

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Magazine

By Maidstone & Mid-Kent

CAMRA

incorporating Gravesend &

Darent Valley and Bexley

Branches

Winter 2018/2019 No. 193



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 3,200 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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† Price of single membership when paying by Direct Debit. *Calls from landlines charged at local rates, cost may vary from mobile phones.

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LOCAL BEER & CIDER FESTIVALS

CAMRA Festivals:

December 2018

4/8 35th Pigs Ear Beer & Cider Festival

The Round Chapel, Glenarm Road/Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, E5 0LY

Website: www.pigsear.org.uk/festivals.htm

Up to 230 Real Ales, Ciders, Perries, Foreign and Bottled Beers.

Open: 12noon-22:30 (Tues-Thurs), 23:00 (Fri/Sat)

Admission: £3 (CAMRA members) , £5 Non-members [£8 CAMRA members season ticket].

Hot/Cold Food all sessions.

Nearest Rail: Hackney Central/Hackney Downs, Buses: 38, 48, 55, 106, 253, 254, 425, 488.

Assistance dogs only. Wheelchair access.

Branch groups of 10+ members can get free entry by pre-booking.

Follow us on Twitter: @pigsearcamra and Facebook: [camra.elac](https://www.facebook.com/camra.elac)

February 2019

1/2 White Cliffs Winter Festival of Strong Ales & Kent Ciders

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

70+ winter & strong ales, none less than 5% ABV (do not drink and drive!) from small independents and micro-breweries, also Kent ciders.

All beers & ciders £3.50 a pint and avail from 1pm on Friday (subject to condition).

Open: Fri 1-11pm, Sat 1030am - 6pm.

Admission: £5 Fri, £2 Sat (free for card-carrying CAMRA members).

Food avail all sessions, do not bring in own food.

Entertainment Fri evening + Sat afternoon.

Only lined glasses to be used (if bringing own, make sure it's lined), special souvenir glasses £3, refunded if returned intact.

Wheelchair access (contact staff on arrival or in advance).

Other Events:

November/December 2018

30/2 Bull Inn, West Malling

1 High Street, West Malling, ME19 6QH

February 2019

1/2 6th Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club Beer Festival,

The Slade, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HR.

Selection of 24 real ales, plus cider. Free admission.

Website: www.tj-beerfest.com.

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Boutilliers	07743 372434	www.boutilliers.com
Brew Buddies Ltd	07962 369717	www.brew-buddies.co.uk
Brumaison	07831 704089	www.brumaison.beer
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	www.canterbury-ales.co.uk
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk
Dartford Wobbler	01322 866233	www.dartfordwobbler.com
Four Candles		www.thefourcandles.co.uk
G2	01233 630277	www.g2brewing.com
Goachers	01622 682112	www.goachers.com
Goody Ales	01227 361555	www.goodyales.co.uk
Hopdaemon Brewery	01795 892078	www.hopdaemon.com
Hop Fuzz Brewery	07858 562878	www.hopfuzz.co.uk
Iron Pier Brewing	07900 234644	www.ironpier.beer
Isla Vale Alesmiths	01843 292451	www.islavalealesmiths.co.uk
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	www.kentbrewery.com
Larkins Brewery	01892 870328	www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk
Mad Cat Brewery Ltd	07960 263615	www.madcatbrewery.co.uk
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	www.musketbrewery.co.uk
Nelson Brewery	01634 832828	www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk
No Frills Joe Brewing Co	07516 725577	www.nofrillsjoe.co.uk
Old Dairy Brewery	01580 763867	www.olddairybrewery.com
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	www.thefarriersarms.com
Pig & Porter	01424 893519	www.pigandporter.co.uk
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk
Range Ales	01303 230842	www.rangealesbrewery.co.uk
Ripple Steam Brewery	07917 037611	www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk
Rockin' Robin Brewery	01622 747106	www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk
Romney Marsh Brewery	01797 362333	www.romneymarshbrewery.com
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	www.shepherdneame.co.uk
Stag Brewery	07539 974068	www.stagbrewery.co.uk
Swan on the Green	01622 812271	www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk
Time & Tide	07840 327265	www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk
Tír Dhá Ghlas Brewery	01304 211666	www.cullinsyard.co.uk/brewery
Tonbridge Brewery	07962 016286	www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk
Turnstone Ales		See Facebook page
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk
Westerham Brewery Co.	01732 864427	www.westerhambrewery.co.uk
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk

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



KENT BREWERY

Seasonal Greetings from Kent Brewery

**Treat yourself to something
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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>
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	
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	
Nightingale Cider Co	07788 973968	<i>www.nightingalecider.com</i>
Northdowns Cider	01795 591285	
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>
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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ENTHUSIASTS FLOCK TO BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

There was barely a drop of beer left as organisers called 'last orders' following eight hours of revelry at CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, held on Saturday 1st September in the grounds of the world-famous horticultural research station in East Malling.

The event, the ninth organised and staffed by local real ale and cider campaigners at the venue, featured 80 different Real Ales, many brewed locally, 37 varied ciders and perries, all from Kent producers, as well as live music from Creeque Alley and the Leigh Highwood Band.

Jeff Tucker, organiser of CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, said: "Once again we were blessed with fantastic weather, which certainly brought a bumper turnout, both from regular festival-goers, as well as first-timers. Scores of visitors told us how much they'd enjoyed the event and looked forward to coming back next year."

Ian Clennett, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA, said: "The wonderful surroundings at East Malling made the perfect backdrop for what has become a popular event for all the family, with our free bus service from local railway stations proving particularly popular. We will be back in September 2019 with an even bigger and better event."

