

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Magazine

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

Summer 2017

No. 187

EAST MALLING BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL 2ND SEPTEMBER 2017



75 Real Ales and 30 Ciders & Perries

DRAUGHT COPY

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

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

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Editor and Correspondence:

DraughtCopy.Editor@mmk.camra.org.uk

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

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

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For further information about all pubs mentioned in this publication (or indeed anywhere in the UK), please refer to CAMRA's national pub database: *www.whatpub.com*

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FOR
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Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

New Direct Debit members will receive a 12 month supply of vouchers in their first 15 months of membership

LOCAL BEER & CIDER FESTIVALS

CAMRA Festivals:

16 - 17 June Kent and East Sussex Railway Beer Festival. TN30 6HE

Admission on purchase of a KESR platform ticket, Entrance to the festival is free to card carrying CAMRA members as well as a discount on train travel. Live music on Sat. Camping must be booked in advance. Call 01580 240104 or visit www.camra-afrm.org.uk.

8 - 12 August Great British Beer Festival, London Olympia. W14 8UX

40th anniversary. Offering over 900 real ales, real ciders and perries. Sample London street food and listen to live bands. Web: www.gbbf.org.uk. Twitter: @gbbf, Facebook: [GreatBritishBeerFestival](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBritishBeerFestival)

2 September East Malling Beer & Cider Festival, E. Malling Research ME19 6BJ

11am-7pm. 75 Real Ales and 30 Ciders and Perries, 2 live bands (Sur Les Docks and Repetilia). Admission is free for Card Carrying CAMRA members and £5 for non members.

Free shuttle bus from Aylesford and West Malling Stations.

Twitter: @EMBeerfestival Web: www.mmk.camra.org.uk

Other Festivals:

10 June MenCap Farye, Cobtree Hall. ME15 8EB

6 beers available, which will be sold at £3 per pint and all money raised will go to the charity, Staffed by CAMRA volunteers.

17 June Ryarsh Village Fete, Ryarsh Recreation ground ME19 5LS.

1pm-5pm. Traditional fete with foodie treats, Beer tent, Cider Stand, Hog Roast. Fun for all the family.

17 June Age UK Maidstone, Big Charity Gig. Rockin Robin Brewery. ME17 4LR

2:30pm-9pm. Fund raising to support the free befriending service for the lonely or isolated older people of Maidstone. A choice of local Rockin Robin ales, along with cider, wine and soft drinks. Live music, BBQ, bar skittles and a tombola plus more. Tickets £5.00 plus 50p booking fee and are available online at wegottickets.com/event/397358

1 July Rockin Robin Brewery. ME17 4LR

1pm-late. Rockin Robin's beers plus a few guests, cider, wine and prosecco. There will be hot/cold food from mid-afternoon and live music throughout the afternoon and evening. The all-inclusive price for this event will be £40. Tickets in advance from the brewery or Michelle on 07787 416110.

14 - 16 July Barrels of Britain Real Ale Festival, Style and Winch, ME14 1ED

Open Friday (5pm – Midnight), Saturday and Sunday (noon – midnight).

Live music on Saturday. Ales £3 per pint, £1.50 per half pint.

Pub Festivals:

21-25 Jun Flower Pot, Maidstone. ME14 2RJ

www.flowerpotpub.com

23-25 Jun Windmill Tavern, Gravesend. DA12 1JW

www.windmillpubandgarden.co.uk

3-6 Aug Three Daws, Gravesend. DA11 0BJ

www.threedaws.co.uk

5 Aug Railway, Cobham. DA13 0XY

www.railwayinnsolestreet.co.uk

25-27 Aug Jolly Drayman, Gravesend. DA12 1JA

www.jollydrayman.com

26 Aug Golden Lion, Luddesdown. DA13 0XE

www.thegoldenlion-pub.com

1-4 Sept George & Dragon, Swanscombe. DA10 0LQ

www.georgedragonswanscombe.co.uk

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BREWERY



"There's more in the barrel"



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Musket Brewery is a family owned, Maidstone-based Micro Brewery located at Loddington Farm, Linton, brewing premium REAL ALE at realistic prices. The Musket brewers are **CAMRA** members, who provide these carefully brewed ales for your enjoyment.



MUZZLELOADER
4.5% Kentish Ale



FLINTLOCK
4.2% Best Bitter



FIFE & DRUM
3.8% Golden Ale



TRIGGER
3.6% Pale Ale



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



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3.8% Kentish Mild
(Spring/Summer brew!)



FLASH in the PAN
4% Green Hop Ale
(Only available in September!)



BALL PULLER
4% Premier Bitter
(New for 2017)

Musket Brewery offers a significant promotion campaign on initial orders, to help increase beer sales for our valued customers. Musket has earned a well-deserved reputation for providing **GREAT** beers, supported by exemplary customer service!

Contact Musket Brewery to find out more!!

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info@musketbrewery.co.uk

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DDS Scheme

"There's more in the barrel" at
www.musketbrewery.co.uk

KENT BREWERIES

Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	www.bexleybrewery.co.uk
Boutilliers	07743 372434	www.boutilliers.com
Brew Buddies Ltd		www.brew-buddies.co.uk
Brumaison	07831 704089	
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	www.canterbury-ales.co.uk
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk
Caveman Brewery	07769 710665	www.cavemanbrewery.co.uk
Dartford Wobbler	01322 866233	www.dartfordwobbler.com
Four Candles		www.thefourcandles.co.uk
G2	01233 630277	www.g2brewing.com
Goachers	01622 682112	www.goachers.com
Goody Ales	01227 361555	www.goodyales.co.uk
Hopdaemon Brewery	01795 892078	www.hopdaemon.com
Hop Fuzz Brewery	07858 562878	www.hopfuzz.co.uk
Isla Vale Alesmiths	01843 292451	www.islavalealesmiths.co.uk
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	www.kentbrewery.com
Larkins Brewery	01892 870328	www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk
Mad Cat Brewery Ltd	07960 263615	www.madcatbrewery.co.uk
Maidstone Brewing Co.	01622 757705	www.maidstonebrewing.co.uk
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	www.musketbrewery.co.uk
Nelson Brewery	01634 832828	www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk
Old Dairy Brewery	01580 763867	www.olddairybrewery.com
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	www.thefarriersarms.com
Pig & Porter	01424 893519	www.pigandporter.co.uk
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk
Range Ales	01303 230842	www.rangealesbrewery.co.uk
Ripple Steam Brewery	07917 037611	www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk
Rockin' Robin Brewery	01622 747106	www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk
Romney Marsh Brewery	01797 362333	www.romneymarshbrewery.com
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	www.shepherdneame.co.uk
Swan on the Green	01622 812271	www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk
Time & Tide	07840 327265	www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk
Tír Dhá Ghlas Brewery	01304 211666	www.cullinsyard.co.uk/brewery
Tonbridge Brewery	07962 016286	www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk
Turnstone Ales		See Facebook page
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk
Westerham Brewery Co.	01732 864427	www.westerhambrewery.co.uk
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk

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



KENT BREWERY

Our Farmhouse Crafted beers offer a more unusual and satisfying experience than you might normally expect.

