

# Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

Free Newsletter  
for the

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

Autumn 2016

No. 184

MAIDSTONE AND MID  
KENT CAMRA PRESENTS

## CAMRA'S EAST MALLING BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

East Malling Research ME19 6BJ

Saturday September 3rd 2016  
11 AM to 7 PM

75+ Real Ales And Ciders  
Live Music

Admission FREE for card-carrying CAMRA  
members; £5.00 for non-members

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



Follow us on @EMbeerfestival



Maidstone and Mid Kent CAMRA  
East Malling Beer Festival



# 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:

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If you find a pub selling short measure, allowing smoking in the premises, or other illegal things in pubs, please have a quiet word with the landlord in the first instance. If you do not receive satisfaction, however, please ring the Council's Trading Standards on 08457 585497 for the K.C.C. area, or 0208 303 7777 for Bexley Borough. We should demand the very highest standards of service in our pubs.

The copy date for the next issue is 15 September 2016 for publication in November 2016.

Visit our website at [www.mmk.camra.org.uk/](http://www.mmk.camra.org.uk/)  
On Twitter at [www.twitter.com/mmkcamra](http://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](http://www.whatpub.com).



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

# Beer Festivals in our region and not too far away

## CAMRA

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

### GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

AUGUST 9—13

Olympia, Hammersmith Road  
London W14 8UX

A beer festival *par excellence!*

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

### 21ST CLACTON ON SEA

#### REAL ALE & CIDER FEST

AUGUST 24

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70+ real ales plus ciders, perries,  
wines and overseas beers

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

### 7TH EAST MALLING

#### BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 3

East Malling Research, New Road

East Malling ME19 6BJ

Over 75 ales plus ciders & perries

Open from 11am to 7pm

<http://tinyurl.com/EMBCF2016>

### 20TH WORTHING BEER FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 14—15

The Assembly Hall

Stoke Abbott Road

Worthing BN11 1HQ

100+ ales, 30+ciders & perries

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

### 6TH SPA VALLEY RAILWAY CAMRA

#### REAL ALE & CIDER FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 21—23

T. Wells West, Groombridge,

Eridge and High Rocks stations

<http://tinyurl.com/z8e4xw7>

### SWALE BRANCH 40TH ANNIVERSARY

#### CELEBRATION BEER FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 28—29

Kemsley Village Hall, Ridham

Avenue, Sittingbourne ME10 2SF

<http://tinyurl.com/jp65hvc>

## Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

August 5—7

### Three Daws,

Gravesend DA11 0BHJ

<http://tinyurl.com/jsffsnj>

August 20

### Amazon & Tiger,

Harvel DA13 0DE

<http://tinyurl.com/h682ezz>

August 27

### Three Tuns,

Lower Halstow ME9 7DY

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

September 3

### Dephstock Mini Beerfest

#### Queens Head, Sutton Valence

High St, Sutton Valence ME17 3AG

Much beer and music—2 bands.

Opens at midday with *Crooked Style*

playing from 2 till 5

[www.queens-head.net](http://www.queens-head.net)

September 23—25

### Canterbury Food & Drink Festival

Dane John Gardens, Canterbury

Opens the **Kent Green Hop Beer**

**Fortnight**, and features green hop

beers and local food delights

[kentgreenhopbeer.com](http://kentgreenhopbeer.com)



# 'BREWERY OF THE YEAR'

2016 Good Pub Guide Awards

# 2016



# HARVEYS

The Sussex Brewers

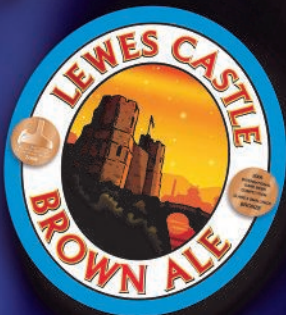


**WORLD'S  
BEST  
MILD ALE**

*World Beer  
Awards 2015*

**WORLD'S  
BEST  
BROWN ALE**

*World Beer  
Awards 2015*



**CHAMPION BOTTLE  
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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>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>Dartford Wobbler</b>	01322 866233	<a href="http://dartfordwobbler.com">dartfordwobbler.com</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	<a href="http://www.g2brewing.com">www.g2brewing.com</a>
<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	<a href="http://www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk/">www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk/</a>
<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>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



# KENT BEERS!!

*"There's more in the barrel!"*

Musket Brewery is a family owned, 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



**FIFE & DRUM**  
3.8% Golden Ale



**TRIGGER**  
3.6% Pale Ale



**POWDER BURN**  
5.0% Kentish Porter  
(Autumn/Winter brew!)



**MATCHLOCK**  
3.8% KENTISH MILD

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**

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**SIBA**  
INDEPENDENT  
BREWERS

DDS Scheme

*"There's more in the barrel!"* at  
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# 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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# Changes as the Knoxbridge re-opens

by Tony Williams

The David Bowie song, *Changes*, could be a most appropriate anthem for the recently re-opened Knoxbridge, as not only have there been huge changes at the pub, but landlord Tony Jones attended the same primary school as the late pop icon!



Having been closed for seven years, the **Knoxbridge**, a mile south of Staplehurst on the A229, was rapidly falling into disrepair and fast becoming an eyesore in the community. But former Royal Green Jacket, Tony, and his partner Wendi, saw through the desolation and spotted the great potential that the pub could offer. With help from friends, Tony and Wendi invested huge amounts of time, effort and their own money, and set about bringing the **Knoxbridge** back to life, and what a great job they have done!

Seven months of hard work have transformed the pub into a delightful wayside inn that boasts seven real ale pumps, a charming dining area and an enclosed garden for those long-awaited sunny days.

*It's been very hard work, but everyone that has visited has been amazed at the transformation. Our French Chef, Fred, has devised a small, but interestingly varied menu, which will expand in due course and we hope to open more facilities at the **Knoxbridge** for community projects in time.* said Tony.

Visit [www.theknoxbridge.co.uk](http://www.theknoxbridge.co.uk) for more information or better still – visit the pub!!

# The Chequers Inn

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

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

Award winning traditional village inn  
situated in the hopping countryside



## Charles and Tracey welcome you to their 15th Century Inn

- Cask conditioned real ales
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- Very large garden with children's play area & animal corner
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We are proud of our

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

CAMRA Good Beer Guide & Cask Marque award

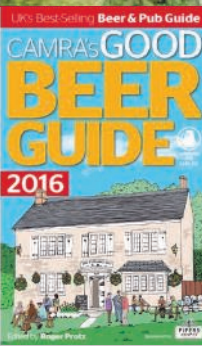
## Quiz Night on Monday

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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All menus available al fresco  
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Mon to Fri  
11am to 11pm

Sat  
12pm to 11pm

Sun  
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### *Restaurant*

Mon to Sat  
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Sun  
12pm to 4pm

BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED

**01732 842752**



**TASTE OF KENT  
AWARDS 2016**

Kent Dining Pub of the Year  
**THE KING & QUEEN**  
EAST MALLING

**FINALIST**



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

# MENCAP Summer Fayre—*Brian Johnson*

Thank you to everyone who helped with the MENCAP fayre in June.

