

Draught Copy



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

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

Summer 2016 No. 183

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS, MAIDSTONE MAIDSTONE AND MID-KENT BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR 2016



Many congratulations to Matt and Gina
for winning this accolade after just one year.

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 3400 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:

3 Barham Mews

Teston

Kent ME18 5BL

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 June 2016 for publication in August 2016.

Visit our **new** website at www.mmk.camra.org.uk/

On Twitter at www.twitter.com/mmkcamra



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 not too far away

CAMRA

www.camra.org.uk/events

3RD KIDBROOKE BEER FESTIVAL

MAY 26—28

Charlton Park Rugby Club

60a Broad Walk, Kidbrooke

London SE3 8NB

50+ real ales & 20+ ciders

www.sel.camra.org.uk

20TH SOUTH DOWNS BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

JUNE 17

Lewes Town Hall, Fisher St, Lewes

BN7 2QS

80+ real ales from Sussex and across the UK; plus ciders & perries

KENT AND EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY BEER FESTIVAL

JUNE 17—18

Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden, TN30 6HE

www.camra-afm.org.uk

42ND KENT BEER FESTIVAL

JULY 21—23

Merton Farm, Merton Lane

Canterbury CT4 7BA

Around 200 real ales and ciders

www.kentbeerfestival.com

CAMRA CRICKET MARQUEE

JULY 31

Kent CCC Spitfire Ground

Old Dover Rd

Canterbury CT1 3NZ

Hospitality marquee for Kent v Glos (31st) and Worcs (3rd-6th), for CAMRA members and their guests.

www.camra-canterbury.org.uk

Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

May 23—26

George & Dragon

1 London Road, Swanscombe

DA10 0LQ

georgedragonswanscombe.co.uk

June 17-19

Windmill Tavern

45 Shrubbery Road

Gravesend DA12 1JW

June 18

MENCAP Summer Fayre

Mote Park, Maidstone

Maidstone CAMRA serving 6 beers with all proceeds to the Charity

June 18—19

George

Benover Road, Yalding ME18 6EJ

thegeorgeyalding.co.uk

July 15-16

Style & Winch

72 Union Street

Maidstone ME14 1ED

www.thestyleandwinch.co.uk

July 22—24

Cricketers

Wrotham Road, Meopham

DA13 0QA

August 6—7

Duke of Wellington

Birling Road, Ryarsh ME19 5LS

www.dukeofwellingtonryarsh.com



'BREWERY OF THE YEAR'

2016 Good Pub Guide Awards

2016



HARVEYS

The Sussex Brewers

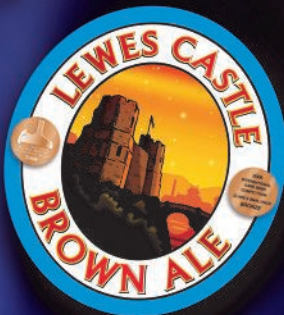


**WORLD'S
BEST
MILD ALE**

*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*

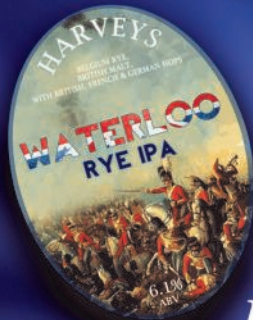


**BEER OF THE
FESTIVAL**

*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

12 Bar Brewing Co.	07860 165048	<i>www.12barbrewingco.co.uk</i>
Amazing Brewery	01303 248525	
Attwell's Brewery	07966 586642	<i>www.attwellsbrewery.com</i>
Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	<i>bexleybrewery.co.uk</i>
Brew Buddies		<i>www.brew-buddies.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	<i>www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	<i>www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk</i>
Caveman Brewery	07769 710665	<i>www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</i>
Dartford Wobbler	01322 866233	<i>dartfordwobbler.com</i>
Four Candles	07947 062063	<i>mike@thefourcandles.co.uk</i>
Goacher's	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
Goody Ales	07790 443810	<i>www.goodyales.co.uk</i>
G2	01233 630277	<i>www.g2brewing.com</i>
HopDaemon	01795 892078	<i>www.hopdaemon.com</i>
Hop Fuzz	07850 441267	<i>www.hopfuzz.co.uk</i>
Isla Vale Alesmiths	01843 292451	<i>islavalealesmiths.co.uk</i>
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	<i>www.kentbrewery.com</i>
Larkins	01892 870328	<i>www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk</i>
Mad Cat Brewery	07960 263615	<i>www.madcatbrewery.co.uk</i>
Maidstone Brewing Co.	01622 757705	<i>info@maidstonebrewing.co.uk</i>
Millis Brewery has rebranded as the Dartford Wobbler —see above		
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	<i>www.musketbrewery.co.uk</i>
Nelson Brewing Co.	01634 832828	<i>www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</i>
Old Dairy Brewing Co.	01580 763867	<i>www.olddairybrewery.com</i>
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	<i>www.thefarriersarms.com</i>
Pig and Porter	01424 893519	<i>pigandporter.co.uk</i>
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	<i>www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</i>
Ripple Steam Brewery	07917 037611	<i>www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</i>
Rockin' Robin Brewery	01622 747106	<i>www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk</i>
Romney Marsh Brewery	01797 362333	<i>www.romneymarshbrewery.com</i>
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	<i>www.shepherd-neame.co.uk</i>
Swan, West Peckham	01622 812271	<i>www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</i>
Time and Tide	07840 327265	<i>timeandtidebrewing.co.uk</i>
Tír Dhá Ghlas	01304 211666	<i>www.cullinsyard.co.uk</i>
Tonbridge Brewery	01732 366770	<i>www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</i>
Turnstone Ales	See Facebook page	
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	<i>www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</i>
Westerham Brewery	01732 864427	<i>www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</i>
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	<i>www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk</i>

MUSKET BREWERY



CAMRA LOCAL

KENT BEERS!!

"There's more in the barrel!"

Musket Brewery is an independent, Maidstone-based Micro Brewery located at Loddington Farm, Linton, brewing premium REAL ALE at realistic prices. The Musket brewers are **CAMRA** members, who provide these carefully brewed ales for your enjoyment.



MUZZLELOADER
4.5% Kentish Ale



FLINTLOCK
4.2% Best Bitter



FIVE & DRUM
3.8% Golden Ale



TRIGGER
3.6% Pale Ale



POWDER BURN
5.0% Kentish Porter



FLASH IN THE PAN
4% Green Hop Ale

**Seasonal
Brews!**

Musket Brewery offers a significant promotion campaign on initial orders, to help increase turnover for the licensed trade. Musket has earned a well-deserved reputation for providing **GREAT** beers, supported by exemplary customer service!

