

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Magazine
By Maidstone & Mid-Kent
CAMRA
incorporating Gravesend &
Darent Valley and Bexley
Branches

Spring 2017

No. 186

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS WINS KENT PUB OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Matt and Gina

DRAUGHT COPY

Draught Copy is the magazine of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, also incorporating news from Bexley, and Gravesend & Darent Valley branches of CAMRA. It is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December and has a circulation of 3,400 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials.

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Website: *www.mmk.camra.org.uk*

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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*

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MMK Draught Copy

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BEER FESTIVALS IN OUR REGION AND NOT TOO FAR AWAY

NON CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

APRIL 21-23 2017 (see Page 31)

ST GEORGE'S BEER FESTIVAL

The Knoxbridge,
Frittenden TN17 2BT

www.theknoxbridge.co.uk

May 26 - 28 2017 (See Page 17)

ANGELFEST 6

Tonbridge Angels Football Club,
Longmead Stadium, Darenth Av,
Tonbridge. TN10 3JF.

www.angelfest.info

CAMRA (www.camra.org.uk/events)

MARCH 8-10 2017

LONDON DRINKER BEER & CIDER
FESTIVAL Camden Centre, Bidborough
St, London WC1H 9AU
150 Beers, Ciders and Perries

www.northlondon.camra.org.uk

MARCH 23—25 2017

SUSSEX BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
Brighton Racecourse, Freshfield Rd,
Brighton. BN2 9XZ

150 Beers + 40 Ciders and Perries

www.sussexbeerfestival.co.uk

APRIL 14—15, 2017

PLANET THANET BEER FEST.
Margate Winter Gardens.

Margate, CT9 1HX

200 Real Ales, Ciders & Perries

www.thanet-camra.org.uk

May 4 - 6 2017

BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL

Old Dartfordians Sports Club, War
Memorial Club House, Bourne Rd,
Bexley, DA5 1LW.

85 Beers + Ciders

www.bexley.camra.org.uk

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The Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) best-selling beer and pub guide is back for 2017. Fully updated with the input of CAMRA's 180,000+ members, the Guide is indispensable for beer and pub lovers young and old.

Buying the book directly from CAMRA helps us campaign to support and protect real ale, real cider & real perry, and pubs & pub-goers.

The new Guide will be published in **September 2016**, you can order a copy now (details below).

HOW TO ORDER*

Post: Complete the form on this page and send to: CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW

Phone: To order by credit card please phone 01727 867201 during office hours

Online: Please visit www.camra.org.uk/shop

Your details (please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS)

- I wish to buy the 2017 Good Beer Guide for £11 (CAMRA Members only) plus p&p
 I wish to buy the 2017 Good Beer Guide for £15.99 plus p&p

Postal Charges†

UK £2.50
EU £7.50

Rest of the World £10.00

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone Number CAMRA Membership Number

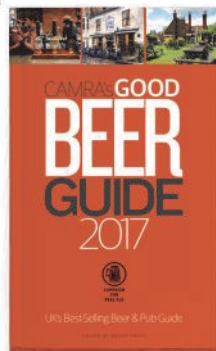
I wish to pay by cheque (payable to CAMRA). **Please remember to add postal charges to all orders**

Please charge my Credit/Debit card. Please note that we are unable to accept payment via American Express.

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4.2% Best Bitter



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3.8% Golden Ale



TRIGGER
3.6% Pale Ale



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



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Boutilliers	07743 372434	<i>www.boutilliers.com</i>
Brew Buddies Ltd		<i>www.brew-buddies.co.uk</i>
Brumaison	07831 704089	
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>www.dartfordwobbler.com</i>
Four Candles		<i>www.thefourcandles.co.uk</i>
G2	01233 630277	<i>www.g2brewing.com</i>
Goachers	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
Goody Ales	01227 361555	<i>www.goodyales.co.uk</i>
Hopdaemon Brewery	01795 892078	<i>www.hopdaemon.com</i>
Hop Fuzz Brewery	07858 562878	<i>www.hopfuzz.co.uk</i>
Isla Vale Alesmiths	01843 292451	<i>www.islavalealesmiths.co.uk</i>
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	<i>www.kentbrewery.com</i>
Larkins Brewery	01892 870328	<i>www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk</i>
Mad Cat Brewery Ltd	07960 263615	<i>www.madcatbrewery.co.uk</i>
Maidstone Brewing Co.	01622 757705	<i>www.maidstonebrewing.co.uk</i>
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	<i>www.musketbrewery.co.uk</i>
Nelson Brewery	01634 832828	<i>www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</i>
Old Dairy Brewery	01580 763867	<i>www.olddairybrewery.com</i>
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	<i>www.thefarriersarms.com</i>
Pig & Porter	01424 893519	<i>www.pigandporter.co.uk</i>
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	<i>www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</i>
Range Ales	01303 230842	<i>www.rangealesbrewery.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.shepherdneame.co.uk</i>
Swan on the Green	01622 812271	<i>www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</i>
Time & Tide	07840 327265	<i>www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk</i>
Tír Dhá Ghlas Brewery	01304 211666	<i>www.cullinsyard.co.uk/brewery</i>
Tonbridge Brewery	07962 016286	<i>www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</i>
Turnstone Ales		<i>See Facebook page</i>
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	<i>www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</i>
Westerham Brewery Co.	01732 864427	<i>www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</i>
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	<i>www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk</i>

Map available at www.kentcamra.org.uk/kent/breweries



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Beardspoon Cider Works		<i>www.beardspoon.com</i>
Biddenden Cider	01580 291726	<i>www.biddendenvineyards.com</i>
Broomfield Orchard	01227 362279	
Castle Cider Co	01732 455977	
Chafford Cider Co.	01892 740437	
Core Fruit Products	01227 730589	<i>www.corejuice.co.uk</i>
Crucider	01689 855965	<i>www.crucider.com</i>
Double Vision Cider	01622 746633	
Dudda's Tun Cider	01795 886266	<i>www.duddastuncider.com</i>
East Stour Cider Co	07880 923398	
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>www.hushheath.com</i>
Johnson's Farmhouse Cider	01795 665203	
Kent Cider Company	01795 521317	<i>www.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>
Merry Moon	07707 309041	
Northdowns Cider	01795 591285	
Pawley Farm Cider	01795 532043	<i>pawleyfarmcider@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Pembury Real Cider	07444 435873	<i>www.pemburyrealcider.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>
Stiles Cider	01795 830615	
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>

Map available at www.kentcamra.org.uk/kent/cider

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

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS IN TOP 16 PUBS OF THE YEAR

Having already been voted Pub of the Year by local CAMRA members and Kent (West) branches, popular Maidstone pub the Rifle Volunteers in Wyatt Street has received a further accolade, having been voted Kent Pub of the Year by regional judges, placing it among the top 16 real ale pubs nationwide. The Rifle Volunteers beat the Yard of Ale, Broadstairs - the Kent (East) section winner – to claim the title.

