

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

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

Autumn 2015

No. 180

WE'RE HERE AGAIN!
SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2015

East Malling Beer & Cider Festival

East Malling Research
New Road
East Malling
ME19 6BJ

See you there
11-7pm

Free shuttle bus from
West Malling and Aylesford stations

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 3200 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials.

Advertising rates:

£77 / £45 / £27 for a full / half / quarter page respectively,

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

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 September 2015 for publication in November 2015.

Visit our website at www.mmkcampa.co.uk

On Twitter at www.twitter.com/mmkcampa



For further information about all pubs mentioned in this publication (or indeed anywhere in the UK), please refer to CAMRA's national pub database: www.whatpub.com.



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

**MAIDSTONE AND MID
KENT CAMRA PRESENTS**

CAMRA'S EAST MALLING BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

East Malling Research ME19 6BJ

**Saturday September 5th 2015
11 AM to 7 PM**



**75+ Real Ales And Ciders
Live Music**

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

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



Follow us on @EMbeerfestival



Maidstone and Mid Kent CAMRA
East Malling Beer Festival 2015



Beer Festivals in our region and not too far away

CAMRA

www.camra.org.uk/events

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

AUGUST 11–15

Olympia, London

Showcasing beer from over 350

British breweries

gbbf.org.uk

EAST MALLING

BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 5

East Malling Research (see p3)

East Malling ME19 6BJ

Non-CAMRA – Pubs and Clubs

August 1–2

Three Daws,

Town Pier, Gravesend

Beer festival in lower function room

food festival in gardens next-door

www.threedaws.co.uk

August 7–9

Bull, West Malling

6 beers + 8 on the bar

August 22

Dephstock Festival

Queens Head (see p41)

Sutton Valence ME17 3AG

www.queens-head.net

August 29

Old Dartfordians beer festival,

Bexley DA5 1LW

August 29–31

The Three Tuns (see p35)

Lower Halstow ME9 7DY

www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

August 30

Kings Head

Sutton Valence ME17 3AP

October 2–4

West Kent Green Hop Festival

Poacher and Partridge (see p42)

Tudeley TN11 0PH.

www.musketbrewery.co.uk

October 3–4

Old Prince of Orange

Old Road East, Gravesend

Beer festival featuring stronger ales

and ciders, 4.5% ABV minimum

November 12–14

Medway Beer Festival

The Stanley Ballroom

Gundulph Road, Chatham

ME4 4ED

50 real ales and 20 ciders

medwaybeerfestival.com

TERRY OSBORNE INSURANCE SERVICES LTD

WE SPECIALISE IN PUBS!
COMPETITIVE PUBLICAN PACKAGES AVAILABLE NOW!

✓ Easy payment options

✓ Free quotation

✓ No obligation

✓ Instant cover

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

CALL TODAY ON 01622 745297 ■ HELPING LICENSEES GET INSURED!

40 YEARS
EAST LANCASHIRE CAMRA



PENDLE BEER FESTIVAL 2015



East Lancashire CAMRA assembled over 160 beers from across the United Kingdom covering diverse styles from breweries new and old for their 2015 Pendle Beer Festival.

Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter
was voted
'Beer of the Festival'
by those attending.

The first brew of Harvey's Best Bitter was brewed in June 1955, exactly sixty years ago, and it is a source of great pride that it retains its standing in an ever changing market.

***"The Sussex Beer that's much revered
and won outright in Lancashire!"***



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

KENT BREWERIES

12 Bar Brewing Co.	07860 165048	<i>www.12barbrewingco.co.uk</i>
Attwell's Brewery	07966 586642	<i>www.attwellsbrewery.com</i>
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>
G2	01233 630277	
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>
Romney Marsh Brewery	01797 362333	<i>www.romneymarshbrewery.com</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.co.uk</i>

MUSKET
BREWERY



CAMRA
LOCAL

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

MUSKET
BREWERY

Rebrewing November 2015



POWDER BURN
5.0% Porter

To assist in repeat "Guest s**ALE**ability" and increase turnover for the licensed trade, Musket Brewery offers a significant promotion campaign on initial orders.

Contact Musket Brewery to find out more!!

01622 – 749931 or 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	<i>www.beardspoon.com</i>
Beardspoon Cider Works		<i>www.biddendenvineyards.com</i>
Biddenden Cider	01580 291726	<i>www.bigtreecider.co.uk</i>
Big Tree Cider	01474 705221	<i>www.broomfieldorchard.co.uk</i>
Broomfield Orchard	01227 362279	
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**

CONTACT US FOR A PRICE LIST & DELIVERY SCHEDULE

**PHIL TURNER
07825 394164
PHIL@TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK**

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

WWW.TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK @TURNERS_CIDER

The Handsome Sam

Micropub

3 Canterbury Rd, Whitstable CT5 4HJ



Whitstable's newest Micropub
where every day is a beer festival!
Only 5mins from Railway Station

Real Ales, Ciders & Wine

**Best Pork Pies & Scotch Eggs
Dogs & Bicycles Welcome**

www.facebook.com/thehandsomesam
chr15w@yahoo.co.uk
07931 662081

12-2 Tues -Fri 12-3 Sat & Sun 6pm - whenever Tues -Sat
Closed Mondays

THE KINGS ARMS BOXLEY

Tel: 01622 755177 The Street, Boxley, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3DR Email: 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

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

Day Trip to East Hampshire

by Mick Allen

Back in late May I'd noticed that a new *Wetherspoon's* had opened in Alton, Hampshire, and, being a Spoon's follower, decided on a day out to tick this one off. I'd been reading the local CAMRA branch magazine recently, *Worts and Ale*, and noticed they were going to have a minibus social trip on the day. As it happened, there was not enough interest in the minibus, so a couple of the members used their cars instead.

The **Ivy House** in Alton opened as a new pub in March 2015, using an existing office block and adjoining building. Beers on offer here were *Hogsback TEA*, *Langhams Halfway to Heaven*, a couple from *Triple fff* (*India Brown Ale* and *Altons Pride*), *Longdog Lamplight Porter*, *Weltons Magog*, and *Feral Hop Hog*, plus the usual Spoon's standard



beers. After the good value breakfast and a *Halfway to Heaven* it was off to meet East Hampshire Branch's Mick, Paul, Shirley, Nigel, Rod and Danny. I thought there may be a problem, as I hadn't met any of them before, but six people hanging around an empty car park were easy to spot!

After sorting out who was travelling in whose car, it was off to the furthest port of call some 30 minutes' drive away, the **Prince of Wales** at Hammer Vale, close to Haslemere. This pub is rumoured to have been built to serve the new A3 road – unfortunately for them the A3 took a different route! A former *Gales* pub, now a *Fullers* house, the **PoW** offered *London Pride*, *Gales HSB*, *Redwood* and the new *Olivers Island*.

