

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Newsletter

for the

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

Winter 2015

No. 181

WHY IS THERE A QUEUE AT THIS PUB?



Perhaps 30 consecutive years in CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* might give you a clue.

All is revealed on page 42.

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 3300 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:

dc@braymead.com

Postal Address:

135 Lavenders Road

West Malling

Kent ME19 6HR

Advertising:

Colin Mann

Email:

ads@braymead.com

If you find a pub selling short measure, 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 December 2015 for publication in February 2016.

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*.

New Look for Kent Brewery



Same great beer—different design

Kent Brewery are celebrating 5 years of award-winning craft brewing with a brand new design. Available in new-look cask, bottles and keg from mid-November.

Exclusive launch at CASK Pub and Kitchen and The Craft Beer Co. pubs throughout London and Brighton.

Check out [f](#) [t](#) [@kentbrewery](#) for details.

Beer Festivals in our region and (most) not too far away

CAMRA

www.camra.org.uk/events

WATFORD BEER FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 5—7

West Herts Sports Club, 8 Park Avenue, Watford, WD18 7HP
80+ real ales + ciders and perries
watford.camra.org.uk/festival.htm

WOKING BEER FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 6—7

Woking Leisure Centre
Kingfield Rd, Woking, GU22 9BA
70+ real ales + cider + imports
www.wokingbeerfestival.co.uk

MANCHESTER BEER/CIDER FESTIVAL

JANUARY 20—23

Manchester Central
500 real ales + foreign & craft beers + ciders and perries
manbeerfest.uk

This one is quite far away but offers a magnificent choice in its new venue

WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL

OF WINTER ALES

FEBRUARY 5—6

Maison Dieu (Town Hall),
Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1DL

Non-CAMRA — Pubs and Clubs

November 12—14

Medway Beer Festival

The Stanley Ballroom,
Gundulph Road, Chatham
50 real ales + Kentish bottled beer + Belgian beers in bottle and draught
www.medwaybeerfestival.com

November 20

Welling United FC Beer Festival

Welling United FC, Park View Rd
Welling, DA161SY
10 real ales and 2 ciders
along with hot and cold food

November 28

Windmill

Wellington Street, Gravesend
Winter Fayre and mini beer festival
(12noon – 10pm)
www.windmillpubandgarden.co.uk

November 28 and 29

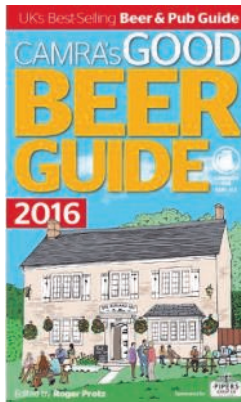
Three Tuns

Lower Halstow ME9 7DY
Mini Winter Beer Festival
www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

April 15—17

Bell and Jorrock's,

Frittenden, TN17 2EJ
www.thebellandjorrock's.co.uk



CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* is fully revised and updated each year and features pubs across the United Kingdom that serve the best real ale. Now in its 43rd edition, this pub guide is completely independent, with listings based entirely on nomination and evaluation by CAMRA members. This means you can be sure that every one of the 4,500 pubs deserves its place, plus they all come recommended by people who know a thing or two about good beer.

Just £10 from shop.camra.org.uk/goodbeerguide2016.html

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	www.12barbrewingco.co.uk
Attwell's Brewery	07966 586642	www.attwellsbrewery.com
Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	bexleybrewery.co.uk
Brew Buddies		www.brew-buddies.co.uk
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	www.canterbury-ales.co.uk
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk
Caveman Brewery	07769 710665	www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk
Four Candles	07947 062063	mike@thefourcandles.co.uk
Goacher's	01622 682112	www.goachers.com
Goody Ales	07790 443810	www.goodyales.co.uk
G2	01233 630277	
HopDaemon	01795 892078	www.hopdaemon.com
Hop Fuzz	07850 441267	www.hopfuzz.co.uk
Isla Vale Alesmiths	01843 292451	islavalealesmiths.co.uk
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	www.kentbrewery.com
Larkins	01892 870328	
Mad Cat Brewery	07960 263615	www.madcatbrewery.co.uk
Maidstone Brewing Co.	07736 149014	info@maidstonebrewing.co.uk
Millis Brewing Co.	01322 866233	www.millisbrewing.com
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	www.musketbrewery.co.uk
Nelson Brewing Co.	01634 832828	www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk
Old Dairy Brewing Co.	01580 243185	www.olddairybrewery.com
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	www.thefarriersarms.com
Pig and Porter	01424 893519	pigandporter.co.uk
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk
Ripple Steam Brewery	07917 037611	www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk
Rockin' Robin Brewery	07787 416110	www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk
Romney Marsh Brewery	01797 362333	www.romneymarshbrewery.com
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	www.shepherd-neame.co.uk
Swan, West Peckham	01622 812271	www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk
Time and Tide	07840 327265	timeandtidebrewing.co.uk
Tír Dhá Ghlas	01304 211666	www.cullinsyard.co.uk
Tonbridge Brewery	01732 366770	www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk
Turnstone Ales	See Facebook page	
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk
Westerham Brewery	01959 565837	www.westerhambrewery.co.uk
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk

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



POWDER BURN
5.0% Porter

To assist in repeat “Guest s**AL**Eability” 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

Real ale and cider reign, despite the rain

Popular festival draws record attendance

The threat of rain failed to deter real ale and cider enthusiasts, who flocked in their droves to CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, held on Saturday 5 September at East Malling Research, the world-famous horticultural research station, with organisers reporting a record attendance.

The event, the sixth organised by local Real Ale and Cider campaigners at the venue, attracted nearly 1,900 visitors, enticed by the prospect of 75 different Real Ales, many brewed locally, 41 varied ciders and perries, all from Kent producers, and live music from The Bad Pandas and The Bad Pennies.

Jeff Tucker, organiser of CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, said: *"Despite the unfavourable weather forecast, real ale and cider fans showed their continued support of the Festival. It was great to see such a large turn-out, with almost every drop of ale and cider sold by the time we called 'Last Orders'."*

Ian Clennett, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA, said: *"The Festival is now well-established as a popular event for all the family, with the wonderful surroundings at East Malling Research making the perfect backdrop. We will be back on **September 3 2016** with an even bigger and better event."*

'Beer of the Festival', as selected by a panel of Real Ale enthusiasts, was *Prohibition*, from *Kent Brewery* in Birling, Kent, a handful of miles from the Festival venue, with *Orkney IPA*, from *Highland Brewing Company*, in Evie, Orkney, as runner-up. *Prohibition* was also the fastest-selling beer, as drinkers rushed to sample the winning brew.