Contact Musket Brewery to find out more!!

079671 27 27 8 or 01622 - 749931

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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CALL 07825 394164 OR MAIL PHIL@TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK

Musket moves on with a new team

Musket Brewery Limited of Linton, near Maidstone, is now a wholly-owned family company, following the acquisition of all shares by co-founders, Tony and Linda Williams, from their former business partners.

Founded in October 2013, Musket Brewery has built an enviable reputation for great beers and exemplary customer service throughout Kent and is now set for a new and exciting chapter in the company's short history. Tony Williams explains:

"Thanks to our great friend and brewer, Nigel, Musket Brewery beers are highly sought after throughout the County and we often nudge capacity in our small brewery, which makes the team anxious that we may not be able to meet demand. Since learning of the new developments at Musket, we have been approached by several parties who are interested in investing in the company. With this in mind, we are investigating numerous options for expansion at Loddington Farm, as well as plans for enhancing the structure of the business."

Tony and Linda's son, Rhys, has joined the team and is currently learning the ropes, while close friends, Tony Rogers and Sam Smith are pitching in with customer service. All in all, it's exciting times for Musket Brewery!



Musket Brewery Co-owners Linda and Tony Williams

The Chequers Inn

Laddingford, nr Yalding
Kent ME18 6BP
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www.chequersladdingford.co.uk

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CAMRA Good Beer Guide & Cask Marque award

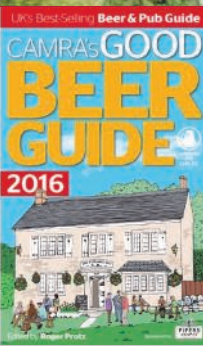
Quiz Night on Monday

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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EAST MALLING

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“Fantastic food”

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In a traditional country pub atmosphere

“Superb country pub”

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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
and follow us on facebook: [KingandQueenEastMalling](https://www.facebook.com/KingandQueenEastMalling)

CAMRA Revitalisation Project

Michael Hardman, one of CAMRA's co-founders back in 1971, is spearheading a project to examine closely CAMRA's aims and aspirations. Some 50 meetings are taking place around the country to sound out members' views on how the Campaign should position itself in the future. Should we continue to concentrate solely on real ale, focus more on pub-goers who like craft beers, or represent everyone who goes to pubs, no matter what they drink? Where do we want to go?

One such meeting is happening at the **Dartford Working Men's Club** on May 18 at 7:30pm (CAMRA members only). Come along to discuss how the pub and beer industry has changed in the period since CAMRA was founded, and who we should represent in the future. All members will have received a booklet and simple questionnaire in the post recently. If you haven't made your views known yet, then we urge you do so now.

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
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 , County Road, Maidstone	All real ales at £3 per pint
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

MAIDSTONES 1ST CRAFT BEER BAR

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ARMS

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THE HOME OF GEMSTONE ALES



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7 DAYS A WEEK**

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POWDER MONKEY RED 4.1%
POWDER MONKEY PALE 4.3%
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The Railway strikes a chord

The **Railway** in Wateringbury has struck a chord with budding musicians, as the village pub now offers free guitar lessons on Thursday evenings.

Recognised as one of Kent's leading music venues, the **Railway** attracts musicians from throughout the county and beyond, with top guitarists willing to share their skills with complete novices and competent players alike on Thursday evenings. Landlord Jay explains:

"Thursday evenings at the Railway have become a magnet for great guitar players and customers are treated to some of the best acoustic guitar pieces being played during informal sessions. But the musicians are also keen to encourage others to play and willingly teach budding guitarists, how to master the instrument with ease. There's great camaraderie with new friendships being formed every week, which makes for wonderful evenings of free acoustic music for villagers."

With some of Kent's best bands playing most weekends, along with the popular Quiz Nights held on Wednesdays, the Railway is fast becoming the village hub in Wateringbury.

See www.therailwaywateringbury.co.uk for more information, or simply pop in!

East Malling Beer and Cider Festival Returns

Maidstone & Mid-Kent CAMRA are holding their popular beer and cider festival again at East Malling Research on Saturday 3rd September, from 11am until 7pm, or when the beer and cider run out!

There is no need to drive, as we are putting on a free festival bus service every 30 minutes from West Malling (05 and 35 minutes past the hour from 1035) and Aylesford stations (29 and 59 past from 1029). There will be live entertainment from two bands, and a wide selection of hot and cold food.

We will have a choice of more than 75 real ales and ciders, and admission is just £5 (free to CAMRA members with a membership card). More details, including the bands, will be on our website nearer the time.

See www.mmk.camra.org.uk/.

Another “Elite” pub for Maidstone!

Bucking the national trend of weekly pub closures, the Elitepubs Group has rescued a derelict pub in Maidstone and plans to turn it into a local landmark of culinary and social excellence.

The ailing **Crown and Horseshoes** at Langley, has been closed for more than a year, and situated in a prominent position on the busy Sutton Road, was fast becoming a local eyesore, with criminals using the building as a clandestine cannabis factory. Now, thanks to the positive vision of the go-ahead Elitepubs team, work has started in securing the premises in preparation for a total refit, to the enviably high standards achieved by the group at their six existing pubs. Managing Director of the Elitepubs Group, Martial Chaussy, explains:



“The thousands of people who pass the pub every week, have witnessed the rapid deterioration of this fine building. However, the structure is sound and we have exciting plans to turn the pub into a centre of dining and social excellence, that Langley and the whole of Maidstone, can be proud of. We have committed significant investment, in the firm belief that the pub, will fast become a magnet for those appreciating fine dining at affordable prices..”

To be renamed the **Potting Shed**, it is hoped that the pub will be opened in the autumn. The news is also welcomed by the local branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

“This is great news. Maidstone has lost so many fine pubs and it was feared that this would become yet another statistic in weekly pub closures. Elitepubs operate three pubs within our branch area, all providing great beers and fine food, backed with exemplary service; it’s a winning formula.” said Ian Clennett, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch.

With a firm belief in supporting the local economy wherever possible, Martial is using local labour, local services and local materials in the refurbishment of the pub, together with plans to source local foods and drinks, when the **Potting Shed** opens.

For more information on the Elitepubs Group, visit www.elitepubs.com.

