 178

DRAUGHT COPY—LOOKING BACK

As we go to press on this, edition 178 of *Draught Copy*, I took a look back at the very first issue I ever became involved with exactly nine years ago. I joined as typesetter, the man who puts together the printed publication, a job I still do, despite being editor as well now. In 2006 we ran to 32 pages per issue, and now we are 50 percent thicker at 48 pages. But the price has remained the same!

What impresses me most, though, is the brewery roll-call in Kent. In edition 142 our county had just ten breweries listed here: Goachers, Hopdaemon, Larkins, Millis, Nelson, Ramsgate, Shepherd Neame, Swan, Westerham and Whitstable. All ten are still going strong, but have been joined by twenty more. We have said goodbye to Black Cat, which has moved to East Sussex, and are welcoming the tiny microbrewery of the Isla Vale Alesmiths, who are now making a name for themselves in the pubs of Thanet. And I mean tiny, too, just one half barrel per brew.

Looking forward, it would seem this burgeoning trend of new breweries is set to continue. I wish we could say the same of pubs, which are in fact diminishing at the rate of 31 closures a week! CAMRA has an urgent and active campaign—Pubs Matter—with its own website, www.pubsmatter.org.uk. I would urge readers to visit this site, take a look at page 10 here, and give this campaign all the support you can. Happy New Year.



MPs VOTE FOR COMPLETE
SMOKING BAN

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.

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If you find a pub selling short measure, 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 March 2015 for publication in May 2015.

Visit our website at www.mmkcampa.co.uk
On Twitter at www.twitter.com/mmkcampa



Beer Festivals in our region and not too far away

CAMRA

www.camra.org.uk/events

22ND WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES FEBRUARY 6—7

Maison Dieu (Town Hall)
Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1DL
75+ winter/strong ales 5% min.
www.camra-dds.org.uk

**2ND BROMLEY MAD MARCH
CIDER FESTIVAL**
H.G. Wells Centre St Mark's Rd.
Bromley BR2 9HG
40 ciders/perries + real ale bar
www.bromley.camra.org.uk

**LONDON DRINKER
BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
MARCH 11—13**
Camden Centre, Bidborough St.
London WC1H 9AU
150 real ales, + cider & perry
www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

**25TH SUSSEX BEER FESTIVAL
MARCH 19—21**
Corn Exchange, Church Street
Brighton, BN1 1UE
200+ real ales
www.sussexbeerfestival.co.uk

**10TH PLANET THANET EASTER
BEER FESTIVAL
APRIL 3—4**
Margate Winter Gardens
Fort Crescent, Margate CT9 1HX
200+ real ales
www.thanet-camra.org.uk

**10TH BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL
APRIL 23—25**
Old Dartfordians Sport Club
Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1LW
75+ beers and ciders
www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

Non-CAMRA — Pubs and Clubs

February 6—7
Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club
24 beers + plus cider/perry
www.tjrfc.co.uk/

April 2—6
Crown, Easter Festival
10 High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ

April 3—6
Kings Arms, Easter Festival
Teston Road, Offham ME19 5NR
15 beers plus cider

April 10—12
Bell & Jorrocks, 9th Beer Festival
Biddenden Rd, Frittenden TN17 2EJ
20 real ales & ciders

April 25—26
Chequers, Laddingford
25 real ales, live music & BBQ

May 1—4
Old Prince of Orange Beer Festival
Old Rd East, Gravesend DA12 1NJ
16 real ales & 4 ciders

May 22—25
Barming Beer and Music Festival,
Bull, Tonbridge Road, Barming
20 beers with 12 on at any one time

HARVEYS

The Sussex Brewers



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St. Richard's Ale

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Star of Eastbourne



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Eastbourne
Beer Festival
2014

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Festival 2014



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KENT BREWERIES

Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	<i>bexleybrewery.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	<i>www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	<i>www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/ canterbury-brewers</i>
Caveman Brewery	07769 710665	<i>www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</i>
Goacher's	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
Goody Ales	07790 443810	<i>www.goodyales.co.uk</i>
HopDaemon	01795 892078	<i>www.hopdaemon.com</i>
Hop Fuzz	07850 441267	<i>www.hopfuzz.co.uk</i>
Isla Vale Alesmiths	01843 292451	<i>islavalealesmiths.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>
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	07787 416110	<i>www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk</i>
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	<i>www.shepherd-neame.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>

MUSKET
BREWERY



KENT BEERS!!

Musket Brewery is a newly-launched, independent, Maidstone-based Micro Brewery located at Loddington Farm, Linton, brewing premium REAL ALE at realistic prices. The brewers are CAMRA members Mark Stroud and Tony Williams, who offer carefully brewed ales.



MUZZLELOADER
5% Strong Ale



FLINTLOCK
4.2% Best Bitter



FIFE & DRUM
3.8% Golden Ale



TRIGGER
3.6% Pale Ale



POWDER BURN
4.5% Porter

To assist in repeat "Guest sALEability" 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

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	<i>www.broomfieldorchard.co.uk</i>
Castle Cider Co	01732 455977	
Chafford Cider Co.	01892 740437	<i>ballenden@supanet.com</i>
Core Fruit Products	01227 730589	<i>www.corejuice.co.uk</i>
Double Vision Cider	01622 746633	
Dudda's Tun Cider	01795 886266	<i>www.duddastuncider.com</i>
East Stour Cider Co	07880 923398	<i>danbaldwin@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Gibbet Oak Cider	01580 763938	<i>www.gibbetoak.co.uk</i>
Green Oak Farm	01304 821630	<i>www.greenoakfarm.co.uk</i>
Hush Heath Estate	01622 832794	<i>shop.hushheath.com</i>
Johnson's Farmhouse Cider	01795 665203	
Kent Cider Company	01795 521317	<i>kentcider.co.uk</i>
Kentish Pip Cider	01227 830525	<i>www.kentishpip.co.uk</i>
Kingswood Cider	01227 709387	<i>www.kingswoodcider.co.uk</i>
Little Stour Orchard	07771 711252	<i>www.littlestourorchard.co.uk</i>
Longtail Cider		<i>markwarnett@gmail.com</i>
Magic Bus Cider	07887 747569	<i>chris8mel@ntlworld.com</i>
Merry Moon	07707 309041	<i>jo-anna.bottomley@btinternet.com</i>
Northdowns Cider	01795 591285	
Pawley Farm Cider	01795 532043	<i>pawleyfarmcider@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Pippins Cider Company	01892 824544	<i>www.pippinsfarm.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>
Tiddly Pomme's Woolly Pig	01795 529100	<i>www.tiddlypommeshop.co.uk</i>
Turners Cider	07825 394164	<i>www.turnerscider.co.uk</i>
Wise Owl Cider	01233 850664	<i>wiseowlcider@gmail.com</i>

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www.wellieboot.net



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whitehorsesandway.co.uk

CAMPAIGN



Our community pubs matter and deserve to be protected.

However, weak planning laws in England are failing to protect them. This weak planning system is contributing to the closure of 31 pubs a week in the UK: two pubs are converted to supermarkets alone every single week.

Pubs currently fall within the A4 planning use class. This means they can be converted to many other use classes, or even demolished, without planning permission or any community consultation.

The current situation is ludicrous and is encouraging the loss of pubs.

We therefore call on the Government to recognise that Pubs Matter and make a simple change to the law in England so a planning application is always required before a pub is demolished or converted into another use.