Thanks to the support of the breweries who generously donated beer it looks as though we raised just over £870 for MENCAP. This is about 2/3 of last year's takings, but that seems pretty good, considering that the weather wasn't great and we were competing with the festival at Tenterden.



*Brian with John & Janice Mills*

Finally, thank you to those who supported the event by coming along on Saturday to drink the beer—we couldn't have done it without you! It was worth all the effort.

## 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 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
Stag, Maidstone	10p per pint ( <i>off guest beers</i> )
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

# THE BLACK HORSE INN

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

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Open all day every day with food served all day!

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

# Beer from my youth

by Roger Protz

**The 1960s takeover frenzy did no favours for Charrington IPA which lost its brewery, flavour and strength before disappearing, but now it has been revived amid the global resurgence of India Pale Ale.** A once-famous beer has been revived, bringing joy to my Cockney heart. More importantly, it has been restored to its plinth in the pantheon of great London beers and at the same time throws light on the twisted priorities of big national brewers.

In my dim and distant youth I met up with an old school friend and we went for a pint in a pub close to Upton Park Underground station. It was my first taste of Charrington IPA and, while distance may lend enchantment to the brew, I recall that it was a pale copper colour and was delicious to drink.

Charrington's Anchor brewery was in the Mile End Road, one of the major thoroughfares in East London and close to both Mann's and Truman's brewing plants: the water in the area must have been of the highest quality. Charrington traced its history back to the late 18th century. It had grown, through a series of acquisitions, to become a mighty brewing operation: at its peak in the 1960s it was producing 750,000 barrels a year and the bulk of that was made up by its India Pale Ale.

In the frenzy of takeovers and mergers that disfigured the brewing industry in the 1960s, Charrington merged with Bass in 1967. Eight years later, Bass closed the brewery and IPA and the Toby beers were moved to other parts of the Bass empire. IPA went first to the Springfield brewery in Wolverhampton and when that plant closed it was moved yet again to Mitchells & Butlers in Birmingham. In the moves it became darker and sweeter in the West Midlands fashion. Along the way it also shed some of its strength, dropping from 4.4 per cent to 3.9. The reason was simple: Bass didn't want the Charrington beer to compete with its flagship brand Draught Bass, also 4.4 per cent.

But now the true brew has been restored to its original recipe and strength. Steve Wellington, a Bass master brewer of long standing, has come out of retirement to reopen the William Worthington brewery in the National Brewery Centre (NBC) in Burton-upon-Trent that recreates old beers from the Bass group. After years of gentle nagging by me, he got permission from the Charrington family to make IPA again. It's brewed with pale and crystal malts, a drop of invert sugar, and hopped with Challenger and Fuggles, with Northdown added as a late hop after the copper boil.

Steve remembers, from a youth almost as distant as mine, the smell of hops from Cobb's brewery in Margate, Kent. When he became a brewer – he worked for Bass from 1965 – he discovered the hop variety was Northdown and has used it ever since for its fragrant and gently fruity character. The hops combine to give an earthy, piny and spicy aroma and palate to the beer, with a touch of cobnuts from the crystal malt. Bitter hops build in the mouth but are balanced by juicy malt and tangy fruit. The finish is bittersweet to start but finally ends bitter and hoppy.

Steve plans to increase the strength a tad to 4.5 per cent to give the beer greater appeal in this age of the worldwide IPA resurgence. The beer is on sale in the bar at the NBC in Burton and when I visited for a taste last month I was told Derby pubs were clamouring for it.

Let's hope it also finds its way back to its heartland.

There are no longer any Charrington pubs in London but surely no shortage of other outlets in the capital for this famous old ale.

Why did Bass close the Mile End brewery? Steve Wellington says the answer is simple: Bass wanted the Charrington pubs.

When Charrington merged with Hoare's Red Lion brewery it added 1,200 pubs to its own 800. It was tempting bait for Bass – 2,000 pubs to flood with Draught Bass and Carling lager.

It's history now. But it's a delight to welcome back the beer of my youth.

## **Your festival needs You!**

Are you doing anything on Saturday, September 3? The East Malling Beer & Cider Festival will be putting in its 7th appearance that day, and like all other CAMRA festivals, relies heavily on member volunteers to keep it the success it has always been. Having enough servers behind the bar at all times is crucial to the festival's smooth operation. As it is a CAMRA festival, all volunteers must be members of the Campaign, so if you are not a member now, it is easy enough to join on the day.

Danny Clark is our Staffing Director, and he would be delighted to hear from you. Please email him at [MMKfestivalstaffing@gmail.com](mailto:MMKfestivalstaffing@gmail.com).



Contact: John Mills 01732 840603 or email [jandj@larkfield98.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:jandj@larkfield98.freeserve.co.uk)

**Little Gem, Aylesford** – Despite largescale local opposition the council has granted change of use to housing.

**Oak On The Green, Bearsted** – Following a game of Bat & Trap, we retired for refreshment here, where *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* is the permanent beer. Often *1648 Oak Ale* is to be found but this time it was *Bee-Head*. The remaining guest was *Rockin' Robin Reliant Robin*. Most of us sat in the cool outside, but several others ordered food and remained inside. The portions are large here so no one goes home needing a snack. It is just a pity that the parking in Bearsted is so difficult due to ever increasing building, otherwise we would visit more often.



**Nevil Bull, Birling** – Andrew Selby re-opened here on 6<sup>th</sup> April and the kitchen is also now in operation. Fresh fish, meat and vegetables are collected from the London markets to supply the kitchens here and to the sister pub, the Robin Hood at Blue Bell Hill. The interior now has a simpler, fresh look with new furnishings and hops on the ceiling. Initial supplies of beer were the ever popular *Old Dairy Red Top* and *Otter Bitter*, followed by *Gale's Seafarers* from *Fuller's* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*, and they now have access to *Kent Brewery* beers from less than a mile away.