Photo © Chris Whippet

THE BLACK HORSE INN

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www.wellieboot.net



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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

Wonderful Beers at Laddingford *by Jeff Tucker*

The **Chequers** at Laddingford held its annual beer and cheese festival on St George's Day, 23rd April, with 25 beers set up in the barn outside, and there were some crackers among them. I had time to sample seven of them, and my favourite was *London Fields Hackney Hopster* from East London, which had hops galore. An interesting beer was *Yorkshire Heart Get Pithed*,



which was described as having an orange taste, and it certainly did! Some flavours work in beer, to my mind, such as ginger, but this was the first orange-flavoured beer I have tried, and I liked it. It wouldn't be to everyone's taste, however, but it shows how microbreweries experiment with new ingredients.

I wish I could have stayed longer to sample more of the beers. I didn't try the cheeses (there were more than 20 available), but the rather large scotch egg was excellent.

Getting there proved more difficult than usual, as a road closure at West Farleigh meant that the hourly 23 bus from Maidstone couldn't get to Laddingford, so we had to resort to the 2-hourly route 26, on which the last bus back to Maidstone is at a ridiculously early 1.54pm. Hopefully the buses will be back to normal for the next beery event at the Chequers, which is the Transport Fair on Saturday 6th August.

Philip Rush – RIP

It is with great sorrow that we record the death in March of Philip Rush, founder and managing director of AVS Wines & Beers Ltd., established in Gravesend in 1990. Phil supplied cask beers to the CAMRA Gravesend Beer Festivals from 1996 to 2007 and the company is a major wholesaler of cask beers to many outlets in London and the South East of England. Philip passed away after a valiant battle with cancer surrounded by Linda and his loved ones. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends and many other people who knew him.

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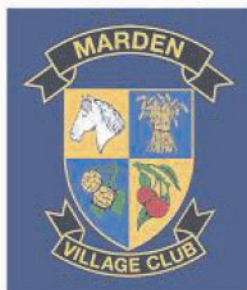
Marden Village Club

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)*

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

Bell, Bearsted – Well packed the day after re-opening as it has now been completely changed inside with a more modern look for such an old building. The well in the dining area has been covered with glass giving a little more floor space. There are many more seats in the bar area and a longer bar for better service. The beers on our visit, all from *Greene King*, were *IPA*, *Belhaven Grand Slam* for the 6 Nations Rugby and *Hardys & Hansons Olde Trip*.



Oak On The Green, Bearsted – Here was slightly less busy being a little later in the evening and we enjoyed *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Old Dairy Red Top* and *1648 Oak Ale*, which soon ran out and was later replaced by *1648 Gold Angel*.

Nevill Bull, Birling – There have been many problems in the takeover due to the state it was left in but new licensee Andrew Selby is now in the building and working hard to get it ready to re-open. The pub should re-open at the end of April and the restaurant a couple of weeks later once the new kitchen has been fitted. They plan to sell real ales, classic pub food with a few different specials to gauge demand. There will be music occasionally once established.

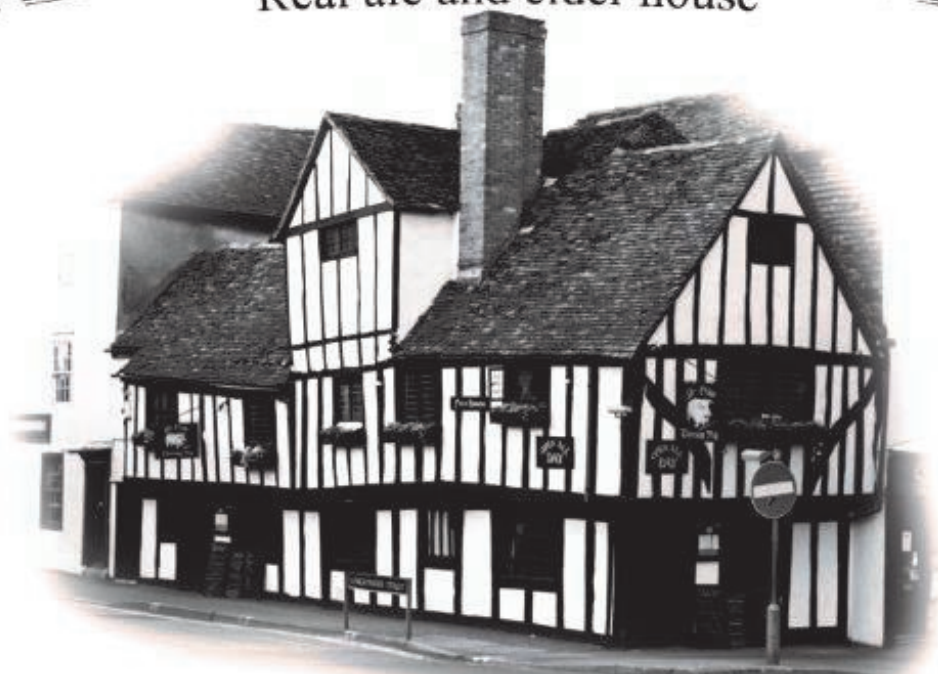
Cock Horse, Detling – Re-opened Feb 10 with Kim & Tony Donahue as the hosts with partner Charlie. There has been an extensive but sympathetic refit here with additional comfortable seating and new bare board flooring. A new chef and menu that now includes a chicken rotisserie are in place. The regular beers are *Greene King IPA* and *Abbot, Morland Old Speckled Hen* and a guest, *Belhaven Grand Slam* at time of my visit.



Great House, Gills Green – Part of the Elite Pubs Group, this popular pub near Hawkhurst is always busy for dining. We held our annual dinner here and this proved to be a popular choice for both beer and food. We thank the staff who provided an excellent service and good

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food despite having to cater for several large parties. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Musket Trigger/Fife & Drum* are available most of the time.

Kings Arms, Headcorn – Latterly known as 3 India, this former pub has had its planning application for housing refused and is now being advertised for sale.

Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne – I have heard that Steve Thomas (previously at Cock Horse, Detling) is the new licensee here.

Crown & Horseshoes, Langley – Having been closed for over two years this is now being renovated after being bought by the Elite Pubs Group. It should be well placed to serve the new housing rapidly expanding in that area. It will in future be known as the **Potting Shed**.

Chequers, Loose – On Bank Holiday Monday May 30th the pub will be supporting the Loose Village Duck Races. This event is always very popular, especially with children and is supported by many of the local villagers. At least 6 beers will be available, *Fullers London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best*, *LocAle Shepherd Neame Master Brew*, *Sharps Doom Bar* and two guests, at least one of which will be a *LocAle Rockin' Robin* beer.

Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone – Now serving snacks, and also has a good selection of cider and perry as well as three or four real ales. Hours now: Mon Closed; Tue & Wed 4.30-9; Thu 4.30-11; Fri & Sat 12-11; Sun 12-6.

Drakes, Maidstone – The scaffolding has now been removed, revealing a more inviting frontage. Often on the bar are *Young's Bitter* (badged as *Pleisure Seeker*) and something probably from *Sambrook's* or *Franklins*.

Earls, Maidstone – Has recently had several different beers from the *Wantsum* brewery at £3 a pint as well as the usual *Wells Bombardier*.

Sun, Maidstone – This has now been re-named the **Stag** having been redecorated externally and at time of writing the interior is also being updated. I am told it is due to re-open in the early part of May.

Swan, Maidstone – Annie has recently been offering CAMRA members beer at £3 a pint. Usual ales are *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*, *Kent's Best* and whatever seasonal brew is available.

Swan (Loose Road), Maidstone – *Harveys Sussex* and *Sharps Doom Bar* are permanent here with *Young's Bitter* and *Wells Bombardier* alternating, and *Rockin' Robin Reliant Robin* making an appearance. Also seems fairly popular for its food.

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Marden Club, Marden—Have just won Maidstone & Mid-Kent branch's Club of the Year title. Many congratulations to them on getting this award.

Queens Head, Mereworth – All seems lost here as it was not supported locally sufficiently to keep it going and there is now a planning application for a change of use to housing.

Kings Arms, Offham – The kitchen has recently received benefit of an upgrade in this popular village pub. Up to six ever changing ales are available, with one usually from *Kent Brewery*, and often *G2*, *Musket*, *Old Dairy*, *Rockin' Robin* and *Tonbridge* featuring, but national brands may also be seen. I am informed the food offering may now include *charcuterie*, but do not forget the usual large pies and Thai menu on Friday and Saturday evenings. After several years without a Saturday bus service, there is now a limited service from Bluewater, via Dartford, Swanley and Borough Green, through Offham to Maidstone and return. Google '*Bus 470 Offham*' for the timetable.

Anchor, Yalding – The refurbishment here is now to take place in the autumn so as not to cause problems during the busy summer season. Meanwhile the beer served will often include *Spitfire Gold* and *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* from *Shepherd Neame*.

Doris Jemison—RIP

We were saddened to hear that on Sunday, April 24, Doris Jemison of the renowned **Red Lion** in Snargate passed away. She and the pub were our main story two issues ago in *Draught Copy* #181. All our thoughts are with Kate, her daughter, and the rest of her family.

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What you have to do is solve the 10 cryptic clues below. The first letter and length of each answer are given. The second letters of each answer make up a two-word pub name, of which there are several examples in the *Draught Copy* area.

Send the answers to the 10 clues (or as many as you can do) plus the pub name, either by photocopying/scanning this completed page or on a plain sheet of paper, and sending to DC Comp, 13 Lakeside, Snodland ME6 5LD or by email to jeff.tucker@blueyonder.co.uk. The closing date for entries is 29 June 2016.

Two winners will receive the prize, so please supply contact details. In the event of a tie, in the number of clues answered correctly, the winners will be picked at random by the landlord of one of the pubs where we meet on 30 June.

Good luck! Answers in the next issue.

R										Turn it down – it's rubbish!
C										Give peach cocktail to the novice in church
B										Resume eating – in the morning?
S										A keen student pulls back
P										Throw things at the skin
T										You are in the outhouse
P										Badly spoilt, it might get fired
S										A small hat which you put into a bottle
W										The staff see the Queen in the factory
A										Help the donkey – it's confused

The hidden pub is _____

My name is _____

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

One Year and Many Pints Later

A Blackfen micropub owner has praised the sense of community from the regulars as they celebrate the pub's first anniversary since it opened. The **Broken Drum**, on Westwood Lane, hosted a celebration recently as its owner, Andy Wheeler, continues to pour the pints.



The former computer programmer from Bexleyheath claims he's served up 16,000 pints of different ales in the past year. He said: *"We've offered 200 different ales, I don't have one constant beer; I'm always changing, looking for local and national beers. Each cask holds 70 pints so it's just a case of simple maths - that's not including the real ciders that we sell."*

Bexley is currently home to three micropubs including the **Broken Drum**, with the other two, the **Penny Farthing** and the **Door Hinge**, in Crayford and Welling respectively. Mr Wheeler explained the appeal for micropub regulars. He said: *"It's a breakaway from the noise of pubs or the restaurant-type pubs that just have a bar to drink at. We don't sell lager, we don't sell spirits and we don't play loud music. People come in, enjoy a chat with each other and talk to people they don't know. People can come in, chat and make friends. We have run three quiz nights and raised around £1,000 for the British Heart Foundation."*

"We also donate to Alzheimers UK, as the pub is named after a pub in Terry Pratchett's Discworld book series." The author died of the disease last year.

The micropub's 58-year-old owner remains optimistic for the future. He said: *"I never realised how important the sense of community would be to me. There are no problems and business is all going well."*

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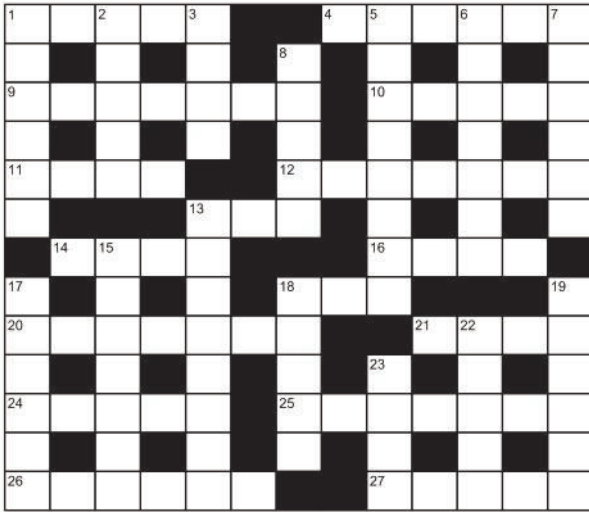
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The Draught Copy Crossword No. 22

