

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Magazine

By Maidstone & Mid-Kent
CAMRA

incorporating Bexley,
Gravesend & Darent Valley,
Medway & West Kent
Branches

Spring 2023

No. 204

Website: www.mmk.camra.org.uk

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/mmkcamra](https://twitter.com/mmkcamra)

Marden Village Club National Club of the Year

The Marden Village Club has won CAMRA's prestigious Club of the Year award

See inside for more.

Image: M Lockett



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, Gravesend & Darent Valley, Medway and West Kent branches of CAMRA. It is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December and has a circulation of 4,500 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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Editor and Correspondence: *DraughtCopy.Editor@mmk.camra.org.uk*

Advertising: *DraughtCopy.Advertising@mmk.camra.org.uk*

The copy date for the next issue is 21st April 2023.

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*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our social diary changes faster than we can print it, so to keep up-to-date we suggest you use the below QR codes to access the branch meetings on our websites.



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Marden Village Club



National CAMRA Club of the Year 2022



© Lester Cunningham

- Six real ales supporting local breweries
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- Recently refurbished with a friendly atmosphere
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MARDEN VILLAGE CLUB HAS BEEN NAMED BEST IN THE COUNTRY



Image: M Lockett

Marden Village Club in Kent was completely renovated in 2017 to produce a light, airy, and friendly atmosphere. This Grade II listed community hub boasts six real ales generally from local microbreweries and snooker and darts teams for its

members. Many members are involved in these teams; others simply enjoy the friendly ambiance and watch live football and rugby on the sports TV.

Simon Banfield, Marden Village Club Steward said: *"We are really thrilled to have won this year. To have made it into the top four clubs nationally, of what is a really strong competition, was a real honour and a great achievement, but to go on and win, receiving recognition from CAMRA for the work that we do here for our members, is fantastic. It really is a big team effort, with a huge thanks to the proactive committee that organises our regular entertainment and live music events, as well as undertake an incredible amount of fundraising for our chosen charities. A huge thank you as well to our amazing bar team who work really hard to provide a friendly warm welcome alongside great service, and also to our cleaner who keeps the club clean and tidy. As a large part of the award is about great real ales, we must thank all of our suppliers who provide us with some fantastic products and service."*

"Lastly the biggest thanks of all goes to our members who come out and support us in what we do, and in turn provide a great atmosphere making the club a fantastic place to be in."

Ian Clennett, Chairman, Maidstone & Mid Kent CAMRA, said: *"We're delighted that the efforts of Simon and the Marden Village Club team have been rewarded, not just locally, but by the Campaign nationally. The Branch has always been made more than welcome on our visits here and the Club is a favourite haunt of many members."*

CAMRA Awards Director Laura Emson said: *"Huge congratulations are in order for the Marden Village Club which truly epitomises what it is to be a club at the heart of its local community. From organising charity events to running a warm hub for people struggling during the winter months, they are so much more than just a local business."*

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



The William Camden, Bexleyheath (Greene King) – since the last Bexley report, this pub re-opened after a period of refurbishment in time for the football World Cup.

The Fold, Sidcup (independent) – opened on 15th December 2022, the bricks & mortar site for an established local mobile bar business, The Horse and Box Ltd. Not yet established whether cask ale is offered.

The Jolly Millers, Bexleyheath (Brakspear) – reported on social media in mid-January to be closed, with a clear-out happening, a response states it's for a month-long refurbishment. No info on the Brakspear website. Watch this space.



The Millers Arms, Bexley Village (Punch/Heineken) – reported closed on social media in January, apparently due to retirement. Further social media posts state that it is reopening on 18th February, as a restaurant or a cocktail bar, which, though possible, is said by some correspondents not to be true. Again, watch this space.

The Great Harry, Belvedere – work has halted on this site.

The Royal Standard/Celebrations, Bexleyheath – seems to have changed hands again, a new sign advising that Kallars have acquired the site for clients..

The Belvedere Hotel, Belvedere – work on residential conversion seems glacially slow.



The Leather Bottle, Belvedere – remains a demolition site.

The Plough and Harrow, Welling (Trust Inns) – recently advertised for a 1-year tenancy or 3 or 10-year business development lease. Annual rental £22,000 (+VAT), with two-bed accommodation.



The Next Door, Bexley Village (independent) – one the borough's newer micropubs, a venture by the owners of the next door Yum Yums café, closed permanently before Christmas. The original Yum Yums café closed in the summer 2022 due to electrical problems, the responsibility of Network Rail, who own the railway arches. It's not known if similar problems afflicted the Next Door next door.

The Wrong 'Un, Bexleyheath (J D Wetherspoon) – one of the recent tranche of pubs that Wetherspoon's has put up for sale. It is believed the Wrong 'Un has 8 years left on its lease and will continue trading until sold. Nearby, the **Harvest Moon**, Orpington, and the **Edmund Halley**, Lee Green/Lewisham, closed before Christmas and the local press reports that the **Banker's Draft**, Eltham, now has a buyer. Also for sale not so far from the branch area is the **Capitol**, Forest Hill.