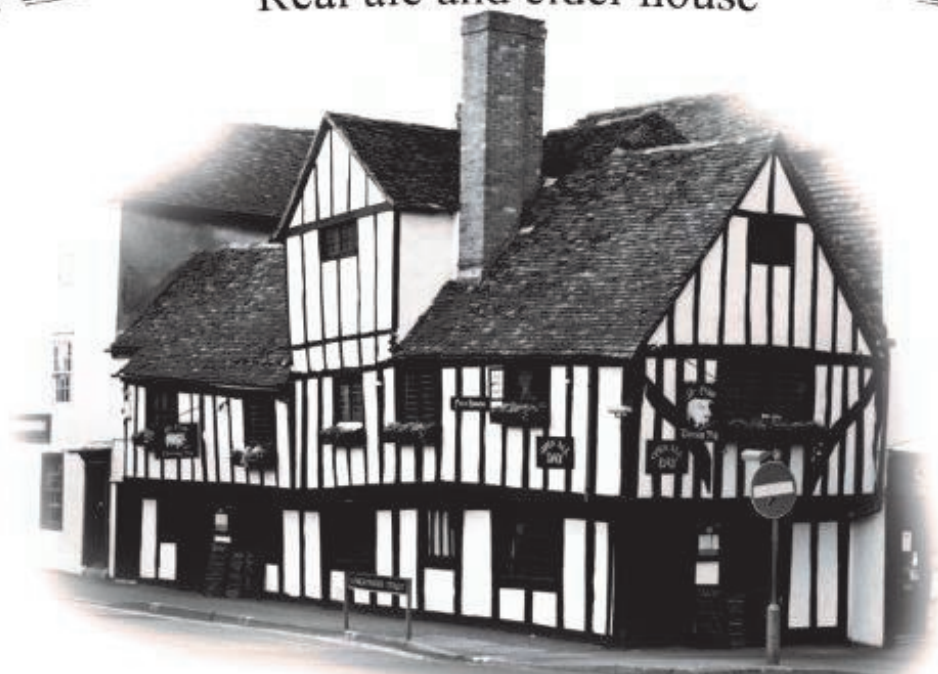
**White Hart, Claygate** – This is closed and *Shepherd Neame* have put it up for sale.

**Walnut Tree, East Farleigh** – New licensee here with favourable reports.

**Knoxbridge, Frittenden** – Re-opened after 7 years. The new team, led by Tony Jones & Wendi Saunders, have 4 real ales and a good food offering. Complete refit inside and out. Restaurant is to the left and drinking area and toilets to the right. First reports are very positive all round. Recent ales have been *Harveys IPA*, *Musket Matchlock Mild*, *Westerham Summer Perle* and *Young's Bitter*. See website for opening times and latest details. [www.theknoxbridge.co.uk](http://www.theknoxbridge.co.uk)

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**Oak & Ivy, Hawkhurst** – Claire Collins has recently taken over the management here.

**Hook & Hatchet, Huckling** – I have been informed that Al and Sharon Hodgson are the new owners. They have completely refurbished the pub, which had been closed since October 2014, and re-opened it on 25 June. [www.hookandhatchetpub.co.uk](http://www.hookandhatchetpub.co.uk) (01622 880222)

**Peacock, Iden Green (near Goudhurst)** – With the departure of the lessee, the pub was taken over as a holding measure by Terry Horton, who had previously looked after the White Hart.

**Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone** – Holds a popular quiz on Tuesday evenings and is planning several further events including a curry evening. See the website: [thecellarsalehouse.co.uk](http://thecellarsalehouse.co.uk).

**Drakes, Maidstone** – A member found *Adnams Southwold Bitter* here, badged as *Pleisure Principal* together with *Robinsons Dizzy Blonde* and *Timothy Taylor Landlord*. There were also a couple of ciders from *Lilley's* including *Strawberry* and *Merry Monkey Scrumpy*.

**Duke of Marlborough, Maidstone** – Good reports have been received from members for the *Sharps Doom Bar* which is permanently available.

**Earls, Maidstone** – Acquired by *Shepherd Neame* from Enterprise Inns.

**Flower Pot, Maidstone** – Congratulations to the Davenports who celebrated 10 years here by holding a beer festival in June. Well worth the walk out of the town centre (or use the bus), as up to 9 ales will be found for your delight.

**Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone** – Four frequently changing beers may be found here, selected from most of the brewers in Kent. *Hopdaemon*, *Musket*, *Old Dairy*, *Pig & Porter* and *Rockin' Robin* are possibly among the most frequent. When the branch visited we found *Canterbury Ales Single*

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*Hop Kazbeck Rye Porter, Goachers Gold Star, Hopdaemon Golden Braid and Pig & Porter Red Spider Rye* – all in very good condition. Not far from the town centre and well worth the walk. See [thethirstypig.co.uk](http://thethirstypig.co.uk).

**The Stag, Maidstone** – This was previously known as the Sun. Now, under the new licensee, Stuart Vine, there is gravity stillage holding four casks, with normally three in use. There will usually be a beer from *Rockin' Robin* who have had a 'meet the brewer' meeting there and a couple of ales from farther away. *Wickwar BOB* and *Exmoor Ale* have proved very popular. A dress policy is in place to ensure that the pub attracts a different set of customers and has a smarter image than previously, with ladies feeling more comfortable. Smokers may have a table on the pavement. There is a good selection of food choices including vegetarian.



**White Rabbit, Maidstone** – It has been reported that five ales are now available, two guests plus the permanent *Fullers London Pride*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*. The guests have included *Adnams Broadside*, *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Purity UBU*.

**White Horse, Sandway** – Found closed in April.

**Railway Tavern, Staplehurst** – Is apparently back on the market again.

**Farm House, West Malling** – Acquired by *Shepherd Neame* from Enterprise Inns who currently lease it to Elite Pubs.**Lobster Pot, West Malling** – Planning application for extension and housing.

**WhatPub.com benefits—and so do its visitors**—from the efforts of local branch members who put in reports, update details, and submit beer scores for the pubs in their area. As editor, and as someone who lives now in a different branch area, I am well impressed by the tireless efforts of the MMK Pubs Officer, John Mills, in maintaining the site's details of the branch's pubs so assiduously.

Thank you, John!

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# The resurgence of Scottish cider

*Abridged from an article by Bill Wilkinson*

The term “craft” has crept into the drinks sector vocabulary as a cover-all description for the products brought about by the massive growth in the field of new, small scale brewers. Over the past decade, the explosion in numbers of new *craft* breweries starting up in business has captured the imagination of a new generation of drinkers looking for something exciting and different.

Something similar is happening in the world of cider, albeit on a smaller scale and somewhat more scattered geographically. While the number of new cider makers is but a fraction of those setting up a new brewery, they are more likely to be producing cider for the love of it, first and foremost.

Traditional cider areas such as Herefordshire, Somerset and Devon, even the more diverse areas famed for using eating and cooking apples to produce cider such as Kent, East Anglia and Scotland, are all benefiting from this resurgence in cider making, usually carried out by keen individuals with more than a passing interest in the heritage of the drink. Much of this new wave are producing very small quantities only for local consumption, the sort of thing you'd purchase at the local farmers' market rather than find in your local pub.

