

# Draught Copy



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

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

Summer 2015    No. 179

## **BELL & JORROCKS, FRITTENDEN MAIDSTONE AND MID-KENT BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR 2015**



Many congratulations to Sean and Rosie Croucher  
and all their team.

# 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 or from CAMRA HQ unless otherwise attributed.

## **Advertising rates:**

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<b>Editor and</b>	Tim Mathews
<b>Correspondence:</b>	dc@braymead.com
<b>Postal Address:</b>	135 Lavenders Road West Malling Kent ME19 6HR
<b>Advertising:</b>	Colin Mann
<b>Email:</b>	ads@braymead.com

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 June 2015 for publication in August 2015.

Visit our website at [www.mmkcampa.co.uk](http://www.mmkcampa.co.uk)  
On Twitter at [www.twitter.com/mmkcampa](http://www.twitter.com/mmkcampa)



# Beer Festivals in our region and not too far away

## CAMRA

[www.camra.org.uk/events](http://www.camra.org.uk/events)

### THURROCK BEER FESTIVAL

**JUNE 2—6**

Thurrock Civic Hall, Blackshots Ln,  
Grays RM16 2JU

More than 150 different real ales,  
25+ real ciders & perrys, plus  
a selection of English Country  
Wines and Mead.

### KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY

**JUNE 19—20**

Station Road, Tenterden

[www.camra-afrm.org.uk/](http://www.camra-afrm.org.uk/)

### KENT BEER FESTIVAL

**JULY 23—25**

Merton Farm, Merton Lane,  
Canterbury CT4 7BA

[www.kentbeerfestival.com](http://www.kentbeerfestival.com)

*And of course a 'heads-up' for our  
own **EAST MALLING***

### **BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**

**SEPTEMBER 5**

**East Malling Research**

East Malling ME19 6BJ

*more details in our next edition.*

## *Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs*

**May 15—17**

### **TJ's Beer Festival**

15 Milton Road, Gravesend

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

**May 23—25**

### **Ship, Southfleet Beer Festival**

Red Street, Southfleet DA13 9NS

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

**May 22—24**

### **George & Dragon**

London Road, Swanscombe

15 real ales

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

**May 22—25**

### **Bull, Tonbridge Road, Barming**

Beer & Music Festival

**May 29—31**

### **ANGELfest 4**

Tonbridge Angels Football Club

Darenth Avenue, Tonbridge

[www.angelfest.info](http://www.angelfest.info)

**June 6**

### **MENCAP Summer Fayre**

MMK Branch Beer Bar

SE corner of Mote Park, Maidstone

6 beers on sale

All proceeds to the Charity

**June 19—21**

### **Windmill Beer Festival**

45 Shrubbery Road, Gravesend

**June 24—28**

### **Flower Pot Biggest Ever Festival**

Sandling Road, Maidstone

35+ ales & 8 ciders

[www.flowerpotpub.moonfruit.com](http://www.flowerpotpub.moonfruit.com)

**July 4**

### **Medway Rotary Club**

Star Meadow Sports Club

Darland Avenue, Gillingham

40 real ales & ciders

£10 (includes 4 pints)

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

**July 24-26**

### **White Horse**

Lenham Heath Road, Sandway

# HARVEYS

The Sussex Brewers



**Winner of  
three local festival  
awards 2014**



## St. Richard's Ale

joint *'Beer of the Festival'*  
South Downs Beer  
& Cider Festival 2014

# Star of Eastbourne



## EAST INDIA ALE

*'Beer of the Festival'*

Eastbourne  
Beer Festival  
2014

## Prince of Denmark

*'Best Sussex Beer'*  
Sussex Beer  
Festival 2014



*'Time Honoured Beer - Locally Revered'*

Tel: 01273 480209 • [www.harveys.org.uk](http://www.harveys.org.uk)

# KENT BREWERIES

<b>Bexley Brewery</b>	01322 337368	<i>bexleybrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Canterbury Ales</b>	01227 732541	<i>www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</i>
<b>Canterbury Brewers</b>	01227 455899	<i>www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/ canterbury-brewers</i>
<b>Caveman Brewery</b>	07769 710665	<i>www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Goacher's</b>	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
<b>Goody Ales</b>	07790 443810	<i>www.goodyales.co.uk</i>
<b>HopDaemon</b>	01795 892078	<i>www.hopdaemon.com</i>
<b>Hop Fuzz</b>	07850 441267	<i>www.hopfuzz.co.uk</i>
<b>Isla Vale Alesmiths</b>	01843 292451	<i>islavalealesmiths.co.uk</i>
<b>Kent Brewery</b>	01634 780037	<i>www.kentbrewery.com</i>
<b>Larkins</b>	01892 870328	
<b>Mad Cat Brewery</b>	07960 263615	<i>www.madcatbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Maidstone Brewing Co.</b>	01622 757705	
<b>Millis Brewing Co.</b>	01322 866233	<i>www.millisbrewing.com</i>
<b>Musket Brewery</b>	07967 127278	<i>www.musketbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Nelson Brewing Co.</b>	01634 832828	<i>www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Old Dairy Brewing Co.</b>	01580 243185	<i>www.olddairybrewery.com</i>
<b>Old Forge Brewery</b>	01233 720444	<i>www.thefarriersarms.com</i>
<b>Pig and Porter</b>	01424 893519	<i>pigandporter.co.uk</i>
<b>Ramsgate Brewery</b>	01843 868453	<i>www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Ripple Steam Brewery</b>	07917 037611	<i>www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Rockin' Robin Brewery</b>	07787 416110	<i>www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Shepherd Neame</b>	01795 532206	<i>www.shepherd-neame.co.uk</i>
<b>Swan, West Peckham</b>	01622 812271	<i>www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</i>
<b>Time and Tide</b>	07840 327265	<i>timeandtidebrewing.co.uk</i>
<b>Tír Dhá Ghlas</b>	01304 211666	<i>www.cullinsyard.co.uk</i>
<b>Tonbridge Brewery</b>	01732 366770	<i>www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Wantsum Brewery</b>	0845 0405980	<i>www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Westerham Brewery</b>	01959 565837	<i>www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</i>
<b>Whitstable Brewery</b>	01622 851007	<i>www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk</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**  
4.5% Kentish Ale



**FLINTLOCK**  
4.2% Best Bitter



**FIFE & DRUM**  
3.8% Golden Ale



**TRIGGER**  
3.6% Pale Ale



*Rebrewing November 2015*



**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**



**DDS Scheme**

*"There's more in the barrel"* at  
**www.musketbrewery.co.uk**



# 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>

# TURNERS CIDER

## MARDEN, KENT



**NEW CIDERY IN MARDEN IS SELLING A RANGE OF CRAFT CIDERS AVAILABLE IN:**

**10 & 20 LITRE BAG-IN-BOXES  
12 X 500ML BOTTLES**

**DRY CIDER | MEDIUM CIDER | PEAR CIDER | ELDERFLOWER CIDER  
SINGLE VARIETY CIDERS**

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07825 394164  
PHIL@TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK**

**MAY TURNER  
07786 656137  
MAY@TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK**

**WWW.TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK @TURNERS\_CIDER**



# Pub of the Year—Club of the Year—2015—Winners

## Bexley

PENNY FARTHING, Crayford  
OLD DARTFORDIANS CLUB, Old Bexley

## Gravesend & Darent Valley

COCK, Luddesdown  
DARTFORD WORKING MEN'S CLUB

## Maidstone & Mid-Kent

BELL AND JORROCKS, Frittenden  
MARDEN VILLAGE CLUB  
Congratulations to all our winners for their services  
to the community and to good beer!