The text is in white on a light blue background. A dark blue speech bubble with a white outline is positioned to the right, containing the white text 'So why can't we have a say?'.

The Facts

- ♥ Pubs support over 1 million UK jobs and inject an average of £80,000 into their local economy each year.
- ♥ 31 pubs close every week.
- ♥ Research by CAMRA found that 2 pubs were converted to supermarkets every week between January 2012-2014.
- ♥ 69% of all adults believe that a well-run community pub is as important to community life as a post office, local shop or community centre.
- ♥ 75% of all adults believe that pubs make a valuable contribution to life in Britain.

With a simple amendment to the General Permitted Development Order 1995, any demolition or change of use involving the loss of a pub would require planning permission.

This small change by Government would save hundreds of pubs from closure and give communities a powerful new weapon in the battle to protect our pubs.

To support the campaign please go to www.pubsmatter.org.uk.

The Flower Pot

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

White Horse, Cranbrook – A brief visit in December found new ownership and management here with the beer list extended. Seems to have had a tidy up and looks smarter. TV screens in the bar show various sports matches. I found *Hook Norton Hooky Bitter*, *Morland Old Golden Hen*, *St Austell Tribute* and *Taylor Landlord*

Horseshoes, East Farleigh – Kelly is the new manager at this large food oriented pub. Family friendly and has a large car park. Normally *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* are served. www.thehorseshoeseastfarleigh.co.uk.

Star & Eagle, Goudhurst – Very busy when I visited Saturday lunchtime, and most people were eating. A well run, comfortable small hotel, Grade II listed adjacent to the church. The restaurant is on a different level and there is a separate Refectory that may be used as an overflow area when the bar is full. Keeps *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and two beers from the *Brakspear/Wychwood* stable. www.starandeagle.com.

Vine, Goudhurst – Has seen a change of management with Mike and Hannah now running it. The *Dark Star Hophead* has unfortunately been replaced by the ubiquitous *Sharp's Doom Bar* but beers from *Old Dairy and Pig & Porter* remain. The food is of a high standard but is still pitched above the price level that the locals require. Facebook: [thevinegoudhurst](https://www.facebook.com/thevinegoudhurst)

Ringlestone Inn, Harrietsham – Previously a hospice for monks, this ancient, Grade II listed building is in an isolated position on the North Downs above Harrietsham. It became an alehouse around 1615 and continues to provide food and drink for customers today. Once run by mother & daughter, Florence and Dora Gaskin, who used to keep a shotgun handy in the 1960s to thwart entry by anyone they did not want within. It is currently run by a descendant, and the paraffin lamps and candles have been replaced by electricity. Now tied to *Shepherd Neame*, it serves *Master Brew* and one other. www.theringlestoneinn.co.uk



White Horse, Headcorn – Now has a new licensee. *Fullers London Pride* and *Thwaites Grouse Beater* were available when our reporter visited in December.



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THE KING & QUEEN, 1 NEW ROAD, EAST MALLING ME19 6DD

For current menus & other events, visit kingandqueeneastmallings.co.uk
and follow us on facebook: KingandQueenEastMalling

Woodcock, Iden Green (Benenden) – The new licensee is Nigel Roberts, and there is a new website where details may be found. No beers are mentioned and I have not yet received any reports as to whether it is still tied to *Greene King*. www.thewoodcock.co.uk

Globe & Rainbow, Kildown – Rachel Leadbitter is leaving and there should be new people here in February.

Chequers, Laddingford – Charles and Tracey are again running their Pints, Pies & Puddings event from 27th February until 8th March. The large garden with play area and animals caters for children. This is always an excellent venue to visit with a good selection of food available and the best *Adnams Southwold Bitter* around. The three other beers are also well kept. Buses 23 and 26 stop outside. The website is www.chequersladdingford.co.uk



Harrow Inn, Lenham – A pleasant little hotel at Warren Street, situated on the Downs above Lenham. Usually keeps *Hopdaemon Green Daemon* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*. www.harrowinnkent.com

Druids Arms, Maidstone – Has had a complete refit and the previously awful toilets have been greatly improved. The manager is now Emma Thorley. The beer list appears unchanged with regulars *Greene King IPA*, *Abbot*, *Morland Old Speckled Hen* and often two more from the GK portfolio.

Hare & Hounds, Maidstone – Closed in October with minders looking after place and still so at press date.

Muggleton, Maidstone – Now somewhat lighter inside following an overdue refit with new paintwork and carpeting on both floors. The toilets have also been updated and now reflect the usual high standard maintained by JDW in that facility. The new manager is Justin More. Usual line of *Adnams Broadside*, *Green King Abbot Ale* and *Ruddles Best Bitter* is supplemented by several guest ales.

Queen Anne, Maidstone – Maidstone's gay-friendly music pub is now closed due to problems with the music.

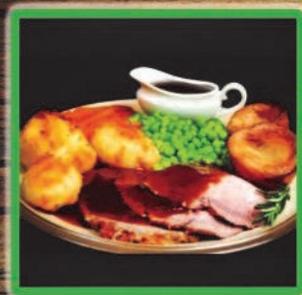
Wheatsheaf, Maidstone – Rossa Kenny has decided to sell the pub after having run it for thirty years. Several beer festivals have been put on

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.

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01622 752624

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Children £4.95

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Realistic Prices



<https://www.facebook.com/wheatsheafmaidstone>



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during his time there. The regular *Courage Best* is usually supported by several guest ales including from the local *Rockin' Robin* brewery. www.thewheatsheaf-maidstone.co.uk

Kings Arms, Offham – Alex and Ross now offer Thai food on Saturday evenings in addition to Friday. The home-made pies which come in many varieties are also very popular. Six beers from the Enterprise list are offered with *Kent*, *Tonbridge* and other local microbreweries often featuring. All Kent beers are reduced in price on Mondays. Alex may be reached on Twitter: @kingsarmsoffham



The Milk House, Sissinghurst – Changes in the garden include both a patio and pizza oven that have now been installed. The *Old Dairy Brewery* has sponsored the pub, which is now Cask Marque accredited. It has also won the Newcomer of the Year in the *Kent Life* and *Kent on Sunday* 2014 Food & Drink Awards. There is always a beer from *Old Dairy* and *Harveys Best*. themilkhouse.co.uk

Bull, Snodland – Closed in October and taken over by the Co-op to be a replacement for another of their premises close by. There is strong opposition from the residents as there is only one other small pub nearby, which is insufficient for local needs in an expanding area.

Railway Tavern, Staplehurst – Den & Caroline Horgan have decided to leave in March and the lease is for sale. *Young's Bitter* and *Harveys Sussex Best* are the regular beers.

Good Intent, West Farleigh – Pauline now has three pumps and hopes to have a couple more soon, providing that the consumption continues and customers continue to support the pub. Food is available Tue-Sat 12-3 and 7-9 daily with roasts on Sunday 12-4. *Larkins Traditional* is the regular beer and two guest beers.



