

Draught Copy



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Free Magazine

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

Autumn 2018

No. 192



CAMRA's **GOOD** **BEER** **GUIDE** 2019

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Beer and Pub Guide

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13 SEPTEMBER 2018

CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

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Draught Copy is the magazine of the Maidstone and Mid-Kent branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, also incorporating news from Bexley, and Gravesend & Darent Valley branches of CAMRA. It is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December and has a circulation of 3,200 copies. Opinions expressed are those of the author of the article, and need not represent those of CAMRA or its officials.

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Editor and Correspondence:

DraughtCopy.Editor@mmk.camra.org.uk

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

The copy date for the next issue is 21 October 2018 for publication in November/December 2018.

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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REAL ALE**

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Date

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FOR
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- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

LOCAL BEER & CIDER FESTIVALS

CAMRA Festivals:

September

- 1 **CAMRA's East Malling Beer and Cider Festival**
East Malling Research, New Rd, East Malling, ME19 6BJ
Website: www.mmk.camra.org.uk, Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Embeerfestival](https://twitter.com/Embeerfestival)
Opening times: 11am-7pm.
75+ real ales + wide selection of ciders and perries.
FREE festival bus service from Aylesford Rail Stn (1/2 hourly from 11.00) + W. Malling Rail Stn (hourly from 10.50), or walk from E. Malling Rail Stn – approx. 1 mile.
Admission: FREE for card-carrying CAMRA membs, £5 non-membs. Food, parking, live music, souvenir glass.
- 1/2 **Faversham Hop Festival, CAMRA Street Bar, Probably East St, Faversham, ME13 8AS**
Website: www.favershamhopfestival.org
Opening times: 10am until about 5.30pm both days.
Ever-changing selection of beers from 7 local breweries. Real cider from 3 local producers.

October

- 12/14 **10th Hampshire Oktoberfest**
Basingstoke Cricket Ground, Fairfields Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DR
Website: www.hampshireoktoberfest.co.uk
Opening times: Fri 5pm - midnight; Sat 11am - midnight; Sun 11am - 6.00pm.
Over 220 real ales, ciders and perries most originating in Hampshire (LocAle), plus live music. Beer in main marquee managed by local CAMRA volunteers. Upham sponsored bar in acoustic tent and a "quiet tent" selling Craft Ales, plus local food produce and gift stalls, activities, displays and other family attractions throughout the weekend. Sat and Sun daytime are especially family friendly.

November

- 1/3 **14th Redhill Beer Festival**
Merstham Village Hall, Station Rd North, Merstham, RH1 3ED
Website: www.camrasurrey.org.uk/festivals/festivals-redhill
Opening times: Thur & Fri 12pm - 11pm; Sat 12am - 6pm.
66 real ales and 10 ciders/perries. Admission, including the programme, on Thursday is £2 before 4pm and then £3, on Friday it is £2 before 4pm and then £4 and Saturday is free. CAMRA members get £1 off at all fee-paying sessions. Festival glasses are £3 which is refundable.

December

- 4/8 **35th Pigs Ear Beer & Cider Festival**
The Round Chapel, Glenarm Road/Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, E5 0LY
Website: www.pigsear.org.uk/festivals.htm
Opening times: 12noon-22:30 (Tues-Thurs), 23:00 (Fri/Sat).
Up to 230 Real Ales, Ciders, Perries, Foreign and Bottled Beers. Hot/Cold Food all sessions.
Admission: £3 (CAMRA members), £5 Non-members [£8 CAMRA members season ticket].

Other Events:

September

- 8 **Bexley Brewery 4th Birthday Bash**
Website: www.bexleybrewery.co.uk See Page 27 for more details.
- 28/30 **Compass Alehouse Anniversary Beer Festival,**
7 Manor Road, Gravesend DA12 1AA.

October

- 3/7 **The Cellars Alehouse Green Hop Beer Festival,**
The Old Brewery, Buckland Rd, Maidstone. ME16 0DZ
Noon until 11pm. Showcasing 20 green-hopped local beers.
Website: www.thecellarsalehouse.co.uk See Page 16 for more details.



"There's more in the barrel"

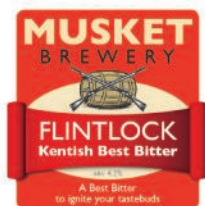


KENT BEERS!!

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!)



MATCHLOCK
3.8% Kentish Mild
(Spring/Summer brew!)



FLASH IN THE PAN
4.0% Green Hop Ale
(Only available in September!)



BALL PULLER
4.0% 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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"There's more in the barrel" at
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KENT BREWERIES

Bexley Brewery	01322 337368	www.bexleybrewery.co.uk
Boutilliers	07743 372434	www.boutilliers.com
Brew Buddies Ltd	07962 369717	www.brew-buddies.co.uk
Brumaison	07831 704089	www.brumaison.beer
Canterbury Ales	01227 732541	www.canterbury-ales.co.uk
Canterbury Brewers	01227 455899	www.thefoundrycanterbury.co.uk
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
Iron Pier Brewing	07900 234644	www.ironpier.beer
Isla Vale Alesmiths	01843 292451	www.islavalealesmiths.co.uk
Kent Brewery	01634 780037	www.kentbrewery.com
Larkins Brewery	01892 870328	www.larkinsbrewery.co.uk
Mad Cat Brewery Ltd	07960 263615	www.madcatbrewery.co.uk
Musket Brewery	07967 127278	www.musketbrewery.co.uk
Nelson Brewery	01634 832828	www.nelsonbrewery.co.uk
No Frills Joe Brewing Co	07516 725577	www.nofrillsjoe.co.uk
Old Dairy Brewery	01580 763867	www.olddairybrewery.com
Old Forge Brewery	01233 720444	www.thefarriersarms.com
Pig & Porter	01424 893519	www.pigandporter.co.uk
Ramsgate Brewery	01843 868453	www.ramsgatebrewery.co.uk
Range Ales	01303 230842	www.rangealesbrewery.co.uk
Ripple Steam Brewery	07917 037611	www.ripplesteambrewery.co.uk
Rockin' Robin Brewery	01622 747106	www.rockinrobinbrewery.co.uk
Romney Marsh Brewery	01797 362333	www.romneymarshbrewery.com
Shepherd Neame	01795 532206	www.shepherdneame.co.uk
Stag Brewery	07539 974068	www.stagbrewery.co.uk
Swan on the Green	01622 812271	www.swan-on-the-green.co.uk
Time & Tide	07840 327265	www.timeandtidebrewing.co.uk
Tír Dhá Ghlas Brewery	01304 211666	www.cullinsyard.co.uk/brewery
Tonbridge Brewery	07962 016286	www.tonbridgebrewery.co.uk
Turnstone Ales		See Facebook page
Wantsum Brewery	0845 0405980	www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk
Westerham Brewery Co.	01732 864427	www.westerhambrewery.co.uk
Whitstable Brewery	01622 851007	www.whitstablebrewery.co.uk

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



Kent Brewery
prohibition
american pale ale

A citrusy Pale Ale highly
hopped with some of the latest
US hop varieties.

4.8%

Kent Brewery
black gold
dark ale

A distinctive earthy
pine flavour. #4 in our
series.

4.5%

Kent Brewery
cobnut
pale ale

A multi-layered and aromatic
Pale Ale.