After a pint of *Olivers*, it was a short drive to the **Fox and Pelican** at Grayshott, another *Fullers* conversion. As luck would have it, the pub had a beer festival on, with beers from *Crafty Brewing*, *Windsor and Eton*, *Hoptimists*, *Triple fff*, *Dorking*, and *Little Beer Corporation*, albeit at a hefty £4 a pint! A half each of *Dark Sessions* from *CB* and *Little Snug* from *LBC*, saw us leave three members in the pub whilst we had a short walk around to **Grayshott Social Club**, a CIU-registered premises selling *Altons Pride* and *Tillingbourne A-O-N-B*.

Having supped the *A-O-N-B* we rejoined the others for the drive to the **Crown** at Arford. Unusually for a pub on Saturdays nowadays, they were closing at 3pm, so we just made it for a half. *London Pride*, *Adnams Southwold* and *Cottage Iron Duke* were the staples here. I plumped for the *Iron Duke*, even though I'm not normally a fan of *Cottage* beers.

It was then off to the **Holly Bush** at Headley, a recently refurbished free house, serving *Wychwood Hobgoblin Gold*, *Sharps Doom Bar*, and a house beer, suspected to be *Tetleys Bitter*, brewed somewhere in the UK! By this time our two drivers were getting thirsty for a pint, so after a half of the house beer we set off back to Alton, missing out a pub on the list, the **Royal Exchange** at Lindford. This pub is currently closed, depriving a large village of its only watering hole. Let's hope the RE will be up and running soon.



We all then adjourned to the **Eight Bells** in Alton, where the beers were *Weltons Broadwood*, *Bowmans Swift One*, *Red Cat Nine Tails* and *Vibrant Forests Nova Foresta* – I think I had the *Nova* and the *Nine Tails*!

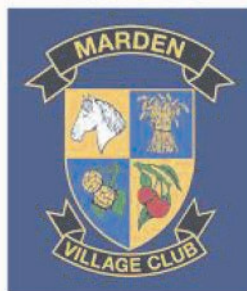
Thank you to the members of *East Hampshire CAMRA* for an enjoyable day out – you are most welcome to visit us in Kent sometime!
www.gdv.camra.org.uk.

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

*Four real ales supporting Kent breweries
plus real cider,
all offered at club prices*

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



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

Bookings recommended

01732 842752

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

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

Lion of Kent, Bearsted – The attached large restaurant is often busy. The bar has Sports TV for those fans and two real ales are available with a similar selection to the adjacent Rose. *Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*, which alternates with *Fuller's London Pride*.

Rose, Bearsted – A large pub with a very busy Indian restaurant to the rear. The bar has *Fuller's London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*. TV shows sports. Some seating is available outside if the music is too loud within.

Red Lion, Lenham – Grade II listed timber framed building where food is served lunchtimes and evenings during the week and all day at weekends. *Fuller's London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* were on the pumps but *Timothy Taylor Landlord* had run out.

Wheatsheaf, Leybourne – There is a change of beer selection provided by Terry here. I found *Butcombe Bitter*, which was in excellent condition and *Dorset Brewing Co Dorset Knob* (untried). Sheila also still provides very good value and substantial meals. Comedy nights feature regularly.

Chequers, Loose – All 6 cask beers have been reduced in price from £3.50 to £3.00! Prices for keg and lager have been increased slightly.

British Queen, Maidstone – Planning application has been lodged to build a substantial block of flats in place of this *Shepherd Neame* pub. No other pubs close by for anyone that cannot walk far.

Crafty Alehouse, Maidstone – This is a new venture by Sam Oatway and managed by Sam Briggs. It is available from 4.30 till 11 (but not Sundays) in The Living Cafe premises in Earl Street. Four casks are stillaged there with beers currently from *Kent* brewery and *Rockin' Robin*. Quite compact in the bar area but seating for sixteen downstairs. Bottled beers from around the world are kept in the chill cabinet.



Drakes, Maidstone – This has finally been restored internally following the flood damage that occurred December 2013. James Soutter is the licensee managing the pub for the Pleasure Company. There is a lighter

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.

feel about the interior now and a fireplace has been uncovered. *Franklins* are beers often seen. Tel: 01622 692403. Facebook: Drakes.

Eagle, Maidstone – Selling *Adnams Broadside*, which is particularly popular with customers of the Indian restaurant across the road.

Hare & Hounds, Maidstone – Has re-opened again! The new tenant is Matt Bryant who used to run the Yew Tree, Sandling and then the Bull, Barming. No real ale yet but he plans to have two regulars and two guests. He has always been keen on his beers and he got the Yew Tree into the *GBG*, so it sounds promising.

Rifle Volunteers, Maidstone – A fourth handpump has been added with *Goachers Gold Star*. The third pump currently has *Goachers Best Dark Ale*. Matt and Gina now have snacks available to keep your appetite satisfied.

Sun, Maidstone – Found closed at end of March. Later a notice of re-possession by Enterprise Inns appeared. Still closed at end of June.

Marden Village Club, Marden – Often features beers from *Kent Brewery* and *Goachers* but also from *Oakham* and other breweries in Kent. Beers are always in good condition, and CAMRA members may make the occasional visit.

White Horse, Sandway – A branch visit here found the usual *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and a single guest, *Musket Flintlock*. The third pump had run out. It has a large garden with facilities for children. Music takes place on first Friday of each month. There is a comprehensive food menu lunchtimes and evenings. The restaurant and separate function room are also available. whitehorsesandway.co.uk

Railway, Watlington – Now stocks beers from *Rockin' Robin* as well as *Sharp's Doom Bar*. Open mic sessions on Thursday evenings, and musicians play regularly on Saturday evenings.

Tickled Trout, West Farleigh – This was found closed in middle of May.

Farm House, West Malling – Has been redecorated in the bar area and comfortable chairs replaced by stools with a shelf along the wall, thus allowing more standing room for customers. Now has a pizza oven and juice bar outside. Continues to provide *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* but has recently changed from *Old Dairy* to *Musket Brewery* as a local for the guest beer supplier. Large, raised, covered area at rear. Food is served.



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

Five Pointed Star, West Malling – A busy pub that offers food from 11-9 daily. Interesting Grade II timber-framed building with weather-boarded, previously exterior wall now part of a corridor to the rear on the left side. Permanent beers are *Greene King Abbot*, *IPA* and *Morland Old Speckled Hen* with two changing beers, one from *Greene King* and another from a national brewer, often *Timothy Taylor Landlord*.

Joiners Arms, West Malling – Tony Stevens provides a high standard of accommodation in the boutique B & B rooms here. Several *Shepherd Neame* beers appear on the bar, with *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* being the mainstay and one or two others. *No 18 Yard Red Sails*, a cherry porter, was available on a recent visit. It had a very slight cherry flavour palate. *No 18 Yard* is not a brewery, it is a name used by *Shepherd Neame* for some of its occasional brews.