Larkins Porter and *Greene King Rocking Rudolf* were the guests when the branch visited before Christmas; however, you may also find locals *Musket*, *Rockin' Robin* or something from the national brewers. The pub is family friendly but there is also a playground for children and large

THE KINGS ARMS

A TRADITIONAL 17th CENTURY COUNTRY PUB

x6 REAL ALES

QUALITY WINES

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CAR PARK



01732 845208

LUNCH SERVED EVERYDAY

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THAI FOOD - EAT IN OR TAKE AWAY

every Friday night

SUNDAY ROASTS

12:00pm - 4:00pm

EAST END PIE, MASH & LIQUOR

First and Last Thursday of the Month

FOOD SERVED 12:00pm - 9:00pm

EVERY SATURDAY



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**JUST MINUTES AWAY
FROM KINGS HILL**

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

www.kingsarmsoffham.co.uk

grassy area adjacent. Bus 23 stops across the road. Facebook: *TheGoodIntent*

Lobster Pot, West Malling – Closed for a couple of weeks after the licensee left due to noise restrictions, but re-opened with Laura Frankham at the helm, who proposes to still have music but at a more sensible level. There is expected to be a refit this year. Please note that the pub does not open until 4pm.

George, Yalding – Closed and for sale. There is now no pub for locals to use as the Bull and Two Brewers both closed many years ago and the Walnut Tree is mainly a restaurant with a smallish bar area. We have just heard a rumour it may be re-opening soon.

We at *Draught Copy* were sorry to hear that Alan at the **Rifle Volunteers** in Maidstone had been taken ill again recently, but are glad to note that he is now back at the pub once more. We wish you a good and speedy recovery, Alan.

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**



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www.chequersladdingford.co.uk

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We are proud of our

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CAMRA Good Beer Guide & Cask Marque award

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
Bell, Smarden	10p per pint
Bell & Jorrock's, Frittenden	20p per pint
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>)
Jolly Fenman, Blackfen	10 percent
Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone	10p per pint
Old Prince of Orange, Gravesend	20p per pint
Swan, Loose Road, Maidstone	20p per pint, 10p per half
We Anchor in Hope, Welling	10 percent
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent



Monty and Anna cordially welcome you to

The Bush, Blackbird and Thrush

Your local 15th Century Pub

We are pleased to offer you:

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- Large beer garden and ample parking
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Web: www.peckhambush.com

E-Mail: info@peckhambush.com

600 ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE PUBS LANDMARK IS BITTERSWEET

In December, CAMRA announced reaching 600 pubs listed as Assets of Community Value, following a campaign to encourage local groups to register pubs as ACVs. However, with 31 pubs still closing per week, more needs to be done to protect pubs – as the Government is letting communities down by allowing conversion of pubs to supermarkets without planning permission.

"The Government introduced Assets of Community Value to help communities retain valued community assets such as pubs by providing an opportunity to bid for the property if the owner intends to sell. But the scheme is undermined by rules that allow pubs to be converted into supermarket convenience stores and a wide range of other retail uses, without any need for a planning application."
Tom Stainer, CAMRA Head of Communications.

"The fact pubs are the most listed community asset shows just how much people value their local pub. It is therefore hugely disappointing that the Government won't act to close planning loopholes which allow developers to convert pubs to other uses without the requirement for planning permission."

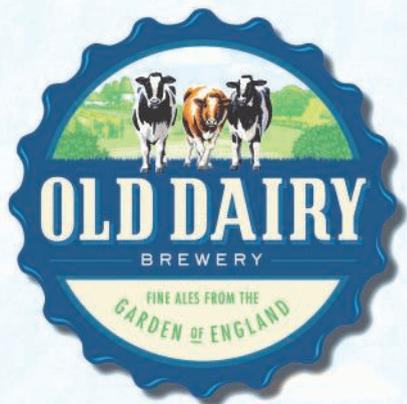
"Planning permission is required to convert a convenience store into a pub but no permission is required to convert a pub into a convenience store. The lack of protection for pubs is a glaring anomaly in the English planning system which needs to be corrected. It is surely not right that a supermarket convenience store is given greater planning protection than a valued community pub."

Asset of Community Value Case Study: Save the Golden Harp

The Golden Harp in Maidenhead was converted into a Tesco supermarket earlier this year. The Golden Harp was a thriving local community pub until Tesco announced plans to convert the property. After an 18 month campaign and the group successfully listing the pub as an Asset of Community Value, the pub was converted into a Tesco supermarket in June 2014.

Save the Golden Harp campaigner, Mark Newcombe said: *"This case remains a constant reminder of the ineffectiveness of the current legislation and the failure of local democracy to protect community assets."*

If you would like to protect other pubs from suffering the same fate as the Golden Harp in the future, please sign this HM Government e-petition: epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/66572. It is supported by CAMRA and closes on 30 March.



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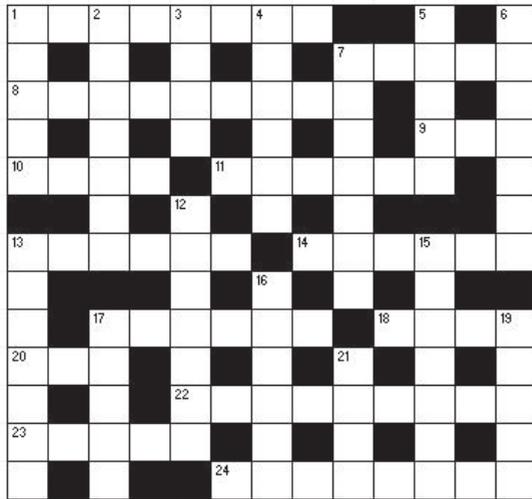


[facebook.com/OldPrinceofOrange](https://www.facebook.com/OldPrinceofOrange)

The Draught Copy Crossword No. 17

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



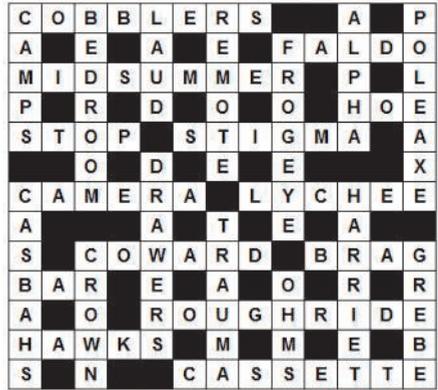
Across

- 1 Cuba poll organised - use it or lose it (5,3)
- 7 Here we'll surely find some water supplies (5)
- 8 Nixon's deletion? (9)
- 9 Cook's little helper, whichever way you look at it (3)
- 10 House in order, Captain?... (4)
- 11 ...Ron, reversing at 100 mph on motorbike! (6)
- 13 Old railway, possibly Danish (6)
- 14 Thunderbirds character gets tipsy in bars (6)
- 17 Southern paper, old bean? (6)
- 18 Drunk, we hear - how to discreetly attract attention? (4)
- 20 A swim to be savoured? (3)
- 22 Age Concern? It's an organ, see. (5,4)
- 23 Bird's nest in the lake, so I've heard (5)
- 24 Darts led astray, so spread legs! (8)

Down

- 1 A sucker for treatment (5)
- 2 Hostage takers stop car crashing (7)
- 3 Watch local finally backing the dregs (4)
- 4 Nouns I abandoned - no harmony here (6)
- 5 Not LA, silly - it's only a small town in Hampshire! (5)
- 6 Goes with old cars (7)
- 7 Film set in Devon, perhaps? (7)
- 12 Yorkshireman's reference to Russian currency is a worry (7)
- 13 Pride of old Dartford, initially, Les goes to the dogs (7)
- 15 20 is in a mess - how tasteless (7)
- 16 Neckwear is bonny in Woodchurch (6)
- 17 Athletics display (5)
- 19 17 across, for instance a heading (5)
- 21 A Gershwin heading North for an operatic solo (4)

Solution to Crossword No. 16



For a chance to win a crisp £10 drinking voucher please send your completed grid to our compiler:

*Mick Norman
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Meopham
DA13 0YE*

no later than March 15th.