King's Arms, Bexleyheath (Stonegate) – not a CAMRA thing, but in Stonegate's annual Great British Pubs Awards 2022 (they have 1,289 pubs,



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bars and nightclubs), the King's Arms was nominated in three categories as one of Stonegate's top 6 for Best Urban/City Pub, Best pub for entertainment and (for having the) Best Young Chef. Sadly, the King's Arms returned from the finals in Manchester in October without any silverware, but CAMRA Bexley Branch congratulates the management and staff for their efforts.

Pub of the Year, Cider Pub of the Year, Club of the Year 2023-24

The deadline for determining the Branch's POTY/CPOTY/COTY also rapidly approaches. Should any Branch member wish to help with running these annual awards, please get in touch with the committee. Your help will be greatly appreciated. (For cider pub of the year, see also Cider Rep vacancy in Governance below). *branch.contact@bexley.camra.org.uk*

2023 CAMRA Bexley Beerfest

After the successful resumption post-pandemic of the beerfest in 2022 (after which £1,000 was donated to Cancer Research UK), the 2023 beerfest will take place from 5th to 7th May. It has the double theme of celebrating 100 years of the Kent County Show (an important consideration for Bexley's farmers) and the Coronation of King Charles III on the Saturday. Beer lists and volunteering application forms will appear on the Branch website as they become available (<https://bexley.camra.org.uk>)

Governance

The Branch's 2023 New Year mail-out was the last to be sent by post (for those who have hitherto chosen post as their preferred comms method). An audit of the membership information available showed that, in addition to the 11 branch members who had selected "post only", another 95 who had selected "post and e-mail" did not actually have a valid e-mail address on the database. Appropriate information about the changes to Branch mail-outs and the need for members to check and update their contact details by logging onto the CAMRA website has been included with the New Year mailing.

The Branch has been without a substantive Chairperson since the 2022 AGM in September, when the then incumbent stood down. Under CAMRA rules, the Regional Director (Kent Region) is standing in as Chairperson pending the branch electing one. At this stage, that is likely to be no earlier than the next AGM, probably September 2023. Should any member of CAMRA Bexley Branch wish to take on the task of chairing meetings of the branch committee and to represent the branch at events and to external parties, then step forward and make yourself known to the committee (*branch.contact@bexley.camra.org.uk*). No need to wait till the AGM. Knowledge of and passion for real ale and real cider a definite advantage, but enthusiasm, a business mind, an ability to encourage others and ensure meetings are focussed, inclusive and efficient, are more important.

Similarly, the branch committee would love to hear from anyone who would like to become a subject matter expert for real cider and perry in the borough as the Branch's Cider Rep. You need no prior knowledge, though clearly it is necessary to like real cider and perry. You would build up a solid picture of what pubs offer real cider and perry in Bexley borough, encourage others to stock it, contribute to the cider and perry offering at the Bexley Beerfest and organise the annual Cider Pub of the Year contest. Support available from other members of the Branch committee, from the Regional Cider Rep and CAMRA HQ.

Contact: Adrian Moss (01474 363102)

email: adrian.moss49@btinternet.com
www.gdv.camra.org.uk

We owe the **Chequers** at Farningham an apology for suggesting in the last issue that it was closed. In fact it is very much alive, though, like many pubs nowadays, it will close early in the evening if not busy. It opens at 3.30pm on Monday to Thursday, 3pm on Friday, 1pm on Saturday and noon on Sunday. There is an open mic night on the first Wednesday of every month. Regular beers are *Fuller's London Pride* and *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter*, together with a guest beer, sometimes from *Mighty Oak*. The rickety waiter and life-size suit of armour, together with paintings by local artists, are still in evidence.



The **Woodman** at Otford is reported to be dog-friendly these days. The **Sir Jeffrey Amherst Crown Point Inn** at Seal Chart had been closed for some time but has reopened as the **Amherst Inn**. Food sales are important and there is a restaurant, but non-diners are also catered for. *Fuller's London Pride* and *Timothy Taylor Landlord* are regular real ales and *Young's London Original* and *Brains Reverend James Original* were also available on a recent visit. Around the same time the **Old House** at Ightham Common offered *Long Man Long Blonde* and *Old Man* and *Hog's Back TEA* among others.

Pete Gillin sent news of the **George and Dragon** at Wrotham, which changed hands in October. Some redecoration and rearrangement has taken place and roaring wood fires will be an asset in the cold weather as these notes are being written. Family trade is returning and there is a pub grub menu. Licensee Carla and husband Lee have added a second real ale and look forward to building up their real ale and craft beer options as the customer base increases.

Steve Rouse reported on a visit to the **Black Horse** at Stansted before Christmas. Since changing hands in May 2022 the pub has been redecorated extensively and there is a varied menu as well as a variety of events. Three real ales were available, *Larkins Traditional*, *Young's London Original* and *Iron Pier Old Ale* but there might even be a fourth in future. The **King's Arms** in Meopham was due to reopen in early February after a change of management and a refurbishment.