What a lot of people aren't aware of is Scotland's rich cider past. Historically, there are several areas of Scotland which were once home to apple and pear orchards. Eight hundred years ago the estates and monasteries of the Scottish border region were awash with large orchards. These stretched as far as Glasgow and the Clyde valley. Some parts of modern day Glasgow, such as the Gorbals, Govan and the Merchant City were once home to vast orchards. In fact, the Merchant City is largely built on the site of a huge, old pear orchard. It is some of these old estates that present-day cider makers turn to for their apple crops. Some old orchards have been left to nature and the apples they produce simply fall to the ground to rot. Not any more as enterprising cider makers are busily seeking out these old orchards and their rare fruit trees and either buying up the surplus fruit or taking on the maintenance of the trees.

Probably the longest established (founded 2008) and certainly the largest of the new wave of Scottish cider makers is *Thistly Cross Cider*, now based at their new cider barn in West Barns near Dunbar in East Lothian. They source local apples for their *Jaggy Thistle*, the only real cider they produce.

Another borders cider maker, but based near Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway, is *Waulkmill Cider*. Owner Chris Harrison also scours the region

for his supplies of apples and pears and in 2013 he produced the first Scottish perry in over a century.

Meanwhile in Glasgow, John Hancox set up *Clyde Cider* in 2015 and has produced the first urban west of Scotland cider since medieval times. John seeks out windfall crops of apples for his cider. He casts his net some distance, as he has been able to obtain enough apples from the Edinburgh area to make *MorningCider*, named after the suburb of Morningside.

Cider making in Scotland doesn't stop at Glasgow, either. The Cairse of Gowrie area of Perthshire was famous in Victorian times for its apples, pears and plums. Today it is one of the UK's biggest soft fruit growing regions. The village of Errol, not far from the banks of the River Tay, is the home of the *Cairn O'Mohr Winery* since 1987. A recent addition to their range of fruit juices and wines has been cider.

Finally, we head north. By the shores of Loch Ness, the village of Drumnadrochit is home to *Loch Ness Cider*, set up in 2014 by Devon-born Karen Wotherspoon, a keen cider drinker. She uses a blend of Highland apples from the Black Isle (even further north than Loch Ness). There are plans here to plant new cider apple trees using varieties that are known to produce fruit in the Highland climate.

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## CAMRA LAUNCHES 'FRIENDS ON TAP' RESEARCH TO PARLIAMENT

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Professor Dunbar and his research team from Oxford University travelled to Parliament to present the findings of 'Friends on Tap'. The research reveals that people who have a local pub have more close friends, are happier and more trusting of others and feel more engaged with the wider community.

The report was presented at the Parliamentary Beer Group AGM, which was attended by 19 MPs. Professor Dunbar discussed the premise for the research, his findings and how the report was conducted. He implored MPs to consider how a huge financial burden to the NHS and the economy could be alleviated if we had a happy and socially connected population, which he said was the key to the nation's health.

CAMRA Chief Executive Tim Page followed this by highlighting policy implications of the role of pubs as hubs to communities. He implored Members of Parliament to do more to support pubs from closing down to keep them as viable and well-used hubs of local communities. He argued that we need to do more to encourage people to go out and visit their local pub and alleviate the stigma against social drinking so that we have a balanced debate around alcohol consumption.

The event was part of CAMRA's Pubs & Wellbeing campaign, which you can visit here: [www.camra.org.uk/pubs-wellbeing](http://www.camra.org.uk/pubs-wellbeing). Following the recent debate by MPs on the new alcohol guidelines in Westminster Hall, CAMRA's National Chairman, Colin Valentine, commented: *MPs are right to recognise the importance of credible public health advice on drinking alcohol. CAMRA supports the need for alcohol health guidelines, but the new guidelines are among the most restrictive in the world and are insufficiently supported by evidence.*

The UK's Chief Medical Officers have reduced the recommended limit of alcohol to 14 units for men and women spread over three or more days per week, and have stated that there is no safe level of alcohol.

Colin went on to say: *MPs in yesterday's debate were right to express their concerns about the new guidelines; and to highlight that there are decades of research showing that low to moderate alcohol consumption can bring health benefits to many, such as reducing the risk of heart disease. Furthermore, a research report from Oxford University, Friends on Tap, found that those who had visited a local pub on a regular basis were happier, healthier and felt more integrated in their communities than those who did not.*



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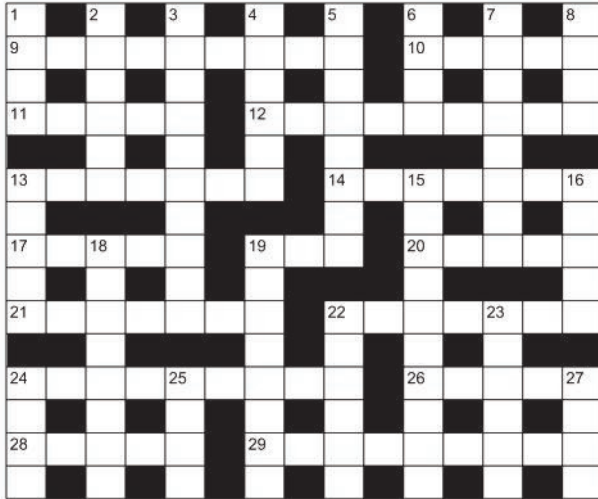
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# The Draught Copy Crossword No. 23

compiled by MICK NORMAN

*Solution in next issue*



*This puzzle marks the 50th anniversary of a major sporting success, which now seems most unlikely to be repeated!*

*The ten italicised clues are of a kind, and lack further definition*

**Across**

- 9 Shrinking violet enters classic car in race (9)
- 10 *Artist, not unknown* (5)
- 11 Engine component doesn't work (5)
- 12 Former auditor, we hear, at HM Treasury (9)
- 13 Traditions at airport (7)
- 14 Bug in many ways (7)
- 17 *Saint Ben? Quite the reverse!* (5)
- 19 Ship's wheel (3)
- 20 *Second deposit* (5)
- 21 Country from one, one and one. (7)
- 22 Signed dart hits journalist (7)
- 24 Dark flower ending Hamilton's race, perhaps (5,4)
- 26 She/he eats everything backwards (5)
- 28 Ghillie generally includes subject (5)
- 29 Balls raised, having gone to seed (9)

**Down**

- 1 Short note for cooper (4)
- 2 *In the way of hikers* (6)
- 3 Football chief interferes with Eurosport in elderly retirement accommodation (4-6)
- 4 *Fitness instruction - short, missing the point* (6)
- 5 It may be filled overnight in season (8)
- 6 Victim understood to be competent (4)
- 7 On in nude, collapses - nudge nudge, wink wink! (8)
- 8 Addict could be friendly (4)
- 13 *Senior diplomat involved in swindle* (5)
- 15 Reg Coleman somehow becomes the Pope's Chief Finance Officer (10)
- 16 Adjust spaces for first delivery (5)
- 18 Physician agreed to change, so reclassified (8)
- 19 *Lively dance, but enthusiasm seems absent at first* (8)
- 22 Crafty fish? (6)
- 23 *Orchestra overwhelmed by success* (6)
- 24 *Gangster involved in old company* (4)
- 25 Sharp moan (4)
- 27 *Barbarian time* (4)