A photocopy is acceptable, as is a scanned copy emailed to: mlr_norman@yahoo.com

Congratulations to Glynn Downton, from Maidstone, who won the tenner last time.

Contact: *Bob Belton* on 01322 224683 (H) / 07527 846859 (M) or

Peter Cook on 01322 270589 / 07913 500414

or email gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk

www.gdv.camra.org.uk

I opened the narrative in the previous issue with a discussion about micropubs and I'd like to continue with a few statistics. According to the Micropub Association website as at 7th December 2014 there were 95 micropubs in England and Wales, of which 29 were in Kent (32 if we include London boroughs of Bexley and Bromley) starting with the first recognised micropub, the **Butcher's Arms** in Herne, near Herne Bay and Canterbury, which opened in November 1995. By the time you read this there will be more than a hundred, maybe even one in Scotland, and we are aware of at least another 10 in the pipeline in Kent.

I've visited the **Compass Alehouse** in Gravesend several times and I'm constantly impressed with the service and the quality and range of the real ales. We've made it a regular haunt after Ebbsfleet United home games but I was caught out last time with a fine, to the benefit of the Help for Heroes appeal, as I forgot to switch off my mobile phone. Ironically, I was being sent a text message from a friend outside the **Butcher's Hook** micropub in Southampton, which also bans mobiles, a sensible policy, in my view, as they disrupt convivial conversation in pubs. I'm also impressed with the range of clientele at the **Compass**, as younger people, couples and members of the Asian community also use it, not just older real ale drinkers and CAMRA stalwarts.

Bexley CAMRA branch held a social walkabout in Gravesend on Saturday 29th November and I joined them at the first two venues, the **Rum Puncheon** and the **Three Daws** before going to the football to see Ebbsfleet win for a change. After the match, four of us hurried to the **Compass**, to claim seats, before the Bexley contingent of 12 arrived at their seventh pub of the day. We all rounded off the evening at the **Robert Pocock**, sampling good Wetherspoons *LocAle* beers, including *Westerham Godswallop* and *Kent Brewery Beyond the Pale*.

The Bexley members enjoyed their visit to the **Windmill**, where Paul and Natalie were hosting "Christmas Fayre" events in marquees and stalls in the lovely garden, also featuring live music and beers on stillage. Although I missed the Saturday, I did sample *Arbor Motueka*, *Siren Craft Undercurrent Oatmeal Pale Ale* and *Frog Island Festive Frog* at the branch AGM there the following Wednesday.

The new chef at the **Three Daws** emailed our website contact in October, and my colleague Adrian Moss visited the pub and reports that home-cooked food is available seven days a week between 11am and 9pm, offering a useful addition to the limited options in town when it comes to pub meals in the evening. All ingredients are sourced as locally as possible, frequently from suppliers within five miles. The menu has been produced in booklet form with assistance from Gravesham Council and Gravesend Library, including old photos of the pub and a list of suppliers.

The local sourcing philosophy also extends to the beer range, so the five handpumps are likely to feature beers from *Caveman*, *Kent Brewery* and *Millis* as well as other interesting ones from Kent and elsewhere. The **Three Daws** also offers “the last coffee in Kent” which can be taken away by passengers on the ferry to Tilbury. During the Bexley branch walkabout, I drank *Millis Thieves and Fakirs* and *Truman’s Bold as Brass*, both in good condition, but I didn’t try the food, as I’d already eaten in the nearby **Rum Puncheon**. There *Tonbridge Ebony Moon* was my beer of choice out of eight interesting beers available on handpump. Both pubs deserve revisiting to check out the meals and ales, and possibly beer festivals in 2015.

Our website contact also received a message in November from the new licensee, Mark Randall, at the **Old Prince of Orange**, Old Road East, in Gravesend. This pub is a large rambling 1930’s mock-Tudor, former *Truman’s* road house on the old London/Dover road, which hadn’t sold real ale for several years. Mark has introduced real ale; I sampled *Thwaites Yule Love It* and *Wells Good Stuffing* during the festive season. Mark has decided to move the bar to a different location to accommodate 5 real ales and also create a much larger dining area. He plans to hold a beer festival in the garden during the early May Bank Holiday period. The pub is offering 20pence a pint discount to card carrying CAMRA members, and Mark plans to hold a beer festival in 2015.

Not far away, the **Echo** in Echo Square has been extensively refurbished recently by the new management, including new cellar gear and pipework. This pub retains two distinct drinking areas, one with dartboard and machines and a quieter area with comfortable seating and a real fire. *Sharp’s Doom Bar* is the regular beer and *Moorhouse’s Pride of Pendle* was the guest beer on a recent visit, and there are plans to extend the beer range. The **Miller’s Cottage** in Shrubbery Road is a popular

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music venue, with a mixed clientele, and hosts open mic nights. *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* are the handpump offerings, and a guest beer may be available. The **Waterloo Tavern** in Wellington Street is a welcoming corner local with *Wells Bombardier* the regular beer and *Young's Winter Warmer* and *Adnams Ghost Ship* available recently as guest beers.

As you may know I'm an Ebbsfleet United supporter and the preferred pub route on Saturday home games now is train to Swanscombe for lunchtime at the **George & Dragon**, and then walk down the hill to the football ground, which is now experimenting with real ale on match days in the Club Bar, displaying a firkin on gravity on a shelf behind the bar. After the game, walk up the other hill to the **Rose** in Rose Street for a quick beer, *St. Austell Jolly Holly* in December, then catch the train at Northfleet station bound for Gravesend and the **Compass** and other recommended hostelry before catching (or missing) a train back to Dartford.

I also called in at the **Rose**, enjoying *Millis Kentish Dark (Mild)*, on my way from the station up the hill to our branch Christmas social at the **Coach & Horses**, The Hill, Northfleet. Eighteen CAMRA members attended, 14 local branch and 4 from Bexley and we heartily thank Sharon and her team for providing an excellent evening buffet spread and curry supper. There are now five handpumps, one dedicated to cider being *Weston's The Apple Bites Back* that evening, the four real ales were *Ringwood Best Bitter*, *Moorhouse's Ice Witch*, *Thwaites Yule Love It* and *Wells Good Stuffing*. We all had a good stuffing (steady on!) at the buffet/curry tables and the beers were good, my only regret being that none of the Christmas beers were dark and spicy and I blame the brewers not the pub, which we shall definitely frequent more often.

The branch also held a social in Northfleet on a Wednesday in November, starting at the **Battle of Britain**, Shears Green, a large estate pub with few customers that evening and the only real ale being *Brakspear's Oxford Gold*. Conversely the **Earl Grey**, a *Shepherd Neame* tied house, in Vale Road was comfortably busy with darts being played at one end and the general atmosphere very cosy and convivial. The *Late Red* seasonal beer was on good form. Our last port of call was the **Campbell Arms** in Campbell Road, a back street one-bar corner community pub, within a ten minute walking distance of Gravesend station. We thank Chris, the landlady, for providing us with a tray of

sandwiches and third pint tasting glasses. This pub sells one real cider and up to three real ales, being *Taylor Havercake*, *Salopian The Bends* and one I forgot to note, but the interesting beer range changes constantly. Wooden “bats” containing three third pint glasses are always on sale at the **Campbell**; the only other outlets offering third pint samples are the **Dartford Working Men’s Club** and Wetherspoons pubs during their beer festivals, unless you know otherwise?