# THE KINGS ARMS BOXLEY

Tel: 01622 755177 The Street, Boxley, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3DR Email: [admin@ka-boxley.co.uk](mailto:admin@ka-boxley.co.uk)



We also offer a  
free courtesy  
transport service  
for our diners.  
Please ask  
for details.

Good food, a warm welcome and a large enclosed garden await you at The Kings Arms



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

# THE BLACK HORSE INN

## FREEHOUSE

Pilgrims Way  
Thurnham  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 3LD

Tel 01622 737185  
info@wellieboot.net  
www.wellieboot.net



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

Dog friendly in the bar

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

Open all day every day with food served all day!

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

# The Flower Pot



Situated a short walk from Maidstone East train station on the edge of the town centre, The Flower Pot is a traditional style back street pub serving up to 9 Ales and 4 ciders from around the country.

We offer a Real Ale takeaway service and a discount for card carrying CAMRA members.

**MAIDSTONE  
BREWING CO**

The Flower Pot is the brewery tap for Maidstone Brewing Co. Where you can find regular and experimental brews when available.

Great value traditional pub food served Monday to Thursday 12 to 3pm

Electro acoustic jam night every Tuesday from 8.30pm  
Singers, song writers, musicians, poets and comedians welcome


**\*\*\*NEWSFLASH\*\*\* BEER FESTIVAL\*\*\*NEWSFLASH\*\*\***  
Our BIGGEST ever beer and cider festival will be 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>  
June with over 35 ales and 8 ciders. Live music and home  
cooked food

96 Sandling Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2RJ

Tel: 01622 757 705

Web: [WWW.FLOWERPOTPUB.COM](http://WWW.FLOWERPOTPUB.COM)

E-Mail: [FLOWERPOTPUB@HOTMAIL.CO.UK](mailto:FLOWERPOTPUB@HOTMAIL.CO.UK)

Join us on Facebook  The Flower Pot

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

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**Little Gem, Aylesford** – Whilst no longer a pub, this Grade II listed building has been visibly decaying since it was closed by Punch Taverns in September 2010 and eventually sold. Time the council did something surely?

**Old Plantation, Bearsted** – Despite local opposition this has now closed. Maidstone Borough Council declined to grant an Asset of Community Value and now a builder intends to place two houses in the garden and turn the pub, a Grade II listed building, into a larger house. Local residents are much against the loss of this much loved pub which has provided for many years a safe garden area for children and facilities where conversation can be maintained free from sports TVs, games machines and deafening music.

**Kitty Fisher, Benenden** – Suddenly closed in January.

**Nevill Bull, Birling** – A branch visit found two beers from the excellent *Tonbridge Brewery*, *Blonde Ambition* and *Coppernob*. As it was the season of the Six Nations rugby, *Caledonian Over The Bar* was the theme guest beer. Some warm snacks were supplied for which we thank Kate. *www.nevillbull.co.uk*

**Bird in Hand, Coxheath** – Building has recommenced after a long break.

**Red Bull, Eccles** – Has been brightened up with a new coat of paint outside and re-designed sign boards. New lessees Kylie Hacker & Lawrie Phibbs are putting on various events, including quizzes, poker, disco, bingo, horse racing and karaoke. *redbulleccles.moonfruit.com*

**Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden** – Excellent beer and food make this slightly off the main roads village pub a splendid place to visit. A great pity there is no bus service. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Woodfordes Wherry* are usually on the bar with one or two guest ales. *MMK Pub of the Year 2015*.

**Goudhurst Inn, Goudhurst** – Closed in January for a major refit. Date set for re-opening is 25 April.

**Hawkenbury, Hawkenbury** – When the branch visited it was unusually quiet - this was due to the kitchen being re-fitted. There is now a portable skittle lane that is bookable and ideal for parties of between 12 and 30 people. Available as well are table football, pool table and darts providing something for most interests. *Tonbridge Rustic* with *Ranmore*



# THE KING & QUEEN

EAST MALLING

**Restaurant, Bar & Accommodation**

**“Fantastic food”**

**A la carte menu, pub favourites & lighter options**

**“Lovely beer garden”**

**All menus available outside**

**“Superb country pub”**

**Food served all day**

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**Bookings recommended**

**01732 842752**

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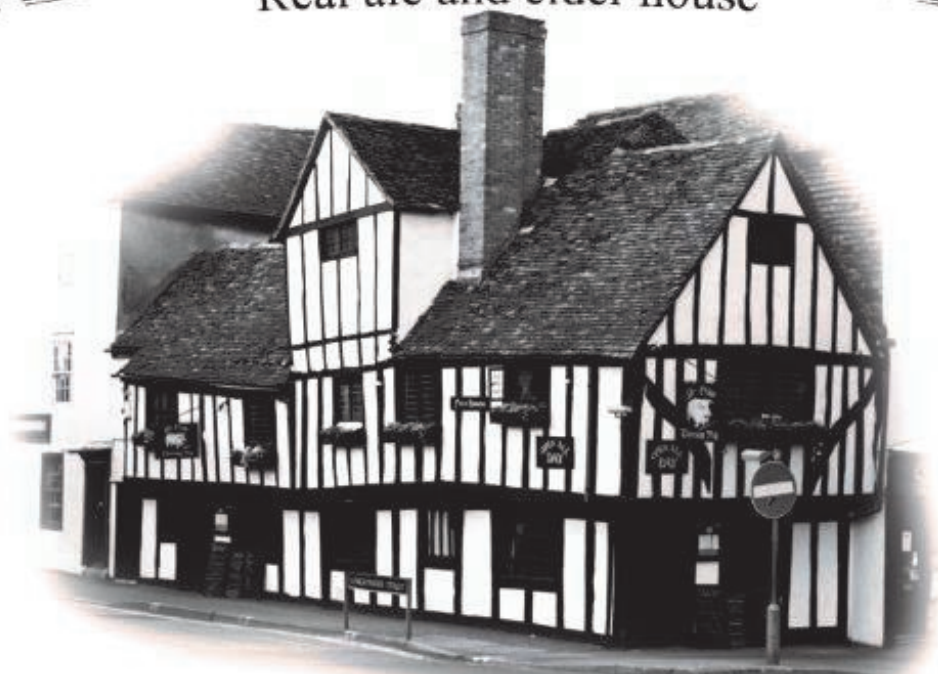
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**THE KING & QUEEN, 1 NEW ROAD, EAST MALLING ME19 6DD**

For current menus & other events, visit [kingandqueeneastmallings.co.uk](http://kingandqueeneastmallings.co.uk)  
and follow us on facebook: KingandQueenEastMalling

# YE OLDE THIRSTY PIG

Real ale and cider house



Kentish Real ales, Cask Marque accredited  
6 Lagers, 6 ciders and a huge range of spirits and bottles

Events include: Poker nights, quiz night, darts,  
karaoke, live music, retro games night & more.

### *Opening hours:*

MONDAY 4PM-1AM  
TUESDAY 12PM-1AM  
WEDNESDAY 12PM-1AM  
THURSDAY 12PM-1AM  
FRIDAY 12PM-2AM  
SATURDAY 12PM-3AM  
SUNDAY 12PM-1AM



4a Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent ME156LP 01622 299 283  
thirstypigcrew@gmail.com or on Facebook as Ye Olde Thirsty Pig.

and *Shere Drop* both from *Surrey Hills*, a brewery not often seen in our area were available and all were enjoyed. Apparently the licensees have relatives near the *Surrey Hills* brewery so pick up some casks whenever they visit. [www.thehawkenburyinn.com](http://www.thehawkenburyinn.com)

**Hook & Hatchet, Hucking** – Local supporters have obtained an Asset of Community Value status from Maidstone Borough Council for this pub closed and put up for sale by *Shepherd Neame*. This will prevent a Change of Use application being granted without a full review by the council planning committee and will enable the community time to put together a bid to buy the pub and keep it open and run it as they want.