Lobster Pot, West Malling – After a brief closure, this is now managed by Craig and opens 5pm till midnight. *Sharp's Doom Bar* and a guest beer are available.

Scared Crow, West Malling – Through the churchyard, in Offham Road, is this popular restaurant/bar which provides Mexican and Italian style meals. The bar is open to non-diners but space is limited. Serves a good pint of *Adnams Best* for those who prefer beer to wine, and has a guest beer that is sourced nationally.

Anchor, Yalding – Having owned this large riverside venue for 29 years, Henry Long has now retired, and it has been bought by *Shepherd Neame*. Usually very busy on sunny days during the summer and has been a popular place for Londoners and fishermen.

George, Yalding – Re-opened 20th June with new owners. Chris Chalker and other family members have saved this historic pub from conversion to housing. Meals are up and running and a pizza oven has been installed. The car park entrance is now just a little along the road so as to make a safer place for children in the garden. *Adnams Southwold Best* will remain as the permanent beer and there is a single pump which will have a varying beer, *St Austell Tribute* initially, which proved very popular.





The Wheatsheaf

Loose Road Maidstone

01622 752624

Enjoy a fresh, home cooked roast
dinner every Sunday

12pm - 4:45pm

Only £7.95

Children £4.95

Real Ales Real Food

Realistic Prices



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



@wheatsheafmaid

sky SPORTS

BT Sport

THE VERY BEST OF SPORT: LIVE HERE!

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

UK's Best Selling Beer & Pub Guide

CAMRA's GOOD
BEER
GUIDE

2015



Edited by Roger Protz

Cryslage SIBA



The Chequers Inn

Laddingford, nr Yalding

Kent ME18 6BP

Tel: 01622 871266

www.chequersladdingford.co.uk

Award winning traditional village inn
situated in the hopping countryside



Charles and Tracey welcome you to their 15th Century Inn

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

We are proud of our

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

CAMRA Good Beer Guide & Cask Marque award

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 & Jorrocks , Frittenden	20p per pint
Cock Inn , Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Earl Haig , Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot , Maidstone	10p per pint
George & 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



Monty and Anna cordially welcome you to

The Bush, Blackbird and Thrush

Your local 15th Century Pub

We are pleased to offer you:

- Home cooked quality food, served lunchtime and evenings
- Food available Monday evenings.
- Large beer garden and ample parking
- Large Open Fireplace
- Real Ales straight from the barrel
- A fine selection of Lagers, Spirits and Wines
- Quiz Nights on Tuesday Evenings
- Warm and friendly atmosphere.
- Disabled facilities
- Functions and Events can be catered for.

Telephone: 01622 871349

Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. TN12 5LN.

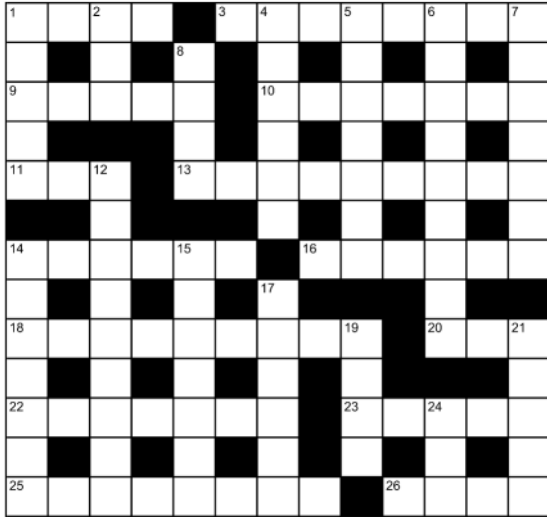
Web: www.peckhambush.com

E-Mail: info@peckhambush.com

The Draught Copy Crossword No. 19

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



Local CAMRA members may be familiar with 11 and 17, 14 down 9, 19, 4, and 24 20.

Across

- 1 18 would tell of adulterated gins (4)
- 3 Ma and Pa, beginning to eat cooked Spanish dish (8)
- 9 Micro-binoculars to locate bird (5)
- 10 Malfunctioning armrest is better (7)
- 11 Farm animal? Good, good (3)
- 13 Ruth, wandering around Wales, takes a tumble with the carpenter! (3,6)
- 14 The most sought-after steak? (6)
- 16 Position of rubbish in South America (6)
- 18 Degenerate, boorish - Young Conservatives found in Canterbury Cathedral (9)
- 20 Chant oddly to find Persian, perhaps (3)
- 22 Intro item partly sung by 18 (7)
- 23 Targeted road to the South of France (5)
- 25 Golf tragedy resulting from technical wizardry? Quite the reverse! (8)
- 26 Edward and Gary, gutless and nervous (4)

Down

- 1 Remove clothes after sunset (6)
- 2 Nick turns prohibition on its head (3)
- 4 Odour emitted by alien's firearm (6)
- 5 Eighties singer is insistent (4,3)
- 6 5 part 2 continent is another one (9)
- 7 14 across is unreliable - starts at first, then stops (7)
- 8 One short join (4)
- 12 Strangled useless ratter (dog) (9)
- 14 Unsettled in chair (7)
- 15 Saving carefully, relentless or otherwise greedy economist - primarily Marley's spectre-beset partner (7)
- 17 Would Janet drink this in the street? (6)
- 19 Bird in Dion's 'Wanderer' (4)
- 21 Now a radio programme for the late 9 (5)
- 24 Manufactured without a base? It's insane! (3)

Solution to Crossword No. 18



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

*Mick Norman
Nursery Cottage
Norwood Lane
Meopham
DA13 0YE*

no later than September 15th.

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

Congratulations to Helen Graham from Meopham, 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

This quarter we begin with a request to Gravesend & Darent Valley CAMRA branch members. Although we have a substantial email database, we've have been advised that not all members receive our e-mail diary (and Pub of the Year and GBG voting forms) so please let us have your current email address, to add to our database, if you wish to be contacted. Also we'd appreciate information from readers to help us update *WhatPub*, the online CAMRA pub information system. Please contact the branch at gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk and information will be forwarded to the relevant persons. Or, better still, why not attend a branch meeting?

A presentation was made on 13th May to Adnam Turner and his parents, Andrew and Denise, to celebrate the local CAMRA branch Pub of the Year winner, the **Cock Inn**, Henley Street, Luddesdown. The West Kent region Pub of the Year winner is the **Bell & Jorrocks** at Frittenden in Maidstone & Mid Kent



branch, which goes head to head with the East Kent winner, from Thanet branch, the **Yard of Ale**, St.Peter's, Broadstairs to become the overall CAMRA Kent Pub of the Year, which should be known by August.

Presentations were also made during to our branch runners-up; being a certificate awarded to Bob & Bron Veal at the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe, during their excellent late May Spring Holiday beer festival, and a certificate to John Newman at the **Queen** in South Darenth during a well attended meeting in early June.

