

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Newsletter
for the

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

Winter 2014

No. 177

MPs CALL FOR MORE PROTECTION FOR BRITISH PUBS

A parliamentary motion calling for the Government to amend planning laws to protect our local pubs continues to gain strong support from MPs across all political parties, with 67 signed up so far.

Under current planning law, pubs can be demolished or converted into many other uses without planning permission. The Motion – EDM 208 – calls for the Government to amend the General Permitted Development Order 1995 to ensure any demolition or change of use involving the loss of a pub requires planning permission.

This simple change by Government would give local communities a powerful new weapon in the battle to protect our pubs. See CAMRA's new Pubs Matter Campaign: pubsmatter.org.uk/the-campaign

Charlotte Leslie, Conservative MP for Bristol North West, who tabled the motion, said: *"It is a constant battle to prevent our much-loved pubs from turning into supermarkets, especially if they are owned by major pub companies keen to make a quick buck."*

"Some pubs may not be viable, and some areas may want a supermarket instead, but there should be a requirement for planning permission so that a supermarket is a positive choice as a replacement for a pub, rather than the growing tendency for it to become the default when a major pub company wants to dispose of its property."

DRAUGHT COPY

Draught Copy is the newsletter of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent, Bexley, and Gravesend & Darent Valley branches of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. It is published quarterly, in February, May, August and November and has a circulation of 3000 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials. All articles are by the editor unless otherwise attributed.

Please note our new advertising rates:

£77 / £45 / £27 for a full / half / quarter page respectively,
Effective from the next issue in February 2015.

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Email:	ads@braymead.com

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

The copy date for the next issue is 15 December 2014 for publication in February 2015.

Visit our website at www.mmkamra.co.uk
On Twitter at www.twitter.com/mmkamra



Beer Festivals in our region and not too far away

CAMRA www.camra.org.uk

21ST WOKING BEER FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 7—8

Leisure Centre, Woking Park
www.wokingbeerfestival.co.uk

35TH ROCHFORD BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 18—22

Freight House, Bradley Way
Rochford, Essex SS4 1BU
220+ real ales and ciders
www.seecamra.org.uk

31ST PIG'S EAR FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 2—6

Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Rd,
Hackney E5 0PU
www.pigsear.org.uk

Non-CAMRA—Pubs and Clubs

October 31—November 2

Beer Festival at the Bull
1 High Street, West Malling

November 13—15

Medway Beer Festival
Stanley Ballroom, Gundulph Road,
Chatham ME4 4ED
50 real ales + Belgian bottled beers
medwaybeerfestival.com

November 14

Welling United FC Beer Festival
Park View Road, Welling DA16 1SY
10 real ales + ciders + food

February 6—7

Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club
The Slade, Tonbridge TN9 1HR
24 real ales + cider

THE DRAUGHT COPY CAMRA DISCOUNT LIST

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

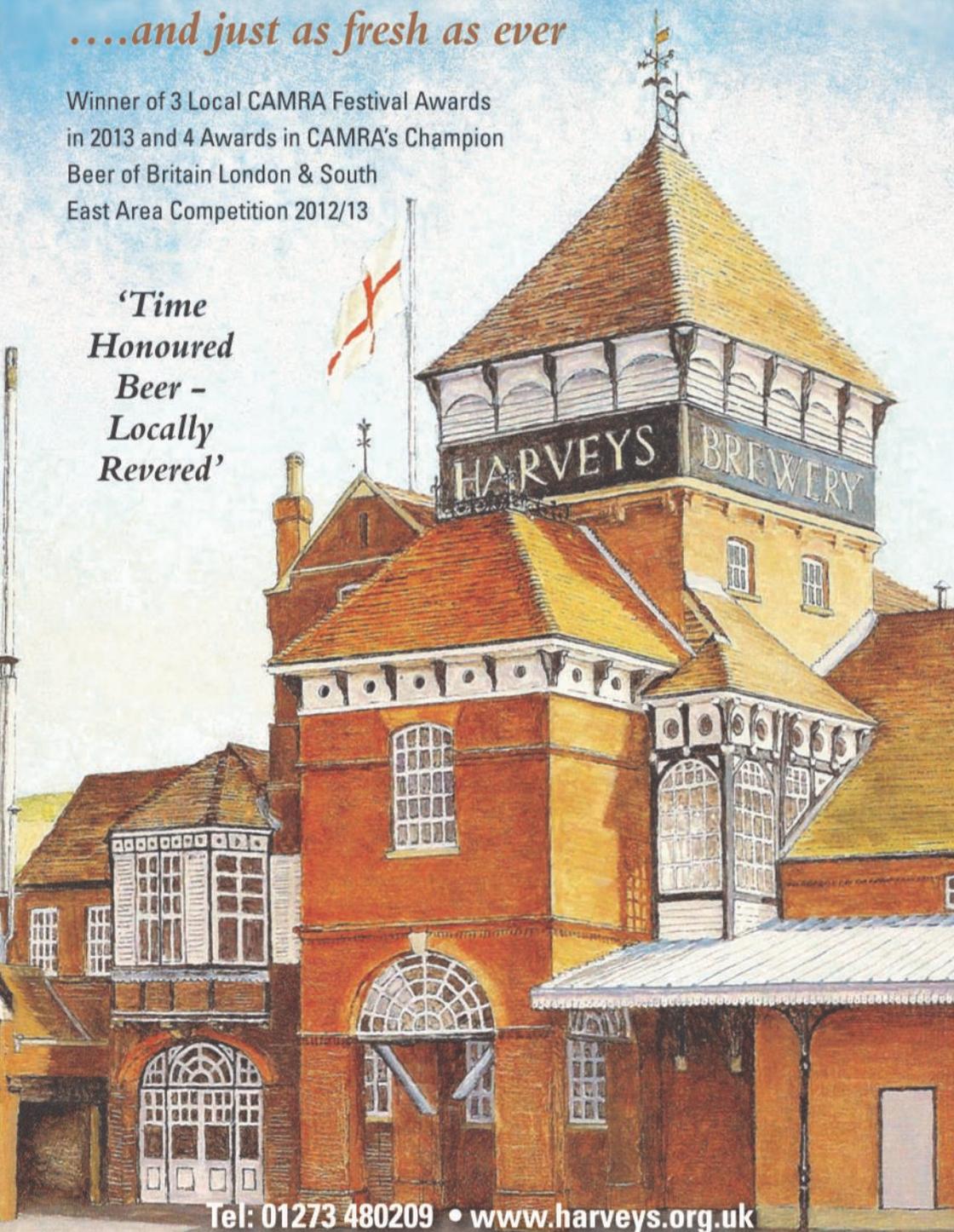
All Chef & Brewer pubs	10 percent
Anchor, Bexley	10p per pint
Bell, Smarden	10p per pint
Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden	20p per pint
Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Earl Haig, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot, Maidstone	10p per pint
George & Dragon, Swanscombe	20p per pint
George Staples, Blackfen	20 percent (<i>also buy 6, 7th free</i>)
Jolly Fenman, Blackfen	10 percent
Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone	10p per pint
We Anchor in Hope, Welling	10 percent
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent

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Beer of Britain London & South
East Area Competition 2012/13