The **Railway Tavern** at Longfield duly reopened after its refit and Phil Mugford found it much improved. *Adnams Ghost Ship* and *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* are landlord Danny's regular real ales and there was a guest beer from *Black Sheep*. *Brixton Brewery* will supply craft beers as well as some outside furniture. There is



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limited food at the time of writing but there are plans to expand that side in the future.

There have been some changes to the real ales available in some pubs in Gravesend following the pandemic and the new trading environment. At the **Echo Gale's Seafarers Ale** proved more popular than *Sharp's Doom Bar* and is currently the only regular real ale. Beermats can be hard to get hold of and on a recent visit the

tables were adorned with a set of the pub's own version. At the **Windmill Tavern** the range of real ales has reduced to three regulars, which in January were *Sharp's Doom Bar*, *Young's London Original* and *St Austell Proper Job*. In the town the **Invicta Bar** closed for a couple of days in the quiet time in early January for some cleaning and redecoration, though the yellow sofa remains a prominent feature.



The **Manor Shades** in Gravesend closed some years ago. However an application was submitted in January for a premises licence in the name of Mouthie Bar Limited. On the other hand there is also a planning application to convert the **Edinburgh Castle** in Northfleet to flats.



In Dartford the **Wig & Gown** has closed, probably permanently. The **Royal Oak** also seemed closed at the time of writing but Shepherd Neame were understood to be seeking a new tenant. By the time this appears the **Long Dog** should be featuring open mic nights on Thursdays.

The locals hoping to buy and rebuild the **Green Man** at Hodsoll Street seem to have hit a problem as they were outbid by a developer. However the Asset of

Community Value listing remains in place so there is time for the situation to change.

In December Gravesham Council's Planning Committee approved the application for a Lawful Development Certificate allowing residential use of the **Amazon & Tiger** at Harvel without the pub trading, though the decision was not unanimous. The local campaign has certainly not given up and are considering their options. CAMRA's informed view is that this should not have happened and the council should reconsider the matter. If they do not the campaigners have the option of seeking a judicial review of the decision but this would be slow and expensive.

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



Chequers, Aylesford – This is re-opening in February having been restored following the fire that devastated the building last year. I am sure that it will be even better than before and many people will be pleased to be able to return.

Bull, East Farleigh – Following the departure of the licensees this has been closed and boarded up.

Vine, Goudhurst – The business closed on Dec 3. We await its return to use.

Royal Oak, Hawkhurst – Closed whilst new licensees are sought.

Larkfield Priory Hotel, Larkfield – The hotel has been closed for a while and is apparently now being re-furbished. It is not being used as a hostelry for asylum seekers as had been thought. No real ale has been available here for a quite a long time so it would be good to see it return.

Monks Head, Larkfield – This has recently been taken on by Lee Gaul who also has the Monks Head in Snodland. Hopefully it will soon re-open as it has been much missed by the locals after the improvements made by the previous operator.



Bull Inn, Linton – The grapevine tells me this has a new licensee and is no longer a tenancy but is still owned by Shepherd Neame.

Dragoon, Maidstone – Another pub closed by Shepherd Neame and sold for housing. Whilst it only sold *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* it was always found to be in good condition.

Eagle, Maidstone – The pub has been subject to a complete overhaul with builders working hard to improve both interior and exterior. Gary has recently had *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* on regularly together with another changing beer that was *Hardys & Hansons Rocking Rudolf* over the Christmas period.

Style & Winch, Maidstone – Here the doors open at 10am though I have not been there at that time to confirm. *Musket Fife & Drum* is usually available and has recently also had *Timothy Taylor Landlord*.

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Marden Villlage Club, Marden – The 28th January 2023 saw the Marden Village club presented with National Club of the Year 2022. CAMRA National Executive member, and Awards Director, Laura Emson, presented the award to steward Simon Banfield, to celebrate the hard work put in by Simon, his team and the club committee to make this club the best in the country. (See page 5)

West End Tavern, Marden – Sean and Bridget Harvey are retiring in February, having run the pub for nearly 10 years. This has been a good place to eat where Sean ran the kitchen and Bridget worked the bar. Hopefully some new licensees will continue as there seems to have been some interest. *Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter* has usually been available with various guest ales appearing.

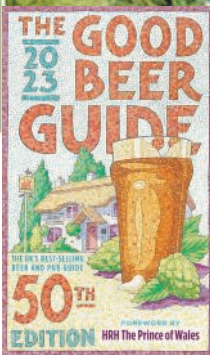


Queens Head, Sutton Valence—Seems to have found favour with the Kent Messenger's Secret Drinker reviewer as well as with some of our members. *Goacher's Fine Light Ale* is ever present *Timothy Taylor Landlord* and *Musket Ball Puller* but have been seen lately.

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email: kmendham@aol.com



King George V, Brompton. It is with sad regret that this pub finally closed its doors on New Years eve 2022 after serving ale for over 150 years.