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



Solution to Crossword No. 21

O	V	E	R	C	O	M	E			M		B	
S		S		R		E		L	O	O	S	E	
C	A	S	S	A	N	D	R	A		U		N	
A		E		Y		W		Z		L	E	N	
R	A	N	K		D	A	R	E	N	T		E	
		C		D		Y		N				T	
I	C	E	C	A	P		O	B	J	E	C	T	
S				I		R		Y		N			
R		L	U	M	B	E	R		E	D	D	Y	
A	D	O		L		T		A		O		A	
E		U		E	D	I	N	B	U	R	G	H	
L	O	S	E	R		N		B		S		O	
I		E				J	A	L	A	P	E	N	O

Across

- In Somerset, vegetable is burnt, apparently (5)
- Primarily, the sound of cash is painful (6)
- Roman road channel seen spectacularly on 26 5 line (7)
- Detection device works both ways (5)
- Could be a backward school (4)
- See i-pod modified in chapter (7)
- Average Cornish town? (3)
- Expensive honey (4)
- See Paul, for example, consigned to oblivion (4)
- Decorate back in the City (3)
- Northern football team making a mint (7)
- Gentle brew (4)
- Direction to mother, making her go? (5)
- Dear one abandoned at school (7)
- Northern town square (6)
- Stare in confusion at old tax (5)

Down

- God willing, Acton Green to be rebuilt on the Piccadilly Line (6,6)
- Old girl has exercise class to convert (5)
- Aside, perhaps: "Broken in Blackfen!" (4)
- Air cells destroyed in Northern town (8)
- Sin or do evil at home (7)
- See 1 down
- Drive animal (5)
- Embarrassing tumble for an idiot in autumn (8)
- Heading off for the most forbidding mountain (7)
- Streep, out to get World Cup hero (6)
- Idle element? (5)
- A Spanish gentleman is well fit, might one say? (6)
- E-pint? Hopeless and incompetent! (5)
- Carry animal (4)

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The previous article finished with a short paragraph about the first *Brew Buddies* Open Day in December 2015 and several members visited the second brewery Open Day on Saturday 19th March 2016. This time we took the 477 bus from Dartford so nobody had to drive and we were pleased to find the stillage located in a busy heated marquee, which kept out the cold wind. I sampled half pints of all seven *Brew Buddies* beers on gravity and the collaboration beer with *Wideboys*, a small new outfit from Orpington. The latter brew *Citrus Punch APA*, a craft-style beer, had a pleasant fruity aroma and taste, but the carbonation was not to my palate. All the *Brew Buddies* light-coloured beers using North American hops were good and new beers using Kent Goldings and Pilgrim hops were equally pleasant. The dark beer *PAO1 Kent Hop Porter* is not a style to my palate, as I prefer lighter beers. The *BB01 Best Bitter* is a regular brew and is the house beer at the **Three Tuns** in Lower Halstow, a haven for beers from small local breweries in Kent. *Brew Buddies* beers can be found at real ale meccas such as the **Orpington Liberal Club** and **Dartford Working Men's Club**. Most micropubs also stock their beers, the nearest to the brewery being the **Broken Drum** in Blackfen and the **Penny Farthing** in Crayford but there is no inroad as yet to traditional pubs nearby.

Another of three breweries in our branch area, *Caveman*, from the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe, brewed their last batch of *Citra* in February 2016 for the foreseeable future as they've been unable to procure a contract for *Citra* hops this year. Happily: other hops are available! *Caveman* launched a bottled beer range in November 2015, but the brewery is very busy and has currently stopped taking on new customers, as it cannot keep up with demand. They are installing new conditioning tanks and buying extra casks to meet the demand, but space is limited. *Caveman* is now looking for a new larger home where they can install a larger kit and a bar. *Caveman's Evolution* series is expanding this year with a couple of *pale ales* and a *Cocoa Stout* proving very popular. The core beers now are *Palaeolithic*, *Neanderthal* and *Neolithic* with one-off *Evolution* beers, *Cavedweller*, *Clovis Point Brown* and *Stout* being brewed as and when fermenting capacity allows. Regular direct deliveries now cover the whole of Kent, parts of Sussex and London and more and more swaps are being made with breweries from all over the country, allowing

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Caveman beers to reach other parts and vice versa. **Dartford Working Men's Club** always stocks weird and wonderful real ales from great and little known breweries far and wide, effectively maintaining a permanent beer festival, with 15 handpumps. The "current" and "coming soon" beers are now displayed on television screens around the main room and several real ciders are also available.

The "oldest" brewery in our area is *Millis Brewing Company*, which started last century (1990s) in Gravesend, moving to the current site at St.Margaret's Farm near South Darenth in 2003. The brewery has been rebranded *The Dartford Wobbler Brewery*, with an Edwardian "Dartford Wobbler" bicycle logo. The pump clips have been rebadged and appear on their website www.dartfordwobbler.com. The current range of beers is, in alphabetical order: *Curiously Dark*, *Dartford Wobbler*, *Golden Wobbler*, *Guinea Wobbler*, *Peddler's Best*, *Penny Red* and *Thieves'n'Fakirs*. In the last six months or so I've quaffed *Dartford Wobbler* and *Peddler's Best* at the **Bird in Hand** in Dartford, *Penny Red* at the **Padwell Arms** in Stone Street and *Curiously Dark* at the **Rose** near Northfleet railway station and found the beers to be in consistently good condition. *Millis (Dartford Wobbler)*

beers have also been spotted at the **Black Horse** in Bean, the **Ship** in Southfleet, the **Villager** in Vigo and the **Three Daws** in Gravesend. Please let us know where else they are available either as regular beers or as occasional guests.

March is the time of year when the local branch Pub of the Year, voted for by branch members, is determined. Once again we are pleased to announce that the 2016 winner is the **Cock Inn**, Henley Street, Luddesdown, which has been run by Andrew and Denise Turner for 32 years and is a staunchly traditional rural pub. The branch presentation is due to take place on Thursday 19 May. Moving up from third place last year to second position is the **Queen**, New Road, South Darenth. Third place goes to the iconic **Old House**, Redwell, Ightham Common, another very traditional rural pub, in an even more isolated location than the **Cock**. The branch prefers to award “joint runners-up” certificates and these presentations will take place on Thursdays, 26 May and 2 June respectively. I’ve just realised that all three pubs have separate bars, known in the old days as “public” and “saloon” bars which years ago had different pricing structures. Not many pubs nowadays have distinctly separate bars and prices are uniform throughout.

