

# Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

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

Spring 2016

No. 182

## LET US SAVE THIS PUB



The **Little Gem** in Aylesford is a 12th century pub that closed five years ago and has lain derelict ever since. Its owners want to convert this Grade 2 listed building into a private house. Over four thousand people have so far signed a petition calling for its preservation. There is still time to save the Little Gem.

Join them by adding your voice at [tinyurl.com/hjor9hk](http://tinyurl.com/hjor9hk)



# 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,

<b>Editor and</b>	Tim Mathews
<b>Correspondence:</b>	<i>dc@braymead.com</i>
<b>Postal Address:</b>	135 Lavenders Road West Malling Kent ME19 6HR
<b>Advertising:</b>	Colin Mann
<b>Email:</b>	<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 March 2016 for publication in May 2016.

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

On Twitter at [www.twitter.com/mmkcampa](http://www.twitter.com/mmkcampa)



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](http://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 not too far away

## CAMRA

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

### WHITE CLIFFS FESTIVAL OF WINTER ALES

FEBRUARY 5—6

**Maison Dieu, Biggin Street,  
Dover CT16 1DL**

75 winter & strong ales all >5%ABV

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

### CHELMSFORD WINTER FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 17—20

King Edward VI Grammar School,  
Broomfield Road, Chelmsford

150 ales, also 50 ciders & perries

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

### LONDON DRINKER FESTIVAL

MARCH 2—4

Camden Centre, Bidborough St,  
London, WC1H 9AU

150 real ales, imported beers  
(including American beers), ciders  
and perries

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

### NORTH SUSSEX EQUINOX

#### BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

MARCH 5—6

Drill Hall, Denne Rd, Horsham,  
West Sussex RH12 1JF

40+ beers, plus real cider and perry

Email: [camra.equinox@gmail.com](mailto:camra.equinox@gmail.com)

### SUSSEX BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

MARCH 17—19

**Corn Exchange, Church St  
Brighton, West Sussex BN1 1EE**

150+ real ales from across the UK,  
40+ ciders & perries, bottled beers

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

### PLANET THANET BEER FESTIVAL

MARCH 25—26

Winter Gardens, Fort Crescent,  
Margate CT9 1HX

200+ ales, ciders, perries,  
and bottled beers

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

### Non-CAMRA — Pubs and Clubs

March 24—28

#### King and Queen Easter Festival

New Road, East Malling

16 ales to try

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

April 15—17

#### Bell and Jorrocks,

Frittenden, TN17 2EJ

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

**Editor's ramblings:** Since the start of the year, I've had the good fortune to visit two excellent pubs in our area. One Saturday afternoon I spent a couple of hours in the newly opened **Cellars Alehouse** underneath the Old Brewery in Maidstone. Duncan, Kathy and David have done an amazing job in converting the place from just a dank, disused cellar into a bright and welcoming temple of beer. It's spacious, too, but fire regulations only permit a maximum of 55 persons on the premises. I enjoyed some ale in particularly fine form and several conversations. A most convivial afternoon, and I can't wait to return! (*continued on page 18*)





# 'BREWERY OF THE YEAR'

2016 Good Pub Guide Awards

# 2016



# HARVEYS

The Sussex Brewers

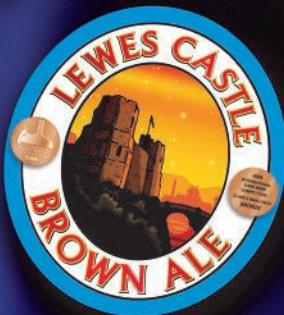


**WORLD'S  
BEST  
MILD ALE**

*World Beer  
Awards 2015*

**WORLD'S  
BEST  
BROWN ALE**

*World Beer  
Awards 2015*



**CHAMPION BOTTLE  
CONDITIONED BEER**

*CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain  
Competition, Olympia 2015*

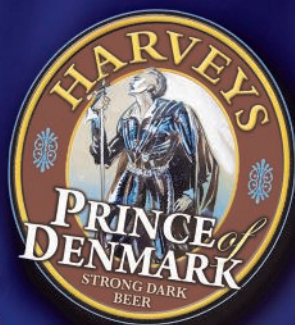


**BEER OF THE  
FESTIVAL**

*Pendle Beer  
Festival 2015*

**BEER OF  
THE FESTIVAL**

*Eastbourne Beer  
Festival 2015*

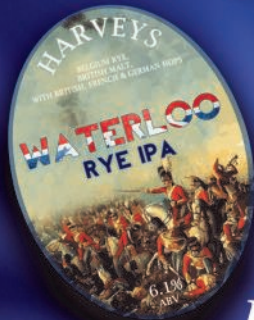


**BEER OF  
THE  
FESTIVAL**

*South Downs Beer  
& Cider Festival 2015*

**SUSSEX  
BEER  
OF THE  
FESTIVAL**

*Worthing Beer  
Festival 2015*



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# KENT BREWERIES

<b>12 Bar Brewing Co.</b>	07860 165048	<a href="http://www.12barbrewingco.co.uk">www.12barbrewingco.co.uk</a>
<b>Attwell's Brewery</b>	07966 586642	<a href="http://www.attwellsbrewery.com">www.attwellsbrewery.com</a>
<b>Bexley Brewery</b>	01322 337368	<a href="http://bexleybrewery.co.uk">bexleybrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Brew Buddies</b>		<a href="http://www.brew-buddies.co.uk">www.brew-buddies.co.uk</a>
<b>Canterbury Ales</b>	01227 732541	<a href="http://www.canterbury-ales.co.uk">www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</a>
<b>Canterbury Brewers</b>	01227 455899	<a href="http://www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk">www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk</a>
<b>Caveman Brewery</b>	07769 710665	<a href="http://www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk">www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Four Candles</b>	07947 062063	<a href="mailto:mike@thefourcandles.co.uk">mike@thefourcandles.co.uk</a>
<b>Goacher's</b>	01622 682112	<a href="http://www.goachers.com">www.goachers.com</a>
<b>Goody Ales</b>	07790 443810	<a href="http://www.goodyales.co.uk">www.goodyales.co.uk</a>
<b>G2</b>	01233 630277	
<b>HopDaemon</b>	01795 892078	<a href="http://www.hopdaemon.com">www.hopdaemon.com</a>
<b>Hop Fuzz</b>	07850 441267	<a href="http://www.hopfuzz.co.uk">www.hopfuzz.co.uk</a>
<b>Isla Vale Alesmiths</b>	01843 292451	<a href="http://islavalealesmiths.co.uk">islavalealesmiths.co.uk</a>
<b>Kent Brewery</b>	01634 780037	<a href="http://www.kentbrewery.com">www.kentbrewery.com</a>
<b>Larkins</b>	01892 870328	
<b>Mad Cat Brewery</b>	07960 263615	<a href="http://www.madcatbrewery.co.uk">www.madcatbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Maidstone Brewing Co.</b>	07736 149014	<a href="mailto:info@maidstonebrewing.co.uk">info@maidstonebrewing.co.uk</a>
<b>Millis Brewing Co.</b>	01322 866233	<a href="http://www.millisbrewing.com">www.millisbrewing.com</a>
<b>Musket Brewery</b>	07967 127278	<a href="http://www.musketbrewery.co.uk">www.musketbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Nelson Brewing Co.</b>	01634 832828	<a href="http://www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk">www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Old Dairy Brewing Co.</b>	01580 243185	<a href="http://www.olddairybrewery.com">www.olddairybrewery.com</a>
<b>Old Forge Brewery</b>	01233 720444	<a href="http://www.thefarriersarms.com">www.thefarriersarms.com</a>
<b>Pig and Porter</b>	01424 893519	<a href="http://pigandporter.co.uk">pigandporter.co.uk</a>
<b>Ramsgate Brewery</b>	01843 868453	<a href="http://www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk">www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Ripple Steam Brewery</b>	07917 037611	<a href="http://www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk">www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Rockin' Robin Brewery</b>	07787 416110	<a href="http://www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk">www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Romney Marsh Brewery</b>	01797 362333	<a href="http://www.romneymarshbrewery.com">www.romneymarshbrewery.com</a>
<b>Shepherd Neame</b>	01795 532206	<a href="http://www.shepherd-neame.co.uk">www.shepherd-neame.co.uk</a>
<b>Swan, West Peckham</b>	01622 812271	<a href="http://www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk">www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</a>
<b>Time and Tide</b>	07840 327265	<a href="http://timeandtidebrewing.co.uk">timeandtidebrewing.co.uk</a>
<b>Tír Dhá Ghlas</b>	01304 211666	<a href="http://www.cullinsyard.co.uk">www.cullinsyard.co.uk</a>
<b>Tonbridge Brewery</b>	01732 366770	<a href="http://www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk">www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Turnstone Ales</b>	See Facebook page	
<b>Wantsum Brewery</b>	0845 0405980	<a href="http://www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk">www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Westerham Brewery</b>	01959 565837	<a href="http://www.westerhambrewery.co.uk">www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</a>
<b>Whitstable Brewery</b>	01622 851007	<a href="http://www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk">www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk</a>