Speaking of pub beer festivals, I called in briefly at the **Old Prince of Orange** in Gravesend during the early May Bank Holiday. As I was driving, I could only sample halves of *Caveman Palaeolithic*, *Musket Muzzle Loader* and



COMING SOON

MAIDSTONE'S NEWEST MICRO PUB

THE CELLARS ALEHOUSE

REAL ALE · REAL CIDER · REAL CONVERSATION

Currently running the bureaucratic gauntlet, The Cellars Alehouse should be open in 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
AND NEWS OF THE OPENING DATE.**

 /thecellarsalehouse

 @cellarsalehouse

www.thecellarsalehouse.co.uk

THE CELLARS ALEHOUSE, THE OLD BREWERY, BUCKLAND ROAD, MAIDSTONE ME16 0DZ

Rockin' Robin Hoppin' Robin, but several other breweries, mainly from the county of Kent, were showcased in a large marquee on the car park, and inside the pub five handpumps on the bar, relocated to reduce the lengths of the beer lines from the huge cellar. The redesigned bar now stocks up to five real ales and ciders, regularly supporting brewers and producers from Kent. The interior of this pub is being comprehensively refurbished and redecorated, and there will be a new restaurant area as well as the new bar.

On the subject of cider, and referring to my notes (and request) in the previous issue, we've been informed that the **Old House** in Ightham Common offers a selection of real ciders alongside the ever-changing range of gravity-dispensed real ales, and is well worth seeking out, being off the beaten track. **Dartford Working Men's Club** also sells up to five real ciders along with the excellent, changing range of beers on the fifteen handpumps. We are still awaiting information on availability of cider from Kent producers in our branch area pubs. Any news?

Following on from the previous issue, we can report that the **Chequers** at Heaverham is now open from 12-3pm and 5-11pm Mondays to Thursdays, 12-11pm Fridays and Saturdays, and noon until 10.30pm on Sunday. The kitchen has been refurbished and food is available every session, lunchtimes 12-2pm, evenings 6.30-9pm (fish night Friday) and 12-5pm for roasts on Sunday, with bookings only for the Sunday evening session 6-9pm. The landlord, Ed Sage, has re-introduced Bat & Trap league matches in the large garden on Tuesdays in summer, and there is quiz night on the last Thursday of the month. The **Chequers** is still leased to *Shepherd Neame*, and the regular beers on sale are *Kent's Best* and *Whitstable Bay* plus their seasonal beer, which was *Sam Adams* on my visit. Ed does not stock the commonplace beers, *Master Brew* and *Spitfire*, and is permitted to sell a guest beer from other breweries, recent examples being *Arkells 3B*, *Lacons Affinity* and *Thwaites Wainwright*.

On the downside, we hear that the **Four Lymes** in Hawley, which used to sell beers from the local *Millis Brewing Co* among others, has been closed for a few weeks and has now been sold and is due to be converted into a curry house. Further along the Hawley Road, the **Greyhound** in Sutton-at-Hone is currently closed, but we are not aware of future plans for this pub. Any ideas?

We're always pleased to receive information from readers and CAMRA colleagues and this time we've received three reports. Firstly, Adrian

Moss writes about two pubs in Gravesend as follows:

“The **Echo** in Echo Square has very much the feel of a local pub in a hamlet outside the main town. It had had a series of landlords for short periods and was struggling. However in the last year or so it has been improved beyond all recognition. It has been completely repainted both inside and out and renovated internally, and the bar is decorated with pictures of the town. There has been a complete refit of the toilets, and the cellar has new beer lines. A wasteland outside is now a new garden. Good real ale had been a rarity here for some time, but the two handpumps now serve well-kept *Sharp's Doom Bar* and a guest, being *Greene King Old Hoppy Hen* on a recent visit. The **Echo** also claims to stock the largest number of vodkas in England!

Some changes are also afoot at the **Jolly Drayman** in Gravesend town centre following recent changes of management. Nothing as extensive as the work at the **Echo** or the **Old Prince of Orange** is planned, but again the toilets have been renovated and the cellar overhauled, with new cooling installed and the beer lines replaced. It is now intended to install a further two handpumps, making six overall. One would be used for rotating *Skinners* beer, and Darren is looking into getting a local brewery to produce a house beer. Otherwise, there has been little change on the real ale front, though Kent breweries do feature more often. It had been thought that the attached restaurant and accommodation would be no more, but there has been a change of plan and both may well be up and running by the time you read this.”

Bob Marsh has written some notes about real ale in Dartford (see page 29). As a resident of Dartford and keen quiz player I would like to add that Jim at the **Ivy Leaf** hosts a quiz every Sunday evening; Neil runs a quiz at the **Malt Shovel** every Monday evening; James at the **Paper Moon** has recently started holding quizzes on Wednesday evenings, and **Dartford Working Men's Club** is the venue for a quiz on the first Wednesday evening of every month.

5TH WELLING UNITED FC BEER FESTIVAL

The Wings Bar, Park View Road, Welling, Kent, DA16 1SY
for details join our mailing list or Facebook group

 **WELLING UNITED BEER FESTIVAL**

Email: wingsbarwufc@hotmail.co.uk

Date to be confirmed in July after seasons fixtures released





FINE ALES FROM THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

10% off for CAMRA members and Tenterden Loyalty Card holders

(This offer is for orders collected direct from the brewery).



WWW.OLDDAIRYBREWERY.COM

FOR SALES: Telephone: 01580 763867 OR email: sales@olddairybrewery.com
 OLD DAIRY BREWERY LTD, STATION ROAD, TENTERDEN, KENT. TN30 6HE

COMPETITION ANSWERS – ISSUE 179

Five people had the correct answers, and the two winners were chosen at random by Kim, landlady of the **Bush** in Aylesford. The lucky people are H. Graham and Ian Symes, and beer festival tickets have been sent to them. Correct entries were also received from Simon Mills, Steve Finch and Brett Lanham. The hidden pub was the **Bottle House**, Penshurst, and the answers to the clues were:

C	O	P	S	E		Heard bluebottles in the wood
S	T	O	L	E		Purloined a wrap
I	S	S	U	E		An edition for the kids?
P	L	A	X	T	O L	Poll Tax worried a Kent village
F	E	S	T	I	V A L	An event for the last five confused
S	T	A	N	D		Tolerate the podium
A	B	R	I	D	G E	Condense a crossing
C	O	N	S	E	R V E	Talk about jam
C	H	A	S	E	R	Search around for a whisky, perhaps
T	U	M	B	L	E R	Glass acrobat
S	E	R	V	E		Hit a ball and wait

The Pubs of Dartford

by Bob Marsh

By the time you are reading this, we should (hopefully) be enjoying some nice summer weather, so I thought I'd do a trip around the pubs that sell real ale in Dartford. If a pub is not mentioned, it does not (to my knowledge) sell real ale. To keep it as short as possible, as most pubs open from 11am or 12 noon, I've only given their opening hours if they differ. Also, if parking is not mentioned, there is no off-street parking, and I've only mentioned food if they serve meals (not bar snacks).