**Woodcock, Iden Green** – A first branch visit here under the new ownership found *Timothy Taylor Boltmaker* to be the guest ale among the regular *Greene King/Morland/Ruddles* beers. Sadly no mild though, which used to be popular with patrons. All the beers were in very good condition and the long trip there well worthwhile.

**Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown** – Becky Hudd & James Davies have recently taken over here. No great changes are envisaged.

**Plough, Langley** – A good selection of ales found; *Cottage Scrum Up*, *Mauldons Peggoty's Porter* (very good), *Rockin' Robin Robin Redbest* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*.

**George, Leeds** – Very busy with diners when the branch visited. Only *Shepherd Neame Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* and *Master Brew* were on at that time.

**Chequers, Loose** – On Bank Holiday Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, the pub will be supporting the Loose Village Duck Races. This event is always very popular, especially with children and is supported by many of the local villagers. At least six beers will be available, *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, *LocAle Shepherd Neame Master Brew*, *Sharps Doom Bar* and two guests, at least one of which will be a *LocAle, Rockin' Robin* beer.

**Brickmakers, Maidstone** – Brewers, Piers McDonald (*Nelson*) and Val Gillingham (*Gemstone*), were in here when we visited. Val had *Topaz*, her new ale, on the bar, which we all enjoyed. There is normally a *Nelson* and a *Shepherd Neame* beer on and this time it was *Admiral IPA* and *Amber Ale*. The fourth beer is *Fullers London Pride*.

**Dog & Gun, Maidstone** – A rather short branch visit here due to saying farewell to Alan at the Rifle Volunteers earlier and having to move on to

our other scheduled pub the Brickmakers afterwards. Four pumps here with *Shepherd Neame Whitstable Bay Pale Ale*, *Master Brew* and the seasonal *Amber Ale*. Sheps are now offering beers from a list of other breweries and at that time it was *St Austell Tribute*.

**Drakes, Maidstone** – Closed since badly flooded at Christmas 2013. Builders were working on site again in March but will take some time to complete the full restoration though there may be a ‘soft’ opening before all work is completed. This is a Grade II listed building formerly named The Lamb.

**Hare & Hounds, Maidstone** – Re-opened on 3 April following a period of closure since October 2014. New licensee is Nathan Morgan. *Sharp’s Doom Bar* and *Fullers London Pride* are the initial beers available.

**Queen Anne, Maidstone** – Re-opened with a new licensee following a brief period of closure.

**Rifle Volunteers, Maidstone** – The end of an era here as Alan Marlowe has retired after almost 37 years. Matt and Gina, who many may know from their time at the Pilot, have now taken over. See article on page 23 for further information.

**Swan, Maidstone** – Closed in January for a major refit that was completed in March and awaiting a new tenant. Meanwhile, it re-opened on 23 March with a temporary manager in place.

**Stile Bridge, Marden** – Marc now has *Goachers Special* as a house beer replacing the *Shepherd Neame Kent’s Best* and this has proved a very popular choice. Four changing beers are always available on the other handpumps, featuring both old favourites and new breweries.

**Duke of Wellington, Ryarsh** – Still has jazz on the first Thursday in the month. Always have a guest ale and the popular *Kent Pale* ale also appeared. Other beers are the permanent *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Westerham Grasshopper*. [www.dukeofwellingtonryarsh.com](http://www.dukeofwellingtonryarsh.com)

**Swan, Sandhurst** – Football on the television in the open bar area, pool happening in the games room and people drinking *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* make this a proper village local.

**Lord Raglan, Staplehurst** – Andrew continues to serve both *Goachers Fine Light Ale* and *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* in fine order at this longstanding *Good Beer Guide* entry. A guest ale is often available and good food is also to be found.



# THE KINGS ARMS

A TRADITIONAL 17th CENTURY COUNTRY PUB

x6 REAL ALES

QUALITY WINES

BEER GARDEN

HOME COOKED FOOD

LIVE MUSIC

OPEN FIREPLACE

CAR PARK



01732 845208

LUNCH SERVED EVERYDAY

12:00pm - 3:00pm

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



Follow us on twitter

@kingsarmsoffham



**JUST MINUTES AWAY  
FROM KINGS HILL**

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

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

**George, Trottiscliffe** – A large pub with various areas on differing levels. Opens at 10am and is popular for food. A large car park and garden add to its attraction. Beer list varies here but usually has something from *Fullers*, *St Austell* or *Shepherd Neame*. On the branch visit *Ringwood Best Bitter*, *St Austell Proper Job* and *Shepherd Neame Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* were available. [www.thegeorgekent.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgekent.co.uk)

**Bell, Ware Street** – This pub was re-opened in February with Nigel Williams and Andrea at the helm. The beer lines and the tall fonts have been replaced as well as some aged kitchen equipment. Good reports concerning the food and a new menu is now in place. *Greene King IPA* is permanently on with *London Glory* and a guest from the monthly list. [www.bearstedbell.co.uk](http://www.bearstedbell.co.uk) and Facebook: *TheBellInnBearsted*

**Railway, Wateringbury** – New licensee Jason Bromley had *Rockin' Robin RPA* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* available. It seemed busier than on our previous visits with live music. Some tasty bites were provided to customers, for that we thank them.

**George, Yalding** – Local talk suggested it might re-open in April, but there is a planning application for change of use to housing. However, it seems a buyer may now have come forward.

## Quiz Night on Monday

Open 12 – 2.30 and 5 – 11 Monday – Thursday

12 – 11 Friday and Saturday

12 – 10.30 Sunday

**The Bull  
High Street  
West Malling**



# THE CELLARS

**Micropub for Maidstone!**




## THE OLD BREWERY

**Maidstone will soon join the micropub revolution.**

**Currently running the bureaucratic gauntlet, The Cellars Alehouse should be open late August or early September and will be situated in the cellars of the old Style and Winch brewery for that perfect touch of historical resonance.**

**Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date progress reports.**

 Find us on **Facebook** - The Cellars Alehouse



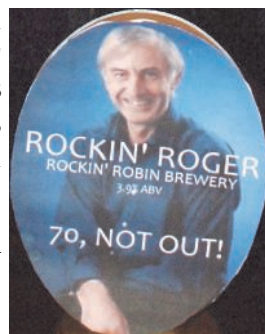
## ROCKIN' ROGER

*by Jeff Tucker*

Popular local Radio Kent DJ (and former radio 'pirate') Roger Day reached a milestone birthday at the end of March. He is also a football supporter and ale drinker, and likes to visit the Flower Pot after Maidstone United's home games.

With that in mind, I persuaded David at the Pot to design a pump clip for a beer from the *Rockin' Robin* brewery, which was named *Rockin' Roger* for the day. Roger was quite chuffed to see what we had done, and insisted on pulling himself a pint!

You can catch his show on Radio Kent on Sundays from 7 – 9pm



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## 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](mailto:dc@braymead.com)) to let us know of any other hostelrys 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 Drayman, Gravesend	10p per pint
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
Yacht, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent



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# Pubco Reform – Campaign Win!

CAMRA research found that large Pub Companies (Pubco) have been making huge excess profits at the expense of pub-goers by forcing licensees to buy their beer only from them rather than on the open market. This has led to licensees paying at least 50 percent more for beer and often paying above market value for rents.