Very little news to report from Dartford this time but we would like to mention the **Rose & Crown** at the top of West Hill. This is a very traditional local one-bar pub which sells *Sharp’s Doom Bar* regularly and a changing guest beer. The guest is at £2.50 a pint and we enjoyed *Taylor Landlord* on our visit. Special curry and Mexican food nights are on Tuesdays and



Thursdays and food is available at lunchtime at weekends. All 15 beers at the **Dartford Working Men’s Club** are now at £2.50 a pint, irrespective of strength, including 8 beers over 5% ABV at the “Real Ale and Mirth Night” in December, with *Oakham Atilla* the strongest at 7.5%.

Along the Darent Valley part of the branch, my colleague Bob Marsh reports that the **Cressy Arms** in Wilmington sells *Courage Best* regularly and a guest being *St.Austell Tribute* on the visit having just missed *Harvey’s Sussex Best Bitter*. The pub opens 12-12 all week but doesn’t sell food. Across the road, the **Orange Tree** is open until 1am on Friday and Saturday. There is an extensive bar food menu on Monday to Saturday lunchtimes, with a Sunday carvery until 5pm. The **Plough** in Wilmington High Street serves lunch from 12-2.30 with a £1 discount and a free dessert for OAPs. Sunday roasts are served until 3pm. The beers are *Courage Best* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, along with a guest pump. The pub has a separate dining area, large garden and car park to the rear.

The **Four Lymes** in Hawley is under new management and was selling *Sharp’s Doom Bar* and *Thwaites Lancaster Bomber* in moderate condition. Further along the Hawley Road, the **Papermakers Arms** is getting back to its former self and was quite busy on Friday lunchtime. George and Lisa, the new licensees, are improving this pub, which now sells *Sharp’s Doom Bar* and a *Caveman Brewery* beer regularly. It’s open from 12-11 Sunday to Thursday and 12-11.30 Friday and Saturday selling lunches 12

-3 weekdays and until 4pm at weekends, and evening meals 6-9pm Wednesday to Saturday. There is an extensive "Seniors" menu with a 3-course meal for under £10, a large car park at the front of the pub, and a large grassed beer garden to the rear.

The **Bull** at Horton Kirby changed ownership in November but we understand that the cellar and bar staff will remain so the excellent range and quality of the real ales should continue in this GBG-listed pub.

In other parts of our branch area, the **Black Horse & Hoodens** in Borough Green has new licensees, Lynn and Lee, who seem more adventurous with their selection of real ales. Once again *Sharp's Doom Bar* is the regular beer and *Thwaites Lancaster Bomber* and *Thwaites Wainwright* were on sale recently in good condition. The **George & Dragon** in Wrotham offers 5 real ales with *Courage Best* and *Harvey's Best* as regulars and *Moorhouse's Blonde Witch*, *St.Austell Tribute* and *Wells Bombardier Gold* as guests on a recent visit to this pleasant village local. The tall chrome fonts at the **Chequers** in Crockenhill have recently been replaced by four traditional handpumps individually spaced along the bar rather than in groups, which is unusual. The regular beers are *Courage Best*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Otter Bitter* with one guest being *Butcombe Bitter* on a recent visit. The **Chequers** is a pleasant welcoming pub with an L-shaped main bar and a separate darts/games bar. Lunchtime meals are served 12-3 (12-5 Sundays) and themed evening meals are served every day except Sunday and Monday, which is the Quiz evening.

Unfortunately we are obliged to report the closure of three former *Good Beer Guide* pubs in recent months. Last time we mentioned briefly the **Chequers** at Heaverham, near Kemsing which closed in September (most recent GBG appearance 2009). This pub is owned by the local St.Clere Estate and leased to *Shepherd Neame Brewery* who, we understand are still looking for a new tenant.

The **Fox & Hounds** at Romney Street, near Otford, (most recent GBG entry 2012) closed suddenly overnight on a Saturday in November. The owners had been struggling to find long term tenants for several years and this isolated country pub has also been finding it hard to attract



regular local custom. This is a poignant closure for me as it was the first pub I ever visited, at the age of six. Hopefully it will not be a permanent one.

The saddest closure of all is the **Vigo**, Gravesend Road, Fairseat, a longstanding GBG entry most recently appearing in 2014, which closed on 31 October 2014. The owners have made change of use planning applications to Tonbridge and Malling Council. The most recent application "*change of use of the **Vigo Inn** Public House to two dwellings and ... conversion of the two approved partially built outbuildings to create 5 self-catered holiday let units*" is still under review. The local branch Pubs Officer has objected on behalf of the branch and several individual



CAMRA members have also written to object to the closure of this iconic pub but we don't hold out much hope. On the plus side we understand that the old Daddlums table has been saved but, we are not entirely sure of its whereabouts. Time will tell for the pub and the table!

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Happy New Year everyone from Bexley CAMRA.

Bexley CAMRA will once again be holding its annual Beer Festival this year, Thursday 23 April – Saturday 25 April (see our advert on page 36). Please come along and support us, or if you're a member why not come and work.

The *Bexley Brewery*, Bexley's first brewery for 56 years, distributing from Erith's Manford Industrial Estate (DA8 2AJ), launched officially in mid-October. Its twin beers - *Bob*, a 4.2% pale ale billed as having a floral and chocolate aroma and a well balanced malty/toffee flavour and *Redhouse*, also 4.2%, a session beer with a deep copper colour and an aroma of soft fruits and hints of toffee are circulating in and about the borough, latterly in the **Prince of Wales**, *Belvedere (Redhouse)*, the **Crayford Social club (Bob)**, the **Door Hinge**, Welling and at the **One Inn the Wood** in Petts Wood. The brewery's Facebook page reveals an informal contest amongst drinkers to determine the better of the two. Both are available bottled from **Lamorbey Wines** in Sidcup, so you can play, too. Look or ask for the "parakeet" labels. Boss Cliff Murphy and wife Jane are open for off-sales at the brewery and do tours, both on specific dates - see bexleybrewery.co.uk/visit-us

Bexley's second micropub, the **Penny Farthing**, run by the Baldwins in Waterside, Crayford, has recently been the centre of media attention (www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/pint-sized-bars-could-future-save-4509324) and on the last Friday in October received a bit more when Rosie Hayes, a video journalist, showed up to do a web piece for YouTube and ynu.k.tv. The venue is now the 68th addition to Martyn Hilliers' micropub directory on the micropub association website: micropubassociation.co.uk.

Ray Hurley, host of the award-winning **Door Hinge** micropub in Welling, has not let 18 months of success go to his head. On the evening of November 5 when CAMRA London Regional Director, Geoff Strawbridge, presented him with the London Pub of the Year award for 2014, made after both local and regional panels



had assessed Real Ale pubs across the capital, he was happy to maintain a wish to forge into the national top four and see new micros open. To date he's featured over 370 beers from over 100 national producers. Part of his style is to display current ales, brewers, strengths and prices prominently and flag up fresh barrels on separate chalkboards. It's been a question of devotion and he's been able to call on family support to do it – but that's characteristic of the way micropubs run.