**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**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	
Beardspoon Cider Works		<i>www.beardspoon.com</i>
Biddenden Cider	01580 291726	<i>www.biddendenvineyards.com</i>
Big Tree Cider	01474 705221	<i>www.bigtreecider.co.uk</i>
Broomfield Orchard	01227 362279	<i>www.broomfieldorchard.co.uk</i>
Castle Cider Co	01732 455977	
Chafford Cider Co.	01892 740437	<i>ballenden@supanet.com</i>
Core Fruit Products	01227 730589	<i>www.corejuice.co.uk</i>
Double Vision Cider	01622 746633	
Dudda's Tun Cider	01795 886266	<i>www.duddastuncider.com</i>
East Stour Cider Co	07880 923398	<i>danbaldwin@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Gibbet Oak Cider	01580 763938	<i>www.gibbetoak.co.uk</i>
Green Oak Farm	01304 821630	<i>www.greenoakfarm.co.uk</i>
Hush Heath Estate	01622 832794	<i>shop.hushheath.com</i>
Johnson's Farmhouse Cider	01795 665203	
Kent Cider Company	01795 521317	<i>kentcider.co.uk</i>
Kentish Pip Cider	01227 830525	<i>www.kentishpip.co.uk</i>
Kingswood Cider	01227 709387	<i>www.kingswoodcider.co.uk</i>
Little Stour Orchard	07771 711252	<i>www.littlestourorchard.co.uk</i>
Longtail Cider		<i>markwarnett@gmail.com</i>
Magic Bus Cider	07887 747569	<i>chris8mel@ntlworld.com</i>
Merry Moon	07707 309041	<i>jo-anna.bottomley@btinternet.com</i>
Northdowns Cider	01795 591285	
Pawley Farm Cider	01795 532043	<i>pawleyfarmcider@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Pippins Cider Company	01892 824544	<i>www.pippinsfarm.co.uk</i>
Rough Old Wife Cider	01227 700757	<i>www.rougholdwife.com</i>
St Dunstan's Cider		<i>r.f.lancaster@sky.com</i>
Stiles Cider	01795 830615	<i>MikeBispham@aol.com</i>
Tiddly Pomme's Woolly Pig	01795 529100	<i>www.tiddlypommeshop.co.uk</i>
Turners Cider	07825 394164	<i>www.turnerscider.co.uk</i>
Wise Owl Cider	01233 850664	<i>wiseowlcider@gmail.com</i>



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## 1200 pubs are protected as 'Assets of Community Value'

More than 1,200 pubs celebrated the New Year with the added protection of being listed as an Asset of Community Value thanks to their local communities and Campaign for Real Ale members.

The number of pubs nominated as ACVs has doubled in the past six months, following the launch of a joint CAMRA-Government initiative to protect England's most valued pubs, which was announced by Pubs Minister Marcus Jones at the 2015 Great British Beer Festival.

CAMRA figures show that 1,200 pubs across England have been listed as 'Assets of Community Value' (ACV), which means they are protected from being demolished or converted to another use without planning permission.

ACV nominations give local communities the power to safeguard valued local pubs from developers. CAMRA Branches and community groups across the country are now working hard to get 3,000 pubs listed as ACVs by the end of 2016 to help stem the number of pub closures, which currently stands at a rate of 29 a week.

Tim Page, CAMRA Chief Executive says: *It is fantastic to see community groups across England coming together to protect 1,200 pubs across the country from redevelopment or demolition. This figure is a testament to the effectiveness of putting power back into the hands of local communities and giving them a chance to have a say in shaping their town centres. We hope to more than double that figure by this time next year. ACV status also generates vital support for local pubs and highlights the wide variety of community-orientated events and activities that contribute significantly to local civic life. With 29 pubs closing every week we want to secure greater support for ACV listed pubs to ensure they continue to be at the heart of our communities. This is the perfect opportunity to share your support for your local by nominating it as an ACV".*

Pubs Minister Marcus Jones added: *Our pubs remain at the heart of local life and CAMRA members have done their communities proud. We brought in community rights to allow people to list the local landmarks most important to their communities – allowing them a fair chance to bid for them should they be put up for sale. Now, listing might not be appropriate for all establishments, but where communities have wanted them they have done a great job, with 2,600 much-loved assets – from pubs to libraries and community centres – being listed across the country.*

See [www.camra.org.uk/camra-near-you](http://www.camra.org.uk/camra-near-you) and [www.camra.org.uk/list-your-local](http://www.camra.org.uk/list-your-local)



# The Chequers Inn

Laddingford, nr Yalding  
Kent ME18 6BP  
Tel: 01622 871266

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

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- Cask conditioned real ales
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We are proud of our

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CAMRA Good Beer Guide & Cask Marque award

## Quiz Night on Monday

Open 12 – 2.30 and 5 – 11 Monday – Thursday

12 – 11 Friday and Saturday

12 – 10.30 Sunday

The Bull  
High Street  
West Malling





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**“Fantastic food”**

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

**“Great service”**

**In a traditional country pub atmosphere**

**“Superb country pub”**

**Bar & Restaurant open all day**

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**Bookings recommended**

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

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



## Paphos and Aphrodite's Rock (the story continues)

In the last edition, we published an article with the above title by Mick Allen about this new brewery he discovered in Cyprus. Since then, the Director of *Aphrodite's Rock Brewery*, William Ginn, has written to the editor to give some background to the four-year saga of red tape they have had to endure just to get a licence to brew and distribute real ale on the island.

Space does not permit us to reproduce Mr Ginn's full narrative, but you can read his email on the GDV website at <http://tinyurl/z6sg6qy>. Also, an article in the *Cyprus Mail* talks more about the brewery and its products: [cyprus-mail.com/2013/12/01/brewery-in-business-but-hurdles-remain/](http://cyprus-mail.com/2013/12/01/brewery-in-business-but-hurdles-remain/).

It is interesting to note that *Aphrodite's Rock Brewery* supplies considerable amounts of beers and ciders to the British Forces bases in Cyprus and keeps 'our lads' well stocked with a taste of home as well as regularly hosting them at the brewery & brewpub for various social events. The pub is known light-heartedly as the Royal Marine Association's 'Tactical HQ', as they have all their meetings there.