CAMRA launched a campaign to stop these unfair business practices which have resulted in higher prices for pub goers, lower investment in the sector and ultimately a higher rate of pub closures. After ten years of campaigning for reform these changes have now become law. The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill has secured Royal Assent and includes key reforms that will ensure that thousands of licensees are protected from unfair practices in the industry. These reforms include:

- ✓ **A Statutory Code and Independent Adjudicator** to ensure licensees are treated fairly and crack down on cases of inflated rents and excessive beer prices
- ✓ **A Market Rent Only Option** so that licensees tied to the large pub companies can buy their beer on the open market

It was with the help of thousands of CAMRA supporters that we have been able to persuade the Government to change the law and protect 13,000 licensees across England from unfair business practices.

## Changing of the Guard at the Rifle

by Colin Mann

Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch said a fond farewell to one of its longest-serving landlords at the end of February when Alan Marlowe took a well-earned retirement after nearly 37 years behind the bar at the **Rifle Volunteers** in Wyatt Street in the County Town.

Taking on the **Rifle** with wife Wendy when the pub was a *Shepherd Neame* tied house, the pair gained a reputation for serving a well-kept pint and running an orderly house, which continued when local brewers Phil and Debbie Goacher acquired the pub from Sheps. This reputation was underlined in 2002 and 2005, when the pub was awarded the accolade of MMK Branch Pub of the Year. It was also runner-up in 2012, complementing its 15 consecutive years in the *Good Beer Guide*.

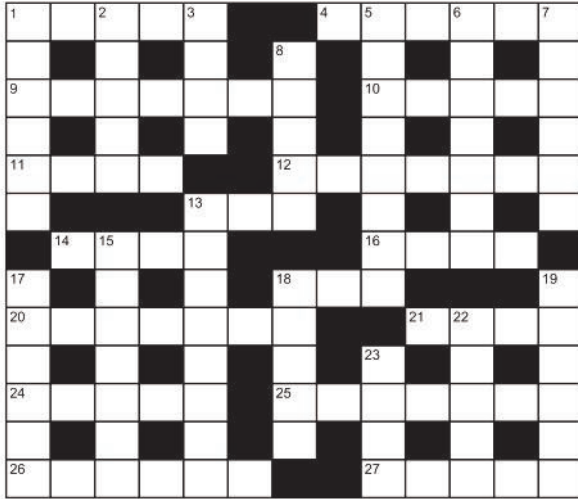
Regulars at the **Rifle** will be pleased to know that it is still in good hands, with former licensees at the **Pilot**, Matt Bannermann and Gina Keohane (POTY winners in 2008), now running the pub. As long-time fans of the **Rifle Volunteers** and its distinctive charm, they are not planning major changes.

We wish Alan and Wendy a happy retirement, and Matt and Gina good luck in their new venture!

# The Draught Copy Crossword No. 18

compiled by MICK NORMAN

*Solution in next issue*



Solution to Crossword No. 17

L	O	C	A	L	P	U	B			A		E
E		A		E		N		W	E	L	L	S
E	X	P	L	E	T	I	V	E		T		C
C		T		S		S		S		O	X	O
H	O	O	K		N	O	R	T	O	N		R
		R		T		N		E				T
P	A	S	T	R	Y		B	R	A	I	N	S
O						O		C		N		N
O		S		Q		U		I		R	E	P
D	I	P		B		A		A		I		I
L		O				L		I		V	E	R
E	Y	R	I	E		A		A		I		L
S		T				S		T		R	A	D
											D	L
												E

9, 21 27, and 18 down 13 down are local 1 across 18 across(s), and are not further defined

**Across**

- 1,18 Cub prom I reviewed - very popular with CAMRA members (8)
- 4 Dora's pectorals in view (6)
- 9 Company spymaster to decline question on Mastermind (7)
- 10 Hop Daemon brew? Pooh - ignore it. Correct! (5)
- 11 Consumes a variety of teas (4)
- 12 Luke Lee's composition for George Formby? (7)
- 13 Payment for endless grope (3)
- 14 Internationally noted crime agency chiefs once found in South America (4)
- 16 Greek character is 10, thanks (4)
- 18 See 1
- 20 Allow space for bird with French article (7)
- 21,27 Rewritten dirge. Oh no! (4,5)
- 24 Yes - a holy giraffe! (5)
- 25 In snug bar at last, bubbly, requiring care (7)
- 26 Murder reportedly drawn by 2 and the rest of the gang before Christmas (6)
- 27 See 21

**Down**

- 1 Taken by Disney character? (6)
- 2 A space traveller finds me in bed (5)
- 3 Love going down the toilet? Quite the reverse for Surrey's cricketers! (4)
- 5 Feminist magazine features bars ripe for development (5,3)
- 6 Much-missed DJ always at the races, injecting drug (7)
- 7 I tried to become neater (6)
- 8 Offspring big at London stations, perhaps (5)
- 13 See 18
- 15 Eccentric skull? (7)
- 17 Mother, on small boat, hides wading birds (6)
- 18,13 Debt asserted by the bells of St Martin's? (5,8)
- 19 European city organised a purge (6)
- 22 Hunter? Yes, another old car (5)
- 23 Tree topped at Euston once (4)

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*Congratulations to Nick Goodwin, from Dunton Green, 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](mailto:gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.gdv.camra.org.uk](http://www.gdv.camra.org.uk)

The month of March, when these notes were written, is the time when the branch collates the results of the annual CAMRA branch Pub of the Year competition. All Gravesend & Darent Valley branch members are entitled to vote and, as we now have a much larger database of email addresses, the response was greater than in previous years. We are pleased to announce that the 2015 winner is the **Cock Inn**, Henley Street, Luddesdown, which last won in 2011 and is usually one of the top three pubs.

The **Cock Inn** has been a purveyor of fine ales since 1713 although part of the building predates this so it may not have originally been built as a hostelry. The landlord Andrew Turner and his wife Denise have owned the pub since 1984 and have established a well-deserved reputation for excellent ales and general high standards to operate a quintessential rural free house. Their son Adnam has taken over some of the day to day running of the pub and is expected to keep up the high standards. The pub has a comfortable saloon bar, a public bar with dartboards and bar billiards table, a conservatory with games available, a specially designed covered smoking shelter and a pleasant garden.

The **Cock** has a very loyal local following and regular visitors from further afield although it is not ideal for families with young children. The owners are very loyal to their real ale suppliers who reflect the demands of their loyal customers. Eight handpumps offer three *Adnams* beers, *Lighthouse*, *Southwold Bitter* and *Broadside*; *Goacher's Real Mild Ale*, *St.Austell Trelawny* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* as regular beers. The other two pumps currently offer *Musket Trigger* and a new exclusive house beer named *Cock & Stock*, also brewed by *Musket Brewery* based at Loddington Farm in Linton, just south of Maidstone.

Adnam Turner collaborated with Tony and Mark, the *Musket* brewers, producing the initial batch in late January and I was lucky enough to be one of the first customers to sample the brew. *Cock & Stock* is a 4% ruby beer with *"a deep colour and a smooth yet bitter taste with chocolaty notes and a gentle dryness to the finish"*.

Several local CAMRA members attended the "Meet the Brewer" evening in the conservatory on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February; the brewer being Tony

Williams from *Musket*. The light coloured *Trigger* may become a regular beer and the *Cock & Stock* was very well received and fills a gap in strength between *Goacher's Mild* and *Adnams Broadside* for darker beers.