4%

Kent Brewery
black milk
dry-hopped ale

A traditional English milk
modern to can 100% extra
aroma and flavour.

5%

Kent Brewery
abbey 2016
strong belgian beer

A multi-layered flavoured
Brown Ale brewed with a special
Belgian yeast strain.

6.2%

Kent Brewery
KGB
kent golden bitter

A full-on dose of Goding
and Fuggles hops for a taste
of historic Kent.

4.1%

Kent Brewery
welfth night
barley wine

Kent Brewery
session pale
light pale ale

A light and hoppy session
beer with hints of citrus
and elderflower.

3.7%

Kent Brewery
rewers reserve
ale with attitude

A strong hop flavour of citrus
and resin with a delicate
malt background.

5%

Kent Brewery
porter
dark winter ale

A well-hopped dark ale
with hints of coffee
and chocolate.

5.5%

Kent Brewery
prohibition
american pale ale



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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	
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	
Nightingale Cider Co		www.nightingalecider.com
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

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Marden Village Club



CAMRA Maidstone & Mid-Kent Club of the Year 2018



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- Five real ales supporting Kent breweries
- Selection of cider, lager, wines, spirits and soft drinks
- All offered at club prices
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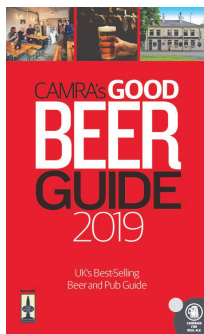
Find us on  @mardenvillageclub

Albion Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9DT
Tel: 01622 831427
Email: office@mardenvillageclub.co.uk
www.mardenvillageclub.co.uk

Affiliated to the Kent Association of Working Mens Clubs & Institutes (1996)

GOOD BEER GUIDE 2019

Cask Marque, the independent evaluator of beer quality in pubs, is sponsoring CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide 2019*, due to be published on 13 September. Fully revised and updated each year to feature the very best pubs across the United Kingdom, CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide* is completely independent, with every one of its 4,500 pub listings recommended and evaluated by people who know a thing or two about good beer – CAMRA volunteers.



Simon Hall, Head of Publishing at CAMRA said: "It is fantastic to have Cask Marque's involvement once again to highlight the pubs serving the very best-kept real ale in the *Good Beer Guide*. Cask Marque has played an important role in quality-assuring beer and pubs for a number of years, and it is great that CAMRA and Cask Marque can work together to provide consumers with the very best beer knowledge available."

Paul Nunny, Director of Cask Marque said: "The *Good Beer Guide* is still the leading publication listing the best pubs in Britain and will be celebrating its 46th year of publication. An entry in the book can have a significant impact on the awareness of a pub, which is why we continue to lend our support to this publication."

The *Good Beer Guide App* is also available to download from Apple stores and Google Play and can be downloaded at <https://gbgapp.camra.org.uk/>

SIREN'S BROKEN DREAM BREAKFAST STOUT IS BEST IN BRITAIN



Siren Brewery based in Berkshire has won the Campaign for Real Ale's prestigious Champion Beer of Britain award, one of the highest accolades in the beer industry.

Broken Dream Breakfast Stout (6.5% ABV) scooped gold thanks to its deep and complex blend of chocolate, coffee and a touch of smoke. The judges commented that it stood out for its aroma, taste and finish. The decision was made following a year of local tasting panels and regional heats in which the very best beers across the UK were invited to compete at the Great British Beer Festival. Final judging for the competition was held as the festival opened its doors on 7 August.

The silver winner this year went to Suffolk-based *Green Jack's Ripper* (8.5% ABV), a barley wine that is both dangerously smooth and yet well-hopped.

Bronze was taken by Tyne & Wear-based *Mordue* for their *Workie Ticket* (4.5% ABV). A complex and tasty bitter, this brew boasts plenty of malt and hops and a long, satisfying, bitter finish.

The Flower Pot

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2010, 2011 & 2017**

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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

Bull, Benenden – Following a game of Bat & Trap on the green we retired to the bar and then to the outside tables where *Larkins Traditional Ale*, *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Dark Star Hophead* were consumed and all scored well. No one opted for the guest ale *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*.

Red Lion, Biddenden – Here in the only remaining village pub/restaurant we found *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, both of which went down well.

Nevill Bull, Birling - Closed mid-July. New licensee expected in September.



Larkin's Alehouse, Cranbrook – On a Wealden bus trip we were joined by some stalwarts from our neighbouring branch and spent a while in here whilst waiting for the next bus. An unfamiliar selection of brews was found. The *Weltons Buckland Shag*, having used a lightly smoked

peated malt possessed a somewhat TCP nose; single malt whisky drinkers may have found it more to their taste. The other guests were *Weltons English Pride*, *Wantsum Moore* and best of all *Whitstable Single Hop Motueka*.

Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden – Announced as the branch Pub of the Year. A presentation was made to Sean and Rosie during our recent business meeting. Congratulations to all for their hard work and commitment.



Dirty Habit, Hollingbourne – Usually busy but we managed to find a table in this, the first of the three Hollingbourne pubs. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter*, *Timothy Taylor Boltmaker* and *Westerham Grasshopper Kentish Bitter* were our choices. *Sharps Doom Bar* was also available.

Sugar Loaves, Hollingbourne – It was busy here as a quiz was in progress. The permanent *Greene King IPA* was accompanied by *Fuller's ESB*, *Ringwood Razorback* and *Timothy Taylor Boltmaker*, on gravity this time.

Windmill, Hollingbourne – Fairly quiet in here as the early diners had left. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* was not tried as *Kent Cobnut* and *Sharp's Atlantic IPA* were favoured, having not been seen so far that evening. The garden now has a covered decking area with a barbeque.



Spitfire, Kings Hill – Re-opened in May with interior building changes. The central staircase has been removed allowing more space on the ground floor. The upstairs now has two function rooms. The garden area has many tables and an enclosed play area for children. Up a few steps to the left of the bar is a small restaurant

area. The bar area is now more pleasant and the noise level seems to have been reduced a little.

Knoxbridge Inn, Knoxbridge – A late evening call here found the 'hard to find' *Harveys IPA* that proved to be in good form as did *Colchester Jack Spitty*. The poker evenings did not prove popular and no longer take place but several events are held here during the year.

Cellars Alehouse, Maidstone – This has been awarded the Kent Cider Pub of the Year. There are usually a dozen or more ciders and perries from around the country available. Often five ales and a few KeyCask ales are listed as well. During the Green Hopped ale period Oct 3-7 twenty casks will be on sale for those that like their ales 'hoppy'.

Fox, Maidstone – Our branch meeting here coincided with an England World Cup match. The pub was crowded with locals but rapidly emptied at full time. *Greene King IPA* and *Morland Old Speckled Hen* available this time but there is usually one guest ale.

Herbalist, Maidstone – Opened on May 25 has space mainly given to the restaurant but also has a modest size drinking area. There is a pizza oven

THE CELLARS ALEHOUSE

MAIDSTONE'S MICROPUB

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BEER FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 3rd-7th
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Live music every Friday - Free entry.

Quiz nights, darts and football teams.

Dogs (on a lead) welcome
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Check our Facebook
page for opening
times.