### THE DRAUGHT COPY CAMRA DISCOUNT LIST

Here are the pubs and clubs we know of that offer discounted pints to any card-carrying CAMRA member. The discount applies to whole pints only. Please email the editor ([dc@braymead.com](mailto:dc@braymead.com)) to let us know of any other hostelrys offering similar discounts.

All Chef & Brewer pubs	10 percent
Anchor, Bexley	10p per pint
Bell, Smarden	10p per pint
Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden	20p per pint
Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
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
Moody Mare, Mereworth	30p per pint
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	10 percent
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent

# The Handsome Sam

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[chr15w@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chr15w@yahoo.co.uk)  
07931 662081

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Closed Mondays

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# Ticking in Guernsey

by Mick Allen

In late October 2015, we decided to visit Guernsey for a week's holiday. There are 40 entries on the *CAMRA WhatPub* site (including a pub each on the islands of Sark and Herm) and a plan was hatched to have a drink in each of them. There would only be buses, boats and Shanks's pony available for transport, so it was going to be a difficult task! There is, however, only space to mention a few of those pubs here. Guernsey is primarily supplied by three breweries: *Liberation* of Jersey, and *Randalls* and *White Rock* of Guernsey. There is a smattering of other ales to be found, mostly from *Marstons*, *Fullers* and *Sharps*.

On arrival at Guernsey airport a weekly bus pass costing all of £19 was purchased. For the first pub though, and the last pub a week later, this would not be needed, as the **Deerhound** was a short walk away from the terminal building. *Butcombe Gold* was the real ale on in this *Liberation* Group pub, *Butcombe* having been acquired in early 2015 by *Liberation*. A short bus ride from the **Deerhound** took us to our hotel up a hill, overlooking St Peter Port harbour. After a quick change of clothes and wash and brush up we were out in the town. Luckily we had arrived during the month of Tennerfest, which saw many pubs and restaurants offering meals between £10 and £20 a person, so we decided to eat in the **Saddle Bar**, part of the Hotel de Havelet. Beer here was *Collymochon* from *Randalls*. From here we wandered around the town before ending up in possibly the two best pubs on the island, the **Cock and Bull**, and the **Cornerstone Bar**. As luck would have it they were all of 15 yards apart. The **Cock and Bull** had beers mainly from the *Marston's* stable: a pint of *Jennings Cumberland Ale* went down well. We also visited this pub a few days later on Folk Music Night, when the local cider from *Rocquettes* was sampled. We then moved along the road to the **Cornerstone**. This pub is owned by the *White Rock Brewery*, the first microbrewery on the island that started production in late 2013, brewing on a 6-barrel plant just north of St Peter Port. Hence the pub serves the available range of beers, *Wonky Donkey* 4.7%, *Pushang* 3.8% and *Lost Tourist* 5.3%. I have it in the back of my mind that I had at least a sip of all beers!

The next day was a Saturday, and sometimes that includes football. With Guernsey FC away on the mainland, that meant finding another match that could be combined with a pub visit or two beforehand. I found on the internet that Vale Recreation were at home to St Martins with a 2pm KO. That also allowed me to tick off a further three pubs before the match, in one of which, the **Pony Inn**, I had a chat with Matt Le Tissier's brother, oh, and a pint of *Old Speckled Hen*. Incidentally, Vale Recreation

won 3-1 and at the time of writing is top of the league. After the match a few more pubs were visited bringing the running total to 13. This included the **Albion**, the closest pub to a church to be found anywhere in the UK, due to the close proximity of a gargoyle sticking out from the side of the church towards the pub's wall!

The following day, due to favourable weather, we brought forward a trip planned for later in the week, and caught the ferry over to Herm. Only one pub to check off here, the **Mermaid**, an old fisherman's inn named after an old supply ship. After a walk around the island in unseasonably warm weather, we settled down to *White Rock Lost Tourist*. I seem to remember that *Brains Reverend James* was also served, along with *Rocquettes* cider. Luckily it was still October and the pub was open daily. Had it been November to March, opening times are sporadic, with the pub totally closed January to mid-February. Back to Guernsey, and a further 7 pubs were added to a growing list.

On the sea next day for a slightly longer trip over to Sark, an island of around 600 inhabitants supporting 2 pubs and a licensed community centre. Tractors, bicycles and horses are the means of transport on this island, with even electric bikes being banned. After a short cycle round, during which we visited the **Community Centre** (no real ale, forced into having a *John Smith's Smooth*), we retired to the **Mermaid**, a pub stuck in a fifties time warp. Only crisps and nuts to eat, but a beer from *Butcombe* was on the bar in a barrel, the normal offering being *Fullers London Pride*. The landlady also told us that a German tourist was recently banned from using his new electric hoverboard on the island. Next it was off to the **Bel Air** for a pint before re-boarding the ferry to Guernsey. Home from home beer in here, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire!* Back on Guernsey another couple of pubs were added to the total.

With a further dozen or so pubs dotted all over the island to visit in the remaining 3 days, it was time to consult the bus timetable. These pubs and a few more in St Peter Port were completed thanks to a few car lifts that I managed to blag whilst chatting to the friendly locals!

So it was down to the Thursday to finish off the *WhatPub* entries. With just the **Library Bar** at Moores Hotel and the **Pickled Pig** at the Duke of Normandie Hotel to tick off the list, the task was completed. In fact there was time to add a further pub to the local branch's list, as the **Thomas De La Rue** up from the harbour had begun selling real ale, but was not listed as such on *WhatPub*.



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And so to Friday. Our flights back were due out at 12:30, so we calculated an early luggage drop off at the airport would give us plenty of time to walk down and back to the **Deerhound**. With luggage booked in, we were informed that we now could not leave the airport! However, if we wished to smoke, not that we do, we could stand outside the terminal building and do so. It wasn't mentioned how far outside we were permitted to stand, or how long we were allowed to smoke for: we were soon in the **Deerhound!**



[Neat! - Ed]

After a quick couple in the **Deerhound**, it was back for what we hoped was an uneventful flight back. Not to be, as a seagull had an argument with the nose cone of the aircraft during take-off, necessitating a return to the airport. Luckily the seagull came off worse and we were soon airborne again.

All in all, an enjoyable trip to Guernsey. Don't miss out on the **Cock and Bull** or the **Cornerstone** if visiting, though. You could also try *White Rock's* second pub acquisition on the island, the **Golden Lion**, which I believe is opening soon.

(from page 4) My second pub is former restaurant, the Beeches, on Seven Mile Lane near Mereworth, which owner Graham Packham converted into a roadside inn, the **Moody Mare**, a year ago. I drove over there after work recently and was impressed as soon as I entered the large car park. Going into the bar from the car park door, I was struck by a feeling of welcoming warmth as soon as I saw the bar directly in front of me (and the two lovely young ladies behind it). All beer is served on gravity, and Graham now rotates a variety of ales, with three casks available at all times. I had a pint of *Old Dairy Red Top*, a particular favourite of mine, which was served with a good head of foam and tasted great. I also enjoyed an interesting chat with the landlord. Again, another great pub to come back to.



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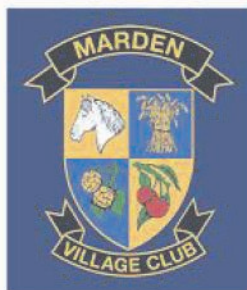
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---

**Nevill Bull, Birling** – Paul and Kate are expecting to leave in January, handing over to the new lessee, who also has the Robin Hood at Blue Bell Hill.