Real Ale drinkers haven't needed acclimatising to the pared-down atmosphere of the place - they just like it anyway. If you go for honest presentation and don't want to be deafened, subjected to sports commentary, extraneous mobile conversation, slot machine antics or the like, try a micropub like Ray's.

The signs are that what started in 2005 with Martyn Hillier's **Butcher's Arms** in Herne is growing up. Ray and his peers in this market are responsible, filling a gap which other locals leave vacant. Southeast London will by the end of this year have its own micropub circuit, with the "Hinge" acting as "daddy" to at least one of three others within a mile or two.

Our monthly meetings have been held at the **Tailors Chalk** - Sidcup (October), **Green Man** - Welling (November) and **Charcoal Burner** - Sidcup (December). We would like to take the opportunity to thank the landlords and landladies for their hospitality at these venues.

In our pages we have named and shamed pubs which overcharge for a half in comparison to the pint price. In this issue however, we heap praise on the **One Bell** in Crayford who, either by design or computer error, actually undercharge. Their pint price is £3.15, whilst the half is only £1.57.

On the social side, we had a short crawl around Bexleyheath in October, calling at the **Prince Albert** (*Sheps – Spitfire & Whitstable Bay*) then **Jolly Millers** (*Jennings Cumberland, Ringwood Boondoggle and Wychwood Hobgoblin*) finally ending up in the **Furze Wren** (six festival ales plus *Young Henrys* and *Youngs Special*, as well as their usual two ciders).

November saw us host a visit from Bromley Branch. Only a handful of their members turned up, but we still had an enjoyable time crawling round the following pubs: **New Cross Turnpike**, **Door Hinge**, **Robin Hood & Little John**, **Wrong 'Un**, **Rose**, **Old Dartfordians Club** and ending in the **Penny Farthing**. When the **Door Hinge** was awarded

London Regional Pub of the Year on 5th November, the beers were plentiful and good as one would expect, *Limestone – Stone Cutter*, *Dark Star – Hophead*, *Great Newsome – Jems Stout*, *Rockin Robin – Hoppin Robin* (ran out), *Craigmill – Festival* (ran out), *Rockin Robin – Robin Redbest* (replacement). Our next November crawl saw us visit Sidcup, starting in the **Alma** (*Youngs Winter Warmer* and *Doom Bar*), then on to the **Iron Horse** (*Hobgoblin* plus a cider), finally ending up in **Ye Olde Black Horse** (*Master Brew*, *Hobgoblin*, *Thwaites Lancaster Bomber* and *Musket Powder Burn*, plus three ciders). At the end of the month we travelled to our neighbouring branch of Gravesend & Darent Valley to do a pub crawl around Gravesend. There are plenty of worthwhile pubs there and we visited the following: **Rum Puncheon**, **Three Daws**, **Crown & Thistle**, **Jolly Drayman**, **Waterloo**, **Windmill**, **Compass** and **Robert Pocock**.

In December we held our Christmas social at the **Wrong 'Un** in Bexleyheath. This was a well-attended affair and we are grateful to the pub for the free beer and coffee provided.

Our final social of the year was our usual *Twixmas* crawl. This year as always, we started with breakfast and a beer at the **Robin Hood & Little John** where there were ten of us. One member decided not to come on the crawl and so nine of us left for the **Wrong 'Un**. Here two more departed the crawl and the remaining seven then processed through the following pubs: **Volunteer**, **Rose**, **Furze Wren**, **Jolly Millers**, **One Bell** and **Crayford Arms**, before finally finishing at the **Penny Farthing**. It was pleasing to report that the beer quality in almost all the pubs was very good – a fitting end to 2014.

Perfection!

In the last edition we set out CAMRA's National Beer Scoring Scheme (NBSS) that we use to grade beers on their condition on a scale of 0 through 5. 5 is a score that is rarely awarded, as it signifies a beer that simply cannot be improved upon - perfection in other words. Just before we went to press, I was at Waterloo in London, and, with an hour to spare, discovered the nearby **Duke of Sussex** pub. It was there I had a pint of *Late Red* that blew me away. It ticked every box that marks a good, well-kept beer in superb condition. Every mouthful was refreshing and memorable. Naturally, I had to have a second. So, on to *Whatpub.com* to give the pub this accolade. Perfection, indeed!



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Saturday 25th April

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OZZY goes Down Under

by Andy Osborne

I thought I would try and give a very small impression of the real ale and craft beer situation in Australia from my recent visit. I would have loved to have come back and said that every pub has three or four handpumps selling real ale. Unfortunately this was not the case in most of the pubs I visited, and, where there were handpumps, the beer was not always as good as I would have liked. I may have just been unlucky and be doing them a disservice, but it did show that the pub was serious about the quality and choice of its beers. I am still a bit on the fence regarding the craft beer situation; whereas I realise they are often the same as real ales, so as long as they are sold as such, then we know what we are drinking.

I have to say that I really enjoyed most of the craft ales I drank on my travels and they were certainly a lot better than the alternative of fizzy lagers. The main difference I was aware of was the dispense method, which also kept the beer to a much better temperature than most of the handpump offerings, and so this may always be the better option for countries with hotter climates.

The first pub I visited was a pub called the **Vernon Arms** in Baldvis near Rockingham, south of Perth on the western coast of Australia (www.vernonarmstavern.com.au), which offers a staggering 100 beers of all sorts, including lagers, but also a lot of bottled English ales. Some were on draught, such as *Marstons Pedigree*, *London Pride* and *Wychwood Hobgoblin*, the last of which was on offer at \$9 Australian (roughly around £5), which I was certainly happy to pay at the other side of the planet, and was very nice too. On our second visit the manager printed off the full list for me to look at and I went for a bottle of *Badger First Call* which was really hoppy and much appreciated, but at A\$14 meant it was going to be a rare treat. They also did some very good pub food and my wife and I really felt at home.

When visiting Perth City, which we really liked especially the Botanical Gardens with views over the city, we visited the **Moon and Sixpence**, a British-style pub featuring dark exposed timber beams and cosy snugs, large fireplaces and a large outdoor seating area. Again we had a good selection of English and Australian beers such as those from the *Little Creatures* brewery in the nearby port of Fremantle. I had a mixture of both on our visit and enjoyed them all.

The following day we were due to go whale watching from Freemantle, but the weather blew up rough and so, sadly, we couldn't go out, but every cloud has a silver lining, and so we had more time than expected to explore the port and in particular visited the *Little Creatures* craft brewery (www.littlecreatures.com.au) whose beers I had regularly seen for sale. I tried and enjoyed two of their core products being the pale ale and the bright ale, plus the *Dark* ale from the *White Rabbit* range.

On arrival in Sydney, we had hardly unpacked the cases when we headed for a real gem of a pub called the **Royal Albert Hotel** (www.royalalberthotel.com.au – they tend to call pubs hotels whether they

have accommodation or not). I had read good reviews of this street-corner boozier near Surrey Hills with two handpumps and eight other beers on tap. We visited three times in the four days we stayed in Sydney, and Michael the barman (he may have been



the owner) made us very welcome on our visits, and the beer was excellent each time. All Australian beers it seemed in this establishment, with some very tasty dark beers that my wife Kath was very keen to try. They did some great chilli hot dogs and Chinese-style dumplings. It is also known for its tap takeover evenings, where brewers have exclusive access to all their eight taps and handpumps.