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KENT CIDER MAKERS

Badgers Hill Farm	01227 730573	
Beardspoon Cider Works		www.beardspoon.com
Biddenden Cider	01580 291726	www.biddendenvineyards.com
Castle Cider Co	01732 455977	
Chafford Cider Co.	01892 740437	
Core Fruit Products	01227 730589	www.corejuice.co.uk
Crucider	01689 855965	www.crucider.com
Double Vision Cider	01622 746633	
Dudda's Tun Cider	01795 886266	www.duddastuncider.com
East Stour Cider Co	07880 923398	
Gibbet Oak Cider	01580 763938	www.gibbetoak.co.uk
Green Oak Farm	01304 821630	www.greenoakfarm.co.uk
Hush Heath Estate	01622 832794	www.hushheath.com
Johnson's Farmhouse Cider	01795 665203	
Kent Cider Company	01795 521317	www.kentcider.co.uk
Kentish Pip Cider	01227 830525	www.kentishpip.co.uk
Kingswood Cider	01227 709387	www.kingswoodcider.co.uk
Little Stour Orchard	07771 711252	www.littlestourorchard.co.uk
Merry Moon	07707 309041	
Northdowns Cider	01795 591285	
Pembury Real Cider	07444 435873	www.pemburyrealcider.co.uk
Pippins Cider Company	01892 824544	www.pippinsfarm.co.uk
Rough Old Wife Cider	01227 700757	www.rougholdwife.com
Tiddly Pomme's Woolly Pig	01795 529100	www.tiddlypommeshop.co.uk
Turners Cider	07825 394164	www.turnerscider.co.uk
Wise Owl Cider	01233 850664	wiseowlcider@gmail.com

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

100% KENTISH



TURNERS CIDER

MADE WITH 100% KENTISH APPLES

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SWEET 7% | PEAR 5.5% | ELDERFLOWER 5.5% | RUSSET 8%

TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK [@TURNERS_CIDER](https://www.instagram.com/turners_cider)
CALL 07825 394164 OR MAIL PHIL@TURNERSCIDER.CO.UK

PRODUCERS FROM ACROSS BRITAIN CELEBRATED AT CAMRA'S NATIONAL CIDER AND PERRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cider and perry producers from the length and breadth of the nation were honoured at the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) prestigious National Cider and Perry Championships at the Reading Beer and Cider Festival.

Following more than a year of local tasting panels and regional heats leading up to the finals, *Countryman*, *Medium* took gold in the cider category after impressing judges with its floral aroma, pleasant sharpness and refreshing taste. *Nempnett*, *Piglet's Perry* scooped gold in the perry category, with judges remarking that it had a well-balanced sweet taste with a dry finish.

The competition featured ciders and perries from across the UK, with each cider and perry judged on its individual taste, aroma, flavour, after-taste and overall appeal. The top awards were selected by a specially chosen panel of both experienced and novice judges.

Andrea Briers, CAMRA National Cider and Perry Committee Chairman, says: "The competition has shown that the quality of the real cider and perry continues to improve, and also demonstrates the standard of cider and perry being produced throughout Britain."

Speaking after the win, Keith Balch of Nempnett said: "We're delighted to hear that we've won gold, it's absolutely brilliant. This is the big award that everyone wants to win."

The competition took place on the Saturday of the Reading Beer and Cider Festival, which runs from the 27th-30th April at Christchurch Meadows in Caversham. Reading Beer and Cider Festival offers over 550 beers and 150 ciders and perries, plus a selection of foreign beers, wines and mead.





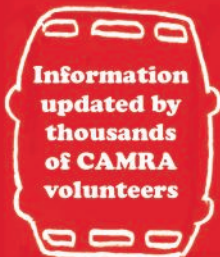
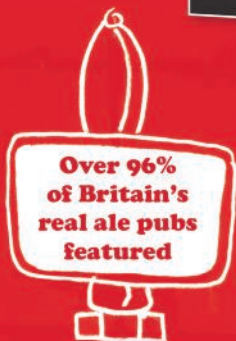
CAMPAIGN
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WHAT?UB



whatpub.com

Featuring over 35,000 real ale pubs



Thousands of pubs at your fingertips!

EAST MALLING BEER AND CIDER FESTIVAL 2017

Organisers of the popular Beer and Cider Festival are forging ahead with plans for this year's event on Saturday September 2, the eighth since it returned to the local area. CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival is once again to take place in the grounds of East Malling Research, the world-famous horticultural research station.

The one-day event is being organised and staffed by volunteer members of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, and follows in the footsteps of similar events organised by the Branch since the 1970s. The Festival is renowned for showcasing local microbreweries and cider producers, as well as brews from around the UK.

Jeff Tucker, organiser of CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival, said: "The response since we revived the Festival at East Malling Research has been fantastic, and we think we have the perfect venue. We're delighted to be returning for 2017. Our organising team has been working hard all year to ensure this year's event continues to be an enjoyable experience for all the family."

Ian Clennett, Chairman of Maidstone and Mid-Kent CAMRA, said: "Every year, visitors tell us how much they have enjoyed the Festival and how much they are looking forward to coming back. Each year, we've fine-tuned what has proved to be a winning formula and can promise them an even better event this year."

Admission to the event (11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.) costs £5, free for card-carrying CAMRA members.

For your chance to win free entry, See page 14



@EMbeerfestival



Maidstone and Mid Kent CAMRA East Malling Beer Festival



Maidstone and Mid-Kent

CAMRA presents:

**The East Malling
Beer & Cider Festival**
East Malling Research • ME19 6BJ



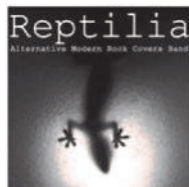
**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2017
11a.m. - 7p.m.



Up to 75 Real Ales, 30 Ciders & Perries

**LIVE MUSIC from
Sur Les Docks & Reptilia**



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



FREE festival shuttle bus service
running every 30 minutes
from 11 a.m. Aylesford Station
and hourly from 10.50 a.m. West Malling Station



Follow us on @EMbeerfestival



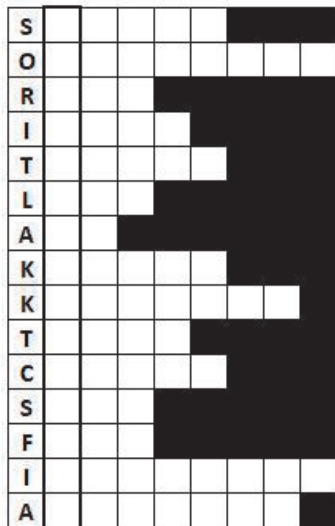
Maidstone and Mid Kent CAMRA
East Malling Beer Festival



BEER FESTIVAL COMPETITION

Here's a chance to win one of two prizes, each of two complimentary entrance tickets to the East Malling Beer & Cider Festival on Saturday 2nd September at East Malling Research. Please note that this competition is not available to people under 18 years of age.

Solve the 15 cryptic clues below. The first letter and length of each answer is given. The second letters of each answer make up two fairly common pub names; one is six letters long, one is two words, five and four letters.



- 1 Draw a small sailing boat
- 2 Carthorse arranged musical group
- 3 Girl got up
- 4 I buy and sell – just the job!
- 5 Was inclined to be nursed
- 6 A road, or part of one
- 7 Paintings found in Dartford
- 8 Kevin's mixed up the cutlery
- 9 Benevolent fish used to start a fire
- 10 If the mixture produces a criminal
- 11 Alter coins
- 12 Small, pale water bird
- 13 Don't eat quickly
- 14 One caring about lack of knowledge
- 15 Skater is somehow marked

Two winners will receive the prize, so please supply contact details. In the event of a tie, the winners will be picked at random by the landlord of one of the pubs where we meet on 24th August.

Send the answers to the 15 clues (or as many as you can do) plus the pub name,

either by photocopying/scanning this completed page or on a plain sheet of paper and sending to:

DC Comp, 13 Lakeside, Snodland ME6 5LD or by email to jeff.tucker@blueyonder.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is 23rd August 2017.

The hidden pubs are _____.