A separate panel adjudged *Brogdale Perry*, from *Tiddly Pomme* in Brogdale, as winner in the Best Cider or Perry category, with *Beardspoon Ciderfect*, from Ashford, Kent as runner-up.

A pledge by Festival organisers to donate a sum equivalent to unused drinks tokens that were returned by visitors raised over £200 for local charity Spadework, which provides training for disabled and disadvantaged adults for confidence and independence, through horticulture and woodwork.



12 Bar Brewing Co.

Our quality hand crafted ales are available in cask and in handy 9, 18 and 36 Pint Bag in box. Trade or public check our website for details

TRY OUR BEERS



QUALITY ALES BREWED IN THE HEART OF KENT



SIBA Beerflex

Telephone 07860 165048 or email: Trade @12barbrewingco.co.uk

Visit our website www.12barbrewingco.co.uk

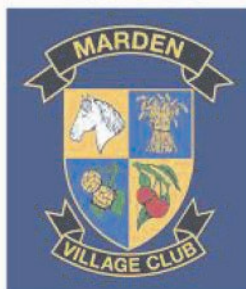
Unit 7 Crest Industrial Estate, Pattenden Lane, Marden, Kent, TN12 9QJ

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”

Served in a traditional country pub atmosphere

“Great Service”

Bar and Restaurant open all day

Christmas Party Menu

Bookings now being taken.

Bookings recommended

01732 842752

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

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

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

Nevill Bull, Birling – Kate & Paul celebrated five years at the pub in late September with Kate's favourite singer Chris Till providing the entertainment. A *Kent Brewery* beer is now back on the pumps regularly.

Kings Arms, Boxley – Food seems very popular here. Large enclosed garden with seating. Now serving *Harveys Best Bitter*, *Sharp's Doom Bar*, *Thwaites Wainwright* and one guest ale, which was *Wadworth Horizon* at the time of a branch visit. Website: *www.thekingsarmsmaidstone.co.uk*

Kentish Quarryman, Ditton – Has discontinued real ale due to lack of drinkers but is now doing food.

King & Queen, East Malling – This is always popular as a place for a reliably good meal; it also keeps a fine choice of real ales. The tasty *Musket Fife & Drum* is now a regular, joining the other favourites *Harveys Best Bitter* and *Kent Pale*. One guest ale, often *Black Sheep Best Bitter* or a *Hook Norton* beer. Website: *www.kingandqueeneastmalling.co.uk*

Smugglers Ale House, Hawkhurst – This is the new name for the Black Pig. It is still under the same ownership but has now been given a new look with more concentration on ales and cider than on food. Beers available are *Harveys Best Bitter*, *Nelson Powder Monkey*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire Gold*, *Dark Star Hophead*, *Larkins Traditional* and *Adnams Broadside*. For those preferring apples to hops and malt then *Angry Orchard Crisp Apple*, *Duddas Tun Sweet* and *Skorpion Black Cider* are offered. Opening times are from 4-11 during weekdays and 12-11 at weekends. *www.thesmugglersalehouse.co.uk*

George & Dragon, Headcorn – Fairly busy early on as Headcorn Morris were present. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* is a mainstay here with a *Whitstable Brewery* ale on gravity that on the occasion of our branch visit was *Pearl of Kent*. The guest ale on the pump was *Yeovil Stargazer*, which was particularly tasty.

White Horse, Headcorn – Food is now available here. On a branch visit we found *Fuller's London Pride*, *St Austell Tribute* and guest ale *Thwaites Grouse Beater* – all in very good form.

Old Rectory, Leybourne – Part of the Spirit Group takeover by *Greene King*. Continues under the Four Square brand but with *Greene King IPA* now replacing the *Sharp's Doom Bar*.

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.

Chequers, Loose – On Boxing Day, the pub will as usual be hosting 2 or 3 sets of Morris Dancers, including the *Loose Women*, who will be performing (weather permitting) in the road outside from around midday. This event is always very popular and is supported by many of the local villagers. At least 6 beers will be available: *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, Locale brews *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and at least one from *Rockin' Robin*.

Admiral Gordon, Maidstone – Closed and rumoured to be yet another shop conversion.

The Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone – This new venture in the cellars of the old Style & Winch brewery is now expected to open by November. For latest information on progress see Facebook: [thecellarsalehouse](#), Twitter: [cellarsalehouse](#) and website www.thecellarsalehouse.co.uk.

Chiltern Hundreds, Maidstone – Another *Greene King* takeover of a Chef & Brewer (Spirit Group) pub.

Crafty Alehouse, Maidstone – Following the end of a three month usage of the Earl Street Living Café premises a new venue is now being sought.

Feathers, Maidstone – A new Flaming Grill eating house (part of Spirit group) has opened in Lockmeadow Leisure Complex with Mark Gadson as manager. *Greene King IPA* and a guest beer on handpumps.

Hare & Hounds, Maidstone – Matt is currently stocking *Adnams Southwold Bitter* and *Fuller's London Pride*. Two additional pumps may be added later.

Oxygen, Maidstone – New name for this bar is Bar 6. No handpumps in sight when I looked in whilst workmen were operating there. Opening is expected in October. Entry will be from Bank St rather than the High St.

Sun, Maidstone – This was repossessed by Enterprise earlier in the year. There is a planning application to change the name to The Stag and redecorate the exterior of this Grade II Listed building.

Swan, Maidstone – New licensee Annie Snell held an opening night on 12 September. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* is a permanent feature and *Late Red* is the seasonal ale. Now on Facebook: [swanmaidstone](#) and has a website: www.swanmaidstone.co.uk.

Marden Club, Marden – Now opens at 5pm on Fridays to get the weekend going slightly earlier.

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

M20/A20

Teston Rd
Leading from A20/M20
Via Wrotham Heath

Offham Rec.

Church Rd

Leading from A20

KINGS ARMS

Offham Green

OFFHAM

Comp Ln

Teston Rd A228

Via West Malling / Kings Hill

**JUST MINUTES AWAY
FROM KINGS HILL**

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

www.kingsarmsoffham.co.uk

Queens Head, Mereworth – This pub is being advertised for sale with vacant possession. It has recently been placed on the Community Assets List as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) to help preserve it as a pub.