**Lower Bell, Blue Bell Hill** – The refurbishment here now seems almost complete with the new furnishings following the re-decoration. The beers from *Greene King* are *Abbot, IPA* and a guest from the list, *Rocking Rudolf* and *Everards Tiger* having been available towards the end of 2015.

**White Hart, Claygate** – This *Shepherd Neame* pub was closed at the time of writing but I now hear a new tenant, Terry Horton, has taken it on.

**Cock Horse, Detling** – From the *Kent Messenger* there is news that *Greene King* has engaged new tenants who should be in place during January. Villagers are hoping a shop may soon be operating from a garage on the site.

**Walnut Tree, East Farleigh** – Rebecca Nock is the new tenant at this *Shepherd Neame* pub. I understand food will be available again. Web: *www.WalnutTreeEastFarleigh.com* and Facebook: *thewalnuttreeinn*

**Rising Sun, East Malling** – As *Goachers Fine Light* is no longer stocked there will be two guest ales as well as the permanent *Fullers London Pride*.

**Red Bull, Eccles** – Lawrie & Kylie Phibbs have just celebrated their first year here and have now got a good customer base. The selection of ales has much improved with *Adnams Ghost Ship* being a regular and on a branch visit we found *Dartmoor Jail Ale, Greene King Rocking Rudolf* and *Purity Mad Goose*, which unfortunately (for us) had proved so popular that it soon ran out.

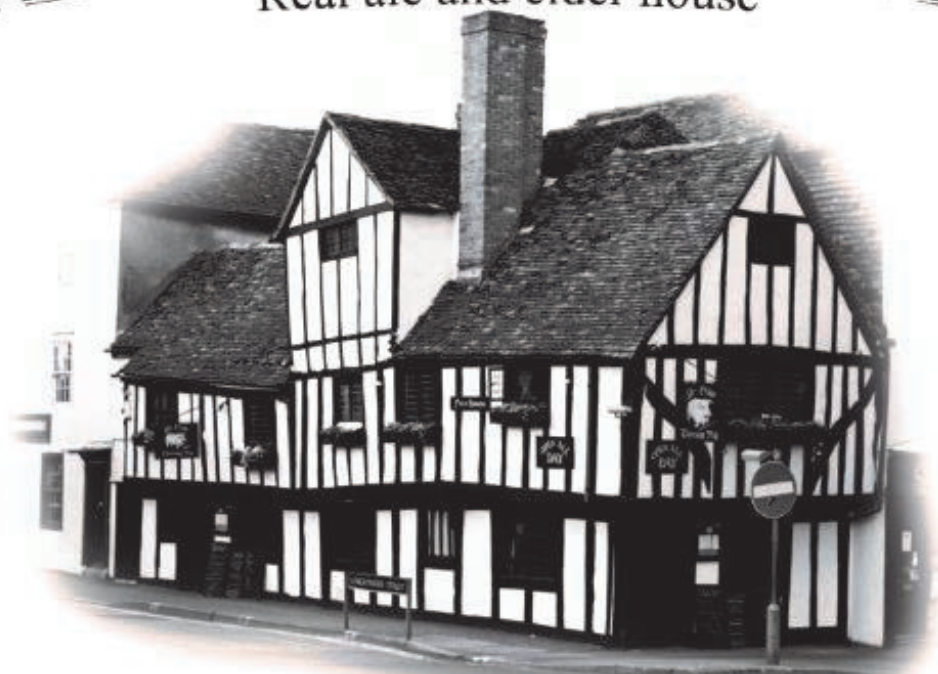
**Kings Arms, Grafty Green** – We met some newly joined members here and they duly received their free pints for attending their first meeting. Biddenden cider is kept and the regular beers are *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*.

**Who'd A Thought It, Grafty Green** – *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* are regulars here.

**Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone** – After a long period of construction this new outlet opened on 19<sup>th</sup> December. It is in the cellar of the old *Style & Winch* brewery between Buckland Road and Rocky Hill. It is somewhat larger than what we know as a micropub, but the capacity is limited to

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55 due to fire restrictions. Five casks were ready for the expected rush on opening day but this will vary according to demand. There is a large cooled cellar room with stillage for 20 casks, so plenty will be available to cover variation in trade. Initial offerings were from *Dark Star*, *Ramsgate*, *Mordue* and *Kent* breweries. A discount of 10p/5p per pint/half is offered for card carrying CAMRA members.



**First & Last, Maidstone** – I am informed there are new lessees here but have yet received no confirmation of this. Updates welcomed, please.

**Fishermans Arms, Maidstone** – *Shepherd Neame* have reached an agreement for this to be run free of tie. Valerie Gillingham is the new incumbent, having previously run the **British Queen** for some years. The interior has been painted white giving a brighter appearance. *Gemstone Sapphire* was on offer for the opening with one guest pump. *Gemstone Fire Opal* appeared a few days later. Expect to see more of Val's own *Gemstone* ales in due course. The number of pumps will be increased as the trade picks up. Initial opening times are 4.30-11 Mon-Thu; 3-11 Fri; 12 -midnight Sat; 12-10 Sun.

**Pilot, Maidstone** – Joe and Charlotte Houlihan have now been at the pub for over a year, and have increased the number of *Harvey's* real ales in that time. The pub doesn't open before 6pm, except on Sundays, when roast dinners (book in advance) are followed by live music in the afternoon. *Harvey's Old* was particularly good when tried recently

**Rifle Volunteers, Maidstone** – This unspoilt pub has now been placed on the CAMRA National Heritage list as it has an historic interior of regional importance. Matt and Gina will be pleased to see visitors who appreciate our heritage and wish to have one or two of their fine locally brewed *Goachers* ales from the four pumps. Snacks are also available. Follow the links below for the Heritage Pubs entry [www.heritagepubs.org.uk/pubs/historic-pub-interior-entry.asp?pubid=7307](http://www.heritagepubs.org.uk/pubs/historic-pub-interior-entry.asp?pubid=7307) and [www.whatpub.com/pubs/MAI/165](http://www.whatpub.com/pubs/MAI/165).

**Sun, Maidstone** – Re-opened with a new licensee serving *Harveys Sussex Best* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* initially.

**Queens Head, Mereworth** – The ACV application for this closed pub did not happen as the owner did not want it and the local council backed out of the application.



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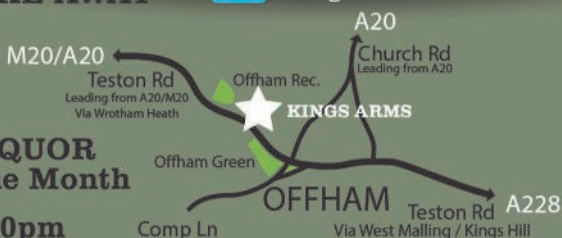
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**Tickled Trout, West Farleigh** – Re-opened following a major refit with manager Henrietta Hall presiding. The restaurant is now entered via the left door and the pub is on the right and meals may also be taken there. The food is of high quality with unusual dishes served. Initial bar selections were the excellent *PinUp Red Head* together with *PinUp Winter Stick* and *Thornbridge Ashford*, so there could well be some further interesting beers featured. A covered outdoor Bistro eating area in the garden and a pizza oven will be installed. It is now awaiting the warmer and drier weather. There will be six letting rooms available . Web: [www.thetickledtrout.com](http://www.thetickledtrout.com) and Facebook: TheTickledTroutKent.

**Lobster Pot, West Malling** – This has been purchased by the owners of the Swan restaurant close by. We are told it may become an Italian restaurant, not that West Malling is lacking in restaurants.

**Scared Crow, West Malling**—Tina continues to offer tasty Mexican food and well-kept ale at this little treasure of an out-of-the-way pub. There are usually two house beers from *Adnams* plus one guest.