'Beer of the Festival', as selected by a panel of Real Ale enthusiasts, was *Ferrryman's Gold*, from Loddon Brewery in Dunsden Green, Oxon, with *Ball Puller*, from Musket Brewery in Linton, Nr Maidstone, a handful of miles from the festival site, as runner-up. A separate panel adjudged *Ciderfect*, from BEARDspoon in Ashford, Kent, (the 2017 runner-up) as winner in the Best Cider or Perry category, with *Mango*, from the Kent Cider Company in Canterbury, as runner-up.

A pledge by Festival organisers to donate a sum equivalent to unused drinks tokens returned by visitors, raised £255.20 for Kent Search and Rescue, a charitable organisation dedicated to assisting the emergency services in the search for, and rescue of, vulnerable missing persons.

WINNERS: The winners of the beer festival competition (edition 191) were chosen at random by Steve, landlord of the Eight Bells in Hawkhurst during our branch social there. They were Michael Norman and Rosy Leigh. Rosy said that they were not able to attend, so their tickets went to Helen Graham instead. Congratulations to our winners, and well done to the other suppliers of correct entries: Roger James, Neil Hewett, Martin Wrein, Terry Lavell, Alan White and Spud & Clare Whale.

Contact: John Mills 01732 840603 or email pubs.officer@mmk.camra.org.uk

For more information on these pubs, see CAMRA's online pub database whatpub.com

Bush, Aylesford – Whilst the usual offering here is *Fuller's London Pride* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*, the hoppy pale ale *Greene King Yardbird* has also appeared.

Chequers, Aylesford - Jessica Harvey is now running this pub which has been rejuvenated since it has been bought from EI Group and now has three handpumps with a fourth expected to be installed. The place has been freshened up with a coat of paint and new carpet. Good



food is being served with daily specials and an emphasis on fish. The beers stocked vary and are from both *Adnams* and *Tonbridge* breweries. Opening times are 10-11 Mon-Wed; 10-midnight Thu-Sat; 10-11 Sun with food being available 12-9 Mon-Sat; 12-5 Sun.

Web: www.thechequersaylesford.co.uk FB: [thechequersaylesford](https://www.facebook.com/thechequersaylesford)

Hengist, Aylesford - For a special meal this offers excellent facilities at reasonable prices and you can enjoy a pint of cask *Tonbridge* beer or their *IPA* on a font.

Little Gem, Aylesford - A license has been approved and we await the re-opening of this much missed little pub.

Rockin Robin on the Green, Barming - Previously the Duke of Edinburgh, Robin has taken over and it re-opened on 9th November.

Web: www.rockinrobinonthegreen.co.uk Phone: 01622 727122.

The Yeoman, Bearsted - Was the Lion of Kent but has reverted back to a former name. It has undergone a big change internally and also to the exterior and opened again on 7th November. It has been transformed into a high quality restaurant with an extensive menu. Breakfast starting at 10am, lunch and dinner will be available from midday.

Nevill Bull, Birling – Re-opened on the 7th November with food hopefully available from 21st November (Lunches) and 30th November

Quiz Night on Monday

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12 – 11 Friday and Saturday
12 – 10.30 Sunday

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(Evening Meals), so watch this space.

Bull, East Farleigh - New licensees here; Ed & Julie.

Walnut Tree, East Farleigh – This Shepherd Neame pub is now run in conjunction with the George in Leeds under licensees Jason & Debbie Tharp. Paul Kelf is the manager appointed to run it.

Red Lion, Lenham – One of the pubs we use for our bi-monthly business meetings with a good-sized meeting room upstairs. The beers scored well and were *Fuller's London Pride*, *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter*, *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Shepherd Neame Master Brew*.



Cafe Bruges, Maidstone - This has closed and is now a Jamaican restaurant.

Drakes, Maidstone - The operators, Pleisure Co, will not be renewing their lease and EI Group is looking for a new lessee for this popular, attractive venue.

Herbalist, Maidstone - Has stopped selling real ale but still keeps *Staropramen* unpasteurised lager.



Pilot, Maidstone - Re-opened on 18 October and is run by Tony Simpson. A fresh coat of paint has brightened it up but the interior is still instantly recognisable. Good pub food will be available and theme nights are planned. Music will still be played at the weekend and a quiz will be run. Open 12-11 or later. Will have

beers from *Harvey's* including *Sussex Best Bitter* and up to three more. Two other beers, *Canterbury Ales Pilot Ale* and *DarkStar Hophead* were available initially but may vary.

Queen Anne, Maidstone – There has been a change of licensee here with Claire Darcey taking over and re-opening on 18 September. *Timothy Taylor Landlord* available. Karaoke will take place on first Sunday in the month. Other events will appear on Facebook: [queenannemairstone](https://www.facebook.com/queenannemairstone).

Kings Arms, Offham - The menu selection and availability have been extended. Continue to keep *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and several beers from Kent microbreweries. Website: www.kingsarmsoffham.com

Village Pub, Sandling - The Village Hotel pub has dropped real ale and is concentrating on cocktails.

Rockin' Robin Smokery, Staplehurst - This is a conversion of the previous Pride of Kent and originally Royal Oak which had been trading as Helen's Café but will become a restaurant with Robin's beers available. It should be opening late November.



North Pole, Watlington - New carpets laid and chairs in the restaurant replaced. Always a warm welcome here with excellent food and good size portions. Beers on the bar are *Adnams Ghost Ship*, *Caledonian Edinburgh Castle*, *Greene King IPA* and *Sharp's Doom Bar*.



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page for opening
times.