## Solution to Crossword No. 22

C	H	A	R	D		A	C	H	I	N	G	
O	D	R		S		A	N	A				
V	I	A	D	U	C	T		R	A	D	A	R
E	P	M		E		L	O	D				
N	O	T	E			E	P	I	S	O	D	E
T				P	A	R		S	R	N		
	D	E	A	R			L	O	S	T		
P	V	A		I	C	E				A		
E	V	E	R	T	O	N		M	I	L	D	
T	R	F		E		B		N	O			
E	N	E	M	A		R	O	E	D	E	A	N
R	S	L	T			A	P	I				
S	E	T	T	L	E		R	A	T	E	S	

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*Congratulations to John Howarth, from Erith, who won the tenner last time.*

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The branch was busy in May and June presenting CAMRA awards. Branch chairman Terry Greenfield presented the 2016 Pub of the Year certificate to Adnam Turner at the **Cock Inn**, Henley Street, Luddesdown (see photo, right). Joint runner-up certificates were awarded by Terry to John Newman at the **Queen**, New Road, South Darent; and by Bob Belton, branch pubs officer, to Nick Boulter at the **Old House**, Redwell, Ightham Common. For the record, former Pub of the Year winner, the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe and the **Compass** in Gravesend were next in the voting.



I've waxed lyrical about all of the above named pubs in previous issues so I'll not go into further details now, except to recommend you to visit or revisit them to enjoy their diverse atmospheres and attractions, and to sample the excellent choices of real ales and ciders. Four of these pubs regularly offer at least one locally brewed Kentish beer, accredited by the CAMRA *LocAle* scheme.

The **Old House** is the exception, as it serves an excellent, ever-changing range and variety of ales and ciders from other counties further afield and is one of a handful of local pubs dispensing beer by gravity directly from the cask. The **Old House** is a prominent venue for meetings of the *Society for the Preservation of Beers from the Wood (SPBW)*. The landlord, Nick Boulter, is a very keen supporter of maintaining the tradition of using wooden barrels and informs us that a dozen casks, sponsored by the locals, have been ordered from the *White Rose Cooperage*, near Wetherby in Yorkshire. We're very pleased to report that the art of the cooper has not completely died out.

Reverting to the *LocAle* theme the branch website, [gdv.camra.org.uk](http://gdv.camra.org.uk), currently records 22 outlets, accredited by the branch, which serve good quality beers, on a regular basis, from breweries located within

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

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approximately 30 miles of the nominated pub or club. We cannot guarantee that the information is absolutely correct, as beer ranges change frequently and it's difficult to keep up to date. Please visit the website and advise us of any glaring errors, omissions and changes, as we appreciate readers' comments, preferably constructive, as well as news from local pub goers.

I've just reviewed the list, and the nearby breweries featured are, in alphabetical order, *Bexley, Brew Buddies, Caveman, Dartford Wobbler* (shown as *Millis*), *Goachers, Kent Brewery, Larkins, Musket, Nelson, Rockin' Robin, Tonbridge and Westerham*. Fair enough, *Bexley Brewery* isn't mentioned by name, but it's included because I've sampled their wares at the **Bird in Hand** in Dartford and at the **Horse & Groom**, Leyton Cross, Wilmington. Please let us know if *Bexley BOB, Golden Acre, Redhouse* and other beers with the distinctive parakeet label have been spotted locally.

One geographical error is *Old Dairy* (more than 30 miles away) listed at the **Ivy Leaf** in Dartford. This pub mainly serves interesting ever-changing beers from around the country. On my most recent visit the



*LocAle* beer came from *Caveman Brewery* in Swanscombe and recent guests have included *Hydes Old Indie* and *Exeter 'fraid not*. The Sunday quiz, hosted by Jim the landlord, is very entertaining and enjoyable. Just down the road at the **Malt Shovel**, Neil, the landlord, hosts another worthwhile quiz on Monday evenings. I missed the quiz last week, which might help to explain why our team won for a change! The pub has undergone extensive refurbishment in the saloon bar, which has been repainted and re-floored in wood. The conservatory now has a lower ceiling, featuring two small chandeliers.

In Dartford town centre the **Court House** in Spital Street has been selling *Caveman* beers recently. This pub is predominantly a weekend evening live music venue, but I'm pleased to report that it is now open more regularly during weekdays. On my most recent visit I found *St Austell Tribute* and *Dorset Brewery Tom Brown's*. Along the road at the **Royal Oak** my tipples were *Shepherd Neame Spitfire Gold*. These pubs are so close together that I saw France's 90<sup>th</sup> minute goal live in the **Court House**, walked out and popped in to the **Royal Oak**, only to see France's 93<sup>rd</sup> minute goal. European Football Championships were underway and I usually support the underdog – Albania in this case. However, I was pleased to see England beat Wales the following day.

Once again, I've received some snippets of news from Gravesend, particularly about pubs not currently known for real ale. The **Prince Albert** in Wrotham Road, not far from the railway station and near the Woodville Halls, has recommenced selling real ale after many years in the wilderness. There is a single handpump at present serving *St. Austell Tribute* and *Proper Job* on early visits. This former *Shepherd Neame* tied house was a CAMRA favourite in the late twentieth century and we shall keep tabs on it as the beer range is expected to rotate. The **George** in Queen Street is selling *Sharp's Doom Bar*, and the **Milton Ale Shades**, a former *Truman's* pub in East Milton Road, has re-introduced real ale in the form of *St Austell Tribute* at £2.50 a pint on a recent visit. The flatiron-shaped **Foresters** in Parrock Street, on the corner of Edgar Street, also known as the **Corner Pin**, was selling *Courage Best* on handpump recently but has subsequently removed it. Gone are the days when this pub sold *Everards* beers, which are still advertised on the exterior of the building.

The former **Borough Shades** in Windmill Street, subsequently passing through various themed phases with different bar names, has finally become a hair salon. One reported pub closure is the **Middle Eight** by the Town Pier, which was exclusively a live music venue not selling real

ale. On the other side of the road by the Town Pier, the *GBG* and *LocAle* accredited **Three Daws** is hosting a beer festival during the first week of August. Several pub festivals are held in Gravesend, with two hosted in June, firstly at the **Old Prince of Orange**, specialising in beers from breweries in Kent and featuring live music, and secondly at the **Windmill** in Shrubbery Road. We are always grateful to receive festival news in advance so that we can promote them on our website.

The **Harvester (White Hart)**, Rochester Road, East Gravesend is now selling real ale, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*, as is the **Harvester (Rising Sun)**, Dartford Road (Watling Street) West Dartford which offers *Fuller's London Pride* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*. This appears to be a welcome reversal of company policy. However, the **Harvester** (Dartford Bridge) on the site of the former Princes Hotel, near Princes Park football ground in East Dartford, still does not have real ale.