**Walnut Tree, Yalding** - Suffered a fire with quite a bit of damage to the restaurant but fortunately managed to get back into action just a week before Christmas. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Tonbridge Coppernob* have been the permanent beers stocked, with up to two guest ales. Facebook: TheWalnutTreeYalding Web: [www.walnuttreeyalding.co.uk](http://www.walnuttreeyalding.co.uk)

With over 700 members it is disappointing to see so few during our perambulations. Please come along to a meeting and make yourselves known to us. Also any feedback concerning pubs via *WhatPub* would be welcome.

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## CAMRA RECOGNISES RIFLE VOLUNTEERS as one of the UK's heritage pubs. A new entry for 2016.

[www.heritagepubs.org.uk/pubs/historic-pub-interior-entry.asp?pubid=7307](http://www.heritagepubs.org.uk/pubs/historic-pub-interior-entry.asp?pubid=7307)

Taken from the website: A stone-built street corner pub built in the 1840s and the **Rifle Volunteers** since 1861, it retains turn of last century bar fittings and is run on very traditional lines. The small single room was two very small rooms until the 1960s when the wall between them was taken out - there are still doors on Wyatt Street and Union Street sides. It retains what looks like a late Victorian panelled bar counter curved on the right with brackets running all along the front and at the lower end of each is a carved five pointed leaf. It has a Melamine top which was probably added in 1950, the date on the set of three Dalex handpumps.



There are two bar back fittings – that on the right is a most impressive two-bay one with a mirrored back and old shelving in the top half, a narrow counter top with bottle shelves below, surviving cash drawers on the far left and right and some similar brackets on the lower shelving; the left hand bar back is mirrored and dates from 1950/60s. Another interesting feature is internal half shutters housed in boxing beneath three of the windows – these were brought back into use in 2015. The counter is surmounted with a modern pot shelf from which are suspended pewter mugs.

This pub is something of a timewarp, with no TV, fruit machines, pool table, piped music or jukebox; even the till is an old NCR, converted to decimal currency in 1971: the maximum that can be rung up is £2.99½. Through a door on the left there is a passage with some old dado panelling leading to the toilets.



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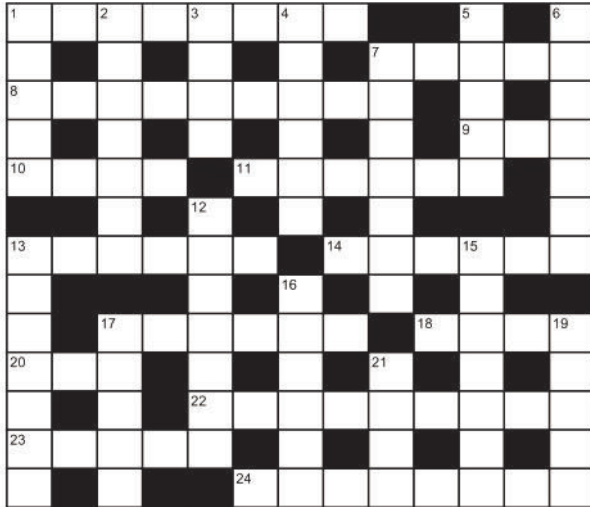
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# The Draught Copy Crossword No. 21

compiled by MICK NORMAN

*Solution in next issue*



## Solution to Crossword No. 20



3, 4, 7 across, 9 and 11 are of a kind, and lack further definition

### Across

- 1 Remove carbon monoxide compound, so weakened (8)
- 7 Drug found by public conveniences (5)
- 8 Assad carnage mostly stirred by Mrs Rodney Trotter! (9)
- 9 Part of a Royal Enfield (3)
- 10 Smelly position (4)
- 11 A trend abandoned (6)
- 13 Pole found in Venice capital (6)
- 14 Complain about job, etc (6)
- 17 Mr Blue is aroused, getting wood! (6)
- 18 Nelson, one-eyed, dying to some extent (4)
- 20 Disturbance at a party (3)
- 22 Justin's festival? (9)
- 23 Axl Rose loses chopper and breaks down - what a failure! (5)
- 24 Yes, German leads with one lap to go. Hot stuff! (8)

### Down

- 1 Oklahoma, Showboat, Carousel - all recorded originally for Hammerstein (5)
- 2 Core Home Counties scene developed (7)
- 3 A cry for help (4)
- 4 In trouble - may wed! (6)
- 5 Lose hair, having seen the doctor last month (5)
- 6 Gordon the playwright? (7)
- 7 Lazy Ben cast as Bond (7)
- 12 I dream learner crashed posh car (7)
- 13 Beheaded Prime Minister is foreign national (7)
- 15 Back the last to finish at Aintree, said the Cockney (7)
- 16 Model discarded nitrate prepared for part of the eye (6)
- 17 Eastern soul reincarnated as insect (5)
- 19 Many a hooligan gives a cry of excitement (5)
- 21 Scandinavian group is the same, whichever way you look at it (4)

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

I'm writing these notes in December 2015 shortly after the Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch AGM and I'm pleased to report that the branch has a full committee, although we would appreciate assistance from general members to update and complete our section of the CAMRA website [www.whatpub.com](http://www.whatpub.com), as about a quarter of our 142 real ale pubs require full details. Several others need updating, as the pub scene is constantly changing. My colleague Bob Marsh has been obtaining details for the pubs in Wilmington, easily accessible by bus from Dartford and reports as follows:-

The first pub selling real ale as you leave Dartford from Lowfield Street on the A225 and on the 414 bus route, on the left is the **Cressy Arms**, just by the traffic lights in Wilmington. It has a reasonably-sized single bar, and serves *Courage Best* and a rotating guest, on my visit a very pleasant *Hadley's Gold*. At the rear is a covered and heated patio used as a smoking area. The pub is open 12-11.30pm Monday to Thursday, 12-12 Friday and Saturday and 10.30am-11.30pm on Sundays. At the time of writing food was not available, as the new licensee had just taken over on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Just 50 yards further up the road, opposite on the right, is the **Orange Tree**, a *Shepherd Neame* pub which seems to concentrate on food, both carvery and menu, available lunchtime and evenings. Beers on my visit were *Master Brew* and *Spitfire Gold*, the latter barely drinkable (probably sat in the pipe too long and not pulled through). There is space in front for about ten vehicles and the pub is open 11.30am-12 midnight from Sunday to Thursday and until 1am on Friday and Saturday. There is a large paved garden to the rear with a covered/heated smoking area.

Close by is Church Hill (B258) on the 477 bus route. Up the hill in Wilmington village, on the left is the **Plough**, a Star Pubs establishment selling, on my visit, *Courage Best* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, both in good condition. Food is served Tuesday to Saturday lunchtimes with a roast lunch on Sundays (best to book by phone). There is a large grassed garden with slides and swings and a covered smoking area well away from the children's play area. The landlord, Mark Powell, is on a "dryathlon" for 2015 in aid of Cancer Research and has currently raised over £1,300. There is ample parking space at the back of the pub.



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Further up the road, near to Wilmington Stores, is the imposing **Foresters**. The only beer on handpump is *Sharp's Doom Bar*, which was not available on my visit – awaiting fresh stock. They were currently “between chefs” so the only hot food was Sunday lunch (1-5pm). The landlord was not present on my visit so I couldn't obtain many details. There is a large car park to the rear and some parking at the front.