The 2015 Pub of the Year runner-up is the **George & Dragon**, London Road, Swanscombe, which was the branch winner in 2013 and 2014 and also the West Kent Region winner in 2013. Since re-opening just over three years ago, Bob & Bron have transformed the **George & Dragon**, which has become a destination pub for customers attracted by the products of *Caveman Brewery* in the pub basement, the ever changing range of real ales from far and wide, real ciders and perries from small producers, wide range of whiskies and bottled beers, occasional beer festivals and an excellent reputation for home-cooked meals. The pub is also gaining regular local custom in an area hardly known previously for good quality real ale.

Third place in the Pub of Year competition goes to the **Queen**, New Road, South Darenth, which finished runner-up in 2014. This pub is unusually located as part of a row of terraced houses in a back street with a railway to the rear of the garden. However the **Queen** is quite a traditional two-bar local, one with modern furniture, the other featuring a pool table and jukebox. There are now five handpumps offering *Fuller's ESB*, *Kent Pale*, *Caledonian Flying Scotsman* and two changing beers often featuring *Dark Star Brewery* beers, and real cider is also available.

Speaking of cider, which I don't often as I seldom drink it, I've been reminded that this branch doesn't nominate a Cider Pub of the Year. In the past very few pubs have sold real cider regularly and our active members, who also don't drink it, are hardly qualified to judge. *Wetherspoons* pubs usually sell *Weston's* cider regularly and several others during promotional events, in our area being the **Flying Boat** and the **Paper Moon** in Dartford and the **Robert Pocock** in Gravesend. I've checked the CAMRA *Whatpub* database and discovered 16 Gravesend & Darent Valley pubs listed as selling real cider. For the record the other 13 are, in alphabetical order, **Black Lion**, Hartley; **Blue Anchor**, St.Mary Platt; **Campbell Arms**, Northfleet; **Coach & Horses**, Northfleet; **Compass Alehouse**, Gravesend; **Crown**, Otford; **Crown & Thistle**, Gravesend; **Darnley Arms**, Cobham; **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe; **Old Prince of Orange**, Gravesend; **Queen**, South Darenth; **Ship & Lobster**, Gravesend; **Wat Tyler**, Dartford.

Please let us know whether any of the above pubs have stopped selling real cider regularly and more particularly please inform us about any other outlets which do stock cider regularly, or even occasionally, especially if those ciders come from any of the Kent producers listed on page 7.

The season for spring and summer pub beer festivals is upon us and the ones we are aware of are listed on page 3. We have been informed that the May beer festival at the **Rising Sun** at Twitton will not take place and the August one could also be in doubt. The beer festivals at the **Fox & Hounds** in Romney are scratched as the pub is still closed. Please let us know about any other pub beer festivals taking place this summer as we can promote them on our website nearer the date should they fail to appear in this newsletter.

One of the three pubs reported as closed in the previous issue has reopened. I visited the **Chequers** at Heaverham, on the off chance, during lunchtime on a Saturday in February to deliver Draught Copy only to find that that the pub opens on Tuesday to Sunday evenings from 5pm to standard closing time so I can't give a full report, although we believe that the pub is still leased to *Shepherd Neame*. We have no definitive update on the status of planning at the **Vigo** but we can report sadly that the **Henry Simmonds** in Borough Green is closed and boarded with permission to be converted into a Sainsbury's local store, despite strong local opposition.

On my *Draught Copy* rounds to the villages the *Windsor & Eton Knights of the Garter* at the **Crown** in Otford, the *Harvey's Best Bitter* at the **Malt Shovel** and the *Dark Star Hophead* at the **Five Bells**, both in Eynsford, were in very good condition, as were the *Long Man Long Blonde* at the **Rising Sun** at Cotmans Ash and the *Hophead* at the **Rising Sun** at Twitton. *Hogs Back Snout* at the **Amazon & Tiger** in Harvel; *Larkins Traditional* at the **Plough** in Basted and *Penpont Cornish Coast* at the **Blue Anchor** in St.Mary's Platt were all up to scratch. I also visited two pubs outside our area; at the **Padwell Arms** at Stone Street I sampled *Goody's Genesis*, *Larkins Grumpy Git* and was defeated by a gargantuan, but tasty, dinner. *Harvey's Best* and *Jarrow Old Cornelius* were the beers at the **Anchor** in Sevenoaks and I was informed that Barry the landlord has been in residence even longer than Andrew at the **Cock**.

We are not impressed with pubs that overcharge for half pints and I'd heard that *Hall & Woodhouse* pubs in London were marking up by 30 to

40p a pint. So I visited our only *H&W* tied pub the **Moat** at Wrotham Heath where *Tanglefoot* was £3.60 a pint and £1.95 a half and *Badger First Call* £3.25 and £1.75. The pint prices are comparatively reasonable but the mark up for halves is punitive at 30p and 25p respectively. On the plus side the beer quality was good and a price list was clearly visible although it is no longer a legal obligation to display one. Please name and shame other pubs that mark up by more than 5p a pint.

Other snippets from Dartford are that the **Foresters** in Great Queen Street has recently been awarded Cask Marque, the **Hufflers Arms** in Hythe Street had *Fuller's London Pride* recently but real ale is difficult to sell here. The **Stage Door**, also in Hythe Street, is a *Shepherd Neame* pub which takes guest beers from other breweries, *Brains Reverend James* in good condition recently. Grant and Sandra left the **Fox & Hounds** in Lowfield Street in March and we are still unsure about the future of this pub. Another change of manager, this time at the **Jolly Drayman** in Wellington Street Gravesend, took place in March. Paul "Charlie" Drake has left and the new manager is Darren Yeoman, who had previously run a *Shepherd Neame* pub in Rainham. The pub is under the same ownership and it is not intended to change the pub's traditional feel.

We've named the branch *Pub of the Year* and listed a few candidates for a potential *Cider Pub of the Year* and you will not be surprised to learn that the **Dartford Working Men's Club** has become the branch *Club of the Year* again in 2015 for the umpteenth consecutive year. Imagine my shock, on returning from a skiing trip in Austria, that the price of a pint had risen from £2.50 to £2.60! Mind you, that's still excellent value for a choice of 15 beers on handpump embracing all styles, strengths and colours from a huge variety of breweries around the UK. The Club also sells a wide range of real ciders and perries. The date of that visit was Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, an early St. Patrick's Day celebration with Irish food and Irish dancers. I eschewed the *Guinness* at £1.95 a pint and celebrated with *Alchemy Rhapsody*, *Marble Pint*, *Summer Wine Pretender* and *Dark Star American Pale Ale*. Towards the end of the evening a new beer from 4T's brewery came on stream, aptly named *Bob's Bizarre Blunder* at 3.8%, which didn't make me fall over. Unlike in Austria, where the blunder of not fixing the boot binding securely resulted in losing a ski, falling over and sustaining multiple fractures of the humerus.....that's upper arm bone.....not funny ha ha! Luckily I didn't land on my funny bone - that would've been more painful - definitely not humorous. Such is life!

## DAVID WILMAN – 1931-2015

*An appreciation of MMK's founding chairman by David Rayner*

What a shame that Dave did not live to see the Maidstone & Mid-Kent Branch of CAMRA celebrate its Fortieth Anniversary later this year, when he would doubtless have been the Guest of Honour. For without Dave's dedication and unshakable belief the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch of CAMRA probably would not exist today.

Dave was born in Erith and during the war was evacuated to Harrietsham. He loved the countryside there so it was no surprise that he was to settle there.