Matt Bannerman and Gina Keohane took over the pub - one of two Goacher's tied houses in the County Town - in March 2015 following the retirement of the previous licensee and vowed to maintain the single-bar, stone-built, street-corner pub's distinctive charms, identified by CAMRA as having a regionally-important historic pub interior.

Ian Clennett, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA said: "Picking up the Kent Pub of the Year title is further reward for the great work that Matt and Gina have put in since taking over. Real Ale fans locally and from further afield have recognised what a great pub the Rifle Volunteers is, with its emphasis on beer and conversation. The judges' scores reflected this."

Gina Keohane said: "Having been great fans of the pub over the years, we wanted to keep all the things that have made it special. We know that our regulars value the chance to enjoy a good selection of locally-brewed ales without the distraction of music or TV and this new award shows that we're doing the right thing. We're delighted that judges at area and regional level thought so highly of the pub."

Matt and Gina received the award from Kent Regional Director Kae Mendham at a special ceremony in the pub at the end of November.



Rifle Volunteers



Kent CAMRA Pub of the Year 2016/17

28 Wyatt Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 IEU

Tel: 01622 758891



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

Opening Hours:

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



AROUND AND ABOUT

by Jeff Tucker

Maidstone & Mid-Kent branch, of which I am a member, has a boundary with six other CAMRA branches, so I would like to tell you about my favourite pubs in each branch area. In most cases, I have listed one pub but, in a couple of cases, I am unable to choose between two pubs, so have listed them both. My article, my rules! Starting in the north-west, the first adjoining branch is:

Gravesend & Darent Valley - I have two favourite pubs in this branch, which covers Dartford, Gravesend and the rural area to the south, First is the **George and Dragon** at Swanscombe, home (in the cellar) of the



Caveman Brewery. Caveman are not afraid to experiment with unusual beers, and my first choice, when it is available, is *Shatkora*, which is flavoured with the fruit of the same name, also used in Indian cooking.

The pub is great, with several drinking areas in a U-shape around the bar, and is easy to get to, with a bus stop a few yards away, with buses every few minutes to Gravesend, and Swanscombe train station very close by. The bar staff are always keen to describe the beers and offer samples. My second pub is the **Old House** at Ightham Common, difficult to find but well worth the effort. This is another unspoilt gem, with a range of beers served on gravity in the back room. Opening hours are quite limited, with the pub being shut before 7pm in the week, and during the afternoon at weekends. If you want to visit on a Saturday lunchtime, you can catch a bus nearby, with a walk of no more than ten minutes to the pub. Route 222 is the nearest, to Ightham Common, but is less frequent than the hourly 308 to Ightham Common Crossroads on the A25. Neither route runs after 7pm, unfortunately. The next branch in a clockwise direction is....

Medway - This branch covers the same area as Medway unitary authority, and has five micropubs, of which the ones in Gillingham and Strood are particularly good. My favourite pub, however, has been a CAMRA favourite and Good Beer Guide entry for much longer. It is the **King George V** at Brompton, known colloquially as the KG5. Although offering only two or three ales, at least one from a Kent micro, they also have a wide selection of Belgian bottled beers, and the food is both excellent and good value. Try the sirloin steak – fabulous! The pub décor has a naval theme, appropriate with Chatham Dockyard not too far away. Buses 101 from Maidstone and 190 from Gravesend stop nearby. Next on the list is....

Swale - In this branch, which covers Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Faversham areas, there are at least two excellent pubs. My favourite is the **Three Tuns** at Lower Halstow, which sells three or four ales, many from Kent. There is plenty of room, and a large outdoor area in summer, and the staff are really efficient and friendly. They have a beer festival

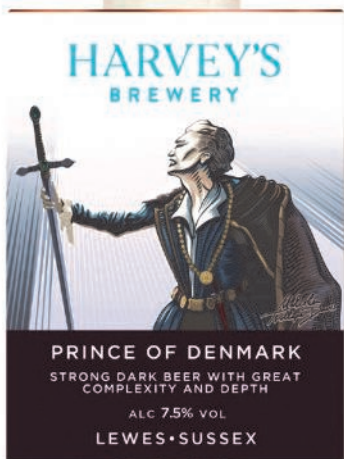


once a year, and other events, such as a Christmas fair. Bus 327 from Sittingbourne and Chatham stops just up the road, but only runs about five or six times a day, so check the timetable carefully. Coming a close second is the **Elephant** in Faversham, just south of the station (access via the subway), and bus 333 from Maidstone stops within 100 yards. Here there are always five beers on, some from Kent micros and others from all sorts of small breweries around the country. No ubiquitous *Doom Bar* here, thank goodness! Note the tables near the door, which are decorated with Fremlins wording. Heading south, we come to...

Ashford, Folkestone and Romney Marsh - This branch stretches, as the name implies, from Charing to the coast, from Folkestone to Lydd. My favourite pub here is the truly wonderful **Red Lion** at Snargate. This



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Festival 2016

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remote pub on Romney Marsh has been in the same family for decades. Sadly the licensee, Doris, who was in her late eighties, recently died, but her daughter Kate has taken on the mantle, and continues to run the unspoilt pub as it always was. Be aware that the pub closes in the afternoons. Appledore station is just over a mile away, but the walk along the road is slightly precarious. There is a bus 11B to Snargate from Ashford, but it only runs once a day, so you will have to walk to or from Brenzett to catch the more frequent route 11 in the other direction. I remember catching the bus once, when most of the other passengers got off at Ham Street. The driver then turned to us and asked 'Are you going to Doris's?' Marvellous! Next branch along is...

South-East Sussex - This branch borders ours along the Kent-Sussex boundary in the Hawkhurst area. A pub which I really like here is the **Salehurst Halt** at Salehurst, near Robertsbridge, which is run by a consortium from the local community. Salehurst consists of a church, a few cottages and the pub, which takes its name from the nearby station, which may well come to life again when the Kent & East Sussex Railway is extended to Robertsbridge, as is planned. Despite being in a small village, the pub is very popular, with a mixture of local farmers, horse riders and groups of diners enjoying the three ales, often including one or more from *Dark Star*. The nearest bus service is the hourly route 304/5 from Tunbridge Wells (it runs as route 254 here) via Hawkhurst. Get off at the first stop in Robertsbridge, cross the A21 and walk up the lane for about 10 minutes or less. For an alternative pub, or perhaps you



could do both in one day, stay on the bus to St Leonards, and get off at Tower Road, at the north end of the town. A few yards from the stop is the **Tower** pub, a really warm and friendly local with a great range of beers, many of them from Sussex and Kent. Last but not least...

West Kent - This branch covers Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Edenbridge areas. A pub worth seeking out is the **Hop Bine** at Petteridge, near Brenchley. This is a small village pub with a good selection of local beers. There is a useable bus service (296), on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays from Paddock Wood or Tunbridge Wells, or route 297 runs every 90-120 minutes along the main road through Brenchley, about half a mile away. If you are feeling energetic, you can walk from the Hop Bine along the lanes to the **Halfway House** to the east of Brenchley, where you won't be disappointed with the pub or the beer, and can hail bus 297 outside the door!