Visit the website for full details of
events:

www.thewalnuttreemaidstone.com



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Kent ME14 1RZ
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We serve two real ales, which are currently
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 email: gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk www.gdv.camra.org.uk



The summer season of pub beer festivals was generally blessed with good weather this year. One we unfortunately missed was the beer and wine festival at the **See Ho**, Shorne, in late July. Along with the beers, wines and other offerings there were children's entertainment, music and a number of craft exhibitors. We

hear that the connection with the nearby **Three Crutches** has been severed as the latter has been sold.

Early August saw the regular event at the **Three Daws**, Gravesend, which coincides with a weekend of riverside attractions and a craft fair in the adjoining gardens, featuring *Iron Pier Brewery* among the stallholders. The pub had 30 real ales in the downstairs function room as well as a separate cider bar. Highlights were two



beers produced by *Iron Pier* in collaboration with the pub. *Jungle Juice* was a 4.5% ABV pale ale with a noticeable orange and pineapple flavour, which has also been on sale at the pub since the event. *Wonky Floors* weighed in at over 10% ABV and needed handling with care.

At the end of August, the **Jolly Drayman**, Gravesend, held its second beer festival. It rained on the Friday night, disrupting the music but not seeming to worry the customers at all. Among the dozen or so beers and half a dozen ciders were *The Devil Made Me Brew It* from *Arbor* and *St Austell Big Job*. The latter is on the list of beers for Wetherspoon's October



festival so may also have appeared at the **Robert Pocock** in the town.

The **Compass Alehouse**, Gravesend, held its fourth anniversary festival in late September, featuring 14 cask beers plus two craft keg

products. The first to run out was the regular favourite *Titanic Plum Porter*, followed by *Fyne Ales Jarl* and a craft framboise. The Saturday was reported to be the pub's busiest day ever. It hardly seemed necessary to go away on holiday during the summer.

Since the last Draught Copy, the opening hours at the **Cotton Mill**, Swanley, have been altered. It now opens from 4 to 10pm on Monday to Friday, noon to 10pm on Saturday and noon to 8pm on Sunday.

Unfortunately, the planning application for a second micropub in



Dartford has been withdrawn. On the other hand the refurbishment of the **Foresters** in Dartford is now complete, except for a new carpet, and the pub has a brighter newer look as a result. There is a new bigger TV in the main bar showing Sky and BT sports and the dartboard, pool table and cribbage are all still in place. In the spring, it is intended to improve the garden to encourage more family use in the summer months. *Harvey's Best Bitter* and *Adnams Ghost Ship* remain as regulars, with guest beers changing weekly on the third handpump.

A real ale club which has come to our attention, is the **Brent School Old Boys Social Club**, an independent, non-affiliated club on the Dartford end of London Road, roughly opposite the deceased **Bricklayers Arms** in Stone. *Wells Bombardier* is sold here, along with two nationally sourced guest beers, and the usual range of club facilities are present. It seems CAMRA members can gain free admission. The steward here is Steve Phillips, once of the **Bricklayers Arms**, who in years gone by managed the beer at at least one CAMRA beer festival in Gravesend.

A recent branch social visited some pubs between Dartford and Gravesend. The **Pier Hotel**, Greenhithe, now sells *Sharp's Doom Bar* instead of *Fuller's London Pride*, to go with the other regular *Harvey's Best Bitter*. At Swanscombe the **Rising Sun**, which is a splendid traditional local where things only change slowly, has *Courage Best Bitter* and *Directors* and *St Austell Tribute*. *Directors* is unusual for the area and the pub will also offer



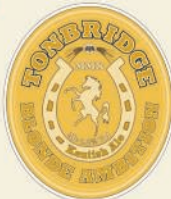
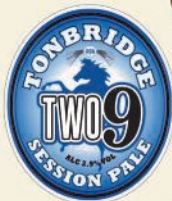
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Morland Old Golden Hen “when obtainable” according to the landlord. The **George and Dragon** now features *Iron Pier* beers regularly and two were available at the time of our visit. The nearby **Alma** is still closed and appears to be destined for housing. In the same area, **No Frills Joe’s Taproom** has reopened after alterations but only for special occasions at present.

An application has been submitted to Gravesham Council for a change of use of a closed tattoo parlour in the High Street to a micropub, to be known as the **Mole Hole**. The deadline for comments on this was fast approaching as these notes were being written but one would think there should be no problem as some years ago the premises next door were a small pub called the **Cellar**. This was before the term “micropub” had been invented and the place was perhaps a bit ahead of its time.

The lease of the **Somerset Arms** in Gravesend has now been sold and in the middle of October the pub was closed, with work in progress inside. Posted outside was an application for a variation to the premises licence to allow alterations and alter the plan attached to the licence, in the name of the Craft Union Pub Company. This one should be worth watching. Very late news is that the **Grapes** is due to close briefly and reopen under new management in early November.



The **Rum Punccheon** is now selling food in the form of pizzas, available from noon until 8 or 9pm, except for Mondays when the pub doesn’t open. Beers available on a flying visit were *Dark Star Hophead*, *Brains Reverend James Original* and a *Tonbridge* brew. The *Hophead* was due to be replaced as a regular by *Salcombe Gold* as this had been found to outsell it when tried alongside it. There are also two function rooms available for hire.

There have been changes on the other side of the town centre too. The **Darnley Arms**, a long-term outlet for *Young's Bitter*, has stopped selling this and was recently offering both *St*



Austell Trelawny and *Tribute* instead. The



nearby **Cricketers** has a new licensee and has been redecorated with new furniture inside and out. The *Young's Bitter* has also gone from here and been replaced by *Trelawny*.