The Old Ash Tree, Chatham, owned by Greene King now offers CAMRA members a discount on its ales.



Gardeners Arms, Higham has now changed hands.

The Stone Horse, Higham, another pub in Higham which has recently also changed hands. The new owner Raj Singh has secured a 10 year lease.



The Angel, Rainham owned by Admiral Taverns closed on the 29th November 2022. Downstairs was due to be kept as a pub with the upstairs area turned into flats, but renovation of the bar area originally planned does not seem to have been started.

Prince of Ales, Rainham, will be holding a beer festival between the 10th and 12th of March.

The Three Crutches, Strood owned by Punch Taverns has changed managers..



Any Medway members with information on pubs in the area please contact Mike Thomas at mike-thomas1@hotmail.co.uk.



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BESSELS GREEN: The **Kings Head** had *Sharp's Doom Bar* and Timothy Taylor Landlord available when recently visited. Both in good nick, but at £5.20 a pint.



CHARCOTT: The **Greyhound** had a busy time over Christmas and New Year, some excellent ales were available. The pub featured on BBC South East News in early January, when there was an item regarding a book about the village, that had recently been published.

CHIDDINGSTONE: The National Trust owned **Castle Inn** gained new tenants last November. The pub is open daily except for Mondays, but this could be subject to change and it's suggested that if planning to visit the pub, give them a call first. *Harvey's Sussex Best* and two *Larkins'* beers were available when visited in January, the *Larkins Porter* was very good and £4.70 a pint.

CHIDDINGSTONE CAUSEWAY: The **Little Brown Jug** can be found across the road from Penshurst railway station. This large pub is open all day and plenty of room for diners. Just *Larkin's Traditional* (£5 a pint) and *St Austell Tribute* were available when visited in January.



COWDEN: Following on from the entry in the last issue of Draught Copy, the **Fountain** reopened on 28th October and the locals are ecstatic that the three year nightmare is over and they have an excellent pub, close to home, once again. Run by Nigel, an experienced licensee, this *Harvey's* pub has three well kept ales again. It is part of the Revived Inns Ltd company, but it's most definitely still a *Harvey's* pub and well worth visiting again.

EDENBRIDGE: Following on from the previous issue of Draught Copy, there was a planning application submitted for the **King & Queen**. This was to partially convert part of the building for residential use, but the application has been refused. The pub remains closed, future uncertain.



HEVER: A visit between Christmas and New Year to the **King Henry VIII**, found that the pub is no longer a Shepherd Neame house, but free of tie. Timothy Taylor Landlord was available.

PENSHURST: The **Leicester Arms Hotel** can be found in the centre of the village and three cask ales are available. One is from the local *Larkin's Brewery*, with *Harvey's Sussex Best* as a regular beer. Nearby are two more old pubs, both free houses. The **Bottle House** has a couple of *Larkin's* beers available, whilst nearby can be found the **Spotted Dog**. When the latter was visited, apart from the usual *Harvey's Sussex Best* and *Larkin's Traditional*, it was nice to see *Harvey's Christmas Ale* on hand pump and even nicer, it was only £4.60 a pint.



RIVERHEAD: Unusually the **Bullfinch** is a *McMullen* tied house, having been acquired by that brewer in 2009, their only pub in Kent. During 2022, it was refurbished and painted a rather distinctive colour. The pub is open all day, seven days a week and has a large



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garden to the rear. A number of events are held, including a very popular quiz night. If you fancy drinking something a bit different, three *McMullens* beers are available.

SUNDRIDGE: The **White Horse** is currently closed.

LEIGH: The **Fleur De Lis**, a *Greene King* house, reopened in early December, initially with 2 cask ales on (one guest) but it has later been reported trading without any real ale and closing early on occasion.



BRASTED: The **Stanhope Arms**, next to the church, has recently undergone a refurbishment. Visits in December & January have shown an ever changing range of real ales. Generally we have found a minimum of three on, normally two local (eg *Larkin's*, *Bexley* or *Westerham*) and one national.

LAMBERHURST: A Friday visit in mid January to The **Chequers** found it busy with diners who were partaking of the two real ales available. The *Burning Sky Plateau* was in excellent condition and it was accompanied by *Harvey's Sussex Best*.

BRENCHLEY: A Wednesday visit to the the **Halfway House** in mid January found the top bar full with drinkers and diners. On offer were seven beers, all from local breweries and all below 5%, as you would expect in a rural location. There were some very interesting "specials" on the food board.



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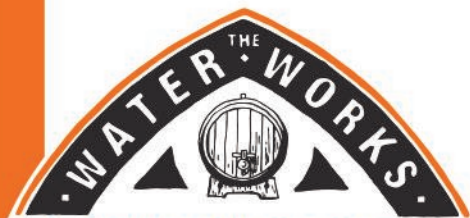
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The CHRISTMAS HANGOVER *(edition 102 Autumn 1995)* BY MARK HEPTINSTALL

The morning after the Christmas party you may ask yourself “How did I get into this state?” This article intends to answer this question.