My name is _____

My contact details are (address or phone or email): _____



Rifle Volunteers



Kent CAMRA Pub of the Year 2016/17

28 Wyatt Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 IEU

Tel: 01622 758891



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

Opening Hours:

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



CAMPAIGNING CLOSES PLANNING LOOPHOLE.

Following a successful campaign led by the Campaign for Real Ale, the Government has announced that it will support a measure to close a planning loophole in England which has allowed pubs to be demolished or converted to a wide range of retail uses without any planning application.

This has not only denied local communities a say in their beloved locals' futures, but also made pubs a 'soft target' for developers, contributing to 21 net pub closures every week.

The Government's decision will bring a halt to developers exploiting loopholes and will give communities the right to have a say in the future of their pubs. The decision will not prevent the development of pubs, but will require developers to apply for planning permission to convert or demolish a pub, allowing for members of the local community to express their opinions as part of that process.

CAMRA campaigners worked closely with the Shadow Spokesman for Communities and Local Government, Lord Roy Kennedy, who won a vote on this issue in the House of Lords last month, and with Ministers, MPs, Peers and departmental officials.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark said: "I am delighted that the Government have listened to the Lords my amendment to close the loophole that allowed pubs to be lost without the local community having a say. This is a victory for common sense, the much loved British pub and responsible drinkers everywhere."

CAMRA Chief Executive Tim Page said: "Politicians are chosen to represent the views of those who elect them. We are delighted that in deciding to require owners to apply for planning permission if they want to close a pub, the Government has put the opinions of those who recognise the value that pubs provide to them and their communities above the commercial interests of a few organisations and individuals. This is a fantastic victory for campaigners who have secured the removal of a loophole which allowed pubs to be redeveloped or demolished without reference to the local community or planners. The decision to respond positively to CAMRA's campaign is further evidence of Government's support for the

pub sector and follows on from the decision earlier this month to provide most English pubs with a £1,000 discount in the business rates they pay."

"This announcement is the result of the work of thousands of local campaigners and CAMRA members who have been calling for an end to the loopholes in existing legislation that have been used by developers to close wonderful, viable and well-supported local pubs. This change also wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of Lord Kennedy in securing the support of the House of Lords. Lord Kennedy's efforts to support the future of local pubs at the heart and soul of communities will benefit pub goers for generations to come."

"This change delivers real and robust protection to valued community pubs, which previously have relied on communities going through the bureaucratic process of securing Asset of Community Value (ACV) listings, or local authorities choosing to use complex and obscure Article 4 directions.

£55 MILLION FOR CHARLES WELLS

Marston's has acquired the brewing business of Charles Wells for £55 million. Tim Page, CAMRA's Chief Executive says: "CAMRA is always concerned about any consolidation in the brewing industry as it could result in a reduction in choice, value for money and quality for beer drinkers. We're also wary of one company increasingly controlling a larger and larger share of the market, which is seldom beneficial for consumers.

"Marston's has a positive track record of keeping the breweries it acquires open, in situ, and in many cases investing in the sites to increase capacity, and we urge them to continue that policy. We'd also encourage them to protect the brands that they have acquired and increase the range available to beer drinkers, by continuing to supply them alongside the existing beers produced by Marston's owned breweries.

It's reassuring to hear that Charles Wells intends to continue brewing in Bedford, ensuring that whatever Marston's chooses to do with the brewery and brands it has acquired, local people will continue to be able to enjoy locally brewed beers in the region."

EXTREME PUBBING!

by Jeff Tucker

It doesn't get much more obscure than a bus route which only runs once a week!

There is a remote pub near Sevenoaks which is almost served by bus on Wednesdays, this being the **Rising Sun at Cotmans Ash**, above Kemsing. Go-Coach route 405 leaves Sevenoaks Bus Station every



market day at 12.30, and the nearest point to the Rising Sun is the crossroads at the junction of Goodbury Road and Tinker Pot Lane, after the bus has served the remote East Hill Caravan Park. The bus turns left here, but the road straight on is Cotmans Ash Lane, and an

undulating walk of just over five minutes along here brings you to the pub, which is open at lunchtimes until three.

When I was there recently, the landlady's daughter had broken her leg, and was living in part of the bar to avoid the stairs, and the pub labrador had given birth to seven puppies the day before, and was fenced off in the side room. For good measure, they also have a Jack Russell and a couple of cats, though the African Grey parrot went to meet its maker last year!

Some years ago, the pub served meals and was well-patronised, but, these days, there is no food, and only one or two real ales, and customers are harder to come by, though it is popular with walkers in the summer months. It is a reminder of how pubs used to be, when you were in effect in the publican's private quarters.

After a couple of pints of *Cottage JSB*, I left for the downhill walk into Kemsing Village. The footpath starts opposite the pub car park, to the right of a driveway, and then is well marked.

Turn right at the T-junction for a few yards, then left through a gate and continue between two fences until you reach a lane. Turn right, ignore the first footpath sign and turn left at the second one, into a grassed field, aim for the right-hand side of a thicket, then to the left of the church, and you are in the village centre.

The Bell in Kemsing offers two *Greene King* beers, and brought back memories, as a former landlord, in the late 1970s, was one Eddie House, who ran the (then) Blue Anchor at Bridgen, where Bexley Branch of CAMRA was formed in 1975. Indeed, two of the customers in the public bar remembered him and his wife Anne. Forty years ago!

From here, bus 452 returns you to Sevenoaks, and is rather more frequent than the 405, luckily. Not a bad day out!

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's **GOOD
BEER
GUIDE**
2017



UK's Best Selling Beer & Pub Guide



National Beer Day

Britain's annual national beer day will be taking place on the 15th June 2017, culminating with a national "Cheers to Beer" at 7pm that evening.

Beer Day Britain is organised by beer sommelier Jane Peyton and supported by a coalition of organisations, including CAMRA. The idea is that drinkers participate in a "Cheers to Beer" together in order to support the trade and raise awareness and interest in pub-going across the country.

This year the event will span over the weekend to end on Father's Day on the 18th of June, which is traditionally a busy day for pubs. The plan is to encourage pubs and breweries to host beer events over that weekend in addition to the national "Cheers to Beer".

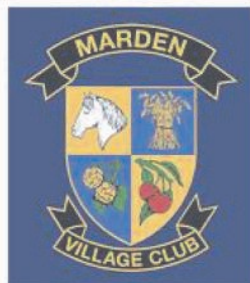
There's a Beer for That is currently designing materials and kits for pubs to use for beer and cheese or chocolate pairings. In addition, a number of brewers with pubs and pub chains have already signed up for the initiative, including *Enterprise Inns, Punch Taverns, Star Pubs & Bars, Shepherd Neame, and Fuller's*. SIBA is planning a "Brewers in the Community" initiative for the "Cheers to Beer" weekend by encouraging their members to open their breweries for events that weekend. www.beerdaybritain.co.uk

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

Hengist, Aylesford – This restaurant is now selling real ale. *Westerham Spirit of Kent* was on gravity serve but a handpump is due to be installed.

Woolpack, Benover – A popular place for meals and when the branch visited we had to park at the roadside and found it quite busy inside. Following a warm welcome from the staff we found the *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* and *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* both in good order.



Beer Barn, Boughton Monchelsea – Now opens on Sunday lunchtimes as well as Friday evening and Saturday lunchtime for mainly Rockin' Robin ales.

King & Queen, East Malling – Held their accustomed Beer Festival over Easter with a selection of ales from Kent microbreweries which seemed well attended as by Sunday most of the additional casks had gone.

Red Bull, Eccles – Having been closed for nearly 3 months this has now re-opened, which I am sure, pleases the villagers. The new licensee is Karen Turner and partner Jared. The paint on the exterior woodwork is now red and new signage has been installed. The kitchen will be closed for a while until other things are sorted. Expect to see *Young's Special* as a permanent feature and one or more guest ales; *Sharp's Atlantic* was seen recently.