On one of our days in Sydney we caught the ferry across to Manly Beach, which is only a 30-minute boat ride but seemed a world away from the City. It has a very relaxed atmosphere with its fabulous beach, along with the surfers and swimmers, and we would happily have stayed longer. After exploring around, including the excellent shops and galleries with

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

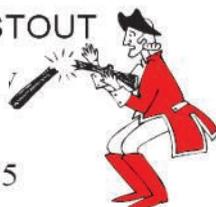
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some absolutely super Aboriginal Art, it was time for a drink, and I was very happy to realise that Manly has its own brewery called **4 Pines**, www.4pinesbeer.com.au,

so called, I believe, because four of the many pine trees that line the seafront were removed for defence purposes during WW2. I thought to ask if they had some taster glasses, and to my amusement, realised that instead of a



beer but they used a "Beer Bridge", no doubt due to the proximity of Sydney's famous bridge.

I tried their *German Wheat* beer, *Pale ale*, *ESB* and the *Stout*, plus one other which, sadly, I don't recall. With the exception of the *Wheat* beer, a style I am not too keen on, they were all very good and very close in my opinion to their English counterparts.

The last destination on our trip down under was the very beautiful and impressive Great Barrier Reef in tropical Queensland. We stayed in Cairns in a hotel near the beach overlooking the coral sea, and will never forget the view and our trips out to the reef and into the rainforest inland. The beer choices here were less memorable and more limited, but I must mention a very notable venue near the beach called the **Rising Sun** that we visited on our last day at a paradise called Palm Cove. The most notable offering was *Forty Lashes* from *James Squire*, which supposedly was a wheat beer but I found to be quite hoppy and very enjoyable, a totally unexpected bonus with which to finish.

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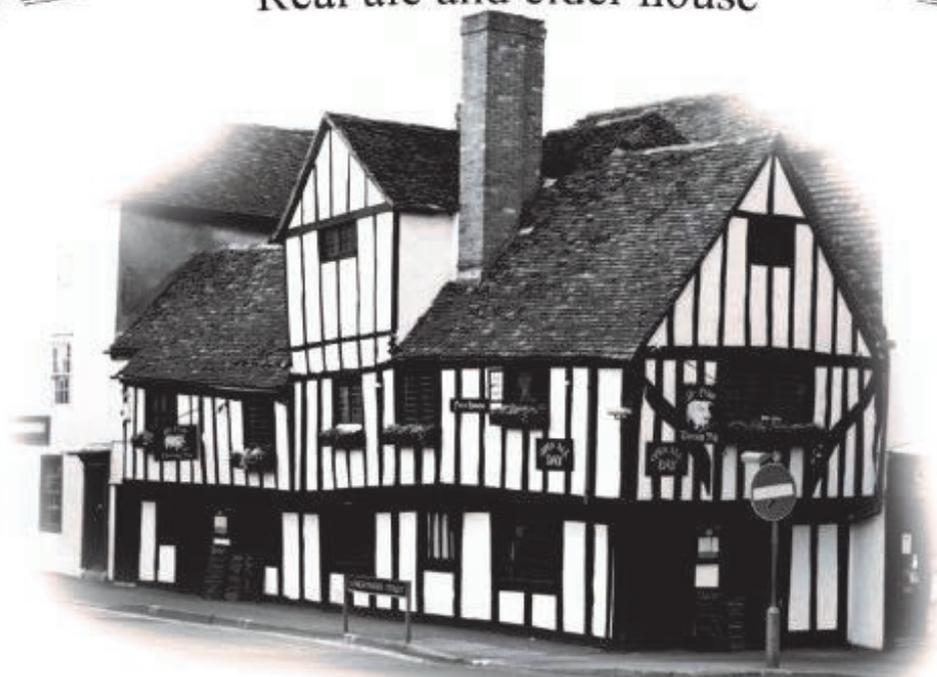


Homely, family-run pub. Dave and Steph welcome all and their four-legged friends. Well kept real ales, currently , Goachers Light Ale, Fullers London Pride, Youngs Bitter, Greene King IPA & Greene King Abbot Ale. Good quality, affordable pub food available, please see website for opening times. We have a lovely Beer Garden, overlooking the beautiful Weald of Kent. The Garden Gazebo and old stables function room are both approved by KCC for the solemnization of civil marriages. We have just completed a young childrens safe play area with Hobbit house, swings, slide & sandpit & now have 4 chickens.

Please see website for photos.

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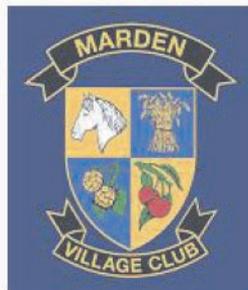
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*The club has regular entertainment,
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Musket Ploughs On!

Launched just over a year ago, the Linton-based *Musket Brewery* reached a significant landmark when it welcomed its 100th real ale customer just before Christmas.

Located just three miles from the brewery at Langley, the **Plough** is popular with both diners and drinkers, so *Musket Brewery* beers were a welcome addition on the bar in readiness for the festive season. Musket was a leap of faith for brewing partners and CAMRA members, Mark Stroud and Tony Williams, as work on the brewery commenced during the worst financial crisis in decades.



Ploughing On – Landlord Paul Murphy (centre), with Musket brewers Tony Williams (left) and Mark Stroud

“Our first year has been tough, with continued reinvestment back into the business being crucial. However, we knew that if we created great beers which would be in demand, the reinvestment and hard work would pay off. To welcome our 100th pub or club customer in just over a year is a significant achievement and we are grateful to Kent CAMRA branches for their most valuable support.” said Tony.

Having taken charge of the pub earlier last year, landlord Paul Murphy and his team at the Plough are keen to support local businesses, so taking real ale that is produced just three miles away fits ideally with their ethos.

“We are very pleased to support the Musket Brewery, as we source locally wherever possible. Our customers fully appreciate that supporting local businesses is vital for the local economy and in turn support us at the Plough, as we steadily build our reputation for providing fine food at affordable prices.” said Paul.

So for a warm welcome, great food and real ale, you “musket” along to the Plough at Langley!

For more information on the *Musket Brewery* telephone 07967 127278 or visit www.musketbrewery.co.uk



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Sunday 12:30-5pm Booking recommended

****BEER FESTIVAL 2nd-6th April****

Penguins Brew Beer!

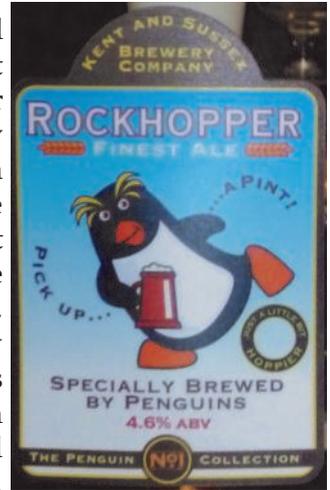
Maidstone branch had the pleasure of meeting the director and area manager of the Penguin Pub Company, Richard Boniface and Becky Crossley, at the **Swan** in Loose Road, Maidstone recently. The **Swan** is one of their 18 pubs in Kent and Sussex, and we were there to try the three beers of Penguin's newly founded *Kent and Sussex Brewery Company*.