Yew Tree, Sandling – Now has five pumps with *Dark Star Hophead*, *St Austell Tribute* and *Young's Bitter* as regulars and two guests which were *Adnams Lighthouse* and *Bath Ales Barnsey* when branch members visited in September. The garden alterations have been completed with plenty of seating.

Bull, Snodland – Sadly, Tonbridge & Malling Council has allowed the Co-op to convert this pub for use as a shop leaving only just two pubs, the **Monks Head** and the **Freemasons**, for social use in this rapidly expanding town.

Clothworkers, Sutton Valence – Lisa Rand (previously at White Hart, Claygate) took over at this Shepherd Neame pub in August, just two days before a branch visit. The four beers were found to be in very good condition. *Master Brew*, *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* are regulars with a seasonal and a guest.

Teston Club, Teston – Damian is putting on some excellent choices here with *Theakstons Grouse Beater* and *Wadworth Farmers Glory* on the bar during a branch visit. Rewiring and decoration were in progress then.

Royal Paper Mill, Tovil – *Goacher's* closest pub to the brewery; it usually offers *Fine Light* on pump, *Best Dark*, *Real Mild* and *Gold Star* on gravity dispense, and at least one more from *Goacher's* portfolio: *Silver Star*, *Crown Imperial Stout* or *Old 1066*. Handily placed if shopping at the nearby grocery store.



Plough, Trottiscliffe – Following a management change the Plough has had an extensive refurbishment by new licensees Julie and Dimitris Mitrica, with much lighter colours of white and pale green. The exterior now has a terrace with a pergola, which may be covered. The pub offers Greek, Mediterranean and traditional English meals, all made from fresh ingredients. The well liked *Harveys Best Bitter* remains on the bar, and *Otter Ale* was proving popular.

Bell, Ware Street – Nigel Williams held a beer festival here for August Bank Holiday, which most active branch members unfortunately were

unable to attend due to previous commitments; however, reports were favourable.

North Pole, Wateringbury – Business had suffered here during the protracted roadworks in East Malling, but we had a visit during this period and thus lent a little help by drinking some ales. *Greene King IPA* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* are the regular beers but the more interesting guest, *Caledonian Edinburgh Castle*, was particularly appreciated by our members. www.northpolewateringbury.co.uk

Wateringbury, Wateringbury – Part of the Spirit Group takeover by *Greene King*. However, the beers on offer here have included *Musket Muzzleloader*, *Cotleigh Barn Owl* and *Westerham Summer Perle*, so let us hope the choice continues.

Newnham Court, Weaving – Another *Greene King* takeover of a Spirit Group pub.

Good Intent, West Farleigh – Pauline & Steve held a beer festival here over the Late August Bank Holiday, which members attending found had a good selection of beers in fine condition.

Tickled Trout, West Farleigh – Taken over by Hush Heath Estate which also own the **Goudhurst Inn**. Was re-fitted mid-September, so should be re-opening soon.

Anchor, Yalding – This pub has now re-opened following the sale to *Shepherd Neame* and had a subsequent refit. No reports received as yet.

Blandford Forum

by Mick Allen

Back in late June I decided to visit Blandford Forum in Dorset to check out the real ale scene in the town. A town of over 10,000 inhabitants, it is home to *Hall and Woodhouse*, which, surprisingly, compared with other breweries, has very few tied houses in the town. The first pub, the **Greyhound**, a split level old coaching inn, is tied to *H & W*, and had on *First Call*, *Tanglefoot*, and *Firkin Fox*. The first of the day in here was *First Call*. It was then over the road to the **Crown Hotel**, another tied house. Although allegedly the oldest inn in Dorset, the hotel was well up to date on its pricing structure, with a pint of *Firkin Fox* costing £3.90, but a half being marked up to £2.10! The other beers here were the same as the **Greyhound**. Next it was over the road to the **Crown & Anchor**. I was

expecting more interesting beers than the ubiquitous *Doom Bar* and *London Pride* that were on offer, but the chat with the customers made up for it, and were more than happy to help me with directions to the remaining pubs on my list. I then headed off up the hill to the **Kings Arms Hotel**, a freehouse serving *St.Austell Tribute* and *Butcombe Bitter*. I opted for the *Butcombe!* It was then a short walk to the **Wheatsheaf**, as I was too early for **Nelson's Alehouse**, which was not open until 2pm.

I had already learnt that the **Wheatsheaf**, a community wet-led pub currently under an ACV, was being disposed of by *H & W*, and felt saddened to hear that the pub was due to close in August. It may be no more by the time you read this, but the locals had already raised two thirds of the asking price. The beer in here was *First Call*. From there it was back downhill to the **Railway**, for which, as there was a 'for sale' sign outside, I didn't hold out much hope for real ale. How wrong could I have been? In all honesty, the pub should be in the *GBG*. Having not planned the trip, I was taken aback to find the pub serving ales from *Palmers*, *Hop Back*, *Gyle 59*, *Otter*, *Sharps* and *Eight Arch Brewery* of Wimbourne, all, due to Happy Hours on Fridays, at a bargain price of £2.40 regardless of strength. Oh, I forgot to mention the 30 odd ciders on sale! I opted for the *Parabolic* from *Eight Arch*, then a *Starstruck* from *Gyle 59*, and quickly got chatting with the landlord, Nigel. He's been in the pub for 12 years, and seen his savings go into keeping the pub afloat, and thinks now is the time to sell up. "*People no longer come out for a drink in Blandford, and the scrapping of the late bus into Poole (last bus now is 17.50, last train left in 1966) means the town is now an island community as far as public transport goes*", he tells me. I decided to stay for a pint of cider, and Nigel gave a quick tour of the impressive pub cellar.

Due to my over-indulgence in the **Railway**, it was now a whistle stop tour of the remaining three pubs. First it was then back to the late opening **Nelson**, where I found *Ringwood Best*. My penultimate pub was the **Dolphin**, a *Piddle* tied house. My notes on the beer sampled in here are lost in time. Then it was over the River Stour to the last port of call, the **Stour Inn**, this being the brewery tap. By now it was getting close to the last bus to Poole, and *Tanglefoot* was the beer of choice in here. An enjoyable day out, although not easy, transport-wise, from Dartford!

As an addendum to this piece, it was a huge coincidence to have met Nigel in the **Firkin Shed** micropub in Bournemouth, just as I was telling the landlord of the **Firkin Shed** about the **Railway**, after the airshow in August. He informed me that both the **Wheatsheaf** and the **Railway** were closing at the end of August.