Star & Eagle, Goudhurst – Standing just outside the church gates is this fine half-timbered inn. Four-poster beds and creaky floorboards all add to an appreciation of former times and the whole place has an air of opulence. The beers available were *Brakspear Oxford Gold* and *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*.



Vine, Goudhurst – Down the hill from the Star & Eagle is the Vine which is popular with the local populace. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Lancaster Bomber* and *Brumaison GB* were on the bar.

THE FLOWER POT

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George & Dragon, Headcorn – Three handpumps are now in operation. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* is a permanent feature and guest Kent brews from *Brumaison* and *Old Dairy* and Sussex brewery *Long Man* were also seen on a recent visit.

White Horse, Headcorn – This has been fully refitted and licensee Richard Foy now has *Theakston Best Bitter* as a permanent with another national and a Kent local beer from such as *Musket* or *Tonbridge* as guests. Various events are planned and sport is featured on the TV screens. Food is now available at very reasonable prices. Check on social media to see the new look or even better still, visit and check it out personally.



Hook & Hatchet, Hucking – Held a beer and music festival over Easter and now offer camping facilities in an adjacent field. Good walking area with information provided within to assist. Beer selection changes with *Fullers London Pride*, *Caledonian Deuchars IPA*, *Sharp's Doom Bar*; *Young's Bitter* having been found.

Woodcock, Iden Green – This is an isolated country pub where both good food and beer will be found. Here the *Greene King* house ale badged as *Woodcock Inn Ale* is very popular. Also serves other beer from the *Greene King* list such as *Morland Old Golden Hen*, *Black Sheep Best Bitter* and *Timothy Taylor Landlord*.

Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown – It seems that the possible new occupants intend to change this to an Indian restaurant. Local opposition do not wish to lose their pub.

Chequers, Laddingford – One Tuesday whilst in Maidstone I happened to see *Musket Brewery* owner Tony Williams, who informed me that he had just delivered his latest brew here, *Musket Ball Puller*. As the branch was due to visit here there was a possibility it might be ready for us. Charles did indeed have it available and we all found it to be an excellent brew. Other beers at the time were the permanent *Adnams Southwold Bitter* and *Kent Cobnut* and a new one *Firebrick* from *Tonbridge*.



Café Bruges, Maidstone – A café at 13 Market Buildings, just off Earl Street, specialising in both Belgian food and beer. Owner Craig Reade and his staff will guide patrons through anything that is unfamiliar. Mussels and Belgian cheeses feature on the menu and dishes are often cooked using

beer. Some recipes have recommendations for beers to match. The menu changes through the day with breakfast from 9-12 and lunch 12-4, then evening meals from 7pm. The interior is typical brown wood panels with beer adverts and outside there is a table area which is enclosed by bicycles. Opens at 9am and runs till midnight. See <http://www.cafebruges.co.uk> for evening bookings.

Flower Pot, Maidstone – Congratulations to licensees Dave and Julie Davenport, bar manager Sharon Hayward the rest of the staff for being chosen as our CAMRA branch Pub of the Year.

Pilot, Maidstone – Having been closed for a while this will now open Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes. Pre-booked Sunday lunches will be available. *Rockin' Robin* beers will be a feature.

Swan, Maidstone – Claire and Gary are now pulling in more customers and putting on various events. *Shepherd Neame Master Brew* is permanent and a guest beer features at the weekend.

Stile Bridge, Marden – Now being run by John Fennell and seems to be following the same style as the previous manager. *Goachers Special* remains as the permanent beer and four others hold brews from such as *Brumaison, Dark Star, Hepworth, Long Man, Musket* and *Rockin' Robin*.

Unicorn, Marden – Now taken over by Kellie Maloney, it opened on the 6th May following a re-fit, hopefully more news next issue.

Plough, Trottiscliffe – Re-opened with one room running as a cafe serving coffee and cakes from 11-3 and the other room as a pub from 12-10 Sun-Thu 12-11 Fri & Sat. It has been refitted with more relaxing tones and new furniture. Debra Carson is the new licensee. *Caledonian Deuchars IPA* badged



as *Kentish Hop Maker* is on the bar.

Harrow, Ulcombe – Having been closed for 11 years and fought off several attempts to change it to a house this has now re-opened. Some villagers have bought it and engaged John Sinclair as manager. Still a work in progress as it only opened its doors mid-April. It is keeping *Tonbridge Traditional* as a permanent ale and will also have a guest.

Malling Jug, West Malling – This smart micropub has around 6 beers on gravity but often many more may be found. Kent brewery feature 3 or 4 beers and other noted brewers, plus Turners cider, occupy the other positions. Beers are listed on a chalkboard and clipboards with paper lists are placed handily around the interior and courtyard garden area. Drinks may be ordered from the staff that will bring them to your table. Newspapers are provided and various snacks are available to keep you going.



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-Arthur Young's 'Agriculture of Sussex' (1813)

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The branch Pub of The Year was revealed shortly after the last edition of *Draught Copy* started to appear in pubs. The winner this year is the **Queen**, South Darent. For those who don't know the pub, it's a back-street local that in 1998 incorporated a former shop. The range of real ales can always be relied on to include a selection from Kent Brewery.



Our two runners-up are in complete contrast to each other. The **Old House**, Ightham Common, is hidden away down a narrow lane at the edge of Ightham village and entering it is rather like walking into someone's home. It's a survivor from a dimly-remembered golden age. On the other hand the **Compass Alehouse**, Gravesend, is a new-style micropub in a former shop, with an even smaller extra room at the back. All three pubs will have been awarded certificates to recognise their achievement.

The branch has again recognised a Cider Pub of the Year. This year it is the **George and Dragon**, Swanscombe. The range of at least three local ciders is at least three more than that of typical pubs in the area.

The **Old House** has recently taken delivery of fifteen wooden firkins and local real ale is now being served (on gravity) from them. Local breweries collect the empty casks from the pub and fill them with their beers. Not surprisingly, this has made the pub very popular with the local branch of the Society for Preservation of Beers from the Wood.

In mid-March, following an application by local residents, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council granted the **Rose and Crown**, Wrotham, an Asset of Community Value listing. Owners Shepherd Neame, have the right to appeal against this, but did not appear to have done so at the time these notes were submitted. The new landlord has made a very positive impact and the pub is reported to be much busier now, particularly in the evenings, with the food being very popular and the beer condition improved.



Ian Fielder reports that the **Chequers**, Heaverham, is changing hands. The pub will still be tied to Shepherd Neame, but the brewery leases it from the estate which is the actual owner. The lease is due to expire in two years' time and when this happens it seems that the

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estate intends to take the pub over. This will be something to watch out for as it suggests that the pub would not necessarily restrict itself to selling Shepherd Neame beers.

The **Golden Lion**, Luddesdown, has three St Austell beers on sale all the time (*Trelawny*, *Tribute* and *Proper Job*). The fourth handpump is dedicated to beers from Kent breweries. A different brewery is selected each month and an ever-changing sequence of beers will appear throughout the month. Recently Ramsgate and Kent Brewery have appeared.

The **Three Daws**, Gravesend, has recently been a fairly regular outlet for Boutilliers beers from Faversham. These can be recognised by the curiously minimalist pump clips and the range of beers is quite interesting. They are not fined or filtered, so you might expect them to be a little hazy, but even pale beers normally seem to turn out clear under pub lighting. Nearby, the **George** in Queen Street has been undergoing a steady internal redecoration without actually closing. A visit towards the end of March found part of the bar shrouded in protective sheets as work was going on above, and a couple of weeks later the job had moved downwards and almost reached floor level. The project will eventually be completed by a new set of furniture.