I started at the western border of Dartford, with the **Dart**, Chastilian Road. This has two bars, a small lounge and a large public bar. It has a large paved / grassed beer garden, and serves *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Wells Bombardier*. A ten minute walk down Windsor Drive brings you to the **Bird in Hand** in Dartford Road, which is a spacious pub with a large beer garden offering two real ales – *Sharp's Doom Bar* plus a guest ale; on visit it was *Fuller's Seafarer*. It has a large, grassed beer garden. Going towards Dartford town centre, on the left hand side is the **Ship**. This is a small, old world pub, with no TVs, gaming machines or juke box. It serves *Courage Best* plus a guest ale. There is a smoking area at the rear, but the garden is private property. Continuing towards town is the **Rose and Crown**, at the top of West Hill, which sells *Sharp's Doom Bar* and a guest ale, on my visit *Wells Bombardier*, and has a grassed beer garden.

At the bottom of the hill, in Spital Street, we find the **Royal Oak**, a *Shepherd Neame* pub, which only had *Spitfire* on my visit. It has a reasonably sized paved beer garden and parking for about 12 cars at the back. It is also probably the most expensive pub in Dartford. Going into High Street, we have two *Wetherspoons* pubs at opposite ends. First the **Flying Boat**, and, opposite the church, the **Paper Moon**. Both serve the usual range of *Wetherspoons* real ales, have the usual menus, and open at 9 am for food. The major difference is that the **Flying Boat** is more spacious and has a large paved beer garden with smoking area, and a Sainsbury's *pay and display* car park close to the rear. The **Paper Moon** is on a busy road corner with no outside drinking area but usually has good range of guest beers, often from local breweries. Between the two is the **Royal Victoria and Bull**, a functioning hotel, with meals served 11-9, and the bar opening from 11 to late. It serves standard ales, which have included *Adnams* beers. Please be aware that it can get noisy at night with younger clientele, and bouncers on the door.

At the opposite side of the street, near the church, is the **Clipper**, which opens at 9 for food (served from 9 to 7), with the bar opening at 10 and

open till late. It is quiet during the daytime, but at night has bouncers on the door, and has a bit of a 'reputation'. A dress code (smart casual) applies at weekend evenings. Near it is the **Wat Tyler**, which sells 4 or 5 real ales, usually of the darker side, reflecting their customers' tastes. It opens at 9 am, and is one of the oldest pubs in Dartford (It did not exist in Wat Tyler's time, despite what it says outside).

Going into Hythe Street, near the main Post Office, is the **Stage Door**, a *Shepherd Neame* tied house, which regularly offers a guest beer from another brewery; on my visit a very pleasant *York Brewery Yorkshire Terrier*. Food is served from 12-4.30 (12-5 Sundays). It has an L-shaped bar, with a games area up a short flight of stairs, and a good sized beer garden at the rear. Further along Hythe Street, beyond the railway line and near the station is the **Hufflers Arms** in Lower Hythe Street, which was selling *Fuller's London Pride*.

On the other side of the station, over the river near the large Wickes store, is the **Rose** in Overy Street This pub serves *Sharp's Doom Bar*, and on my visit, *Courage Best*. Food is served 12-2.30 & 5-7 Tuesday to Thursday, 12-8 Friday, 12-3.30 Saturday, and 1-4pm on Sunday. There are Dartford Council *pay and display* (8-6.30) car parks next to and opposite the pub.

Our journey now takes us to East Dartford and going up East Hill, take the first turning to the right which is Darenth Road and has two pubs in the 2015 CAMRA *Good Beer Guide*. Almost immediately on the right is the **Malt Shovel**, an attractive old building which retains a separate public bar. This is a *Young's* pub selling the range of *Wells & Young's* beers plus *St.Austell Tribute* and an occasional guest beer and real cider. The pub does not open until 3pm on Mondays, otherwise 12noon-11pm. Food is served daily, lunchtimes and evenings, except Mondays. There is a conservatory and grassed beer garden to the rear, overlooking the town, with a *Fastrack* bus stop nearby, and its own small car park for about 10-12 cars.

Take a five-minute walk up the road to find the **Ivy Leaf**, the other *GBG* entry. This pub is *LocAle* accredited, which denotes good quality local beers from nearby breweries in Kent are sold, alongside the regular *Sharp's Doom Bar*, *Wells Bombardier* and three to four guest ales on the six handpumps. Food is served daily 12-2.30pm and there is a raised grassed beer garden to the right. The forecourt has parking for about 12 cars and the *Fastrack* bus stop is just over the road.

Back on East Hill, up the steep hill on the left, in Great Queen Street we find the **Foresters**, which is also a *GBG 2015* entry and has *Cask Marque* accreditation. This pleasant pub has four real ales; *Adnams Ghost Ship*, *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* plus a guest ale. There is a paved beer garden at the rear and parking for about 15 cars on the left hand side of the pub. Cutting through Little Queen Street, about 100 yards along, is the **Tiger**, on the junction with St. Albans Road. *Courage Best* is served plus a guest beer, usually a *Young's* beer or *Sharp's Doom Bar*. Further up East Hill on the left in St. Vincents Road is the **Fulwich** which just sells *Sharp's Doom Bar* and does not open until 3pm during the week.

There are no more real ale pubs in East Dartford until you reach Horns Cross, but that's another survey and another day.

STOP PRESS – The **Court House** in the High Street has recently introduced *Caveman Citra*. This *Young's* pub has re-opened recently with new management, has sporadic opening hours and specialises in live music.

OLD PRINCE OF ORANGE

GUEST ROOMS WITH DINNER FROM £40

Come to one of our
Cabaret Nights (ask
staff for info)

Sept 19th Motown

Oct 31st Halloween

Nov 28th Michael
Bubl 

Ask about our Xmas
Cabaret Nights

Open Daily 12pm-11pm



*Function Room
available for
hire*

Strong Ale & Cider
Festival 3rd-4th Oct

Live Entertainment
Saturday Night

1 Old Road East, Gravesend, DA12 1NJ

Phone: 01474365753



facebook.com/OldPrinceofOrange

The Bell & Jorrocks

Biddenden Road, Frittenden TN17 2EJ

01580 852415

 facebook

www.thebellandjorrocks.co.uk

Sean & Rosie welcome you to their 18th century pub in the heart of Frittenden, famous for its Treacle mines.

The B&J is renowned for its well conditioned cask ales and is in the Good Beer Guide 2015.