I first met Dave at a meeting to test support for a Maidstone Branch in August 1975. His slow smile and quietly spoken words of welcome gave me an immediate impression of sincerity and integrity; these were two of the qualities which made him the natural leader of the fledgling Branch. National Service in the RAF gave Dave the opportunity to develop his strength and skills in boxing – and probably reinforced that streak of stubbornness, of dogged determination in him. In addition, as a Civil Engineer, Dave's mind was trained to gather as much detail on a subject before he lent his voice to it. As a result, he spoke clearly and with authority. I also learned pretty quickly that Dave could raise his voice to good effect when he needed to.

The first months of MMK Branch had their rocky moments but Dave steered us along a vigorous yet responsible path. He had a letter published in *What's Brewing*, in which he complained about being told to drink weaker beers by, as he put it, "pink-cheeked youths". This was in response to CAMRA's concern that the only real ales some brewers were producing were high-gravity 'kamikaze' beers.

MMK was attracting strong support to our weekly meetings. Enthusiasm ran high, and any campaigning activity found MMK members turning out to help.

Dave stood down from the Chairmanship after three years, feeling that his job was done; the County Town had an active, responsible Branch of CAMRA, and could survive without him. And of course, Dave had plenty of other interests, Bridge (at which he was an accomplished player and teacher), watching Kent cricket, and walking. He had a collection of Wainwright guides decades before Julia Bradbury popularised them on TV.



Of course, no reminiscence of Dave could be without reference to what some called eccentricity, but was simply Dave being forthright in his own, very individual manner.

Walking into a pub he'd not visited before, Dave asked the Landlord if he'd "got any beer?" "Why yes, we've all these." said mine host, and sweeping his arm along a row of gaudily-lit keg beer fonts. The response came swiftly, and delivered through gritted teeth: "No. I said, have you got any *beer*?"

On the subject of beer, Dave loved the Faversham-brewed Whitbread Trophy Bitter (later re-badged as Fremlin's Bitter) but disliked Shepherd Neame beers. He was a huge fan of Bateman's.

One Branch meeting at the Ringlestone Inn we had a firkin of beer from a new microbrewery. The general opinion was favourable, people particularly liking the strong hop presence. Dave was particularly impressed: "It's super. It'll never sell."

Dave and Margaret had long expressed a wish to move to Cornwall when they retired. When his local, the Ringlestone Inn was sold, and the former Fremlins brewery was closed, there seemed nothing to keep Dave in Kent.

His friend Brook told me that Dave had been wandering around a Cornish village, Gorran Haven, one afternoon in February when he was approached by a local resident, suspicious of this out-of-season stranger. Dave explained he was house hunting but there didn't seem to be anything on sale. "What sort of thing you looking for?" enquired the Local. "Well," said Dave, pointing to a house not far away, "that would suit me."

"Funny you should say that," replied the Local, "That's my house, and it's on the market."

My wife Jan and I went to Dave's funeral in Truro. At the wake we were offered *St. Austell Tribute* and *HSD*. However, I was told that Dave would not approve of us drinking the *Tribute*. It was not a moment to deny Dave's wish. So, no longer a pink-cheeked youth, I drank the 5.5% *HSD*.

We missed him when he moved to Cornwall.

We will miss him even more now.

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Contact: *Rob Archer* at [camr@rcher.org.uk](mailto:camr@rcher.org.uk)  
or *Martyn Nicholls* on 01322 527857 (H)  
[www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk](http://www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk)

Greetings from Bexley CAMRA.

By the time you read this the 10<sup>th</sup> Bexley CAMRA Beer Festival will be over. Hopefully everyone, drinkers and staff alike will have had a wonderful time and the festival itself will have been a rip-roaring success. Our thanks go to Clive and his team at Old Dartfordians for their hospitality and assistance at the festival, and mention must be made of our chief organiser, Alan Boakes, without whom none of it would have been possible.

On the pub news front, we received news from a member through WhatPub that the **Millers Arms** in Bexley has re-started selling real ale. WhatPub is CAMRA's online pub guide to every pub in the United Kingdom and is kept up to date by the local branches. You the drinker can assist the branches by submitting information to the branch either via WhatPub or by contacting us directly, using the contact details at the top of this article or our Pubs Officer Ian Wright on 07779 319196 or [bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk). We also had a new pub open in the branch area in January, The **Brewers Fayre** in Albion Road, Bexleyheath; it sells two real ales. By the time you read this, another micropub should also have opened. The **Broken Drum** in Blackfen, run by Andy Wheeler our branch Treasurer, is the third micropub in the branch and a welcome addition to the scene. We now have 68 pubs selling real ale throughout the area.

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual. In January we visited the **George Staples** in Blackfen, February it was the **Yacht** in Bexleyheath and in March the **Tailor's Chalk** in Sidcup. The first two offer a discount to CAMRA members, while the third is a Wetherspoons, for which members get discount vouchers. At our March meeting, we announced our Branch Pub of the Year and Club of the Year awards. Pub of the Year is the **Penny Farthing** (Crayford) while the runner-up is the **Door Hinge** (Welling), narrowly beating the **Wrong 'Un** (Bexleyheath). Club of the Year is **Old Dartfordians** (Bexley) with **Pure** as runner-up. Our congratulations go to both winners and certificates will be presented in due course; check our branch diary or website for dates.

In February we met to decide our seven entries for the *Good Beer Guide* 2016. This year twelve pubs had been nominated for possible inclusion.

The twelve had been visited by us over the past three months and after discussions, a vote was held and seven were chosen. These have been submitted to the editors and the successful pubs will be informed in due course.

In January we held an in-branch social, which was to have started at the **Nags Head** in Welling but it coincided with their re-launch following the refurbishment and so we were unable to meet there. They did however have *Greene King IPA*, *Nags Head Bitter* and *Speckled Hen* on the bar. Instead we started at the ever popular **New Cross Turnpike**, which as well as their usual beers had a large selection of London brewery beers as a result of a London Regional Festival they were running. We moved on to the **Crook Log**, which had *Brakspears Bitter* and *Fullers London Pride* available. Finally, we ended up at another Wetherspoons, the **Wrong Un**. Here we found their usual selection complemented by three beers from various London breweries and also *Bexley Brewery Redhouse*.

We also held a cross-border social that turned out to be one of the best ever attended socials. It was originally billed as a 4 micropub tour. Unfortunately, as the **Broken Drum** was not yet open, we revised this. We met in the **Long Pond** in Eltham where our eight members were joined not only by members of the local South East London Branch but also members from Croydon & Sutton, North London and Enfield & Barnet branches as well. In total about 25 people enjoyed our little social. The Long Pond had a total of six different beers on offer, including the house beer from *Tonbridge*. After a couple of hours here, we moved on to the replacement venue, the **Howerd Club**, a small club behind the church at Well Hall roundabout in Eltham and dedicated to the late Frankie Howerd. It is a former CAMRA National Club of the Year and had three beers on offer. Some of the throng left early to visit a couple of pubs in between here and our next official stop which was the current London Regional Pub of the Year, the **Door Hinge**. Ray was as usual pleased to see a large crowd of thirsty punters and had four beers ready and waiting for us to consume. Finally it was onward to our final destination the **Penny Farthing**, where Bob & Bev had five ales awaiting our arrival.

Our February social once again saw us cross the border into South East London Branch territory, this time to Blackheath and the **British Oak**. Here we found *Brockley Pale*, *Butcombe Bitter*, *Purity Mad Goose* and *Courage Best*. Our next stop was to be the **Red Lion** at the foot of

Shooters Hill but when we arrived at 9.50, it was already closed so we continued up the hill to the **Bull**. Here we had a choice of *Broadside*, *Bombardier*, *Doom Bar*, *Tribute* and *Castle Rock Harvest Pale*. No surprise then that all four of us decided to try the *Harvest Pale*. In view of the poor selection, we decided to return to our own branch area for a last one at the **New Cross Turnpike** which now has a policy of no new entry after 11pm; fortunately we were there in time.