A little further away, the **Robert Pocock** has periodic pump takeovers when all guest beers are supplied by the same local brewery; recently a week of Kent Brewery beers. The **Man of Kent**, which was reported as the subject of a planning application for conversion to housing, had reopened by late March although no real ale was apparent by the time of this copy deadline.



Away from the town centre, the regular poker nights at the **Old Prince of Orange**, now run on a Sunday as well as a Tuesday. A wide variety of bottled beers accompanies up to three real ales here. Another feature of this pub is a monthly tribute night when a three-course meal can be booked to accompany a performance by a tribute band or performer. Advance booking requests for some acts are now being received well in advance and the general rule seems to be that the more historic the musical interest, the greater the demand. Cliff Richard was proving particularly popular. The concept obviously has some value as the **Darnley Arms**, Cobham,

has also been offering live music with a three-course meal. On the way back from the **Old Prince of Orange**, I called in at the **Echo**, where the regular Thursday night disco was in full swing. Musical history is clearly an interest in this part of town as the Tamla Motown label was heavily featured. *Wells Bombardier Burning Gold* was the guest beer to accompany the regular *Sharp's Doom Bar* and the pub also reckons to have the UK's largest vodka collection.

Gravesend has gained a second micropub, which opened at the beginning of May. The **Three Pillars** is a cellar bar at the Masonic Hall in Wrotham Road, a short distance from the town centre and railway station. I was shown round before opening and was able to make some notes for this feature. There was a bar there already, which has been separated from the hall and has been refitted with new toilets and a cool room with tilting racking for ten casks. The bar hadn't been used for at least 6 years and was looking rather unloved, but the bar counter and a lot of fittings and furniture are still in place, and where suitable, have been tidied up and returned to use. As micropubs go this is actually on the large side as there are three small rooms, one of which is likely to be made available for micro-sized functions and meetings. The ceilings are noticeably low and archways, which separate the rooms, lower still, so the **Jolly Drayman** won't be the only pub in town where anyone tall has to walk carefully. Most of the floor is brick, and this will be kept, with a small area of carpet being replaced. The project was lucky on two counts in that no planning permission for a change of use was required and the bar's existing licence was thought suitable for its new status. The three pillars represent beauty, strength and wisdom and are a nod to the pub's location. The proprietors have previous experience as tenants of Shepherd Neame at the **Gardeners Arms**, Higham.

Pub news from the Dartford area is a bit sparse this time. The **Wat Tyler** has a fairly new landlord and now offers accommodation. *Theakston's Old Peculier* is regularly on sale and my informant was impressed by the low price. The **Oddfellows** was reported in the last edition to be closed and for sale; it had been securely boarded up, but very recently (early April) the boards were removed and some work was underway inside, and it has now reopened. Further reports will be very welcome. The **Paper Moon**, which had spent months closed and abandoned, has been sold by J D Wetherspoon and is now about to become part of a chain of Turkish restaurants.

The **Cressy Arms**, Wilmington, was closed for a short period for refurbishment but has also now reopened. Further reports welcome again. My thanks to



Roger Gentry for news of the **Bull**, Horton Kirby. The beers on sale on his recent visit were *Dark Star Hophead*, *Pig and Porter Stout*, *Fyne Ales Jarl* and *Thornbridge Jaipur*. The list of beers coming soon also included offerings from Marble and Kent. As he says, they really are starting to provide an excellent range of beers.

In case anyone thinks **Dartford Working Men's Club** is the only real ale club in town I'm pleased to report that at a recent branch meeting at **Dartford Conservative Club**, *Brakspear's Bitter*, *Dorset Dusk Till Dawn* and *Adnams Broadside* were all on handpump and thoroughly enjoyable. There was also a real cider. It is further reported that the **Glentworth Club** sports four handpumps.

As at Easter, the Caveman Brewery seems not to be brewing. The reason for the stop is unclear at the moment but we've known for some time that the available



space at the **George and Dragon**, Swanscombe, was becoming uncomfortably small. On the other hand, Charles and John at the **Compass**, Gravesend, have been interested in brewing for some time. They have already produced some brews in collaboration with other brewers and rumour has it that another development is on the cards.

As the days grow longer and the weather sometimes grows warmer our pubs start organising their beer festivals and this edition lists a number in our area. Those at the **Windmill Tavern** and the **Three Daws** in Gravesend are established events and all well worth a visit. Some of the others on the list are ones we haven't heard about before. We know there must be a few we don't know about and will always welcome information about them.

In this context Mathew Peterson-Pearce says he's organising the one for the **Railway**, Sole Street, in August. Local beers from Nelson and Dartford Wobbler will be featured. Like those at many pubs, the events at the **Golden Lion**, Luddesdown, will feature a small range of additional beers and take advantage of the pub's garden. The **Jolly Drayman**, Gravesend, makes a welcome return to the list and now that it is free from control by Punch Taverns, anything could happen on the drinks front.

As I was finishing this off an unconfirmed report reached me that Marston's are planning to open a new pub at Ebbsfleet Garden City. If true, one assumes it will have a major food offering like their other recent new pubs in Kent. Mind you, despite living not far away I'm not entirely sure where or what Ebbsfleet Garden City is. More information in the next issue I think.

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Greetings from all at Bexley CAMRA.

By the time you read this, the 12th Bexley CAMRA Beer Festival will be over. Hopefully it will have been another rip-roaring success as it has been in the past and everyone will have enjoyed themselves and maybe we'll have sold out again.



In pub news; The good news is that the **Belvedere Hotel** has re-opened and so has the **Barge Pole**.

There is yet another micropub in the offing. The **Kentish Belle** will be situated in Pickford Lane adjacent to Bexleyheath station and is hoping to open in mid-June.

If you have any other pub news please contact us either using the contact details at the top of this article or our Pubs Officer Ian Wright on 07779 319196 or bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk. The easiest way for you to do this though, is when you are in the pub is to log on to WhatPub.com with your tablet or smartphone and check out the details shown and advise us at the time of any changes. We would also ask all CAMRA members to use WhatPub to submit beer scores for our branch pubs. Whenever you visit a pub, simply go to Whatpub.com and find the pub, go to submit beer score and follow the simple instructions.

This year the branch asked its members to decide whether it should remain a Kent Branch or transfer to a London Branch. In all 62 members voted and the final result was: **Kent 33 London 29**.

As a result we will remain a Kent Branch, although because of our geographical location, all of our pubs will continue to be included in the Greater London (South-East) section of the Good Beer Guide and our Pub, Club and Cider Pub of the Year will be in the London Regional competitions.

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual, in February we visited the **Prince**

Albert in Bexleyheath, March the **George Staples** and in April the **Hoppers Hut** in Sidcup. We thank the licencees for accommodating us. We were also privileged to host the Kent Regional Meeting in March at the **Crayford Arms** thanks also to the licencees there for looking after us so well.



Since the last issue, our socials have taken us far and wide.

In January, our Crystal Palace social took in a triangle of pubs which actually covered the three branches of CAMRA, Bromley, South East London and Croydon, such is the proximity of their boundaries in that area. We started at the **Westow House** at midday and were joined by a couple of local South East London members, on to the **Grape & Grain** (Bromley Branch) along to the **Alma** and **Postal Order** (Croydon Branch) before returning to South East London territory with the **Sparrowhawk** and **Prince Albert** (we did not imbibe in either of these though). We finished where we started back in the **Westow House** for a final beer of the afternoon.

In February, Our midweek social took place the day after Valentines in Blackheath, here we visited the **Princess of Wales**, **Crown** and the **Hare & Billet**. A good selection of ales were available, sadly the quality of some, left a little to be desired.