Bob Marsh has mentioned four pubs in Wilmington, but the parish of Wilmington has six pubs which might seem rather a lot for a relatively small population. This is partly due to historical restrictive covenants

creating the “dry” areas of Hextable and Joydens Wood. Between these publess places, not far from the TFL bus route B12 stop in Birchwood Road, we find the **Ship** in Puddledock Lane. The **Ship** is unusual in retaining a totally separate, rather basic, traditional public bar with a dartboard. The main bar has a small conservatory which overlooks the garden with its children's playground



(swings, slide and climbing frame) and a large covered, paved and heated wooden smoking shelter, overlooked by a life-size model of a pirate. The pub is family friendly and serves hot meals every day from midday until 6pm (4pm Sundays) and the two real ales on my visit were *Wychwood Hobgoblin* and an enjoyable *Theakston's Old Peculier*. Various other beers from the *Enterprise* range appear on rotation.

Last, but certainly not least, of the pubs in Wilmington is the **Horse & Groom** in Leyton Cross Road, which re-opened to the public on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 following extensive renovation and refurbishment. The large site had been empty and boarded for many months and was a prime target for housing development. I find it refreshing and



laudable that a private company has restored this building and added a new extension comprising a single storey dining area with an emphasis on locally produced food and a changing, seasonal menu. Eight handpumps adorn the bar featuring local beers: a *Tonbridge Brewery* beer is always available and *Bexley Brewery*, *Caveman* and *Kent Brewery* are

well represented, amongst others. Despite a high price tag for the aforementioned “dry” area we thoroughly recommend visiting the **Horse & Groom**, which is close to the A2 main road, has a large car park, and the B12 bus stops directly outside.

Bob Marsh also visited the **Papermakers Arms** in Hawley back on the main road, going away from Wilmington (towards Farningham). Since George and Lisa took over a year ago this pub has returned to the good standard of previously. Beers are *Sharp’s Doom Bar* and one from the *Caveman Brewery* range, both in good condition. The kitchen has been refurbished and meals from an extensive menu are served 12-3 Monday to Friday, 12-4 Saturday and Sunday, with evening meals 6-9 Wednesday to Saturday. There are frequent offers for seniors. There is ample parking at the front of the pub and a large grassed beer garden with a children’s play area at the rear.

As suggested in the Autumn 2015 issue the other pub in Hawley, the **Four Lymes**, has finally been converted and at the time of writing will shortly open as the *Hawley Kitchen Indian Restaurant*. In that issue we asked if anyone had any ideas about the future of the currently closed **Greyhound** in Sutton-at-Hone. Nobody replied and nobody seems to care so the building remains looking rather sad. However I called in briefly at the **Ship**, the other pub in Sutton-at-Hone and enjoyed a surprisingly refreshing half pint of *Marstons Pedigree New World Pale Ale* in a comfortable atmosphere. I can remember back in the 1970s when every pub on the road from Dartford to and including Farningham was owned by *Courage* and only offered keg beer. Those that remain open today all serve at least one good real ale.

Owing to a change of licensee at the **Coach & Horses** in Northfleet the venue of our Xmas social was changed at short notice to the **Bird in Hand**, Dartford Road, Dartford. This event was well attended as we were joined by several members of Bexley CAMRA branch. Many thanks to Adam for providing the Thai curry, buffet and quality beers, being *Harvey’s Sussex Best Bitter*, *Millis Dartford Wobbler* and *Adnams Lighthouse* on the night.

In the Autumn 2015 issue Bob Marsh wrote about “The Pubs of Dartford” and the “western border” pubs have improved significantly in terms of real ale availability. Apart from the improved and increased beer range at the **Bird in Hand**, the **Ship** has been selling *Goddard’s Fuggle-de-Dum*. The **Rose & Crown**, at the top of West Hill, now has



three operational handpumps dispensing more interesting guest beers, often at special reduced prices. Over the road, at the **Oddfellows**, three new handpumps were installed in December, initially offering *Fullers London Pride* and *Greene King IPA*, an encouraging development for the self-styled “Sports and Entertainment Bar” which has not sold real ale for many years. I can remember back in the 1970s when every pub on the road from Dartford to Crayford was owned by *Courage* or *Charrington* and offered only keg beer. Now all the pubs serve real ale with the exception of the **Harvester** restaurant, formerly the **Rising Sun**.

Speaking of *Charrington's*, their most readily available real ale in our area during the 70s and 80s was *Charrington's IPA*, which ceased to be brewed sometime in the mid 1990s. Adrian Moss has spotted this beer (November 2015) and reports that the **Jolly Drayman** in Gravesend recently and briefly had *Charrington's IPA* as one of its four real ales. For anyone who doesn't already know, this is brewed by Steve Wellington, a veteran brewer with *Bass* and their successors, at the *William Worthington Brewery* at the *National Brewery Centre* in Burton upon Trent. Its only supplier in the South East is *AVS* and we'd like to thank Phil Rush of *AVS* for supplying some background information.

The **Jolly Drayman**, co-incidentally in Wellington Street, is a particularly appropriate outlet, as it was a *Charrington's* pub and once part of the *Walker's Brewery*, sold to *Charrington's* in 1905 and operated by them until it burnt down in 1928. Older readers may remember that the pub was in the *Good Beer Guide* (from the first issue in 1974) for many consecutive years while selling *IPA* as its only real ale. A check with some *CAMRA* guides to real ale pubs in Kent from the period suggests that there is now little or no chance of finding this beer in its other local outlets of the period. The beer is brewed to a recipe from 1957 and is somewhat stronger than the later version most readers would have known. A first pint suggested it was also less sweet and more bitter than before. It was certainly well received and gone within two days.

Adrian also reports that the **Grapes** in Milton Road, Gravesend was recently closed for a few days for redecoration. No major structural alteration took place though the interior and exterior were repainted. The effect has been to refresh and brighten up the interior, with a look the landlord describes as “like a wine bar”, but which could also suggest one of the smaller pubs in the City of London. Alterations behind the scenes will lead to the availability of food in the near future and a third

handpump which will make it easier to maintain at least one pale bitter and one darker in this *Shepherd Neame* tied house, the last such in Gravesend.

The **Grapes** only sells *Shepherd Neame* beers but an increasing number of *Shepherd Neame* tied houses are allowed to offer a guest ale from another brewery; the latest pub in our area to be added to the list is the **Rose & Crown** in Wrotham, as mentioned briefly in the previous issue. The **Stage Door** in Dartford and the **Chequers** in Heaverham have also been recorded in this category, and we'd appreciate information about other *Shepherd Neame* tied houses offering guest beers from other breweries or even an extended range of their own seasonal and occasional beers.

The most significant pub closure during the last quarter of 2015 was very sudden and very sad indeed, being the **Crown & Thistle** in Gravesend, the CAMRA National Pub of the Year in 2003. The branch immediately processed an Asset of Community Value (ACV) application, which was accepted by Gravesham Council in December 2015 so we are awaiting further developments. Also in Gravesend the **Troadero, Bar 59** (ex **Albion**) and the **Three Tuns** also closed as pubs in 2015.

Finally, on a happier note, I would like to mention our visit to the *BrewBuddies* Open Day and Beer Festival on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is a new brewery, located in a small unit at Highlands Farm Business Park near Swanley Village, a five minute walk from the Five Wents 477 bus stop on the B258 Hextable to Swanley road. Seven of their beers, in short: *BB01, HA01, IPA01, IPA02, PA02, SH01, SH02*: plus *Caveman Cavedweller* were on stillage for us to sample. Personally I was very impressed with the quality and range of the BB beers, brewed by Simon Tippett and Murray East (see photo)



and was also surprised to find that some of the beers are also bottled on site. The full names, styles and description of the beers and a current list of outlets can be found on website [www.brew-buddies.co.uk](http://www.brew-buddies.co.uk). The short names look like the first half of post codes. Their own post code BR8 is difficult to expand into a beer style but my own code DA1 could become a dark ale DA01. Now there's a thought!