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KENT BREWERIES

Black Cat Brewery	07948 387718	<i>www.blackcat-brewery.com</i>
Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	<i>bexleybrewery.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	<i>www.canterbury-ales.co.uk</i>
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	<i>www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk/canterbury-brewers</i>
Caveman Brewery	07769 710665	<i>www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk</i>
Goacher's	01622 682112	<i>www.goachers.com</i>
Goody Ales	07790 443810	<i>www.goodyales.co.uk</i>
HopDaemon	01795 892078	<i>www.hopdaemon.com</i>
Hop Fuzz	07850 441267	<i>www.hopfuzz.co.uk</i>
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	<i>www.kentbrewery.com</i>
Larkins	01892 870328	
Mad Cat Brewery	07960 263615	<i>www.madcatbrewery.co.uk</i>
Maidstone Brewing Co.	01622 757705	
Millis Brewing Co.	01322 866233	<i>www.millisbrewing.com</i>
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	<i>www.musketbrewery.co.uk</i>
Nelson Brewing Co.	01634 832828	<i>www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk</i>
Old Dairy Brewing Co.	01580 243185	<i>www.olddairybrewery.com</i>
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	<i>www.thefarriersarms.com</i>
Pig and Porter	01424 893519	<i>pigandporter.co.uk</i>
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	<i>www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk</i>
Ripple Steam Brewery	07917 037611	<i>www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk</i>
Rockin' Robin Brewery	07787 416110	<i>www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk</i>
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	<i>www.shepherd-neame.co.uk</i>
Spencer's Brewery	01233 610215	<i>www.spencersbrewery.co.uk</i>
Swan, West Peckham	01622 812271	<i>www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk</i>
Tír Dhá Ghlas	01304 211666	<i>www.cullinsyard.co.uk</i>
Tonbridge Brewery	01732 366770	<i>www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk</i>
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	<i>www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk</i>
Westerham Brewery	01959 565837	<i>www.westerhambrewery.co.uk</i>
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	<i>www.whitstablebrewery.info</i>

COMPETITION RESULTS FROM LAST ISSUE

Congratulations to Mike Lynd and Peter Bown, who managed to solve all the clues in the competition in the last issue. Beer festival tickets were sent to them. Nick Goodwin also got the right answers, but just missed the deadline – sorry, Nick!

The pubs were the **Wheatsheaf** and the **Muggleton**, and the answers to the clues were:

O F F S P R I N G	AWAY	for three months with the children
F O U N D	DISCOVERED	there was nothing in the kitty
A G R E E	CONCUR	that it's in the bag, Reece
T A T T O O	BODY ART	is rubbish as well
P A S T Y	PALE SAINT	is in the money
S T A R K	DESOLATE TIME	in a Channel Island
I G H T H A M	A KENT VILLAGE	is on the agenda, we hear
S H R A P N E L	HER PLANS	are shattered. Only fragments remain
T E N O N	SAW NEARLY A DOZEN	aboard
C E N T R E	A COIN	about the middle
P S A L M	BROKEN LAMPS	lead to something religious
S W E D E	A EUROPEAN VEGETABLE	
I M P O R T A N T	IT'S VITAL	to bring an insect into the country
G N O M E	MEN GO WILD	for something in the garden
N E W E S T	THE MOST RECENT SHEEP	in the middle of winter
A H O Y	HELLO SAILOR,	it's a small boat
A T O L L	A PAYMENT	to get to a coral reef
R U S T L E R	A THIEF	in King Street
O L I V E	NOTHING UNRECORDED	is green

Kent in Sussex

On a recent weekend in Brighton, I went with an old friend of mine to the **Craft Beer Co** in Upper North Street, on the corner of Regent Hill. This is one amazing pub, and I was staggered to see that out of nine handpumps, four of them were serving *Kent Brewery* beers. There were the house beer (a *Pale* variant) *Altered States*, *KGB* and a green hop IPA, if I remember correctly. Out of several halves, possibly many, I had *Altered States* three times. It was in good condition, tasted great, and was certainly the best beer of our visit.

THE BLACK HORSE INN

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Cask Conditioned Ales – Westerham Grasshopper and 4 Guest Ales, which could include Old Dairy Spring Top, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Sharps Doom Bar, Black Sheep Best, Skinners Betty Stogs, Adnams Ghost Ship - the list is endless but all well kept!

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THE WHITE HORSE

**12.5% off your food bill *main menu only.
Not valid on Sundays or for Special Offers. Valid only on
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The White Horse at Sandway, just outside the village of Lenham in Kent, is a traditional country pub, located between Lenham, Boughton Malherbe, Platts Heath and the village of Harrietsham. Family friendly with a play area for children.



We have our own function room and separate restaurant, able to cater for a dinner for two to a function for 100 plus. The restaurant is popular with people for private dining parties of up to 35 people and for

60 plus our function room is perfect. We are happy to cater for all occasions such as Christenings, Birthdays and Weddings.



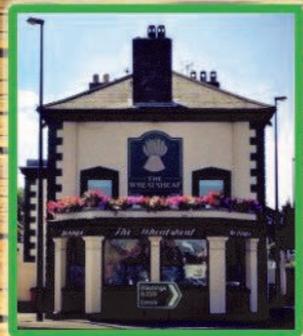
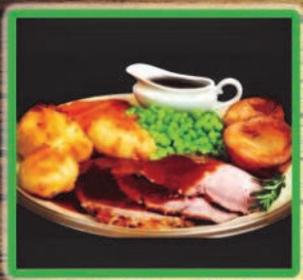
Part of our garden is fenced off for riders to tether their horses and a large car park for them to park horse boxes in (by prior appointment only) and go for a ride.

Live music is on the first Friday of the month and a Beer Festival is to be held on July, 4th, 5th and 6th with a hog roast, face painting, morris dancers, military vehicles and live music lined up.

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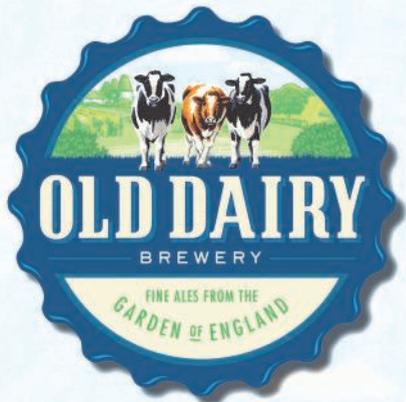
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Kent Cider Makers



Badgers Hill Farm	01227 730573	
Beardspoon Cider Works		<i>www.beardspoon.com</i>
Biddenden Cider	01580 291726	<i>www.biddendenvineyards.com</i>
Big Tree Cider	01474 705221	<i>www.bigtreecider.co.uk</i>
Broomfield Orchard	01227 362279	
Castle Cider Co	01732 455977	
Chafford Cider Co.	01892 740437	
Core Fruit Products	01227 730589	
Double Vision Cider	01622 746633	
Dudda's Tun Cider	01795 886266	<i>www.duddastuncider.com</i>
East Stour Cider Co	07880923398	<i>danbaldwin@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Green Oak Farm	01304 821630	<i>info@greenoakfarm.co.uk</i>
Hush Heath Estate	01622 832794	<i>shop.hushheath.com</i>
Johnson's Farmhouse Cider	01795 665203	
Kent Cider Company	07738 573818	<i>kentcider.co.uk</i>
Kentish Pip Cider	01227 830525	<i>www.kentishpip.co.uk</i>
Kings Wood Cider	01227 709387	<i>www.kingswoodcider.co.uk</i>
Little Stour Orchard	07771 711252	<i>www.littlestourorchard.co.uk</i>
Longtail Cider		<i>markwwarnett@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Magic Bus Cider	07887 747569	<i>chris8mel@ntlworld.com</i>
Merry Moon	07707 309041	<i>jo-anna.bottomley@btinternet.com</i>
Pawley Farm Cider	01795 532043	<i>pawleyfarmcider@tiscali.co.uk</i>
Rough Old Wife Cider	01227 700757	<i>www.rougholdwife.com</i>
St Dunstan's Cider		<i>r.f.lancaster@sky.com</i>
Stiles Cider	01795 830615	<i>MikeBispham@aol.com</i>
Turners Cider	07825 394164	<i>www.turnerscider.co.uk</i>

Map available at *www.camra-dds.org.uk/pubscidermakers.htm*

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

Oak on the Green, Bearsted – The branch had an evening visit here following a game of Bat & Trap on the Green. Very busy in both dining and drinking areas and had to park at some distance and walk back. Two beers from 1648 Brewery, *Oak Ale* and *Bee Head, Harveys Best and Old Dairy Sun Top* were all in good form. The mosquitoes on the Green were also in good form as I later found out when red patches appeared on my legs (memo to self - do not wear shorts when playing Bat & Trap).