My colleague, Mick Allen, has good reports from two more of our local pubs that were not previously on the real ale radar, being the **Black Horse** at Bean and the **Ship** at Green Street Green, near Longfield. On a recent branch social the **Black Horse** was found to have *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, *Wells Bombardier* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* all in good condition, along with two *Weston's* ciders, *Old Rosie* and *Rosie's Pig*. Their other ale, *Dartford Wobbler* had run out previously that same day. On first inspection the **Ship** didn't appear to have any real ale, with all handpump clips turned round. Fortunately, the landlord came to the rescue and '*Ship Bitter*' was suddenly being dispensed. On enquiring as to the beer they were drinking, the landlord said: "...guess it and I'll confirm it". After some time, and a few more beers, the branch members decided on *Caledonian Flying Scotsman*, which astounded the landlord as it was the correct answer. Approaching closing time he offered pints on the house which were gratefully received. This pub is back on the radar and is another new outlet for *Draught Copy*.

I shall finish by mentioning that local brewers, *Brew Buddies*, in Swanley Village, are opening a micropub, called the **Hoppers Hut**, which is located outside our branch in Sidcup High Street. A couple of our members attended a preview weekend in June, when they were operating with a temporary licence, pending granting of a full licence. Along with *Brew Buddies* products, two guest beers were available on the Saturday, being *Bristol Beer Factory No. 7* and *Wild Weather Stormbringer*. We await further developments and will report in the next issue.

**BEER**



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

Greetings from all at Bexley CAMRA.

The planning application for a new micropub in Barnehurst was passed and we await further news from Alan Redpath as to when he intends to open the doors. The **Hackney Carriage** micropub near Sidcup Station now has a licence and planning permission. Watch this space for the opening date. As always we appeal to you the drinkers and publicans alike to help keep us up to date here at the branch by submitting information either via [www.WhatPub.com](http://www.WhatPub.com) or by contacting our Pubs Officer, Ian Wright, on 07779 319196 or [bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk). The easiest way for you to do this though, when you are in the pub, is to log on to [WhatPub.com](http://WhatPub.com) with your tablet or smartphone and check out the details shown and advise us at the time of any changes. We would also ask all CAMRA members to use [WhatPub](http://WhatPub.com) to submit beer scores for our branch pubs. Whenever you visit a pub in our branch area, simply go to [Whatpub.com](http://Whatpub.com), find the pub, go to **submit beer score** and follow the simple instructions.

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual. In April we visited the **George Staples** in Blackfen, in May it was the **Royal Standard** in Upper Belvedere, and in June the **Red Barn** in Barnehurst. We thank the licensees for accommodating us.

In April we had a social and meeting at our festival venue to check that everything was ready for our forthcoming major event. The new steward, Keith, was on hand to assure us that everything was running smoothly from the club's point of view, and Alan our organiser was happy that things were all in place. Also in April, the quiz team regained its crown at the **Penny Farthing**, having been beaten the previous time. On the final Saturday of April a few of us ventured just across the branch border to a mini festival at **Footscray Rugby Club**, a delightful club with a nice selection of beers. They are seeking CAMRA approval for their future festivals and I for one would be happy to assist.

In May we held our 11<sup>th</sup> **Bexley Beer Festival** at **Old Dartfordians Community Sports Club**. [See report on page 39] Suffice to say here that it was once again a rip-roaring success. May also saw the revitalisation

campaign reach our area with a meeting held at **Dartford Working Mens Club**. Several of our members attended although it must be said that many of us left feeling more confused about the process than revitalised. Our main social of the month was at the **Penny Farthing** in Crayford to present Bob & Bev Baldwin with the Pub of the Year Certificate for the second year running.



They now go forward into the London Regional contest against twelve other branch winners, with the decision to be reached in mid-July; we wish them all the best. The evening was a huge success with several beers on offer, all, as one would expect, in excellent condition. Our other social for May was at the Kidbrooke Beer Festival, run by South East London CAMRA at **Charlton Park Rugby Club**. A lovely little club on a sunny but slightly windy Saturday afternoon, with lots of beers and ciders and also a nice food stand.

In June, the quiz team were in action again at the **Broken Drum**, where they were well beaten into second place. Our first social was a coach trip to *Rockin' Robin Brewery* and afterwards on to **Cellars Ale Bar** in Maidstone, **Past & Present** in Gillingham and finally the **10:50 from Victoria** in Strood. Thanks to Andy Wheeler for organising the day out. The following weekend, some of our members joined the **Broken Drum** bus trip to the Tenterden Beer festival. Supported by the Ashford branch of CAMRA, the festival is held at the Kent & East Sussex Railway station, and is a very enjoyable day out.

---

We are informed that Andrew Turner, owner of the **Cock Inn**, Luddesdowne, for 32 plus years, who has been waiting for over 3 years for a kidney transplant, was successfully operated on recently and given a new kidney. The operation was carried out at Guys Hospital, London, and he is recovering well.

May Andrew's recovery continue apace!

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# 11th CAMRA Bexley Beer Festival – Sellout

Once again we sold out of beer early on the Saturday, this time at 17.30. Our apologies if you turned up in the early evening to find that the festival was over.



This year we started with 80 different beers and 19 ciders, with an extra 10 beers and 2 ciders waiting in reserve. As usual, Friday was the busier day with free admission to CAMRA members until 17:00. Overall the festival was visited by 1580 people, of which 569 are CAMRA members. There were also 89 people under the age of 26, who were admitted free in a bid to attract younger drinkers to the delights of Real Ale. Thanks to

our Young Members officer, Nick Hair, himself only 21, for the suggestion and mentions on social media. Interestingly, the youngsters seemed to like the darker beers, the milds, stouts and porters, beers not so easy to find in Bexley unless you visit J D Wetherspoon or our three micropubs, the **Broken Drum** in Blackfen, **Door Hinge** in Welling or **Penny Farthing** in Crayford.



Beer of the festival by customer vote (and the first cask to run out) was *Bexley Brewery's Rum Oak Aged Black Prince Porter* (4.6%) – only three casks had been brewed – followed by *Brampton Dark Mild* (4.9%), *High Weald Charcoal Burner Stout* (4.3%) and *Kent's Sacred Grounds Stout* (5.2%), all joint second. Note they are all dark beers. Cider/perry was a tie between *Broome Farm Dabinett* (single variety at 7.4%) and *Green Valley Farm Strawberry Cyder* (4.0%).

Again there was a great selection of dark beers: 7 milds (including two light milds, the *Timothy Taylor* and *Landlocked Danish Mild 1871*, brewed using an old Carlsberg mild recipe; 5 porters and 7 stouts, along with 2 wheat beers, a honey beer and some odd speciality ones including a spiced Red Ale, one brewed with Earl Grey tea, and a Belgian style Saison. Welcome to the wonderful world of real ale!