Everyone knows what causes the hangover – alcohol – too much of it. Of course they are right, but how does it do it? And did you know that if you consider what you drink, how quickly you drink it and how you prepare yourself beforehand; you can limit the severity of the hangover.

Alcohol irritates the protective casing between the brain and the skull, making you feel sensitive. It also upsets the stomach lining making you feel queasy and, in extreme cases, causes vomiting (of which more later). Alcohol disrupts dreams in the second half of the night and hangovers often begin with frequent waking interspersed with dreams that are unpleasant and broken.

Another cause of the hangover is acetaldehyde poisoning, causing a throbbing headache. The production of acetaldehyde occurs at a fairly steady rate of about 10g (half a pint of beer) per hour, and you can seek to delay (but not prevent) this absorption by drinking a glass of milk before you start.

After returning from a heavy drinking session, it is a good idea to drink a pint of water before retiring to bed, gutter, hedgerow – or wherever else you intend to spend the night. Alcohol causes dehydration which causes thirst and adds to the headache.

You may have noticed that different drinks, of broadly similar alcoholic strengths, have markedly differing hangover potential. The culprits here are most uncongenial substances known as congeners. These are non-ethyl alcohols that are by-products of fermentation and causes headaches that often accompany hangover. They are particularly prevalent in red wine, port and brandy but are largely absent in vodka. Unfortunately vodka is also largely devoid of taste.

Now, as promised, to vomiting. It is a marvel of the human body that, despite having no control over such simple things as speech, balance and judgement, the body can perform the complicated feat that is the technicolour yawn, requiring a great deal of co-ordination. Firstly, saliva is produced to protect the mouth from gastric acid, the stomach’s outlet to the intestine is blocked and the entrance to the lungs is closed to prevent inhalation. Now that the body has protected itself against damage to everything except clothing and dignity, the ‘fun’ can begin! The stomach relaxes and the muscles in the wall of the abdomen contract, forcing the contents of the stomach back the way they came in.

For breakfast the morning after (that’s if you can face breakfast!) have plenty of honey, treacle or jam. That’s because they are rich in fructose which generates nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, which assists in the processing of acetaldehyde.

Finally, a word about the “hair of the dog”. If you find that this works for you, you should be worried. It is only of any benefit if you are an alcoholic and suffering withdrawal symptoms!

WEST KENT BRANCH BUS TRIPS 2022!

by Keith Ennis

Report on the West Kent CAMRA Bus Trip on 11 March 2022 to Hook Green, Lamberhurst and Pembury

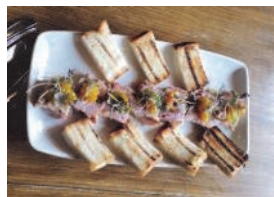
Following on from our “out of area” trip last Friday, this week saw us venturing to the southern boundaries of the Branch. Given that there was a CAMRA social in Sevenoaks the previous evening, a good attendance of seven intrepid travellers turned up for this trip.



We departed from Tunbridge Wells War Memorial on the Service 256 which runs from Tunbridge Wells to Wadhurst via Hook Green and Lamberhurst. We caught the 11.15 bus and picked up a couple of fellow drinkers at the Railway Station. The bus duly arrived at Hook Green at 11.40 where we had a 20 minute wait until the **Elephant's Head** opened at Noon.



The 20 minutes went past quite quickly and we were soon sitting around a table with some beer. There was only the one *Harvey's* beer available on cask, *Sussex Best*, and I thought that this was in excellent condition. The landlord explained to us that he normally had one or two of the *Harvey's* seasonal cask ales on but currently it was fairly quiet and it only justified the one ale. There was a very pleasant surprise for us when a plate of ham hock terrine and toast was brought out to us with compliments of the chef.



All too quickly it was time for us to start to prepare for the next leg of our journey. The aim was to catch the same 256 service for the short hop from Hook Green to Lamberhurst. We duly assembled at the bus stop five minutes before the 13.14 bus arrived. It started to rain and we waited, and waited and waited. We discussed how we might be stranded and what we might do.



And then at 13.39 the bus arrived. Apparently it had been delayed by an accident near Wadhurst on its previous outward journey and had been trying to catch up time since. There were deep breaths of relief all around until we realised this would now cut our short visit to Lamberhurst to 20 minutes if we were to catch the early bus back in the direction of Tonbridge.

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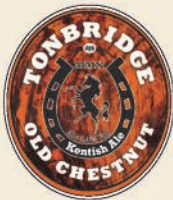
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There are four pubs in Lamberhurst and we passed them all on our short bus journey to the village. The **Vineyard** and the **Brown Trout** were both on the outskirts whilst the **George and Dragon** and the **Chequers** were in the village. Whilst waiting at the bus stop we had discussed which pub we should visit given our limited time. It was decided to go to the **Chequers** as none of us had visited recently.