Visit the website for full details of
events:
www.thewalnuttreemaidsstone.com

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





in use for the restaurant and for takeaways as well. In the centre (left in the picture) are two large containers for Staropramen, a 5% Czech lager. Downstairs is Junipers which operates as a cocktail bar. *Harveys Sussex Best Bitter* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* were on the bar on opening,

together with the local brew *Musket Trigger*.

Pippin, Maidstone – Re-opened July 10 following a refit. Large pub concentrating on food but plenty of liquid refreshment is available. Lots of seating is provided at the front and rear in addition to the interior. An unusual point is that some of the light fittings



were once decanters but have had the bottoms removed. *Greene King IPA* and *Abbot*, *Sharp's Doom Bar* and a guest ale are kept.

Walnut Tree, Maidstone – The customary comedy evening was taking place but we found a table outside. *Sharp's Doom Bar* and a football themed ale *Marston's Hit the Bar* were available but the permanent *Goachers Fine Light Ale* proved the popular choice.



Ringlestone Inn, Ringlestone – Having been shut for a while, as the tenants had left, this ancient isolated Shepherd Neame pub was put up for auction. It was sold after the auction but

it is not known whether it will re-open.

Bell, Smarden – An old country pub in the Shepherd Neame stable. Very quiet when we arrived but the restaurant may have been busy earlier. *Spitfire* and *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* were the ales on the bar, we settled for the latter which went down well.



Swan on the Green, West Peckham – Bat & Trap on the green again before we retired to the bar. An Australian couple seemed intrigued with the game, taking copious pictures so that they might make a set for use back home. Headcorn Morris had a stand there that evening,

providing entertainment. The Swan's own ales were *Fuggles Pale*, *Trumpeter Best*, *Chinook Gold*, *Citra* and *Ginger Swan*. The *Chinook Gold* was particularly popular. The brewer usually joins in with making Green Hopped beers ready for late Sept/Oct, a good time to visit.



Boathouse, Yalding – A sum of £1.3m has been spent in refitting this Shepherd Neame house which re-opened on 26 March. Unfortunately it was put out of action a couple of weeks later due to a fire in the kitchen. This was previously the Anchor Hotel but accommodation has given way to an emphasis on food. There is a large

outdoor riverside area with tables as well as the restaurant inside the new extension. The old thatched building remains as a drinking area. Kelly Britcher is the new manager. On an early visit the pumps had *Whitstable Bay Pale Ale* and *Spitfire*.



The Chequers Inn

Laddingford, nr Yalding

Kent ME18 6BP

Tel: 01622 871266

www.chequersladdingford.co.uk

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www.bexley.camra.org.uk

Greetings from all at Bexley CAMRA.

By the time you read this, the 13th Bexley CAMRA Beer Festival will be over; see report elsewhere in this magazine.

In pub news, the sad news is that the **Belvedere Hotel** has closed and is up for sale, probably not as a pub., however our ninth micropub has opened. The **Hangar**, situated in The Oval in Blackfen, opened in mid-June, on the same day as our branch held its AGM.



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 John Connor on 07958 539755 or bexleypubs@yahoo.co.uk. The easiest way for you to do this though is when you are in the pub, log on to www.whatpub.com 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 in our branch area, simply go to www.whatpub.com and find the pub, go to submit beer score and follow the simple instructions.

Our monthly branch meetings have taken place on the second Wednesday of each month as usual, both our May and July meetings took place in the **Door Hinge** in Welling. Thanks to Ray for accommodating us and thanks also to the committee at the **Montrose Club**, in Sidcup, for their hospitality when we held our own AGM there in June. At the AGM, a full committee was elected for the forthcoming year with some new faces replacing some retiring members who were standing down for various reasons.

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



In April we held a pre-festival social and final meeting at the **Dartfordians Community Social Club**. In May, apart from the Beer Festival, we held a cider social at the Kentish Belle and a walkabout social in Bexleyheath visiting the newly re-furbished **Kings Arms**, the **Rose** and ending in the **Wrong 'Un**.

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www.bexleybrewery.co.uk

Open on Friday's 11.30am-3.30pm
Look out for our 4th Birthday Bash
on Saturday 8th of September!



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100

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Wednesday
5.30-10pm

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5.30-10pm

Friday
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Our final social in May was a trip to Kidbrooke Beer Festival at the end of what had proven to be a very busy month for the branch.



In June, sadly no-one turned up for the ramble planned to take place between Bexley and Sidcup and as a result the event was cancelled at the last minute, meaning that the only social we had was the presentation of the pub of the year award to Andy Wheeler at the **Broken Drum**.

In July, we have presented both the runner up and third place pub of the year certificates to Bob & Bev Baldwin at the **Penny Farthing**



and Ray Hurley at the **Door Hinge** respectively.



Some of the members also made the journey over to Crystal Palace to join Bromley, South East London and Croydon & Sutton branches in their annual crawl around the area. Crystal Palace is where the boundaries of all three branches meet and an excellent afternoon visiting pubs within



each of the three branches was had by all who attended. We also had a crawl around all nine of our branch micropubs. The order was: **Kentish Belle** >Train> **Bird & Barrel** >89 bus> **Door Hinge** > 51 bus> **Broken Drum** > 51 bus > **Hangar** > B13 bus > **Halfway House** > 286 bus > **Hackney Carriage**

> 51 bus > **Hoppers Hut** > 492 bus > **Penny Farthing**. I would like to thank the pubs for accommodating us.

At the date of the deadline for submission, we have a social planned to Epping & Ongar Railway Festival and also the Cider Pub of the



Year presentation to Liz & Mark Twort at the **Hackney Carriage**. Together with visits to both the Great Welling Round Table Beer Festival and Beckenham Beer Festival.

Contact: Adrian Moss (01474 363102) / Peter Cook (01322 270589 / 07913 500414)
 email: gdvcamra@yahoo.co.uk www.gdv.camra.org.uk



Certificates were duly presented to the branch Pub of the Year for 2018; the **Old House**, Ightham Common, and the two runners-up, the **Compass Alehouse**, Gravesend, and the **Bull**, Horton Kirby. At the **Old House** there was a double celebration as it was also acknowledged as the branch Cider Pub of the Year. The pub's stock of wooden casks are alive and well and at the time of the visit *Hopdaemon Incubus* and *Green Daemon* were being served from two of them. Others were away being filled at *Goachers* and *Larkins*.

In the far south of our area the **Plough** at Basted has recently landscaped a formerly untidy garden into a welcoming sun trap. This pub regularly serves *Harveys Best Bitter*, *Larkins Traditional*, *St. Austell Tribute* and a guest ale, often from *Harveys* or *Larkins*. The food is home-prepared, with Wednesday steak evenings, Friday fresh fish nights and traditional Sunday lunchtime roasts. Also close to Borough Green is the **Blue Anchor** at St. Mary's Platt, a *Greene King* tied house with a guest beer, *Timothy Taylor Landlord* on a June visit. This pub also has an extensive garden with interesting wooden features, including a children's play area with a swing-boat, seesaw and slide. There is also a bird house hollowed out of a tree trunk and a large wooden decking patio area.

As well as the hot weather, pubs at the time of writing were being affected by the shortage of industrial carbon dioxide. Real ale of course is a net generator of this gas and we drinkers of it can afford to feel a bit smug at this point. A pleasantly curious consequence was reported from the **Rising Sun** at Twitton which, being unable to sell *Fosters* and *Amstel* during the shortage, found that sales of *Dark Star Hophead* and particularly *St Austell Tribute* increased dramatically.