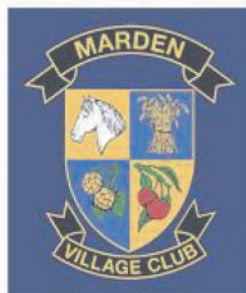
Full details of these pubs, including opening times, can be found on CAMRA's Whatpub.com.

Marden Village Club **CAMRA MMK Club of the Year**

Albion Road, Marden, Kent TN12 0PD

Phone: 01622 831427

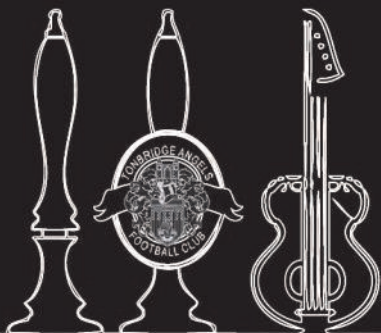
www.mardenvillageclub.co.uk



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WHY I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO BOURNEMOUTH

by Colin Valentine



This April, I will be joining CAMRA members from across the UK, in the seaside resort of Bournemouth, for CAMRA's Members' Weekend, which includes our National AGM and Conference.

I have been attending the CAMRA Members' Weekend for almost 30 years, well before I was active nationally, never mind National Chairman. Those of you who were in Norwich in 2013 may remember that I still have my glass from my first AGM weekend, as they were then called, in Norwich in 1990. Even prior to becoming Chairman, I always made an effort to travel to whichever corner of the country the weekend was held and have only missed one since then - and was even organiser in Edinburgh in 1998. It has always been, and still is, an opportunity to meet with old friends, make new acquaintances and socialise with other CAMRA members from across the country.

Most importantly, the Members' Weekend is a fantastic opportunity for any member across the organisation – whether you have just joined, been a member for 20+ years, active or inactive – to shape the future direction and purpose of CAMRA.

As Chairman, I now have the great responsibility of making sure that the AGM and Conference part of the Members' Weekend is run successfully and open to every single one of our 185,000 members. This year, that responsibility is even greater than ever before.

Following 50 consultation meetings across the UK and three national surveys, we have now seen the proposals that were put forward by the Revitalisation Project Steering Committee on CAMRA's future. Whether you agree or disagree with the proposals, took part in the consultation events or stayed at home, the Members' Weekend will be the opportunity to discuss them inside and out, ahead of a decision next year.

Over the weekend, members will be able to consider the Revitalisation Project and proposals on the future of CAMRA in a series of discussion groups. It will be your chance to have a say on the Revitalisation Project's findings and represent your views in the debate. A final decision on the proposals will then be taken at the Members' Weekend in 2018.

I am proud to chair an organisation that is a true democracy – where every member has the opportunity to feed into our policies, direction and future. I never forget that without our huge membership base and dedicated volunteers; there simply would not be a CAMRA.

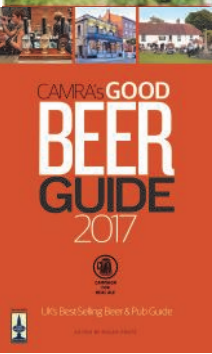
I hope you will consider joining us in Bournemouth this year. The closing date for registration is Friday 17th March 2017. For more information simply visit camraagm.org.uk.



Quiz Night on Monday

Open 12 – 2.30 and 5 – 11 Monday – Thursday
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Oak on the Green, Bearsted – Bought by *Shepherd Neame* in November along with the adjacent restaurant. Reports have yet to be received on what changes have been made, and it has not yet appeared on the *Shepherd Neame* website.

Bull, Benenden – On a visit in the lead up to Christmas we caught up with licensees Mark & Lucy. Beers were all in excellent condition with *Dark Star Hophead*, *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Larkins Traditional Ale* and the guest was *Shepherd Neame Rudolf's Reward*.



Beer Barn, Boughton Monchelsea – Situated within the *Rockin' Robin* brewery at Campfield Farm in Haste Hill Road, the brewery tap is run by Robin and Michelle. It is open from 4-10 Friday and 12-6 Saturday with several of their own beers and one guest ale. Occasional musical entertainment is provided. www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk/beer-barn.html

Freemasons Arms, Ham Hill – Now has three ales on handpump; *Fuller's London Pride*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*.

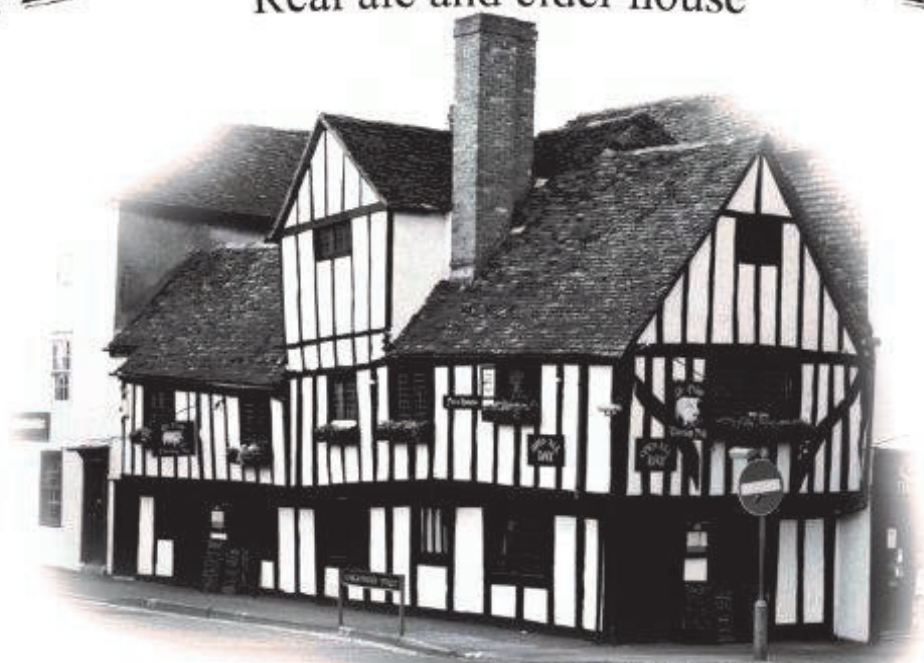
Plough, Langley – Has re-opened under licensee Shaw Cavill, who also has the *Chequers* in Loose. Part of the interior is now a fine dining restaurant. Regulars are *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Rockin' Robin Reliant Robin*.

Chequers, Loose – On Bank Holiday Monday (May 29th), 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 5 beers will be available, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, *Fuller's London Pride*, *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and an offering from *Rockin Robin*.

Potting Shed, Langley – Re-opened mainly as a restaurant under the popular Elite Pubs group but also has three handpumps. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* are available, but other more local products may be found such as *Musket Flintlock*.

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thirstypigcrew@gmail.com or on Facebook as Ye Olde Thirsty Pig.

Eagle, Maidstone – There is now a second handpump carrying *Sharp's Doom Bar* with a changing beer on the first handpump.