White Hart, Claygate – New licensee, Frazer Williamson, has been welcomed by the locals. This Victorian *Shepherd Neame* pub has much to offer including 3 *en-suite* letting room, a 40 seat restaurant, a large garden with play equipment for children and a gazebo. The interior has a fresh look about it. Customers tell us the food and wine range has now improved as well. The beer range is *Master Brew* and *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* and a seasonal.



Bull, East Farleigh – A play area for children and a small menagerie make this suitable for families. A good selection of food is provided for both lunch and evenings. Serves both *Harveys Best* and *Sharps Doom Bar* as regulars but no guest beers are available.

Roebuck, Harrietsham – Here we found regulars from *Goachers* and *Sharps Doom Bar* in the main bar and *Titanic They Think It's Ale Over* in the comfortable restaurant. A beer festival was held on the August Bank Holiday Monday. The Thursday evening quiz is very popular. The pub has 5 twin and 4 double rooms available in an adjacent separate building. www.theroebuckinnharry.co.uk



Pepper Box, Harrietsham – On a branch visit we found *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Spitfire*, and the *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* line being cleaned. However those that preferred the *WBPA* were served direct from the cellar, for which we were grateful. www.thepepperboxinn.co.uk

Royal Oak, Hawkhurst – *Harveys Best Bitter* has now taken over as the regular and there is one guest beer.



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and follow us on facebook: KingandQueenEastMalling

Woodcock, Iden Green (Benenden) – A country pub with a small restaurant but a large garden, owned by *Greene King* where the rarely found *XX Mild* is on the bar as a regular. Licensee change reported but no details available at time of writing.

Peacock, Iden Green (Goudhurst) – Elsie Innes is now the licensee at this *Shepherd Neame* country pub. www.peacockgoudhurst.co.uk

Spitfire, Kings Hill – This is a large pub with an enclosed grassed area having seating and a play area for children. The Kings Hill Rotary Club organised a Beer Festival here with BBQ and music at end of August. Unfortunately we did not have knowledge of this until too late to list in this publication. Usually stocks three *Shepherd Neame* beers including *Spitfire* and the seasonal brews.

Plough, Langley – Paul Murphy took over here in May and continues with up to six beers on the pumps, mostly from smaller breweries and often from Kent. When the branch visited amongst the selection we found *Bespoke Running the Gauntlet*, *Kelham Island Pride of Sheffield* and *Loddon Gravesend Shrimpers*. The large restaurant has been rearranged, and a carvery will now be available Wednesdays and Sundays.



Dog & Bear, Lenham – Congratulations to licensees Brian & Anne Hogg, who have now run this *Shepherd Neame* traditional 24 room coaching inn for over ten years. *Master Brew* and *Spitfire* are the regular brews available and one other seasonal or mainstream beer.

Flower Pot, Maidstone – Held its autumn beer festival end of August with 16 casks on stillage in the yard and then another 9 on the pumps inside. However, Dave normally has 9 beers on at the weekend and drops to 5/6 during the week, so almost a permanent festival.

Hare & Hounds, Maidstone – Now has two ever-changing real ales.

Royal Albion, Maidstone – A *Shepherd Neame* pub adjacent to the Fremlin Walk shopping centre. Licensee Sharon holds regular Karaoke and music session and keeps the beers well. On a branch visit we found *Master Brew*, *Spitfire* and *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* but these may vary when seasonal ales are available

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We offer Harveys Sussex Best, Woodfordes Wherry and 2 Guest Ales.

Show your CAMRA membership and receive 20p off a pint

Kitchen Open Hours

Wed – Sun 12 - 3pm

Wed – Sat 7 - 9:30pm

Now with Bar Billiards

Sun, Maidstone - This has been re-fitted and re-opened on August 8 under a new licensee. The interior is now a lot lighter and more inviting. The regular beers are now *Greene King IPA* and *Harveys Sussex Best*. I am informed that a third pump may be added when demand increases. Food will now be served daily from 12-9 with the usual pub favourites.

Style & Winch, Maidstone – Narnia was the latest theme here to provide a talking point for locals. Music is provided on a monthly basis. The regular beer is *Courage Best* with two guests often from *Wells* but *Harveys Sussex Best* and others have also been found.

Marden Club, Marden – Regularly featuring brews from *Shepherd Neame* and *Harveys*. Kent microbrewers beers often appear and there has subsequently been an increase in membership applications.

Bricklayers Arms, New Hythe – An Indian takeaway service is provided in the evenings so you can have a pint whilst waiting for orders to be completed. There is an enclosed garden at the rear. Live music and discos feature monthly. *Adnams Ghost Ship* is often found as a guest as well as the regular *Courage Best*.



White Horse, Otham – Some new furniture now and it has been re-decorated. Pool table and large screen TV are provided for the sporting fans. Serves breakfasts from 9 until 11. Only *Courage Best* was available on our visit.

Bull, Snodland – This is now boarded up and the Enterprise lease has been sold to the Co-op store across the road. This leaves just one pub, the Monks Head, in an ever expanding community.

Fox & Goose, Weaving – There was a small beer festival here in July featuring the *Musket Brewery*, with other beers from *Kent*, *Kissingate*, *Nelson* and *Tonbridge*. Proceeds went towards Bearsted's Holy Cross Church Choir residential week at Salisbury Cathedral in April 2015. Tony and Mark, the owners of *Musket* brewery, sing tenor at Bearsted. There is a marquee in the garden where events are held.
www.foxandgooseonline.com



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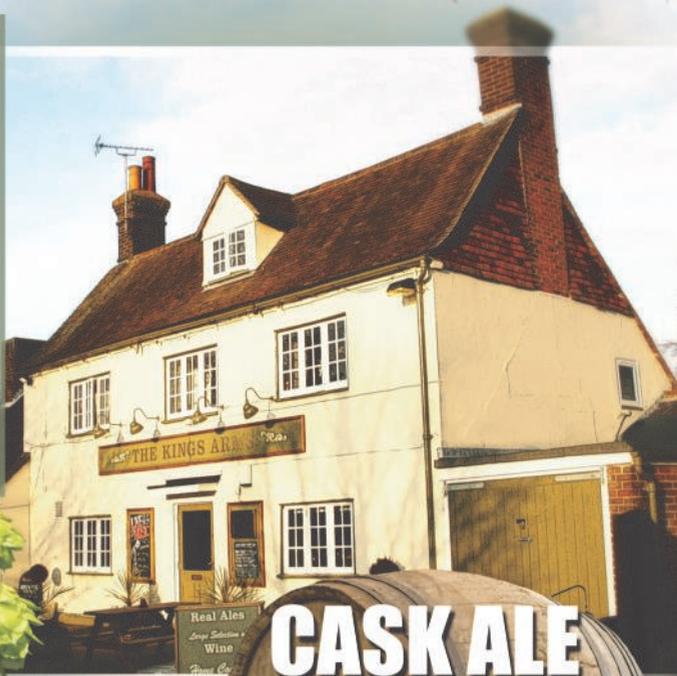
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Bull, West Malling – Trevor had a selection of six beers from Yorkshire in the garden over the August BH as well as the usual 8 on the pumps. On the bar I found *Kent & Sussex Brewery Emperor* which went down very well. This is a new venture by Richard Boniface using brewing plant in both Kent and Sussex. The beers first appeared in his Penguin Pub Co premises of which our branch has one – Swan, Loose Road, Maidstone. According to the pump clips the *Kent & Sussex* beers are brewed by penguins – you might have to consume more than a few before you believe that. There is another brew named *Rockhopper*. www.thebullinnwestmalling.com

Swan on the Green, West Peckham – A popular eating pub adjacent to the village Green that serves several Swan beers from the on-site microbrewery. Green hopped beers were available in October. The much improved website now provides more current information. www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk

THE VILLAGE PUB IS KEY TO RURAL COHESION

Dr Ignazio Cabras of Newcastle Business School and Dr Matthew Mount of Leeds University Business School have collaborated in a new academic research project. In it they concluded that rural pubs play a significant role within local communities and clearly identified pubs as the main centres for social activities and engagement, in a context frequently characterised by reduced facilities and opportunities. The study concluded in Spring this year after 18 months work and was submitted to British Academy in April 2014.