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

Show your CAMRA membership and receive 20p off a pint

Kitchen Open Hours

Wed – Sun 12 - 3pm

Wed – Sat 7 - 9:30pm



Craft Brewed · Progressive · Quality Beer

Brewing Kent Beers for the 21st Century

Widely available throughout London and the South East

Exclusive House Beer at The Craft Beer Co. pubs in London and Brighton

www.kentbrewery.com



NEVILL BULL

1 RYARSH ROAD, BIRLING, KENT ME19 5JW

T:01732 843193 E:Katelhoward@aol.com www.nevillbull.co.uk

Come and visit the newly refurbished Nevill Bull
2013-2014 CAMRA Good Beer Guide

We always have three real ales on our handpumps, more often than not an ale from Kent Brewery, also based in Birling and one other from a Kentish Brewery. Every Sunday we have a hog roast option on our traditional Sunday lunch menu, with proper roast potatoes and real vegetables! In Winter our fire roars and in the Summer our patio garden is full of flowers and herbs. You will often see a member of the kitchen team picking rosemary, sage or some such, to use in our home cooked recipes. We pride ourselves in home cooking and not relying on the sound of the dreaded "ping"!



We have a private dining room which can be used for buffets or more formal dining or for meetings, as we have a full screen and projection facilities.

Contact: *Rob Archer* at camr@rcher.org.uk
or *Martyn Nicholls* on 01322 527857 (H)
www.bexley.camra.org.uk (Note new web address)

Greetings from Bexley CAMRA.

The 10th Bexley CAMRA Beer Festival was a roaring success; read all about it in a separate article on page 37.

In pub news, we have yet another new pub opening its doors, the **Morgan**, in Clydesdale Way, Lower Belvedere. It is a *Marstons* pub and opened on 18th May 2015. It is selling two regular beers and two guest beers, all from the *Marstons* stable. Sadly we have lost two pubs, one permanently with the demolition of the **Jolly Farmers** in Crayford, and one, hopefully only temporarily, with the closure and boarding of the **Fanny on the Hill** in Welling, although a planning application for demolition has now been lodged.

As always we appeal to you the drinker to help keep the branch up to date by submitting information either via *WhatPub.com* or by contacting us either using the contact details at the top of this article, or getting in touch with our Pubs Officer Ian Wright at bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk or on 07779 319196.

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual. In April we visited the **George Staples** in Blackfen; this was a hastily re-arranged venue as the Old Dartfordians were unable to accommodate us due to over-running building works. May, it was the **Robin Hood & Little John** in Bexleyheath, as it was mild month and the **Robin Hood** always supplies us with at least one mild for our meeting, and in June the **Green Man** in Welling.

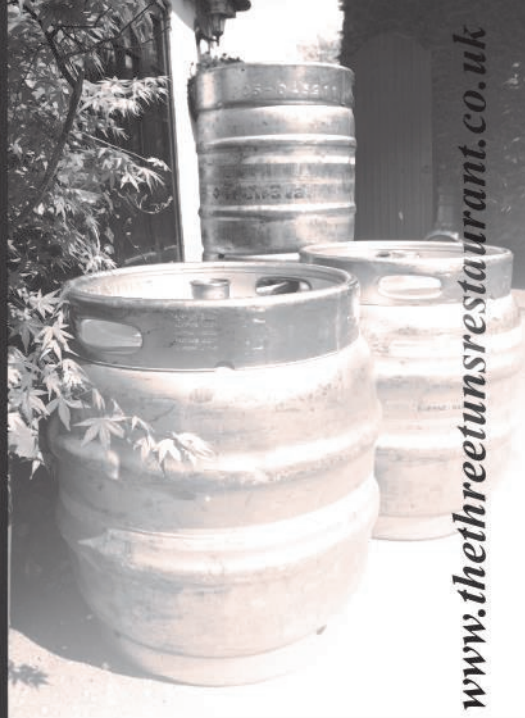
We did not hold a social in April, as we were all too busy with the beer festival and its attendant preparations. In May we held an out of branch social at Orpington Liberal Club to support our own *Bexley Brewery*, which was being presented with a certificate for having won the beer of the festival at their unfinned festival back in February. There were four *Bexley* beers available: *Golden Acre* (unfinned), *BOB*, *Black Prince* and the new *Howbury 3 Hop*. Also available were *Adnams/Magic Rock Herbalist* and *Gyle 59 Red Rye Saison*. The club was presented with the Bromley Branch Club of the Year certificate that evening. We had hoped to get the bus back to the **Broken Drum** but unfortunately missed the last feasible bus.

THE THREE TUNS



Circa 1470

FREE HOUSE



www.threetunsrestaurant.co.uk



***Kentish Beer &
Cider Festival
August Bank Holiday
29th, 30th & 31st***

***Over 19 Kentish Ales
& Ciders,
Live Bands Daily,
Hog Roast & BBQ***

**The Street, Lower Halstow,
Sittingbourne, Kent.
ME9 7DY
01795 842840**

info@threetunsrestaurant.co.uk

Also in May, we held an in-branch social, starting with the Pub of the Year presentation at the **Penny Farthing** (*see separate report*). Here we had a choice of *Hogs Back TEA*, *Cottage Fireball*, *Truman Swift*, *East London Pale* and *Brentwood Maple Mild*. When we eventually managed to drag ourselves away, we trundled up Crayford High Street via the **Dukes Head** (*Courage Best* or *Doom Bar*) to the **One Bell** for a choice of *Doom Bar* or *Greene King Olde Trip*.

In June we held our Annual General Meeting at the **Old Dartfordians**. Eighteen branch members attended along with the Kent and London Regional Directors and the West Kent Area Organiser. We managed to fill all our mandatory posts but we still have one vacancy on the committee for a general member, so if anyone is interested, come along to one of our meetings or contact us at any of the above addresses. Your interest will be most welcomed.

Our June social was a pub crawl around Maidstone to celebrate Ian Wright's birthday. Despite there being rail works between Strood and Maidstone, four of us made the journey and we met members from the local branch. We started at the **Rifle Volunteers**, a *Goachers* pub which has recently had a new landlord following the retirement of the long-standing previous incumbent. From there we went along to a beer festival at the **Flower Pot**. As it had been on since the Wednesday, a number of the beers had already run out but there were still plenty available for us to try. After a while, we moved on back into the town to the **Society Rooms**, a *Wetherspoons*, where we were able to use up the last of our vouchers for this quarter. A change of plan then followed, we were to have gone to the **Style & Winch** but decided instead to go to the **Crafty Alehouse**. We arrived slightly early and so called in to **Earls** for a swift half before returning to **Craftys** for a beer. Finally, we made it across town to our final destination the **Olde Thirsty Pig**. All in all, we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Finally, a note from Roland Amos: "A brief update on new stuff coming out of Cliff and Jane Murphy's *Bexley Brewery*. A move has been made towards a new range of beers using the name *Howbury*, following the policy of linking products by name to local references, this being the locality of the plant. Seen and tasted at the **Penny Farthing** in Crayford and at the **Orpington Liberal club** in recent weeks, *Howbury* is billed as a 3-hopped pale, single brew at 4.5% and was well received. Expect more developments."

10th Bexley Beer Festival

report by Peter Trout

WOW, we sold out of beer. Our apologies if you turned up late afternoon or early evening to find that the festival was over.