After a cheery welcome from the girl behind the bar we found *Harvey's Sussex Best* and *Cellar Head India Pale Ale* available on cask. I went for the *India Pale Ale* as did several others but unfortunately, it ran out. The landlord, who had appeared to help serve, quickly went to the cellar and it was replaced by *Cellar Head Session Pale Ale*. Both were in excellent condition. We were told that at busier times there are three cask ales available and they are all local. They have a policy of sourcing their beers from local breweries, even the lagers. We didn't have much time for small talk as we had a bus to catch at 14.13. This was Service 299 which runs on Fridays only between Tonbridge and Tenterden. There is one bus out from Tonbridge in the morning and the one we were catching which returns to Tonbridge in the afternoon. If we missed this it would have meant waiting for the next 256 which returns to Tunbridge Wells at 17.13.

Luckily, the bus was on time, as were we, and we caught the bus back to the **King William IV** in Pembury. One member of the party from Tonbridge elected to stay on the bus so six of us alighted.



The rain had almost stopped and it was a short walk, almost just across the road from the bus stop. Inside we found a welcoming barman and array of six hand pumps for real ale.

We had known that there was a good selection of real ale as one of our party lived in Pembury and was a regular there.

After a convivial pint or four and a prospective new member ignoring us, we departed at about 16.30 for a short walk up the road to where we knew we could catch a 208 bus to Tonbridge. Of course, we left our Pembury colleague to stagger home. The bus arrived on time and those who were going to Tunbridge Wells alighted at Tunbridge Wells Hospital to catch a connecting service to the Town. The remainder of us continued to Tonbridge where we called into the **Beer Seller** for a final pint before going home. The *Kent Brewery ALTnative Amber* was in excellent condition.



Report on West Kent CAMRA Social to the Man of Kent Beer Festival

25 June 2022



Due to the rail strike, our planned visit to Thanet had to be cancelled, so having found out about a pub Beer Festival at the Man of Kent, Little Mill, East Peckham we hastily arranged a visit.

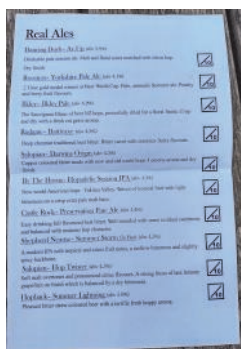
Various closures of the A21 Tonbridge bypass meant that Tonbridge town had more traffic than normal. The

aim was to catch the 208 bus which runs from Pembury to East Peckham, passing the Man of Kent en route. One of our party had got on the bus at Pembury and was able to relay the progress of the delayed bus to others waiting to catch it in Tonbridge. Due to the delays the 11.55 did not arrive at Tonbridge Castle until 12.17 and I found two members of our group on board. The journey onwards was uneventful and we arrived at the Man of Kent at 12.32. The bus stop being conveniently almost outside the pub.

On entering the pub we learnt that the beers for the Festival were in a separate area in the back garden. Ducking under the beams we made our way outside. There were 10 Festival beers on stillage with another



one in the pub cellar (available at the bar, where they also had 4 non Festival beers on). Being here for the Festival I decided to stick to the Festival beers and thought I could try them all by drinking half pints. The weather was kind to us, sunshine and a little cloud, so we found a table on the patio by the stream that runs past the pub. In the stream there were many fish visible, enjoying the fast flowing water of the shallow stream. The three of us soon increased to five. One had driven and the other had caught the No. 6 bus from Tunbridge Wells and walked from East Peckham. The Man of Kent had suspended their normal food menu for the Festival and had set up a barbecue on the patio. The beers were all in good condition. I tried them all, as well as one cider.



It was soon time to catch our scheduled bus back to Tonbridge at 15.07. We left our colleague from Tunbridge Wells at the Festival as his bus back was in about an hour's time. The bus was on



time and soon had us back in Tonbridge. On arrival the three of us went to Fuggles Beer Cafe to check up on what beers they had available.





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PUB GAMES

Backgammon- Rules of the Game

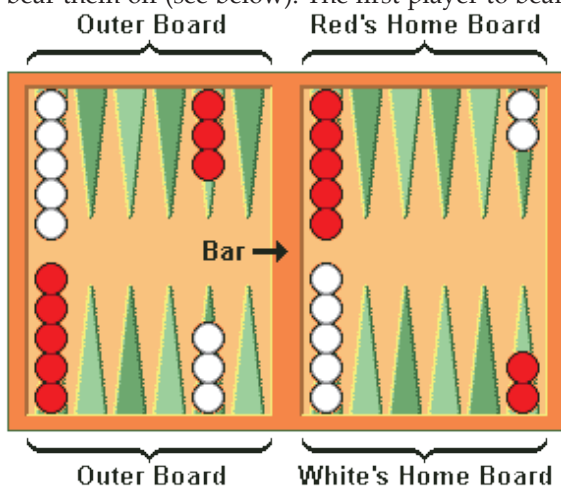
Setup: Backgammon is a game for two players, played on a board consisting of twenty-four narrow triangles called **points**. The triangles alternate in colour and are grouped into four quadrants of six triangles each. The quadrants are referred to as a player's **home board** and **outer board**, and the opponent's home board and outer board. The home and outer boards are separated from each other by a ridge down the centre of the board called the **bar**.