Compliments to our organiser, Alan Boakes, who made it all possible, and who has led, and always will lead, from the front to make Bexley Beer Festival what it is – Successful !

[Edited from a report by Peter Trout]

## The Bell & Jorrocks

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# Check Out Czech Out East

by Jeff Tucker

I recently visited the far eastern end of the Czech Republic where, along with most of the rest of the world, new bars, brewpubs and microbreweries are springing up all the time. My CAMRA Czech beer guide is now nine years old, so I consulted *Ratebeer.com* before my visit.

I flew from Heathrow to Prague, then caught bus 100 and the Metro to Florenc coach station, where I had time for a beer or two at the wonderful **Pivovarsky Club**, handily situated between Metro station and coach station. My booked coach to Brno (210Kc for a 205km journey) was run by Student Agency, whose luxurious coaches bomb down the motorway, with an on-board attendant serving free hot drinks, and dishing out headphones for the entertainment. In Brno, I soon found my accommodation, which I didn't like much, as it was more like a boutique hotel attached to a cafe, so I wouldn't recommend it to you.

In the following, Czech Koruna is shown as Kc, of which there are around 33 to the pound. The default quantity for a beer is half-a-litre. Please excuse the lack of accents on some of the letters, as I don't have them on my keyboard!

My first port of call in Brno was **U Trech Certu** (At the Three Devils), belonging to *Pivovar Bratcice*, which has recently moved from nearby Oslavany. From the six beers on offer, I tried *Nefiltrovane* (unfiltered) at 33Kc which was very nice indeed. A menu in English helped me find something to eat.

Next was **U Zlateho Mece**, which was in the 2007 guide, but now just sells *Pilsner Urquell* and *Kozel Dark*; okay but not spectacular. I tried the *Dark* at 36Kc, then swiftly moved on to **Pegas** on Jakubaska. This is an old, traditional pub/restaurant/hotel with own-brewed beers. They had a new seasonal beer called *Red IPA*, 5.9% and 45Kc, made with American hops. Lovely!

My last beer before bedtime was at **Atrium** on Josefaska, close to my hotel, but hard to find down an indoor alleyway, then up to the first floor bar. *Bernard Nefiltrovane* (36Kc) was excellent, and *Chotebor Premium* was also on, so I had a small glass of that, too.

The next day involved a 2.5-hour train trip firstly to Ostrava. A trolleybus ride from the station took me to **Pivovarsky Dum** and the **Hobit** brewpub next door (see [www.pivovarsky-dum.eu](http://www.pivovarsky-dum.eu)). Here I had *Qasek Polotmavy*, which was nice and not gassy, 5.5% and 36Kc. The *Qasek IPA*, 6.4% was equally good.

There were six beers on draught, but time didn't allow me to try any more, or the other two brewpubs in Ostrava, **Zamek Zabreh** and **Garage Club**, so it was a train trip to the nearby town of Opava next.

The best pub here is the **Nova Sladovna Brewpub**, where I found the *Francin Ale* (5.0%, 34Kc for 0.4L) quite bitter, and the *Nakurovane* (6.0%, 35Kc) rather sulphury, definitely an acquired taste! Other beers on draught were *Opavsky Korbek* at 4.5% and *Geronimo* (6.5%). From here, I caught the train back to Brno, changing trains at Ostrava.



The following day took me on a bus trip to Zlin, in search of **Pivovar Malenovice**. I couldn't find the street name on the town map, but saw that Malenovice was a suburb of the town out to the west, served every few minutes by trolleybuses 1, 2, 6 and 10.

I managed to get off at the wrong stop, thinking it fairly central, and had to travel back to what was the first stop with 'Malenovice' in the stop name, announced on a screen in the trolleybus.

From here, head south for 200 yards, turn left at the mini-roundabout, and the pub/brewery is about 200 yards on the right, not easy to spot. The bar offered five draught beers, and was doing a steady trade in PET-bottled take-aways.

The beer brand was *Zlinsky Svec*, and I tried the *Polotmavy Lezak* at 25Kc and *Jantarovy Special* at 28Kc, both of which were superb. I just had to take a photo in the gents, as it brings a new meaning to 'topping up the Fosters'! Except that you can't buy Fosters in the Czech Republic. Overall, it was well worth the (convoluted) journey, and proved to be the highlight of my trip (the pub, not the gents!).



Back on the bus to Brno, and a number 8 Lisen-bound tram to the Kotlanova stop, then a short walk up the slope and across the tram tracks to **Lisensky Pivovar** brewpub, in an ugly, modern shopping

precinct. Of the six own-brewed beers on, I tried the *Tmava* (4.4%, 33Kc) and *Psenicna*, a wheat beer (35Kc), both of which were good examples of their type, once I had discarded the slice of lemon in the latter!

Next was the **Zlena Kocka Pivarium** on Dvorakova, near my hotel. Eight beers were on draught, some at silly prices, and I was happy with the *Dalesice Majove* at 42Kc. Across the road was another of the **U Trech Certu** mini-chain. Confusingly, all three pubs carry the same name.

My last full day in Brno was spent in and around the city. Firstly, I caught bus 52 to the outer suburb of Zebetin, where I easily found the **U Richarda** brewpub, which has been around for years. Eight own-brewed beers were on, and the *Tmavy Lezak* (33Kc) was very enjoyable.

Next stop was the **Zastavka Pivnice** at the Uvoz stop of trolleybuses 25/26. This is a proper free house, with ten beers on. I tried the *Krusnohor* at 42Kc, which was cold and unremarkable.

Less than 100 yards away across Uvoz and into Gorkeho Trida is **U Blahovsky**, an old-established *Pilsner Urquell* tank beer pub. Very traditional, very busy, and just one beer at 40Kc.

Then on to **Ochutnavkova Pivnice** at the south end of Lidicka. This is another proper free house, with eight beers on. The *Primator Nefiltrovane* (29Kc) was not bad, but I declined to try the *Chilli IPA*!

Next it was back to the delights of **Pegas**, to try the *Psenicne* wheat beer (4.5%), which again came with an unwanted slice of lemon. The *Red IPA* had been replaced by *Rauch Marken*. Not being a fan of smoke beers, I can't report on that one.

The next day was my last in Brno, catching the evening flight from Prague, but I had time during the day to sample a couple more pubs. Firstly, the **Vegas Club** (not a club at all), a short walk from Ceska, offered seven beers. I had *Policka* at 5.0% (28Kc) in this pleasant, roomy, independent pub, which was in the 2007 guide.

Next, to complete the set, I tracked down the third **U Trech Certu** pub at the north end of Stefanikova. Trams 1 and 6 stop outside the door. Here I had *Zamecky Nefiltrovane* at 31Kc.

All in all, I would recommend a trip to the eastern end of the Czech Republic. Great pubs, cheap and excellent beer, and a good transport system. At least one of the budget airlines flies to Brno, if you like that sort of thing. If I went again, I would be tempted to stay at **Pegas**.