The **Three Pillars** now has a quiz night on the third Thursday of every month. The first was in August and the same team won the first two. However the second proved very popular and anyone fancying their chances of causing an upset is advised to get there early. Finally, the **Waterloo**, which has generally carried on unobtrusively doing what its customers want, has stopped keeping *Wells Bombardier*. On a recent visit the two pumps had *Dorking Black Noise* and *Marston's Saddle Tank*.



The Broken Drum Home Brew :-

A message from Andy Wheeler at The Broken Drum, Blackfen.



"We are now able to brew on a commercial basis. The beer will be brewed mainly for the micropub 'The Broken Drum', we will be producing one or two firkins a month, (yes that small, hence the name). Some customers (guinea pigs) at the micropub have already enjoyed *Constable Bluejohn* a 4.2 % best bitter, *Broadman Pale* 4.3%, *Gaspode Mild* 4.2%, *Angua Blonde* 4.5% and *Nobby Kobbs* a strong ale 5.3%.

"The beers are named after characters in The Terry Pratchett Discworld books, as is The Broken Drum" (www.thebrokendrum.co.uk)

MUSKET TURNS FIVE

by Jeff Tucker

Musket Brewery of Linton, just south of Maidstone, celebrated their fifth birthday in October with, among other things, an open day. The plan was to also show off the new brewery but, the finishing touches were still awaited, though the brewing equipment looks very impressive.



At the front of the new brewhouse, they have built a stylish brewery tap called the Armoury, which will be fully operational when the new brewery comes on-stream, with a selection of their beers on gravity dispense.

Entertainment at the open day was provided by three authentically-dressed musketeers (naturally!) from Shorncliffe near Folkestone, who demonstrated their art with some very loud bangs. The photograph shows one of them with owner Tony Williams, who was also celebrating his 65th birthday on the same weekend.

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CAMRA's NATIONAL CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR 2018

A former video store turned independent micropub has been named CAMRA's National Cider Pub of Year 2018.

The **Firkin Shed in Bournemouth** is an independently-run pub, stocking the best selection of real ciders and perries, cask ales, mead and rum. Using a shed for the bar, customers can choose from six constantly-changing cask ales and around 20 ciders from across the country. Beers are served straight from the cellar, which can be viewed through the window in the rear corridor.

National Cider Pub of the Year organiser Sarah Newson said: "Since the National Cider Pub of the Year competition started in 2005, it has gone from strength to strength, with more branches taking part. This year's winner has only been open for three years, which is a great achievement. Paul Gray and his team have done brilliantly to convert a former video shop into a national award-winning and very popular micropub in such a short time."

The **Firkin Shed** is run by ex-painter and decorator Paul Gray and his wife, Lisa. Paul says: "We're truly thrilled to be receiving this award. We know we have a great range of locally produced real cider, but to be recognised as the National Cider Pub of the Year is more than we ever imagined.

"Having been open for just over three years, we're part of the new community of micropubs on the UK pub scene. The **Firkin Shed** is about people coming together in a safe, happy environment, with a friendly atmosphere and of course, a decent pint!

"We actively buy from traditional cider makers and small producers, many of whom have cultivated their own orchards and share the same ethos. We hope that has been reflected in this award and that our success has shown there is a place for real cider in all pubs."

The other finalists, in no particular order, were the **Cricketers Arms, St. Helens**, the **Blythe Hill Tavern, London** and the **Cellar Door, Newport, Wales**.

CAMRA NAMES THE BEST FOUR PUBS IN THE COUNTRY

CAMRA has named the best four pubs in the country as part of its Pub of the Year 2018 competition, one of the most respected and well-known pub awards in the UK.



Among the finalists is the **Volunteer Arms (Staggs)** in Musselburgh, a traditional local decorated with wooden floors, wood panelling and mirrors from defunct local breweries. Run by the same family since 1858, it offers a regularly changing range of real ale.

Also in the running is the **Chequers** in Little Gransden, a village pub with wooden benches and a roaring fire, which has been run by the same family for over 60 years. It is also the home of Son of Sid Brewery and the pub offers a selection of their beers.



Saved from closure and now run by a persevering community group, the **Wonston Arms** in Wonston has made it through to the final for the first time. A popular pub in the heart of the village, it serves four real ales from local breweries and is home to jazz sessions, quizzes and regular visits from food

providers.

The fourth and final pub in the top four is the current CAMRA Pub of the Year - The **Cricketers** in St Helens; a friendly local community pub also saved from closure. The pub boasts 13 handpumps on the bar and offers brews from newer regional brewers and local microbreweries.



All of the pubs in the competition are selected by CAMRA volunteers and judged on their atmosphere, decor, welcome, service, value for money, customer mix and quality of beer.

National Pub of the Year Co-ordinator Andrea Briers said: "Each of the finalists are different, with both town and village pubs represented, all of

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"Worth a Butchers" 2017
Fifth Annual Maidstone Pub Competition
Overall Winner



which are excellent examples of their style of pub. This stage of the competition is very tough and all four finalists should be proud of their achievement."

The finalists were selected from the 16 regional winners from across the country. These ranged from micropubs to street-corner locals and community-run pubs. Apart from serving beer, many on the list brew their own, host beer festivals, music and community events and boast fantastic interior design.

The final announcement of the National Pub of the Year winner will take place in early 2019.

Kent Regional Winner – The Lanes, Dover

This friendly, award-winning micropub near the pedestrian precinct is comfortably furnished. Five real ales, mostly from Kentish microbreweries, and over 10 ciders are served on gravity from the temperature-controlled cellar room. Wine, mead and soft drinks are also from Kent producers. Snacks can be bought in from the local deli and a feasting board is available with 48 hours' notice.