The real ale scene in Swanley improved dramatically with the opening of two new outlets. The **Cotton Mill** micropub in Station Road opened on June 2. The building, shared with a taxi office, is a former public toilet block which has been renovated by the owners





into a comfortable single room featuring a tiled floor with inlaid bottle tops in a mosaic pattern. Four handpumps dispense predominantly local ales, with *Brew Buddies* beers featuring regularly. *Iron Pier Bitter*, *Kent Brewery Black Gold* and *Tiny Rebel Cwtch* were in excellent condition in June. Eight boxed ciders and four craft keg beers are also available. The pub is open from noon until 10pm every day (it may close earlier on Sundays). There is a pleasant outdoor drinking area with plans for extension and beer festivals. 10% discount on real ales to card carrying CAMRA members.

The **Brew Buddies Brewery and Tap Room** opened on site at Swanley Village over the Whitsun Bank Holiday. The bar is open from midday to 10pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 8pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. Three *Brew Buddies* ales are served direct from the cask with one key keg beer, up to six ciders, various wines and a gin also on sale.

The recent closure of the **Ship** in Sutton at Hone has led to increased trade in both the **Jolly Millers** and the **Queen** in South Darenth. The **Jolly Millers** has three handpumps, with *Sharp's Doom Bar* and two revolving guests from such as *Canterbury*, *Dartford Wobbler* and *Lister's*. The landlord is



hoping to add a fourth handpump as trade grows. The **Queen** has been equipped with a fifth handpump and the plan is to put a permanent stout or porter on this towards the autumn.

Very late news as this was being written was that the **Ship** had re-opened with a couple of real ales (*Timothy Taylor Boltmaker* and *Skinners Betty Stogs* were enjoyed on a recent visit).

At the **Bull** at Horton Kirby; one handpump is currently serving a cider leaving the other four for *Dark Star Hophead* and three ever-changing beers. The new outside bar in the garden is open on busy days to take pressure off the main bar and also has one handpump. For the late May bank holiday an additional four beers were on stillage in the bar.

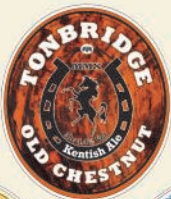
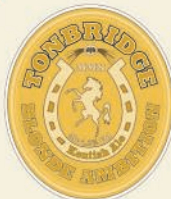
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In Dartford, the **Foresters** is currently undergoing refurbishment but remains open selling good quality real ales. The long-awaited micropub in Market Street opened on July 13 as the **Dartford Jug**. Its opening hours are noon to 11, seven days a week(see page 40 for details). Very late news was the planning application for another micropub in the town. Again there should be more news of all these next time.

The **Alma** in Swanscombe closed as predicted in April, and this looks as if it may be permanent. A temporary closure in the same area is that of **No Frills Joe's Taproom** at Greenhithe, for refurbishment. As part of this the brewing equipment from *Caveman* is being installed.

News from Northfleet has not often come to light but the **Earl Grey** is being redecorated externally in the latest *Shepherd Neame* style. The **Coach & Horses** can obtain real ales from the SIBA range as well as those on the standard Enterprise list.



In Gravesend the **Compass** is now in the hands of John, Rachel and Carrie. Closing time on Tuesday to Thursday is later at 10pm and up to five ciders are available with a craft keg beer line to be fitted, to serve specials such as saisons or Trappist brews. Around the corner, the **Invicta Bar** has had an outside seating area since June. The new food menu has been launched, with small and large dishes available until 9pm (not Tuesday or Thursday at the time of writing). Four real ciders are now offered, with one on handpump. On a recent visit one was from *Purbeck* and the others from *Snails Bank* in Herefordshire. The other two handpumps had *Salcombe Gold* and *Mad Cat Serious Plottin'*.

The **Jolly Drayman** serves lunches every day with restaurant service on Sundays. There is a themed food night on the last Saturday of each month, with Caribbean food due in September, Italian in October and Thai in November. A quiz has been held on alternate Tuesdays recently and live bands have been performing in the garden on some Sunday

afternoons as well as the regular event on the first Saturday of each month.

The **See Ho** at Shorne is now under common ownership with the **Three Crutches** outside Strood. The previously dark interior is now bright and includes a restaurant, and the garden has been improved. *Otter Bitter*, *St Austell Tribute* and *Sharp's Doom Bar* were available at the time of our



visit. Also in Shorne, the **Rose & Crown**, which has a more traditional two-bar decor, had *Fuller's London Pride* and *Wells Bombardier*.

James Hayward of *Iron Pier* supplied a comprehensive update on their activities. *Perry Street Pale* is brewed with US Amarillo, Centennial and Simcoe hops and at 3.7%ABV it replaces *American Pale*. Also new is *Wealdway IPA* (4.5%ABV) brewed with Columbus, Cascade and Chinook hops. They have also begun selling a few wholesale beers as well as their own at the request of some local pubs, as the demise of AVS has left a bit of a hole in the specialist wholesale market.



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Porter 4.7% ABV



Single hop 4.5% ABV



Best Bitter 4.6% ABV



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Tile games of some form have been found from around 1120 AD in China. Chinese dominoes are longer than Western ones and are divided into two types. They were originally carved from bone or ivory with the indented pips made of ebony. Each Chinese tile represents one of the twenty-one different permutations of throwing two cubic dice, although there are a total of thirty-two tiles since certain dominoes are duplicated. A set of Chinese tiles is divided into two categories - Military and Civilian. The Civilian tiles are the set of tiles that have duplicates while the Military tiles are those that are unique. A variety of different games were, and still are, played with these tiles and the much more modern tile game of Mah-Jong evolved from Chinese Dominoes.

The game appeared first in China in the 14th Century but the first recorded reference in Europe is from Italy where they were played in the courts of Venice and Naples. The tiles were originally constructed by gluing and pinning two sheets of ebony on either side of the bone tile. This prevented cheating by being able to see the pip value from the back of the tile in certain lights. It also served to produce nice contrasting white pips on black background by allowing the bone to show through holes in the ebony. The pin through the middle of the tile became known as the "spinner", for obvious reasons. Although tiles have not been constructed in this way for centuries, tradition has maintained the spinner which can still be found on many modern sets. Many players feel that it is still of benefit since it makes the tiles more easy to shuffle and protects their faces.

Although domino tiles are clearly of Chinese inheritance, there is debate over whether the game played by Europeans was brought by the Chinese to Europe in the eighteenth century or, in fact, invented independently. European dominoes are shorter than Chinese ones and there is a single tile for each permutation of the throw of two dice or a blank making a total of twenty-eight tiles. This is the standard or "double-six" set and, as in China, various games can be played with it. Double-twelve sets (91 tiles) are popular in America and Double-nine sets (55 tiles) also exist.

The game arrived in Britain in the late 18th Century from France (possibly via French prisoners of war) and quickly seems to have become popular in inns and taverns at the time. The word "Domino" is French for a black and white hood worn by Christian priests in winter which is probably where the name of the game derives from.

Dominoes, or variants of it, are played in almost all countries of the world but it is most popular in Latin America.

Dominos – The Draw Game

There are many different sets of rules and variations for the game of dominoes. The draw game is one of the easy basic games with dominoes, and the rules for this are set out below.