Earls, Maidstone – Purchased by *Shepherd Neame*, there is a change of licensee here as David Greenslade has now moved to Lashings. The regular *Wells Bombardier* is now joined by *Shepherd Neame Spitfire Gold*.

Old House at Home, Maidstone – Normally has a regular range of beers here, but after Christmas one member was lucky enough to find *Sharp's Atlantic IPA* in place of *Sharp's Doom Bar*. Other permanent ales are *Fuller's London Pride*, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* and *Young's Special*.

Paper Makers, Maidstone – This pub with the blue-tiled exterior has, for some time, been without real ale but is now offering *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*. And don't forget the bus stops very close at Waterloo Street!



Pilot, Maidstone – This historic *Harveys* pub has closed due to lack of support and difficulty in finding a new tenant.

Queen Anne, Maidstone – As reported by the *Kent Messenger*, a new licensee, Nathan Morgan, has taken over here and is hoping to improve its offering for the LGBT community.

Swan, Maidstone – Re-opened in December under new licensee Claire Banfield. Two *Shepherd Neame* beers are available here.

Kings Arms, Offham – Closed for a few weeks in February whilst improvements are made to allow better catering arrangements.

Tickled Trout, West Farleigh – Now has a new manager, Ben Hughes, who took over earlier this year.

Five Pointed Star, West Malling – Jan Maytum has retired after ten years and a new licensee took over at the end of January.

Malling Jug, West Malling – A change of use application to the borough council is still under consideration for the new micropub in West Malling, aiming for a March opening date. www.themallingjug.co.uk

Anchor, Yalding – *Shepherd Neame* are giving this a major refurbishment and the re-opening date to be advised.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You were asking, on page 31 (issue 185) about the origin of the word 'Shades' in Gravesend Pub names. Well, for decades I was a regular in the former **Borough Shades** in Windmill Street. In the 60's the pub had a delicatessen in the front. I think, in the 70's, the landlord, Ken, did away with the shop and extended the bar. The Gravesend Reporter at the time ran an article which suggested that 'Shades' was related to the shades or ghost of someone who has just died. The new sign, they, said, depicted this meaning..

Marc Hurstfield, Northfleet

Ed: To add to this, a search on the internet turned up the following excerpt from Martyn Cornell on his blog site Zythophile (<http://zythophile.co.uk/>):

... Years later I discovered that a "shades" was originally the name given in the South of England to a basement bar. According to *Words, facts, and phrases; a dictionary of curious, quaint, and out-of-the-way matters* by Eliezer Edwards, published in 1882.

The name originated at Brighton. In 1816 a Mr Savage, who had acquired the premises in Steine Lane formerly occupied by the Old Bank, converted them into a drinking and smoking shop. Mrs Fitzherbert [the Prince of Wales's mistress] at that time lived exactly opposite, and Savage was fearful of annoying her by placing any inscription in front of his house designating its new character. It struck him, however, that as Mrs Fitzherbert's house, which was south of his, was so tall as to prevent the sun from shining on his premises, he would adopt the word "Shades", which he accordingly placed over the door where the word Bank had before appeared. The name took, and a large business was secured. Numbers of other publicans in London and elsewhere adopted the name Shades, which is now fully established in the language as a synonym for wine vaults.

I'm not sure I believe that, but the Oxford English Dictionary confirms that "the Shades" was "originally, a name for wine and beer vaults with a drinking-bar, either underground or sheltered from the sun by an arcade. Hence subsequently used, both in England and in the US, as a name for a retail liquor shop, or a drinking-bar attached to a hotel."

Martyn Cornell kindly agreed for this to be reproduced in this magazine..

Contact: Adrian Moss on 01474 363102 or
Peter Cook on 01322 270589 / 07913 500414
email: gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk

www.gdv.camra.org.uk

As the copy deadline for the last edition of *Draught Copy* was approaching, news reached us that the **Battle of Britain** in Northfleet had suddenly been demolished without warning. Although the pub was shown in Land Registry records as owned by J T Davies and traded under the Brakspear name, the demolition was carried out in the name of the Caldecotte Group, who applied to Gravesham Council on 5 October to request a determination as to whether planning permission was needed prior to demolition of the building. On 7 October workmen and machinery arrived on site but Caldecotte Group confirmed in writing that actual demolition would not begin until the prior approval application was determined. Their initial application stated that work would not commence until 21 November. In the event, local residents told the council on the evening of 11 October that demolition was under way.



In response to these reports the Council's Planning Enforcement Officers visited the site on October 12 and confirmed that the work was unauthorised and no further demolition should take place. The site foreman agreed to stop work until Enforcement Officers could return with a Building Control Inspector that same morning. Despite this assurance, officers returned with an officer from STG Building Control no more than 2 hours later and found that demolition had proceeded apace in their absence. The Building Control Inspector examined the building at this stage and later confirmed that the building had been rendered dangerous such that the roof and walls at first floor level would need to be removed. It was also noted that this additional demolition could potentially damage the ground floor walling which would require further demolition.

Although the pub was not a listed building or in a conservation area, and had not been listed as an Asset of Community Value, briefing notes issued to local residents confirmed that it had been demolished unlawfully. One note stated that consideration of the case would be deferred to November 3 and that nominations to the asset of community value register were being

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monitored. This seemed to leave an open door, so after consulting the local residents' group which was immediately set up, our branch submitted an application before November 3. However, the application has now been rejected by the council because the pub has been demolished. The local residents are obviously very unhappy about all this as the pub provided a wide range of facilities, including a large and well-equipped garden.

The Battle of Britain Pub Community Group have recently attended a rather lengthy meeting with the Chief Executive of Gravesham Borough Council and their legal team. It would appear that, despite the admitted unauthorised demolition of the pub and the unsatisfactory manner in which it was carried out, the council will not be prosecuting the culprits and are in fact considering granting planning permission for redevelopment (they confirmed receipt of a partial application for the site but said their hands were tied due to planning laws).

The **Grapes** in Gravesend has been undergoing a quiet renovation in recent months, which has been completed with the improvement of the outdoor seating area, which now sports a retractable awning as weather protection. *Shepherd Neame* fitted a smart set of three handpumps and their *Christmas Ale* was available with two other cask beers.

Close by, the **Goose**, a Stonegate Inns establishment normally offering four real ales, frequently including at least one *Wantsum* beer, has had a further two handpumps installed, which have been dedicated to real ciders. Clearly there is increasing interest in cider now and it's good to see this development in a large town-centre pub.

Last year, building work at the **Jolly Drayman** in Gravesend involved the removal of a disused entrance to the garden from the street. The replacement steelwork in a brick wall is in two sections and one of them includes the words "Jolly Drayman" in letters about 2 inches high. The corresponding position on the other section shows "Coke Oven" instead. The pub has been nicknamed the Coke Oven for many years. The name was certainly well known when I first went there in 1975. I've heard more than one explanation for the origin of this alternative title over the years but I have a feeling the true story may have been lost, unless there's a venerable resident who still knows.