For the record the branch Club of the Year 2016, unsurprisingly, is **Dartford Working Men’s Club**. Does anyone know of other clubs in the branch area consistently selling good quality real ale, which allow entry to non-members? The branch held a meeting in February at the **Dartford Conservative Social Club** in Spital Street, where we enjoyed *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* and *Okells Pure Perfection*. The Club is hosting a St. Georges’ Beer Festival on Friday 22 April. For the first time the branch is awarding a cider Pub of the Year 2016, which is the **Campbell Arms**, Campbell Road, Northfleet. This is a traditional back street corner pub which always sells cider on handpump and three ever changing real ales, all over 4.5% ABV, at the request of the regular drinkers. Please let us know about other pubs which could qualify for a future cider Pub of the Year. The **Old House** was second choice and the **Compass** in Gravesend was also mentioned.

The **Malt Shovel**, Darenth Road, Dartford now always has a real cider, usually in a barrel on the bar counter in the taproom bar. This *Wells & Young* tied house has introduced a hop cellar initiative which promises at least three guest beers every month aiming for a different guest beer each week. I had a pleasant *Butcombe Gold* in January and *Merrie City Crystal Gold* in February, the latter being a new name to me and *Trumans*

Blindside in March. Just up the road the **Ivy Leaf** is still offering three differing guest beers in addition to the two standards. These were *Charnwood Try Hopped*, *Lancaster Northern Hemisphere Hopped Ale* and *Two Hoots Firkin Ale*, all worth a firkin try during a Sunday quiz visit in March. Well, England did win the Triple Crown and the Grand Slam, so I'll drink rugby themed beers.

I've received some snippets of news from Gravesend. The **Goose** in King Street has four handpumps and for a while two of the beers have come from *Wantsum Brewery*. Recent offerings have included *Fortitude*, *First Gold* and *Bouclier*. Tuesday is designated real ale day when all are on sale at the bargain price of £1.95 a pint. The **Windmill** in Shrubbery Road has had a little redecoration recently which has seen the small back bar looking noticeably brighter. The two guest beers are often from local breweries but on a recent visit *Black Sheep Brewery Golden Sheep* was due on soon. A beer festival at the **Windmill** is planned for 17 to 19 June (see page 4). Further redecoration at the **Grapes** in Milton Road should have been completed by the time you read this. This will see external seating protected by cast iron railings, with two awnings and hand-painted graphics. It will all be in Victorian style to match the Grade II listed building. The renovated kitchen will be offering light bites in the pub.

Further along Milton Road we understand that the former **New Inn**, a wonderful Victorian corner pub in *Whitbread* days, surrendered its licence in February and is currently closed again. The former **Railway Tavern**, which closed in 2012, is set to become an ice-cream parlour. Neither of these establishments sold real ale in recent years and we have heard of another establishment that closed in February which had never sold real ale, being **Bar Mondo**, Copperfields, Dartford.

However, two former *Good Beer Guide* pubs in our area have closed, apparently permanently, which are great losses to the real ale drinking community. After a very short period of notice, the **Paper Moon**, High Street, Dartford closed its doors for the last time on Sunday 14 February 2016. A petition to Wetherspoons against the closure attracted 600 signatures. This was the first Wetherspoons pub to open in Kent in 1994, and probably the first to close, although the **Summoner** in Sittingbourne closed on the same day, presumably as part of a cull of lower turnover pubs? Significantly both towns have another Wetherspoons outlet in their High Street, which mitigates the losses to a certain extent. Branch member, website manager and *Draught Copy* columnist, Mick Allen,

visited his 500th Wetherspoons tied house recently, being the **Bath Arms** in Warminster, Wiltshire.

I wrote about the other potential pub closure in issue 181, being the **Crown** in Otford High Street, whose “long-term future is still uncertain”. A January issue of the Sevenoaks Chronicle, referring to the **Crown** stated: “A historic pub in the centre of the village has been sold to a local investor [and] it was not clear whether the new owner would continue to run it as a pub”. Local rumour has it that that this 16th century inn will be converted into offices but planning permission has not yet been granted. This is an obvious case for applying for an Asset of Community Value but there are two other pubs, the **Woodman** and the **Bull**, in very close proximity. However further along the road the former **Horns** is being converted to housing so the village has lost two of its four pubs very recently. Surely this adversely affects the local community!

Sadly, we must end this article with an obituary. Charlie, the ancient African Grey parrot, resident of the **Rising Sun** at Cotman’s Ash, finally fell off his perch on Tuesday 2 February 2016, clutching a pork scratching in his claw. Parrot (not stuffed) was included amongst the fixtures and fittings when Peter and Michelle Hunter took over the pub in July 1993 and he was *in situ* with the previous owners for more than 20 years before that, making Charlie at least 43 and probably somewhat older than CAMRA. The **Rising Sun** was a former favourite venue for CAMRA meetings, especially Christmas socials, and Michelle still keeps one or two lower strength beers from smaller breweries, being *Dark Star Hophead* and *Whitstable Chinook* on my visit in February. It seems strange without Charlie in the cage in the fireplace, but the noses of inquisitive dogs and the fingers of inquisitive humans will no longer be damaged by not understanding the “pecking” order. So much for the Norwegian Blue – long live the African Grey!

We are late! This edition of *Draught Copy* is two weeks late in publication. For the first time in over ten years of production, your editor and typesetter has had to delay matters as a result of moving house to Emsworth in Hampshire. Many apologies for the inconvenience.

I will stay on at *Draught Copy* until I can find a safe pair of hands to take it on, but I will no longer be MMK Branch Secretary as of the next AGM.

Tim Mathews

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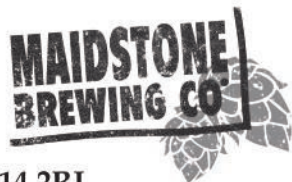
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Greetings from all at Bexley CAMRA.

In pub news: The **New Cross Turnpike** re-opened on 2 February and the branch held a social there to welcome it back into the fold. The **Leather Bottle** in Belvedere has sadly now closed its doors, possibly for good. The branch has applied for Asset of Community Value status for the pub but it has been rejected. We are formulating an appeal. There is a planning application for a new micropub in Barnehurst in the pipeline, and we are told that there may well be another in Sidcup in the not too distant future. Watch this space. As always we appeal to you the drinkers and publicans alike to help keep us here at the branch up to date by submitting information either via www.WhatPub.com or by contacting us by using the contact details at the top of this article, calling our Pubs Officer Ian Wright on 07779 319196 or emailing bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk. The easiest way for you to do this though is when you are in the pub is to log on to WhatPub.com with your tablet or smartphone and check out the details shown and advise us at the time of any changes.