The authors hope the report will raise awareness about the decline of rural pubs and the huge loss associated with their disappearance in the countryside.

John Longden, Chief Executive of Pub is The Hub commented: *“Whilst there is no direct link with the study and Pub is The Hub, the aims and objectives of both are complementary and confirming the significance of these businesses in the British rural context. In rural areas pubs act as essential melting pots for bringing the community together from all walks of life and this study concludes that it is yet another vital service that the countryside cannot afford to lose.”*

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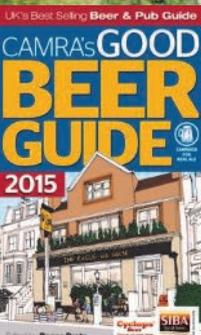
- Real Ales, Real Food, Real Staff & No Gimmicks

CAMRA Good Beer Guide & Cask Marque award

Quiz Night on Monday

Open 12 – 2.30 and 5 – 11 Monday – Thursday
12 – 11 Friday and Saturday
12 – 10.30 Sunday

The Bull
High Street
West Malling



CAMRA APPOINTS TIM PAGE AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, has announced Tim Page as its new Chief Executive with effect from 3rd November. He succeeds Mike Benner, who is now Managing Director at SIBA, the Society for Independent Brewers.

Mr Page brings a wealth of experience from the charitable sector, having previously held positions as Chief Executive of the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) and former National Director of homeless charity Emmaus UK.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be joining CAMRA as Chief Executive and look forward to meeting the volunteers when I start work in November. The Campaign has an outstanding reputation which appears to me to be the result of its large membership, its huge number of hard-working and committed volunteers and its highly competent and professional team of employees. My aim is to continue to develop CAMRA as both the universally recognised representative and the most authoritative voice of real ale drinkers and pub-goers in the UK." Tim Page, CAMRA Chief Executive.

"CAMRA are very pleased to welcome Tim Page as our new Chief Executive and look forward to seeing him further cement CAMRA's place as the voice of beer drinkers within the beer and pub industry." Colin Valentine, CAMRA National Chairman.

With pubs being lost at a rate of 31 per week across the UK, CAMRA's current **Pubs Matter** campaign aims to see public houses placed in their own use-class, meaning they can't be converted or demolished without planning permission, in an effort to curb the closure of pubs. Tim Page will be leading this and many other campaigns as the new Chief Executive of CAMRA.



Recent issues of *Draught Copy* online can be found at www.mmcamra.co.uk/#!/__draught-copy-library



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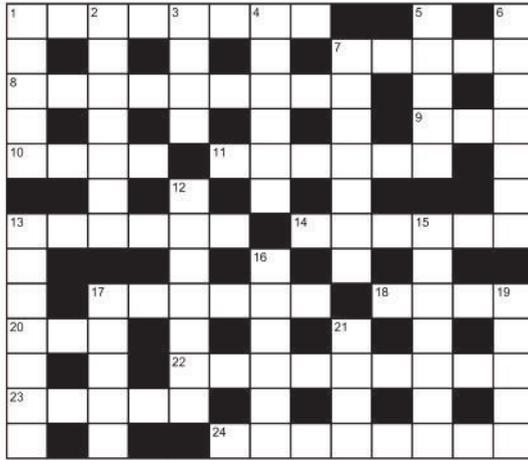
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The Draught Copy Crossword No. 16

compiled by MICK NORMAN

Solution in next issue



Across

- 1 Rubbish football team (8)
- 7 Golfer firing a loose drive off at first (5)
- 8 Mm...the longest day? (9)
- 9 Garden implement found in Plymouth (3)
- 10 Criminal post leads to arrest (4)
- 11 Marks MG as it breaks down (6)
- 13 Revered consumer organisation accommodates Everards chief for photographs (6)
- 14 Remarkably, cheese provides fruit (6)
- 17 Yellow actor (6)
- 18 Boast about clothing (4)
- 20 Refuse to admit boozier (3)
- 22 Dire? (5,4)
- 23 Flogs birds (5)
- 24 Test case reviewed for recording, perhaps (8)

Down

- 1 About power for temporary homes (5)
- 2 Sweep takes journalist to sleeping quarters (7)
- 3 Old Scottish singer's appearance is cut short - praise be! (4)
- 4 Concerning a speck - somewhat distant (6)
- 5 Greek character may be male (5)
- 6 Stun European with chopper (7)
- 7 Fogey re-constructing Mark 1 Austin Healey Sprite (7)
- 12 Artists underwear? (7)
- 13 Scab has work in North African fortresses (7)
- 15 I hear Mr Redknapp devoured Ms Harman! (7)
- 16 Amateur in trouble, losing second gear, resulting in injury (6)
- 17 Royal headgear from Derby, perhaps (5)
- 19 Beer served on gravity for the bird! (5)
- 21 Her Majesty - so confused by units of resistance (4)

Solution to Crossword No. 15



For a chance to win a crisp £10 drinking voucher please send your completed grid to our compiler:

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Congratulations to Anita Spence from Lewisham who won the tenner last time.

Contact: *Bob Belton* on 01322 224683 (H) / 07527 846859 (M) or
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Let's enthuse about a concept mentioned briefly towards the end of our narrative in the autumn issue – MICROPUBS. The first such venture in the Gravesend & Darent Valley branch area, **The Compass Alehouse**, 7 Manor Road, Gravesend, DA12 1AA, within three or four minutes walk from the railway station, was opened to the general public on Friday 26th September 2014 by real ale enthusiasts and CAMRA members Charlie Venner and John Warden.



We spoke to Charlie & John on the last Saturday in August at the beer festival at the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe. That morning they had been in the pub cellar with James from *Caveman Brewery* brewing the initial 16 firkin (four barrel) batch of *Compass Bitter*, an easy drinking low gravity session bitter, which is hoped to become a regular beer at the **Compass**. I attended the evening session on the opening day and the firkin of *Compass Bitter* had already sold out, so I've yet to sample it, but my friends thoroughly enjoyed it before my arrival. However I was extremely pleased to find *Goachers Real Mild Ale*, a particular favourite dark mild of mine, regularly available at the **Cock** at Luddesdown, also a favourite haunt of Charlie & John. The other beers available on opening day were *Kent Brewery Session Pale*, *Adnams Ghost Ship* and *Hopdaemon Incubus*, all in tiptop condition, as expected, and I'm sure this will continue.

So what is a *micropub*? There is no standard definition so we'll defer to Charlie and John for giving us a few helpful pointers. As the name suggests, a small size, but that's not all, and some small pubs around the country would not qualify. Most importantly, real ale must be sold, usually by gravity from casks on display in a chilled room. The **Compass** has a cosy drinking area with wooden seating and tables, a small kitchen area where the beer is ordered (there is no bar counter), a very clean toilet, a tiny purpose-built chilled room where the casks on stillage are visible to the customers, and a little courtyard with seating to the rear of the pub.