# COMPETITION ANSWERS – ISSUE 183

Four people had the correct pub name, but only two had all of the correct answers. The lucky winners are Roy De'ath and Ian Symes, and beer festival tickets have been sent to them.

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

The hidden pub was the **White Horse**.

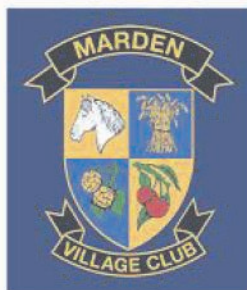
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# CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

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)

## AUGUST

- 4 **MMK** **Goudhurst Inn**, then **Peacock**, Iden Green
- 5 **GDV** 7pm beer festival: **Three Daws**, Gravesend
- 6 **MMK** 1137, Bus trip to Laddingford for Transport Fair
- 10 **BEX** **Broken Drum**, Blackfen [*OBM*]
- 11 **MMK** **Wheatsheaf**, Leybourne, then **Kings Arms**, Offham
- 17 **GDV** **Pied Bull**, Farningham, then **Lion**, **Chequers**
- 18 **MMK** **Walnut Tree**, Maidstone, then **First & Last**
- 20 **BEX** 12noon London crawl: start at **Harp**, Charing Cross
- 22 **MMK** 1015 Bus & Walk to Rolvenden Layne
- 24 **BEX** 8pm Petts Wood crawl: start at **One Inn the Wood**
- 25 **GDV** **Rising Sun**, Swanscombe, then **George & Dragon**
- 25 **MMK** **Railway**, Wateringbury, then **Teston Club**
- 27 **MMK** 1145, Bus Trip to **Three Tuns**, Lower Halstow

## SEPTEMBER

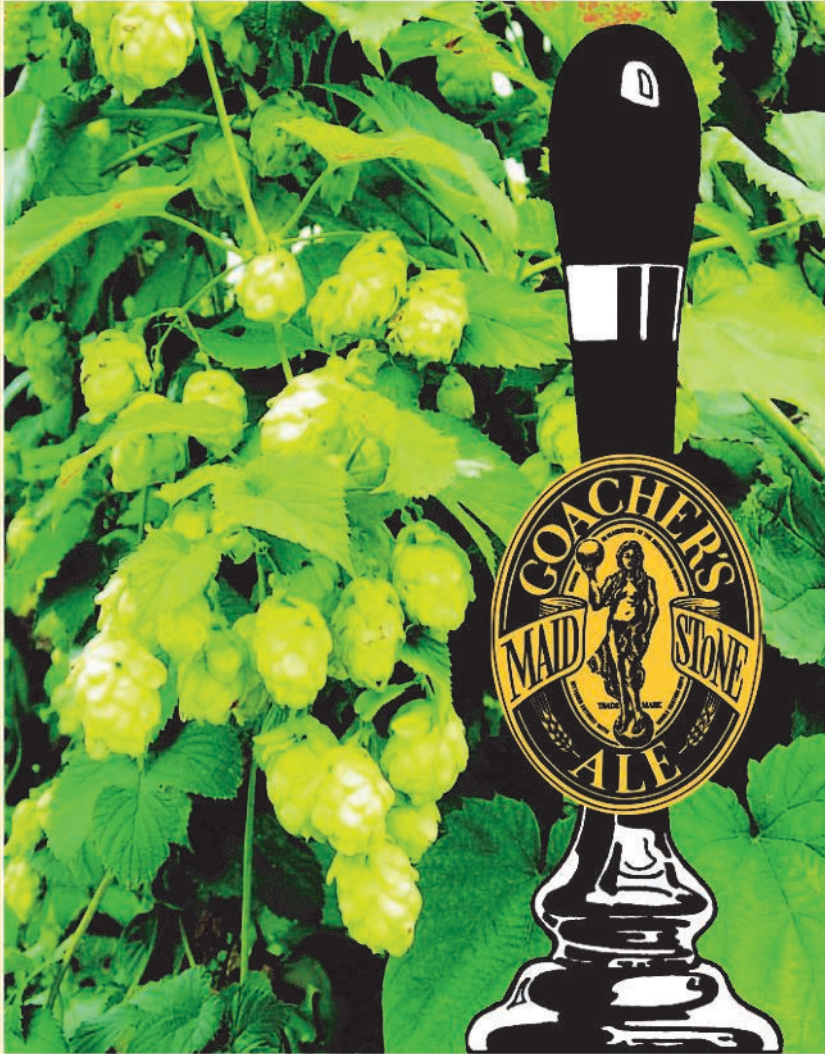
- 1 **MMK** **Rising Sun**, East Malling, then **King & Queen**
- 3 **MMK** **EAST MALLING BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL**
- 7 **GDV** **Robert Pocock**, Gravesend [*OBM*]
- 8 **MMK** **Hawkenbury**, Hawkenbury, then **Lord Raglan**, Staplehurst
- 10 **MMK** Train trip to London – historic pubs
- 14 **GDV** **Rising Sun**, Twitton, then **Bull**, **Woodman**, Otford
- 14 **BEX** **Charcoal Burner**, Sidcup [*OBM*]
- 15 **MMK** **Bell & Jorrocks**, Frittenden [*OBM*]
- 17 **BEX** 1pm Medway crawl: start at **10:50 from Victoria**, Strood
- 22 **GDV** **Cock**, Luddesdown
- 22 **MMK** **Dirty Habit**, Hollingbourne, then **Sugar Loaves**, **Windmill**
- 24 **MMK** Bus/train trip to Canterbury – Green Hop Fortnight
- 28 **BEX** 8pm Welling crawl: **Door Hinge**, **New Cross Turnpike**
- 29 **MMK** **Nevill Bull**, Birling, then **Duke of Wellington**, Ryarsh

## OCTOBER

- 6 **MMK** **Red Lion**, Lenham (*Beerfest wash-up meeting*)
- 6 **GDV** Dartford walkabout: **Stage Door**, **Court House**, **Royal Oak**
- 8 **MMK** Roland's vintage coach trip
- 8 **BEX** 8.45am Festival workers' trip to Colchester
- 12 **GDV** **George & Dragon**, Wrotham, then **Rose & Crown**, **Bull**
- 12 **BEX** **White Cross**, North Cray [*OBM*]
- 13 **MMK** **Brickmakers**, Maidstone, then **Flower Pot**
- 19 **GDV** Gravesend walkabout: **Somerset Arms**, then **Prince Albert**
- 20 **MMK** **Bricklayers**, New Hythe, then **Cobdown Sports Club**
- 26 **BEX** 8pm Dartford crawl: **Stage Door**, **Flying Boat**, **DWMC**
- 27 **MMK** **Queens Head**, Sutton Valence, **Clothworkers Arms**, **Kings Head**

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

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