After last year when over 1400 pints of beer were thrown away, we knew publicity had been poor, and that we had to improve that side of things. The beer and cider order, however, remained the same and you drank it all with gusto. As usual, Friday was the busier day with 285 people attending before 5pm and 610 after; overall, the festival was visited by 568 CAMRA members and 910 non-members.

Now in Old Dartfordians in Bexley for the third year running, lasting two and a half days (opening Thursday at 5pm) and with 79 different beers and 13 cider and 2 perry available for the customers to drink; and drink you did, all 1478 of you, before the last cask was drained at 3.30pm on Saturday. Thank you for making this our most successful festival so far, attendance was the highest we have ever had.

Beer of the festival by customer vote was *Bexley Brewery Black Prince Porter* (4.6%) followed by *Drygate Severn Peaks IPA* (5.0%), *Mallinsons Ella* and *Pheasantry Blue Steel* (5.0%), all joint second. Cider/Perry was a tie between *Eltham Gold* (7.8%) and *Ventors Skippy's Scrumpy*. The first cask to run out was *Golden Acre* (4.0%) from *Bexley Brewery* followed by their *Black Prince Porter*, with third-place *Caveman Shopper Gold* (4.0%), brewed to commemorate the 60th anniversary of local newspaper *The News Shopper*. A great achievement by one of our glass sponsors, as *Bexley Brewery* also had *BOB* in fourth place.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who supported and sponsored us: *Westerham* and *Bexley* breweries for the glasses, J D Wetherspoon the staff t-shirts via Smart T's and Heron Press, Heron Hill, Belvedere for the card flyers. Nina and Adele at Flying Firkin for their help and patience, Clive Burke, Club Steward for all his help and advice (he was presented with the Bexley Club of the Year award at the festival).

This festival is staffed and organised by volunteers who give up their free time to make it such an enjoyable event; indeed, without them it would not exist. Compliments to our Bar Director Vic, Site Manager Pat, and Door/Glasses Manager Alan. This year marked the end of an era, as our Staffing Officer decided to step down after 10 years, thank you Graham. And let's not forget Alan Boakes (as if we could) for organising it again, he's happier this year that no beer was thrown away. But then we all are.



Rifle Volunteers



28 Wyatt Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 IEU

Tel: 01622 758891



Matt & Gina welcome you to the Rifle Volunteers, Maidstone, serving Goacher's ales, local ciders & traditional bar snacks.

Opening Hours:

Mon	6pm - 11pm
Tues	12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
Wed	12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
Thurs	12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
Fri	12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
Sat	12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 11pm
Sun	12pm - 6pm



The Flower Pot

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

Up to 9 ales and 4 ciders

**Home cooked food 12-3pm
Monday to Thursday**

Open mic night every Tuesday

Discount for card carrying CAMRA members

 **The Flower Pot**

96 Sandling Road - Maidstone - Kent - ME14 2RJ

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



THE QUEENS HEAD



15th Century Inn

*High Street
Sutton Valence
Maidstone
Kent
ME17 3AG*

**Website: www.queens-head.net
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. Good quality, affordable pub food available, please see website for opening times. We have a lovely Beer Garden, overlooking the beautiful Weald of Kent with Gazebo & a young childrens safe play area with Hobbit house, swings, slide & sandpit & now have 4 chickens. Please see website for photos & events (fortnightly pub quiz on Monday.)

QUEENS HEAD

HIGH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE. ME17 3AG

www.queens-head.net (Tel: 01622 843225)

DEPHSTOCK FESTIVAL

Midday ~ All day ~ Saturday 22nd August

Afternoon ~ 'Crooked Style' Live band in garden gazebo, hog roast & beer festival in the stables bar. Childrens play area, face painting & stuff.



Evening ~ Live Blues with Papa George Band.



Come & enjoy a fun day for all the family

Free entry,
& live music

WEST KENT GREEN HOP BEER FESTIVAL



Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th
October 2015

LIVE BANDS

Friday 7.30pm:
Go Commando

Our cheeky hardworking trio will
kick-start the event

Saturday 1.30pm:
Live Band

Saturday 4.30pm:
Rudy Warman &
The Heavy Weather
The Vintage Sound of
Southern England!

Saturday 7.30pm:
Vertigo
80's pop rock music

Sunday 2pm:
Live Band

GREEN HOP BEER

A wide selection of
green hop beers from
Kentish breweries

FOOD

Food served in the pub
all day: 9am - 9.45pm

Hogroast served on the
Saturday afternoon

BBQ on the Sunday
afternoon

FAMILY FUN LOCAL CRAFTS & STALLS

Saturday
from 2pm

- Face painting, henna tattoo
- Local produce
- Entertainment
- Craft, jewellery
- School fundraising



"There's more in the barrel"

The Poacher & Partridge

Hartlake Road, Tudeley, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0PH - 01732 358934

Car park: Plenty of space available



POACHER
& PARTRIDGE

A Tucker's Tour Highlight

by Paul Bailey



On a recent trip to the Czech Republic, some Maidstone branch members were fortunate to visit one of the country's most respected breweries.

Bernard brew in the town of Humpolec, which was a short bus ride away from our base in Jihlava. The brewery is situated close to the town centre, and was just a 15 minute walk away from the bus stop. It was cold and damp on the day of our visit, with periods of quite heavy rain, but this failed to dampen our spirits. We presented ourselves at the brewery shop opposite the main plant, where we were met by our guide.

Before embarking on the tour we each had to don one of the obligatory hi-vis waistcoats which now seem to form such a feature of these types of visits. After that we were led across the road to the brewery itself. There was some work going on at the front of the main building, but we were led round the side and into the bottling hall. This proved to be a rather brief look, as the bottling lines had stopped due to a changeover of product/bottle, so instead we were led up into the impressive new brew-house.

It was rather warm inside, which made a pleasant change after the cold damp conditions outside. What I found particularly impressive was the shiny, new brewing vessels were all constructed out of copper, which had been polished so you could almost see your face in them. We could see into one of the lauter tuns, which was just being cleared of spent malt grain; however, there is no getting in and shovelling out the wet grains here, as the process was fully automated. In the adjoining room were several brewing kettles, although in view of their construction they could rightly be described as coppers.

The next part of the plant was a complete contrast, as we were shown into the maturation room, where the beer cold conditions in traditional horizontal tanks for a period of between four and six weeks. The conditioning is carried out at temperatures close to freezing, so after the almost tropical heat of the brew house, the low temperatures in this particular section were really noticeable, and we were all glad when we stepped back outside again.

The primary fermentation is conducted in large tall, conical fermenters, sited at the rear of the brewery. The beer undergoes seven days fermentation here before being transferred to the maturation room. The final area we were shown was the kegging plant, where kegs are washed

and sterilised before being filled with fresh beer. There was a substantial amount of automation in this section, which included a built-in check-weighting system which rejected any kegs which were below the required fill weight.