A recent visit to the **Windmill Tavern** in Gravesend found *Woodforde's*

Wherry replacing *Sharp's Doom Bar* as one of the regular beers. Paul the landlord told me that the arrangement whereby a sufficient sale of *Doom Bar* could contribute to a reduction in the cost of a pub's Sky Sports TV had ceased, so I wonder if we shall see *Doom Bar* removed from other pubs.

Following the recent loss from Gravesend town centre of the **Trocadero** (now a florist's), **HQ** (now a hair salon) and the **Middle Ei8ht** (described as a gamer café), we now have to report that the **New Inn** has opened as a vape shop. What these pubs had in common was that they were smaller than the surviving Wetherspoon (**Robert Pocock**) and Stonegate (**Goose**) places and must have relied heavily on the younger weekend drinkers who used to pack out central pubs. That whole scene must have declined markedly as a walk through the centre at 9.30 on a Saturday night a couple of months ago suggested that it would have been easy to find a table to sit at both the **Robert Pocock** and the **Goose**.

Just away from the town centre is the **Man of Kent**, which is now the subject of a planning application for conversion to housing. The branch have recommended this be rejected but the pub did seem to have a rather old-fashioned business model. It appears there aren't the customers these days to keep many pubs alive by mainly offering lager, televised sport and darts and/or pool, and the real survivors will be those with imaginative alternative offerings.

About six months ago, new landlords have moved in to the **Chequers** in



Crockenhill, and the bar has been revamped with the four handpumps now grouped together instead of spaced individually along the counter which makes life easier for the customer to order the beers. *Courage Best* is now the only regular real ale and three changing guest beers are available all the time with

Exmoor Gold, *Theakston Lightfoot* and *Sharp's Coaster* were the guests on a visit in January, all in good condition. The food has improved considerably, customer numbers have increased and theme evenings are planned.

Brew Buddies in Swanley Village held tasting sessions and mini beer festivals last year at their brewery and plan to hold a larger festival in a marquee at a different village site in June 2017 - details to be confirmed. *Brew Buddies* beers are not available in the two village pubs, the **Lamb** is tied to *Shepherd*

Neame brewery whilst beers the **Red Lion** are restricted to its pub company list. Privately owned specialist destination real ale pubs, particularly micropubs, take Brew Buddies beers, as does the famous **Dartford Working Men's Club**.

At the time of writing the **Dartford Working Men's Club** featured as one of the four semi-finalists in the national CAMRA Club of the Year Competition which it had won previously in 2006. The winner will be announced on 15th February so the result will be known by the time you read this. I know we're biased but we think **DWMC** should win every year. Comments please!

We have recently received news that *Shepherd Neame* owned **Rose & Crown** in Wrotham, has a new tenant on a very short-term arrangement and we hope that a permanent solution is found soon otherwise the pub could be under threat of closure. This would be a classic case to apply for an ACV listing. We can't always be aware of pubs immediately under threat, viz **the Battle of Britain**, and we rely on information from local people to notify us so please can readers let us know of impending changes, especially with regards to pub closures and new landlords and tenants.

Interesting information received from readers is usually reported in this column and we apologise for omitting news received last summer regarding the **Bull** in Horton Kirby. Katy and Danny have taken on a long lease on this popular village pub and are committed to selling an excellent range of five top quality real ales, often including *Oakham* and *Dark Star* breweries. The pub and garden have been renovated and a beer festival was held in August. Once again, we attempt to promote local pub beer festivals in this newsletter but notification is required well in advance.

A report just in relates to the **Oddfellows** in Dartford which closed on 22nd January 2017 sporting a large "for sale" board outside. This backs up the notion that sports themed pubs are no longer in vogue. This would be a prime site for residential development. Another case of "Use It or Lose It" and potential ACV application.

Finally, while we do not wish to seem obsessive about the **Robert Pocock**, the last *Draught Copy* generated so much interest there that they asked for some extra copies. It seems the photo of the Campbell Arms on the cover included a car belonging to one of the **Robert Pocock's** regulars. Life's full of surprises.

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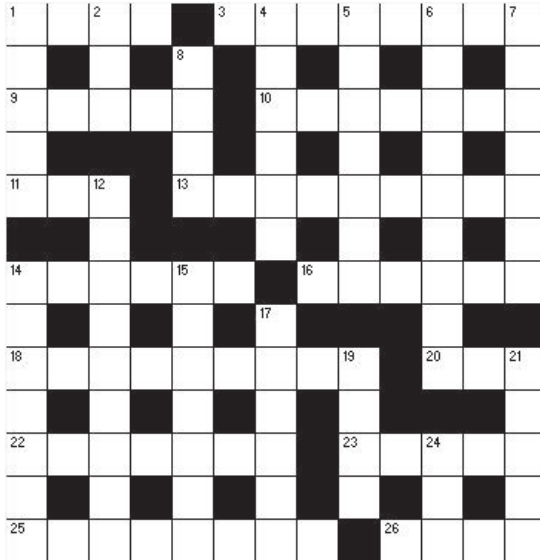
MILITARY VEHICLE DISPLAY



Crossword No. 25

Solution in next issue

compiled by MICK NORMAN



Across

- 1 Catch may follow 3 (4)
- 3 Schubert composition found in the high street (8)
- 9 Setter's incomplete Bellini opera (5)
- 10 Elspeth initially, or Edna, in trouble at their posh school (7)
- 11 Cleopatra's nemesis backing Leamington, for example (3)
- 13 Death pair running vile regime (9)
- 14 Short cut taken by single rodent? Quite the reverse! (3,3)
- 16 Both sought after, apparently, and pure (6)
- 18 Where is beer? He's missing out, but there's no shortage here! (9)
- 20 Rested for part of the weekend (3)
- 22 Chopped cuttle with eel's head as salad ingredient (7)
- 23 A foot ailment encountered in autumn (5)
- 25 In New Zealand, the domain of the monster, we hear (8)
- 26 Competent apprentice taken on by Lincoln (4)

Down

- 1 Employees' passes (5)
- 2 Headless creature propelling boat (3)
- 4 Poor Lauren - is she a figment of the imagination? (6)
- 5 Animal from which revolutionary heat treatment may derive (7)
- 6 Elves seen jostling before lunch (9)
- 7 "Denise, I fancy an indefinite adjournment" (4,3)
- 8 Lengthy tale for the elderly? (4)
- 12 Heat unit (C) could be the real thing (9)
- 14 Massage the jazz singer - making her ill? (7)
- 15 Neptune qualifies to some extent - it's not fair (7)
- 17 The girl who couldn't keep up with Dexys Midnight Runners? (6)
- 19 Strike breaker upholds bank transfer system (4)
- 21 Temporary accommodation for the auditor in the future, maybe (5)
- 24 Heavenly body emerges from motor bus! (3)

Solution to Crossword No. 24



Congratulations to Mick Divall, from Hartley, who won the tenner last time.

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Greetings from all at Bexley CAMRA, we trust you all had a Great Christmas and New Year.