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A true micropub always specialises in selling top quality real ale, with real cider, a selection of good quality, preferably local, wines and traditional soft drinks such as dandelion and burdock, ginger beer and cloudy lemonade also usually available. There must be no “manufactured” products (especially lager and fizzy drinks), no fruit machines, TV’s or juke boxes, which would spoil the concept of a place for a quiet drink and chat with friends - and talk to strangers, who soon become friends in a cosy atmosphere – that’s the plan. The **Compass** has also instigated a “no mobile phone” policy for which a donation to the charity box is required should one be sounded. Remember to switch your phone to “silent” and talk to the surrounding folk in the pub instead, whilst enjoying your chosen beverage; beer and cider being obvious topics of conversation to break the ice with strangers.

Fair enough, you may talk to strangers in traditional established pubs but the layout of tables in larger places tends to encourage people to gather in separate pairs or groups of friends, particularly when the main purpose of their visit is dining and hot meals are ordered, something not catered for in micropubs. So when you head for the **Compass**, please also visit some of the other good pubs nearby in Gravesend town centre. If you’re looking for good quality and a large selection of real ales we recommend the following pubs in no particular order. The **Rum Puncheon** in West Street sports eight handpumps and has increased its allegiance to *LocAle* beers from Kentish breweries. The ever popular **Jolly Drayman** in Wellington Street is hosting another beer festival from 31st October to 2nd November. The **Crown & Thistle** in The Terrace is unusual in offering third of a pint measures, allowing tasters of a greater selection of ales. The **Robert Pocock** in Windmill Street is a much improved Wetherspoons outlet.

These four pubs plus the out of town **Ship & Lobster**, Mark Lane, Denton, are the five Gravesend entries listed in the new 2015 *Good Beer Guide*. However competition is getting tougher in Gravesend for 2016 with the **Three Daws** in Royal Pier Road and the **Windmill** in Shrubbery Road both offering extended ranges of real beers in good condition.

Reverting to micropubs for a moment, the **Door Hinge** in Welling, Bexley branch CAMRA Pub of the Year 2014 has become the overall winner of the Greater London CAMRA Pub of the Year after only 18 months of trading. In recent weeks two other micropubs have opened in neighbouring branches being the **One Inn the Wood**, Petts Wood

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(Bromley branch) and the **Penny Farthing**, Waterside, Crayford (Bexley branch) and another is due to open soon in Blackfen, to be named the **Broken Drum**, also in the Bexley branch area. So come on Dartford, my local town, any plans for a micropub? Apparently Dartford was voted the second most unhappy town in the UK according to a recent Government poll reported in a September issue of the "i" newspaper. Why only second? Which town "won" the poll - or should I say "lost"?

Just for consistency with Gravesend (a happy town?) I should like to mention the three Dartford pubs appearing in the 2015 *Good Beer Guide*. **The Ivy Leaf** and the **Malt Shovel**, both in Darenth Road and regular entries for several years have been joined by a new listing, the **Foresters**, in nearby Great Queen Street, which has recently installed a fourth handpump. The branch is holding a business meeting at the **Ivy Leaf** on 12th November and nominations for the 2016 *GBG* from branch members can be submitted from that evening through until the meeting on 8th January 2015 at the **Dartford Working Men's Club**. We are pleased to announce that the **DWMC** has won the overall Kent CAMRA Club of the Year title and now progresses, along with 15 other regional winners, to be considered for the title of CAMRA National Club of the Year, an accolade achieved by a most happy **Dartford Working Men's Club** in 2005.

As you've gathered by now, the 2015 *Good Beer Guide* has hit the streets and, for consistency again, I'd like to promote the three village pubs which are new entries (or re-entries). The **Queen**, New Road, South Darenth (pictured) finished runner-up in the 2014 branch Pub of the Year competition, a testament to John and Cat for the excellent quality of the four rotating real ales. The **Amazon & Tiger**, Harvel Street, Harvel, is a fine community pub where Mick and Angie serve three changing beers, including local ales and host an annual summer beer festival in the garden and various other community events. The **Bull**, Lombard Street, Horton Kirby, former winner of several CAMRA awards is regaining its former glory and regularly sells beer from *Oakham Brewery*, one of my personal favourites.



For even greater consistency and fairness I would also like to promote the five pubs, not mentioned in this context above, which have also

retained their place in the *Good Beer Guide*, being the **Cock** at Luddesdown, the **Crown** in Otford, the **Five Bells** in Eynsford, the **George & Dragon** in Swanscombe and the **Old House** at Ightham Common, bringing the total to our branch allocation of 16 – who’s counting?

We haven’t mentioned any permanent pub closures yet during this quarter. Sadly there are several sites of closed pubs in our area where the buildings are standing vacant and/or boarded and grilled, most of which have been recorded in previous issues. The longest surviving vacant pub building is the former **Eleven Cricketers**, East Hill, unhappy Dartford, which closed for trading in 1986. The worst eyesore, in my opinion, is the former **Red Lion** (closed in 2005) another classic example of planning blight, located at a prominent road junction in Borough Green.

The **Horns**, High Street, Otford closed in January 2014 and still bears a sign in the window stating “closed for three weeks for refurbishment” Another 2014 closure, the **Horse & Groom**, Leyton Cross, Wilmington is securely grilled, although the future is not certain. The **Chequers** at Heaverham, near Kemsing, closed in September (hopefully temporarily). The **Vigo**, Gravesend Road, Fairseat (2014 GBG entry) is now trading with very restricted opening hours. These pubs and several others are subject to various planning applications and conflicting information on the grapevine, or rather hopbine, so I shall leave the reports “ongoing” for the time being.

Two pubs in Gravesend are reported to be reverting to former names. The **Chase** in the High Street is expected become the **Three Tuns** again and should hopefully sell real ale after conversion. The **Black Rose** in Arthur Street is expected to revert to the **Cricketers** and has recommenced selling real ale - *Young’s Bitter*. It now has the same licensees as the nearby **Darnley Arms** in Trafalgar Street which already serves a good pint of *Young’s Bitter*.

Another pub which is now selling real ale again is the **Fulwich**, St.Vincent’s Road, Dartford, starting with *Sharp’s Doom Bar* and *Fuller’s London Pride* but now only *Doom Bar*. The **Fox & Hounds**, Lowfield Street, Dartford has been serving a beer called *Rockhopper*, purportedly from an outfit called *Kent & Sussex Brewery*, which we do not know. We’ve heard of other pubs selling *Rockhopper* and *Emperor* beers, both with a penguin on the pump clip, but we do not know its origin - maybe the South Pole! Any ideas?

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The time of year has come around again for us to welcome CAMRA members and friends to the Gravesend & Darent Valley branch *Annual General Meeting* to be held in the downstairs function room at the **Windmill**, Shrubbery Road, Gravesend on Wednesday 3rd December starting at 8.30pm. Once again we would dearly like to see new faces, hopefully to assist the ever dwindling band of ageing, active branch members.



The following week, on the evening of Friday the 12th December, we shall be holding our Christmas social, open to all, at the **Coach & Horses**, The Hill, Northfleet. Please refer to the contacts listed on the header for details if you'd like to come as we would like an idea of numbers attending to ascertain catering requirements at this new venue. On a recent visit I sampled *Wychwood Bountiful* and *Robinsons Dizzy Blonde*. The dedicated cider handpump was offering *Weston's The Apple Bites Back*. Sharon hopes to install another handpump for a third real ale, as demand is growing. Over the preceding weekend and following into Armistice Day in November, *Thwaites Lancaster Bomber* and *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, amongst others, will be available and 10 pence per pint will be donated to the Poppy Appeal and the Pilgrims Bandits charity assisting amputees from the Forces.

Enjoy the festive season and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2015.