In March our only social was in Crayford and took in the **Penny Farthing** and the **Crayford Arms**. Sadly most of those present decided not to go to the Arms as they had karaoke but missed probably the best beer of the evening.

In April, we started with a crawl around Twickenham. Meeting up at the **Sussex Arms**, before crossing the road to the **Prince Blucher**. From here it was back into town and the **George** before walking along to the **Eel Pie** and the **Fox** before finishing off at the



Cabbage Patch. The following Wednesday, we met in the **Door Hinge** in Welling for a few beers before crossing the road to the **Guy Earl of Warwick** then walking to the **New Cross Turnpike**. On Easter Monday we had a short walk through Sidcup visiting our two

micropubs, the **Hackney Carriage** and **Hoppers Hut**. Our final social is to be a Thameslink trail starting at the **Blackfriar**.

We have also announced our Pub, Club and Cider Pub of the Year awards. These are:

Pub of the Year: Winner – **Penny Farthing** (Crayford),
 Runner-up – **Broken Drum** (Blackfen),
 3rd – **Hackney Carriage** (Sidcup)

Cider Pub of the Year: **Hackney Carriage** (Sidcup)

Club of the Year: **Old Dartfordian Sports Club** (Bexley)

Congratulations to all concerned at every venue.

See the branch social diary for the presentation dates.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

"At the recent national conference in Bournemouth, a motion proposed by a member of the National Executive to encourage branches to embrace 'craft' to include real ale, was roundly rejected.

"Nothing has muddied the waters (sic) more than the five letter word 'craft'. Whilst we have a dictionary definition of 'Real Ale' no-one really knows what the 'C' word means as it is used in all kinds of contexts, even some brewers with mega-keggeries claim to be 'craft'.

I ask you and all other CAMRA publications to avoid using the 'C' word where ever possible, there are plenty of alternatives like: pasteurised, filtered, carbonated, top pressure, cask breather, brewed with adjuncts, kegged etc.

"When we were campaigning back in the seventies and eighties last century, we used the word 'keg' as an alternative swearword, anything that was a bit naff was said to be 'keg.' 'Craft' should be treated with the same derision.

"So let us be more accurate in our reporting, know exactly what we are talking about and avoid using wishy-washy words like 'Craft'."

Bob Norrish

Ed: To 'craft' or not to 'craft', That is the question ...

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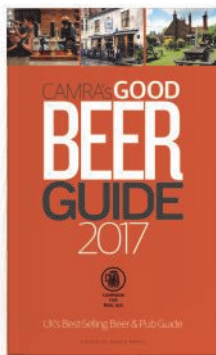
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Ed: This Maidstone extract forms part of a larger article from a member of CAMRA Southport & West Lancs who visited Kent.

Recently I embarked on the long journey in pursuit of two of my favourite hobbies – visiting new football grounds and drinking real ale. Well, visiting good pubs too. That's three now, to follow in the footsteps of the great Monty Python team in the Life of Brian. Oh, and walking too (that's enough!!!).

...Saturday was my big day. I had already booked a train ticket from Minster to Maidstone, so I duly set off the next morning on the 11.25 train, changing at Ashford International at 12.00. The 12.10 train was waiting on the platform, and I arrived at Maidstone East at 12.33, all planned so that I could have a few beers.

My plan in Maidstone was to visit four Good Beer Guide (GBG) listed pubs, which ended up being a tall order, because Maidstone is a bigger place than I anticipated. I came out of the station and turned right down the High Street, past the local Wetherspoon's pub to the pub which was furthest away, the **Olde Thirsty Pig**. Hopefully you will read more about this pub later, because this was a classic pub, a Grade 2 listed 15th century inn. The barman could not do enough for me, offering me tastes of the beers until I found one I liked (they were all excellent) and even taking a few photographs for me and allowing me behind the bar. If I had been POTY judging, this would have scored very highly. My *Wantsum Black Pig* was superb, probably the best pint of the week so far, and I got a discount with my CAMRA membership card too! Superb.

My plan was to try and get to two or three GBG pubs before the match, but this went to pot, mainly due to the distance I had walked to get to the OTP and the fact that the local CAMRA branch had recommended a non-GBG listed micropub called the **Cellars Alehouse**. The pub was listed as being 0.4 miles away by the CAMRA pub directory, What Pub, but it was hard to find. Situated on Buckland Road, close to the railway line and the River Medway, its location meant that I had to go all round the house to find it. Eventually I found it down the steps of the old Style and Winch brewery yard, but it was worth the effort. It was well after 2 o'clock by now, and my aim was to get to the **Rifle Volunteers** pub before the match, but I soon gave up on the idea as the beer I chose in here was superb. The *Maidstone Alpha* was perfect, and easily the best beer I was to have all week. So although I am reluctant to score beers as the perfect 10, I gave this 9 (or 4.5 out of 5 on the CAMRA National Beer Scoring System).

I decided at this point to make my way to the Gallagher Stadium after getting a little lost and asking for directions (the danger of drinking beer before going to the match). I was getting a little more used to the geography of Maidstone by now, passing Wetherspoons and the station again, and knew the football ground was nearby.

Maidstone United's stadium was good and bad for me. The good news was that it was only the third football stadium I have been to which sold real ale (*Ed: Spitfire Lounge*) (the others were Dagenham and Redbridge and Stafford Rangers), but unlike the others the beer was sold in plastic glasses. But with a gate of over 2400 I could understand that. The thing I did not like at this ground was that there was nowhere to sit down, no away end for visiting supporters, and no terraces, so I had to watch the game at pitch level with people in front of me. It's just as well I am over six feet tall, or I would not have seen much of the game.

The match started well, as Southport, despite the artificial pitch, were a goal up inside four minutes. However, that was as good as it got as the Sandgrounders were eventually well beaten 4-2. However, this was the 99th ground I had seen them play on, and I was not going to let the result get me down, especially as by that point I was resigned to Southport being relegated anyway in a fairly forgettable season.

After the game, I headed for the nearby **Flower Pot**, described in the GBG as a "must-visit when in Maidstone". It was OK, but my *Redemption Pale Ale* was not a patch on the *Redemption Trinity* from the same brewery when I had a pint in Leeds.

By now I realised I was not going to be able to visit all my pubs in time to catch the 17.56 train back to Ashford, so I decided to catch the 18.56 instead. So I headed back towards Maidstone East station, where the J D Wetherspoon's **Society Rooms** was the closest pub. Now in conversation with a fellow customer at one of the pubs earlier, he advised me "not to bother" with the **Society Rooms**, even though it was listed in the GBG. I wanted to make my own mind up, but he was right. The pub still had a number of Maidstone fans toasting their win, but there was very little choice in here for a Wetherspoon house. My pint of *Brecon Brewing Six Beacons* did not taste like it had travelled well from South Wales, and I drank it with considerable resentment. This was one of the poorest beers I have ever drunk in a Wetherspoon pub, and it ranked alongside a JDW pub I went to in Monmouth. It served me right ordering a Welsh beer, which is why I normally go for local beers. However, they did not appear to have any.

So I swiftly left, leaving myself just enough to head back down the High Street the same way that I had headed from the station on arriving at Maidstone East at 12.33. But this time I turned left up Wyatt Street, which I had now pinpointed on my A-Z, despite the drizzle. The **Rifle Volunteers** was another POTY winner, and this was a lovely, homely quiet pub selling the Kent-brewed Goachers beers. Not only that, they sold mild, which I thought had all but disappeared in Southern England. Very good it was too, although I only had time for a half. It was only £2.70 for a pint too, remarkably good value for Kent, and over a pound cheaper than two other pubs I had been in that day. If my map-reading had been better earlier I really should have had a pint here, stayed longer and skipped the **Society Rooms**. However, I had ticked off four GBG pubs and was ready for home.