Then came the part of the tour we had all been looking forward to the most; namely the sampling of some of the products. For this we were shown into the staff canteen, several storeys up and with a good view over the rear of the site. Humpolec was looking very wet and rain swept, but no matter; we were warm and dry and had several glasses of *Bernard* beer to enjoy.

Whilst drinking our beer, we were shown a short video which outlined the history of the brewery and which showed the contrast from 1991, when the current management team took over, to the present day. At the time of the collapse of the country's communist regime, the brewery was known as the Humpolec Brewery and was part of the Southern Bohemia Group of breweries. The plant was on its last legs, following years of under-investment, and closure seemed inevitable, despite brewing having been carried out on the site since 1597. Local people understandably wished to see it continuing, and salvation came when three partners, Stanislav Bernard, Josef Vávra and Rudolf Šmejkal, bought the business at auction, when it was being privatised. The name "Bernard" was chosen for the new company, because it is recognised in many languages.

In 2000, the partners sold a 50% share of the business to *Duvel Moortgat* of Belgium. The new stakeholders have invested heavily in *Bernard* and this has paid dividends. We were told, for example, that production had doubled over the past 10 years from 120,000 to 240,000 hectolitres per annum. *Bernard* beers can now be found in many Czech bars, and the company currently exports to around 30 different countries. We learned that 60% of *Bernard's* output is in keg, whilst 40% is in bottles. This is against the trend for the Czech market, where bottled beers command a high sales volume. Mr Bernard and Mr Vávra are still actively involved with the brewery, with the former concentrating on marketing, and the latter acting as the company's brewmaster. 176 people are currently employed at the Humpolec site.

The beers we sampled were an unfiltered 12° light lager at 5.0% ABV, plus the 5.1% ABV dark lager. The latter in particular was very smooth

tasting, but on balance, I preferred the light version. We were also given some bottles of *Bernard Bohemian Ale* to try. The latter is bottle conditioned, and weighs in at 8.2 % ABV. It is worth mentioning that *Bernard* do NOT pasteurise their beers, although the majority of them are filtered. This gives them a fresher and more natural taste.

Micro filtration, the final beer treatment is what really makes *Bernard* an exceptional beer. The care and attention to detail are certainly evident in taste of the finished products.

At the end of the tour, we were all given a stylish badged, *Bernard* beer mug, plus a pen. Our thanks to our tour guide at *Bernard*, and to Jeff, for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable tour.

The Rising Sun Inn & Inglenooks Restaurant

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

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



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

A Campaign

of Two Halves

Fair deal on beer tax

Save Britain's Pubs!



MMK Draught Copy

Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details

Title _____ Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email address _____

Tel No(s) _____

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title _____ Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

Email address (if different from main member) _____

Direct Debit Non DD

Single Membership £24 £26
(UK & EU)

Joint Membership £29.50 £31.50
(Partner at the same address)

For Young Member and other concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days

01/15

Campaigning for Pub Goers & Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale & Pubs

Join CAMRA today – www.camra.org.uk/joinus



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Service User Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

9 2 6 1 2 9

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number

Name

Postcode

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

CAMRA branches arrange socials and trips throughout the year. Non-members are welcome to come along to our meetings. If you would like more information, or would like a lift (if possible), please ring the local branch contact—see **Local News** sections. Meetings are at 8.30pm unless otherwise noted.

BEX = Bexley, **GDV** = Gravesend and Darent Valley, and
MMK = Maidstone & Mid-Kent (*OBM* = Open Business Meeting)

AUGUST

- 1 **GDV** 1pm **Three Daws**, Gravesend – Beer festival social
- 1 **MMK** 11.37 Bus trip to Laddingford for Transport Fair
- 6 **MMK** **Queens Head**, Sutton Valence, then **Clothworkers & Kings Head**
- 9 **MMK** Bat & Trap, Bearsted Green, 11.00, then **Oak on the Green**
- 12 **BEX** **Plough and Harrow**, Welling [*OBM*]
- 13 **MMK** **Eight Bells**, Hawkhurst, then **Black Pig**
- 19 **GDV** **Jolly Millers**, then **Queen**, then **Bridges**; South Darenth
- 20 **MMK** **North Pole**, Watlington, then **Teton Club**
- 22 **MMK** 11.00 Bus trip to Medway & Swale
- 25 **MMK** 11.49 Bus & walk to Egerton and Mundy Bois.
- 26 **BEX** 8pm **Door Hinge**, Welling (*branch PotY runner up presentation*)
- 27 **MMK** **White Horse**, Headcorn, then **George & Dragon**
- 29 **BEX** 12 noon **Door Hinge** beer festival, Welling

SEPTEMBER

- 3 **MMK** **Rising Sun**, East Malling, then **King & Queen**
- 5 **MMK** **EAST MALLING BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**
- 9 **BEX** **Crayford Arms**, Dartford [*OBM*]
- 9 **GDV** **Coach & Horses**, Northfleet [*OBM*]
- 10 **MMK** **Yew Tree**, Sandling, then **Kings Arms**, Boxley
- 17 **MMK** **Bell & Jorrocks**, Frittenden [*OBM*]
- 17 **GDV** **Pier**, then **Sir John Franklin**; Greenhithe
- 22 **MMK** 10.44 Bus & walk to Petteridge & Brenchley
- 24 **MMK** **Swan**, Maidstone, then **Rifle Volunteers**
- 26 **MMK** Bus & train trip to Canterbury (*Green Hop Fortnight*)
- 30 **BEX** 8pm **Wrong 'Un**, Bexleyheath

OCTOBER

- 1 **GDV** **Bird in Hand**, then **Ship**, then **Rose & Crown**; Dartford
- 1 **MMK** **Royal Oak**, Hawkhurst, then **Great House**
- 3 **MMK** 09.14 Bus trip to Hastings
- 8 **MMK** **Red Lion**, Lenham (*Beerfest wash-up mtg.*)
- 10 **BEX** Bexley festival staff outing, contact branch for details
- 13 **MMK** 11.49 Bus & walk – Snargate
- 14 **GDV** **Rising Sun**, then **Sun**, then **George & Dragon**, Swanscombe
- 14 **BEX** **Charlotte**, Crayford [*OBM*]
- 15 **MMK** **George**, Cranbrook, then **White Horse**
- 22 **MMK** **Royal Paper Mill**, Tovil, then **Wheatsheaf**, Maidstone
- 24 **MMK** Vintage coach trip
- 24 **GDV** 1pm **Old Prince of Orange**, Gravesend
- 28 **BEX** **Broken Drum**, Bexley, then **George Staples**
- 29 **MMK** **Bell**, Smarden, then **Three Chimneys**, Biddenden

* 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 *

GOACHER'S MAIDSTONE ALES

P&DJ Goacher, Unit 8, Tovil Green Business Park, Maidstone ME15 6TA. Tel: 01622 682112

www.goachers.com