Regional Winners:

Central Southern - Nag's Head, Reading

East Anglia - Chequers, Little Gransden

East Midlands - White Hart, Bargate

Greater London - Little Green Dragon, Enfield

Greater Manchester - Flying Horse, Rochdale

Kent – The Lanes, Dover

Merseyside - Cricketers Arms, St Helens

North East - Golden Smog, Stockton-on-Tees

Scotland and Northern Ireland - Volunteer Arms (Staggs), Musselburgh

South West - Fleece Inn, Hillesley

Surrey and Sussex - Surrey Oaks, Newdigate

Wales - Bridge End Inn, Ruabon

Wessex and the Channel Islands - Wonston Arms, Wonston

West Midlands - Fountain Inn, Leek

West Pennines - Little Bare, Morecambe

Yorkshire - George & Dragon, Hudswell



Appledore, on the edge of the Romney Marsh, was once much busier than it is today, as witnessed by the wide main street, in the style of Tenterden. I can remember when there were two pubs left, the **Swan** and the **Red Lion**. Now there is just one, the **Black Lion**. However, this is not a new pub; the **Red Lion** was renamed.

The village is hardly well-served by bus, with Stagecoach route 11B passing once a day Monday to Saturday southbound during opening hours, and Arriva route 293 northbound on Thursdays. A route which I overlooked until recently is a variant of the 293 operated by Kent Coach Tours as a circular from Tenterden on Mondays and Fridays only.

The Thursday 293 and the 11B arrive just a few minutes apart but, after recent Stagecoach timetable changes, the other 293 arrives about an hour before the 11B, giving you time in Appledore for a pint twice a week!

I caught the number 12 from Maidstone to Tenterden, which now runs half-hourly on weekdays. The 293 leaves from the Vine at 13.00, arriving in Appledore at 13.19. The bus was a minibus with steps, with no access for wheelchairs. There will be a change of operator shortly, presumably to somebody who will provide disabled access.

The **Black Lion** was very busy, but the beer selection was disappointing, consisting of *Sharp's Doom Bar*, *Greene King IPA*, plus a *Sharp's* beer called *Honza*, described as a cask lager, so *Honza* it was, which wasn't bad.

The 11B was due at 14.18, so I stood outside the pub (there are no bus stops in Appledore) in good time, and it duly arrived. A few minutes later we passed the famous **Red Lion** at Snargate, which wasn't open, being a Monday, and we continued via Brenzett, Brookland and Ivychurch, carefully passing large lorries and a tractor on narrow lanes, eventually arriving in New Romney.



Here I had about half an hour for a very nice pint of *Hop Fuzz Yellow Zinger* in the **Smuggler's Alehouse** micropub, before catching the number 11 towards Ashford, which was a double-decker, giving good views from upstairs across the flat landscape.

I could have got off at ASDA and had a three-minute wait, but chose instead to visit the **Queens Head** at Kingsnorth, where I had 15 minutes between buses. This pub had *Harveys* and *Old Dairy Summer Top*. The latter was delicious; sadly I only had time for a half.



The next bus was the 2A to Tenterden, which nowadays only runs every two hours. The only village of any size en route is Woodchurch, with two pubs next door to each other, opposite the church. Again, it was good to view the scenery from the upper deck.



In Tenterden, I discovered the newly-opened **This Ancient Boro'**, which was once a Whitbread pub of that name, latterly a Chinese restaurant. It is owned by Ray Pratt, who previously ran the **Swan** at Wittersham (now seemingly a burger bar) and then the **Six Bells** at Woodchurch.

It was good to see Ray again, and I enjoyed beers from *Rother Valley* and *Angels & Demons*, two of the six beers on offer, from barrels behind the bar, covered with cooling jackets. The pub also offers tapas, but is a micropub in all other respects, with no music, TV, games or keg beers. With the **White Lion** no longer selling the local *Old Dairy* beers, it is good to have a pub in Tenterden with Kent-brewed beers once again.

A CLUB LIKE NO OTHER!

by Jeff Tucker



I recently visited a remarkable club for the third time in my life. It has been a regular in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide for decades until this year, and was on my 'wish list' for a visit for many years.

The club in question is **The Concertina Band Club** in Mexborough in South

Yorkshire, and I would strongly recommend a visit if you are in the area. Opening hours are very restricted and can be found on www.whatpub.com. For example, even on a Saturday night, it opens at around 8pm.

Sadly, the Concertina Band were disbanded in the 1970s, but the name lives on, with much memorabilia on show. The club has brewed its own beer for ages, but it is no longer sold outside the club itself.

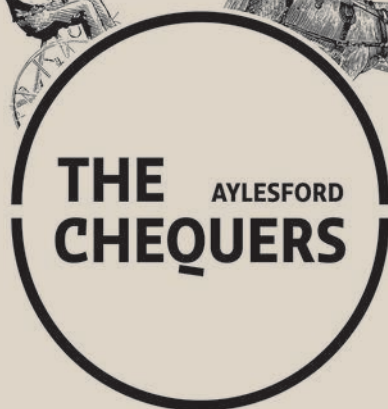
The owner/steward brews about every three weeks, and two beers are usually on the bar. The *Club Bitter* set me back £1.95 a pint, and the stronger *Bengal Tiger* was £2.15!

I arrived on a Saturday in September just after 8 and was the first customer. Getting in isn't a problem for non-members, by the way. A trickle of people wandered in, and gathered in the side room for some games of bingo, with the steward as caller.

Just for good measure, Mexborough is home to two microbreweries. The other is in the **Imperial** pub, which used to be a club until a few years ago. They usually have about six of their own beers on offer at similarly reasonable prices. The **Imperial** is close to the station.