Object of the game: The game is for 2 to 4 players, The first player to score 100 or more points wins the game, or for a short game, play to a total of 50 points (to be agreed in advance).

The deal: All bones (dominoes) are shuffled face down.

There is some discussion how many each player should draw. Hoyle's rules of games, suggests 7 dominoes each for 2 players, and 5 dominoes when 3 or 4 play. The remaining dominoes (bones) are left in the middle and are the stock, usually called boneyard. Every player keeps his dominoes secret. He places them on their long edges in such a way that only he himself can see them.

To start, the player with the highest double puts it in the middle. This is called setting the highest domino. The turn then rotates to his left.

For those who wonder how dominoes can remain secret while sorting out who holds the highest double, one player asks: does anyone hold double 6? If anyone holds it, that player responds by setting it. If no one sets, the player asks: does anyone hold double 5?

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And so on down until double 0. In the rare case that no one holds a double, players shuffle and draw again.

The rules:

- All bones played must be played to a free end and must match numbers.
Example:  matches 
- The layout always has two open ends, each sprouting from one of the long side of the starting double.
- If a player can not legally play a bone, he must draw from the boneyard until he can play. If the boneyard is exhausted, he must pass.
- Doublets are placed crosswise.
- It is allowed to draw from the boneyard while a player can play a bone.

Strategy:

- Play your doubles whenever you can: your chances of being able to play a double are half of any other domino.
- Keep your own hand as varied as possible: the more different numbers are in your hand the greater the chance of being able to respond to dominoes played by your fellow players.
- Try to deduce what dominoes other players have in hand; if a player draws 5 bones when the open ends are 3 and 1, do not respond to 3's and 1's played by the third or fourth player when you have another option open to you.

The end: The game ends when one player goes domino (plays his last bone) or when all players have consecutively passed.

The player who dominoes or, if everyone passed, the player with the least number of spots on dominos in their hand, scores points equal to the number of spots on the dominoes in the hands of all other players.

Variations: The number of bones dealt at start varies in different parts of the world. The game can be played with larger sets, such as the double 9 game or even the double twelve set.

- With the double 9 set, play starts with bones added to both long sides and both short sides of the first middle, thus giving four branches and four free ends to add a bone to at all times.
- With the double 12 set, bones are added to all four sides and all four corners, thus giving eight free ends to play to.
- No bone may be played until both sides (in larger sets: all sides) of the initial double have been played to.



Once again, the Maidstone and Mid-Kent (MMK) branch of CAMRA supported MENCAP by organising and running a beer bar at their annual fayre, held in Mote Park on Saturday, June 9th. This was the nineteenth

year that MMK CAMRA had supported MENCAP in this way with several local breweries and pubs donated firkins of beer for this worthy cause, for which we are very grateful. Thanks to their generosity, I was pleased to be able to present the following beers:

Larkin's Traditional- donated by Larkin's, Chiddingstone.

Musket Fife & Drum

- donated by Musket, Linton.

Kent Pale

- donated by the Flower Pot, Maidstone.

Rockin' Robin Putin the net

- donated by Rockin' Robin, Boughton Monchelsea.

Goacher's Mild

- donated by Goachers, Tovil.

Courage Best

- donated by the Wheatsheaf, Maidstone.

Several of my fellow MMK branch members helped with the collection of beer, setup of the bar and serving on the day. All beers were priced at £3 a pint in order to persuade the visitors that they could afford to enjoy a glass of real ale and support a charity at the same time. Fortunately, the weather was kind as it was a sunny afternoon and we were able to sell most of the beer and raise the sum of £1,050.

This was a very satisfying result, so thank you to the above breweries and pubs, everyone who helped and to those who supported us on the day.



HAVE BUS PASS, WILL TRAVEL!

by Jeff Tucker

I became ancient enough a few years ago to qualify for a 'wrinkly' bus pass, and have endeavoured to use it as often as possible. Some bus pass holders seem to think that it can only be used in their local area, but it is in fact valid anywhere in England, except before 9.30am or after 11.00pm during the week, or on coaches and a few 'special' services.

In these days of the internet, planning bus journeys is a lot easier, with most enlightened counties providing a full network map and individual timetables online.

Over the years I have discovered that day trips to places like Horsham, Worthing and Brighton are easy, as long as you like travelling by bus! There is usually a pub or two of interest along the route.

Travel is also possible northwards from Kent into Essex, and somewhere like Chelmsford is do-able, especially on Saturdays, when an earlier start is possible.

Obviously, when planning long trips that involve pubs, careful planning is needed to allow for recycling of used beer later in the day!



A few years ago, on one of our branch's annual Vintage Coach Trips, we visited a lovely Essex pub, the **Hoop** at Stock, near Chelmsford. I worked out that I could comfortably get there and back on a weekday, so off I set.

The 151 leaves from the end of my road at 09.32, and this took me to Chatham, where I caught the frequent 700 to Bluewater, overtaking the lorries on the A2. Bluewater has a useful bus station, with routes in all directions. Apparently, there are some shops there, too!

Ensignbus route X80 runs hourly between Bluewater and Lakeside, mainly for shopaholics, I suppose. Lakeside is like Bluewater, but with a branch of Poundland (I kid you not!).

In Essex, a useful route is First's 100, which runs every 15 minutes,



connecting Lakeside, Grays, Stanford-le-Hope, Basildon, Billericay and Chelmsford. Lots of lovely pubs along the way, but it takes two hours from end to end.

Leaving Lakeside, the 100 passes through a series of grey housing estates, interspersed by sections of open countryside, before reaching the rather nice town of Billericay, which has three excellent pubs, including a brewery tap.

Ten minutes further on is the chocolate-box village of Stock, where the bus stops right opposite the **Hoop** pub. The Hoop is a delightful 15th century weatherboarded pub, with a wealth of beams inside.

Five real ales are sold, and the food is good, too. I had the best prawn sandwich I have had in years. After pints of *Pitchfork Goldbine* and *Calvors American Red*, it was time to start the return journey.

It would have been possible to spend another three hours in Essex, and still get home by bus, but I opted to be indoors soon after 7pm, with a short stop in the 10:50 **from Victoria** micropub in Strood.



I'm sure that if I had told them in the **Hoop** that I had arrived by bus from near Maidstone, they would have been impressed (or something!).

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HARVEY'S BREWERY

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was voted

Beer of the Festival

*"Something Old, Something new,
Sussex gathered, Sussex brewed!"*

WE WUNT BE DRUV



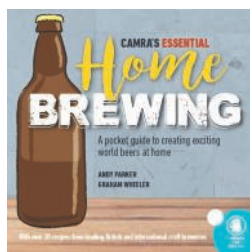
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NEW POCKET GUIDE FOR HOMEBREWERS

CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing is the must-have new pocket guide book for both old hands and novice homebrewers.

Ever since real ale captured the nation's imagination in the 1970s, dedicated beer lovers have been trying to brew their own, to replicated some of the fantastic recipes out there.

Even if you have never brewed before or your brewing kit is gathering dust up on the shelf, CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing can help you get started on a new, exciting hobby. For old hands at brewing, you can expand your brewing repertoire with over 30 recipes from leading British and international craft brewers.