The points are numbered for either player starting in that player's home board. The outermost point is the twenty-four point, which is also the opponent's one point. Each player has fifteen checkers of his own colour. The initial arrangement of checkers is: two on each player's twenty-four point, five on each player's thirteen point, three on each player's eight point, and five on each player's six point.

Both players have their own pair of dice and a dice cup used for shaking.

Object of the Game: The object of the game is for a player to move all of his checkers into his own home board and then bear them off (see below). The first player to bear off all of his checkers wins the game.

Movement of the Checkers : To start the game, each player throws a single die. This determines both the player to go first and the numbers to be played. If equal numbers come up, then both players roll again until they roll different numbers. The player throwing the higher number now moves his checkers according to the numbers showing on both dice. After the first roll, the players throw two dice and alternate turns.



The roll of the dice indicates how many points, or **pips**, the player is to move his checkers. The checkers are always moved forward, to a lower-numbered point.

The following rules apply:

A checker may be moved only to an **open point**, one that is not occupied by two or more opposing checkers.

The numbers on the two dice constitute separate moves. For example, if a player rolls 5 and 3, he may move one checker five spaces to an open point and another checker three spaces to an open point, or he may move the one checker a total of eight spaces to an open point, but only if the intermediate point (either three or five spaces from the starting point) is also open.

A player who rolls doubles, plays the numbers shown on the dice twice. A roll of 6 and 6 means that the player has four sixes to use, and he may move any combination of checkers he feels appropriate to complete this requirement.

A player must use both numbers of a roll if this is legally possible (all four numbers of a double). When only one number can be played, the player must play that number. Or if either number can be played but not both, the player must play the larger one. When neither number can be used, the player loses his turn. In the case of doubles, when all four numbers cannot be played, the player must play as many numbers as he can.

Hitting and Entering : A point occupied by a single checker of either colour is called a blot. If an opposing checker lands on a blot, the blot is hit and placed on the bar. Any time a player has one or more checkers on the bar, his first obligation is to enter those checker(s) into the opposing home board. A checker is entered by moving it to an open point corresponding to one of the numbers on the rolled dice. For example, if a player rolls 4 and 6, he may enter a checker onto either the opponent's four point or six point, so long as the prospective point is an *open point*. If neither of the points is open, the player loses his turn. If a player is able to enter some but not all of his checkers, he must enter as many as he can and then forfeit the remainder of his turn. After the last of a player's checkers has been entered, any unused numbers on the dice must be played, by moving either the checker that was entered or a different checker.

Bearing Off: Once a player has moved all of his fifteen checkers into his home board, he may commence bearing off. A player bears off a checker by rolling a number that corresponds to the point on which the checker resides, and then removing that checker from the board. Thus, rolling a 5 permits the player to remove a checker from the five point. If there is no checker on the point indicated by the roll, the player must make a legal move using a checker on a higher-numbered point. If there are no checkers on higher-numbered points, the player is permitted (and required) to remove a checker from the highest point on which one of his checkers resides. A player is under no obligation to bear off if he can make an otherwise legal move. A player must have all of his active checkers in his home board in order to bear off. If a checker is hit during the bear-off process, the player must bring that checker, round the board, back to his home board before continuing to bear off. The first player to bear off all fifteen checkers wins the game.



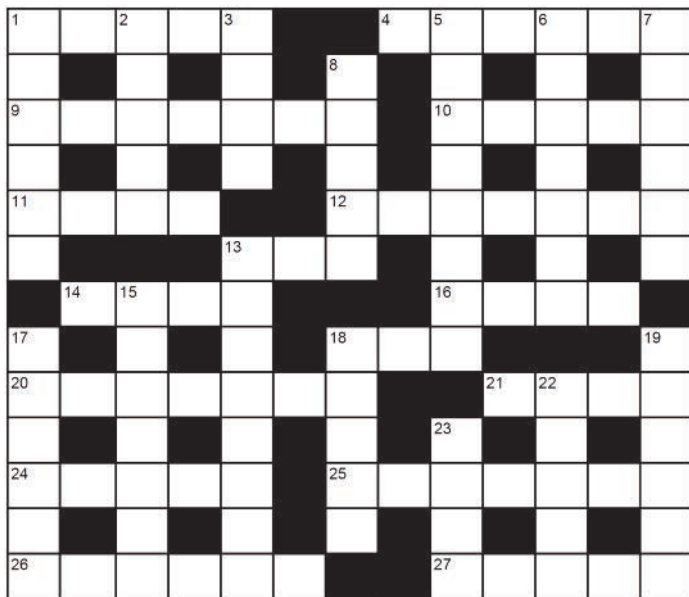
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Crossword No. 39

compiled by MICK NORMAN



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Across

- 1 *Innuendo verified to some extent (5)*
- 4 *Sandwich ingredient by Goodman (6)*
- 9 Race disturbs shingle (7)
- 10 Prize for a constituency division (5)
- 11 Ponder Terpsichore, maybe (4)
- 12 *Bad actor takes a shower first (7)*
- 13 Spot the letter, we hear (3)
- 14 Spots the pubescent pest (4)
- 16 Wiltshire urologist has money to spend on holiday (4)
- 18 Exclude from public, for example (3)
- 20 *Spoil the crowd (7)*
- 21 Former Wimbledon champion is a woman (4)
- 24 Cut out the kiosk (5)
- 25 Neil, seen during the rugby? (4-3)
- 26 *Do sort this! (6)*
- 27 *Article on healthy skin (5)*