AN OUTSIDERS VIEW OF MALDON

by Mick Allen

Back in a very cold February we decided to take a trip from where we live in Dartford, over to 'foreign parts' in Essex. Maldon was chosen for a mixture of pubs and bird watching, although in this article I'm just concentrating on the former.



Maldon began life as a bronze age settlement, but that was then, and now it is home to many pubs (including two micropubs) and a brewery. After a short trip under the Thames late Friday afternoon, we checked into the **Blue Boar Hotel**. First port of call was the **Rose and Crown** in the High Street. This pub was closed by Punch Taverns in December 2013, but reopened as a Wetherspoons in August 2015. I believe the chain was originally interested in the Old Post Office next to the Moot Hall. Beers on in here (apart from the usual 'spoons' range) were a couple from Adnams - *Prop Hop*, and *Make it Rain Sixpoint Collaboration* beer. Also on were *LocAles*, *Hop Monster* (Georges) *Rochford Banshee Porter*, *Shalfords Market Ale*, and *Wibblers Oatmeal Stout*. *Westons Old Rosie* and *Rosies Pig* were the ciders on offer. From there it was a short stroll over the road to the **Farmers Yard** micropub. Opened by the Maldon Brewing Company in 2015, this place really is tiny, measuring around 12m². A selection of Farmer's Ales and the ciders are served straight from the cask or pin from a rear cold room. When we were there *A Drop of Nelson's Blood*, *Golden Boar*, *A Winter's Ale*, and *Cutty Sark* were on tap. *Lilleys Mango* and either *Gwynt Y Ddraig Happy Daze* or *Sheppy's Orchard Dew* ciders are the ciders here. We were then invited to the **Little Ship Club** down on the Quay for an open mike night, which is held every second Friday of the month – check with the club first about entry restrictions. Four real ales in here



are served from jacket cooled casks, predominantly supplied by Mighty Oak, whose owner John is a member here. After departing here 'late' it was straight back to the **Blue Boar** for an overnight rest.

The Saturday was booked out for a walk over to Northey Island in the Blackwater Estuary. This island can only be reached via a causeway at low tide: luckily we had time for some early pubs as the causeway was under water from 11am to 3pm! We visited four of the pubs that I had never been to in Maldon before the trip out. The first three premises were all Grays pubs. Grays used to only supply beers from Greene



King, but now offer a much better selection. The first of the day, the **Swan Hotel**, has been recently refurbished and offered *Adnams Bitter* and *Ghost Ship*, along with *Farmers Pucks Folly*. Next it was on to the **Borough Arms**, a locals pub offering accommodation in a

motel type unit to the rear. Beer here was on this occasion *Wibblers Dengie IPA*. Back to the High Street and slightly out of town, the next on the list was the **Queen Victoria**, where beers served were *LocAles Wibblers Dengie IPA* and *Farmers Pucks Folly*, plus a couple of nationals, *Fullers London Pride* and *Sharps Doom Bar*. The final lunchtime call was at



the **OAKhouse bar** at the top of the High Street, a café during the day and venue with a DJ in the evenings. Just a single handpump here missing its clip – *Farmers Pucks Folly* was the ale.



After dodging the tides visiting Northey Island, it was back to the Quayside for a drink in the **Queens Head**. I would imagine this Grays pub gets very busy in the summer, with a large outdoor patio overlooking the Blackwater Estuary and the moored Thames' barges. A large beer range in here, mostly nationals, but one beer caught my

attention, *Adnams Old Ale*. A swift pint, then back to the **Rose and Crown** for dinner.

Three more hostelries were on the itinerary for the evening. The first of these was the **Mighty Oak Taproom**. Opened late 2015, this establishment does 'exactly what it says on the tin', serving six or seven Mighty Oak products, along with three Westons' ciders; *Family Reserve*, *Rosie's Pig & Raspberry* and *Rosie's Pig & Damson*, plus *Aspall's Ciderkyn*. I opted for *Winter S'Ale*, a best bitter with Sorachi Ace and Mount Hood hops. The penultimate pub, the **Carpenter's Arms**, was a two minute walk away. A local Cider Pub of the Year winner in 2016, the Carpenter's boasted six ciders from pins (*Thistly Cross Original*, *Traditional* and *Whisky Cask*, *Weston's Old Rosie*, *Lilleys Mango*, and *Moles Black Rat*) and six real ales on the pumps (*Titanic Porter*, *Sharps Special*, *Adnams Bitter*, *Crouch Vale Yakima Gold*, *Hepworth's Sussex* and *Dark Star Hophead*). The Plum Porter went down a treat. Finally it was back to the **Blue Boar**. This is the home of Farmer's Ales, with the brewery to the rear of the hotel. The hotel itself is currently undergoing renovation work, with most of the 33 letting rooms expected to be ready by the end of the year. The beers, unsurprisingly, are all from Farmers, and are served straight from the stillage in the cosy bar. I had the *Drop of Nelsons' Blood*, before retiring for the night.



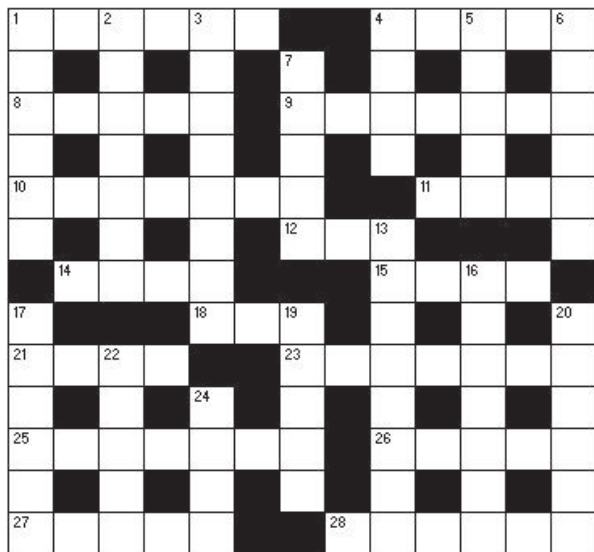
Next day it was back home and we decided to visit the **Ferry Boat Inn** at North Fambridge. It was lucky we chose that day, as the pub was closing down indefinitely the following week. The staff had been given the briefest of information as to why, but did say that the local Maldon and Dengie branch were submitting an ACV. The beers in here were *Greene King IPA*, *Sharps Doom Bar*, and *Mighty Oak Maldon Gold*, and let's hope that by the time you read this the pub has reopened.

In conclusion, I would say Maldon is a pretty good place to pop over and stay for a night, you wouldn't be disappointed.