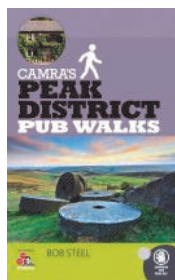
Easy-to-follow instructions and a variety of beer styles and recipes make this the perfect companion to suit everyone's taste.

Written by Andy Parker, brewer and owner of Elusive Brewing, and Graham Wheeler, internationally-renowned authority on home brewing, CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing provides an introduction to homebrewing in a way that is easy to understand and follow.

CAMRA's latest title retails for £11.99 (£7.99 with the CAMRA members discount).

For more information, or to order your copy, visit:

<https://shop.camra.org.uk/books/home-brewing-beer-knowledge/essential-home-brewing.html>



EXPLORING THE PEAKS

The third edition of CAMRA's Peak District Pub Walks is a pocket-sized travellers' guide to some of the best walking and pubs in the Peak District. The breath-taking views and rolling mountains of the Peak District have long captured public imagination, and are home to some of the most unique and isolated pubs in the UK.

Peak District Pub Walks will guide budding hikers through this stunning national park, highlighting some of the best walking and best pubs in the area, with options for any skill set and ability.

Written by Bob Steel, a geographer by profession and keen walker, this book explores some of the region's fascinating industrial heritage. It also contains useful information about local transport and accommodation. Since its last edition, it has been completely updated to reflect changes to the Peak District pub and beer scene.

If you wore the last edition down, the third edition includes new or altered routes and many new pubs to explore and enjoy. Easy-to-use ordnance survey maps and concise route information make it perfect to guide both casual walks and more serious hikes. Peak District Pub Walks 3rd edition retails for £12.99 (£9.99 with the CAMRA members discount). For more information and to order your copy, visit:

<https://shop.camra.org.uk/pdpw.html>

13TH CAMRA BEXLEY BEER FESTIVAL

When we arrived on Monday morning, to unload the stillage, cooling equipment, bars and other paraphernalia necessary to provide a Beer Festival, it was raining and had been raining for some time. The marquee was up, but full of ponds, with the water at the boundary edge, swamp like. Thank you to all the volunteers who braved the storm to unload and put the stillage together. Tuesday saw lots of water, but no rain, so Beer/Cider/Perry could be loaded on to the stillage, again thank you to those who turned up to help.



Wednesday saw more rain as the inside of the marquee slowly turned into a Beer Festival. The final decisions of positioning had been left until Thursday and thanks to the grounds man, the water had almost dried out in the marquee, and we were able to open for 2pm.

A week earlier than the past few years, normally after the first May Bank Holiday, the sun shone and people were able to sit outside. Opening earlier on Thursday rewarded us with 408 customers. As usual Friday was the busier day with 1,008 people attending, overall the festival was visited by 900 non-CAMRA members and 714 CAMRA members , plus



97 under the age of 26 whom we let in free, so a total of 1,711, our second highest.

Now at Dartfordian's Community Sports Club, War Memorial Clubhouse, Bourne Road, Bexley for the sixth year running, lasting two and a half days (opening Thursday at 2pm) and with 93 (plus 10 spare) different Beers, 23 Ciders and 2 Perries available for the customers to drink, we added another 5 beers, courtesy of Bexley Brewery and 4 ciders. Although we did not sell out and had 32 beers and 5 ciders still on when we closed at 8pm, it was still a success.

Beer of the festival, by customer vote, was *Iron Pier Brewery's "Bitter"* (4%) followed by *Brew Buddies "Mosaic"* (4.2%), and *Ascot Brewery's "10th Anniversary Imperial Breakfast Stout"* (8%) joint second. Cider/Perry was won by *Harry's (of Somerset) "Haymaker"* (6.2%) with *West Croft (also Somerset) "Janet's Jungle Juice"* second.

Ye Olde Thirsty Pig Kentish Ale & Cider House

CAMRA Discount – 20p Pint

**Happy Hour Mondays – 50p Pint
between 18:30 to 20:30!!**

**OAP (70+) Discount all times draught
lagers, ales and cider -50p Pint**

**Bluelight discount for all active members
of the emergency services, Police,
Ambulance, Prison Officers, Fire Service
Personnel and HM Armed Services –
0.20p Pint**

**Only one discount at a time discounts will not
be combined together**

BIFF BANG POW!

VINYL DJ SET

Tunes from then until now
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Rock/Soul/New Wave
Punk/Pop/Rock

Ye Olde Thirsty Pig
44, Southgate Street,
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**1st Saturday every month
Open to Midnight**



Ye Olde Thirsty Pig was built in the 15th Century and is said to be the third oldest building in Maidstone. Originally it was a farmhouse within the estate of the Archbishop's Palace.

We welcome you to our quaint and quirky multi award winning Kentish Ale & Cider House with a Bar Area, downstairs Snug and corridor to the Courtyard Beer Garden, Upstairs to the Main Room leading to the Toilets and the fully refurbished Function Room.

Opening Hours

Sunday to Thurs 12:00 noon to 01:00am

Friday 12:00 noon to 02:00am

Saturday 12:00 noon to 03:00am



4 Local Ales from Award Winning Kent Breweries!!!

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Lagers | Whitstable Bay Blonde contemporary Kentish lager |
| | Curious Brew Kentish lager |
| | Motorhead Roadcrew American style session pale ale |
| | Spitfire Lager Kentish lager |
| | Fosters an easy-drinking lager |
| | Kronenbourg 1664 France's bestselling lager |
| | Paulaner Munchen German Lager |
| Ciders | Biddenden Bushels Kentish strong still cider |
| | Section of boxed Kentish Cider |



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





THE DARTFORD JUG

We are proud to announce the arrival of The Dartford Jug – a brand new community micropub in the heart of Dartford, Kent.

We serve real ales straight from the barrel (from £3 a pint), a wide selection of bottled craft beers, cider and wine.

Our traditional pub snacks (from £3.60) include hand finished Pork Pie, Scotch Eggs and a Cheese Board.



Come and visit us at: 8 Market Street, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1ET.

We are open daily from 12pm to 11pm.

Tel: 01322 276600 Web: thedartfordjug.co.uk Facebook: @thedartfordjug

THE MALLING JUG

The original Jug! Like our new sister micropub, The Dartford Jug, we also serve real ales straight from the barrel, bottled craft beers, cider, wine and high-quality traditional pub snacks.



Come and visit us at: 52 High Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6LU.

We are open daily from 12pm to 9pm (except Tuesdays).

Tel: 01732 667832 Web: themallingjug.co.uk Facebook: @themallingjug

The first cask to run out was *"Bitter"* (4.0%) from *Iron Pier* of Gravesend, followed by a Mild from the *Broken Drum Home Brew*, *Gaspode Mild* (3.4%), named after a dog in Terry Pratchett's Discworld series of books. *"Gaspode is named after 'the famous Gaspode', a dog who, upon his master's death, stayed at the graveside howling until he died (possibly because the gravestone was on his tail)" - Terry Pratchett*



Again, there was a great selection of dark beers, 13 milds, 11 porters and 10 stouts along with 2 wheat beers, a honey beer and a ginger beer. If we awarded a prize for unusual names then perhaps *"ThalIPA"*, *"Dark Side of the Toon"* or *"Franc in Stein"* would have won.

Our Chairman and Staffing Officer, Roland Amos, agreed to have his quite substantial beard shaved off for our featured charity, raising in total, along with customer donations from unspent beer cards £551. A cheque was presented to the Mayor and Mayoress, Peter Reader and his wife Irene, for their chosen charity, the Bexley and Dartford Branch of Parkinson's UK.