The italicised clues have a common theme, and lack further definition.

Down

- 1 Fantasizes about 250,000 sheets (6)
- 2 Johnny's destination in Nevada (5)
- 3 Sport in a dreadful state (4)
- 5 Auditor, maybe - formerly a collier? (8)
- 6 How to warm a girl up (7)
- 7 First man to back me to appear as a woman in France! (6)
- 8 Last of sonar echo can be tiresome (5)
- 13 Ogles Ira - perhaps here! (8)
- 15 Classic car pirate (7)
- 17 Tickles, as 11 is within (6)
- 18 Rings for whisky (5)
- 19 Heard the cockney directed lady to The Bull (6)
- 22 Wear for games (5)
- 23 Short distance for headless bird (4)

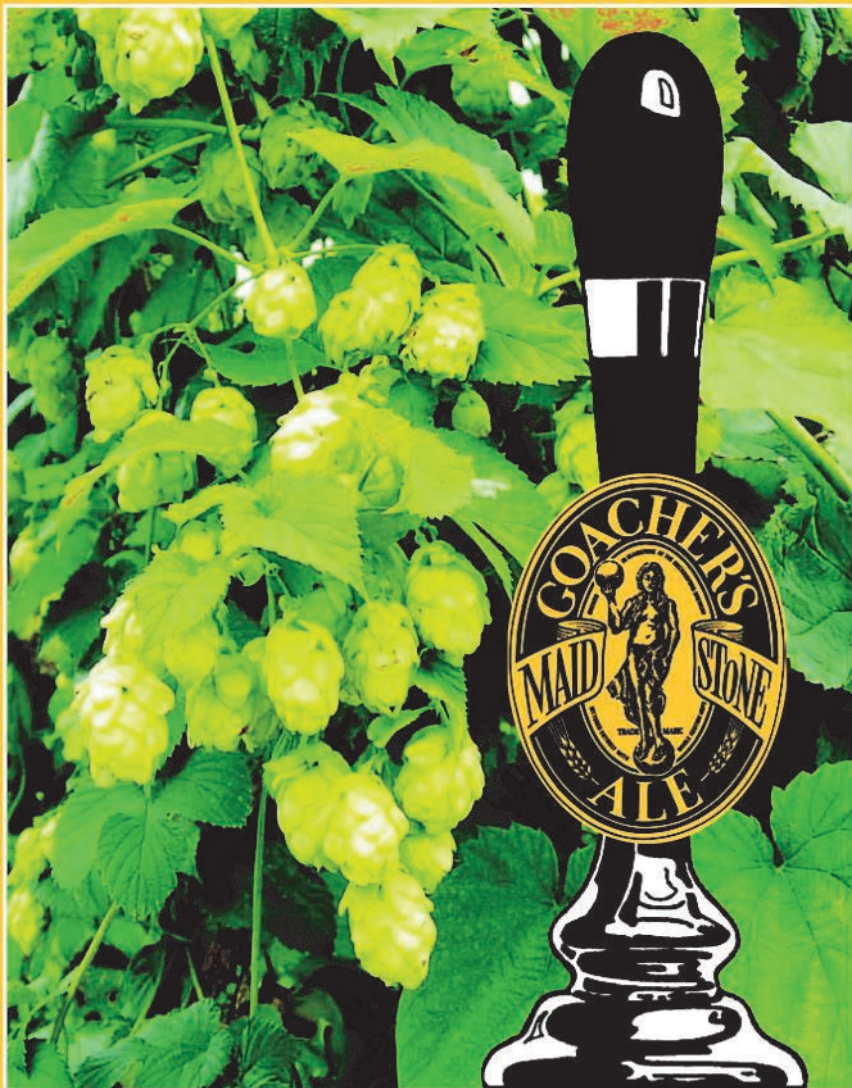
Solution to Crossword No. 38

Congratulations to
J Hayter, Gravesend.
who won last time.

E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E		G	A
A	X		O	H		A	I	R	E	D
S	U	P	E	R	B	O	W	L	O	A
E		L		E		W	A		A	S
D	E	A	L		W	E	E	D	O	N
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A	B	E	T	S		T	A		C	
M		T			C	H	E	R	O	K

* REAL MILD ALE * CROWN IMPERIAL STOUT *

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



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

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