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www.camrabexleybranch.org.uk

Welcome readers. As usual our monthly business meetings have taken us to all parts of our branch area and have been well attended. In July we were in Welling at the ever popular Wetherspoons the **New Cross Turnpike**. In August we clashed with the Great British Beer Festival but still had a reasonable turnout at the **Prince of Wales** in Upper Belvedere, and finally, in September, we descended upon the **Old Dartfordians**. As always, our thanks go to our hosts for making us welcome on a Wednesday evening.

The good news is that the **Penny Farthing**, owned by Bob & Bev Baldwin, opened its doors to the public on Thursday 11th September. As was to be expected, the opening night was packed solid with people enjoying a range of beers including *B&T Golden Fox*, *Calvors Lodestar*, *Millis Golden Wobbler*, *Adnams Broadside* and *Westerham British Bulldog*. Also on the good news front, we learn that the **Broken Drum** in Blackfen has received planning permission, and Andy Wheeler is hoping to be open before Christmas.

Sad news reached me that Alan Jones of the **Duchess of Kent** passed away following a heart attack. Our condolences go to his family. We await news of what is to happen at the pub.

Our socials this quarter have been many and varied. We held only one in July but we invaded across our western border into South East London branch territory and the nice town of Eltham SE9. Here we were joined briefly in our first pub (**Bankers Draft** – Wetherspoons) by a SE London member who was an old friend of one of our own members. In the bar we were able to sample the usual Wetherspoon fare of *London Pride*, *Ruddles*, *Abbot*, *Broadside* and *Doom Bar*, supplemented by an American beer called *Enraptured* (which a couple of our drinkers were) and *Kings Long Hop Summer*. There were also two ciders available, as it was part of their Cider Festival period.

At the appointed hour we moved on to the **Eltham GPO** a large building with several handpumps of which only four were in use. These were dispensing *Deuchars IPA*, *Broadside*, *Kings Poachers Moon* and *Sharps Cornish Coaster*. Here we were joined by an old friend from Gravesend Branch. After a couple of beers we crossed the road to the **Park Tavern**,

which also had four beers on, although we were informed that two other beers had run out earlier in the evening. The four we chose from were *Hancocks HB*, *Sharps Cornish Coaster*, *Jennings Cocky Blonde* and *By the Horns Stiff Upper Lip*. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had.

In August the beer festival season really kicked in. Ignoring the obvious 'Big One' at Olympia, we held social events at three local festivals, Merton Court Prep School in Sidcup, to which we also took a membership stand for the Saturday of the festival. Wilmington Cricket Week festival is now a long established event on our calendar and this year we visited on the Thursday, which coincided with the organiser's birthday. The weather meant that, for a change, we actually got to watch some cricket during the afternoon and early evening. The third festival was at the **Old Dartfordians**, which this year was not affected by the monsoon-like conditions that prevailed on the Saturday last year.

On the Bank Holiday Monday, some of our branch members joined the annual seaside crawl organised by Mick Norman of the Gravesend & Darent Valley Branch. The crawl has been going now for many years and this year was to Whitstable. A very enjoyable day was had and I would like to thank Mick for his efforts in putting together such a wonderful day out.

Our final social of the month took us to pubs that we have not visited for quite some time as a branch. We started in North Cray at the **White Cross** (*Harveys*, *Courage Best*, *Bombardier* & *Woodfordes Royal Norfolks*), we then strolled along the North Cray Road to the **Coach & Horses**. Here we found *Adnams Bitter* and *Youngs Bitter*, sadly both were in very poor condition. Onwards into Bexley Village and the **Kings Head**, ostensibly a free house but stocking *Greene King* beers. Those on offer were *IPA*, *Abbot* and *Old Golden Hen*.

In September, our first social was at the East Malling Beer Festival where there were plenty of new brews to try; a good time was had by those attending. This was followed by one of our occasional Saturday crawls, this time around Southwark. We started at the **Rake** and progressed through the afternoon to **Market Porter**, **Charles Dickens**, **Lord Clyde**, **Royal Oak**, **Southwark Tavern** before finally rounding off the trip in the **Sheaf**.

Our other social in September was to celebrate the birthday of our membership secretary, Helen. We started in the **Charlotte**, (*Youngs*

London Gold, *Wadworth 6X* and *Robinsons Dizzy Blonde*) before going to the aforementioned **Penny Farthing**, (*Brentwood IPA*, *Nelson Midshipman* and *Mad Cat Platinum Blonde*, which ran out and was replaced by *Tonbridge Blonde Ambition*. There were also two ciders and a perry available. We ended in the **Crayford Arms**, (*Shepherd Neame Masterbrew* and *Inveralmond Ossian*, plus a cider).

Finally, as this is the last issue of 2014, we at Bexley CAMRA would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous 2015.

A New Slant on Pub Games

by Jeff Tucker

I had a spare Sunday earlier this year, so decided to jump on a train and visit the **Chequers** at Laddingford, and two pubs in Yalding.

Walking down the footpath approaching the **Chequers**, I could hear announcements being made over a public address system, and arrived to find the pub forecourt busy with people and bunting.

Wondering what was going on, I found landlady Tracey, who said that the pub was the finishing point of a Triathlon, which had started in Tonbridge and involved a 400m swim, 17-mile bike ride to the pub and a 3.5-mile circular run. Unfortunately, I didn't know in advance, otherwise I could have taken part! I therefore had to settle for a couple of pints and something from the barbeque.

It's wonderful to see something like this based around a village pub. Well done to Charles and Tracey.

I summoned up the energy to walk to Yalding, where I visited the **George**, which had happily reopened after the horrendous flooding in the winter. The barman showed me where the water came up to just below the level of the bar counter! The two real ales, which always include *Adnams*, were in good nick, and good value, too.

On to the **Anchor**, a very picturesque riverside pub, which has added *Wells Bombardier* to its previous range of *Courage Best* and *Directors*. Whoopee! How I wish it sold something more interesting.

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WHAT? PUB

What Pub, Beer Scoring and the Good Beer Guide

You are probably aware of the *Good Beer Guide*, National CAMRA's flagship publication which lists the best pubs in the UK. But what you may not know is how those pubs are selected to appear in the Guide. The answer is that it is largely via beer scores submitted by CAMRA members from all over the country. So if you are a CAMRA member you can send in beer scores. If you've ever wondered why your favourite pub isn't in the Guide, this may well be because you, and others, haven't entered scores rating the quality of beer there. By beer scoring, you can contribute to the process of selection of pubs that go in the *Good Beer Guide*.

So how do I score the quality of the beer?

You don't have to be an 'expert' to begin scoring your beer. However, it is not about your personal favourite beer receiving the highest scores! You may try a beer that isn't to your normal taste but what you need to consider is the quality of that beer, how well the pub has kept it and served it, and score it according to the general guide below. It is a simple system of a ten point range from 0 to 5, with half points being used if your opinion of the beer falls between two categories.

- 0 No cask ale available
- 1 Poor. Beer is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
- 2 Average. Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
- 3 Good. Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again
- 4 Very Good. Excellent beer in excellent condition. You stay put!
- 5 Perfect. Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

How do I submit my scores?

To submit your scores you need to log in to CAMRA's online pub guide www.whatpub.com, either on a computer or by smart phone. Here you will find a list of over 35,800 real ale pubs from all over the UK; these are not all *Good Beer Guide* pubs, merely pubs that serve real ale. To start submitting scores via What Pub you need to:

1. Log in. For this you need your membership number and your CAMRA password, which will be your post code, unless you have joint membership, in which case it may be your surname.
2. You can then search for your pub by name. Be careful here, as there are many pubs in the country that share the same name. My advice is to search by the pub name and the town. The What Pub smart phone web page also gives you the option to search for real ale pubs nearby; very useful if you are in an unfamiliar town.
3. Once you have found your pub, a **Submit Beer Scores** box will appear on the left hand side of the screen (or on the tabs beneath the pub photo if you are using a smart phone).
4. Simply fill in the date and your score, then as you begin typing, the brewery name should automatically appear underneath where you are typing. You do not have to enter the name of the beer you're drinking, but if you wish to do so, once you have entered the brewery name, you should be able to click on the arrow in the **Beer** box and a drop down list of that brewery's beers should appear. In some cases the beer may be new or a one-off by the brewery so may not appear on the list; if this is the case you can simply type in the beer name. Select the correct one, click **submit score** and your score will be entered into the database.