Our grateful thanks go to everyone who supported and sponsored us: Westerham and Bexley Breweries for the glasses, J D Wetherspoon for the staff t-shirts via Smart T's. The Door Hinge, Hackney Carriage, Kentish Belle and Penny Farthing, for sponsoring our Beer Cards. Nina and Adele at Flying Firkin for their help and patience in sorting our beer list. Keith Holbrook, Club Steward, for all his help and advice (who was presented with the Bexley Club of the Year award at the festival, by our Chairman Roland Amos) and Karl Husher for transport duties.

You may have noticed (and a lot of you did) that our old stalwart Vic Beale was missing as Bar Director, well a beer festival means spending a long time on your feet and Vic is a perfectionist, he had trouble last year and being of the "if I can't give 100%" had chosen to step down. Much

missed by both staff and customers, we wish him well.

This festival was staffed and organised by volunteers of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) who gave up their free time to make it such an enjoyable event, indeed, without whom it would not exist, thank you for your help. Great to see so many for setup/take down.

Compliments to our new Bar Manager John Conner, Site Manager Pat and Door/Glasses Manager Alan, Adrian for our Tombola and Membership, Anna who encouraged people to join CAMRA and the boss, Mr Andy Wheeler, who after 2 years is getting the hang of it ...

P.S. And so to the cricket on Saturday, this year Dartfordians 1st XI were in action against Chislehurst & West Kent CC.

Darts won the toss and elected to bat, scoring 231 in their 50 overs (including 53 extras with 29 wides), Chislehurst started badly, losing their first 5 wickets for a measly 6 runs, before being bowled out for 27 in 20.1 overs.

EAST MALLING BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL COMPETITION ANSWERS

Many correct entries were received for the Beer Festival Competition in the last Draught Copy. The winners were chosen after this issue went to press, and they will have received their tickets. A list of people supplying correct entries will be in the next issue. The answers were:

1	O	R	G	A	N	I	S	T	
2	C	O	N	V	E	R	S	E	
3	S	P	O	R	T				
4	I	M	P	L	E	M	E	N	T
5	A	F	T	E	R	N	O	O	N
6	D	U	L	L					
7	S	H	A	F	T				
8	C	E	R	T	A	I	N		
9	M	E	D	I	A				
10	C	A	P	O	N				
11	L	E	V	E	L				
12	P	L	U	M					
13	S	T	U	M	P				
14	A	S	K	E	W				
15	A	F	T	E	R	S			

Somehow roasting a musician
Talk opposite
Tennis wear
Bring in the tool
P Mon one raft, bobbing around
Matt is boring
Axle is a piece of rubbish, after all
Some are positive
I made a mess of the papers, for example
Castrated chicken wearing a hat
Be honest about the flat
Highly desirable fruit
Be too hard for some of the best umpires
Wonky, like the famous Gardens in London
The pudding is stirred faster

and the pub was the 'Plume Of Feathers'.

PAUL SIMONS

It's with great sadness that Bexley Branch reports the death of Paul Simons whose involvement in CAMRA, particularly at beer festivals, was immense.

Paul Simons, aka Rudolph, has tragically and unexpectedly died in mid June aged fifty. Paul will be best remembered for his passion for working at beer festivals all over the UK. At GBBF he looked after a brewery bar for many years, at many he was cellarman, he did games at some and was also a qualified steward and part of the CAMRA "Team Tango". I saw him on the Foreign Beer Bar at Peterborough one year, he was capable of doing every job imaginable, and his commitment to most festivals was to help set up and take down.

His belief was that beer festivals were the best way to promote Real Ale, where you also had the chance to talk to fellow drinkers about local and national issues. With Paul, there was always a smile and a joke, he seemed to enjoy every second. Not only did he work at CAMRA festivals, but any that featured Real Ale, like Glastonwick.

He was registered as a Bexley member, never held a committee post, but completed the organizing of our third festival after Alan Boakes had to step down, compiling the programme and introducing German beer (after a tasting session in his garage) and was joint organiser of our fourth. He turned up at our seventh, at a new venue, on take down day and this year (the thirteenth) helped at set up. Paul had a willingness to do any job at a festival and would always do a good job. He had two Degrees and a French qualification in cooking. Paul loved his job as head chef at an animal sanctuary's restaurant near Canterbury.

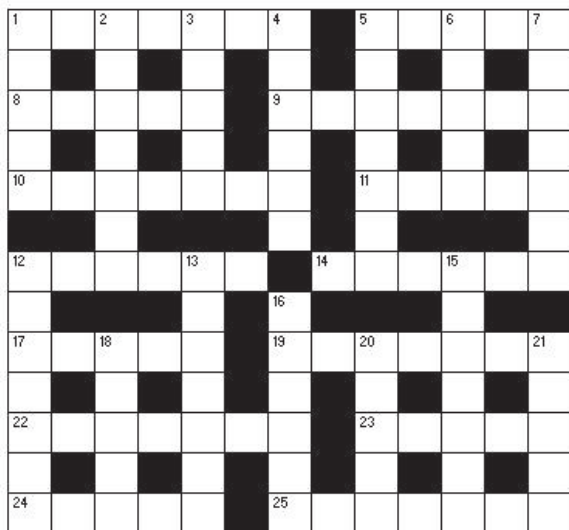
A much missed CAMRA stalwart.

Bexley Branch



Crossword No. 31

compiled by MICK NORMAN



Solution to Crossword No. 30

C	O	P	I	N	G			S	E	T	U	P
U		E		I		F		A		R		L
S	P	R	I	G		L	E	C	T	U	R	E
T		F		H		O		K		M		A
O	V	E	R	T	L	Y		O	P	U	S	
M		C		J		D	O	E				E
	E	T	N	A				R	E	A	D	
P				R	C	A		E		B		T
O	U	C	H			V	I	C	E	R	O	Y
L		A		T		I		T		I		R
A	U	S	T	R	I	A			I	N	D	I
N		T		A		N		O		G		N
D	U	S	T	Y				I	N	V	E	N

Across

- 1 Ships drinks served within (7)
- 5 I get involved in scheme for the grassland (5)
- 8 Drunken dances? (5)
- 9 A few lie intoxicated by the lady brewer (7)
- 10 Foreign national is Prime Minister? Off with his head! (7)
- 11 If the change were made, the result would be criminal (5)
- 12 Queen pursuing 'The Broken Drum'? It's an outrage! (6)
- 14 Deeply unfashionable, yet hot? (6)
- 17 Relating to birth in South Africa (5)
- 19 Jean-Paul Marat likeness to some extent descriptive of Roland's behaviour (7)
- 22 EU tried to replace expert (7)
- 23 Joining RMT, for example (5)
- 24 Longs to go in 'The Deva' (Chester micropub) (5)
- 25 Articulate former NUJ member, perhaps (7)