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

Greetings and Happy New Year from all at Bexley CAMRA.

After the fire on August bank holiday Monday, which badly damaged the **New Cross Turnpike**, Wetherspoons tell us that they are to re-open on 2 February. The **Leather Bottle** in Belvedere has now, sadly, closed its doors, possibly for good. The branch is in the process of applying for Asset of Community Value status for the pub. The **Albany** at Albany Park has had its handpumps re-instated and is selling *Doom Bar*. The **Yacht** (Bexleyheath) and our three John Barras pubs, **Black Horse** (Sidcup), **Jolly Fenman** (Blackfen) and **We Anchor in Hope** (Welling) have all changed to *Greene King* as part of the Spirit group sale earlier in the year. They all still offer CAMRA discount. The **Yacht** and the **We Anchor in Hope** have only *Greene King* beer whilst the other two retain guest ales alongside the *Greene King* beers. As always, we appeal to you the drinkers and publicans to help keep the branch up to date by submitting information either via [www.WhatPub.com](http://www.WhatPub.com) or by contacting us, either using the contact details at the top of this article or our Pubs Officer Ian Wright on 07779 319196 or [bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk).

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual; in October we visited the **Charlotte** in Crayford, November it was the **Tailors Chalk** in Sidcup and in December the **Broken Drum** in Blackfen. We thank the licensees for accommodating us.

In October our quiz team successfully defended our previous win at the **Penny Farthing**. Also in October, a party of workers from the Beer Festival went on a Saturday social, firstly to *Wild Weather Brewery* and then on to pubs to the west of Reading. An enjoyable day was had by all who attended. This is one of the perks of working at our festival, so if you feel so inclined, please come along and join our happy crew at this year's festival. It runs from Thursday 5 May to Saturday 7 May at **Old Dartfordians Sports Club** in Bexley. We will also require help before and after to set up and take down. Our normal social in October was held in Blackfen where we visited the **Broken Drum**: *Bespoke – Kotaku, Nelson – Loose Cannon* and *Orkney – Dragonhead*, and the **George Staples**: *Brentwood – Spooky Moon, Brains – Bread of Heaven, Shepherd Neame – Spooky* and *Wantsum – First Gold*.





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Hot food.

Live music on Saturday.

Entry tickets, which includes  
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[www.orpingtonliberalclub.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonliberalclub.co.uk)

£3 refundable glass deposit.

### CAMRA AWARDS

National Club of the Year finalist 2016, 2014  
Greater London Regional Club of the Year  
2015, 2013

Bromley Branch Club of the Year  
2015, 2014, 2013

Good Beer Guide 2016, 2015, 2014

Guide to London's Best Beer, Pubs and Bars  
2nd edition 2015

In November some of us attended the Welling United Supporters Club beer festival. This was a small festival held in the supporters club on a Friday night and featured ten beers, two ciders and a perry. I am pleased to report that the beer was in excellent condition and for the first time everything ran out on the Friday evening, leaving nothing for the fans to drink before the game the following day. Also in November we had a minibus trip to *Westerham Brewery* where we were made most welcome and given eight ales to sample. From here we went to three different pubs, one across the county boundary into darkest Surrey for lunch before returning to Kent and ending in the Regional pub of the year 2014, the **Windmill** at Sevenoaks Weald.

Finally a reminder to all members of Bexley CAMRA, the voting for the branch pub of the year and club of the year is now open: any pub in the London Borough of Bexley which sells real ale can be voted for in the pub of the year category, and any club selling real ale can be voted for in the club of the year category. You can send your votes (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) to [bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk), or Ian Wright 134a Crayford Road, Crayford, Kent, DA1 4ES or bring them to a meeting or social as listed in the diary. The closing date is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Please remember to put your name and membership number on your entry.

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# 11<sup>th</sup> BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016

NOTE CHANGE OF DATES AGAIN THIS YEAR

## Old Dartfordians Sports Club

War Memorial Club House  
Bourne Road  
Bexley  
Kent  
DA5 1LW

## 75+ Beers & Ciders

In large Marquee, not squashed into small hall like 2013

## Souvenir glass, Hot & Cold Meals, (snacks & soft drinks available at Club bar)

Updates available nearer the date on [www.bexley.camra.org.uk](http://www.bexley.camra.org.uk)

### Admission:

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 6 May

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May

5pm-11pm £2.50, CAMRA members £1.50

11am-5pm £2.50, CAMRA members Free

5pm-11pm £2.50, CAMRA members £1.50

11am-11pm £2.50, CAMRA members £1.50

(While stock lasts)

Concessions for under 25s – To be confirmed

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...in Berlin! (To misquote President Kennedy).

I spent a few days in Berlin recently, and visited many brewpubs and a few of the more traditional ones as well. Travelling around the city is easy, with a plethora of buses, trams and assorted trains. You can buy a day ticket for all modes, and a (not widely advertised) weekly ticket for about five times the cost of a daily. Underground (U-Bahn) stations are marked 'U' and surface trains 'S' at stations, on maps and bus destinations. Regional trains (routes prefixed RE) can be used for journeys within the Berlin zones A/B/C, according to which ticket you asked for. I used various websites and the *CAMRA Guide to Germany* (2006) to find suitable pubs, with mixed results! Not all these pubs were visited in one day, I hasten to add!

My first port of call was **Leibhaftig**, at 30 Metzgerstrasse, near Senefelderplatz station on line U2. This is the home of *Wanke Bräu* (stop tittering at the back!), and is a very stylish bar selling their own *Pils*, *Weizen* (wheat beer) and *Dunkel* (dark), all at €4.20 per half-litre, which is the default quantity in this article. I tried the latter two and found them excellent and not too gassy. The pub sells food, but not meals as such.

As I was quite hungry, the locals recommended another pub just along the road, called **Metzer Eck**. This is a more traditional German pub with five draught beers including *Budvar* and *Krusovice* from the Czech Republic, but nothing too unusual. Food is typically German and good value, and there are English menus available, as I found out from a couple from Texas after I had ordered my meal in German! The draught beers were €3.10 – 3.40, but I settled for a bottled *Weissbier* at €3.60.

The next bar sounded odd, but was even odder. This was **Heiden Peters**, and the 'pub' is a stall in the far left corner of an indoor market, in Eisenbahnstrasse, NW of Görlitzer Bahnhof, normally on U1, but the lines had been re-jigged during long-term works. There were four draught beers; *Thirsty Lady* 4.9%, *Amerikaan IPA* 5.6%, *Pale Ale* 5.4% and *Watermelon Man* at 4.1%, all at €2.50 – 3.00 for a 0.3L glass. Six types of their own bottled beer were also on sale. The *IPA* and *Pale Ale* were really nice. Seating seems to be on former market display stands. A great idea – totally unexpected.

**Hops and Barley** is easy to find by taking Tram M13 to the Wuhlichstrasse/Gartnerstrasse stop. This pub opened in 2008 in a former butcher's shop, still with the decorative tiling that you used to see in such places. The draught beers were *Friedrichshainer Pilsner*, *Dunkles*,

*Weizen* (all €3.10) and *Spezial* (€3.50). The brewing kit is in the bar. *Dunkles* was very enjoyable as was the *Spezial*, described on the board as 'Half US, Half Aussie!' Snacks are available.