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 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!



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.

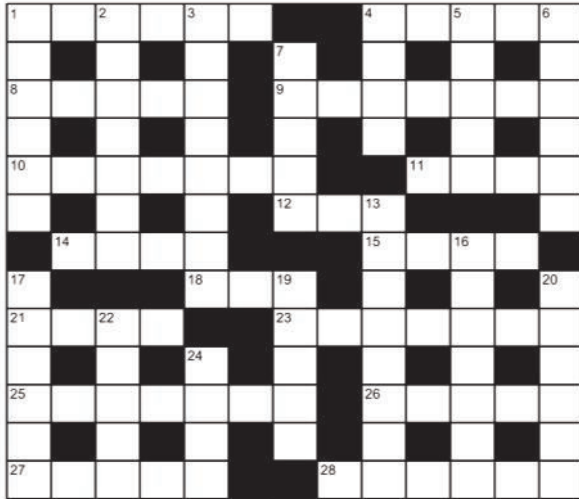
Web: www.peckhambush.com

E-Mail: info@peckhambush.com

The Draught Copy Crossword No. 20

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



Solution to Crossword No. 19



Across

- 1 Winter poem to transcribe? (6)
- 4 The best component of the Ford Capri, mechanically (5)
- 8 The endless way to produce a cereal crop (5)
- 9 See 13
- 10 Where we're caught in the entrance halls (7)
- 11 Insect repellent initially a foremost concern for CAMRA (4)
- 12 Manx cat, perhaps, producing unpleasant discharge (3)
- 14,20 Evil doer? It's a man thing! (10)
- 15 For example, a key Shakespearean ejaculation (4)
- 18 A spot on the radio, maybe (3)
- 21 In front of a daisy? My mistake! (4)
- 23 Head of Theology gets lost in Beethoven's 3rd. Not in front of the children, surely! (7)
- 25 Dishearten Ed, backing media (7)
- 26 Doctor a paper to produce a rough copy (5)
- 27 Tungsten, for example, may be heavy (5)
- 28 Errant Leroy has the horn (6)

Down

- 1,24 Shabby, and not so tall? (4,2,4)
- 2 Football club - disgusting leaches (7)
- 3 Queen taken in by cunning Red Ted, so put off (8)
- 4 Interrogate at the bar (4)
- 5 John Lennon hit, not in the picture (5)
- 6 Last stop for Midge (6)
- 7 Small fight? (5)
- 13,9 O for a deputy! (6,2,7)
- 16 A large 11, we hear, for the party girl (7)
- 17 Silly moo - CND will protect you (6)
- 19 Lamb perhaps - 'e bats stylishly (5)
- 20 See 14
- 22 Good - good model, this bird (5)
- 24 See 1 down

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 December 1st.

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

Congratulations to Steve Finch, from West Malling, who won the tenner last time.

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

Peter Cook on 01322 270589 / 07913 500414

or email gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk

www.gdv.camra.org.uk

I've recently received my copy of the 2016 *Good Beer Guide*, which has a colossal 1,018 pages, of which more than a quarter (273 pages) is devoted to the brewery section detailing over 1,400 breweries and over 7,000 different real ales brewed regularly. This underlines the ever growing trend of improving choice of real ale, which could not have been envisaged in the early years of CAMRA in the 1970s. The first *GBG* to identify different beers was 1976 when about 300 real ales were regularly available from just 150 breweries. In my opinion the general quality and styles of beer have also improved greatly since the early days.

The 2016 *GBG* also includes a larger number of micropubs than previous editions, reflecting the ever growing number of these small outlets in the country, Kent in particular, and their ability to offer excellent quality ales predominantly from small scale local breweries. However, Gravesend & Darent Valley branch still only has one micropub, the **Compass Ale House** in Gravesend, which deservedly appears in the 2016 *GBG*. We eagerly await another such pub locally but there is nothing in the pipeline; unless any reader knows otherwise?

GDV branch is better represented with small breweries, with *Millis Brewing* in South Darent and *Caveman* in Swanscombe being joined this year by *Brew Buddies Microbrewery*, located near Highlands Farm in Swanley Village. *Brew Buddies* first brewed in June 2015 and their first outlet was **Orpington Liberal Club**. Details of their unfiltered beers and initial outlets can be found on www.brew-buddies.co.uk, Twitter and Facebook. I've sampled and enjoyed both *Mosaic Pale Ale SH01* and *Session Pale Ale PA01* at **Dartford Working Men's Club**.

Another pleasing trend is the increasing number of pubs hosting beer festivals. As mentioned in issue 179 we don't always hear about them in time to publish in the *Draught Copy* festivals page, but we will promote pub festivals in our area and adjacent areas on the GDV website festival page, so could licensees please inform us in good time.

The only two pub festivals I've managed to attend this summer were in August. I was very impressed with the layout of the temporary bar in the rear garden area of the **Cricketers** in Meopham, opposite the village cricket green. The beers we drank were in excellent condition; my half

Very
COMING SOON

MAIDSTONE'S NEWEST MICROPUB

THE CELLARS ALEHOUSE


REAL ALE · REAL CIDER · REAL CONVERSATION

We are aiming to open at the end of October. We are really sorry for the delayed opening but like most building projects this one is taking twice as long and costing twice as much as originally planned! Please check we are open before travelling a long way.



**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

pints were *Canterbury Ales Merchants Ale*, *Bexley Gold Sovereign*, *Westerham Vic Secret* and *Wantsum Dynamo* from a choice of twenty ales, mostly from small Kent breweries. I also paid a flying visit to the **Three Daws** in Gravesend, which is a new entry in the 2016 GBG. As I was driving and only had a one hour ticket in the nearby car park, I had just enough time to enjoy halves of *Old Dairy Gold Top*, *Truman's Lazarus* and *Turner's American Pale Ale*.

I've heard good reports from friends visiting festivals at the **Ship** at Southfleet, the **Windmill** in Gravesend and the **George & Dragon** at Swanscombe. I also missed the August Bank Holiday weekend festival at the **Anchor & Hope** in Ash, which featured 15 real ales, all from brewers in Kent, plus ciders. Just before the festival I paid the **Anchor & Hope** a long overdue visit and was impressed with the display of pump clips above the bar displaying previous guest beers. There are usually four real ales on handpump and I tried *Robinsons Twisted Sister*. The pub has a good reputation for meals; the Tuesday tapas offer looked inviting, and I shall definitely return. That evening I also paid overdue visits to the **White Swan** in Ash, where I had a palatable half of *Adnams Topaz*, and the **Rising Sun** at Fawkham Green where I had a discount price half of *Westerham Alsace Blonde*, which was not to my palate. Nevertheless I'm pleased to report that these pubs, and others I visit occasionally, usually offer at least one beer outside the standard range, and often real ales from Kent.