In pub news; the bad news is that the **Belvedere** Hotel has closed its doors since the last issue and the **Toby Carvery** in Bexleyheath has removed its handpumps. Elsewhere, the **Duke**, Northumberland Heath closed temporarily but happily is now back open again. The proposed micropub in Barnehurst has fallen through due to excessive demands being inserted into the rental contract by the landlord. The **Jolly Millers**



in Bexleyheath is yet again up for let. The branch has been busy adding pubs to the Asset of Community Value listing; the **Robin Hood & Little John** (Bexleyheath) has been approved and two others have applications, the aforementioned Duke, and the Belvedere Hotel.

If you have any other pub news please contact us either using the contact details at the top of this article or our Pubs Officer Ian Wright on 07779 319196 or bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk. The easiest way for you to do this though is when you are in the pub; log on to www.WhatPub.com with your tablet or smartphone, check out the details shown and advise us at the time of any changes. We would also ask all CAMRA members to use WhatPub to submit beer scores for our branch pubs. Whenever you visit a pub in our branch area, simply go to www.Whatpub.com and 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 October we visited the **White Cross** in North Cray, November the **Robin Hood & Little John**, December the **Royal Oak** in Bexleyheath and in January the **Door Hinge** in Welling. We thank the licensees for accommodating us.





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Friday 5 th May	11am-5pm	£2.50, CAMRA members Free
	5pm-11pm	£2.50, CAMRA members £1.50
Saturday 6 th May	11am-11pm	£2.50, CAMRA members £1.50

(While stock lasts)

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BEXLEY BREWERY



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Since the last issue, our socials have taken us far and wide. October saw many of the workers from our successful 11th Beer Festival embark on a trip to *Colchester Brewery* and then spend time in Colchester's many pubs. It was an excellent day out and a fitting 'Thank you' to all those who worked so hard at the festival. Our evening social saw us nip across the branch border to Dartford where we started at the **Stage Door** (*Shepherd Neame*), followed by the **Flying Boat** (Wetherspoon) and finally into the **Dartford Working Men's Club**. Again, a very enjoyable evening although not exactly a lot of walking between the venues.



November started with a Saturday social exploring pubs along the East London Line. A crowd of us met up in the **Royal Albert** just up the road from New Cross station, then; catching the train to Rotherhithe we alighted and walked round to the **Mayflower**. From here, it was back onto the train to Wapping and the **Prospect of Whitby**. In the Prospect, you have the strange situation of being sat in a pub on the north bank of the River Thames looking northwards at the millennium dome on the south bank. Back to the station and on to Whitechapel and the **White Hart**, home of *One Mile End Brewery* where they sadly had only one beer on so some of us decamped to the **Blind Beggar**. Once again back on the train to Haggerston to the **Howl at the Moon**, definitely my favourite pub, before getting a bus to our last venue **Farrs School of Dance**, just round the corner from Dalston Junction station.



Also in November, we had a games social with Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch which started with beer and nibbles in the **Penny Farthing** and moved on to the **Bird in Hand** for crib and pool. Sadly the event was not particularly well attended and so neither side was able to claim a victory, although those attending enjoyed the day. Our final social of the month was held in the **George Staples** and the **Broken Drum** in Blackfen.

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BAD PANDAS - THE DREDGERMEN - CLEA LLEWELLYN TRIO - SALVATION JAYNE - GURU-
THE NARRATONES - BEST INTENTIONS - FRANKY RIZARDO - WE ARE BANDICOOT
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WEEKEND RECOVERY - CALAMITY SCRIPT - FRED CLARK - CRAIG MURRAY - SKINNY MILK
LEW LEWIS & THE TWILIGHT TRIO - RARE DEVICES - BROKEN BANJO - SMALLTOWN MISSEFITS - SKYDRIVE
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THE STAG - THE CELLARS ALEHOUSE - THE ROYAL ALBION
THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH - EARLS

December saw us start with a visit to the **Hoppers Hut & Hackney Carriage** in Sidcup. We also held our traditional Christmas Social this year at the **Earl Haig** in Bexleyheath. We held a social at the **George Staples** winter beer festival which went down well and, as always, we held our Twixmas social between Christmas and New Year which started at the **Robin Hood & Little John** and progressed via **Wrong 'Un, Rose, Kings Arms, Furze Wren, Prince Albert, Jolly Millers, One Bell, Penny Farthing**, ending at the **Crayford Arms**.



Our January social saw us in branch once again in Sidcup starting at the **Tailors Chalk** (Wetherspoon) then on to the **Alma** (*Sharps Doom Bar & Adnams Ghost Ship*) finally ending up at the **Hackney Carriage** (Micropub). At the end of the month we have a Saturday social to the pubs of Crystal Palace; more of that in the next issue.

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



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The Flower Pot

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

Up to 9 ales and 4 ciders

Home cooked food 12-3pm

Monday to Thursday

Open mic night every Tuesday

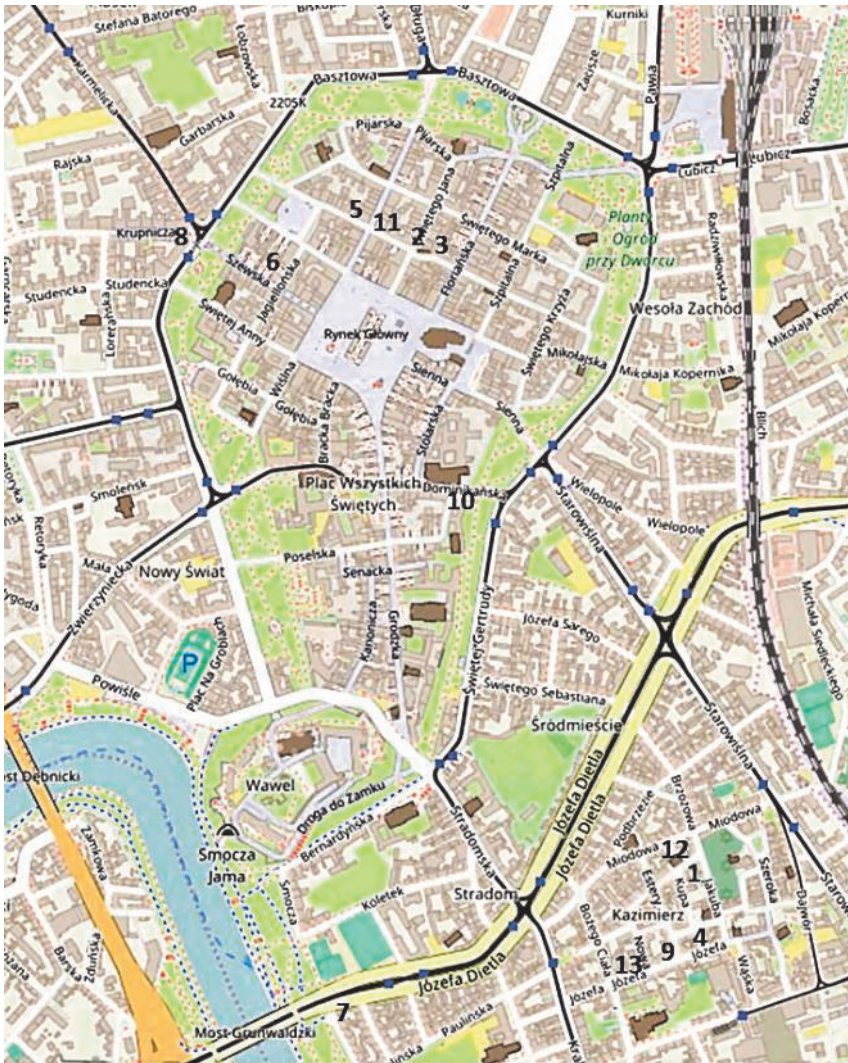
Discount for card carrying CAMRA members