Crossword No. 26

Solution in next issue

compiled by MICK NORMAN



Across

- 1 Strove to stir the electorate (6)
- 4 Epidemic parotitis - a parental afterthought? (5)
- 8 Parker? Yes and no, perhaps (5)
- 9 Fermented ale I try - that's life (7)
- 10,12 She may eat rat's head to confuse our leader (7,3)
- 11 Old, maybe, but could be jumping! (4)
- 12 See 10
- 14 Bins adjusted to identify a book (4)
- 15 Shrek seen in Quahog recently (4)
- 18 Hull character finds take-off impossible (3)
- 21 Spots found in London Borough, we hear (4)
- 23 McEnroe's pettish outburst at motor racing circuit (3,4)
- 25 10 12 finds REM ripe for development (7)
- 26 Light printer (5)
- 27 Requires rocks off the Isle of Wight. Ignore the French! (5)
- 28 A vintage London bus used on the electric railway to carry blood (6)

Down

- 1 Any ITV production showing conceit (6)
- 2 Roger Protz & co find model surrounded by police weaponry (7)
- 3 O'Kearney becomes an uncompromising footballer (3,5)
- 4 Minnie's complaint concerning second article (4)
- 5 Cereal belonging to 12, by the sound of it (5)
- 6 Expressing an aphorism (6)
- 7 Shot spiked with drug - all the Everly Brothers had to do! (5)
- 13 Leroy and Del (Shannon?) wandering in Swiss mountains (8)
- 16 Runaround Sue's ire concerning re-release (7)
- 17 Contents of that pint might be used as an offensive weapon! (6)
- 19 Uoy, perhaps? A dangerous manoeuvre (1-4)
- 20 Remove Churchman's No 2 from smoker's accessory, getting lost (6)
- 22 Relative to city, apparently (5)
- 24 Headless, cries and suffers (4)

Solution to Crossword No. 25

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

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CAMRA DISCOUNT LIST

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

All Chef & Brewer pubs	10 percent
Anchor, Bexley	10p per pint
Bell, Smarden	10p per pint
Campbell Arms, Northfleet	20p per pint
Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
Cock Inn, Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Earl Haig, Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot, Maidstone	10p per pint
George Staples, Blackfen	20 percent (<i>also buy 6, 7th free</i>)
Jolly Drayman, Gravesend	10p per pint
Jolly Fenman, Blackfen	10 percent
Moody Mare, Mereworth	Discounted to £3.20p per pint
Olde Thirsty Pig, Maidstone	10p per pint
Old Prince of Orange, Gravesend	20p per pint
Portrait, Sidcup	10 percent
Stag, Maidstone	10p per pint (<i>off guest beers</i>)
Swan, Loose Road, Maidstone	20p per pint, 10p per half
We Anchor in Hope, Welling	10 percent
Yacht, Bexleyheath	10 percent
Ye Olde Black Horse, Sidcup	10 percent

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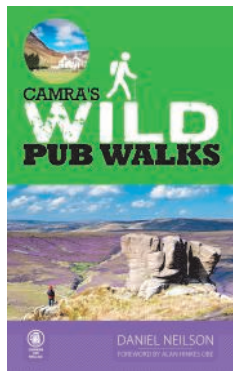
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CAMRA Books Helps Us Take A Hike



The Campaign for Real Ale is releasing the latest title in its pub walks series. “Wild Pub Walks” is aimed at the most adventurous hill walkers who enjoy long days out followed by a refreshing beer in a welcoming pub.

Author Daniel Neilson will take readers on 22 walks in beautiful remote or mountainous landscapes, each with one or more great pubs – often with historical significance – at the journey’s end. Each walk varies in level of challenge, from long walks in lower-lying areas to mountain routes taking in some of the country’s highest summits.

The book covers routes across England (Peak District, North York Moors, Lake District and Yorkshire Dales), Scotland (Highlands and Borders) and Wales (Snowdonia, the Brecon Beacons and Mid Wales). Many of the routes are recommended in collaboration with Alan Hinkes, one of the country’s most successful mountaineers and the only Briton to have climbed each of the world’s 8,000 metre peaks.

Author Daniel Neilson says: “There are a huge variety of walks in this book, from remote Highland Munros to sea-swept walks along the Yorkshire Coast. We’ve included the highest mountains in England, Wales, and - the highest of them all - Ben Nevis in Scotland.

“Where possible, we’ve chosen walks that end right in a village or a pub. A particular favourite of ours is a pub with a ‘muddy boots welcome’ sign and fantastic beer garden or a log fire. Somewhere you can easily drop in for a pint post-walk and be made to feel welcome.”

Lavishly illustrated throughout, Wild Pub Walks includes detailed insights into fascinating local places, practical recommendations, safety information and easy-to-use ordnance survey mapping with detailed route markings. The book is designed for outdoor enthusiasts with experience in hill-walking. All are challenging from a physical perspective and vary between 8 and 13 miles.

CAMRA’s Wild Pub Walks is available from the CAMRA bookshop, priced at £11.99.

<https://shop.camra.org.uk/books/wild-pub-walks.html>

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CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

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

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

June	MMK	10	11am, MENCAP Summer Fete (ME15 8EB)
	MMK	13	127pm, Bus Trip to Hawkenbury and Headcorn
	Bex	14	8:30pm, Brch Mtg, Royal Standard, Belvedere DA17 5JN
	GDV	14	Black Horse, Stansted; Villager, Vigo
	MMK	15	730pm, Bat & Trap, West Peckham, then Swan-on-the-Green
	Bex	17	10am, K&ES Railway Beer Fest Social. Contact branch.
	Bex	21	7pm, PoTY presentation, Penny Farthing, Crayford DA1 4JJ
	MMK	22	Stile Bridge , then Cock, Boughton Monchelsea
	Bex	24	12noon, Birthday Social in Rochester , meet at Eagle,
	MMK	24	1010am, Bus Trip to St Leonards and Salehurst
	GDV	24	14:30 Windmill, Gravesend – Beer Festival
	Bex	28	7.15pm, AGM, Kings Head, Bexley DA5 1AA
	MMK	29	Kings Head, Staplehurst, then Knoxbridge
July	MMK	6	730pm, Bat & Trap, Aylesford Rec., then Bush and Chequers
	MMK	11	1110am, Bus & Walk to Pett
	Bex	12	8:30pm, Brch Mtg, Door Hinge, Welling DA16 1TR
	GDV	12	Padwell Arms, Stone Street; George & Dragon, Ightham
	MMK	13	Nevill Bull, Birling, then Duke of Wellington, Ryarsh
	Bex	14	11:45am, Ealing Beer Fest Social, meet at Southwark Jubilee Line (Waterloo East Stn)
	MMK	20	Bell & Jorrock, Frittenden – Branch Open Business Meeting
	Bex	22	12noon, Bromley Beer Festival Social, Beckenham Rugby Club (Elmers End)
	MMK	22	100pm, COTY Celebration, Teston Club
	Bex	26	7pm, Meet the brewer, Kentish Belle, Bexleyheath DA7 4QW
August	MMK	27	730pm, Bat & Trap, Benenden, then Bull
	GDV	27	Malt Shovel, Dartford – Open Business Meeting
	MMK	29	957am, Bus Trip to Hartfield area
	MMK	1	1217pm, Bus & Walk to Fordcombe & Speldhurst
	MMK	3	Ringlestone, Harrietsham, then Roebuck, then Pepper Box
	GDV	4	Three Daws, Gravesend – Beer Festival
	MMK	5	1pm Robin's Beer Barn and brewery trip
	Bex	9	8:00pm, Brch Mtg and runner-up PoTY presentation, Broken Drum, Blackfen DA15 9PT
	MMK	10	Royal Albion, Maidstone, then Muggleton, then Brenchley
	MMK	17	Hawkenbury, Hawkenbury, then Lord Raglan
September	GDV	17	Railway, Sole Street; Cock, Golden Lion, Luddesdown
	Bex	19	11:15am, Swale and Faversham Micropub Social, meet at Dartford Stn
	Bex	23	7:30pm, PoTY and Cider PoTY presentation, Hackney Carriage, Sidcup DA15 7AA
	MMK	24	George, Leeds, then Plough, Langley
	MMK	26	1120am, Bus Trip to Three Tuns, Lower Halstow (Beer Festival)
	Bex	28	7:45pm, Monday Blues Social, start Broken Drum, Blackfen DA15 9PT
	MMK	31	Rising Sun, East Malling, then King & Queen - DC Distribution?
	GDV	1	George & Dragon, Swanscombe – Beer Festival
	MMK	2	East Malling Beer and Cider Festival ME19 6BJ

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