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual. In January we visited the **Wrong 'Un** in Bexleyheath, February it was the **Door Hinge** in Welling and in March the **Duchess of Kent** in Northumberland Heath. We thank the licensees for accommodating us.

Back in December our branch Christmas Party was held at the **Wrong 'Un** in Bexleyheath and we had no fewer than 28 people attend. Most were from our own branch but four were from neighbouring branches and were most welcome. We were treated to some excellent ales, samples of which were available, and good food at a discounted price. Our thanks go to everyone involved. On the bank holiday Monday, we met at the **Robin Hood & Little John** for our annual **Twixmas** crawl. This year was probably the best attended ever with a total of 21 people joining in at some point and 4 making the whole crawl. We had beer and food at the start and then progressed through the following pubs: **Wrong 'Un, Volunteer, Rose, Kings Arms, Furze Wren, Jolly Millers, One Bell, Dukes Head** and finally arriving at the **Crayford Arms**. In all a very good day was had and I'm pleased to report that the quality of the beer in all the establishments visited was good or better.

We decided against a social in January in view of the often cold weather although many of our members decided to join the 'Tryanuary' campaign and supported many of our local pubs. Remember if we don't use our pubs, then we risk losing them.

In February, we started with a social at the newly opened **New Cross Turnpike** on its first evening and, sadly, they had a few teething troubles with some of the beer lines and as a result were short of a full complement of beer. On the Saturday, the quiz team was in action at the **Broken Drum** and won on a tie-break thanks to a lucky (some may say inspired) guess. Two nights later however, at the **Penny Farthing** our guessing wasn't quite as good and the team suffered a loss for the first time at the venue also by a single point. Now though the pressure is off for the next quiz there. Also in February we held a 96 bus route crawl, starting at the **New Cross Turnpike**; 6 members gathered and started the crawl by walking to the next pub the **Door Hinge**; from here we caught a bus (486) to the **Wrong 'Un** and then again walked to the **Rose** and again walked on to the **Prince Albert**. From here we finally caught a 96 to the **Penny Farthing**. After a slightly longer stay here, we again caught a 96 to our next stop which took us over the branch border into Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch territory at the **Bird in Hand**. A final 96 bus took us to the next pub the **Paper Moon** which was closing down the following day and so we spent a bit of time there. Finally we walked back through Dartford to the renowned **Dartford Working Men's Club** to round off a very enjoyable day's drinking.

At the end of February we gathered at the **Furze Wren** to select our *Good Beer Guide* pubs for 2017. To find out which seven of the fifteen nominated made the cut, you will have to buy the Guide when it is published in September.

In March at our branch meeting we declared our branch Pub & Club of the Year results. Our Pub of the Year is the **Penny Farthing** in Crayford, with the **Broken Drum** in Blackfen being the runner-up, and the **Door Hinge** in Welling coming in third place. Club of the Year is the **Bexley Cricket Club**. Our congratulations go to all the venues and presentations will take place in due course; keep an eye on our diary and the website for dates and times.

Also in March we had an out-of-branch social crawl of Woolwich. We started at the **Woolwich Equitable** which had five beers on and were also hosting a comedy night. From there we ventured into the depths of the new Woolwich Arsenal development to the **Taproom** which is the

brewery tap of the *Hop Stuff* brewery. Here there were four beers available, albeit only one from *Hop Stuff*. Our final call of the evening saw us cross back over the main road to the famous **Prince Albert** or as it is better known **Rose's**, with three beers available. All in all a very successful evening and for most of the attendees a single bus journey home as well.

Is it Welly 500 Years?

Jon and Helen Sutton have been running the **Duke of Wellington** in Ryarsh for nearly 12 years and have built up an enviable reputation for producing excellent food and drink in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

They have been "in the trade" for 24 years, their first pub being The Kings Arms, in Boxley



village, which was extremely successful. The Duke was in need of new owners, and in October 2004 Jon and Helen moved in and set about a total transformation of the business. Their magic touch soon paid off and the pub went from strength to strength very quickly. Ryarsh is a cracking village and its people are very supportive of The Duke, which makes for a lovely local atmosphere.

The Duke celebrates its 500th birthday this year and there is lots planned for the coming months, including a beer festival, Summer Ball and a garden fete.

There has been a building on the site for nearly 1000 years; it was initially a chapel built in William the Conqueror's reign. The pub was built in 1516 in Henry VIII's reign and was initially called The Cock and Coney. After the Battle of Waterloo, Arthur Wellesley was given a dukedom and the pub was renamed firstly The Wellington in 1815 then **Duke of Wellington**.

Why I listed my pub as an ACV

A South Herts licensee believes listing his pub as an Asset of Community Value is so important that he's done it himself. Nigel Wild, licensee at the **Rose & Crown** in St Albans has put forward his own pub to be nominated as an ACV to ensure it remains at the heart of the community. He is working with the South Hertfordshire CAMRA branch to ensure that his pub is granted the ACV status.



ACV nominations give licensees the power to safeguard valued local pubs – and provide a quality mark that the pub is valued by local people.

Wild said: *"It's important for me as a licensee to have my pub recognised in the community which is why I nominated it with the CAMRA branch to be listed as an Asset of Community Value."*

Not only does the ACV prevent the pub company from selling the pub to a property developer without our consent, but it also acts as a quality mark that the pub is clearly valued by the community and the local council."

CAMRA is currently campaigning to protect Britain's most treasured pubs by nominating them as ACVs to help stem the number of pub closures which currently stands at a rate of 27 a week.

CAMRA's Head of Communications Tom Stainer said: *"It is fantastic to see licensees in St Albans come together with their CAMRA branch to nominate their pub as an Asset of Community Value. ACV status 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 27 pubs closing every week we want to secure greater support for ACV pubs to ensure they continue to be at the heart of our communities."*

Are you a licensee interested in joining our campaign to protect Britain's best pubs? Email us on faye.grima@camra.org.uk.

Standing room only as Birmingham debates future of CAMRA

It was standing room only this week as drinkers and pub-goers crowded into the Cherry Reds cafe bar in central Birmingham to voice their views on the future of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). It was one of 50 consultation meetings being staged around the country to enable members to state their views on where they think the organisation should be heading in the years ahead.