 **The Flower Pot**



96 Sandling Road - Maidstone - Kent - ME14 2RJ

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



Approximate locations of Krakow pubs

With a reported growing beer scene, Krakow was the ideal choice for a holiday back in October last year, of course there are plenty of ‘touristy’ sites in and around the city, but I shall just concentrate on my take on the bars.

Spread over a week, I found the following to be the best.

CK Browar, ul. Podwale 6-7 (Map 8, 09.00 til late) - nice cellar bar with good value grub, not far from the Filharmonia Hall. A brewery is located just behind the bar; the smell of hops on a brewery day is superb. They normally sell 5 or 6 of their own beers, which are available in a taster palette, or individually in a large 5 litre tall tube with a tap at the bottom if you are thirsty.

Multi Qlti Tap Bar, ul. Szewska 21 (Map 6, 15.00 til late) - impressive range of 20+ draught beers (and real cider from Polish apples) in this pub, plus hard-to-come-by bottled beers from other Polish breweries. Located through an entrance off ul. Szewska.

Tap House Pracownia Piwa, ul. sw. Jana 30 (Map 5, 16.00 til late) - sourcing beers from the Pracownia Brewery close to Krakow (that often make up the large majority of the beers on tap), the Tap House is located just off the main square.

Beer Gallery Luxury, ul. Tomasza 30 (Map 11, 12.00 til late) – see below.

House of Beer, sw. Tomasza 35 (Map 2, 14.00 til late) - hidden away, the House of Beer offers a good range of beers including several dark ales from around £2.00 a pint. Also offered is a 6 paddle taster for about a fiver.

Viva La Pinta, ul. Florianska (Map 3, 16.00 til late) - a brewery tap for the La Pinta brewery, located in Zawiercie, an hour and a half drive away. Another bar that also offers proper Polish cider.

Beer Gallery Dominikanska, ul. Dominikanska 3 (Map 10, 14.00 til late) – This bar focusses more on Polish beers, rather than the aforementioned **Beer Gallery Luxury** that specialises in Belgian Beer. The third bar of the chain **Beer Gallery Kazimierz** over in the Jewish Quarter appeared to be up for renovation when we visited, however it now looks as though it's reopened.

Beer Gallery Kazimierz (Map 12) – Found to be closed.

Omerta Pub, ul. Kupa 3 (Map 1, 16.00 til late) - located in the Jewish Quarter, this 2-bar pub offers Polish and foreign beers and the interior



design is based on the Godfather films. The staff seem very knowledgeable about beer!

Strefa Piva, ul. Jozefa 6 (Map 4, 16.00 til late) - around 18 pumps serve a mixture of Polish and European beers in here. A mobile phone app is regularly updated to tell you which beers are on.

Stara Zajezdnia, ul. sw. Wawrzynca 12 (Map 9, 14.00 til late) - this huge complex of a bar and microbrewery is housed in a former tram depot that lay abandoned for many years. Exposed brickwork abounds. Even though busy when we visited, I managed to get a tour of the brewery, located next to the large beer hall that can get packed out in the evenings. Taster paddles available.

Ursa Major, plac Wolnica 10 (Map 13, 13.00 til late) - located on plac Wolnica, opposite the Jewish Quarter Town Hall, this Brew Dog style bar serves beers from the Ursa Major brewery, located right on the Eastern side of Poland. Like most of the bars, it offers a beer taster tray of six beers for a bargain 25zł (about a fiver).



T.E.A . Time, ul. Dietla 1 (Map 7, 16.00 til late) - found right by the Wisla River, *T.E.A. Time* (T.E.A. standing for Traditional English Ale) was opened in 2014 by James Eastwood, originally from Yorkshire. The only brewery concentrating on real ales in Krakow, quizzes (in English!) take place every Monday. Pizzas to eat in from a local take away can be ordered at the bar. Any UK CAMRA magazines are gratefully accepted by James!

Whilst in Krakow, we opted to stay south east of the centre, at the Osrodek Hotelowy Optima, a ten minute walk from the Kabel tram stop, itself served by several lines only a ten minute ride from town. On arrival at the airport, an all zones 7 day bus and tram pass can be bought from a machine for 62zł (around £12). A single journey on the train from the airport to the city will set you back all of 9zł (£1.80).

Real Ale...

...tastes
better with
friends...

...tastes
better
together.

And that's the truth of it

So why not show your friends how much you care and invite them to join CAMRA today? As you already know there are a whole host of benefits to being a member of CAMRA, from discounts in thousands of pubs across the UK to having the chance to connect with over 180,000 like-minded members.

CAMRA membership boasts so many benefits it's far too long to list here but why not refer them today and as a reward for them joining we will give you both a 5% discount in the CAMRA shop and each month we will choose 2 lucky winners at random to give away a case of free beer! It could be both you and one of your friends.

Visit camra.org.uk/mgm
to refer a friend today

Chance to
WIN a case
of beer!

5%
discount
in the
CAMRA shop



CAMRA DISCOUNT LIST

Here are the pubs we know of that offer discounted pints to any card-carrying CAMRA member. The discount applies to whole pints only. Please email the editor to let us know of any other hostelrys offering similar discounts.

All Chef & Brewer pubs	10 percent
Anchor, Bexley	10p per pint
Bell, Smarden	10p per pint
Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden	20p per pint
Campbell Arms, Northfleet	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 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	Discounted to £3.20p 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, 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

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CAMRA LocAle

CAMRA LocAle is an initiative that promotes pubs stocking locally brewed real ale. The scheme builds on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and an increased awareness of green issues. There are currently 125 CAMRA branches participating in the LocAle scheme and they have accredited hundreds of pubs as LocAle pubs as those which regularly sell at least one locally brewed real ale.



Everyone benefits from local pubs stocking locally-brewed real ale...

- **Public houses:** Stocking local real ales can increase pub visits.
- **Consumers:** Enjoy greater beer choice and diversity.
- **Local brewers:** Gain from increased sales.
- **The local economy:** More money is spent and retained locally.
- **The environment:** Fewer 'beer miles' resulting in less road congestion and pollution.
- **Tourism:** An increased sense of local identity and pride - let's celebrate what makes our locality different.