It is hard not to fear for the long-term future of the **Concertina**, as the owner is not a young man, and efforts to find a successor have been fruitless so far. I'm sure it was a bustling club in days gone by, but it looks a bit sad now. Go there while you still can!





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For this trip, we decided on a whistle stop tour of the ex-USSR Baltic States, allowing three nights in each of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, all of which gained independence in 1991.

This article, however, describes the drinking scene in Vilnius, added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994. In further editions I will detail Riga and Tallinn. For the purposes of maps, I have just included a (very!) basic city map; the Tourist Information Centres all provide free, more detailed maps of the maze of small narrow streets. I have also omitted hours of business, as these vary with season.

Having arrived in Vilnius at around midnight (it's a 2½ hour flight from the UK, and it is GMT +2), there was no time for drinking. All of the pubs I mention are accessible without the use of public transport and the beers were all in the €3-4 range for ½ litre.

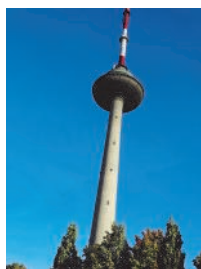
The first port of call was **Craft and Draft** (1), located at Gedimino pr. 5, which opened in 2016; this cellar bar microbrewery has 6 of its own ales, and a selection of others. The *Light Lager* and *Seasonal Brew (Red Ale)* were sampled. Food was also available. On to **Būsi Trečias** (2) after this,



close by at Totorių g. 18. Again the choices were a *Light* and a *Dark Lager*, both home brewed in this cellar bar, priced at €3 for ½ litre. After a quick look around the small brewery here,



just around the corner from here is **Nisha Craft Capital** (3), at Stuokos-Gucevičiaus g. 9. A selection of 17 Lithuanian and foreign beers were available on draught: I plumped for a Danish/Lithuanian collaboration *Herslev/Sakiškių Dark Smoked Saison*, brewed about 12 miles to the north of Vilnius. A break was taken here for a bus trip out to the 327m high Television Tower, with a revolving restaurant and observation deck (something you used to be able to visit at the BT Tower in





London until it was closed in 1981!) at 165m offering extensive views towards Vilnius. The final visit of the day was to **Vilniaus Alus** (4) at Pilies g. 6, and if you can find this place first time, you've done very well. It's tucked up through an arch off Pilies g., and the beer of choice in here was [Armeniukas](#) Brewery Tamsusis 666, a dark red brown ale.

The next morning was an early start for the train out to Trakai, as missing the 07.50 meant a four hour wait for the next train. Although the trains here run on time, there seems to be no rhyme or reason to the timings, but for €3.20 for a round trip of over thirty miles, one can't complain. The castle at Trakai is a major tourist destination. A couple of hundred years ago it resembled something like a dilapidated Fountains Abbey, but has now been fully restored rebuilt, something that English Heritage would have



frowned upon in the UK. Very little in the way of drinking experiences here, so back to Vilnius. The first bar of the day was the original **Špunka** bar (5) (pronounced 'Shpoonka'). Located at Užupio g. 9, it's a local's bar off the tourist route serving beers from the *Dundulis Brewery*. I had the *Gutstoutas*

Stout. Next it was off to another bar from the chain (there are 3), **Savičiaus Špunka** (6), at Savičiaus g. 9. With 12 ales on tap, I got chatting to the barman, Benas, and persuaded him to serve me 3 beers from the list in smaller measures - *Lipčius*, *Kurko Keptinis*, and *Publijus Palemonas Baltic Porter*



(warned by Benas that the abv of this one was more likely to be 8% and not the stated 7.2%), all by the *Dundulis Brewery*. This bar had been open a year. Upon leaving, Benas told me the beers were gratis, but I insisted on paying, nonetheless. Leaving here, and just the other side of the



square at Stiklių g. 5, I found **Leičių Bravoras** (7). This bar has many different Lithuanian bottled beers and a microbrewery at the rear. On each table is a metered pouring tap, connected to one of the vessels in the microbrewery.



On this occasion the beer on the tap was a *Munich Helles Lager*. I opted for a tasty *Hemp beer* from one of the taps on the bar. The last three bars of the day were the **Monstro Pizza Bar** (8), **Etmonų Špunka** (9) and **Prohibicija** (10). All of these bars can be accessed from Arklių g. 6. It's a strange set up here, as all three places share a common central area, where you can take your drinks and food from any bar. I finished here nicely with a pizza and a 200ml each paddle of *Sori Brewery* (Estonia) *Coffee Gorilla Baltic Porter*, *Sakiškių Brewery* (Lithuania) *Neipa* and *Milk Stout*, *Kuro Aparatūra* (Lithuania) *Nemiegose Pareigose* and *Pinta Brewery* (Poland) *Oto Mata IPA*.



The next day there was time in the morning before our coach to Riga to visit a couple more bars. The first was **The Pub Leičiai** (11), located opposite **Leičių Bravoras** at Stiklių g. 4, that also offers beers from *Leičių Bravoras*, and a nice *Black IPA* was the order of the day. The final pub of the morning was a little place that we had discovered the previous night. **Šnekutis** (12) is to be found at Šv.

Stepono g. 8. A nice café bar serving a range of 11 beers, I selected the *Dundulis Gutstoutas Stout* to wash down the rather unappetising dish of pig's ears, which I'd been threatening to try. If I can give any advice, don't be tempted!



Off to Riga next...

AN UNUSUAL MICRO PUB in Rye

by Jeff Tucker



"Pint of Old Dairy Uber, please, landlord." "Certainly, sir. Will there be anything else? A Welsh dresser, some chairs or a table lamp, perhaps?"