Also in February, we received a visit from the London Pubs Group who held a Saturday crawl around some of our pubs, starting at the **Kings Head** in Bexley and visiting the **Robin Hood & Little John**, **Royal Oak (Polly Clean Stairs)**, **Door Hinge**, and **Rose & Crown**, before heading across the border to the **Bull & Red Lion**.

In March we changed from our usual Wednesday evening to a Thursday for the social. We gathered in the **Paper Moon**, a Wetherspoons in Dartford to partake of the Curry evening before heading off to **Dartford Working Mens Club** for an evening of guitar music. The Club as always had a massive selection of ales and everyone enjoyed themselves.

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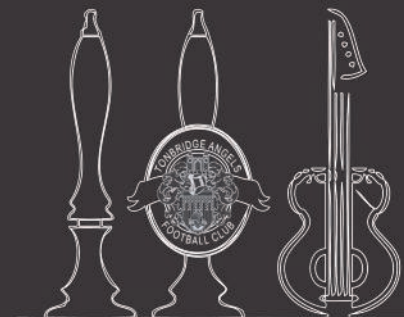


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# BEER FESTIVAL COMPETITION

Here's a chance to win one of two prizes, each of two complimentary entrance tickets to the East Malling Beer & Cider Festival on Saturday 5th September at East Malling Research. Please note that this competition is not available to people under 18 years of age.

What you have to do is solve the 11 cryptic clues below. The first letter and length of each answer are given. The second letters of each answer make up the name of a well-known Kent pub close to a stately home. The name consists of two words.

Send the answers to the 11 clues (or as many as you can do) plus the pub name, either by photocopying/scanning this completed page or on a plain sheet of paper and sending to DC Comp, 13 Lakeside, Snodland ME6 5LD or by email to [jeff.tucker@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jeff.tucker@blueyonder.co.uk). The closing date for entries is 30th June 2015.

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

Good luck! Answers in the next issue.

C										Heard bluebottles in the wood
S										Purloined a wrap
I										An edition for the kids?
P										Poll Tax worried a Kent village
F										An event for the last five confused
S										Tolerate the podium
A										Condense a crossing
C										Talk about jam
C										Search around for a whisky, perhaps
T										Glass acrobat
S										Hit a ball and wait

The hidden pub is \_\_\_\_\_.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My contact details are (address or phone or email):

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[www.facebook.com/queenshead.sv](https://www.facebook.com/queenshead.sv)**

**TEL: 01622 843225**



*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.*

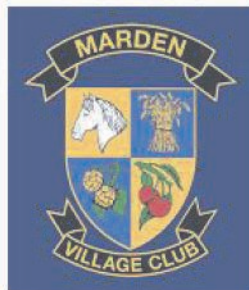
# ***Marden Village Club***

## **CAMRA MMK Club of the Year**

*Albion Road, Marden, Kent TN12 0PD*

*Phone: 01622 831427*

*www.mardenvillageclub.co.uk*



*CAMRA members welcome*

*We invite new members to join our club  
for the enjoyment of*

*Four real ales supporting Kent breweries  
plus real cider,  
all 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)*



I bet there are loads of pubs in Kent which you've never been to. You probably think they are too far away or difficult to get to without somebody driving.

In a handful of cases, you may be right, but most are more accessible than you think, using Kent's comprehensive network of trains and buses. Why not make a day of it, and visit a selection of lovely pubs in an area which you wouldn't normally go to.

In this internet age, it is so easy to find all the information you need, about the pubs, train and bus times, ticket information and fares.

Starting with the pubs, the obvious place to begin is to use CAMRA's excellent *Whatpub.com* website. Just put in the name of a town or village, and it will show all pubs in the area, including, in most cases, details of the real ales that you will find, and the all-important opening hours.

In most cases, the entry for a pub shows the proximity of a train station and/or bus route. If you are visiting a village with only one pub and an hourly bus or train service, it may be worth a phone call to the pub to make sure they're going to be open!

Train times and fares can be found on *nationalrail.co.uk*. Rail trips are a bit restrictive in that you buy a return from A to B, but can break your journey at stations along the route. Southeastern offer a three-day rover, but no daily ticket.

Bus travel is more flexible than trains, and the information is just as easy to find if you know where to look. You don't need to buy separate tickets on each bus, as there is a handy day ticket, called an Explorer, which can be bought on any Stagecoach or Arriva bus, and is valid at any time of day on 99% of buses in Kent (and part of East Sussex). It costs, at the time of writing, £6.30 from Stagecoach or £7.20 from Arriva. Considering the extent of its validity, it's great value for money. Any other day ticket isn't valid on other operators' services, so beware!

Where do the buses go? The best place to start is to put *Kent bus map* into a search engine. Go to the *kent.gov.uk* website, click on *Find a bus route*, and you will find links to the comprehensive county map and individual town and area maps.

Some routes have a limited service, either a few journeys per day, or only on certain days of the week. Evening and Sunday services can be limited, but most trunk routes run at least hourly during the daytime.

The *bus information* pages for each area on the KCC website will give you this detail.

For a copy of the actual timetable for a route, go to [travelinesoutheast.org.uk](http://travelinesoutheast.org.uk). I normally click on *Find a timetable*, then put in a town or village name to get a list of all routes for that location. Some will be school routes, which are not a lot of use, but the main routes can be selected to show the full timetable and, if you need it, a detailed map of the route, including the stops.

With an Explorer ticket, you can just jump on and off buses as you wish, showing your ticket to the driver. Stagecoach accept Arriva tickets, and *vice versa*. Most bus routes operated by smaller companies are KCC contract services, which are obliged to accept Explorer tickets according to their contract. The KCC bus information pages indicate which services are KCC-tendered.

Remember, not all pubs have a bus stop or train station right outside, so you may have a bit of gentle walking to do to get to some truly great pubs. There are around 1500 pubs in Kent – go and find them!



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## CUTTING BEER DUTY—THE GOOD NEWS

In the last two years, we have seen the abolition of the beer duty escalator as well as three 1p cuts in beer duty. What has all that achieved?

Well, quite a lot, as it happens. CAMRA recently commissioned a report from the Centre for Economics and Business Research Ltd (Cebr) that has investigated the cumulative effect across the industry and the benefits that have arisen. Cebr's main findings are:

- ✓ Beer prices have been held back by 16p a pint
- ✓ Another 750 million pints of beer will be sold this financial year
- ✓ Expected investment in the brewing industry to have risen by £61 million in 2014 alone than it would have if the beer duty escalator had been maintained
- ✓ An estimated 1,047 pubs have been saved from closing
- ✓ 26,000 additional jobs created in 2015 compared with 2012
- ✓ An extra 33,000 jobs could be created by 2020 if the government opts to freeze beer duty over the course of the next parliament

This is excellent news for consumers, pubs and the industry. We must keep the pressure on for more cuts in beer duty.

### AND GOOD NEWS IN BEXLEY, TOO...

The *Bexley Brewery* (Cliff and Jane Murphy, Erith) were awarded Beer of the Festival at December's Pig's Ear festival (for *BOB*, 4.2%) learning shortly afterwards they had acquired a first in the Bexley Borough Business awards ("New Business" category). In the interim, the brewery has produced a porter, *Black Prince* (4.6%) and a golden ale, *Golden Acre* (4.0%) which, in unfinned form, was the first beer to run out at the Orpington Liberal Club festival in February. Check [bexleybrewery.co.uk](http://bexleybrewery.co.uk) for forthcoming events.