Occasional visits include the **Pied Bull** at Farningham, which served me a very good pint of *Thwaites Wainwright* recently, the other guest beer being *Butcombe Bitter* alongside the resident *Greene King IPA* and *Courage Directors*. At the other end of the village, the **Chequers** served me a pint of excellent quality *Crouch Vale Citra*. Their regular beers are *Fullers ESB*, *London Pride*, *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* and *Timothy Taylor Landlord*.

Some *Shepherd Neame* tied houses are permitted to sell beers from other breweries, such as the **Chequers** at Heaverham, mentioned in the previous issue. Liz at the **Lamb** in Swanley Village does not have this privilege, but I can vouch for the good quality of the *Shepherd Neame* beers, *Master Brew* and *Whitstable Bay*, in this cosy, friendly pub. Unfortunately, the **Lamb** cannot take beers from the very local *Brew Buddies*, but I trust other pubs in the area will give them a try.

Another *Shepherd Neame* tied house, the **Rose & Crown** in Wrotham was selling *Master Brew* and *Whitstable Bay* and a guest best from *Hydes*

brewery in Manchester named *Paddock Wood Bitter*, 4.2% ABV, a chestnut coloured ale brewed with Kent Goldings hops. Interesting that a northern brewer with regular beers proudly named *Manchester Mild* and *Manchester's Finest* should create a beer with Kent connections. Also in Wrotham is the **George & Dragon**, a village local with an ever changing range of beers in good condition. *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* is a regular feature and the guest beers were *Marstons New World*, *Moorhouses Blonde Witch*, *Wells Bombardier* and *Young's Hummingbird* on a recent visit.

Subsequent to writing this article, the seasonal green-hopped beers will be available during late September and early October and will probably have finished by the time you read these notes. The **Padwell Arms** in Stone Street, near Sevenoaks is due to hold a Green Hop beer festival in mid October, showcasing green hop ales from many breweries in Kent. This pub regularly sells beers from Kent breweries; *Larkins Traditional* and *Grumpy Git*, brewed by *Larkins* exclusively for the **Padwell Arms**, are permanent fixtures. *Ripple Steam*, *Rockin' Robin* and *Tonbridge* breweries are strongly represented with changing beers. *Cottage Brewery* from Somerset supplies the only regularly featured "foreign" beers.

One item of distressing news is that the **Crown** at Otford, a recent GBG-listed pub, was closed at the time of writing. Mark and Fiona had run this pub admirably for at least ten years, building up a good reputation for high quality food and drink and a focus for various community activities - notably several darts teams. We were aware that they were planning to leave the pub during the summer but not as early as July. There had been rumours about conversion into an upmarket restaurant, but subsequently we understand that the **Crown** has re-opened as a pub in late September, although its long-term future is still uncertain.

It'll soon be time for Christmas and we'd like to mention two branch events in December. Firstly card-carrying CAMRA members are invited to attend the branch AGM, which will be held at the **Malt Shovel** in Dartford on Wednesday 2nd December. Secondly, for the second year running and by popular demand, the Christmas social and buffet will be held at the **Coach & Horses** in Northfleet for members and friends on the evening of Friday 11th December.

Enjoy the festive season and best wishes for 2016.

BREWERY TOURS!
Thursdays at 2.30pm
& Saturdays at 10.30am
(booking required - £10 per head)

**10% off for CAMRA
members and Tenterden
Loyalty Card holders**

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

**Brewery Shop open :
Monday-Friday 10am-4pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm**

OLD DAIRY

BREWERY

FINE ALES FROM THE
GARDEN OF ENGLAND



**BRING THIS
ADVERT ALONG
TO THE SHOP,
SPEND £10
AND RECEIVE
A FREE BOTTLE
OF BEER!**

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

Quiz Night on Monday

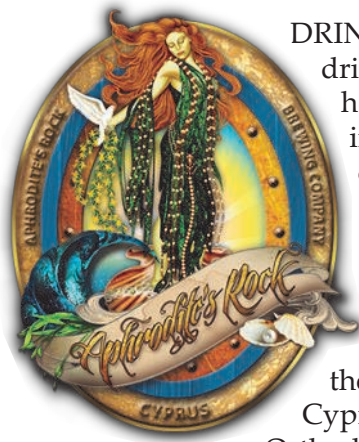
Open 12 – 2.30 and 5 – 11 Monday – Thursday
12 – 11 Friday and Saturday
12 – 10.30 Sunday

**The Bull
High Street
West Malling**



Paphos and Aphrodite's Rock

by Mick Allen



DRINKING IN CYPRUS doesn't necessarily mean drinking cold fizzy *Keo* lager, as I found out while on holiday in Paphos in August 2015. After some prior investigation, I found there to be a microbrewery on the outskirts of Paphos. I popped along on a couple of occasions to the *Aphrodite's Rock Brewery*. The owner Bill, an ex-navy man, spoke about the problems that they had encountered since proposing a new brewery over three years ago. The main stumbling block, it appeared, was the constant objections made by the main player in Cyprus, *Keo*, which is 70 percent owned by the Greek Orthodox Church.

Since overcoming those difficulties and other government red tape in 2013, the brewery is now fully up and running, supplying over 50 premises in and around Paphos (mostly with bottled beers, although there are 3 outlets serving cask ale in central Paphos) plus various other outlets around Cyprus including the British Bases. Their core range of beers is: *Yorkshire Rose* 3.8%, *London Porter* 4.5%, *Lian Shee Irish Red* 4.5%, *ESB* 5.0% and *West Coast IPA* 6.0%. I don't need to state that all of the beers were sampled at the brewery bar!

They also had in post at the time a contract German brewer (Melanie has since returned after maternity leave) and now have their own lager. I also learnt that they have branched out to cider production, using juice sourced from Poland, but presently these are bottled brands. A worthwhile trip out from Paphos! www.aphroditesrock.com.cy

There are seven outlets for cask beer in the Paphos area, with these three being in or close to the centre:

DT's Sunset Bar, Tomb of the Kings Avenue – as I remember, *Yorkshire Rose* and *ESB* were on offer here. Good food, a quiz Tuesdays and curry night Sundays in this bar that caters for both holidaymakers and ex-pats alike.