Definition of Local

The Sustainable Communities Act provides a definition of local as up to 30 miles from the point of sale. CAMRA recommends that this distance is calculated from the pub to the brewery and should be based on the shortest driving distance. Real ales from regional and national breweries, as well as from microbreweries, can be regarded as "local" if they are brewed within what the branch has decided as being the local area.

How do I find a LocAle Pub?

Pubs which have been given LocAle status by their local CAMRA branch can display the current LocAle sticker on their windows/doors. They may have posters up in the pub and look out for the LocAle pump clip crowner on the pumps that are serving locally brewed beers.

To find an up-to-date list of your LocAle pubs, please visit www.whatpub.com and search using the 'LocAle accredited' filter.

Real Ale Styles Mild

Give Mild a
try today



Ask for a taster at the bar

There's a delicious real ale to suit all palates, moods and occasions - Ask at the bar and discover your favourite.

www.camra.org.uk



CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

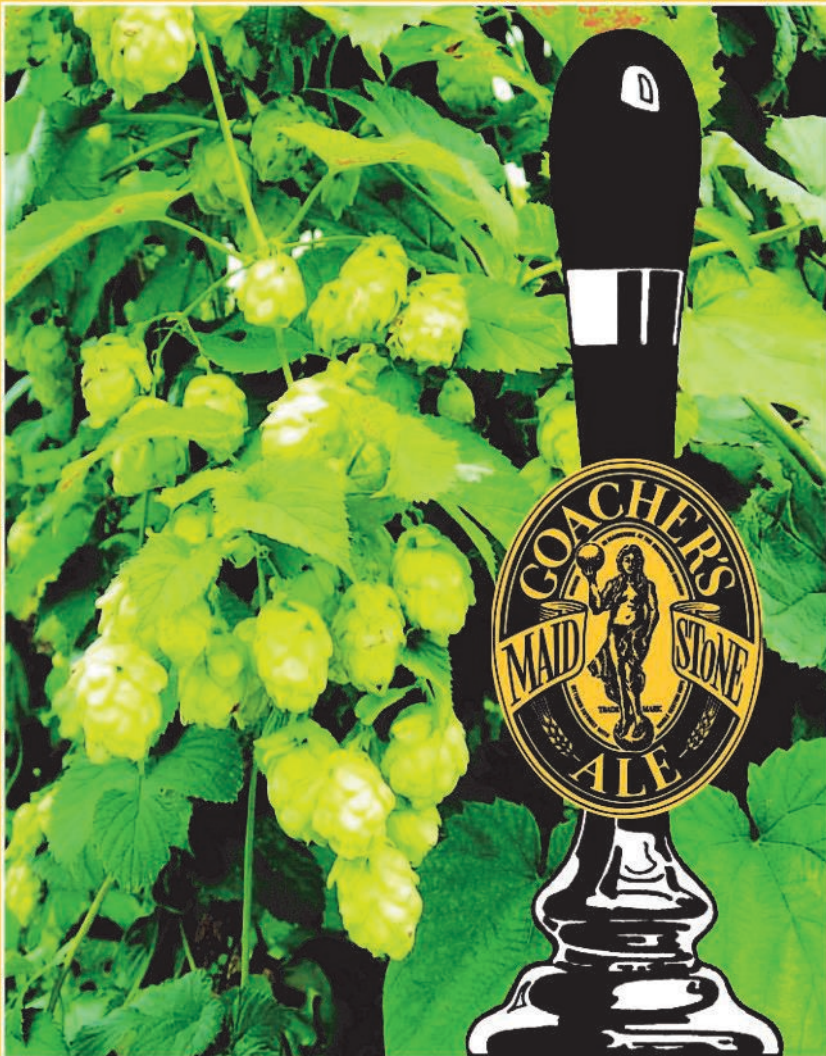
CAMRA branches arrange socials and trips throughout the year. If you would like more information, please ring the local branch contact—see **Local News** sections. **Meetings start at 20:30 unless otherwise stated.**

BEX: Bexley, GDV: Gravesend and Darent Valley, MMK: Maidstone & Mid-Kent

- March**
- GDV** 1 Lads of the Village, Stone; Pier, Greenhithe
 - MMK** 2 Milk House, Sissinghurst, then Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden
 - ALL** 4 11:30 Crayford Arms (Crayford) - Kent Regional Meeting
 - BEX** 8 George Staples (Blackfen)
 - MMK** 9 Woolpack, Benover then Chequers, Laddingford
 - MMK** 11 08:44 Bus Trip to East Hoathly
 - GDV** 16 Stage Door, Dartford; Dartford Working Men's Club
 - MMK** 16 Biz. Mtg., Red Lion, Lenham
 - MMK** 21 11:02 Bus & Walk to Chipstead
 - BEX** 22 20:00 Penny Farthing & Crayford Arms (Crayford)
 - MMK** 23 White Horse, Headcorn, then George & Dragon
 - GDV** 30 Portobello; Gamecock, West Kingsdown
 - MMK** 30 Rising Sun, East Malling, then King & Queen
- April**
- BEX** 1 11:00 Twickenham meet Waterloo Station Platform 19
 - BEX** 5 20:00 Door Hinge, Guy Earl Of Warwick & New Cross Turnpike (Welling)
 - MMK** 6 Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown, then Vine, Goudhurst
 - MMK** 11 11:49 Bus & Walk to Egerton
 - GDV** 12 Three Daws, Gravesend - Open Business Meeting
 - BEX** 12 Hoppers Hut (Sidcup)
 - MMK** 13 Dog & Gun, Maidstone, then Rifle Volunteers
 - MMK** 14 Good Friday Ramble - Faversham Stn to Shipwrights, Oare
 - BEX** 17 14:00 Hackney Carriage & Hoppers Hut (Sidcup)
 - MMK** 20 Woodcock, Iden Green, then Bull, Benenden
 - GDV** 27 Northfleet Perry Street pubs, Starting Six Bells, Earl Grey
 - MMK** 27 Harrow, Lenham, then Dog & Bear
 - BEX** 29 12:00 Thameslink Crawl meet Black Friar (Blackfriars)
 - MMK** 29 Bus/Train trip to Chequers, Laddingford beer festival
- May**
- BEX** 4-6 Bexley Beer Festival - Old Dartfordians Sports Club (Bexley) - See P35
 - MMK** 4 Maidstone Mild in May – Rifle Volunteers, then Flower Pot
 - MMK** 6 10:14 Bus Trip to Heathfield area
 - BEX** 10 Robin Hood & Little John (Bexleyheath)
 - MMK** 11 White House, West Farleigh, then Good Intent
 - MMK** 16 13:27 Bus & Walk to Iden Green
 - MMK** 18 Branch AGM and Biz Mtg, Stile & Winch, Maidstone
 - BEX** 24 20:00 Jolly Millers then Rose (Bexleyheath) the Foresters (East Wickham)
 - MMK** 25 Bull, Penenden Heath, then Kings Arms, Boxley
 - BEX** 27 12 noon Kidbrooke Beer Festival SE3 8NB

* 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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