The meeting produced a lively and interesting debate which mirrored the extraordinary interest there has been around the country where more than 20,000 members nationwide have completed an online or postal questionnaire to offer their views. CAMRA's Head of Communications Tom Stainer said: *"It was an impressive turnout in Birmingham and it illustrated the passion and interest that exists in and around the city for its pubs and real ale."*

The changing face of pubs and beer and the overall shift in lifestyle has led to CAMRA embarking on a consultation of as many as possible of nearly 180,000 members to ask them who and what it should represent in the future. They're being asked whether CAMRA should move away from promoting and protecting traditional real ale and become more inclusive, or shed subsidiary issues which have become attached to the organisation over the years - such as cider - in order to narrow its focus exclusively on cask-conditioned beer.

The Revitalisation Project is CAMRA's response to a beer and pub industry which has changed hugely since the organisation was founded in 1971. The rise of craft beer and a resurgence of interest in beer in recent years, plus renewed threats to pubs, has challenged CAMRA to review if it is best positioned to represent its members in the future.

Options include becoming a consumer organisation for all beer drinkers, all pub goers regardless of what they drink, or even all alcohol drinkers, regardless of where they drink it.

Revitalisation Project Chairman Michael Hardman said: *"This could mark a fundamental turning point for the Campaign for Real Ale. So fundamental it may no longer continue as the Campaign for Real Ale and instead become a campaign for pubs, or a campaign for all drinkers. It's not up to us though. It's up to our members to tell us what they want the Campaign to do in the future."*

People power is saving Britain's pubs – as 1,500 are granted additional protection

A year to the day since new powers were introduced to protect pubs, the number registered as Assets of Community Value (ACV) is soaring, according to the latest figures from CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. Almost 1,500 are now registered and 300 have been added so far this year. With 27 pubs closing every week, community groups have been coming together to save their beloved pubs by nominating them as ACVs.

Last year the Government announced new protections for pubs listed as ACVs – ensuring that owners apply for planning permission should they want to change the use of the building. Since this announcement, nearly 1,500 community groups across England have come together to list their local and protect them from redevelopment.

Prior to the scheme, nominated pubs were vulnerable to closing their doors forever with no planning protection in place. There were only 600 pubs nominated across the country in April 2015.

CAMRA's Chief Executive Tim Page said: *"It is fantastic to see so many community groups empowered to take action to save their beloved pub. It is clear there is strong support for pubs across the country and many passionate campaigners willing to come together to save their local. However, with 27 pubs closing every week, there is still more work to be done. Many pubs are still under threat of demolition or being converted to another use by large developers. Registering a pub as an ACV is the first step to saving it from this fate. We would like to see more community groups come together to save their local and for the Government to extend planning permission to all pubs, regardless of ACV status."*

CAMRA branches and community groups would like to see 3,000 of Britain's best pubs listed as ACVs by the end of this year, which will help stem the number of pub closures.

Community Pubs Minister Marcus Jones added: *"The Great British pub is a national treasure. 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. To date nearly 1,500 pubs have been listed across the country, safeguarding these much loved establishments for generations to come."*

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

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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.

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I enclose a cheque for _____

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- 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)

MAY

- 12 **MMK** **Bull**, Linton, then **Stile Bridge**
- 18 **All** 7:30pm **DWMC**, Dartford CAMRA Revitalisation Meeting
- 19 **GDV** **Cock**, Luddesdown, **POTY** winner presentation
- 19 **MMK** **Bush**, Aylesford [*OBM*] [*AGM*]
- 25 **BEX** 8pm **Penny Farthing**, Crayford – **POTY** winner presentation
- 26 **GDV** **Queen**, South Darenth, **POTY** runner-up presentation
- 26 **MMK** **Walnut Tree**, East Farleigh, then **Bull**
- 28 **BEX** 12 noon **Charlton Park Rugby Club** for Kidbrooke Beer Festival

JUNE

- 2 **MMK** **Rising Sun**, East Malling, then **King & Queen**
- 2 **GDV** **Old House**, Ightham Common, [*OBM*] **POTY** runner-up pres.
- 4 **MMK** 12 noon **Rifle Volunteers**, Maidstone, **POTY** celebration
- 8 **GDV** **Black Horse**, Bean then **Ship**, Green Street Green
- 8 **BEX** **Red Barn**, Barnehurst [*OBM*]
- 9 **MMK** **Fishermans Arms**, Maidstone, then **Olde Thirsty Pig**
- 11 **BEX** 10am Coach trip to **Rockin' Robin** Brewery
- 16 **MMK** 7:30pm, **Bat & Trap**, Bearsted Green, then **Oak on the Green**
- 18 **BEX** 10am Coach trip to **Tenterden Beer Festival**
- 18 **GDV** 5.30pm: Beer festival social – **Windmill**, Gravesend
- 18 **MMK** 11am, **MENCAP Summer Fayre**, Mote Park, Maidstone
- 22 **BEX** 8pm **Broken Drum**, Blackfen – **POTY** runner-up presentation
- 22 **GDV** **Lullingstone Castle**, Swanley then **Olympic**
- 23 **MMK** Evening ramble, 7.30 **Lenham Square** to **White Horse**, Sandway
- 25 **BEX** Noon Gravesend crawl – **Rum Puncheon**, **3 Daws**, and onwards
- 26 **MMK** Sunday Ramble – The Farleighs- meet E.Farleigh Station 12:05
- 30 **MMK** **Eight Bells**, Hawkhurst, then **Smugglers**
- 30 **BEX** 8pm **Crayford Arms**, Crayford [*AGM*]

JULY

- 2 **MMK** 1pm, **COTY** Celebration, **Marden Club**
- 7 **MMK** 7:30pm, **Bat & Trap**, Aylesford Rec., then **Bush** and **Chequers**
- 7 **GDV** **Manor Farm Barn**, Southfleet, then **Ship**
- 13 **BEX** **Railway Tavern**, Bexley [*OBM*]
- 13 **GDV** Gravesend walkabout – **Old Prince of Orange**, **Echo**, **Waterloo**
- 14 **MMK** **Tickled Trout**, West Farleigh, then **Good Intent**
- 16 **BEX** Noon Crayford crawl – **Charlotte**, **One Bell**, and onwards
- 21 **MMK** **Style & Winch**, Maidstone [*OBM*]
- 22 **GDV** Beer festival social - **Cricketers**, Meopham
- 27 **BEX** 8pm **Door Hinge**, Welling, **POTY** 3rd place presentation
- 28 **MMK** 7:30pm, **Bat & Trap**, Benenden, then **Bull** – DC distribution
- 28 **GDV** **Malt Shovel**, Dartford [*OBM*]

* REAL MILD ALE * CROWN IMPERIAL STOUT *

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



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

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