The Rugby Arms, Ikarou Street – open since 2007; unsurprisingly enough, the landlord here is a huge rugby fan. Unfortunately I couldn't comment on the beer here, *Yorkshire Rose*, as it had just run out!

The Old Fishing Shack, Tefkrou Street – what's not to like about this place, a beer lovers' emporium? Athos has been running this bar for ages, and still has an old *What's Brewing* from 25 years ago with a very young picture of himself in an article written about the pub. Beers on handpump here were *West Coast IPA* and *London Porter*, and it looks



like *ESB* has been added since our visit, although during the really hot summer not all will be available. *Old Rosie* was also served from a pin at the rear, and Athos produces fruit ciders that have been really popular (like in this country they seem to be *en vogue* at present) using real fruit with *Old Rosie* as a base. And I almost forgot to mention that over 200 bottled beers are in stock. A real must to visit when in Paphos.

OLD PRINCE OF ORANGE

BEST SELECTION OF DRAUGHT AND BOUTIQUE BEERS IN GRAVESEND

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

Open Daily 12pm-11pm

New Years Eve Party

Now Cask Marque Accredited

5 course Gala Dinner

Nov 28th Michael
Bubl 



Singer/Songwriter
Jerome Chance
performing live

Dec 5th Ladies Night

Up to £300 worth of
prizes to be won

Dec 12th Boy
George

Dec 19th ABBA

1 Old Road East, Gravesend, DA12 1NJ

Phone: 01474365753



facebook.com/OldPrinceofOrange

MENCAP Summer Fayre 2015

by Brian Johnson

This year the MENCAP Fayre was on the afternoon of Saturday, June 6th in Mote Park, Maidstone. Once again the Maidstone and mid-Kent (MMK) branch of CAMRA supported MENCAP by organising and running a beer 'tent' in order to raise some extra money for the charity.

I contacted a number of local breweries and asked them to help by providing a firkin of beer for this worthy cause. We were fortunate that a Maidstone pub and several breweries were willing to help us by supporting the event, for which we thank them.



After spending some time writing letters, sending e-mails and making telephone calls, I was pleased to be able to present the following beers:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>Traditional</i> | <i>(Larkin's Brewery, Chiddingstone)</i> |
| <i>Sussex Best</i> | <i>(Harvey's Brewery, Lewes)</i> |
| <i>Fife & Drum</i> | <i>(Musket Brewery, Linton)</i> |
| <i>MBC-11</i> | (Flower Pot, Maidstone) |
| <i>Mildly Rockin'</i> | <i>(Rockin' Robin Brewery, Boughton Monchelsea)</i> |
| <i>Summer Top</i> | <i>(Old Dairy Brewery, Tenterden)</i> |

Several of my fellow MMK branch members helped with the collection of beer, setup of the bar and serving on the day. All beers were priced at £3 a pint in order to persuade the visitors that they could afford to enjoy a glass of real ale and support a charity at the same time. Fortunately, the weather was kind as it was a sunny afternoon and we were able to sell all the beer and raise the sum of £1,270.

This was a very satisfying result, so thank you to everyone who helped and to those who supported us on the day. This was the 15th year that we have supported MENCAP in this way and we hope that we will be able to do the same again next year.



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.

Ruby Friday for Real Ale Campaigners

By Colin Mann

On Friday 25th September, nearly 50 real ale enthusiasts returned to the **Dog and Gun** in Lower Boxley Road, Maidstone – the scene of the first-ever meeting of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) – to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the local Branch's inauguration in the autumn of 1975.

The celebration was the brainchild of founder member and former Branch Chairman Dave Rayner, and saw members past and present reminisce about the early days of the Branch and share memories about local pubs, ales, beer festivals and breweries, with a special display of photos and memorabilia prompting many a recollection.

Dave Rayner said: *It was great to see so many faces from the early days as well as current Branch members. Forty years on, it's heartening to know that our efforts in campaigning for real ale were successful, with CAMRA thriving both nationally and locally. Some pubs that didn't serve real ale back then now offer a range of beers, with a good selection from microbreweries.*

Ian Clennett, Chairman of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch of CAMRA, said: *It was a truly memorable evening, and fitting that we were able to celebrate 40 years of campaigning where it all began. Special thanks to Dave Rayner for getting things up and running back then and for organising the party, as well as the team at the Dog and Gun for hosting the get-together. It was a nice touch for the pub to play the charts from September 1975 on the jukebox!*

Along with Ian Clennett, six past branch chairmen were at the pub: Dave Rayner, Richard Bellamy, Phil Jolly, Cathryn Donlon, John Williams and Chris Webb. Also present were these former branch members: Cynthia Robertson, Barry Stiff, Dave Frost, Mary Baker, Jackie and Andy Malpress, John Simpson and Gill Bellamy. The branch sponsored a fine buffet that was magnificently presented by landlord Jonah and his team. And of course some fine ales aided the celebration, led by (in your editor's opinion) a very moreish green hop ale by *Shepherd Neame*, *Tallyman's Special 4.5% ABV*, made with [Canterbury Whitebine](#) hops.

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

The major news is that of a fire on August bank holiday Monday which badly damaged the **New Cross Turnpike**. Wetherspoons tell us that they are to be shut for a significant period, although rumour has it that they are hoping to re-open by Christmas. The cause of the blaze is uncertain and several stories are abounding. In other news, sadly, we have lost two more pubs, **Bar269** in Bexleyheath, which has become a Greek restaurant, and **OMG** in Bexley. While neither sold real ale at the time of their closing, it is still sad to report losses of any kind, as we all know that pubs can be turned around and sell real ale at any time. **OMG** has an uncertain future at present and any news would be most welcome. Also under threat of closure is the **Leather Bottle** in Belvedere; we understand that it is up for sale either as a pub or for development. News also reached the branch that the **Albany** at Albany Park has had its handpumps removed and therefore no longer sells real ale. This is a blow, as it is a long way from any other real ale outlet. As always, we appeal to you, the drinkers and publicans, to help keep the branch up to date by submitting information via www.WhatPub.com or by contacting us using the contact details at the top of this article or our Pubs Officer Ian Wright on 07779 319196 or bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk.