It is as simple as that. An added bonus is that it will keep a record of your scores so you can look back to see what beers you have had and how you rated them.

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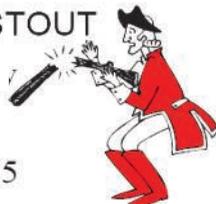
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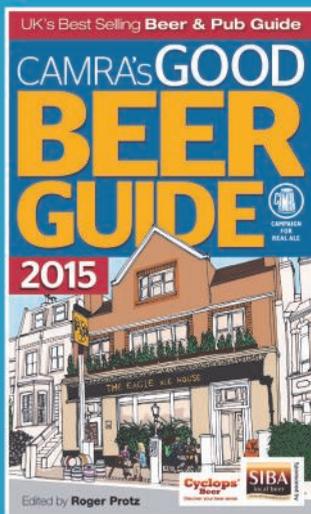


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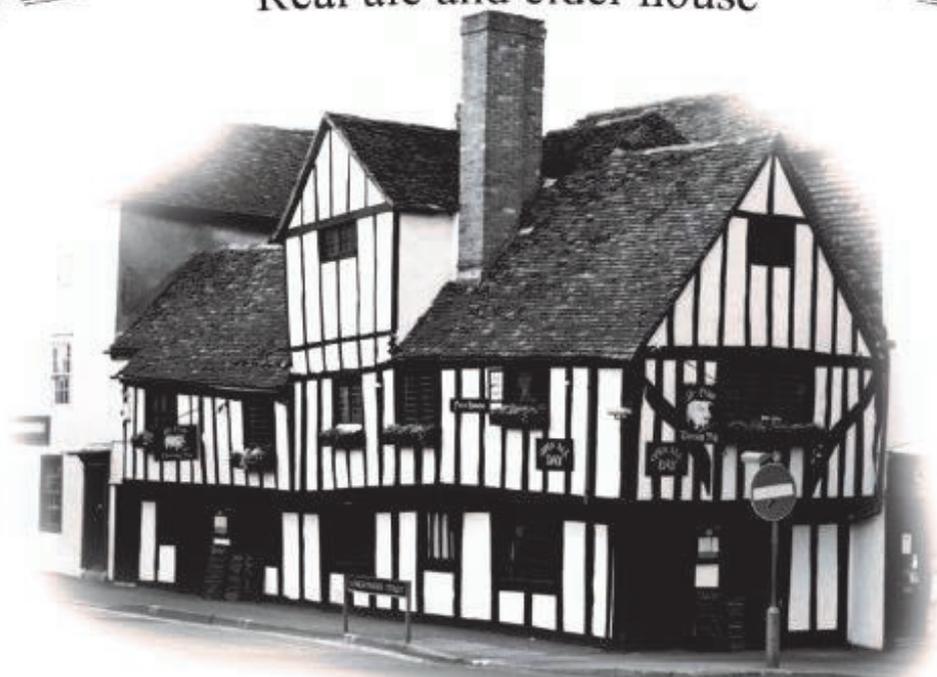


Homely, family-run pub. Dave and Steph welcome all and their four-legged friends. Well kept real ales, currently , Goachers Light Ale, Fullers London Pride, Youngs Bitter, Greene King IPA & Greene King Abbot Ale. Good quality, affordable pub food available, please see website for opening times. We have a lovely Beer Garden, overlooking the beautiful Weald of Kent. The Garden Gazebo and old stables function room are both approved by KCC for the solemnization of civil marriages. We have just completed a young childrens safe play area with Hobbit house, swings, slide & sandpit & now have 4 chickens.

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FOCUS ON.....THE FOOT OF THE NORTH DOWNS

by Jeff Tucker

CAMRA's Maidstone & Mid-Kent branch has in its north-west corner the village of Trottiscliffe, pronounced Trosley, home to a well-known country park, and the Coldrum Stones, a neolithic burial mound in the care of the National Trust.

Being at the foot of the North Downs, the area is popular with walkers, which is just as well, as public transport is limited to the number 58 bus, which only runs every two hours, from West Malling and Maidstone. The bus can be used to get to all of the five pubs mentioned here, but judicious planning is required!

Right by the bus stop in Trottiscliffe is the **George**, with a wide frontage and a large car park, and is quite foody. Two beers are normally sold, *Fuller's London Pride* and one from *St Austell* or *Sharps* being regulars, and the pub is open all day.

Turn left out of the **George** and walk about 100yds to the **Plough**, a friendly pub with two bars, one of which is set up for diners, although food can be enjoyed in either bar. *Harveys* is a regular beer, but *Taylor's Landlord* and/or *Adnams Bitter* should be available as well.

The **Plough** closes during the afternoon every day, and on Sunday evenings. Food deals are available on various days, but the kitchen is closed on Monday evenings. The pub is run by two generations of the same family, and is a cosy place, especially by the fire in winter months.

The next village in the direction of Maidstone is Addington, where the **Angel** sits on the green in the centre of the village. Food is king here, but there are usually three good beers on, including a house beer from *Westerham Brewery*.

The **Angel**, run by Lee and his team, is open all day except on Mondays and Tuesdays, when it closes in the afternoon.

Turn right out of the **Angel**, cross the M20, then take the first lane on the right to get to Ryarsh, where you can't miss the **Duke of Wellington**, in a prominent position on a bend.

Jon and Helen run this 16th century, two-bar pub, which is popular for food. The right-hand bar is more of a restaurant, but the other is more for the locals and drinkers, with a nice little 'snug' area in the corner.

There are usually three beers on, plus a cider on handpump. Ales include **Harveys Sussex**, and a varying one from each of **Westerham** and **Sharps**. There is a large garden with a petanque pitch, and the pub is open all day, every day.

Keep heading east, and the next village is Birling, where the **Nevill Bull** sits right in the centre, near the church. Kate and Paul have been here a few years now, and have left their stamp on the place!

I go here quite often, and the décor changes every time I go! Much of it is quite quirky, with stuffed animals, re-upholstered cinema seats, framed pictures on the ceiling, etc., etc. A trip in December will give you an opportunity to guess the number of Christmas decorations hanging up, for a donation to charity. There's a prize for the winner.

I can vouch for the excellence of the food, and the beer, with an ale from the nearby *Kent Brewery* usually on sale, with other Kent micros, such as *Tonbridge*, often featuring. There is a pig roast on Sundays, and, usually once a month, live music from one of Kate's favourites! The pub closes during the afternoon in the week, and at 6pm on Sundays.

If you haven't explored this part of Kent before, why not give it a try. There's nothing to beat a lovely country pub on a winter's day. Full details of the pubs can be found on CAMRA's *whatpub.com*. Enjoy!

The UK's small brewing scene is continuing to flourish, with 170 breweries opening in the last 12 months, according to latest figures. The *Good Beer Guide 2015* has revealed around a 10 percent increase in small brewery numbers in the last year, bringing the UK total to 1,285. This means Britain now has more breweries per head than any other country in the world. The vast majority of the new breweries are producing cask-conditioned real ale as their core product, according to CAMRA.