## SWANLEY GETS A BREWERY...

Swanley Village will see the opening of its first microbrewery by the end of May. Local friends Murray East and Simon Tippett are launching *Brew Buddies*, a 6-barrel plant at Highlands Farm. The pair will be brewing for bottle and cask with an emphasis on unique craft ales brewed with the finest ingredients. *Brew Buddies* is currently piloting a number of pale and golden ales including a Honey and Citra ale as well as a Porter, dry hopped with Madagascan Vanilla pods.



Check out these two new entrepreneurs, Murray and Simon, at their website, [www.brew-buddies.co.uk](http://www.brew-buddies.co.uk), on Twitter at @LetsGetBrewing, or email them at [hello@brew-buddies.co.uk](mailto:hello@brew-buddies.co.uk).

## ...AND A BREWERY GETS A PUB!

*Whitstable Brewery* has been in the process of opening its own pub in Faversham for some time, and it's now at the public consultation stage.



It's going to be in a former glass shop at 37 Preston Street and will be a micropub – smartly presented but simple. Tim Abbott, Head of Sales at *Whitstable* said: *"We're looking to serve a mix of our own cask ales and the finest guest ales we can find from around Britain, plus the best Kentish and West Country real ciders and English white wine (I suspect red might have to come from foreign climes). We're planning an eventual food offering of ploughman's lunches and local pies, cheeses and sausage rolls, etc, to keep the focus on conversation and great beer."*

Tim would greatly appreciate any support our readers, who of course all like pubs and love great beer, can give to their planning application at:



[pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=NL3Y5WTY0TW00](http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=NL3Y5WTY0TW00)

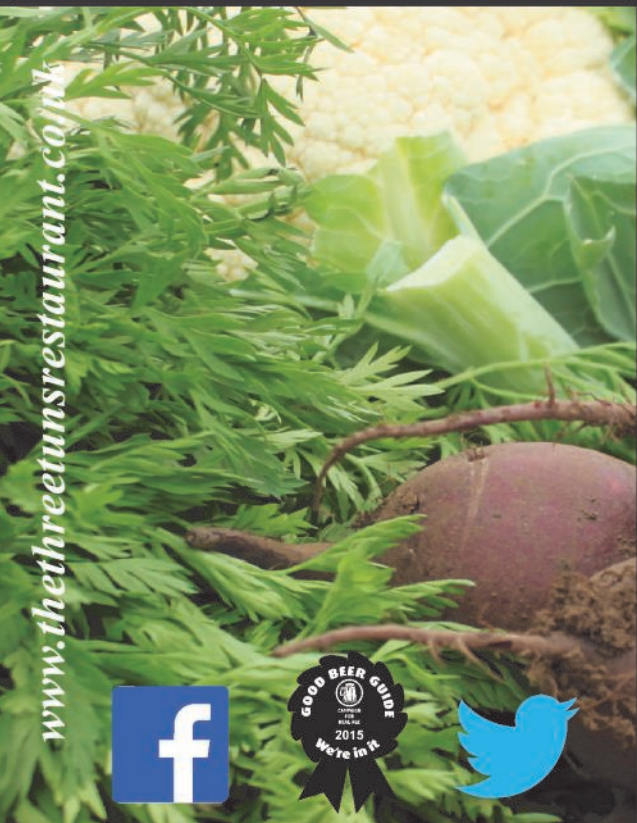
or by post to Mid Kent Planning Support, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6FG (quoting reference 15/501851/FULL or PP-04012621).

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 Tel No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

CAMRA branches arrange socials and trips throughout the year. Non-members are welcome to come along to our meetings. If you would like more information, or would like a lift (if possible), please ring the local branch contact—see **Local News** sections.

Meetings are at 8.30pm unless otherwise noted.

**BEX** = Bexley, **GDV** = Gravesend and Darent Valley, and

**MMK** = Maidstone & Mid-Kent (*OBM* = Open Business Meeting)

## MAY

- 1 **MMK** Curry night. **Rifle volunteers** 6:30pm, then **Spice Hut** 8pm
- 2 **GDV** 1pm Beer Festival Social – **Old Prince of Orange**, Gravesend
- 7 **MMK** Maidstone Mild in May - **Society Rooms**, then **Flower Pot**
- 13 **BEX** **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath DA6 8PF [*OBM*]
- 13 **GDV** **Cock**, Luddesdown (*PotY winner—presentation*)
- 14 **MMK** **Bush**, Aylesford [*OBM*] [*AGM*]
- 16 **MMK** Bus Trip to Burmarsh
- 21 **MMK** Maidstone Mild in May - **Rifle Volunteers**, then **Pilot**
- 22 **GDV** **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe (*PotY runner-up—presentation*)
- 23 **BEX** 12:00 **Orpington Liberal Club** featuring *Bexley Brewery*
- 27 **BEX** 8pm **Penny Farthing**, Crayford then **Dukes Head and One Bell**
- 28 **MMK** **Harrow**, Lenham, then **White Horse**, Sandway

## JUNE

- 4 **GDV** **Queen**, South Darenth (*PotY runner-up—presentation*)
- 4 **MMK** **Rose**, Bearsted, then **Lion of Kent, Fox & Goose**, Weaving
- 6 **MMK** **MENCAP** Summer Fayre in Mote Park, Maidstone
- 10 **GDV** **Windmill**, Gravesend [*OBM*]
- 10 **BEX** **Green Man**, Welling DA16 3NL [*OBM*]
- 11 **MMK** **Lord Raglan**, Staplehurst, then **Cock**, Boughton Monchelsea
- 13 **GDV** 12 noon Maidstone walkabout, start **Olde Thirsty Pig**
- 18 **MMK** **Moody Mare**, Mereworth, then **Swan**, West Peckham
- 24 **BEX** **Old Dartfordians**, Bexley DA5 1LW [*AGM*]
- 25 **GDV** **Lamb**, then **Red Lion**, Swanley Village
- 25 **MMK** 7:30 Evening ramble, Ryarsh Village Hall to Birling
- 27 **BEX** 12:00, **Rifle Volunteers**, **Flower Pot**, and other Maidstone pubs
- 28 **MMK** 12:05 Sunday Ramble – East/West Farleigh – meet E.Farleigh Stn.

## JULY

- 2 **MMK** 7:30 Bat & Trap in Aylesford Rec., then **Bush** and **Chequers**
- 8 **BEX** **Jolly Fenman**, Sidcup DA15 8SW [*OBM*]
- 8 **GDV** **Cricketers**, then **Darnley Arms** and **Robert Pocock**, Gravesend
- 9 **MMK** **Marden Club**, then **Stile Bridge**
- 16 **MMK** **Milk House**, Sissinghurst, then **Bell & Jorrocks**, Frittenden
- 21 **BEX** 8pm branch 40th Anniversary dinner, **Anchor**, Bexley DA5 1JE
- 23 **MMK** **Style & Winch**, Maidstone [*OBM*]
- 25 **BEX** 12:00 **Eardley Arms**, **Prince of Wales**, and other Belvedere pubs
- 25 **MMK** Bus Trip to Westfield & Headcorn
- 29 **GDV** **Ivy Leaf**, Dartford [*OBM*]
- 30 **MMK** 7:30 Bat & Trap in Benenden, then **Bull**

\* REAL MILD ALE \* CROWN IMPERIAL STOUT \*

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



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

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