**Beerkombinat Kreuzberg** on Mannteufelstrasse was just opening as I arrived at 7.50, despite the supposed 6pm start. The pub was dark, the barman decidedly laid back and the whole place a bit weird! There were five beers on draught, but no mention of the brewery, which was odd. Most of the seating consisted of black sofas, most of the lighting being provided by a large TV showing football. I tried the *Dunkles* (€3.50) which was OK. The smoking ban doesn't seem to have reached this pub yet, with the barman and the only other customer puffing away. I was glad to leave.

A more traditional pub in the city centre tourist area is **Zum Letzten Instant** (literally 'at the last moment'). This is on Waisenstrasse and is easily found from Klosterstrasse on U2. The pub is behind the big white church. This is a very nicely furnished pub dating from 1621, which is mainly geared for diners, most of whom seemed to be English. There were four beers, of which I tried the dark and delicious *Markische Landmann* at €4.60 – ouch!

A ten-minute walk brought me, almost by accident, to **Zum Nussbaum**, in an even more touristy area. There were four draught beers here also, and I had the *Schoffhofer Weizen* which, at 4.10, was the most expensive. This appears to be a very old building, but was in fact rebuilt very professionally after bomb damage in WW2, to its original layout. The end result is very good, and the food selection is also very traditional. Off to the next pub.

The easiest way to get to **Luisen-Bräu** is to catch bus M45 to Luisenplatz. The pub is the impressively huge building on the NE corner of the crossroads. Eight draught beers were on sale from *Lemke Brewery*, some at eye-watering prices. Starting at the lower end, I tried *Original* at 5.4% and €4.50, the cheapest beer on sale. It looked a bit like *Goacher's Dark*, but wasn't really to my taste. My next beer was *India Pale Ale* (6.5%, €5.50), which was superb, more like an American IPA. I then realised that two beers had cost me 10 euros, but I worked it out to £7, which was what we would pay for two beers over here, so that wasn't so bad.

For my last beer of the night, I decided to go mad and try the 10% *Imperial IPA*, which was €4.00 for a 0.2L glass. Wow! What a beer! Mind

you, it wasn't top of the range. That is *Imperial Stout*, which is 11%, and €5 for 0.2L or €15 for 0.66L. Blimey! There was a booklet (in English) available, which had a page about each of their beers, and a history of the brewery. A magnificent pub, but be prepared for the prices.

My last two pubs were in the district of Wedding (pronounced Vedding). From Seestrasse station on U6, walk to Antwerperstrasse. To find the **Vagabund Bräuerei**, which is a very pleasant bar in a select area, run by a young lad from London! Four draughts, three of them their own, were on the board. I first tried the 5.5% *Blonde*, which was cloudy and very tasty at €3.60 for 0.4L.

I declined the *Smoked Ale* (memories of Bamberg!) and the next on the list was *Wit Bier*, described as 'Salted Lime'. The barman offered a taster, luckily. I thought the lime was acceptable but the salt a bit too much. The locals like it, apparently. I plumped for the non-Vagabund beer, *Schonramer Hell*, which was better than average for its type. The décor and music made for a nice atmosphere.

To get to the next pub of interest, turn right out of **Vagabund** and keep going, through the small park and across the main road. Take the next left into Triftstrasse and look for building number 67 on the right.

I diverted at the junction to the **Irish Pub Berlin** in order to get some food. Thankfully, they sold non-Irish beers as well, so I had a *Maisel's Dunkel Weisse* (€3.50) with my fish and chips (jacket wedges, actually). There was football on the telly so, like everyone else, I sat outside.

I continued along Triftstrasse to find **Eschenbräu**, in a strange location among blocks of flats. There is a large outdoor drinking area and an equally large bar inside, with four draughts; regulars *Pils*, *Dunkel*, *Weiss*, and the seasonal *Schwarze Molle*, all at a very reasonable €3.10.

A leaflet lists 20 seasonal beers for the whole year, with start dates for each one. *Schwarze Molle* (4.9%) was a bit like a porter, and very enjoyable. *Weiss* was paler than most wheat beers, with a hint of lemon – very nice. The *Dunkel* was OK, with a slightly unusual taste.

Snacks were available, with a steady demand for frozen pizzas! The beer mats were in the shape of the city of Berlin. The music can be a bit heavy at times. All in all, the place defies description!

This was the best Wedding I've ever been to! Flights to Berlin are plentiful and cheap, so why not give it a try?



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# CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

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

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

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

## FEBRUARY

- 4 **MMK** **Anchor**, Yalding, then **George**, then **Walnut Tree**
- 4 **GDV** 8pm **Amazon & Tiger**, Harvel, **Green Man**, Hodsoll Street, ...
- 10 **BEX** **Door Hinge**, Welling [*OBM*]
- 10 **GDV** 8pm **Five Bells**, Eynsford, **Bull**, Horton Kirby, **Queen**, S. Darent
- 11 **MMK** **Bell Bearsted**, then **Oak on the Green**
- 13 **BEX** 12noon 96 bus crawl meet **New Cross Turnpike**, Welling
- 17 **GDV** 8pm **Old House**, Ightham Common, **Plough**, Basted, ...
- 18 **MMK** **Walnut Tree**, Loose, then **Chequers**
- 20 **MMK** Annual Dinner, **Great House**, Hawkhurst
- 24 **BEX** 8pm **Furze Wren**, Bexleyheath [*GBG selection meeting*]
- 25 **GDV** **Conservative Social Club**, Dartford [*OBM and GBG selection*]
- 25 **MMK** West Malling walkabout, start **Farmhouse**

## MARCH

- 1 **MMK** 11:49 Bus & walk to Sandway and Hollingbourne
- 3 **MMK** **Plough**, Langley, then **Cock**, **Boughton Monchelsea**
- 9 **BEX** **Duchess of Kent**, **Northumberland Heath** [*OBM*]
- 9 **GDV** **Ship**, then **Horse & Groom**, Wilmington
- 10 **MMK** **Stile Bridge**, Marden [*OBM*]
- 12 **MMK** 11:15 Bus trip to Upchurch and Lower Halstow
- 17 **MMK** **George**, Trottiscliffe, then **Plough**
- 17 **GDV** **See Ho**, then **Rose & Crown**, Shorne
- 23 **GDV** **Golden Lion**, Luddesdown, then **Kings Arms**, ...
- 23 **BEX** 8pm **Equitable**, then **Tap & Roses**, Woolwich
- 24 **MMK** Maidstone Walkabout - **Old House at Home**, Earls, **Druids Arms**
- 25 **MMK** 11:08 Good Friday Ramble – Newington to Lower Halstow
- 31 **MMK** **Woodcock**, Iden Green, then **Bull**, Benenden

## APRIL

- 7 **MMK** **West End Tavern**, Marden, then **Unicorn**, then **Marden Club**
- 7 **GDV** **Three Daws**, Gravesend [*OBM*]
- 9 **MMK** 08:45 Bus trip to Rye
- 13 **BEX** **George Staples**, Blackfen
- 14 **MMK** **Bell & Jorrocks**, Frittenden (beer festival)
- 20 **GDV** **Ship**, Sutton-at-Hone, **Papermakers Arms**, Hawley
- 21 **MMK** **King's Arms**, Staplehurst, then **Lord Raglan**
- 23 **MMK** 11:37 Bus/train trip to **Chequers**, Laddingford beer festival
- 26 **MMK** 10:36 Bus Trip to Dagenham and Upminster (bus pass req'd.)
- 27 **BEX** 8pm **Old Dartfordians**, Bexley [*social & beer festival meeting*]
- 28 **GDV** **Red Lion**, Rosherville; **Coach & Horses**, Northfleet
- 28 **MMK** **Queens**, Hawkhurst, then **Oak & Ivy** [*DC Distribution*]



\* 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](http://www.goachers.com)