"Real ale is the only success story in a declining beer market," said Roger Protz, the *Good Beer Guide's* editor. He suggested as smaller breweries are able to experiment more easily, they can adapt quickly to trends. *"Independent breweries with small and more flexible plants are able to follow trends with ease, allowing them to meet the demands of restless modern drinkers,"* Protz added. He flagged that a *"growing number"* are ageing beer in oak casks bought from whisky, wine and rum producers.

In the US, brewery numbers are growing too, with latest figures showing the country now has 3,040 producers - the highest number since the 1870s.

All smiles for Maidstone and Mid Kent CAMRA

by Brian Johnson

It was all smiles for members of the Maidstone and Mid Kent Branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) as the fundraising team from Maidstone Mencap accepted a massive £1,070 donation as part of the charity's annual fete.



Held in Maidstone's Mote Park on Saturday 14th June, the Maidstone and Mid Kent (MMK) CAMRA team assisted Maidstone Mencap, by organising and running the popular real ale bar with beer donated by local breweries and pubs. The presentation was recently made at the **Stile Bridge** pub, near Marden, which is the MMK CAMRA's branch pub of the year.

"Members of the Maidstone and Mid Kent Branch of CAMRA are always pleased to support Maidstone Mencap who do so much to help others less fortunate. Thanks to the generosity of local breweries and pubs we were pleased to be able to present a handsome donation from the bar takings to this worthy cause." said MMK Branch Chairman Jeff Tucker.

Maidstone Mencap highly value the annual contribution by MMK CAMRA and were thrilled with the donation presented by the members.

"We would just like to say a big thank you to CAMRA who worked so hard to raise money for us again this year. They do really make a big contribution every year, and we are all extremely grateful. I do think that having them there every year is very popular with people who come initially for the ale, and whilst there spend money on our stalls, especially when they bring their families." said Margaret Leeds of the Mencap Fund Raising Team.



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Dinner Served: Wednesday to Saturday 6-9pm

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Applications will be processed within 21 days

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CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

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

Meetings are at 8.30pm unless otherwise noted.

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

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

NOVEMBER

- 1 **MMK** Vintage coach trip to Essex
- 1 **BEX** Noon **New Cross Turnpike**, Welling, then **Door Hinge**
- 5 **BEX** 8pm **Door Hinge**, Welling DA16 1TR [*PoTY presentation*]
- 6 **MMK** **Swan** (Loose Rd), Maidstone, then **Wheatsheaf**
- 12 **GDV** **Ivy Leaf**, Dartford [*OBM*]
- 12 **BEX** **Green Man**, Welling DA16 3NL [*OBM*]
- 13 **MMK** **Bull**, West Malling [*OBM*]
- 14 **BEX** Welling United FC Beer Festival
- 19 **GDV** **Battle of Britain**, Northfleet, then **Earl Grey**, **Campbell Arms**
- 20 **MMK** **Railway**, Staplehurst, then **Lord Raglan**
- 26 **BEX** 8pm **Alma**, Sidcup, then **Iron Horse**, **Ye Olde Black Horse**
- 27 **MMK** **West End Tavern**, Marden, then **Unicorn**, Marden Club
- 29 **MMK** Bus Trip to Sittingbourne area
- 29 **BEX** Noon Gravesend crawl, start at **Rum Puncheon** DA11 0BL

DECEMBER

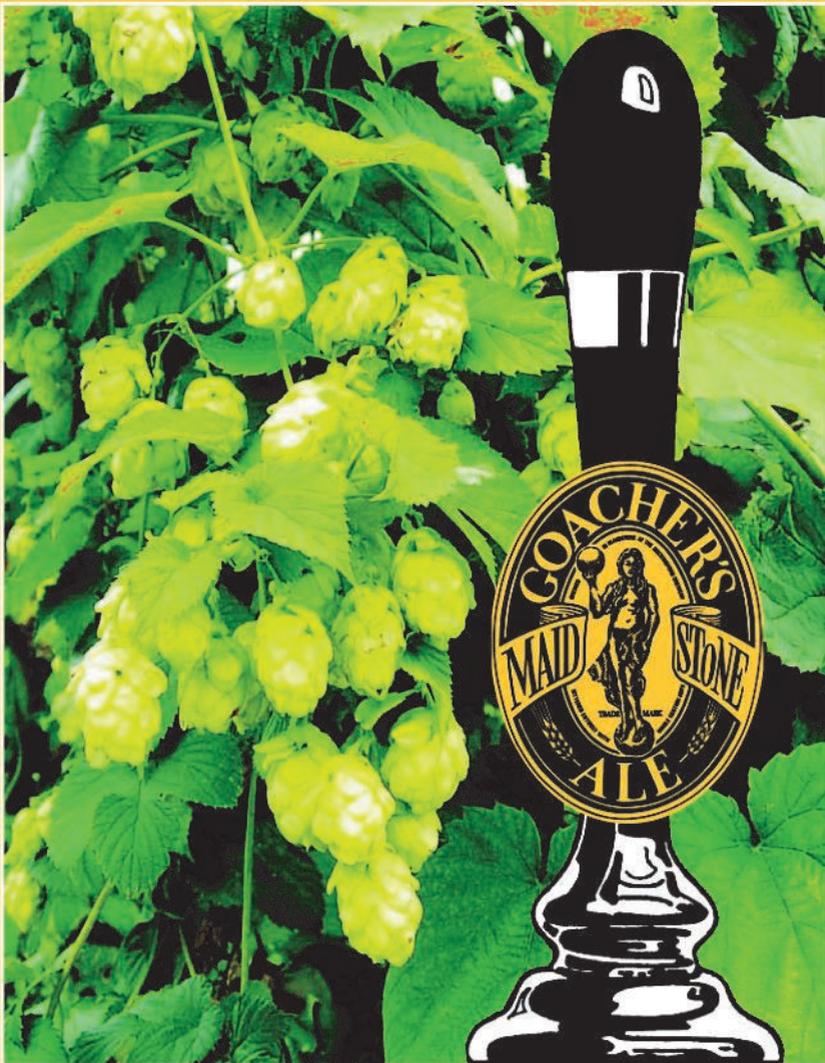
- 3 **GDV** **Windmill**, Gravesend [*AGM*]
- 4 **MMK** **Angel**, Addington, then **Kings Arms**, Offham
- 10 **BEX** **Charcoal Burner**, Sidcup DA14 6QL [*OBM*]
- 11 **MMK** **Old Rectory**, Leybourne, then **Wheatsheaf**
- 12 **GDV** Christmas social – **Coach & Horses**, Northfleet
- 18 **MMK** **White House**, West Farleigh, then **Good Intent**
- 23 **MMK** **Anchor**, Yalding, then **George**, then **Walnut Tree**
- 27 **BEX** Noon **Robin Hood and Little John**, Bexleyheath, **Wrong 'Un**
- 28 **MMK** **British Queen**, Brenchley, **Olde Thirsty Pig**, Maidstone

JANUARY

- 4 **MMK** 1pm West Malling walkabout, meet **Lobster Pot**
- 8 **GDV** **Dartford Working Men's Club**, Dartford [*OBM*]
- 9 **MMK** Goachers Old Evening, **Rifle Volunteers**
- 14 **BEX** **George Staples**, Blackfen DA15 8PR [*OBM*]
- 15 **MMK** **Stile Bridge**, Marden [*OBM &GBG selection*]
- 20 **GDV** **Amazon & Tiger**, Harvel, then **Cock**, Luddesdown
- 22 **MMK** **George**, Trottiscliffe, then **Plough**
- 24 **BEX** Noon 4 Micropub Crawl, start at **Long Pond**, Eltham
- 28 **BEX** 8pm **Wings Bar** (Welling FC), then **Crook Log**, **Wrong 'Un**
- 29 **MMK** **Pippin**, Maidstone, then **Poppyfields**

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* 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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