This may sound like a strange dream, but it is not far from the truth in the new micropub in Rye, The **Waterworks**. In its

time, the building has served as the waterworks, a soup kitchen, public toilets, and recently an antique shop.

The owner hit on the idea of running a pub while keeping the antiques business going, hence the **Waterworks** micropub in Tower Street, a few minutes from the station. Just turn left at the pub at the end of Station Approach. Check *whatpub.com* for opening times.

The Rising Sun Inn & Inglenooks Restaurant

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

A very friendly inn situated in the heart of Fawkhams 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 palate & 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.

Fawkhams Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8NL
T: 01474 872291 www.risingsun-fawkhams.co.uk



The landlord is very friendly and chatty, and there are up to eight real ales in the cold store behind the counter. Food is limited to the usual micropub snacks. I took advantage of the 'Scotch Egg and a Pint for £5' offer. The Scotch egg was from the butcher's along the road, and was superb.

While I was enjoying my beers, the landlord was setting up a bizarre game of chess using beermats and different glasses, for a contest later in the evening. How anyone remembers which glass represents which piece after a few pints is anyone's guess!

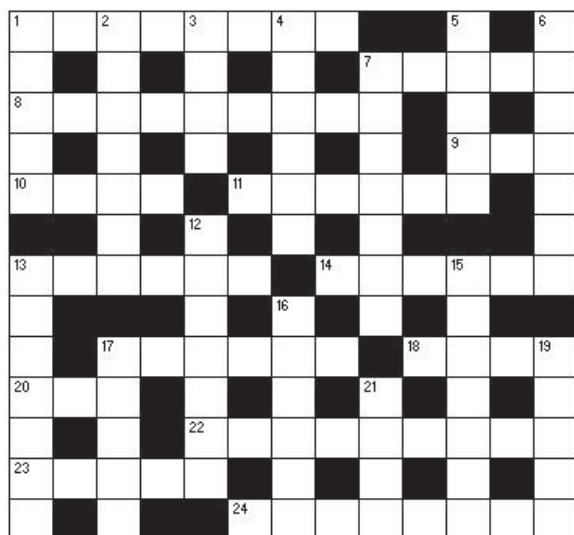


Rye has become a really good drinking town in recent years. Other pubs worth a visit include the **Globe Inn Marsh**, the **Queens Head**, **Ypres Castle Inn**, **George** and the **Standard**. Bus 312 goes there from Tenterden (catch bus 12 from Maidstone) but only runs about every two hours, with no evening service.



Crossword No. 32

compiled by MICK NORMAN



Solution to Crossword No. 31

V	E	S	S	E	L	S		P	L	A	I	N
E		H		N		T		R		L		E
R	E	E	L	S		A	L	E	W	I	F	E
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A				C		G			R			
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A	C	H	E	S			E	X	P	R	E	S

Across

- 1 North London destination for Gravesham MP (8)
- 7 See 13 down
- 8 Am I involved in tumult, missing deadline? (9)
- 9 See 15 down
- 10 Check incoming tide (4)
- 11 Credit is twice at a critical point (6)
- 13 Bid to nurse Her Majesty (6)
- 14 Entices short term staff member to steal at first (6)
- 17 Holy man in the river? Balls! (6)
- 18 Stop supporting flower (4)
- 20 Knight is backing queen (3)
- 22 After Becher's Brook, a horse may be unencumbered (9)
- 23 Stragem - metadata sampled by West Country tourist (5)
- 24 Real seed planted and freed (8)

Down

- 1 See 21 down
- 2 European makes valiant attempt (7)
- 3 Resistance may appear with government correspondence (4)
- 4 Changes key, supported by Queen and Top Shop! (6)
- 5 Rises topless, for an arm and a leg! (5)
- 6 Goacher in the Bible? (7)
- 7 Played tennis shot when loaded (7)
- 12 Sweet Red Tess is unsettled (7)
- 13 Piers seen in Chesterfield? (7,5)
- 15 Herts town where O'Sullivan, Selby & co might socialise? (7,3)
- 16 Interfere with classic Pink Floyd album, 24 in 1971 (6)
- 17 Quiet drink at 'The Junction' for the President? Quite the reverse! (5)
- 19 Thought Erato died (5)
- 21 Oh Sue! A favourite haunt for CAMRA members? (4,5)

*Congratulations to
Mr R Clarke from
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Please email the editor to let us know of hostelrys offering similar discounts.

All Chef & Brewer pubs	10 percent
Anchor, Bexley	10p per pint
Campbell Arms, Northfleet	20p per pint
Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
Chequers, Aylesford	10 percent
Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Cotton Mill, Swanley	10 percent
Crayford Arms, Crayford	10p per pint
Earl Haig, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
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Jolly Drayman, Gravesend	10p per pint
Jolly Fenman, Blackfen	10 percent
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Queen Anne, Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
Stag, Maidstone	10p per pint (<i>off guest beers</i>)
Swan, Loose Road, Maidstone	20p per pint, 10p per half
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Yacht, Bexleyheath	10 percent
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent

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CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