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual. In July we visited the **Jolly Fenman** in Blackfen, August it was the **Plough & Harrow** in Welling and in September the **Crayford Arms** in Crayford.

In July our quiz team had a couple of outings; firstly we were victorious at the **Penny Farthing** and then came a disappointing distant third at the **Door Hinge**. Also in July the Branch celebrated its 40th Anniversary. We gathered at the **Anchor** in Bridgen (formerly the Blue Anchor) where the Branch was formed and had a beer. The offering was *Brains Bitter* (which ran out almost immediately), replaced by *Greene King IPA* and *Sharps Doom Bar*. Sadly, as it was quiz night, together with very loud music, we had arranged to move on to the **Wrong 'Un** for a celebratory meal. Here we had a very good selection of beers and were also given a discount on the food. Thank you to Terry the manager.

Later that month, we held a Saturday social around Belvedere. We were due to start in the **Eardley Arms** but upon our arrival we were told that

THE THREE TUNS



Circa 1470

FREE HOUSE

www.thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk



Christmas Market
28th November
12 - 4pm

~

Mini Winter Beer
Festival
Sat 28th & Sun 29th
November

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

info@thethreetunsrestaurant.co.uk

they had no real ale available that day, as it had run out and the next barrel was not ready. We therefore started at the next pub on our list, the *Good Beer Guide*-listed **Prince of Wales**, which is just across the road; here they had three real ales plus a cider. There were four Bexley members and two South East London members on the crawl. From here we walked round the corner to our next stop the **Victoria**, which had just a single ale available. Onwards then to the **Fox** and a choice of four ales to go at, three from the *Wells & Youngs* stable plus the ubiquitous *Doom Bar*. Our last stop in Upper Belvedere was the **Royal Standard**, which has gone from two to three real ales since our last visit, including a *Ringwood* ale. Next it was down the hill to Lower Belvedere and the **Belvedere Hotel**. Unfortunately, upon our arrival, the *Spitfire* ran out and again the next barrel was not ready for consumption and so we made a hasty departure. Our final stop was the **Morgan**. This is a recently opened *Marstons* establishment which carries four beers from its stable. Sadly, we had to return one of them, but in general the quality was as high as it had been for the most part of the crawl. Some of the group also chose to eat here and I must say that the carvery looked great.

At the end of July we also held a social at the Welling Round Table Beer Festival held in the garden at the **Guy Earl of Warwick**. The festival is in its fourth year and has been a success each year. Beer quality is good and it is a shame that the same cannot be said for the beer in the pub itself.

In August, we held our social at the **Door Hinge** to present Ray with the Pub of the Year runner-up certificate. As always, he did us proud with four ales from all parts of the country and a nice spread of sandwiches. Due to the lack of time available, none of the members went on as planned to the **New Cross Turnpike**. Also in August we attended the **Old Dartfordians** Beer Festival on the Saturday of the bank holiday weekend. For once the weather was fine early in the afternoon and we were able to enjoy the beers without getting soaked every time we needed to go out and fetch the next one, although by the end of the afternoon the usual monsoon conditions had arrived. Because of a change in the rules, from next year **Old Dartfordians** will be classed as a pub and not a club when it comes to the CAMRA competitions and so we will be including them in the voting for our Pub of the Year. Finally that month, a few of us joined the annual Gravesend branch seaside crawl on bank holiday Monday. This year it was to Dover and as always I would like to thank Mick Norman for organising a wonderful day out around the pubs.

In September we presented the beer of the festival certificate to Cliff at *Bexley Brewery* on their first birthday weekend. He was naturally thrilled with his award, presented to him by branch chairman Martyn Nicholls.

Lastly in September, our social was held in the **Wrong 'Un** to present them with the Pub of the Year third place certificate. A fine array of beers was available for us to try.

Richard Reeve, a member from Enfield & Barnet CAMRA, is completing his round-Britain cycling trip to all 100 micropubs in the country on November 14. He plans to be at the **Long Pond**, Eltham (around noon); the **Broken Drum**, Blackfen (around 1:30pm); the **Door Hinge**, Welling (around 2:30pm) and the **Penny Farthing**, Crayford, at around 4pm. He would be delighted to meet local branch members at any or all of these pubs.

Please see Richard's blog at www.MicropubBikeRide.wordpress.com and sponsor him at www.virginmoneygiving.com/RichardReeveCycling. Funds raised go to the Alzheimer's Society.

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
Portrait, Sidcup	10 percent
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



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.)

Doris's Day

by Jeff Tucker

You just have to mention 'Doris' to most CAMRA members in Kent and they will know who you mean! Doris Jemison, now in her late-eighties, is one of the longest-serving licensees in the county, at the helm of one of the most interesting, unspoilt pubs: the **Red Lion** at Snargate on Romney Marsh.

The pub has been in the family for more than 100 years, and has lots of WW2 memorabilia, wonderful locals, and interesting décor, not to mention outside toilets! The pub is ably looked after these days by the younger generations of the family, but Doris still puts in an appearance.



In July, Doris was presented with two certificates, one for being Ashford CAMRA Pub of the Year and one for 30 consecutive years in the *Good Beer Guide*. The *Guide's* editor and well-known beer writer, Roger Protz, no less, was in attendance to perform the ceremony.

A small group from Maidstone had made the trip but we were surprised to see a queue out of the front door just after opening time. With a fantastic turnout from far and wide, one of the customers had brought along loads of cheese from his shop for everyone to share – delicious!

Snargate has a bus service – just about! The morning 11B bus to Ashford leaves well before the pub opens, but the reverse journey gets to the pub at about 1.40 in the week, and 3.40 on Saturdays.

Most other journeys on the 11 route serve the next village of Brenzett, which is a 30-minute walk avoiding the main road. The bus drops you off by the old Fleur-de-Lys pub (long closed). Head north for a few hundred yards, then turn left on the lane. After about half a mile, there is a right-hand bend, and a wide trackway heading off to the left, but no footpath sign, which doesn't help.

This grassy track leads to Snargate church, and the **Red Lion** is just to the left. On Saturdays it makes sense to walk from Brenzett then catch the bus opposite the pub. In the week you can either get off at the pub and walk to Brenzett or vice versa, as the pub is open from 12-3 at lunchtimes (but not Mondays).

The **Red Lion** is one of those pubs you have to go to at least once in your life. The beers (normally 3 or 4) are served direct from the cask. Congratulations, Doris, and long may the pub continue.

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 2016.