Formed in 2014, the brewery has a 4-barrel brewing capacity with a stable of three beers that are available to the pub estate. *Emperor*, a copper-coloured bitter at 3.7 ABV was instantly refreshing as my first of the evening, which boded well for the others. I then tried the *Rockhopper Finest*, a best bitter at 4.6 ABV that didn't have the immediate appeal of the *Emperor*, but as the level in my glass went down, I found to have a very moreish aftertaste I really relished. These two beers were the brewery's initial offering, having originally been chosen from four different recipes by an informal tasting panel of some 30 people back in May.

Last month, *Rockhopper Ruby Red* was added to the range, a 4.3 ABV dark ruby bitter that is also very tasty. I had a container with me to take some back to sample at home, and it was *Rockhopper Finest* that won through for me.

I should like to thank landladies Michelle and Wendy for hosting the evening and providing a splendid buffet for us all. Our thanks also go to Richard and Becky for setting up this occasion and making all three beers available to us at the discounted price of £2.80 a pint.

Incidentally, Richard is a champion of penguins generally. Because of the amount of old war material still disfiguring the Falkland Islands from 30 years ago, the brewery donates £3.50 to the Falklands Conservation charity for every cask, to help make the islands safe not only for penguins but all other wildlife.



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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)

FEBRUARY

- 2 **GDV** **Bull**, Horton Kirby, then **Queen**, South Darent
- 5 **MMK** **Hop Pole**, Nettlestead, then **Railway**, Wateringbury
- 5 **GDV** **Rising Sun**, Fawkham Green, **Old House**, Ightham Common
- 11 **BEX** **Yacht**, Bexleyheath [*OBM*]
- 11 **GDV** **Crown**, Otford, **Five Bells**, Eynsford, **Chequers**, Crockenhill
- 12 **MMK** **Duke of Wellington**, Ryarsh, then **Nevill Bull**, Birling
- 18 **BEX** **British Oak**, Blackheath, then **Red Lion and Bull**
- 18 **GDV** **Coach & Horses**, Northfleet [*OBM and GBG selection*]
- 19 **MMK** **George**, Leeds, then **Plough**, Langley
- 21 **MMK** Bus Trip to Sandwich
- 25 **BEX** **Furze Wren**, Bexleyheath [*GBG selection*]
- 26 **MMK** **Dog & Gun**, Maidstone, then **Brickmakers**

MARCH

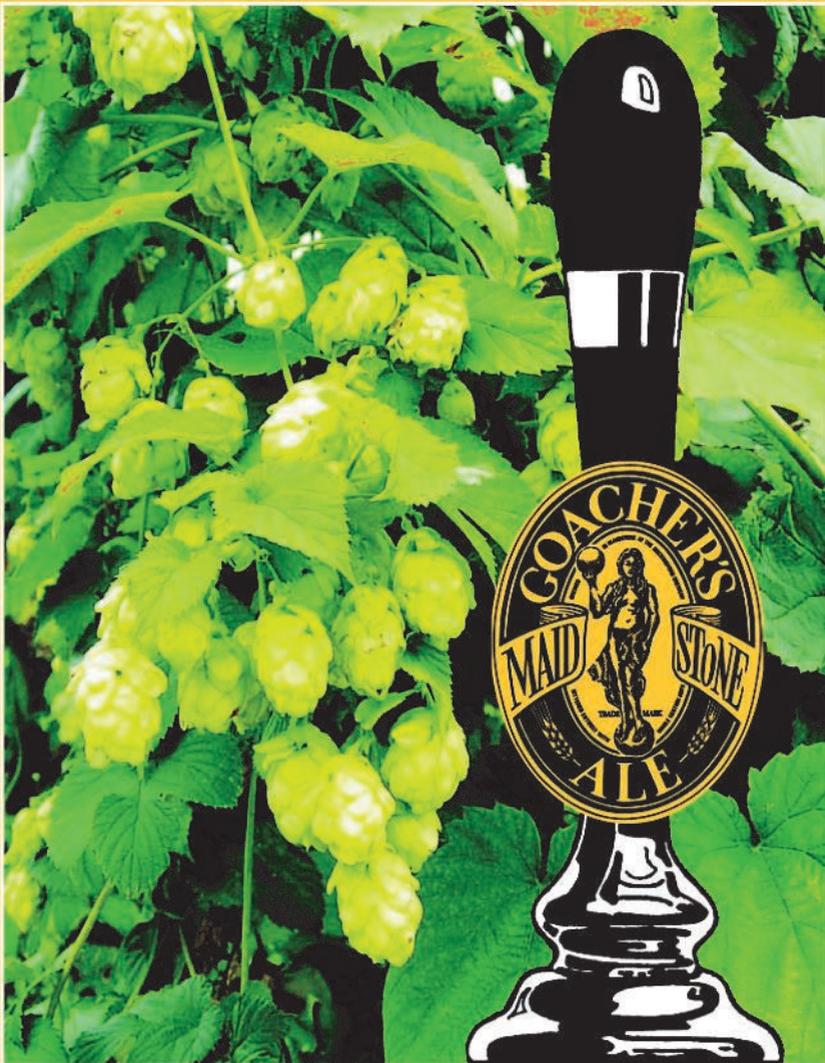
- 5 **MMK** **Hawkenbury**, then **Kings Head**, Staplehurst
- 5 **GDV** **Badger**, **Royal Oak**, New Ash Green, **Black Lion**, Hartley
- 11 **BEX** **Tailors Chalk**, Sidcup [*OBM*]
- 11 **GDV** **Beacon**, Dartford, then **Bull**, **Lads of the Village**, Stone
- 12 **MMK** **Swan**, Sandhurst, then **Woodcock**, Iden Green
- 18 **GDV** **Portobello**, **Gamecock**, W.Kingsdown
- 19 **MMK** **Red Lion**, Lenham [*OBM*]
- 21 **MMK** Bus Trip to Rye
- 25 **BEX** 7:30pm **Paper Moon**, Dartford, then **Dartford WM Club**
- 26 **MMK** **Duke of Edinburgh**, **Barming**, then **Redstart**, then **Bull**
- 26 **GDV** **Compass**, **Grapes**, then **Goose**, Gravesend

APRIL

- 2 **MMK** **Pilot**, Maidstone, then **Olde Thirsty Pig**
- 3 **MMK** 10:36 ramble, Borough Green Station to **King's Arms**, Offham
- 2 **GDV** **Crown**, Otford [*Beer festival social*]
- 8 **GDV** **Malt Shovel**, Dartford Kirby [*OBM*]
- 8 **BEX** **Old Dartfordians Club**, Bexley DA5 1LW [*OBM*]
- 9 **MMK** **Wealden Hall**, Larkfield, then **King & Queen**, East Malling
- 11 **MMK** Bus Trip to East Sussex
- 15 **GDV** **Anchor**, then **White Swan**, Ash
- 16 **MMK** **Fox**, Maidstone, then **First & Last**
- 23 **MMK** **Globe & Rainbow**, Kilndown, then **Vine**, Goudhurst
- 23 **BEX & GDV** **Old Dartfordians Association Beer Festival**, Bexley
- 25 **MMK** Bus/Train trip to **Chequers**, Laddingford (beer festival)
- 30 **MMK** **Bull**, Benenden, then **Kitty Fisher**

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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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