Down

- 1 Mad drive by opera composer (5)
- 2 Her ears massaged by football pundit (7)
- 3 Directions little girl has to follow (5)
- 4 Old Communist leader soon took away liberty, in Novgorod initially (6)
- 5 City street in Faversham is squeezed, we hear (7)
- 6 Baba swings both ways - that's his excuse! (5)
- 7 Eel fund managed by the hungry (7)
- 12 Lead man replaced President (7)
- 13 City dens supplying cakes (7)
- 15 Opening uncertainly, I force one (7)
- 16 Brewery partner responsible for Our Man in Havana (6)
- 18 It often hurts, and 20 seems to struggle with it (5)
- 20 President leads terrible regime under Mrs Palin (5)
- 21 Rene's disturbed the sea eagles (5)

*Congratulations to
Steve Finch from
West Malling, who
won the tenner last
time.*

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GOOD BEER GUIDE

CHAMPION
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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
Campbell Arms , Northfleet	20p per pint
Cellars Alehouse , Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
Cock Inn , Boughton Monchelsea	20p per pint
Cotton Mill , Swanley	10 percent
Crayford Arms , Crayford	10p per pint
Earl Haig , Bexleyheath	10p per pint
Flower Pot , Maidstone	10p per pint
George , Singewell	20p per pint, 10p per half
George Staples , Blackfen	20 percent (<i>also buy 6, 7th free</i>)
Golden Lion , Bexleyheath	20 percent
Jolly Drayman , Gravesend	10p per pint
Jolly Fenman , Blackfen	10 percent
Moody Mare , Mereworth	Discounted to £3.00p per pint
Olde Thirsty Pig , Maidstone	20p per pint
Old Prince of Orange , Gravesend	20p per pint
Pippin , Maidstone	10 percent
Hill Top Tap , Sidcup	10 percent
Queen Anne , Maidstone	10p per pint, 5p per half
Stag , Maidstone	10p per pint (<i>off guest beers</i>)
Swan , Loose Road, Maidstone	20p per pint, 10p per half
We Anchor in Hope , Welling	10 percent
Yacht , Bexleyheath	10 percent
Ye Olde Black Horse , Sidcup	10 percent

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CAMRA BRANCH DIARIES

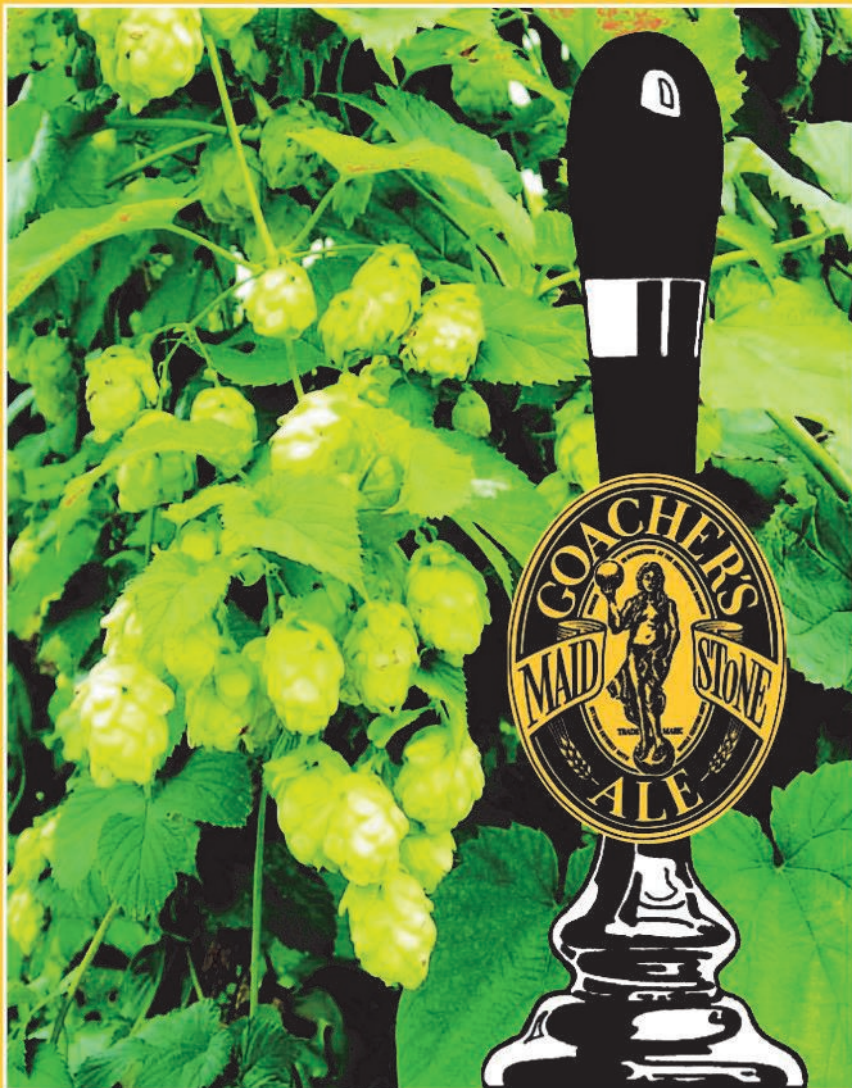
If you would like more information, please ring the local branch contact—see Local News sections. Meetings start at 20:30 unless otherwise stated.

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

August	BEX	29	19:30, SOCIAL – Brewers Arms then Duchess of Kent & Royal Oak (Northumberland Heath)
	MMK	30	Rising Sun, East Malling, then King & Queen
September	MMK	1	11:00, East Malling Beer & Cider Festival 2018
	MMK	4	13:16, Bus & Walk, Castle Hill to Brenchley
	MMK	6	Bull, Barming, then Teston Club
	GDV	12	Open Business Meeting, Three Daws, Gravesend
	BEX	12	Open Business Meeting, New Cross Turnpike, 55 Bellegrave Rd , Welling DA16 3PB
	MMK	13	Open Business Meeting, Stile Bridge, Marden
	MMK	20	White Horse and George & Dragon, Headcorn
	MMK	22	10:20, Bus/train trip to Canterbury – Green Hop Festival
	MMK	27	Angel, Addington, then Kings Arms, Offham
	GDV	27	Cotton Mill, Swanley, then Chequers, Crockenhill
October	MMK	4	Beer Festival Wash-up, Red Lion, Lenham
	MMK	9	11:11, Bus & Walk to Paddlesworth
	GDV	10	Pier, Greenhithe, then Rising Sun, George & Dragon, Swanscombe
	MMK	11	Plough, Langley, then Cock, Boughton Monchelsea
	MMK	18	White House, Hunton, then Good Intent, West Farleigh
	MMK	25	Drakes, Maidstone, then Cellars
	GDV	25	Dartford Jug, Royal Victoria & Bull, Wig & Gown, Dartford
	MMK	27	Vintage coach trip – Romney Marsh (Booking required)
November	MMK	1	Milkhouse, Sissinghurst, then Knoxbridge
	GDV	7	Open Business Meeting, Brent School Old Boys Social Club, Dartford
	MMK	8	Boathouse, Yalding, then Chequers, Laddingford
	MMK	13	11:17, Bus & Walk, Dunks Green to Shipbourne
	BEX	14	Open Business Meeting, venue tba
	MMK	15	Open Business Meeting, Bull, West Malling
	MMK	17	10:11, Bus Trip to Icklesham
	MMK	22	Kings Head, Staplehurst, then new Rockin' Robin pub
	GDV	22	Six Bells, Earl Grey, Campbell Arms, Northfleet
	MMK	29	Fishermans Arms, Maidstone, then Olde Thirsty Pig

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