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 – 2:30

Wed – Sat 6:30 – 8:45

10th Annual Beer Festival

Fri 15th, Sat 16th & Sun 17th April

20 real ales and ciders

Here's what's happening on Kent's Hop Farms

by Stuart Hightwood

Endeavour has been bred by Wye Hops as a low trellis, hedgerow hop. As brewers look for new zesty hops to try, this gives a blackcurranty, spicy edge to the beer. It's now being grown on 3 farms in Kent, plus more in Hereford and Worcester. Hop maestro, Dr. Peter Darby, who runs Wye Hops, also has imported **Cascade** from the US, and the new plants have established on a few farms. Additionally, he has bred **Boadicea** (spicy floral), **First Gold** (orange marmalade), **Pilgrim** (citrus, pears) and **Sovereign** (herbal, floral, earthy).

Several growers have tried their own hand at selecting new varieties. Peter Cyster from Northiam in Sussex has cultivated the **Sussex Hop** (earthy, grassy, minty), which is now growing on 2 farms in Sussex. Sandhurst grower, Chris Nicholas, found **Epic** (fruity slightly herbal) growing in a hedge; **Epic** is now brewed into an excellent beer by *Tonbridge Brewery*. Hereford and Worcester growers have selected **Archer** (floral, lime, peach), **Jester** (grapefruit, tropical fruit) and **Minstrel** (spicy, berries, orangey).

There is still the main acreage grown of standard UK varieties: **Fuggles**, **Goldings**, **Challenger**, **Northdown**, **Target**, **Admiral**, *etc.*, but there has been a revival of some that were starting to disappear. **Bramling Cross** (spicy, blackcurrant), **Progress** (sweet floral minty), **Whitbread Golding Variety** or **WGV** (spicy floral herbal).

This has encouraged growers to look even further back, and gardens of **Bullion** (strong zesty blackcurrant) and **Keyworths** (citrus, blackcurrant) have been planted. These hops were developed by Prof. Ernest Salmon of Wye Hops Research in the 40s and 50s as early *Verticillium* Wilt-tolerant varieties. Peter Darby has a small historical garden with many of the original varieties that Hop Research and Wye Hops have bred over the years, and there is the National Hop Collection homed by *Shepherd Neame* at Queen Court Farm, Faversham. Peter Darby has been reassessing these collections for use in ales.

Professor Salmon started Hop Research at Wye College in 1906. The work he began there has become the foundation for all hop breeding worldwide until the present day. Salmon's last variety, code named

OZ97a, is in that collection. It was rejected by brewers in 1960 after going to farm trials because it had a coarse flavour. After a small trial brewed by *Foundry Brew Pub*, Canterbury, it was described as complex, fruity with apricot citrus and spice. It is now established on 2 farms, so look out for brews that include it. As it takes 3 years to establish a productive hop garden, it will still be a rarity for a while.

There are many different hops from England and around the world that make such a great choice of different beers for us to drink. It is an interesting pastime to identify different characteristics and guess what variety of hops or even which country the hops in your beer came from.

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!

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!



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) _____

MMK Draught Copy

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

Address _____

Postcode _____

Name(s) of Account Holder

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference

9 2 6 1 2 9

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 _____

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.

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)

NOVEMBER

- 5 **GDV** **Old Prince of Orange**, Gravesend [*OBM*]
- 5 **MMK** **Peacock**, Iden Green, then **Milkhouse**, Sissinghurst
- 7 **MMK** 0844 Bus trip to East Hoathly & Hailsham
- 10 **MMK** 1024 Bus & Walk to Horton Kirby
- 11 **BEX** **Tailors Chalk**, Sidcup DA14 6ED [*OBM*]
- 12 **MMK** **Bull**, West Malling [*OBM*]
- 18 **GDV** **Foresters**, Dartford, then **Ivy Leaf and Wat Tyler**
- 19 **MMK** **Cock Horse**, Detling, then **Black Horse**, Thurnham
- 21 **MMK** 0915 Bus trip to Thanet
- 24 **MMK** 1015 Bus & walk to Oare (**Shipwright's Arms**)
- 26 **MMK** **Society Rooms**, Maidstone, then **Flower Pot**
- 28 **GDV** 1pm Beer festival – **Windmill**, Gravesend

DECEMBER

- 2 **GDV** **Malt Shovel**, Dartford [*AGM*]
- 3 **MMK** **Angel**, Addington, then **Kings Arms**, Offham
- 8 **MMK** 1049 Bus & walk to Old Wives Lees
- 9 **BEX** **Broken Drum**, Blackfen DA15 9PT [*OBM*]
- 10 **MMK** **King's Head**, Grafty Green, then **Who'd a Thought It**
- 11 **GDV** Xmas social, **Coach & Horses**, Northfleet
- 17 **MMK** **Queens Head**, Mereworth, then **Swan**, West Peckham
- 19 **MMK** 1015 Bus trip to Herne and Canterbury
- 21 **BEX** 8pm Xmas meal: **Wrong 'Un**, Bexleyheath DA6 8AS
- 23 **MMK** **Lower Bell**, Blue Bell Hill, then **Red Bull**, Eccles
- 28 **BEX** 1200 **Robin Hood & Little John**, Bexleyheath, then **Wrong 'Un**
- 30 **GDV** **Three Daws**, Gravesend, then **Crown & Thistle**
- 30 **MMK** **Duke of Wellington**, Ryarsh, then **Nevill Bull**, Birling

JANUARY

- 3 **MMK** 1200 Maidstone: **White Horse**, **First & Last**, **Old Cellars**, **Drakes**
- 7 **GDV** **Dartford Working Men's Club**, Dartford [*OBM*]
- 8 **MMK** *Goachers Old Evening*, **Rifle Volunteers**, Maidstone
- 12 **MMK** 1022 Bus & walk to Knockholt and Halstead
- 13 **BEX** **Wrong 'Un**, Bexleyheath DA6 8AS [*OBM*]
- 13 **GDV** **White Swan**, Ash, then **Anchor & Hope**
- 14 **MMK** **Stile Bridge**, Marden [*OBM* & *GBG* selection]
- 21 **GDV** **Compass**, Gravesend, then **Rum Puncheon** and **Jolly Drayman**
- 21 **MMK** **Woolpack**, Benover, then **Chequers**, Laddingford
- 27 **GDV** **Earl Grey**, Northfleet, then **Campbell Arms**
- 28 **MMK** **White House**, West Farleigh, then **Good Intent**

* 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