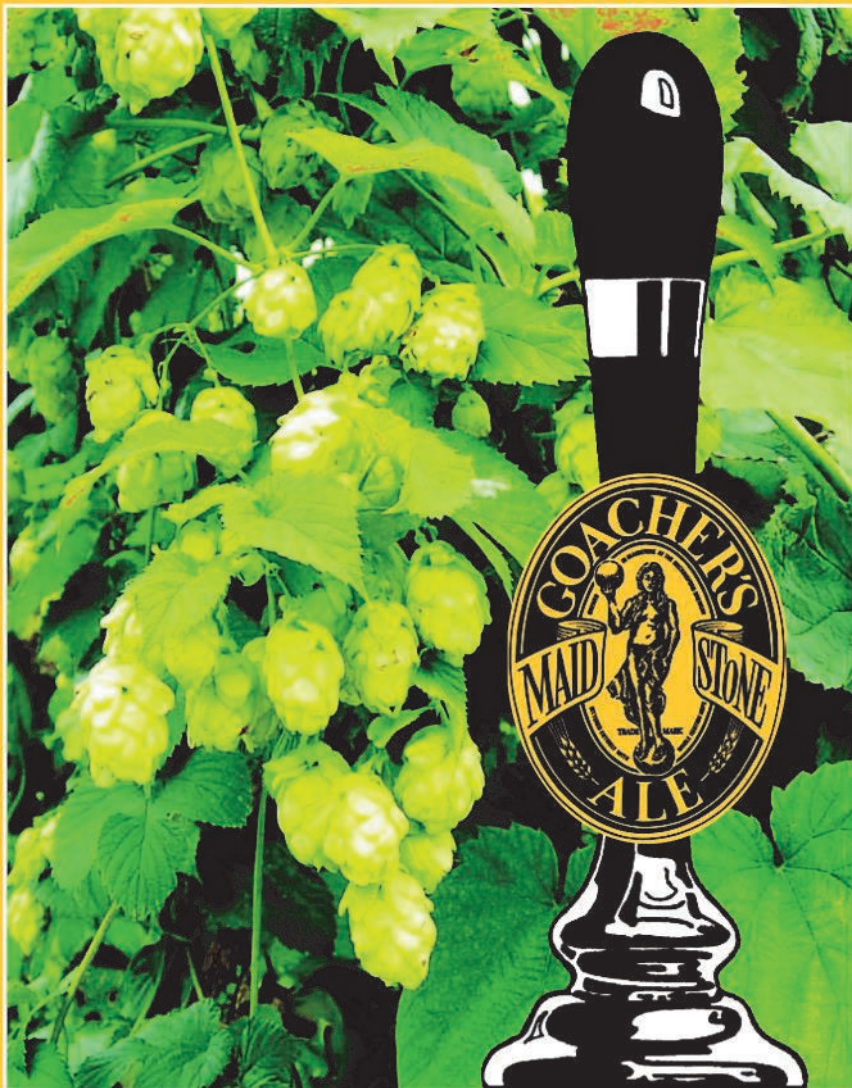
If you would like more information, please ring the local branch contact—see Local News sections. Meetings start at 20:30 unless otherwise stated.

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

- November**
- MMK 29** Fishermans Arms, Maidstone, then Olde Thirsty Pig
7:00pm - Social, Broken Drum Brewery 1st anniversary,
308 Westwood Ln, Blackfen DA15 9PT
- BEX 30** Social tba, Dog and Bell Deptford Rare Welsh Beer festival,
116 Prince St, SE8 3JD (provisional, watch website for details)
- December**
- MMK 3** 12:15pm - Bus & Walk – Rye (Globe, Queens Head, Waterworks)
GDV 5 Annual General Meeting, Malt Shovel, Dartford
MMK 6 Bull, Benenden
BEX 7 2:00pm onwards - Social, Pigs Ear beer festival, the Round Chapel,
1D Glenarm Rd, Hackney E5 0LY
BEX 12 7:45pm - Branch Committee Mtg, the Hangar,
37 The Oval, Sidcup DA15 9ER
MMK 13 Walnut Tree, Loose, then Chequers
GDV 14 8:00pm - Christmas Social, Iron Pier Brewery Tap, Northfleet
MMK 15 9:08am - Bus Trip to Isfield
MMK 20 Aylesford Walkabout, start Chequers
MMK 27 Maidstone Walkabout – Eagle, Swan, then Society Rooms
BEX 27 12 noon - Twixtmas Crawl Social, starting Robin Hood & Little John,
78 Lion Road, Bexleyheath, DA6 8PF
- January**
- MMK 4** (Friday) Goacher's Old evening, Rifle Volunteers, Maidstone
MMK 7 10:25am - Bus & Walk – Hastings (Dolphin, Crown, FILO, Jenny Lind)
BEX 9 7:45pm - Brch Open Mtg, Bexleyheath Working Mens club, tbc
MMK 10 Biz Mtg. & GBG selection, Marden Village Club
GDV 10 Open Business Meeting, Three Daws, Gravesend
MMK 17 Yew Tree, Sandling, then Red Bull, Eccles
GDV 23 8:00pm - Wat Tyler, Foresters, Ivy Leaf, Dartford
MMK 24 Queens Head, Sutton Valence, then Hawkenbury, Hawkenbury
MMK 26 10:24am - Bus Trip to Dartford & Gravesend
MMK 31 8:00pm - Malling Jug, West Malling, then Five-Pointed Star, Bull
- February**
- MMK 7** White Horse, Maidstone, then Cellars
GDV 13 8:00pm - Ship & Lobster, Three Pillars, Jolly Drayman, Gravesend
MMK 14 Lord Raglan, Staplehurst, then Stile Bridge
MMK 16 10:20am - Bus Trip to Herne & Whitstable
MMK 18 12:15pm - Bus & Walk – Rye (Ypres, George, Standard)
MMK 21 Small Holding, Kilndown, then Vine, Goudhurst
MMK 28 Nevill Bull, Birling, then Duke of Wellington, Ryarsh
GDV 28 Open Business Meeting & Good Beer Guide Selection,
Dartford Conservative Club, Dartford

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